

RE-OPENING FOR WORSHIP

The Pastor, Re-opening Task Force, and Congregation Council have been working to develop a plan for return to in-person worship at St. John. The priorities have been to return safely following CDC, state and ELCA guidelines; to provide meaningful worship opportunities of Word and Sacrament; and to continue offering an online option for those that are unable to attend worship. To fulfill this St. John has new routines for cleaning and established the below requirements and procedures as we look ahead to returning to in person worship on **July 5, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.**

REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO WORSHIP:

Health & Safety:

If you or any member of your household has any of the following symptoms within 48 hours prior to your planned attendance at St. John, we ask that you choose to remain home:

- Fever or chills
- Fatigue
- New loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting
- Cough, muscle/body aches, sore throat, diarrhea
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, headache
- Congestion or runny nose

If you or any member of your household have been exposed to anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, we ask that you self-quarantine for 14 days and do not come to St. John.

All members of your household, ages 3-years and older, are required to wear a mask during the entirety of worship; before, during and after. As Christians it is our called responsibility to care for the community. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided to you.

Entrance to the church building will be restricted to the door nearest the parking lot only. Please read and follow all posted signage inside the church building

Worship

Social distancing is required, entry to worship will be staggered and seating is planned with that in mind. Ushers will direct you to your seats and dismiss the congregation after worship through the front and back. Please use the provided antibacterial cleaner in the pews. Masks are to remain on during worship.

Worship will be spoken. Hymns will only be sung by the cantor/organist. You are asked to silently and prayerfully read along with the hymns.

Pastor, assisting ministers and musicians will maintain distance from each other and parishioners.

Offering & attendance cards will be received hands free in baskets at the entrance/exits to the sanctuary

The Sacrament will be offered using a safe distribution method:

- Using wafers instead of bread; prior to worship elements will be placed in pre-filled cups on trays on a large table in front of the altar
- Parishioners will come forward to receive by families, wearing masks
- Pick up elements from table receiving the words: “The body & blood of Christ given and shed for you”
- Move to a side table; remove masks and consume elements. Replace masks, place used cups in provided waste basket and return to pew

Attendance cards must be completed so those in attendance can be notified in case of an outbreak. After you have attended worship if you are diagnosed with COVID-19, we respectfully ask that you contact the church office as soon as possible to report the diagnosis. Your name will remain confidential. We will want to let others in attendance know that they may have been exposed.

By attending any worship or event at St. John, you and your family assume the risk of exposure.

Be aware that worship will be recorded, including any background sounds.

Expect these plans and procedures to change and be adjusted as the weeks go on as we determine best practices. Please share these requirements and any changes with your family to ensure that everyone understands the most current protocol.

CHURCH OFFICE

To respect the safety of our staff while we continue to monitor the active coronavirus pandemic, they will continue primarily to work remotely. The Office Manager, Margie Baker, comes into the office one day per week. Pastor Zimmerman also will be in his office one day a week as possible. Pastor Zimmerman is also available to meet in the office by appointment.

Maintaining social distance and wearing masks is required. We ask those coming into the building during the week to sign in on a sheet in the greeting area. This will allow you to be notified in case of an outbreak.

To make an appointment or to access the building, please call 724-625-1830. The church voicemail and email is checked daily.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these difficult days, and especially for your own exercise of care for the sake of your neighbors.

Contact Information

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