



Becker Baptist Church

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Re-Opening BBC for Face-to-Face Gatherings —Sunday Worship Services—

May 29, 2020

Most of us long to be able to again worship the Lord within the confines of our church sanctuary. Sunday, March 8th was the last time we were together – that’s a long time ago – we have missed eleven consecutive Sundays. We have stayed apart for the purpose of keeping our church family and community safe. I am proud of the way our church family has handled this very difficult situation. We have not closed the church. We are still alive and well. The way many of you have worked hard to stay in contact with each other is so impressive. Please keep it up.

Though the COVID-19 virus is still very much a reality and impacting lives, it is time to take some measured steps to involve our lives with each other again. I warn you in advance, this will not mean that we are returning to the “normal” that we knew in the past. Things will look different for the foreseeable future.

Because the Lord tells us to love each other and care for each other, we will continue to work hard at protecting each other. Admittedly, this is a practice that is hard to sustain when we don’t know many who are afflicted by this virus. Yet the chance for transmission remains high. So, we will do our part, and continue to show our love in this way.

Your pastoral staff and our church leadership have established the following protocols for re-assembly. I need to remind you right from the start that all our plans are subject to change as we find it necessary to respond new circumstances that present themselves.

1. We will voluntarily abide by the guidelines given us by the Stay Safe MN Executive Order. This means that all persons will be expected to stay home if they are sick, wear a mask when in the church building (except for those who are leading up front), and maintain a six-foot social distance. Whether you agree with these guidelines or not, our expectation will be that you abide by them.

2. Hand sanitizer will be available at the doors and you will be expected to use it when you enter the building. Individuals will be there to dispense it.
3. There will be no childcare provided.
4. Please use entrance and exit doors as marked.
5. The chairs will be moved in the sanctuary so that family groupings will be able to sit together and be able to observe social distancing.
6. Singing will be allowed with masks in place.
7. The sanctuary exhaust system will run at all times.
8. Offering plates will not be passed. A box will be available in the foyer to collect your gifts.
9. Communion will be available in pre-packaged containers to pick-up when you enter the building.
10. To help minimize cleaning, please use only the main foyer restrooms and do not go into the lower level of the church.
11. To the best of our ability, public surfaces will be disinfected before you arrive and after you leave.

I affirm the fact that there are many individuals in our church family who are at high-risk. It is with sadness that I encourage those people not to return to church yet, but to continue to participate each Sunday online.

Those who choose to return will need to visit our website to use the online registration system to reserve your spot. If you are not able to go online to our website, you may also call or text Terri Mason to sign up (763.486.8141). Reservations will be strictly observed.

Our system is likely to be refined week to week. Bear with us. Please extend grace as we learn.

It will be incredibly encouraging to be back together for those who are able to be present.

For me as your pastor, I will enjoy preaching to a sanctuary of responsive Christ Followers, instead of empty chairs.

The following shows our tentative schedule for beginning to bring our church family back together.

May 31 - Online service only. Only service leaders will be present in the building.

June 7–25 service participants will be allowed to be present in addition to those who lead.

June 14–50 service participants will be allowed to be present in addition to those who lead.

June 21–50* service participants will be allowed to be present in addition to those who lead.

June 28–50* service participants will be allowed to be present in addition to those who lead.

**Will be evaluated based on what we learn from previous Sundays.*

Our plan is to continue to livestream our services on YouTube and Facebook. We will continue to be creative in encouraging contact with each other as church family.

I look forward to worshipping with some and then ALL of you down the road,

Pastor Rob Olsen

www.beckerbaptist.org

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known