



We are excited to share the following information with you about our plans for the summer at Shepherd's Gate Church in Shelby Township, Michigan.

Shepherd's Gate has been assessing and reassessing how and when we can offer the best possible in-person worship experience for our members and guests, while continuing to honor our local, state and national leaders, both from our government and from our denomination, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

With the technology God has gifted us with, we've been able to broadcast our services into your homes. We are blessed we have such an amazing team who works so hard behind the scenes to produce our online worship services.

Whenever we talk about the pandemic, covid-19, face masks, gloves, social distancing, the government, our freedoms, and so on, it can elicit a range of different opinions and emotions.

As you can imagine, it will be impossible for every[one] who calls Shepherd's Gate home to agree on what we should do and when we should do it.

So, our plan moving forward is to offer **options!** Options allow each individual and family to make the best possible choice based on their comfort levels.

Please hold these plans with an open mind and an open heart, being flexible and adaptable. You can continue to help us through your prayers and patience. We are looking ahead with excitement and without fear, because we know God is in control and He will hold our church together.

## 3 WORSHIP OPTIONS

### 1) Outdoor Services

We will have outdoor services at SG **every Sunday on the West Lawn at 9a** throughout the summer.

Here's a list of things to bring:

- ✓ lawn chairs
- ✓ blanket (if you have kids or want to mark out your space)
- ✓ phone with SG app downloaded (to follow along with the service)
- ✓ sunglasses and sunscreen (we will be in the direct sun)
- ✓ umbrella or beach tent for shade (optional)
- ✓ pack-n-play (if you have an infant)
- ✓ coffee, tea, or morning beverage of your choice
- ✓ snacks (in case you or your kids get hungry)
- ✓ communion elements (only if you prefer to bring your own)

We will have a full service with a band, sermon, and prayers. Holy Communion will be served in a safe and sanitary manner. (If you prefer, you can bring your own communion elements).

## 2) Online Worship

We will continue to offer online worship each Sunday with live chat at **9a and 10:45a ET**. We will continue to produce worship at the highest possible level as we sing, open our Bibles, pray, and worship our God. This will allow you to continue to participate from the comfort and safety of your home. **SG Kids Worship** will continue to be offered online as well each Sunday at 10a ET.

## 3) Small Groups

If you are not ready to gather with a larger group, but you are ready to start gathering with others you know from SG, we would encourage you to gather in small groups. You can meet together, eat together, and watch the worship service together. You can watch on Sundays at 9a or 10:45a ET, or find a date and time that works best for your group and watch the service on demand. You can find the prerecorded services through the weekly email or on our website [www.sgatechurch.org/sermons](http://www.sgatechurch.org/sermons).

# OUTDOOR SERVICE

### Safety Considerations:

- Please **STAY HOME** if you or any member of your family has any symptoms of a fever: cold, cough, runny nose, etc. If you are uncomfortable gathering with others because you are in a high-risk group, or for any other reason, please stay home. You can continue to join us for worship online.
- You will not be required to wear a mask to participate in any outdoor service. If you wish to wear a mask, that is your prerogative.
- Service will be **touchless**.  
We are asking you to not shake hands or offer hugs and to keep some space between you and others.  
You will be able to worship and participate without any contact except your individual communion elements when they are offered in the service.
- We encourage you to continue to give online or drop a check in the mail. There will also be a couple of boxes for those who prefer to bring their offering with them.
- There will be no bulletins or handouts.
- Please bring your phone and have the SG app downloaded so you can follow along with the lyrics to the songs, Scripture readings, sermon notes, etc.
- We will have the gymnasium bathrooms open and a bathroom attendant on hand who will be cleaning them after each use.
- **There will be no SG Nursery or SG Kids available.**
  - ✍ We will have sanitized, individual family sized packages of toys from our nursery for parents who need them. We will have a bucket for parents to return the toys, and our nursery staff will sanitize them before the next service.
  - ✍ We will also have pack-n-plays with waterproof sheets to use, that will also be sanitized after every use.
  - ✍ Activities for kids will be available during service. They will be safely handed out in Ziploc bags.

### Inclement Weather:

- If we experience inclement weather, we will **not** host an outdoor service.
- We will instead encourage every[one] to join us online and try again the following week.
- We encourage you to download the SG app and turn the notifications on, check your email and SG social media for updates.
- We don't know yet when we will be able to offer Indoor Worship Services. When we do, we will communicate our indoor church service plan.

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# THINGS TO NOTE

One of the most important things we can do as a church is not allow the current pandemic to divide us as a church. During these times, our opinions and feelings can lead us to think and to say and to post things on social media. This can lead to confusion, frustration and often makes others feel they are being shamed for not having the same opinions as us.

## Here's what we know about Shepherd's Gate Church:

- **We are a place to call HOME.** When the time comes for us to reopen our facility, we will be a place that is safe, secure, spacious, and sanitized.
- **We are a Creative Church.** Shepherd's Gate has always been a church willing to try new things in order to share the Gospel!
- **We will live by our Mission and Vision Statements.** It just may look a little different in these uncertain times.

## Our Mission Statement

We exist to impact the world with the love of Jesus.

## Our Vision Statement

We will value every[one] we meet, influence every[where] we go, and live generously with every[thing] we have.

## How We Can Live This Out

We will continue to **value every[one]** including our doctors, nurses, first-responders, elderly, politicians, government leaders, and our neighbors.

We will continue to **influence every[where]** whether in small groups, outside gatherings, or through technology by providing quality and meaningful services for our members and guests.

We will continue to **live generously with every[thing]** we have through our tithes and offerings, and by fully supporting our local and global mission partners through Mission14.