

**COVID Protocol for Youth Ministry at Redeemer
Lutheran Church**

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COVID Protocol for Youth Ministry at Redeemer Lutheran Church

Safety protocols have been developed to comply with governmental regulations and recommendations in an attempt to minimize the chances of students and volunteers contracting the COVID-19 virus as they come to Sunday School. These protocols are in accordance with Redeemer's COVID-19 Preparedness plan and in union with the Indoor Worship Policy.

It is imperative that **all** students, parents, and volunteers' partner and covenant to follow the steps outlined below, to minimize the risk to ourselves, our fellow congregation members, and the members of our community. These protocols will be reviewed periodically and adjusted as needed. Please also be on the lookout for upcoming instruction videos on what you can expect for 2020 Sunday School.

General Guidelines for Student and Volunteer Safety

It is expected that our staff, volunteers, and students follow current general CDC guidelines "How to protect yourself and others":

- Clean hands frequently
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth
- Avoid close contact with others
- Stay at home if ill
- Cover mouth and nose with cloth face cover
- Cover cough and sneeze
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily

We have developed specific policies related to these general guidelines for In-Person Sunday School at Redeemer including the following:

Staff and Volunteers

Staff and volunteers are instructed to wash their hands frequently (soap, water, and/or hand sanitizer), cover their coughs and sneezes, and maintain 6 feet of social distance between themselves and anyone who is not of their household.

Staff or volunteers who have tested positive for COVID-19, or who have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 may not come to church until their quarantine period has ended.

Staff and volunteers will stay home if they are ill, or if someone in their household is ill, including showing any symptoms of COVID-19. If they develop COVID-19 symptoms while at the church they will be sent home immediately.

Staff and volunteers will undergo training prior to starting the activity year. This training will include strategies for helping students maintain social distancing, student engagement and redirection, and cleaning helps.

Staff and volunteers will ensure that attendance is taken with each activity to maintain the ability to contact trace should a COVID-19 case arise.

Cleaning:

Classrooms, restrooms, common areas, and frequently touched surfaces (railings, doors and door handles, etc.) will be routinely cleaned and sanitized. This includes all areas of the church used before, during and after education programs. Students Grade 1 and older will partner with teachers to sanitize hard surfaces in their classrooms for the final 5 minutes of class time.

Hand sanitizer:

Hand sanitizer will be available near entrances to the building, but we request you bring your own if possible. Students are asked to use either their own hand sanitizer or that available at the church when entering **and** leaving the building. If a student would leave the classroom for any reason (i.e. bathroom use), they must sanitize hands upon arrival back in classroom. Signs will be posted at each facility entrance and at various locations within the facility.

Face Masks:

Out of love and care for our fellow congregation members and worship participants and to respect our local leaders, Redeemer is requiring that a face mask be worn when inside our church. Exemptions are for children under two years of age and those with a medical condition that precludes use. If you do not have one, the church will provide a cloth face mask which you will then have the responsibility for its proper care, cleaning, and reuse. This includes all students, teachers, and staff. Parents in transition are asked to wear one, as well.

Restrooms:

Please refrain from using the restrooms unless there is an urgent need. The number of people in the restroom at one time will be limited to TWO. Maintain 6 feet of social distance outside of the restroom when waiting. Please use hand sanitizer before entering and after leaving the bathroom. To make sure bathrooms are not a gathering space for students, there will be a volunteer bathroom monitor outside of bathrooms.

Regarding Outside Food & Drink and Toys:

We are asking students to refrain from bringing in outside food and drink and toys from home (sanitization risk). Food and drink will not be provided in classrooms. The pop machine will be unplugged and unavailable.

SUNDAY SCHOOL POLICY

Before Arriving for Sunday School

Prior to Sunday School starting there will be a registration for students. Parents will choose between in-person instruction or virtual connections for their students.

For those attending in-person:

Screen yourself and all family members for symptoms of COVID-19 and please do not attend if anyone in your household has any of these symptoms:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or rapid breathing
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Chills
- Muscle aches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fever of 100F (37.8C) or greater

In addition, if anyone in your household is ill, has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or suspected of having COVID-19 in the last 14 days or may have been in contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 or if they are showing any symptoms of COVID-19, we would ask that you all stay home. If students become ill while at the church, parents will be contacted and asked to take the student home or to a medical facility immediately. ***If in doubt about you or your child's health, please stay home.***

A nurse will be available during Sunday School to assist teachers with any students that become ill during that time. The nurse will assess how ill the student is, contact the parents and care for that child until parents arrive. The care room is located immediately adjacent to the church office as you enter door #2.

Please know the risks and choose wisely and appropriately whether or not you ought to have your student attend Sunday School. Persons with underlying health conditions (such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, etc.) are at greater risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19. A Virtual Option will be given for those students and volunteers wishing to stay home. We ask that parents connect with Josh Heirigs (Director of Youth and Education) if a student is unable to join in-person Sunday School due to a COVID-19 exposure or diagnosis so he can connect you to a virtual classroom.

Arriving and Departing Sunday School

In an effort to alleviate congestion and maintain social distance between students the following will happen:

Use of parking lot/ parent vehicles: We are asking parents to arrive in Redeemer's parking lot by 9:15am in order to safely walk students to the appropriate entry doors for arrival.

Parents may walk their students to their entry door for drop off. For the safety of all, **parents should not enter the church building.** We ask parents and students to be masked during this transition across the parking lot and remain socially distant from one another. We also ask parents to be present in the parking lot for drop-off and pick-up as punctually as possible.

Staggered start/end times: This will be noted by signs at the appropriate times for students to start coming into the appropriate doors.

Grades 5- High School

- 9:15-9:20 a.m.- enter in through Main Narthex Door (Door #3). Following three weeks of teacher guided, socially distant escorting, students will go to room location without parents and on own.
- 9:20-9:55a.m. Classroom instruction time
- 9:55-10a.m. Cleaning time
- 10-10:05 a.m. Departure time through Main Narthex Door (Door #3). Students will depart with teacher in a socially distanced line (Teacher at front and back). There will be designated spots for each class outside to socially distance stand for those unable to be picked up right away by a parent. Teachers would then continue back inside to make sure classrooms are cleaned further (if needed).
- Classroom Locations- 5/6th grade- Youth Room (L-5), 7th Grade- East side of South Fellowship Hall, 8th Grade- West Side of South Fellowship Hall, High School- North Fellowship Hall.

Grades 1-4

- 9:20-9:25 a.m. enter in through Office Door Entry (Door #2). Following three weeks of teacher guided, socially distant escorting, students will go to room location without parents and on own.
- 9:25-10 a.m. Classroom instruction time
- 10-10:05 a.m. Cleaning time
- 10:05-10:10 a.m.- Departure time through Office Door Entry (Door #2). Students will depart with teacher in a socially distanced line (Teacher at front and back). There will be designated spots for each class outside to socially distance stand for those unable to be picked up right away by a parent. Teachers would then continue back inside to make sure classrooms are cleaned further (if needed).
- Classroom Locations: 1/2nd Grade- L-2, 3/4th Grade- L-3.

Age 3- Kindergarten

- 9:25-9:30 a.m. enter in through Main Narthex Door (Door #3). Teachers and other escorts will be there to escort students to class (one teacher would remain in the room).
- 9:30-10:05 a.m. Classroom instruction time
- 10:05-10:10 a.m. Flex time (possible cleaning, extra instruction on distancing/ masking).
- 10:10-10:15- Departure time through Main Narthex Door (Door #3). Students will depart with teacher in a socially distanced line (Teacher at front and back). There will be designated spots for each class outside to socially distance stand for those unable to be picked up right away by a parent. Teachers would then continue back inside to make sure classrooms are cleaned further (if needed).
- Classroom Locations: Age 3- Room 101 (next to Nursery), Age 4/Preschool- Room 102, Kindergarten- Choir Room (203).

Parking Lot Safety: There will be a team of Parking Lot Attendants to help ensure safety of students, but parents, *please pay careful attention* to where students are as they are crossing parking lots to get to vehicles. Keep children's safety paramount.

Regarding Social Distancing during this time: Please do not shake hands, hug, or touch people in greeting. Students will maintain social distance from one another. Parents in parking lot please follow suit. Students will go directly to class without detour as monitored by staff and volunteers.

During Sunday School

Seating:

In classrooms, to the extent possible, desks or tables will be spaced 6 feet apart. Students sitting at tables should be facing the same direction to the maximum extent possible—or at least in an alternating pattern so that they are not directly across from each other. Group instruction on a carpeted area may take place if students have assigned spots with spacing between them. Most learning will take place from desk and/or table spaces. Floor tape and other markers will be used to indicate walking direction and spacing.

Supply Use:

In classrooms, students will use individual supplies and teachers will avoid the use of community supplies as much as possible. Students will be taught not to share supplies without proper sanitation.

Singing:

The current medical evidence suggests that group singing indoors could increase the risk of spreading the virus; thus, for now, students will NOT be singing in classrooms.

Exposure Time:

In an effort to limit exposure time, we will be limiting Sunday school to a 40 minute time frame of interaction and learning.

**This plan is subject to change based on pandemic conditions. Communication will be sent out when changes occur.*

CONFIRMATION POLICY

Before Arriving for Confirmation

Prior to Confirmation starting there will be a reach out from staff to parents. Parents will choose between in-person instruction or virtual connections for their students. Virtual connections will receive a recorded instruction of the in-person instruction.

For those attending in-person:

Screen yourself and all family members for symptoms of COVID-19 and please do not attend if anyone in your household has any of these symptoms:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or rapid breathing
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Chills
- Muscle aches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fever of 100F (37.8C) or greater

In addition, if anyone in your household is ill, has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or suspected of having COVID-19 in the last 14 days or may have been in contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 or if they are showing any symptoms of COVID-19, we would ask that you all stay home. If students become ill while at the church, parents will be contacted and asked to take the student home or to a medical facility immediately. ***If in doubt about you or your child's health, please stay home.***

Please know the risks and choose wisely and appropriately whether or not you ought to have your student attend Confirmation. Persons with underlying health conditions (such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, etc.) are at greater risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19.

Arriving and Departing for Confirmation Classes

For the safety of all, **parents should not enter the church building.** We ask parents and students to be masked during this transition across the parking lot and remain socially distant from one another. We also ask parents to be present in the parking lot for drop-off and pick-up as punctually as possible.

Students will enter the building through the main narthex doors and go directly to classrooms.

- Year 1 will be located with DCE Michael Harvey as instructor in Choir Room.
- Year 2 will be located with Pastor Ben Loos as instructor in the South Fellowship Hall.
- Year 3 will be located with DCE Josh Heirigs as instructor in the North Fellowship Hall.

Times

- Confirmation Classes will start at 6:15pm and end at 7pm. Please do not arrive more than 15 minutes before class. Students will depart the church led by their instructor to the parking lot in a socially distanced line.

Other Notes:

- Students will remain socially distanced and masked as they head to classrooms.
- Target Starting day - Wednesday September 16th.

Regarding Social Distancing during this time: Please do not shake hands, hug, or touch people in greeting. Students will maintain social distance from one another. Parents in parking lot please follow suit.

Parking Lot Safety: Parents, *please pay careful attention* to where students are as they are crossing parking lots to get to vehicles. Keep children's safety paramount.

During Confirmation

Seating:

In classrooms, to the extent possible, desks or tables will be spaced 6 feet apart. Students sitting at tables should be facing the same direction to the maximum extent possible—or at least in an alternating pattern so that they are not directly across from each other.

Supply Use:

In classrooms, students will use individual supplies and teachers will avoid the use of community supplies as much as possible. Students will be taught not to share supplies without proper sanitation.

Singing:

The current medical evidence suggests that group singing indoors could increase the risk of spreading the virus; thus, for now, students will NOT be singing in classrooms.

Exposure Time:

In an effort to limit exposure time, we will be limiting Confirmation to a 45 minute time frame of interaction and learning.

**This plan is subject to change based on pandemic conditions. Communication will be sent out when changes occur.*