

# A RECAP of Living in Faith as ORLC in a Pandemic World – March 2020 – September 2020

(from ORLC Church Council and the ORLC Covid Leadership Team)

## Quotes of the Covid 19 Season:

*“Covid-19 requires new ways of living our lives with new precautions and routines for ourselves and our families, whether at home, work, school or when spending time with others”*

*We all must “use the layers of protection that keep ourselves and those around us safe”.*

*“Be kind, be calm and be safe”.*

Dr Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, Province of BC

## What we know:

Covid 19 has resulted in the deaths of elders and seniors more than any other age group, and people with underlying health conditions are most vulnerable;

Wearing a mask while also physical distancing is not a guarantee, but it does help to reduce the spread of Covid 19

‘Fewer faces, larger spaces’, ‘outdoors is better than indoors’ and ‘small bubbles’ are common mantras

Our ORLC congregation is comprised of individuals who are in the high-risk category for complications due to COVID 19

## What we did as a church community:

Between mid March and early September ORLC continued to be church by:

- Striking an **ORLC Covid Leadership Team** the recommendation of BC Synod;
- Having **Skaha Lake Gatherings** – 17 gatherings with a total of 53 people for 45-60 minutes
- Offering **YouTube Sunday Morning services** - 26 Services of the Word, complete with sermon and music;
- Offering **YouTube Bible study** – 12 Epidemic of Good News sessions
- Holding **Confirmation Classes** – weekly via Zoom with confirmand Eli
- Connecting via an innumerable number of **Phone Call Out and/or emails by Church council members** – a great way to share news of what is happening at ORLC
- **Cross Stitching Chrismons** in anticipation of the Christmas season;
- Having a **Yard Sale** in our church parking lot which emptied our loft of donated items and yielded a \$900+ deposit into the ORLC bank account;
- Enabling **counselling services** to be resumed by two renters;
- Ensuring that the **church office** remains open every Tuesday and Thursday morning and,
- Maintaining **Church giving** by placing our gifts in the secure mailbox, mailing to the church or e-transfer (contact the church office for more details).

# A PROJECTION of Living in Faith as ORLC in a Pandemic World –

October 2020 - April 2021

## What we know:

The vulnerability of many of our ORLC members, including our pastor and his immediate family is high

The required cleaning and sanitizing of church spaces before and after any event is considerable

There is a projected increase in the spread of Covid in our province, as schools open, many community activities move indoors, and the regular flu season compounds everyone's health risks.

Some churches are starting to open their doors for Sunday morning worship in the sanctuary

## Some of what we will do as a church at ORLC:

- Continue **YouTube Sunday Morning Service** with Pastor Curtis;
- Start Mellow Mondays – now called **Tuesday Tea Time** – starting Tuesday September 22<sup>nd</sup> on Zoom
- Start **Zoom Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes** (4-6 weeks), led by Pastor Curtis will start in early October;
- Continue to update our **ORLC Covid Safety Plan**;
- Continue to live out our **ORLC Covid Safety Plan** when we visit the church building;
- **Cross Stitch Chrismons** to adorn a Christmas tree in the ORLC sanctuary at Christmas;
- Introduce **Quiet Time in the Sanctuary** – a small group, contemplative, prayerful time in the sanctuary. Pre-register for one of these by contacting Anette in the office for more information.
  - Oct 18<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) 11:00-11:30 am
  - Oct 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) 2:00 -2:30 pm

(We will consider more of these services depending on demand and adherence to our Covid Safety Plan. Some of the Covid measures for *Quiet Time in the Sanctuary* include: small numbers, pre-registration, mask wearing, designated seating, access to space only shortly before service, no lingering after service, following entry/exit signage, hand sanitizing)

Each faith community needs to consider their own risks, and while other churches in our communities may be resuming worship services, here at ORLC we do not consider it safe at this time

**We give thanks to all of you, who, during this time, have maintained an interconnectedness through visitation, checking in on one another by phone, and by praying for one another.**  
**We pray for your continued support of our faith community.**