



LIVING STONES CHURCHES

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

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COVID Safety Plan

As we prepare to relaunch services at Living Stones Church, the health and safety of our members and guests is of top priority. We've been able to do this successfully with scattered churches meeting across town, but as fall and winter approach we need a safe place to continue gathering, as we will no longer be able to meet outside for those gatherings. The elders have decided to resume gatherings at the building on October 11th, with a cap on attendance so we can comply with social distancing requirements. As we prepare to enter back into the Reno building, the elders have put together the following guidelines to provide safety, clarity, and comfortability for all who enter.

Who should attend in-person worship services?

- Only people who willfully comply with the guidelines outlined in this document.
- Those who are healthy and comfortable to gather again at the church. Washoe County School District published helpful [self-screening](#) guidelines.

Who should not attend in-person worship services?

- People who are exhibiting any signs of illness within the last 48 hours. This includes fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, stomach ache, etc.
- People who have come in contact with anyone who has been sick in the last 48 hours.
- People who have been in direct contact in the last 14 days with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- People with compromised immune systems and/or relevant other health conditions [outlined by the CDC](#).

Living Stones will continue to post online services for those who cannot gather in-person or in larger groups. Services will also be available in host homes.

What changes should we expect as we enter back into the building?

1. **Reservation Seating Required** - Congregants will be required to reserve specific seats each week that they intend to participate in worship at the building (including children who will sit in the sanctuary). If you are volunteering and intend to sit in the sanctuary, please still reserve your seat. Reservations will open on Wednesdays and will be capped so we can comply with social distancing requirements. We ask that you reserve seats with only whom you reside in the same household.
2. **Masks** - At this time, everyone six and older must wear a mask upon entering the building. It must remain appropriately in place (over mouth and nose) while in the building, including worship. As we seek to keep everyone as safe as possible, masks will be required with no exceptions. If you are [unable to wear a mask for health](#) or other reasons, we ask that you continue to participate in worship through the online gathering or at a Host Home. Please let us know if this is you, as our pastors would love to connect and care for you anyway we can.
3. **Social Distancing** - For the foreseeable future, we need to practice social distancing. This means to try and maintain 6 feet of distance between you and other families in the hallways and bathrooms. Please do not congregate in the foyers, outside the building, or in parking lots.
4. **Entry & Exit** - As you enter the building, please sanitize hands at one of the many sanitizing stations that have been added throughout the church. We ask that you go directly to your seats in the sanctuary. This will help with the traffic flow in the hallways. Please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before services begin to find your assigned seating. When exiting the building after service, please do not block doorways or halls and swiftly exit through the main doors.
5. **Greeting** - As we enter back into the church building, things will be a little different and we will need to set aside our normal way of greeting so that we can continue to meet during the pandemic. Our greeters love welcoming you into the church. In the past this might have included a handshake or even a hug. We are asking that our greeters welcome you in with a “smile” and “hello.” Hugging and even handshakes will be set aside at this time. We want to ensure the health and comfort of all entering the building. *Let’s give “air high-fives” as we greet.*
6. **Church Staff Interaction** - The staff at the church is excited to welcome you all back! We miss seeing your faces each week. We want to talk and spend time catching up with you. It may be difficult to have one-on-one, social distanced conversations on Sundays. Please email info@lschurches.com and let us know who you are asking to schedule an appointment with for pastoral care. We will

get back to you during the week to coordinate a time for you to connect with a staff member or pastor.

How will worship be different?

1. **Giving** - Giving baskets will not be passed during the time of offering. Instead, giving boxes have been placed in the back of the sanctuary and in the two main foyers. Cash and checks may be placed in those before or after service. During COVID many people have continued faithful financial worship the following ways:
 - **Online** at [LSGive.com](https://www.lsgive.com)
 - **Text to give** - text "**LivingStones Reno**" and the amount you would like to give \$_____ to phone number **73256**
 - **Mail** a check or cash to **445 S. Virginia St, Reno, NV 89501**
 - **Bill Pay** through your bank account
2. **Communion** - The Lord's Supper will be available weekly during service. Leaders will sanitize their hands as they get to the communion stations. In addition, tongs will be used to *drop* communion bread into your hands. Please be courteous and place used communion cups in trash receptacles at the exits.
3. **Coffee** - At this time, coffee will not be served. The drinking fountains will also be decommissioned to limit risk exposure.
4. **Bibles** - Bibles will be made available for you at the back of the sanctuary. If you don't own a Bible, please take one home with you. If you are using it just for the service, we ask that you leave it on the seat after service. Someone will collect and sanitize before they're reset (please don't place them back on the shelf).
5. **Connect Cards & Giving Envelopes** - All connect cards and giving envelopes have been placed in wall-mounted holders next to the giving boxes. A digital connect card can be completed [online](#).

What will LS Kids look like?

1. **Who:** LS Kids will be made available for children 5 years old and younger as volunteer staffing is available.
2. **Pre-Registration:** You need to reserve your child's spot in the age appropriate classroom when RSVPing for service. RSVP'd spaces not signed in 10 minutes after service begins may be given to others. If you RSVP'd prior to Sunday, your child's name tag will be printed and ready at the connect desk in the family entrance.
3. **Room occupancy** will be limited to maintain 3' social distance. This may mean that rooms could fill and would be potentially unable to accommodate every child.

4. Children in LS Kids will not be required to wear masks, but temperatures will be taken prior to entry in LS Kids ([100.4](#)).
5. Kids displaying [symptoms](#) of any severity, including runny nose, will not be admitted to LS Kids.
6. Are kids allowed in the Sanctuary? Of course, children of all ages are welcome in the main gathering space and are asked to adhere to the guidelines in this document.
7. Snacks will not be given in LS Kids during the service. Please do not send your child in with snacks to protect those with allergies and the current COVID risk, as kids love to share.
8. LS Kids has a no assist policy with bathrooms. If your child is unable to fully use the bathroom on their own, you will be notified of their need to go.
9. All unnecessary items will be removed from the classrooms. Limited toys, that are easy to clean, will be washed after each gathering.

How will the facility be maintained?

1. The entire building will be cleaned prior to Sunday gatherings. (LS has consulted [CDC guidance](#) on cleaning and disinfecting)
2. Disinfecting of hard surfaces will take place between each gathering.
3. Water fountains have been turned off during this time.
4. Parking: Living Stones provides validated parking in the parking garage accessible on Sierra Street next to the church building. Parking validation will be available at the Sierra Street foyer entrance. Guests with small children (5 and under) and first time visitors may use the Virginia Street parking lot.

What if we don't feel comfortable returning to the building at this time?

Living Stones will still provide online services, just as we have done since COVID began. Returning to the building may not be for everyone right now. We understand that and want you to feel comfortable coming back. If you're worshipping at home, let us know as we'd love to connect and care for you anyway we can. In addition to online services, we will have a few Host Homes gatherings throughout Reno. These homes consist of a few families who gather on Sunday mornings to watch the online service together. Want to host a Host Home? Let us know and we'd be happy to assist. For more information about Host Homes please email shayla@lschurches.com

What should we do if we test positive for COVID-19 and have attended a church gathering?

Please email Christine@lschurches.com immediately and let her know what service date you attended and where you were sitting. The more information you can provide, the better we can protect the church body. We are here to love and care for one another and your personal identity will be held confidential. We would like the opportunity to notify those who might have attended the same service as you.

Please remember: An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public space where people are present. While we feel we have taken appropriate measures to mitigate risk, all risk is impossible to eliminate. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and possibly death. According to the CDC, senior citizens and people with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable.

Questions: Please direct questions regarding the COVID safety plan to info@lschurches.com.