

## LUMC Survey results – Showing PCT

We had a total of 85 responses to our first survey about reopening our church for in-person worship! Thank you, all, for responding. Here are your responses, mostly by percent of those who selected each option. Q1 & Q2 were age range and previous worship service attended.

	<b>Total</b>			
<b>3. I/we will return to worship:</b>	<b>Pct</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>9:45</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Back at first opportunity	24%	18	21	28
Back at first opportunity w/precautions	24%	36	24	19
Will wait several weeks	15%	9	19	13
It may be a while	11%	9	7	9
At this point I'm not sure	26%	27	26	22

### **4. External signs before I attend (not included here)**

#### **5. Precautions I will take:**

Will wear a face mask	46%
Keep social distance-6ft standing & sitting	53%
I'll avoid Shaking Hands	82%
I'll avoid any Physical Contact	67%
I'll avoid crowded halls	48%
I'll Bring my own hand sanitizer	53%

#### **6. Our Church Should:**

Limit paper handouts	36%
New method of Communion	67%
New method of offering	15%
Encourage social distance in sanctuary	66%
Encourage social distance in small groups	44%
Prop doors open	61%
Set up one-way traffic entrance/exit	34%

Provide hand sanitizer stations	62%
Discourage shaking hands	71%
More time between services to clean	36%

Comments: “Don’t open til there’s a vaccine.” “Opening based on solid evidence there’s no longer a threat.” “As required by authorities.” “All of these initially.” “Touchless hand sanitizer.” “Reserved seating.” “Encourage those coughing or sneezing to stay home; ask them to leave.” “Temperature checking. If traveled, 14 days before attending. Additional protections in bathrooms.”

**9. Kids & Youth** (parents responded to these questions):

Reduce # in each room/move to larger	36%
Seat children where they cannot touch	32%
Prohibit snacks	50%
Teachers wear face masks	14%
Kids wear face masks	11%
Teachers wear gloves	14%
Kids use hand sanitizer arrive/leave	61%
Plan activities w/no touch	54%

**General Comments:**

Thank you, to all who shared comments. Some expressed their concerns and hesitancy; some expressed their desire to return; many expressed appreciation for online worship; etc. You can read through the comments below. Items preceded by “Q1” and similar, were comments that were added specifically related to that question number in the survey.

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Concern for ushers and the ability to get people to serve in this capacity. Ushers tend to have close contact with more parishioners than those just attending services. Plus they are at the forefront of encountering those who show up fore services.

Q4 - face masks fog the person’s glasses. Q5 - in response to paper handouts "I think that this is needed but perhaps have each pick up their own rather than be handed one by an usher" Q13 - "but 8:30 is generally lowest number of participants"

Have very much appreciated having the Worship Services streamed to our home. Miss seeing others in person, but this has been a wonderful alternative.

My age will preclude my attending church until it is quite safe.

I would resume coming to church when I was confident that LUMC has taken appropriate precautions to keep the congregation as safe as possible, within the "opening up" guidelines issued by the Virginia Conference/Bishop, or the Virginia Dept. of Health "opening up" guidelines for places of worship (which have not been publicized yet?). And, I would want to make sure that there is available "treatment" (whatever medications that might be deemed effective) in Loudoun County for the virus should one of us catch it because of going out more in the community (not necessarily from being at LUMC).

Q12: "in reference to #12, I think it would be better to meet at church, than to meet at someone's home. I personally, at this time or even the near future would not want a small group meeting at my home, since we are in the high risk category. I also would not now or in the near future participate in a small group at someone else's home. I think the church rooms would be a better environment, to start doing this... social distancing would be easier to practice at LUMC, because it is a larger space.

I think we may need to double the number of service times on Sunday to maintain social distancing. I would also suggest keeping the Vimeo videocast going after we return to in-person worship. The videocasts allow folks who may be under the weather to participate in the service. My wife and I have really enjoyed the services online.

I believe you will do the best to ensure the most possible safety for everyone

No matter what we do, it will be hard and not everyone will be happy. Its all good. Yet I will add, we REALLY like the livestream. That you can reach people where they are is HUGE!! We would like to see livestream continue after we return to "normal"

Q10: For Sunday School (Wesley Discipleship Class): Our Sunday Zoom tele-classes have been well-attended. I plan to survey the class regarding their comfort level to make a decision on when to resume. We have actually seen increased regular attendance on our tele-classes due to lack of schedule conflict. Q3: or returning to church, services: one concern regarding when govt says it's OK to resume is that some of the decisions driving that are not medical-driven. So I plan to make a decision based on the info available as to when I'm comfortable returning. It won't be driven necessarily by a govt decision to open schools, businesses. Q6: For services I expect everyone to be wearing masks. And additional masks should be available. GENERAL: I'm also expecting virtual services to continue to be an option for those not comfortable on returning immediately. And I'd expect that to continue regardless of this situation. I've gotten feedback from people who enjoy attending virtually who are otherwise unable to do so in person.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate the weekly online service. I'm sure it's a little difficult, but I'm hoping the church will continue to provide an online service. Even if it's pre recorded

Good luck! I'm sure figuring all this out is not an easy task!

If we use the balcony, I think we can achieve the proper social distancing at 9:45 which I believe is the largest service

Our expectation is that revised guidance will be provided at some level of government (federal, state or local) and church plans should incorporate the most current guidance as the answer to q's 5, 6 & 11 rather than the survey responses to those q's. We guessed at what the guidance from health officials may be to answer those q's (5, 6 & 11). For question 4, we expect most of those criteria to be "yes" for the church to open but they are not prerequisites for us. We like the idea making reservations for sanctuary seating, assuming social distancing remains in place, in order to know a seat in the sanctuary is actually available. It's preferable to dressing for and driving to church only to turn around and come back home if seats are unavailable and the only option is overflow. If feeling ill, we will remain at home. If masks are required we probably won't come. It's not reluctance to wearing a mask but rather due to my hearing impairment and the masks muffle speech and preclude my lip reading.

Q14 - if there is not room In the sanctuary we would probably prefer to stream the service at home over sitting in an overflow room.

Q 14 - if doing that, might as well remain remote

Q4: Availability of testing

I think it's great that you're getting this info. from the congregation, but the church may have to be the one to make stipulations if some people wear face masks and others don't, it defeats the object. Certainly in the early days

Maybe consider worshipping outdoors during nice weather

Q12: honestly I don't really know how I'm going to feel about any of this when the time comes Q13: but not 8:30

May God give you all wisdom as you work through this plan. God bless you!

Q5 - I will do whatever is asked of me Q6 - whatever the rest of the congregation is comfortable with

Most of our answers depend on what the infection rate is in Loudoun County/Leesburg, and what community leaders decide to open in the near future. It is hard to predict our comfort level at this point.

Thank you for all that you do! We have been attending church online and appreciate all of your efforts!

**OFFER CONTINUED ONLINE STREAMING SERVICE AND IN PERSON SERVICE SO WE CAN LIMIT NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN SANCTUARY AT ONE TIME. THIS MIGHT BE A NEW NORMAL WAY OF ATTENDING CHURCH FOR SOME**

I don't think we should start in person church services until large gatherings are no longer prohibited. Then start back with precautions mentioned above masks, hand sanitizer, no hand shaking spacing people out

Our returning to gathering in person at church will be highly dependent on our confidence in the measures that are being taken more broadly in the county, state, and country. The official lifting of group gatherings is not a sufficient indicator for us.

Q4 - a vaccine or more info in how the disease behaves

You all have done a great job with outreach! Also, can't thank Ms Margrit enough for leading Sunday School Zoom for kids! It's so great to be connected.

Thank you for your efforts to consider the needs of everyone in our church as well as some of the inherent challenges of our physical structure (narrow passages, confined areas, same handrails going up and down stairs, etc. -I commend everyone who has been instrumental in the development and evolution of our capacity for live streaming which I believe will serve our church ministry well even when things have gotten back to a more ""normal"" feel (whatever that will look like). -Just not sure at this point when we'll be comfortable and not sure what the difference will be with half full or quarter full sanctuary in terms of safety.

Q 11 - I would encourage anyone not comfortable coming or in ANY way not feeling well to not come. Then trust the Lord to set the capacity. Q12 - worship at home for a few more weeks

Typical attendance at 11:00 service is low enough to practice social distancing

I'm very likely to wait to attend worship for at least a month to see what happens to the number of cases and hospitalizations in the county and state. Presumably with more testing, there will be more cases, but hospitalizations #s should go down not stay the same nor go up before I attend. I might also decide to wait for cure or vaccine. Also, I would expect online worship to continue no matter what the church decides.

Looking forward to when we can all worship together!

Q5- Probably sing in the rafters...

I love the proactive thinking by sending this survey out now! It also gives us very positive thoughts and imaging.

Difficult times that require different approaches and solutions thru trial and error.

Except for Christmas and Easter, there is rarely any occasion that the 11:00 is filled beyond capacity. There is plenty of room for everyone to spread out if they feel uncomfortable about sitting next to someone. Getting back to normal is important. What do we do with the next influenza virus that come around? There will have been around 60,000 people that will have died from the influenza this year and our country was not shut down.

We really appreciate all the hard work by LUMC staff to bring us online worship and in staying in touch/connected. Thanks!

I think I would just as likely prefer to stay home then participate in an overflow room. Can we do the on-line thing with in-person for the first few weeks so that people can transition as they feel comfortable? I would want to know that everyone is taking this seriously before I return, and/or that people who do not take it seriously are politely confronted and removed. Will we have face masks available to give people who show up without one? I think one of the difficult things about facemasks is not everyone has access to them, and it is difficult to require something of people that they can't access.

Q4 - I want to know more specifically what the church is doing, and what is expected. Will you require masks, will you be cleaning between services, etc?

Since we attend the 11:00 service, #13 and 14 don't really apply. Will be very willing to do what is necessary in order to get back to worship and keep all members comfortable and safe. Thank you for all you are doing!

I would like to come back to regular church as soon as possible.

Don't rush. We should not think we are going back to the way we were before. Maybe using our facilities for spread out worship times throughout the week for small, home groups would be a better way to go. Or make the effort to get home worship going on Sundays with small groups gathering in homes, watching either a livestream or pre-recorded message for discussion, prayer and other activity.

Q8 - kids cannot abide by social distancing. It is not in their nature and younger children do not have the discipline needed Q9 - Don't require, but accept individual decisions to wear face Q14 - It depends on our ability to effectively conduct this distributed worship

Promote "regulars" to attend in person 1-2 Sundays/month and participate remotely the other Sundays. Another way to do it would be "odd/even" days (like during the 70s gas shortage). Take the birth year of the oldest family member and if today's date is appropriately odd or even then the family attends.

My answers to questions 5 and 6 depend on when I return and the status of the virus at that time. I have concerns bans may be lifted too soon. As a result I feel there is a good chance of an increase of

people infected with the virus. I'm not talking about the "second wave" many have talked about possibly developing in the fall

Q4: widespread testing done, vaccination available Q5: I will be vaccinated so I cannot infect/ be infected by my work clients & fellow church members, whose welfare I take very seriously, as they are mostly people even older than I am or very frail in health.

too early to make decisions, will depend on current circumstances at the time opening is offered

Q4 - Don't plan on going into large groups until a vaccine and cure are found. Q12 - assuming its via streaming

I .... am the prime target for covid issues. With that said I feel the church can not provide me with the safe haven I look for – Not because of lack of trying, but I am the exceptional case. My spiritual faith remains unshaken, but my religious participation is definitely diminished. I wish you the best!!!

Hopefully we will not reopen too soon. In the case of churches, particularly LUMC, it is much better to be totally safe than even a little bit

Q4 - and have completed at least one grading period with no infections Q5 - Hopefully LUMC will avoid opening until none of these are necessary

I Love the virtual services we are now having. Thank you all for making them happen!

Q3 - I will return when there is a vaccine available Q4 - When a vaccine is available Q12 - I would not attend until there is a vaccine