RSG Mask Policy:

Everyone who enters the Church building will be asked to wear a mask or face covering. Preschool aged children who are enrolled in the program will not be required to wear masks in Ready Set Grow preschool classrooms at this time. We are a licensed child care center within the State of MN. We have a Licensor as well as a Health Consultant. We follow the MN Department of Health for child care setting recommendations. The decision about masks, at this time, was made after considering the ages and developmental stages of the children, consulting with our Licensor and Health Consultant, as well as the updates for MNDH regarding masking requirements for child care.

The needs of preschool age children in a classroom setting are different than those of being in a public space. The best learning environment for children this age is to be able to see faces of their teachers and peers for lip reading, communication, understanding and facial expressions. For masks to be most effective, they need to stay in place and not be touched, and faces are not to be touched over or under a mask; the experts that govern us agree that for children at this age and stage, operating masks for long periods of time properly is unrealistic and can pose further risk because of mishandling of masks. If licensing changes/updates the policy for mask wearing in child care settings, we will abide by that, change our practices and require children/parents to do so also.

We get daily updates from MN Licensing and MNDH. We welcome any child to wear a mask—we will help and support that as long as that child is handling it properly and the child's behavior and learning are not affected. If you choose to have your child wear a mask, please send a few each day as they may need to be changed throughout the day; also please bring a small paper bag for unused and reusable masks to be stored. Teachers will not be required to wear a mask in the classroom as long as the children are not. Teachers/adults will be required to wear a mask in the common areas of the Church. Children may be required to at some point throughout the year.