

Dear Faith Family,

It is safe to say none of us ever thought we would be confronting the challenges we have faced since March last year. Who could imagine that Faith's doors would open and then close again, and we would connect with each other mostly through technology? The good news is that **we are reopening our doors and in-person worship on March 21, 2021.** The guidelines for in-person worship are below. We are complying with CDC and ELCA Guidelines and the Governor's Executive Orders relative to group gatherings and will revise our procedures as guidance changes and we adjust. We will continue to work through this together –just like any family would. As you are aware, those with pre-existing conditions that make them more vulnerable to the virus, as well as those who live with people who fall into those categories, should remain sheltered in place. We will continue to provide a livestream of our worship at 11:00 AM in addition to the in-person worship. Please feel welcome to participate in Bible study and other opportunities. Please feel free to contact any member of the Council or Worship Committee member with your questions or concerns.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

General

These Procedures describe what we are doing to be cautious as we return to live worship. When you believe you will be comfortable returning to live worship, consider a couple of things:

Before you leave the house:

- If any member of your household has a fever or other COVID symptoms, your entire family may not attend live service that Sunday. Join us in our virtual worship.
- Masks will be required any time you are in the building. Children age two and over must wear a mask at all times.
- Bring a mask with you.

When you arrive at church:

- Use only the entrance adjacent to the parking lot. If a line forms at an entrance, maintain 6 feet distance between households.
- Be prepared to have your temperature taken at the door.
- Clean your hands using the hand sanitizer provided.
- Always wear a mask in the building unless you are not medically able to wear one.
- Do not congregate inside the building.

- Always maintain social distancing by keeping 6 feet between you and others. Feel free to greet others with a wave, but please forgo handshakes and hugs.
- Always keep your children with you. There will not be childcare at this time.
- When you enter the sanctuary, an usher will direct you to a pew. It might not be the area in which you typically sit. Remember – everything is different! Households should sit together whenever possible.
- There is blue tape on each pew. You should sit with your back on the tape. Do not spread out beyond the tape. It is placed to maintain a social distance.
- You should remain in your designated space unless you must leave to use the restroom, soothe a child, or exit the worship service. We would like to limit the traffic in the aisles for social distancing purposes.
- Children will remain in their pew for the children’s sermon.
- Offering plates will be placed at the back of the sanctuary. You can place your offering inside as you enter or exit.
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When it’s time to leave:

- When the worship service is over, please wait in your pew. Ushers will dismiss worshippers one row at a time, beginning in the back.
- If you would like to socialize with other worshippers, we suggest you do so outside at an acceptable social distance. We all have missed one another!

You also should know:

- Access to the restrooms will be limited and we recommend you use your restroom before leaving home. However, if you must use the restroom:
 - Use restrooms behind the sanctuary.
 - If a line forms, please maintain social distancing by standing on the lines marked in the hallway.
 - Only one person in each restroom at a time, except for members of the same household.
 - The restrooms must be cleaned after each use, so we ask that you follow the sanitizing procedures posted in each restroom.
- This service will not include singing at this time.
- We will have communion at the 9:30 service. Communion kits will be available to pick up at the entry to sanctuary to be used during worship for communion taken in the pews,
- Drinking fountains will be covered and marked “Not in Use” for your safety.
- **PLEASE DO NOT GO DOWNSTAIRS!** The Learning Center will have been cleaned and disinfected and ready for our children to arrive on Monday morning.
- Finally, in the event a worship attendee tests positive for the virus, Faith Lutheran Church will be closed to in-person gatherings for a minimum of two weeks. All people present in worship the previous week will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days, upon recommendation of the CDC.