

## **WHAT TO EXPECT WITH WORSHIP IN THE BUILDING**

### **BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT CHURCH:**

1. Conduct a self-check and stay home if you or a household member has any of the following symptoms of COVID-19, have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, tested positive and have not cleared for COVID-19, or have test results pending:
  - a. Symptoms can include: fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, gastrointestinal symptoms, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
2. If you or someone in your household is at high risk for COVID-19, we encourage and wish to support you in continuing to worship on line. Let us know of other ways we can support you and those in your household so that we can accompany you in this time.
3. Recorded and online services will continue to be available via Facebook Live, Facebook, YouTube live, Youtube and Channel 20 on Mid-Continent.

### **WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT CHURCH**

1. On the outer doors you will notice signage to stop and do a self-check that you do not have COVID-19 symptoms before entering. (Signage is part of the MN Department of Health's guidelines for re-opening)
2. On the outer doors and in the building you will notice signage asking you to wear a mask. Masks are strongly encouraged for those 6 years old and older. (Signage is part of the MN Department of Health's guidelines for re-opening).
3. Once inside the Gathering Space there is a table with various size masks. There are paper masks which many people find much lighter and easier to wear. There are also home-made face masks. You may take and keep any of the home made face masks or after the service return the mask to the basket on the table. Masks will then be cleaned for re-use. The paper face masks can be thrown away.
4. Hand sanitizer is available when you first enter the Gathering Space (by the masks), before the entrance to the sanctuary, and just inside the entrance to the sanctuary. Donations of hand sanitizer are welcome.
5. Please maintain a 6 foot distance between yourself/your household and other households.
6. Chairs are in groupings/clusters of 2-5 with six feet of physical distancing between a group/cluster. Chairs are available in both the sanctuary and in the Gathering Space (where both TV's will be on with the worship service) so that we can maximize the number of people who can attend worship. Please sit with members of your own household.
7. If possible find a seat when you come into the building rather than waiting for worship to start. This will help so that everyone is not trying to go through the sanctuary doors at one time.

### **DURING THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

1. There will be no bulletin. The order of service will be on the screen in the sanctuary.
2. The liturgy will be abbreviated as we have done for online worship. The service of worship will be approximately 30 minutes long. When there is no music the service will be shorter, and with special music the service will be a little longer.
3. Even with a mask singing produces extra aerosols into the air. Therefore, until the guidelines change we will not have congregational singing. We will try to have music each week with the words available so that you can sing in your heart or hum along if you wish.
4. Our goal is to have someone sing at each service. This person is to wear a mask and be 12 feet from others. Please maintain a 12 foot distance between yourself/your household and musicians while in the sanctuary. Chairs should be set accordingly for this.
5. The offering plates will not be passed. Offerings can be placed in the box before you enter the sanctuary or right inside the sanctuary.
6. The passing of peace is suspended at this time.
7. Those speaking from the chancel area (lector, pastor, someone making an announcement) may remove their mask in the chancel area since they are at a 12 foot distance from worshippers. They should then put their mask on before leaving the chancel area. The lectern is not placed on the opposite side of where the pastor sits to ensure proper social distancing of 12 feet for public speaking.
8. Holy Communion will be offered monthly starting in July. Everyone is asked to remain seated. The bread and wine/grape juice will be brought to people in their seats. Everyone will be invited to remove their face masks at the same time to receive Communion at the same time with everyone in the building and those who are worshipping online.

#### AFTER THE SERVICE

1. Exit the sanctuary by having the back rows exit first, and the front rows exiting last.
2. Pastor will not be shaking hands after worship.
3. If you wish to visit with others after worship, we invite you to use the generous space we have outdoors (if it's a nice day).

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS

1. We will continue to offer online worship opportunities.
2. Continue to pray for one another, for our congregation, and our council.
3. Continuing caring for one another, refrain judgment on the personal decisions that individuals and families will make during this time.
4. Help us find new and creative ways to provide ministry and connect with those who are not able to join us in the building. We don't want people to feel that we have forgotten them just because they are not in the church building.

5. As has been the case since mid-March, we are in a fluid, ever changing situation. As new information and guidelines are announced, the council will make updates accordingly.
6. Please feel free to suggest protocols and procedures that you feel would be suitable within the guidelines of the MN Department of Health. Protocols, procedures and the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan will be reviewed regularly by council.
7. Please note that public in person worship in the sanctuary may be suspended again if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in our area, if it is discovered that someone attended worship while having COVID-19, or if key staff or volunteers become sick, need to self-quarantine, etc.

Thank you for your patience! Thank you for your cooperation as we keep experimenting and trying new ways to do ministry so that we can be a church that is centered on the one thing that unites us – Jesus Christ, always caring for our neighbors, our community, and the world God created.

\*\*\* The above protocols, procedures and our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan are based on the information available as of June 11, 2020 from the CDC, U.S. Dept. of Health, the state of MN, and the MN Dept. of Health, the ELCA, the Southeastern MN Synod of the ELCA, and our insurance company.