

Guidelines for Returning to Worship

Peace Lutheran Church (LCMS), Finlayson, MN

Before Worship:

- ❖ Refrain from coming to worship if:
 - You have a temperature. Please check it before coming if you have any easy way to do so.
 - You have symptoms consistent with COVID19.
 - You are living with someone who has such symptoms.
 - You have traveled to an area known to have many cases.
 - You have been exposed to someone with COVID19.
 - You have age/health risk factors that you determine make it unwise for you to come.

What we ask of Members:

- ❖ Maintain a distance of six feet from those you are not seeing regularly outside of worship.
- ❖ Wash hands often and use sanitizer where handwashing is not possible.
- ❖ Following guidelines, we highly recommend to wear masks while in church to protect your neighbor. It is a close and confining area where we are often speaking at the same times. We will have some masks available for those who do not have them. Members are encouraged to bring their own. Pastor will wear a mask anytime he is outside of the chancel area.
- ❖ Members are asked to please socialize before coming into church and sit in church proper as soon as possible. At the end of the service, please exit the building directly.
- ❖ Please try to plan, in so far as it is possible, so that you do not need to use the restroom while in the church. The restroom in the Narthex will be open if needed. Please try to only use it as necessary since we will sanitize it after each use. Please only use the restrooms in the basement for an emergency. All restroom doors will have a sign indicating whether they are cleaned or not. If you go, flip the sign over to note it needs to be cleaned.

How Things Will Operate at Church:

- ❖ The front outside door will be left open so members don't need to touch door handle.
- ❖ Sanitizer will be available as you enter and at other locations in the building.
- ❖ The stairs will be closed, please use handicap ramp to help eliminate using the railing to balance and to space out between people.
- ❖ The doors from Narthex to Church Proper will be left open.
- ❖ Ushers will wear masks and gloves when needed to handle anything. They can answer questions in the Narthex. They will help usher people into pews if necessary to make sure we're not crowding. Usher will also hand out extra bulletins and service orders for different seating arrangements on end of pews.

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- ❖ Bulletins and Service Orders will be set on pew locations indicating where to sit. Certain pews will also be roped off. All the hymnals and cards are removed. Seating for members will be every third row, using five rows for about forty people for each service. Each row will ordinarily have a maximum of four people, two on each end or one on one end and three on the other. If a single family or group of four people or over is comfortable sitting together, they will use one pew and no one will be seated at the other end.
- ❖ We will respond to the service order responses, but will not sing hymns since the few outbreaks at churches have centered around singing. Some research suggests singing projects germ carrying particles farther than six feet. We will have organ music throughout the service. We will speak hymn verses or Psalms where hymns normally occur.
- ❖ One usher will usher people out. Please keep distance between groups. Members will go outside directly after being ushered out.
- ❖ Offering collection will be on stand in the narthex as we enter or exit.
- ❖ Nursery and Library area will be closed.
- ❖ Weather permitting, windows will be left open to help ventilate.
- ❖ If someone needs to talk with Pastor, he can meet them by his office or wherever they are comfortable.
- ❖ Cleaning and disinfection as needed during the gathering and in-between services will be by Erick our janitor.