

Trinity Members,

On Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, Governor Reynolds issued new statewide orders in response to the continued rise of Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations. First and foremost, we continue to pray for those working in medical fields, and those who have been afflicted with and continue to be affected by the virus. Secondly, in light of her orders, we want to communicate what it means for our life of faith together here at Trinity.

Within her proclamation, it is stated, *“Spiritual and religious gatherings: Spiritual and religious gatherings, including any funerals or weddings, **are not prohibited by this section**. But a church, synagogue, or other host of a spiritual or religious gathering shall implement reasonable measures under the circumstances of each gathering to ensure social distancing of employees, volunteers, and other participants, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health.”*

Though we as a congregation are technically “not prohibited” within this order, we strive to uphold what’s asked of the public by the state for the sake of others here and within our Cherokee community. With that, we’ll strongly encourage the use of face coverings if social distancing cannot be had in worship or other congregational activities. If needed, masks will be made available near church entryways. We have put in place “reasonable measures” since we’ve begun worshipping together again with hand sanitizer stations, worship service adaptations, and spacing opportunities, and we will continue to put in place reasonable measures deemed appropriate along the way.

As Governor Reynolds’ order is set through the month of November, much will stay the same with what we have been doing, yet some things to note in the weeks ahead:

- Sunday School will continue to meet (along with adult Bible study). Children are asked to continue modeling the approach of the public schools if/when distancing can’t be had. Discussions continue on the best approaches for the children’s Christmas program plans.
- Communion will be offered as scheduled with the same “walk through” approach. We’ll strive to be more stringent in ushering/spacing during this time. Let your personal comfort level dictate your approach.
- In order to limit activity and crossing of paths, children’s messages will be on a brief hiatus. Children’s bulletins, along with adapted worship service bulletins, will remain available for individual taking near the entryway.
- Confirmation classes will continue on Wednesdays, as will Friday Bible study.
- If you are feeling ill, showing any symptoms, or have been exposed, please stay home and tune into the online worship posted each Sunday at [trinitycherokee.org](http://trinitycherokee.org).
- If concerned with Sunday morning spacing, consider attending Saturday evening worship. We’re blessed with respectable attendance at that 5:30 p.m. service time, but ample pews and space are always had.

We all await the time when modifications and adaptations to personal and congregational life are a thing of the past. But until that time, we’ll use our God-given reason and senses along with local and state directives to help us continue on faithfully and responsibly. Thanks to all for your continued understanding, faithful support as His stewards in many ways, and your prayers for this place and for all around us who continue to be affected. If any further questions are had, please contact the church office anytime.

In Christ’s Service,

Pastor Riggert