



COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Family of Christ Lutheran Church

Family of Christ is currently observing the following protocols in order to minimize the risk of anyone contracting the COVID-19 virus while in our facility. Taking into account the issues of reverence, hygiene protocols and social distancing, the following procedures have been implemented:

Employee and Volunteer Guidelines:

- Church employees include the pastors, program staff, administrative staff, custodial staff and musicians.
- Church volunteers include Lay Ministers, altar guild, greeters, ushers, acolytes, audio/visual technicians, musicians, Youth and Children's Ministry volunteers.
- The church office hours are limited at this time. Please contact the church office prior to visiting the office in person. If any employee or volunteer does not feel comfortable working or volunteering at worship services, he or she is free to remain home and will not be penalized in any way for doing so. Please communicate your desire to stay home to your direct supervisor so that a substitute may be found. Such information will be kept confidential.
- Staff and volunteers should stay home if they are ill or showing symptoms of COVID-19. Likewise, if someone in your household is ill, please stay home.

Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms and nausea.

- Staff or volunteers with COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home immediately.
- Staff or volunteers who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 may not come to church until their quarantine period has ended.
- Staff and volunteers are encouraged to wash their hands frequently (soap, water and hand sanitizer will be provided), cover their coughs and sneezes and maintain 6 feet of social distance between themselves and anyone who is not of their household.
- Offices, restrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment and frequently touched surfaces will be routinely cleaned and sanitized.

Congregation Guidelines:

- Please stay home if you are ill, showing symptoms of COVID-19. Likewise, if someone in your household is ill, please stay home.

[Symptoms of COVID-19](#) can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms and nausea.

- If you are in a high-risk category because of underlying health conditions or advanced age, do not feel compelled to attend public worship services until you feel comfortable with the potential health risk. Guard your health. We will continue to offer online worship services each Sunday that you may view at home, at your convenience, on our congregational website at www.foclutheran.org.
- Facial masks are required throughout the building in accordance with current state guidelines.
- Please cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed.
- Please social distance yourself (and your children) at least 6 feet from the people around you.
- All frequently touched surfaces (e.g. tables, door handles, light-switches, etc.) in building will be cleaned and disinfected before each service. Please touch surfaces only when necessary.
- When possible, use your restroom at home. However, our restrooms will be available.
- State guidelines limit us to 50% of our capacity, or 250 people per service. For the time being (subject to change) we will offer Sunday morning worship at 8:00, 9:00 and 10:15 am.
- Signs will be posted in the entrance, lobby and around the building to promote and encourage protective measures.
- These protocols are available in printed format at the welcome center. Social distancing guidelines will also be posted at the entrances and lobby.

Arriving for Worship Services:

- The entrance doors from the parking lots will be propped open until services begin in order to enable touchless entry. The Family Learning Center entrance will be locked as our education wing classrooms will not be used on Sundays until further notice.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the church entrances and check in stations. Please use hand sanitizer or wash hands when entering the building.
- Facial masks are required throughout the building in accordance with state guidelines.
- Handouts will be minimized as much as possible. Please visit the church website for current information and “Connections”.
- In order to maintain proper social distancing, tables and chairs will be set-up in the worship center. Please enter the worship center from the center doors of the lobby and find a place to sit. Lay Ministers will be available to help direct people to appropriate places to sit, if needed.
- As a safety precaution, all Bibles have been removed for the worship services. Please bring your own, if desired.
- Please refrain from shaking hands, hugging or touching people in greeting before the service and do your best to maintain social distancing.
- Please do not congregate in the lobby or hallways but proceed immediately to the Worship Center or designated education locations.
- Please be courteous and patient with one another. We encourage each person to respect the Christian liberty of others. Though some of these precautions may seem excessive, they are being practiced out of love for each other.

During Worship Services:

- The worship services will be shortened and include no congregational singing in compliance of MN state guidelines.
- On Holy Communion Sundays, congregants will receive pre-filled communion and wafer sets. After these elements are consecrated, people will open these sets and consume the elements at their tables. Dispose of the empty communion set as you leave worship in the receptacles near the exit doors.
- Offering plates will not be passed. Offerings brought on Sundays will be collected in receptacles in the lobby.

After Worship Services:

- Lay Ministers will usher you out the side door exits starting with the tables nearest each door and working toward the back of the worship center.
- Pastors will not be greeting people at the door.
- Please refrain from shaking hands, hugging or touching people in greeting after the service and do your best to maintain social distancing.
- Please do not congregate in the lobby or hallways but proceed immediately outside to greet one another at a safe distance.

Outside of Worship Services:

- Weddings and funerals will be held in accordance with these protocols and guidelines.
- Baptisms may be scheduled during worship services or done privately by contacting the church office.
- Please continue to fervently pray for our congregation, staff and one another.
- Please pray for our governor, medical personnel and community. Our deep need as sinners for the presence and grace of Christ is why we are resuming in-person worship services.

Children's Ministry

- Please stay home if your child is ill or showing symptoms of COVID-19. Likewise, if someone in your household is ill, please stay home.
- Touch-free check in stations will be located in the hallway by Room 100. At check-in please use hand sanitizer (provided at station or wash child's hands)
- Facial masks are required throughout the building in accordance with state guidelines. Children 6+ years are required to wear a mask.
- Children will be dropped off at the door of the classroom.
- Social distancing will be maintained by the use of circles placed on the floors and benches in education areas.
- At the end of class, parents please wait in the hallway to pick up your child. The teacher will release children one by one to parents.
- *At-home options will be available for those choosing to stay home.*

Youth and Adult Education

- Please stay home if you are ill or showing symptoms of COVID-19. Likewise, if someone in your household is ill, please stay home.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the church entrances and check in stations. Please use hand sanitizer or wash hands when entering the building or youth center.
- Facial masks are required throughout the building in accordance with state guidelines.
- Please do not congregate in the lobby or hallways but proceed immediately to the Worship Center or designated education locations.
- Please maintain 6 ft. social distancing guidelines. To limit the number of participants in the Worship Center, a rotational model will be used for large group and small group learning.
- At-home options will be provided for Youth choosing to stay home.

These protocols will be continually evaluated and adapted to maintain compliance with MN state guidelines as well as the safety of our congregation.