

Dear Faith Family,

It is safe to say none of us ever thought we would be confronting the challenges we have faced since March. Who could imagine that Faith's doors would close, and we would connect with each other only through technology? The good news is we are planning how to reopen our doors and worship in person. We have created a task force to address the challenges confronting us as we look toward coming together for meetings and worship. We decided to tackle worship first and have targeted **September 13, 2020** to come together for in-person worship at 9:30 AM. Thanks to all who responded to the survey that helped guide our thinking.

Worship at Faith will look quite different. The guidelines for worship are below. We are doing our best to comply 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 learn best practices. Hopefully, these guidelines will prepare you for our new normal. Please commit to following the guidelines. More importantly, please have patience. You probably will not agree with every choice. We will work through this together – just like any family would.

As you are aware, Phases I and II of reopening Kentucky recommend that those who are 60 years old and older, 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, to remain sheltered in place. We strongly recommend following that guideline. Many of you may also be hesitant to return to in-person worship or may be among those who must limit your exposure to others under the safest of circumstances. We want you to feel comfortable and safe so we will continue to create opportunities to keep our entire Faith family connected in virtual gatherings. We will continue to provide a live stream of our worship in addition to our in-person worship and will seek ways to include you in Bible study and other times we usually gather. We support your choice to do what is best for you and your family. If that is virtual worship, tell us what would make your virtual experience more meaningful and how we can be sure you are included in every aspect of church life.

Your safety is at the heart of every decision we make. Each of us is honored to serve at Faith. We want to make this transition to in-person worship as smooth as possible, but the learning curve is steep. Please feel free to contact any task force member with your questions or concerns.

In Peace,

Miriam Brown, Charlie Hamilton, Charla Heersche, Jerry Klim, Jim Knauss, Richard Michel, Judy Page, Debbie Rosenberg, and Pastor Mark

## **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES FOR WORSHIP**

### **Before you arrive at church:**

- Please check each family member's temperature before leaving your home. If any member of your family presents with a fever or symptoms of illness, we ask the entire household to stay home and join us in virtual worship.
- For the health and safety of our entire church family, we expect those who are medically able to wear a mask at all times when inside the building. Please be sure to bring a mask for each member of your family. We will have a limited number of masks on hand.
- Please communicate these guidelines to children in an age-appropriate manner. Children ages two and above are required to wear a mask.
- Please use the restroom before you come to church. Access to our restrooms will be limited.

### **When you arrive at church:**

- Please use the entrance adjacent to the parking lot.
- Be prepared to have your temperature taken at the door.
- Clean your hands using the hand sanitizer provided.
- Doors will be propped open for your safety.
- Always wear a mask in the building unless you are not medically able to wear one. Children ages two and above are required to wear a mask..
- Do not congregate inside the building. If a line forms at an entrance, maintain 6 feet distance between households.
- 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.
- Upon entering the sanctuary, look for an usher to 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.
- Look for the blue tape on each pew and sit with your back on the tape. Do not spread out beyond the tape, as we have measured the space to maintain a social distance.
- Once seated, please 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, instead of coming forward to the steps.
- Offering plates will be placed at the back of the sanctuary, so that you can place your offering inside as you enter or as you exit. You may also mail your offering to the church or sign up for an automated offering method.

### **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. Again, please refrain from congregating in the lobbies.
- Please clean your hands upon departure using the hand sanitizer provided.
- If you would like to socialize with other worshippers, please do so at an acceptable social distance in the parking lot or in another outside space. We know you all have missed one another!

### **You also should know:**

- Signage will be present outside and inside to remind you of all the guidelines.
- Access to the restrooms will be limited and we recommend you use your restroom before leaving home. However, if you must use the restroom please follow these guidelines:
  - The available restrooms are those 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, and at this time, we do not plan to have communion; however, we are investigating alternate communion methods that we might use in the future.
- 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.