

BBC SITE SERVICES UPDATE with FAQ's

Types of Sunday Worship Services

- Online Services - since the COVID pandemic, we have been engaging with Online services
- Site Services - we plan to start in-person Site Services soon:
 - Strathroy Service - 264 Princess St, Strathroy
 - Glencoe Service - location to be determined

Restarting Site Services

At Bethel, we exist to glorify God by making disciples who make disciples. Our methods and strategies may change (and COVID has forced a lot of change), but our purpose remains the same.

As each of us considers the resumption of in person services, we all lie on a spectrum of what we believe we should do as a church. Some think we should have started Site Services already, some think we should only start after a vaccine is perfected, and others are somewhere between these two positions. It's okay that people have differing opinions. Nobody is right or wrong. No one has the perfect strategy as this pandemic is unprecedented in our time. Therefore, we must respect that we have differing opinions and keep striving for unity, humility and love.

It is completely fine if you feel you should wait some more time before attending a Site Service. We are committed to continuing to offer our Online Services. We encourage you to do what you believe is best for you and your family. Another option to consider is to meet with other individuals or families on your own to participate in the Online Services. We will be ready when you are ready to return to Site Services and we will honour your decision.

We also recognize that other churches are doing things differently from us - and that's okay as well. They must do what they believe is best for them and we must do what we discern the Lord is leading us to do.

General Information

- our first Strathroy Site Service will be 10:00 am on Sunday, September 27, 2020 at 264 Princess St in Strathroy, ON
- we will be having a DRY RUN Strathroy Site Service on Sunday, September 13, 2020. This will be by invitation only, for our service volunteers. It will allow us to train our teams and also test our Site Service protocols before opening publicly.
- We will launch our in-person Family Experience at 10:00 am on Sunday Oct 4, 2020 at 264 Princess Street in Strathroy, ON
- our first Glencoe Site service will be at 10:30 am on Sunday, October 25, 2020 at a location to be determined

- we will be having a DRY RUN Glencoe Site service on Sunday, October 18, 2020. This will be by invitation only, for our service volunteers. It will allow us to train our teams and also test our Site Service protocols before opening publicly.

Decision Influencers

What has influenced our decision-making about the timing and format of our in-person Site Services?

- Prayerful consideration by the Staff and our Elders
- Mission: we exist to glorify God by making disciples who make disciples. Meeting to worship and hear from God's Word is a vital part of living out our mission
- Love: throughout this entire process we have strived to live out the Great Commandment (Matt 22:36-40), by making decisions that display our love for God and our neighbours
- Safety: we want to provide the safest environment possible as this pandemic continues
- Legal Compliance: honouring the elected officials God has put in place over us by ensuring we comply with all legal regulations (Rom 13:1)
- Liability: our insurance coverage could be in jeopardy if we knowingly or intentionally break the law.
- Experience: we want to provide the best experience possible, such that we can enjoy meaningful worship and hear from God, while abiding by required restrictions
- Location: a desire to reach people beyond our Strathroy boundaries

Restrictions for Site Services

What are the most significant current regulations that we have to abide by as we open up for in-person Site Services?

- 30% maximum attendance in worship services (135 people in Auditorium, 75 people in Large Fellowship Hall). This will require pre-registration online or by calling the office
- agreement to a waiver for those attending
- Strict social distancing will be required. People will need to check in, be directed to their reserved seating, and leave the auditorium promptly when the service is over. There will be no socializing, hugging or hand shaking.
- Masks must be worn by everyone age 12 and over, except if someone can't wear one for medical reasons. We encourage parents to consider having their children 2 and over wear a mask as well.

These restrictions will make our Site Services feel very different from what we have been used to. We will do our best to make the site experience a positive and meaningful time of worship while also staying safe within the current confines.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why have we waited until Sept 27 to start in-person Site Services again?

- Through a process of much prayer, we did not feel settled before God to open until now
- Our desire to show the love of Christ by guarding the safety of our congregation and community
- Our earlier survey results told us the majority of our people supported a slow and cautious approach to returning to meet in person
- We wanted space to learn from the experience our community and other churches are having as they return/reopen

How long will the Site Services be?

- approximately one hour

What will the Site Service look like?

- For the immediate future, in-person services will have the pre-recorded videos of our worship band and sermon projected on the screen. There will be a live host and 1-2 live vocalists. Each week, the host will lead us in some special elements to foster engagement, prayer, worship, and learning (ie. it will not simply be watching a screen).
- Our service format continues to be regularly examined and we will keep adjusting with different modifications as we go along.

Will we be able to sing?

- Not at this time. We support the COVID protocols that discourage singing in worship centres. We will be led in musical worship by our worship teams on video and accompanied by a live leader on stage. Remember, we can certainly worship God through music without singing out loud - as tough as that will be for us! Our worship leaders will coach us with different approaches to praising God in these times!

Will Bethel kids be running when Site Services begin?

- Yes, we will be offering our in-person Family Experience downstairs at the same time as our Strathroy site services. This is geared toward families with children up to Grade 5. Please see the Family Experience Update with FAQ's for more details.

Why are we displaying the pre-recorded video of the worship and sermon, rather than having this live at the Site Service? Could we not live-stream the Site Service?

- As an example of Christ's love, we are striving to protect the safety of those who attend.
- Reopening is going to be a step by step process with many new, unique challenges and opportunities. We are looking toward the possibility of a live-stream of our services, but there are many different elements we need to work through to get there (eg. equipment, volunteer teams, training, setups, internet speeds, etc.).
- We are committed to continuing to provide services online for those who are not able or comfortable to return to in-person services at this time. Online services have also

allowed us to reach new people that we would never be able to reach in person, with the hope of Jesus. Praise God!

- We are striving to ensure all of our services (online and in-person) are done with excellence. Making this transition, while maintaining excellence, will take time.
- We have an exciting and unique sermon series planned for the fall that will fit into this format very well.

Where will I sit? How will seating work?

- Our newly renovated auditorium gives us a great level of flexibility for our seating and social distancing. The auditorium will be setup with table and chair seating. Each family unit will be preassigned to a table. Different sized tables will be setup to match with the family sizes.

Can I sit with others outside my family?

- In an effort to ensure we comply with all social distancing requirements, we would ask that each family unit sit separately. If you have an extended family member or friend who you have already invited into your “bubble” of 10 people, you can indicate this on your pre-registration and we will do our best to seat you together around one table.

What entrance do I use?

- At the Strathroy service, all those entering for our Sunday Service will enter through the back door under the overhang and will exit out the front doors facing Caradoc Street.
- Those entering for the Family Experience will use the doors facing Caradoc Street at the front of the building and exit through the back doors under the overhang.
- If part of your family is attending the Sunday Service and another part the Family Experience, go to the Family Experience entrance first.

Why are we adding a service in Glencoe?

- Throughout this unique season, we have been on the look-out for opportunities God may have us seize to transform our community and to reach our world. We believe this could be one of those opportunities.
- Our capacity for in-person services is limited, and this will allow more people to join us for worship
- The largest segment of our congregation, not residing in Strathroy, are from the Glencoe/Melbourne/Appin area
- Having a service in this area will make it easier for those attending to reach out and invite their local friends and neighbours to church. This is living out our mission to be multiplying disciples!

Where exactly will the Glencoe service be happening?

- We are looking into location options but have not yet finalized one. It will be in the Glencoe, Appin, Melbourne area.

Is the Glencoe service going to be permanent?

- We are going to test out the service in Glencoe until the end of the year and re-evaluate at that time.

What will the service in Glencoe look like?

- The Glencoe service will follow the same format as our Strathroy service with a live host, and utilizing the pre-recorded video of our worship team and sermons. Pre-registration, screening, social distancing and all safety protocols will be followed in both locations.

Why not other locations?

We are seeking to take a phased-in approach to reopening. We have decided to start with Strathroy and Glencoe because this is where the majority of our folks live. If there are families from other parts of our region who would be interested in also having a local service, please contact us. Email allan@bethelstrathroy.com and we can begin to pray and discuss together.

What steps will be taken to ensure my safety if I attend a Site Service?

- We will have pre-registration and attendance (to assist with contact tracing, if necessary)
- All attendees will be screened prior to entering the service to ensure they:
 - have not travelled outside the country within the last 14 days
 - are not experiencing COVID-related symptoms
 - have not been in contact with someone with COVID
- Social distancing and masks are required
- Chairs and seating assignments in the auditorium will be arranged to comply with social distancing between family units
- Bathroom monitors will assist in ensuring one family unit uses the washroom at a time
- We will re-clean the washrooms at least once during the Site Services
- We will eliminate as many touch points as possible - doors will be opened for you; water fountains are closed; some areas of the church will be closed - ie gym; hand sanitizer is provided; no bulletins, pew bibles, offering plates, etc;
- All attenders will enter the back entrance under the overhang and then exit the front door after the service
- Greeters will help provide instructions for entering and exiting safely. We ask everyone again to lovingly defer to those who are helping keep us safe.
- After the service, we will ask people to exit the foyer in prescribed fashion to allow for the orderly exit of people while still social distancing. We will request everyone in the parking lot to continue to wear their masks and to practice social distancing.

Do I have to wear a mask? Should I wear my own mask from home?

- Yes the regulations require everyone 12 and up to wear a mask (we encourage parents to consider having their children 2 and up wear a mask)

- Please bring your masks from home to use. We will have masks available for those who forget.

Can I use the washroom?

- We will have limited washroom availability, with cleaning protocols in place and allowance for one person or family unit at a time in a washroom to maintain social distancing.

Can I bring my children to a Site Service?

- Yes! We recognize this will make the church experience for our young families look very different, but we are going to work hard to make it positive and impactful. As a parent, you can choose which service will be best for your family (Sunday Service or Family Experience). We will extend lots of grace and understanding for young ones with us. Finally, the service will also be displayed on the TV in the lobby, in the event that you need to step out of the auditorium for a moment with a little one.

Will there be anywhere that I can go to change a diaper or nurse a baby?

- Yes, we will have a separate, private room available for nursing mothers if needed. No toys will be available in this room, but there will be comfortable chairs. We have also installed infant change tables in the upstairs male and female washrooms.

How can I register to attend a Site Service?

- Registration for a service opens each Tuesday at 10 am for the coming Sunday
- Seating will be determined by a first come, first serve basis
- You can register online (bethelstrathroy.com) or by calling the church office (519.245.2320). You need to register everyone who is attending with you, including children. Staff and volunteers must also register.

Why do I have to agree to a Waiver?

- To review the waiver - <https://bethelstrathroy.com/s/COVID-Waiver-BBC.pdf>
- This will help ensure everyone is aware of the risks and it could help protect the church in the case of someone actually acquiring the virus despite our best efforts to mitigate the risk.

Can I give an offering in church?

- Yes, through the boxes on the walls, but we encourage you to consider online giving instead. To find out more, visit bethelstrathroy.com/give

Will coffee be available?

- No, we cannot provide food or drink and would ask that if you bring your own water bottle, that you take the trash with you when you leave. If parents need to bring snacks for their kids, please take all refuse with you.