

**Trinity Lutheran Church, Richmond, MI**  
**Safe Start Plan Guidelines**

*John 13:34-35 Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

**The Church Council has decided to provide worship for our members using three venues, while embracing an abundance of caution.**

- In-person worship for those who are willing and able.
- Facebook and YouTube live streaming for those who are not able or who do not yet feel comfortable with in-person worship.
- We are making DVD's available for those at home that do not have online access.

*Each member is encouraged to choose which venue works best for their needs. High risk individuals should choose either the parking lot or Facebook live stream options.*

**Before Coming to Worship or Entering the Church Building.**

Questions we should ask ourselves each week before coming to worship:

Have you or your child had close contact with a diagnosed Covid-19 patient in the last 14 days?

(If yes, the family should self-quarantine for 14 days)

Have you or your child felt unwell in the last three days?

Are you or your child experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms?

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

(If you or your child are experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms you and your child should stay home this week and seek medical advice)

**In-person Worship**

- Face coverings will be worn at all times. Please make sure you have it on when entering, while inside, and when exiting the church facilities. A face covering will be provided for those who do not have one.
- We will practice physical distancing (6 feet) in all areas of the facilities. We have designated pews to allow for physical distancing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building.

- Communion will be different as we will not be receiving it up front. Please follow the instructions of the ushers.

### **Children and Youth (Celebrate and Youth Group Activities)**

*These activities will begin when teachers are comfortable, and notification will be given.*

Hand sanitizer will be available in the classroom.

All Sunday School teachers will be required to wear face coverings.

Physical distancing will be practiced during all classes (six feet apart) as our space permits.

All students will be required to wear face coverings inside and outside of the classroom.

Pastor Alex will continue to post his Thursday evening Story Time at 7:00 pm on Facebook.

### **Additional In-person Guidelines and Risky Behavior:**

- Touching one another. During this pandemic we should refrain from shaking hands, hugging, or touching one another. We can pass the peace from our pews while keeping physical distance.
- Congregating indoors. We are encouraging our members to refrain from congregating together inside the church building. Members are encouraged to enter and exit the building without congregating together. We will not be hosting a coffee hour/fellowship until it is safe to do so.
- Singing during worship. We will not be singing the liturgy, hymns, or songs.
- Offerings can be deposited before or after worship in the new offering box that will be located near the entrance to the worship space.
- High touch surfaces: pews, doorknobs, and restrooms will be sanitized before and after services.
- All soft and porous items (hymnals, offering envelopes, pencils, seat cushions) have been removed from the worship space.

This goes without saying but we encourage everyone to show love and respect toward one another during these tumultuous times. We are each doing what we feel is best for ourselves, our family, and one another, even if that means sacrificing for the sake of others.

This safe start plan is subject to change as circumstances warrant.