



Addressing Safety and Security at Church

You are invited to join us
This Sunday, November 12th
at 9:30am
in the Sanctuary

for a discussion about safety and security procedures.
We will review the precautions already in place
and discuss other ideas to help keep everyone safe.

Safety Procedures for Children and Youth

Some of the Precautions Already in Place

- We ask all parents to please be sure their children are never unsupervised while at church. This is an open campus. We love our children and want them to be safe.
- For the safety of our children we ask all parents to be sure to come sign each child in every week. Children should never be dropped off and send in alone.
- Parents are asked to stay on the premises while their children are here on Sunday. Because this may not always be possible, we ask every parent to complete the medical release on the registration form.
- Youth Group members (grades 6-12) are able to sign themselves into class and will be released without a parent checking them out. We are concerned for the safety of our youth and ask all parents to discuss safety with them. We have an open campus and many people walk through it. Youth need to be cautious and never walk around campus alone.
- All Sunday School and Youth Leaders must complete a misconduct prevention course and follow requirements of the Diocese of Los Angeles.
- No one may volunteer to work with children unless they have been members of the church for at least 9 months.

Additional Safety Procedures Now Being Added

- Our campus is already equipped with security gates for the classrooms. These gates had previously been left open on Sundays in order to be most welcoming. In light of recent events, we have decided to increase security around our children's programs. School gates will remain closed and access to the campus will be limited. People will be able to enter through the gate on Loma Vista and through or around Kahler Hall from the parking lot. They will not be able to enter through any of our back gates. Parents will be given the gate code so they can get to their children at any time.
- Access to the nursery will be through the gates using the gate code. Ushers and Sunday School Greeters will have the code and share it with any parents who don't know it or forget.
- Sunday School will continue to use our Children's Chapel room which is behind the gates.
- Youth Group will continue to meet in the Youth Center which is behind the gates.

Safety Procedures during Church Services

Ushers Safety Protocol for Sunday Worship

- We are very excited that the church is growing! Expect to welcome lots of newcomers and visitors at upcoming services. Please try to have an usher in the narthex at all times to welcome latecomers, answer any questions and just keep an eye on things. So that no one is in the narthex for the entire service, we suggest trading off.

- It is unfortunate, but true, that pick-pockets sometimes target churches. Attentive ushers help to discourage those who might be looking for an opportunity to take advantage. We will try to recruit additional ushers to assist during our biggest services. Whenever possible, help keep a watch from the back of the church, especially on women's purses while they come forward to receive communion. This is the most likely time pick-pockets will act.
- Many of these policies are meant to present a deterrent to wrongdoing. Should an emergency arise, our first priority is the safety of everyone involved. If an incident occurs, speak out, observe, report, but do not put yourself in harm's way.
- All are welcome here. This is a very important part of our mission statement and our calling as Christians, to welcome everyone. And though everyone is welcome, we do insist that those who attend our services do so soberly and respectfully. Anyone who appears to be intoxicated or disorderly may pose a danger to others. It has not yet happened, but there may be an occasion when it would be necessary to ask someone to move along rather than entering the sanctuary or to call 911 for assistance.

Additional Security Measures to Consider Adding

- If you are concerned about someone, pair up with one of your fellow ushers to address the situation. If you need additional support, call on any members of our vestry, off duty ushers or any able-bodied person. Do what you reasonably can to keep the person about whom you are concerned from entering the sanctuary. It is much harder to get someone to leave after they have settled into a seat. If it seems reasonable to do so, address the person in question while encouraging them to walk away from the door, out onto the labyrinth, or to take a seat on the bench around the labyrinth. Introduce yourselves and try to get the person's name and any information about them. You might ask directly if they have been drinking. You may need to ask them to leave. If safety is a concern, please do not hesitate to call 911 and try to keep the person away from others.
- Earlier this week, we had a team of security consultants visit and evaluate our campus. They are working up some plans to increase safety and security. We discussed many options including:
 - Hiring security guards for Sunday services
 - Installing panic buttons in the front of the sanctuary
 - Installing cameras and using "virtual guards"

***We welcome your ideas and your feedback.
Please help us as we do all we can to provide a safe place to worship.***