

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Gathering to worship our Lord, joining in fellowship with one another, and meeting to do the Lord's work are all wonderful opportunities, but we must also be careful to do so safely. This pandemic situation requires special considerations in how we gather while remembering that God is gracious and all powerful and has promised to be with us. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Matt. 18:20. These protocols are one effort to provide protections for ourselves and others. They will also help us honor our Lord by using His gifts. "[F]or God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." 2 Tim. 1:7.

These protocols will apply to worship, weddings, funerals, and all meetings.

GENERAL

1. Those over 65, those with health complications, those in any high-risk category, etc., are encouraged to stay home.
2. Those who have **ANY** symptoms of coronavirus (fever – a temperature above 100.4, cough, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell) must stay home.
3. Face masks are required in the building. Exceptions include those with a health condition where a face mask is unsafe, children five and under, and staff members alone in their office. Other exceptions listed in the Executive Order 20-81 dated July 24, 2020.
4. Enter and exit the church using the south parking lot doors. For worship, you may also use the north door in to the Narthex.
5. Facemasks and gloves will be available and sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the church.
6. Areas of the building used for an event will be sanitized soon after. The Sanctuary pews will only be sanitized if planning to use within seven days.
7. Reminders to stay 6 feet apart will be placed in the building.
8. Handouts of these Protocols will be made available at the church for members and, especially, non-members.
9. The congregation will be informed if someone tests positive. The person's identity will not be given unless the person agrees.
10. Communication with members will be by email, Facebook, and/or regular mail.

WORSHIP

1. Please maintain six feet of distance between you and others not in your family.
2. Please refrain from singing unless wearing a facemask.
3. Offering collection plates will be in the hall.
4. The Elder on duty will wear gloves and facemask.
5. Please no physical touching when greeting one another or during the passing of the peace.
6. Tot Totes have been removed. Bring your own items from home for kids.
7. Every other pew will be blocked with colored tape to conform to social distancing (6 feet between persons not living together) and 50% capacity.

8. Doors will be propped open to avoid touching the handle.
9. Areas of the church not used for worship will be locked or blocked with colored tape.
10. The common restroom and women's restroom on the main floor will be open. Please use the sanitizer and paper towels provided on the handle when leaving.
11. Weather permitting, windows will be open, and fans and air conditioning turned on.
12. When capacity is reached, additional arrivals will be directed home or to another service, if available.
13. Entry to the sanctuary will be the west doors. Exit from the sanctuary will be by ushering out the door at the front of the sanctuary which is across from the office.

COMMUNION

1. Those setting up the bread and wine will wear facemasks and gloves.
2. Communion will be by continuous line, observing the 6-foot social distancing.
3. Those distributing communion will wear facemasks and use sanitizer before beginning distribution and if there is significant touching of any objects other than the bread and wine.
4. Recipients are requested to wear facemasks until they approach the distribution area and after receiving communion.
5. Wine will be in individual cups and bread will be distributed hand to hand.
6. Social distancing will be observed as best as possible by the distributor and the recipient both extending arms toward each other.

SOCIALIZING

1. Maintain six feet of distance between you and others not in your family, especially if meeting for more than 15 minutes.

BIBLE STUDY, MEETINGS, & OTHER GATHERINGS

1. Please no physical touching or passing of objects.
2. Please go directly to the Bible Study or meeting room. It is requested that there be no socializing in the church.
3. Please bring your own bible, writing utensil, and paper (if needed).
4. Sit at least six feet apart. For Senior Bible Class and for Sunday mornings, in the Dining Hall, no more than two people sitting at a table.
5. Any meetings at the church should be less than 10 people. If more than 10 people, it needs to have a Bible study/devotion component so to fit in with Governor Walz's exceptions for worship.

FOOD

1. Food may be served at events and functions, but must be provided from an outside, professional kitchen (restaurant or business) or prepared in the church's commercial kitchen. An outside source is preferred at this time.
2. If food is prepared in the building, all those preparing the food must wear a face mask and gloves.
3. The food should be served to the people receiving the food. This limits the amount that objects, like serving spoons, are touched.
4. The people serving must wear a face mask and gloves.

Please Note: If someone is disregarding the Protocols, they will be asked to begin following the Protocols, stressing the importance of reducing disease transmission and informing them that, if there is still no compliance, they will be asked to leave (gently escort them out if necessary).

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