

5Immanuel Lutheran Church – Worship Service Protocols

The coronavirus, or COVID-19 virus, is still circulating in our community. Scientists have concluded that the virus spreads via droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, regardless of whether that person is exhibiting other symptoms. Simple measures, like face masks, physical distancing, and good hygiene, can slow and halt the spread of coronavirus. These worship protocols adjust our worship service to include these measures, allowing us to resume in-person worship while ensuring the physical and spiritual health of the church.

Instructions for Worshippers

1. Worshippers should maintain good hygiene at all times.
 - 1.1. Cover your mouth and nose with a face mask when around other people.
 - 1.2. Keep 4 feet between yourself and other people, especially indoors.
 - 1.3. Wash or disinfect your hands any time you enter or exit a group environment, and every couple of hours while you are in it.
 - 1.4. Avoid touching your hands to your mouth or nose.
2. **Worshippers who are sick should stay at home.**
 - 2.1. Symptoms of coronavirus include cough, difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain or ache, headache, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell. Anyone experiencing these symptoms within the past 24 hours should refrain from attending and seek medical help.
3. Worshippers who belong to vulnerable populations or who are in frequent contact with vulnerable populations should consider their health and circumstances before attending in-person worship.
 - 3.1. Vulnerable populations generally include people 65 years and older, people who live in nursing homes or long-term care facilities, and people with underlying medical conditions (e.g., asthma, heart disease, diabetes, etc.). Those who are fully vaccinated, have a degree of protection but should follow current local and CDC guidelines.
 - 3.2. **We will continue to live stream the worship service for those who are unable to attend in-person worship.**
4. **Worshippers are required to wear a face mask at all times while in the worship space.** Masks help prevent the spread of coronavirus from person to person.
 - 4.1. Worshippers who do not have a mask will be provided one.
5. Worshippers should limit their movement inside the building. **People are encouraged**

to converse and gather outside, provided they maintain adequate physical distance.

6. The building will be closed except for the worship space and restrooms; the nursery will also be closed.

Instructions for Worship Service

7. Doors will open at 9:15 for the 9:30 service.
8. An usher will stand outside the front entrance and greet people. Hand sanitizer and face masks will be available on a small table outside the front entrance.
9. Worshippers will be admitted into the worship space one person or household at a time.
10. An usher inside will direct worshippers to their seats.
 - 10.1. The service will be projected on the video screen.
 - 10.2. Seating will be determined by the number of people/households that RSVP, for safe social distancing.
 - 10.3. Worshippers in the same household may sit together.
11. All participants are required to wear face masks when speaking and singing.
12. During the Passing of the Peace, worshippers should stand and acknowledge those around them with a head nod or hand gesture while remaining at their seats.
13. Communion elements will be prepackaged. There will be no common cup or intinction until those practices are determined to be safe.
14. Offering will not be collected during the service. Instead, there will be a small table with an offering receptacle in the rear of the worship space. Members can place their offering here when they enter or leave.
15. After the benediction, follow instructions for dismissal. Worshippers are encouraged to gather outside.

Instructions for Ushers – Usher volunteers will continue to sign up on “Sign up Genius”, meeting the same requirements shown above. Safety & Security Committee plans to have a volunteer at each service specific to meet the need (observing and ensuring safety measures).

16. Each service will require two or three ushers.
 - 16.1. One usher will stand outside the front doors greeting worshippers.
 - 16.2. One or two ushers will direct worshippers to their seats.

17. Ushers should greet people but not make any physical contact (i.e., no handshakes).
18. Ushers should be the only ones to open/close the front doors.
19. Ushers should regularly disinfect their hands and any frequently-touched surfaces.
20. Ushers should remain in the rear of the worship space during the service and should be ready to assist any worshipper who requires assistance.
21. Ushers should monitor the offering receptacle and ensure its security.
22. Ushers do not need to disinfect the worship space after the service, unless there is an immediate "next" activity scheduled in the same space. The coronavirus does not survive long enough on hard surfaces to require disinfection, assuming that only one person or group uses each seat on a given Sunday.