**Christ Lutheran Guidelines for Worship, Weddings & Funerals**

On July 21, 2020, the CLC Council voted to resume indoor in person worship services beginning on Sunday, August 2, 2020 at 9:00 am. Options for online worship and outdoor in-car worship on the radio will continue. The Executive committee is the plan administrator.

While we are excited to gather again indoors for worship and renew relationships, we also do this with caution. In order to provide indoor worship services during the COVID-19 pandemic, the MN Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) have issued guidelines for churches to follow. The CLC Council has carefully reviewed these guidelines and is asking that the guidelines below be followed when attending CLC indoor worship services:

* Wash your hands before leaving home.
* Cleanse your hands with the hand sanitizer provided when entering the narthex.
* Wear a mask. Masks are required for Sunday worship except for those leading worship. If you need a mask contact Joan Skare or the church office.
* Maintain a minimum of 6 feet social distance between families. Families and those living in the same household may sit close together.
* Avoid using restrooms when possible. Sanitizing wipes are provided to wipe surfaces if you need to be seated in the restrooms.
* Share your name with the person tracking attendance. One family member will sign in all family members. This precaution is designed to allow notification of exposure to COVID-19 if necessary.
* Cough or sneeze into your elbow even with your mask on.

**When you come for worship expect changes…**

* Our sanctuary’s capacity is limited to 50% (215 people) by MN Department of Health.
* Only sit in pews with no tape and maintain 6 feet between families.
* There will be no congregational singing.
* There will be no touching while sharing the peace.
* Receiving Communion will be different. Each family unit will be given a cup/sandwich bag of pre-packaged communion cups with wafers. During communion, each person will be invited to use the pre-packaged wafer and grape juice as led by the pastors. When you are finished with communion you can put the waste in the cup/bag and drop in the trash on the way out of the church. You may remove your mask to receive communion.
* Our worship services will likely be 40 minutes or less this summer.
* Offerings will not be collected during the service. Offerings can be placed in baskets by the sanctuary doors or submitted through online giving. You can sign up online for online giving on the CLC website or call the church office for assistance.
* The congregation will be dismissed by row following worship to maintain social distance as people exit the sanctuary.
* There will be no refreshments in the Fellowship Hall or welcome center following worship. If you would like to catch up with friends, please chat outside the building off the asphalt on the grass and maintain 6 feet between families. Allow room for other worshippers to return to their vehicles. Keep the narthex clear to provide distance for those going to their cars.
* There will be no Sunday morning study groups until further notice.
* Musicians can continue to offer music on piano, organ, electronic keyboard, percussion, and strings.
* In the sanctuary a song leader(s) may be placed a safe distance away from the congregation and each other and provide leadership.
* There will be music in worship with instrumental accompaniment, and include on screen lyrics, inviting worshippers to reflect or meditate silently or hum on select verses.
* There will be no bulletins. Prayers and lyrics will be on the screen.
* Announcements on paper will be available for those who do not receive them by email.

**Your cooperation is necessary** for our church to maintain the highest safety standards possible. Please consider signing up to help *(email or call the church office)* for any of the following:

* Reading lessons from the chancel in the sanctuary during worship
* Singing a solo (or a duet with a family member) from the chancel in the sanctuary during worship
* Welcoming people to worship and tracking who comes to worship
* Distributing pre-packaged communion to family units in a safe manner
* Assisting with online worship in any of the above listed ways or through other creative means not listed.

**You’re Welcome to Worship But…**

While your pastors and friends from Christ Lutheran long to greet you and join you in worship, we invite you to take responsibility for yourself first. If you are in a high-risk category, please don’t attend worship at Christ Lutheran. Examples of high risk categories include:

* Older adults
* People with moderate to severe Asthma
* People who are immunocompromised
* People with liver disease
* People at risk for severe illness
* People who have limited mobility or who cannot avoid coming into close contact with others

In addition, please don’t attend worship if you are sick, not feeling well, and/or have a temperature.

**In summary:**

The decision to resume indoor worship services is a joint decision by the leaders and the staff at Christ Lutheran Church. This decision depends on each of us following the above guidelines for a safe environment. If the guidelines outlined by the council are not followed, indoor worship may be suspended again for the safety of our community.

You are invited to take responsibility for yourself and consider the whole community as you determine if in-person indoor worship is an option for you at this time. Please take precautions to keep yourself as safe as possible. If you don’t feel comfortable with indoor worship at Christ Lutheran Church, stay safe, stay home and consider participating in the expanded online worship that will continue to be offered on the CLC website and Facebook page. We will continue to offer outdoor in-car worship on the radio with communion as well. We also plan to move to live stream online worship with replay.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/communities.html>

7/21/2020