

Indoor Worship Guidelines

At its August meeting the church council reviewed and approved the following guidelines for safely reopening the church for indoor worship. A Safety team of Hope Tanko, Jen Kroschel, Laurie Knutson and Interim Pastor John Keller drafted the guidelines using guidelines from the state of Minnesota. The plan is to continue drive-in worship through September (excluding Labor Day week-end, September 6). **Sunday, October 4th is our planned reopening date**

Sanctuary and Building Preparation;

The sanctuary will need to be prepared:

- Removal of all hymnals and other paper items
- Establish a way to block off pews/or parts of pews for social distancing
- Configure HVAC for best fresh air ventilation
- Determine whether and how the pews will be cleaned before/after worship

Signs posted about 'physical distancing' and facemasks near both entrances.

The Nursery is closed and toys to be stored out of sight. The Children's "Busybags" will be removed and placed in storage.

Hand Sanitizer is placed outside both restrooms with signs encouraging their use.

If local school districts decide to stop in-person teaching and use only on-line learning, then indoor worship will be suspended and on-line worship will continue.

Self -Screening:

Each week an email will be sent out reminding people NOT to attend if

- They are feeling sick or have the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- They have been with someone who has the symptoms or diagnosed with Covid-19

Registration Card

Each week every household will complete a **registration card** prior to worship

- The cards will have names, address, phone numbers
- The cards will be used if contact tracing becomes necessary due to a person's later discovery as being tested positive with Covid-19
- Cards available in V&B and can be filled out at home or at church
- Bring your own pen/pencil to complete the card

Face masks requirement

- All participants will be required to have face coverings.
- The church will have face coverings/masks for those who forget to bring one.
- The face masks are to be worn through the entire worship service, except for holy communion. The masks are to be worn over the mouth and nose.
- Children age 3 and up are to wear masks also.

Entrance

- **As much as possible, people are to maintain social distance while entering and exiting the sanctuary**
- All participants will be encouraged to enter (and exit) through the front door.
- The doors will be opened by the usher
- A hand sanitizer dispenser will be available in lobby and all are asked to use it.
- The basement entrance will be used only by those who need to use the elevator
- Only one household in the elevator at a time.
- The basement should be cleared of most tables, providing a clear path to the elevator.

Seating

- Pews will be blocked off so as to maintain social distancing.
- Worshippers are to remain in pew throughout the service.

Bulletins/Projection

- Bulletins should be printed at home.
- Projection will be used each Sunday for the order of service.

No congregational singing or sharing of peace

- Announcements/prayer requests are to emailed or handwritten and presented to usher/pastor
- Each Sunday a singer is to be selected to sing the chosen hymns from his or her own microphone. Plexiglas barrier in front of the singer/pastor
- Congregation members listen/hum.
- No physical contact or movement during sharing of peace, but people encourage to wave or signal greeting to each other.

Holy Communion

- Individual Communion “kits” will be given out as people enter.
- After the Words of Institution, the congregation will eat the bread/drink the wine seated in their pew.

Exiting

- Usher dismisses household one at time, starting at the back
- Worshippers are encouraged to leave church immediately, and not to clump together in aisle, foyer or parking lot.

Online Worship

- On-line worship options remains in place throughout the pandemic (and probably beyond)