

# Covid-19 Worship Guidelines at Trinity Lutheran

Following are the steps we will take at Trinity to minimize the risk of Corona Virus Infection.

## **MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING:**

- **Masks:** We highly recommend everyone wear masks. A supply of masks will be available for those who do not have one.
- **In Pews:** We are blessed with a large facility, so attendees from different households can easily space themselves 6 to 10 feet apart by keeping distance within pews and leaving two empty pews between. We will place bulletins in the pews ahead of time to indicate recommended seating.
- **In Other Ways:** We will not greet each other with hugs and handshakes. Pastor will not greet parishioners after the service, nor will we have coffee time. Ushers will dismiss attendees row by row. We will not use coat racks. People should take their coats with them to their pews.
- **Singing and Group Recitation:** These are considered higher risk activities, due to increased spread of droplets. We do not plan to eliminate hymns and group responses and prayers, but to mitigate risk by encouraging 10 feet of distance and mask-wearing when singing and speaking. Also, know that it's OK to refrain from singing and responding. Humming is a safe alternative.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

- Those preparing communion elements in advance will wear masks and thoroughly wash/sanitize hands.
- Those who come up for Communion will maintain six feet distance between individuals and household groups.
- **Bread:**
  - Pastor will stand on chancel step to distribute wafers from a paten.
  - Pastor will thoroughly wash/sanitize hands immediately before picking up paten.
  - Pastor will wear a mask when distributing wafers.
  - Recipients will be advised to cup their hands to receive the wafer. Pastor will drop the wafer into the recipient's hands without touching them.
- **Wine:**
  - Card tables will be set in front of the chancel for wine – one table on each side.
  - Pre-filled individual wine cups will be placed on serving trays, spaced well apart, and set on the tables.
  - After receiving the wafer, people will proceed to pick up their own cup
  - An assistant, wearing a mask, will stand behind each table and say, "the blood of Christ, shed for you, when the person picks up the wine.
  - A receptacle will be available on or near each table to dispose of cups

## **OTHER PRECAUTIONS**

- **Children:** There will be no nursery or Sunday School for the time being. Children will stay with their families during children's messages.
- **Offering plates** will be at the back of the church and will not be passed.

- **Bulletins** will be placed in pews on Thursdays – not handed out at the door.
- **Door handles and bathroom surfaces** will be wiped down before and after the service.
- **Hand sanitizer** will be readily available.
- **Ventilation:** Weather permitting, we will keep doors open while people enter and leave and will open windows if heating/air conditioning is not being used.
- **If someone at worship is diagnosed with Covid-19**, we will work with the county health department regarding tracing and communicating and quarantining.
- **These steps are subject to change** as conditions change for better or worse.