

## Messiah Lutheran Guidelines for In-Person Worship – Updated April 19, 2021

Two identical worship services are currently being held on Sundays at **8:30 and 11 am**. Video of the 11:00 am service is livestreamed, then archived on YouTube.

### Precautions

The following precautions are currently in place for in-person worship:

- Please exercise personal discernment when it comes to your health. If you are feeling sick, waiting for COVID-19 test results, in recommended quarantine or isolation from COVID-19 exposure, in a high-risk category, or not comfortable or ready to attend in person, please stay home. Services will continue to be livestreamed as noted above.
- You will be welcomed in person at the sanctuary door as you enter. All inner doors will be kept open.
- To minimize potential spread of COVID-19 in this public setting, wearing of face coverings (fabric masks) are required at all services.
  - Those who are not medically able to tolerate a face mask are exempt from this requirement. We ask those who are medically exempt to wear a face covering to and from their seat in worship. (If you are not medically able to tolerate a face mask, face shields are an acceptable alternative.)
  - If you forget a face mask or don't have one, please don't let this keep you from attending; we will gladly provide you with one.
- Please maintain minimum 6-foot social distancing before, during and after services.
  - To assure social distancing during worship, we strongly encourage advance RSVPs for all services. Sign-up options are available by phone, email and Internet. 26 seating spots for families or individuals are available in the nave of the sanctuary for each service. Additional seating space is available in the choir area and the narthex. Generally, more seating is available for the 8:30 am service than at 11 am.
  - Worshipers will sit on the opposite ends of alternate pews. Designated seating will be clearly marked for "8:30 (1<sup>st</sup> service)" or "11:00 (2<sup>nd</sup> service)"; other pew entrances will be roped off to assure social distancing.
  - Following announcements, dismissal by families will begin from the back of the church. Please continue to be mindful of social distancing as you greet others and exit. When weather permits, we encourage you to greet others outdoors!

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### *The following general guidelines continue to apply to us at Messiah:*

- Please wash your hands often with soap and water. Hand sanitizer stations are also available throughout the church building.
- Please avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, as well as unnecessarily touching surfaces, handrails and doors. Please cover your cough or sneeze (discarding soiled tissues at home).

### *These practices are continuing for worship services:*

- The entire service is currently printed in the bulletin. Congregants should take bulletins with them for reference, then recycle or discard them at home.
- Offering plates will not be passed. Offerings can be given electronically or taken at the door.
- When Holy Communion is offered, safe distribution protocols will continue:
  - The Pastor, Elder and Ushers will carry the elements to the pews; please stand as able when they approach your seat.
  - Please receive the Body of Christ in your open hand from the Elder.
  - Please take an individual cup from the tray held by the Pastor to receive the Blood of Christ.
  - Please return the empty cup to the container held by the Usher, then sit following your reception of the Sacrament.
- The Nursery remains closed.
- No food or coffee will be served before or after worship; the kitchen remains closed.
- Restrooms in the church foyer will be open for use. Water fountains will remain out of service.
- The sanctuary will be sanitized following Sunday services.

If you want to receive Holy Communion, but do not feel comfortable attending these services, please call (734-645-4353) or email ([revjpeterson@yahoo.com](mailto:revjpeterson@yahoo.com)) our vacancy pastor, Rev. Jason Peterson, to make arrangements to receive the Lord's Supper by individual weekday appointment, either at the church, at home, or another location that meets your needs.