

Protocols and What to Expect for the July 5, 2020 Reopening Trinity Lutheran Church, Carver, MN

Vicar Jander and the Elders have met several times to discuss the many benefits and challenges associated with worshipping back in-person as well as all the preparations needed to ensure that we do so in a good, safe, orderly, and godly fashion as well as remain up-to-date on recent developments.

We understand that some would have liked for us to begin earlier. Others believe we should wait longer. We feel this date gives us the time needed to properly prepare to the best of our ability.

The following reflects our current decisions as we move forward:

Priorities

- Safety and health
- Spiritual needs

General Guidelines

- Covid-19 Symptoms: Fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
- 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.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Frequent and thorough handwashing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Before Arrival at Church Building

- All in attendance must be free of any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Please stay home if you are ill or showing symptoms of Covid-19. Likewise, if someone in your household is ill, please stay home.
- If recently infected, the person may not return to in-person worship for 14 days after the onset of symptoms and 72 hours of no symptoms.
- People in high risk demographics are strongly encouraged to stay home and continue to attend services virtually. Audio recordings will be posted online after the services
- Face masks covering mouth and nose are required, in consideration of those around you.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Please ensure that you and your children maintain a six-foot physical distance from the people around you.
- The sanctuary and other common areas will be disinfected prior to worship services.

- All ushers, elders, and other assistants will be wearing masks (and gloves as needed).
- Please wash your hands thoroughly before arrival. Hand sanitizer will be available – please use it as frequently as needed – but handwashing is still best.
- Please bring your own water since the water fountain will be unavailable.
- Although the restrooms will be available, we ask that you use the restroom prior to arriving at the church building so that once seated, movement in and out of the sanctuary is kept to a minimum.
- These protocols are available online. Physical distancing guidelines will also be posted in the narthex.

The seating capacity of the church sanctuary is approximately 175 people. State guidelines limit us to 50% of our capacity, or 87 people in the sanctuary. However, because of the six-foot physical distancing, we are limited to around 40-50 people, depending on the sizes of family groups. At the same time, since our summer attendance tends to lessen, we believe that we can hold a single service and not exceed these guidelines. Also, the service can be heard in the fellowship hall/Bible Class which will be made available if we do need overflow.

Upon Arrival, Before the Worship Service Begins

- Assuming we can obtain it, there will be hand sanitizer at the entrances to the sanctuary (donations welcome).
- The front entrance doors will be propped open until the worship service begins in order to enable touchless entry.
- The church elevator should be used by only one person/family group at a time. Please maintain six feet of social distance when waiting for the elevator. An “Operator” will be available to push the buttons (they will not ride with you).
- The church building’s kitchen facilities, Sunday School/Meeting room, and fellowship hall/Bible Class are off limits at this time. Please do not enter them, or let your children enter them.
 - o The door leading into the building from the parking lot will be open for those who need to use the elevator, and the fellowship hall/Bible Class may be used to access the elevator, but lingering in that room is discouraged – unless its use is warranted for overflow.
- When possible, the church’s windows will be open before and during services to increase circulation of outdoor air in the building.
- In order for us to maintain the appropriate physical distance, you will be ushered to an available seat.
- As you enter the sanctuary, you will pick up a sealed wafer and wine packet for communion distribution later in the service.

During the Worship Service

- All pew cushions, bibles, hymnals, children's bibles, pencils, and communion cards have been moved out of use as they are high touch items. Responses and other information will be projected.
- No Children's Bags will be available since they are a high touch item.
- We will not have Children's Messages since we cannot gather the children together at the front of the church.
- All offerings can be placed in the plates at the back of the church. Please remember that online giving is already available through our website.
- At this point, we are limiting the amount of singing during the service. When we do sing, we will only have one or two stanzas/verses of a hymn or song. We ask that your mask remain over your mouth as you sing in consideration of others.
- For distribution of The Lord's Supper, you will remain in your pew and be guided through the service of the sacrament.

After the Worship Service

- Ushers will dismiss you beginning from the rear of the sanctuary in order to maintain the six-foot physical distance.
- Vicar will not be greeting people at the door.
- We will dismiss people with encouragement to go directly outside either through the front doors or via the elevator.
- Please do not shake hands, hug, or touch people in greeting before or after the service but do your best to maintain physical distancing.
- Please do not congregate in the narthex, stairs, or walkways, but proceed outside to briefly greet one another at a safe distance.

Outside of regular Sunday Worship Services:

- Funerals will be held in accordance with these protocols and guidelines.
- Vicar's ordination/installation service will also be held in accordance with these protocols and guidelines.
- Please continue to pray for one another, for the holy Christian Church throughout the world, for our congregation, and for me, your vicar.
- Please also continue to pray for our president and nation, our governor and state, and our mayors and communities.