



## WORD FOR LIFE MINISTRIES, INC.

"Reconciling and Equipping Lives through the Word"

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Immediate Release

### Word for Life Ministries, Members & Guests

**Subject: WFLM Reopening Protocol**

Dear Members & Guests of WFLM:

Praise the Lord and greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! As you have been hearing for the past several weeks, Word for Life Ministries is officially reopening the sanctuary on Sunday, August 30, 2020, for live service attendance and worship. Our reopening will coincide with our Youth Takeover Service which will start at 10:45 AM.

Considering the ongoing pandemic, this decision was not made lightly but is based on the answer I received from the Lord through the culmination of prayer and inquiry. After seeking the Lord for several weeks during the month of July regarding when to reopen the sanctuary and resume in-person worship services, the Lord provided the following simple answer in late July/early August: ***"Bring my people together again."*** Upon sharing this answer during a WFLM Leadership meeting on August 8, 2020, we have embarked on the task of reopening.

While the pandemic separated us physically for more than 5 months, yet we were able to continue virtual services including our Sunday Worship Experience and Wednesday Interactive Bible Study via live stream. While the physical sanctuary was closed, and our ability to see and fellowship with each other was hindered, the church has never closed and our ability to worship God together virtually remained unhindered. My prayer is that during this time you have been able to slow down, reconnect with the Lord, strengthen your prayer and devotion life, and develop a heart and hunger for outreach to souls!

As we prepare to gather together again via in-person services in the sanctuary, we must do so with the knowledge that the virus which sparked the present pandemic is still uncontained. While we fully believe and exercise faith that our God will keep us safe from the pestilence, we must also do our part to minimize any potential for contacting, transmitting, and spreading of the virus as directed by federal, state and local officials. While on the surface this may appear to be antithetical to faith, careful understanding and study of the word of God compels every soul to be subject to the "higher powers" as they are ordained by God (Rom 13:1-4). We are responsible to submit ourselves to federal, state, and local requirements (laws) so long as they

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do not usurp the law of God. With this in mind, we at Word for Life Ministries have established the following protocols for in-person service attendance which align with federal, state, and local requirements insofar as those requirements do not interfere with our ability to worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth.

### **PROTOCOLS FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE ATTENDANCE AT WFLM:**

Every leader, lay member and guest of Word for Life Ministries attending an in-person service within or upon the premises will agree to the following protocols:

- **Service Attendance:** Service attendance may be limited to 25-percent of the sanctuary occupancy capacity or 100 persons maximum, whichever is lower. This is approximately 25 to 30 persons for the Word for Life Ministries sanctuary, but this limitation will be reevaluated during each service.
- **Entry and Exit:** WFLM is temporarily establishing separate entrance to and exit from the sanctuary. When arriving, enter the main foyer, obtain temperature screening, and then enter sanctuary through the main double doors. At the conclusion of service, exit the sanctuary via the fellowship area and through the hallway to the rear parking lot.
- **Thermometer Testing:** Service attendance will require each attendee be screened for temperature prior to entering the sanctuary. WFLM has purchased two (2) non-contact digital thermometers. Anyone having a temperature of greater than 100°F will not be allowed into the sanctuary but will be referred to the Pastor or designated minister for prayer.
- **Physical Distancing:** Each attendee will endeavor to observe physical spacing of approximately 6 feet between individuals who are not of the same household. Please refrain from shaking hands, holding hands, or hugging. Instead, use an elbow bump to greet each other. We recognize this will be difficult as we are a very loving church. However, let us remember the well-being and health of our members, guests, and visitors during this time.
- **Facial Masks:** Facial masks will be required to be worn at all times on the premises of Word for Life Ministries when entering, exiting, and when within 6 feet of other individuals not a part of the same household. Please bring facial masks for you and your family members. WFLM will have disposable masks available to those who may have forgotten to bring their face masks. WFLM will evaluate this requirement from week to week.

- **Restroom Use:** Our restrooms are professionally cleaned daily. Use of the men's and women's restrooms will be limited to one person each except for members of the same household. Access to the restrooms will be from the Baptismal Area door to the main hallway. This portion of the main hallway will be dedicated for restroom ingress and egress using a temporary retractable barrier system. Access to restrooms will be by key only and the key must remain in the possession of the Deacon or authorized restroom assistant.
- **Hand Sanitizing:** All attendees are encouraged to wash your hands with soap and water frequently. Additionally, automatic hand sanitizer stations will be made available in the foyer, sanctuary, and fellowship area.
- **Existing Sickness or Compromised Immune System:** If you have a compromised immune system, are pre-disposed to respiratory illness, or are currently experiencing signs of illness (fever or chills, cough, difficulty breathing, congestion or runny nose, body aches, sore throat, loss of taste and/or smell), please stay home. However, please contact Pastor Joel or any member of the WFLM Ministerial Team so that we may contact you and pray for your healing in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Singing & Prayer:** The state of California has attempted to prohibit "singing and chanting" within religious services. However, this prohibition is against the Biblical mandate to worship the Lord with singing and to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Therefore, WFLM will continue to include enjoined praise and worship and prayer as part of our worship service.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. **Which services will be in person?** Initially, we will begin our in-person service each Sunday at 10:45 AM. Wednesday Bible Study will continue to be live streamed and Monday Youth Bible Study will continue to utilize Zoom. In the coming weeks we anticipate transitioning Wednesday Bible Study to in-person.
2. **Will services still be available online?** Yes, live streaming our services has become a permanent part of our reach beyond the four walls of the building and we plan to increase our capability with enhanced video and streaming equipment in the future. Virtual service participation will remain available at the following locations:
  - a. Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/WFLM.Church](http://www.facebook.com/WFLM.Church)
  - b. Vimeo: [www.vimeo.com/wflm](http://www.vimeo.com/wflm)
  - c. YouTube: [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) (search for Word for Life Ministries and subscribe)

3. **How long will these protocols remain in place?** We understand that the protocols we have established may seem burdensome; however, we solicit your patience and participation as we do our part to make WFLM a safe place for all who are willing to attend in person. The protocols, while offering a measure of preventative care, are not failsafe. Therefore, we continue to exercise faith and our belief that God will prevent the spread of the virus among His saints. Furthermore, in light of changing federal, state, and local requirements, WFLM will continue to monitor and evaluate the protocol. WFLM will continue to communicate any changes to the protocol.

4. **What else can I do during this time?**

a. Remember that **we are a people of FAITH** and not of FEAR.

*2 Tim 1: 7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

*1 John 4: 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

b. Do not become paralyzed by what you continue to see and hear in the media. Current testing in the U.S. still shows that of those currently exhibiting symptoms of respiratory-related illnesses, only 1 to 2 percent of those test positive for COVID-19. The remainder of those tested were found to have normal seasonal cold, flu, or other non-COVID-19 related illnesses. Regardless of this, remember that the Lord is your protector and your defender. He will keep you!

*Pss 57: 1 Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.*

*Pss 91: 1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*

*2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.*

*3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.*

*4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.*

- c. Let us pray daily for our families, loved ones, friends, neighbors, coworkers, government, our country, and the countries of the world. Let us pray for peace of mind, protection, healing and deliverance, and salvation of souls. Let us all check on our elderly members daily and let us make sure that no one is lacking anything. We are our brother's keeper!
- d. Read the Bible daily. Hide the word of God in your heart. Meditate on the word of God day and night; let it be a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path.
- e. Saints, this is a new season: the old is past. Let us seek the Lord so that we will be in tune with His will and be a part of what He is doing in this new season. Our focus must be on outreach to the unreached. Most importantly, we must be ready for the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or desire additional information, please feel free to contact me directly by phone (WFLM Members) or by email at [pastorjoel3@att.net](mailto:pastorjoel3@att.net).

Blessings in Christ,



Elder Joel E. Bowdan III  
Senior Pastor  
**Word for Life Ministries, Inc.**

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