

Messiah Lutheran Guidelines for In-Person Worship – Effective May 30, 2021

From Memorial Day Weekend (**Sunday, May 30**) to Labor Day weekend (**Sunday, September 5**) a worship service will be held at **10:00 am on Sundays**. Video of this service will be livestreamed, then archived on YouTube. A service will also be held on **Monday nights at 7 pm from June 7 through August 30** (with the exception of **Monday, July 5**).

Two identical worship services on Sundays at **8:30 and 11 am** will resume on **Sunday, September 12**. Video of the 11:00 am service will be 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 for those who are not fully vaccinated.
 - Those who are fully vaccinated are exempt from this requirement.
 - 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 "Sunday" or "Monday"; 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 will be in effect for worship services:

- We are resuming the use of hymnals and fellowship pads. Hymns will no longer be printed in the regular service folder (printing of all other worship elements in the service folder will continue). Extra copies of the large print service folder will be printed for those who prefer not to use hymnals at this time. (We will also resume printing an insert with weekly prayer requests, announcements and upcoming events.) Congregants should take service folders 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, revised distribution protocols will be in use:
 - The Pastor and Elders involved in distribution will continue to wear masks and gloves.
 - 4-6 individuals (2-3 households) will be ushered forward to each half of the communion rail at a time, in order to maintain social distancing.
 - Communicants may kneel or stand.
 - Communicants will receive the Body of Christ in their open hand from the Elder.
 - Communicants will take an individual cup from the tray held by the Pastor to receive the Blood of Christ.
 - Communicants will place the empty cup in the slot on the communion rail.
 - Communicants who prefer to receive the Sacrament in the pews will be asked to notify the Elder or Ushers before the service begins.
- 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 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) 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.