

Return to Chapel and Building Plan Trinity Lutheran Church

Last Updated: 8/31/2021

Worship continues both in-person and on Zoom at 10:00am on most Sunday mornings. On the third Sunday of the month, **Brunch Church is going to be held on Zoom only** for the foreseeable future. A recording of the sermon will be distributed electronically following the service. Protocols continue to adapt as we learn more and as the status of the pandemic evolves.

We must remain mindful that many members of our community— especially our children under 12— remain vulnerable to Covid-19. At their Baptisms, the gathered Body of Christ promised our love, support, and care. We live into that promise now by setting an example of wisdom and patience as we follow health precautions.

Notes

- **We are holding our plans loosely:** The best decisions in this liminal time will require courage and flexibility. Our protocols will adapt as we learn. Today, we will do the best we can with what we know today. Tomorrow, we will do the best we can with what we know tomorrow.
- **We are embracing awkwardness:** We will not always know what to say, and this might all feel very weird. We will forget each other's names, and someone might sit too close to us. Do we scoot away? Do we re-introduce ourselves? Embrace awkwardness. Laugh together. Speak the truth in love.
- **We are rooting our decisions in our Gospel commitment to extravagant welcome, love of neighbor, and protection of the most vulnerable.** This includes ensuring that we are not excluding those who are not comfortable gathering yet by continuing to provide hospitality, love, and protection in our remote community.

Worship Protocols

- **New - Minimizing singing of hymns to a hum or whisper is required by the congregation.**
- Due to Cuyahoga County hitting the CDC threshold facial coverings are required for all.
- To help with flow, Trinity worshipers are asked to only enter the building through the north doors by the Chapel.
- Attendance numbers are not regulated.
- Fellowship and greeting are encouraged outdoors whenever possible.

- Before coming to church, please check your temperature, analyze your physical symptoms, and wash your hands well. If you do not feel well, please stay home and worship via zoom.
- We will not pass offering plates. We will locate an offering plate at the back to the chapel.
- The women's restroom down the hall is temporarily out of order. The unisex restroom is now an all-gender/family restroom with a lock on the door.
- Spacing is encouraged when possible. Please be mindful of the desires of others, and cognizant that others may be at a different level of comfort than you. Communicate with one another openly and honestly about your spacing needs. Families with unvaccinated children or immunocompromised individuals may be more comfortable near the windows or in the back of the worship space.
- Worship will be streaming at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom. We will also e-mail the sermon to you so you can stream it any time after the service.

Children in Worship

Children of all ages are welcome to worship with our congregation in the chapel. If you would prefer increased ventilation, seating is available near windows or in the back of the church. For those not ready to return to worship in the sanctuary, please join us via Zoom. If your child is not vaccinated, please make sure they wear a mask.

Outdoor Nursery Protocols

As we have done in the past, childcare (nursery) for toddlers through preschoolers will be available every Sunday during worship. We look forward to when we are once again able to invite infants to childcare/the nursery. Until further notice, childcare will be outdoors. See below for registration and more information.

- If a decision is made to cancel outdoor childcare because of rain, we will inform the families the Saturday night before and the decision will not be reversed if the weather clears up (due to staffing). Outdoor childcare will not be canceled because of heat.
- We request that children wear a mask if they are old enough and able to wear one.
- Our childcare providers will plan games and activities that involve social distancing such as children's yoga, chalk drawing, hopscotch, hula hoops, etc.

To sign up for childcare, please...

- Complete the 2021-2022 Annual Faith Formation Registration:
<https://forms.gle/ZrEtuf1uJJ4U6aBq7>
- Text Rachel Burns by the Friday before the service to reserve your child's spot.
440-523-0708
- We kindly invite you to keep your children at home if they are experiencing any symptoms that could be attributed to Covid-19.

Small Group Meeting Protocols

- Small groups are welcome to meet in the building. We encourage the use of outdoor space at the church, at parks, or at each other's homes when possible. We encourage clear and open communication about the comfort-level of those in attendance. We encourage indoor groups to be fully vaccinated.

Possibility of Returning to Previous Protocols

- In the event that there is a sustained increase in coronavirus cases in our community, it is possible that we will return to additional protocols.
- If someone who has been in worship tests positive within 14 days of being in church, we will assess their level of contact with others in attendance and consult with the Ohio Department of Health to determine the best action for our community.