SAINT LUKE’S STRATEGY FOR SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Context: At present, St Luke’s streams a live service from the sanctuary with the priest, organist and one Eucharistic minister. All are masked and 6 ft distance is observed. Communion is in one kind only.

From 13th September, we will begin outdoor services in the yard, for as long as weather permits. In the case of inclement weather, a streamed service by the altar party will take place. A mid-August survey of the congregation in advance of this step reported only 25% support for a return to indoor worship, and a nearly 70% support for outdoor worship. The service will continue to be streamed.

There is only one in-person service a week at present.

WORSHIP OUT OF DOORS (while weather lasts)

- If you have a cough, a fever, or have travelled out of state in the last three weeks, we ask that you do not attend services.
- Double-layer woven cotton, OR unvented N95, OR surgical masks must be correctly worn by everyone. No single-layer fabric gaiters.
- 6-foot distancing between households is required at all times. Households should sit together.
- Please bring a lawn chair or a picnic blanket.
- Singing is not permitted.
- Names of those attending will be taken.
- Congregants will be asked to return with their service booklets the following week, otherwise to dispose of them and used bulletins/lectionary inserts into a bin on their way out.
INDOOR SERVICES:

Entryway to the church via Access Tower:

Safety Officers/Ushers: Ushers will be responsible for taking the temperatures of all attendees. Ushers must have the temperament and ability to enforce absolute standards for the safety and protection of all the attendees.

Signs: Masks are required (entranceway), no singing (in church), checklist poster (entrance), entrance and exit signs. Handwashing, seat down flush and door contact signs will be put up in the bathrooms.

Checklist poster: Have you travelled recently or been exposed to COVID-19? Do you have a cough, fever, nausea, sore throat, tight chest?

Temperature Check: Safety officers with laser thermometer (99 degrees or higher), ticking off attendance list, ensuring that masks are being worn/giving masks, keeping those entering 6 foot apart.

Attendance list: Tick list of those attending, with space to write in additional/visitors – up to 20 in the congregation, up to 5 in the altar party.

Exit via the double red doors for all who are abled. Leave by row, in controlled manner (ushers).

Masks:
- All attendees will be required to wear a clean mask in order to attend. Disposable masks will be provided to anyone who does not have a mask or a clean mask.
- Double-layer woven cotton, OR unvented N95, OR surgical masks must be correctly worn by everyone. No single-layer fabric gaiters.
- Clergy may remove their masks at the altar (Eucharistic elements will be covered with a triple-layer cloth) and at the pulpit. Readers may remove their masks while reading. Wearable plexiglass shields are worn by the priest or the lector while reading/preaching only. Masks should be worn for the rest of the time.

Physical Distancing:
- A minimum of people in the chancel party – no acolyte. No more than 5 people. Only Rev. Ingrid will be allowed to touch the table. The host will be covered with a cloth.
- We can fit 20 individuals in the church, or a mix of families and individuals. All congregants must be six feet apart.
- Every other pew will be roped off with ribbon and alternate rows on the other side of the church will be roped off.
- Families may sit together in one pew and individual congregants may sit at opposite ends of one pew. 6 foot distancing between households must be observed at all times.
Pews, Books and Bulletins:
- All prayer books, hymnals, Bibles, pencils and papers have been removed from the church to the Education Building.
- Parishioners can bring their own prayer books, or take home the single-use service booklets provided in order to use them the following week.
- Congregants will be asked to dispose of service booklets they will not keep along with used bulletins/lectionary inserts into a wastebasket on their way out.
- Tissues, hand sanitizer and lunch sized paper bags for used tissues will be available in the pews. Bags to be disposed of into the dustbin at the end of the service.

Choirs:
No choirs or singing by parishioners will be permitted. We will have an organist only.

Peace:
No physical contact will be allowed during the peace. Waves, namaste greetings & bows are preferable.

Offertory:
No oblation bearer - the elements will be on the credence table.

Collection:
No passing of the collection plate will be allowed. A basket is available for parishioners to place their offering on the way in/out church.

Communion:
- The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated with the chalice, ciborium and paten on the altar. Communion for parishioners will be in one kind only.
- Ushers will direct each household/individual up separately to receive communion while maintaining safe distancing.
- Communion should be taken by lifting up the mask from the bottom.
- Indoors: The consecrated host will be placed in small paper muffin holders by the Eucharistic minister, who will be wearing gloves. Enough for each household/individual will be placed on a tray on table at the top of the aisle. The EM will stand 6 foot back from the tray.
- Outdoors: The containers will be plastic for the outdoor service – multiple service points, to prevent bunching.
- The paper/plastic container can be disposed of in a dustbin near the communion table.

End of the service:
- Ushers will direct parishioners out of the church red doors at the end of the service.
- There will be no receiving line at the door.
• Parishioners will enter the church at the access tower and will exit from the double red doors. These will be signposted.
• There will 6 ft- distanced socializing after the service, under the guidance of the safety officers.

Counters:
Counting the offerings may be done after the service provided that the counters wear masks and gloves and social distancing is observed – in Learning Center with the windows open.

Property Considerations and Cleaning Protocols
St. Luke’s will have only one in-person service a week, requiring no between-service cleaning. Supplies we have:
• Paper towels and/or cleaning rags.
• Facial tissues.
• Large trash bags.
• EPA-registered household disinfectants/diluted household bleach solution.
• Boxes of disposable protective gloves-nitrile (preferred), vinyl or latex.
• Boxes of disposable masks-non-surgical paper (not N95 masks) or clean cloth masks. These are available at the entrance to the church/at outdoor service if parishioners arrive without masks.

Other Services
The Taizé Service, Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer continue successfully via Zoom.

Protocols for Altar Guild
Altar Guild members are required to wear gloves and maintain social distancing while completing their work.

Eucharistic Visitors
One-on-one Eucharistic visiting is undertaken by a few, where both EV and parishioner have agreed to this. Masks and distancing are employed, and the visit takes place outdoors if requested. Eucharist is consecrated in a sterile manner.

Planning for Winter
• If there is a need eventually during winter, to keep numbers to below 20, then concurrent services may be held with half the congregation upstairs and the other half in the undercroft, watching the livestream.
• In that case, the upstairs congregation needs to use the restrooms in the Education Building, to avoid going downstairs to use the bathrooms there.
• The two groups would be kept completely separate by signage and enter and exit via separate entrances.
• The priest would bring communion downstairs.

Office
• The office is mostly used once a week, but is still cleaned between uses with disinfectant wipes. This includes door handles, printers, copiers, telephones, etc.