

Cross of Hope COVID-19 Plans

for November and December 2020

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. – From the Prayer of the Day 1st Sunday in Advent Year A.

Dear Cross of Hope Community,

God bless you in these days that grow colder and shorter as 2020 draws to a close. Your faithfulness and perseverance on the journey continues to warm my heart as we continue through this time of global pandemic. I join you in being weary of this virus's presence in our life, mourn with you for all those who have died, and pray with you for all those sick and hospitalized. We all continue to be stressed and strained and yet abound with hope for God's continued healing, presence and blessing of a new day.

'*One day at a time*' may be the most helpful mantra for these continued pandemic days. As we turn to Advent and our reflection and contemplation of God's steadfast presence through history, God's abundant presence in this moment, and God's promised presence into the completion of all time, we look and pray together for signs of our Lord Christ's coming.

Thank you for your continued prayer, participation, giving, and partnership as we tend to the spiritual, mental, physical and emotional health of our community and of our neighbors. It is a blessing to continue in hope and ministry.

An update on our life together:

SUNDAY: *We are grateful for the 78 responses to our worship life survey!*

9am We will continue our primary community worship on all our digital channels.

45% of our responses indicated digital only as their primary comfort for worship during this time (60% once you add those who'd be comfortable with walk-up communion).

Also at 9am - We will offer ONE in-person worship gathering with COVID safe practices

33% of responses indicated either 1 worship or attendance capped worship indoors as their primary comfort for worship (the total is only 26 responses thus we felt wise to combine the two and start with one and grow to more as comfort and interest indicate).

Remember:

Those who are sick or particularly vulnerable should not attend.*

Everyone will need to sign-in with the Host to assist in contact tracing should that become necessary.

At least two chairs will be left between you and a non-family member.

Masks are required for everyone.

10am-11am - As part of our digital Sunday worship experience, we will continue to offer in-person, walk-up Communion.

We will set up just inside or outside the front doors of the church depending on weather. Continue to let the host know if you need to remain in your car.

Remember:

Those who are sick or particularly vulnerable should not attend.*

Everyone will need to sign-in with the Host to assist in contact tracing should that become necessary.

Come as you are able after digital worship (or before if you worship later in the day/week) and gather at markings around the table.

If the table is full, please wait on the markings to be invited for prayer and communion.

Masks are required for everyone.

Please maintain a minimum of 6ft. of distance between you and others not of your household.

Be invited to share no-contact signs of Peace (the holy bow, peace sign, friendly wave) to one another while continuing on your way.

11am - NEW ON ZOOM – Fellowship time and Confirmation

We will alternate weeks between open fellowship time for the community and Confirmation for the Mid High Youth.

Zoom link will be made available through the Hope-Filled Happening the week of fellowship.

Due to the low response for a later outdoor worship during the winter, we will reevaluate other opportunities as appropriate.

Our ministry opportunities throughout the week remain the same at this time. Please refer to our previous updates for a reminder of these hours and expectations.

*Everyone please *self-screen* and **stay home** if any of the following are present:

- Fever (temp above 100.4)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat

**COVID-19 spreads through droplets and aerosols. Singing and shouting spread these at a significant rate and distance. Especially in an inside gathering, this continues to be inadvisable during the pandemic.

Advisory

Cross of Hope Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, NM has adopted an ongoing strategy of following the recommendations of the CDC and other health agencies regarding reopening in order to protect the health of staff and visitors.

It is clear at this point that without an effective treatment or vaccine, we will all continue to be at some risk as stay-at-home restrictions are lifted and people venture back into a "new normal." Privacy laws about protected health information do not allow us to screen, test, or obtain a full medical history from our guests, visitors, or staff.

We request and expect that the organizer of any meetings or events that take place at Cross of Hope, will monitor the health status of participants so that staff and other visitors at Cross of Hope, will not be exposed to the virus. *Until further notice, masks are required.*

We will do our part in taking reasonable steps to limit exposure to the virus, but since the virus has not yet been eliminated, we are making full disclosure to all participants that your presence at Cross of Hope, may result in inadvertent exposure to COVID 19, especially for at-risk age groups. Until the all-clear is given by health authorities, your presence at Cross of Hope, and any gatherings on the premises includes your express understanding and agreement that you have understood and accepted those known risks and are willing to assume responsibility for your own health and safety.