

## Guide to Returning to Church on June 14<sup>th</sup>

Dear Church Family,

We received word Monday that the Government of Ontario is now allowing churches to reopen as of Friday, June 12. We praise God that we are now allowed to publicly gather for worship once more! Psalm 122:1 says “I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord”.

We are asking for your patience as we reopen. Due to our current circumstances, some things at church will be a little different. We are doing our best to follow the applicable guidelines and recommendations that create a safe environment and honor the governing authorities. In light of that, we have developed this guide to returning to Kenora Bible Church on June 14<sup>th</sup> so you can know what to expect as you prepare for our time together. We firmly believe that God is sovereign in all things and that he is continually working in our midst for His glory and our good. Knowing this, we can turn to Him today and ask Him to give us the discernment, compassion and faith to make the right decisions for our church at this time. We ask that you be gracious as we make the transition back to a weekly worship gathering.

Also, please remember that the decision to attend Sunday morning service is your personal decision to make, and we understand if you don't feel ready to join us for worship. Our 11:00 am service will continue to be “live-streamed” through the Kenora Bible Church Facebook page and our website, [www.kenorabiblechurch.ca](http://www.kenorabiblechurch.ca).

When you return to Kenora Bible Church services, you'll find that things are not the same as before. The leadership of our Church is attempting to make the best decisions for everyone from both a health and spiritual standpoint, according to God's Word, while recognizing the freedom of personal conviction and diversity of conclusions around the recommendations regarding COVID-19...which continues to change. We do ask that in all things we follow the directive of Jesus to Love our neighbor as ourselves (Luke 10:27).

### **For Everyone Planning to Attend Kenora Bible Church Services:**

- 1) Our church service will begin at 11:00 am, as usual.
- 2) Please stay home if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, suspect you could be ill or have been recently exposed to someone who has had COVID-19.
- 3) The church building will be made and kept as clean as possible. High traffic areas, including restrooms, will be disinfected prior to the service. We request that you use the bathroom at home prior to coming to limit usage of the church's restrooms. Parents, please accompany young children to the restrooms.
- 4) Please remember to practice social distancing (2 meters apart). As difficult as it may be, please refrain from handshaking and hugging for the time being.

- 5) Please bring your own Bible. Bulletins will not be handed out or available. Please also bring a pen or pencil if needed.
- 6) We will have hand sanitizing stations in the foyer, sanctuary and fellowship hall.
- 7) We will not be passing around the offering bags during the service. Please deposit offering envelopes at the sound booth on your way in or use e-transfer.
- 8) We are allowed to have 30% of our full sanctuary capacity (36 people at a time). We are therefore putting the following practices in place:
  - a) Every second row of chairs will be unavailable. Families of course may sit together, or “bubbles” of two related households. Please maintain two empty chairs between singles and family groups. Please keep in mind that this may mean that you can't sit in your normal place. We appreciate your patience and grace for one another.
  - b) Once the sanctuary is to capacity, the fellowship hall has seating for an additional 21 people and a large television where the service will be live-streamed. Chairs will be set up in a similar fashion to the sanctuary.
  - c) If a trip to the washroom is necessary, those in the sanctuary please use the downstairs washroom. Those in the fellowship hall, please use the one functional washroom upstairs.
  - d) Parents, we ask that you please keep your children with you.
- 9) There will be no Sunday School at the church. The Nursery is available to care for babies (not for toddlers to play).
- 10) The use of face masks will be your personal decision and will not be required. Please bring your own mask if possible but we will have a few at the church. Please be gracious and accepting of those who choose differently than you.
- 11) At the conclusion of the service, please observe social distancing.

Again, thank you for your patience. It has been a long 2 1/2 months as we have waited the go ahead to reopen for worship. We look forward to gathering as a local body of Christ and worshipping with you again! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to one of our Elders: Michael Causyn (468- 8123) or Dan Morley (464-4388).