

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Romans 15:7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the Glory of God.

Phone: 480.984.5555

www.oslcaz.org

Email: info@oslcaz.org

Pastors

Bill Rindy - Senior Pastor ♦ Tina Mills - Associate Pastor

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

We have looked forward to writing this to you for nearly 5 months. With the virus trending down, with clearance for up to 25% capacity in worship by the CDC, and with the State of AZ allowing gatherings of up to 50 people indoors, we believe that we can reduce the risk to a level where some of you will be comfortable re-gathering for worship. We realize that this has been too long of a wait for some and there will be some for whom this will be far too early. We trust that you will make the best decision for you.

At our council meeting on Tuesday, August 18th, the recommendation of the Re-Gathering task force was affirmed by the council. What does this mean? We will once again be gathering for worship at both our East Mesa and Gold Canyon campuses the weekend of September 12-13.

Services will be held on Saturday, the 12th at 4:00 pm at East Mesa; and on Sunday, the 13th, at 7:30, 9:00, and 10:30 am at East Mesa; Sunday at 9:00 am at Gold Canyon.

Because of the ongoing presence of the COVID-19 virus, in-person worship will be different than what you remember. To protect the safety of those gathering for worship, there will be a **limit of 50** worshippers per service. **Children and Youth** specific ministry (**Sunday School and Youth Group**) will remain on-line. We will have a Children's Message at the 10:30 East Mesa in-person worship service, all children must remain in the pews with their family. More details as to how Children, Youth and Family ministry will be moving forward will be sent to families in a separate communication.

To avoid turning people away at the door, we will be asking you to **reserve your spot** at a worship service by pre-registering for a particular service each weekend. You can do this two different ways: 1. Register **online** any time at: www.oslcaz.org; or 2. **Call** the church office, 480-984-5555 between 9am and 4pm, Monday-Friday. This will make sure that there is a place for you when you come for worship and assist with contact tracing in the event someone with whom you worship was positive for COVID-19.

We ask that if you are **experiencing any symptoms**: fever, cough, sore throat, etc. that you **please stay home** for the sake of your siblings in Christ.

East Mesa Campus
612 South Ellsworth Road
Mesa, AZ 85208

Gold Canyon Campus
5301 South Kings Ranch Road
Gold Canyon, AZ 85120

When you arrive for worship, we ask that you come **no sooner than 20 minutes** before the service begins.

East Mesa: Please park on the **west side of the church** and use the **main sanctuary entrance**. The northern door will be the entrance; the southern door will be the exit.

Gold Canyon: Please park on the **south side of the church** and use the **kitchen entrance** to enter the sanctuary, the gate on the north side will be closed as well as the gate on the south west; the south eastern door (by men's restroom) to exit.

When you arrive, please **wear your mask** over your nose and mouth before entering. If you forgot or if you do not have a mask, volunteers have been making masks so that no one goes without.

Signs will direct you to the entrance door into which you will enter.

You will notice a table at which you will **check in** for the service for which you reserved your spot.

Hand sanitizer will be provided for your use before entering the sanctuary.

When you enter the worship space at East Mesa, one of every four pews will be accessible. These **seats will change** for each service over the weekend. At Gold Canyon, you will notice chairs physically distanced in clusters of either one or two chairs.

During the service you will notice that there is **no group singing**, as this is the most dangerous mode of virus transmission in enclosed spaces. The group, liturgical responses that are so familiar have this same threat, so they will be avoided as well.

At East Mesa, there will be **offering boxes** at each entrance/exit into which any offerings may be placed. At Gold Canyon, there will be **offering plates** at the exit for those choosing to make an offering in this way.

As we work out the kinks to worshipping in this new reality, we look forward to adding Holy **Communion in future services**.

For the time being our meeting rooms will be closed. None of our Ministry partners will be meeting in the building. We hope to reopen these rooms and welcome our Ministry partners back as soon as we can do that in a healthy manner.

We realize that this is **a lot of information** to process. We also believe that we can offer a reduced-risk worship service for those who want to come.

For those who are not yet comfortable coming to in-person worship, we will **continue to offer recorded, weekly worship services** from both campuses, complete with hymns and words provided on the screen so that you can continue to worship at home (and **on the phone**: 888-700-9845) until you feel safe enough to gather again.

We covet your continued prayers and support as we continue to follow Jesus into God's provided future. God bless you!

Pastor Bill Rindy

Pastor Bill Rindy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Tina M. Mills

Pastor Tina Mills, Associate Pastor

Kim McCracken

Kim McCracken, Minister of Discipleship

Janice Cunningham
Janice Cunningham, Council President