

*Grow in Grace*  
**Grace Lutheran Church**  
OAKVILLE

The Rev. Richard A. Kwiatkowski, MDiv, ThM  
Pastor

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September 12, 2020

**Re: Monthly In-Person Worship Services at Grace**

Dear Members and Friends of Grace,

It has been nearly six months since we have worshipped together in our church building. From the results of the recent worship survey, we see that many of you would like to experience in-person worship again. However, we also recognize, that many of you are not comfortable returning to in-person worship at this this point in time.

For the foreseeable future, we will continue to have the recorded worship services that you can participate in each Sunday from home. Also, to meet the spiritual needs of our faith community who would like to worship in-person, we have decided to offer an in-person worship service on the third Sunday of each month. **Our first "Welcome Back" in-person worship service will take place on Sunday, September 20 at 10:00am.**

During the summer, we received guidance from the Eastern Synod, regarding protocols that we needed to put into place in order to make in-person worship a safe experience. Also, our own Property Team has been meeting to discuss how we will implement these protocols and they have acquired the PPE and other supplies that we need in order to re-open the building for worship.

Please note the following changes and requirements for in-person worship at Grace:

**The Building**

1. Due to limited seating capacity to promote physical distancing, those who wish to attend will need to register beforehand. No later than Friday, September 18, please email the church office ([office@gracechurchoakville.ca](mailto:office@gracechurchoakville.ca)) with the names of who will be attending. Alternatively, you can phone the office (905-845-1563) and leave a voicemail message with the names of who will be attending.
  2. Everyone is asked to arrive no later than 9:45am to allow for enough time for everyone to be verbally screened and to be guided by the ushers to their seats.
  3. Everyone will enter and exit the building using the main front doors. The entry doors near the washrooms will be locked from the outside.
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4. An usher will guide you to an available seat. Due to limited seating capacity and physical distancing layout, your usual seat may not be available. Seats will be occupied on a first come first served basis.
5. A face mask, covering the nose, mouth, and chin must be worn at all times while in the building. The face mask can only be removed immediately before consuming the wafer during Holy Communion. Once the wafer is consumed, the face mask must be reapplied to cover the nose, mouth, and chin.
6. Everyone is asked to maintain a 2-metre distance (where possible) from people not in your immediate household or social bubble.
7. There will be four hand sanitizing stations in the building.
  - a. At the entrance to the building. You will need to sanitize your hands as soon as you enter.
  - b. On your way up for communion. You will need to sanitize your hands before receiving the wafer.
  - c. After you have received communion. You will need to sanitize your hands after receiving communion.
  - d. Outside of the washrooms. You will need to sanitize your hands before you enter and after you leave the washroom.
8. Only one person at a time is permitted in each washroom. Please knock on the door and ask if anyone is inside before entering.
9. All personal belongings, including coats, must be kept with you in the pew.
10. You will notice COVID-19 signage around the building, markings on the floor to promote physical distancing, and directional arrows.
11. No access will be permitted to the choir loft, offices, or the basement.

### **The Worship Service**

1. The worship service will be our traditional service with a few modifications.
  - a. There will be music, except there will be no congregational singing. Some singing may be done only by our Parish Musician or Pastor.
  - b. Holy Communion will be distributed "in one kind". Communicants will receive the wafer only; there will be no wine or juice.
  - c. There will be no hymnals in the pew racks. All worship content will be viewable via the screen at the front of the sanctuary.
  - d. Since we are not able to have a coffee hour, we are working on a creative way that we can lead a fellowship time as people are seated in the pews.

Over these past six months, we have had to adjust our lives to many new realities as we shop and go about our daily activities. At first, everything was so strange as we went about our lives -- but in time we have adjusted. The same will be true when you come to in-person worship. Things will seem strange at first, but we will adjust. Even as we are adjusting we will find comfort in the purpose for which we gather – the Word, Sacraments, and the Mutual Consolation of the Faithful, the reasons why the Church has been gathering together throughout all kinds of hardships throughout the centuries.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Rick". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive style, and "Rick" is written in a more stylized, bold cursive.

The Rev. Richard A. Kwiatkowski  
Pastor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darryl Workman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail.

Darryl Workman  
Council Chair