

June 10, 2021

Dear Bethlehem Community,

Thank you for your patience with the ever changing nature of the safety protocols being employed at Bethlehem to help keep our members and community healthy.

As we move into yet another stage of this pandemic season, the following protocols are in place with regard to in-person worship at Bethlehem.

Each and every one of us will play an important role in protecting the health and well-being of our neighbors. Please read this letter carefully so that you know what to expect and what will be expected of you.

- Attendance at the services has been expanded to 75 people. Worshipers no longer need to pre-register to attend. However, we ask that all worshipers sign in when arriving, in the event there is a known exposure to the coronavirus.
- Worshipers are not to attend if they have recently been diagnosed with COVID, exhibit symptoms of COVID and are unvaccinated, or have recently traveled to one of the “hot spots” as designated by Chicago’s Emergency Travel Order and are unvaccinated.
- All worshipers will wear face coverings at all times, except when receiving communion. We maintain this expectation out of concern for the children who might attend and any others who are unable to be vaccinated. Vaccinated worship leaders may remove their masks while leading.
- Unvaccinated worshipers are to keep a social distance of at least 6 feet between themselves and others not in their household. Pews will be marked for social distance.
- Worshipers will enter the church through the double red doors off of Oakley. Upon entry they will sign-in, and pick up their bulletin and pre-wrapped communion elements.
- Worshipers are strongly encouraged to use hand sanitizer (provided) before entering the worship space.
- Worshipers still will not sing during the service. However, worshipers may hum or sing softly if they are vaccinated and masked.
- Worshipers will remain in their pew throughout the service. Hugs, handshakes, and fist bumps will not be offered to those outside of one’s household during the sharing of the peace. Communion will be received in the pew using the pre-packaged elements. Worshipers are strongly encouraged to make their regular donation via electronic giving.
- Worshipers are limited to the worship and narthex area while in the building. The family washroom will be available, if needed. The nursery will be closed.
- Worshipers are invited to visit with one another outside after worship. Outdoor fellowship time will begin on Sunday, June 27.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, congregational president Tricia Krohmer, or transition committee chair Russ Chibe. We give thanks to God for the ongoing improvements in regard to COVID-19. We continue to act with prayerful discernment for the good of our congregation and community.

Peace, Pastor Jennie