

In-person worship services to resume in July

Share the gospel, not the germs:

Thanks be to God! Consistent with guidelines from the CDC, the ELCA, and local and state government, we are able to resume in-person worship this summer. We will be following certain precautions in order to minimize the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus, including these:

- Outdoor services only, July 1 through Labor Day
- 6-ft. physical distancing required between family/household groups
- Wearing of masks required
- No congregational singing, alas!
- No physical touching (outside of one's immediate household)
- If you're sick, please stay home.
- Wash your hands frequently and well, and use hand sanitizer.

Service times and locations:

- We'll return to our "usual" schedule of three weekend services—Saturday at 6:00 p.m., and Sunday at 8:00 and 10:15 a.m.
- All three services will use the same order of worship, with spoken liturgy and celebration of Holy Communion.
- On Saturday evening, we'll gather at the outdoor lakeside sanctuary. The benches have already been placed to facilitate appropriate physical distancing. You may also bring your own lawn chairs.
- On Sunday mornings, we'll gather on the lawn near the parking lot for both the early and the late service. (This will allow us to plug in the digital piano and the sound system). Please bring your own lawn chairs and spread yourselves out at an appropriate distance.
- An option for Sunday services will be to remain in your vehicle and tune into our low-frequency FM broadcast, if that is more comfortable for you.
- In case of inclement weather for any of the services, we will worship drive-in style in the parking lot, with everyone remaining in their own vehicles and tuning in to the FM broadcast. Worship leaders will be under the portico.
- At least for the month of July, we will also offer services under the portico/in the courtyard garden every Wednesday: July 1, 15, and 29 at noon, and July 8 and 22 at 6:00 p.m. These services will be limited to a maximum attendance of 12 persons and should last no more than 30 minutes. You can call the office in advance to sign up. This could be a good option for persons desiring Communion who are older, immune-compromised, or otherwise still uncomfortable with gathering in larger groups.

Holy Communion Procedures:

- For the foreseeable future, we will be using wafers rather than bread and will refrain from communing by intinction or common cup, so as to reduce the risk of infection.
- While our current supply lasts, we will use pre-packaged 'celebration cups', which each contain a wafer and a small cup of grape juice. These will be distributed before the service for those who wish to commune. At the usual time in the service, the pastor will celebrate the communion liturgy and consecrate all the elements from the altar table. When it is time to receive the sacrament, individuals will stay in their places and consume the bread and the wine at the pastor's direction. At the end of the service, please dispose of the wrapping and the empty cup in the bin provided.
- Later in the summer, we will begin communing "in one kind". This means that congregants will receive wafers only (no wine or juice). Remember that we receive all the spiritual benefits of the sacrament (life, forgiveness, and salvation) through either the bread or the wine alone.
- Please wear your mask and maintain physical distancing when you come forward to receive the sacrament. You may consume the host when you return to your seat. (Yes, you can remove your mask briefly in order to do this!)
- The pastor will use tweezers or tongs to place the host into your hands, to minimize physical contact. (An alternative or additional method may be to use a small napkin to cover your hands before you receive the

host). Communion ware and elements will be handled by the pastor only during the service, and altar guild will follow best practices of minimal handling and thorough cleaning of altar ware before and after worship.

Additional worship procedures:

- No physical contact (outside of your immediate household) while sharing the peace. Verbal greeting, Spock hands, peace sign, or Namaste are all good options.
- No passing the plate. Please place your offerings in the offering plate at the entrance to the worship area. You may also continue to use online giving or mail in your offerings to the church office.
- No congregational singing, due to the high risk of aerosol spread. Services will still include music provided by instrumentalists and cantors. You are encouraged to sing along silently in your heart and pray the words of the hymns while the music leader plays or sings out loud. (This is a hard one, no doubt about it!)
- If you would like to share your musical talents in worship, this summer would be a wonderful time to do so! We are seeking instrumentalists and soloists (or physically distanced duets) to provide special music for any service. Contact Sue, Brian, or Pastor Jean if you're interested.
- If it's a rainy day and we're worshipping drive-in style in our own vehicles, go ahead and belt out those hymns!

We have the technology:

- We will continue providing online worship for the foreseeable future. Starting in July, we will live-stream one of the weekend services each week and share it on our Facebook page, our YouTube channel, and our website. We will also continue to share the sermon text on Facebook and via mail for those who are not on the internet. (If you are not currently on this weekly mailing list but would like to be included, please contact the church office!)
- We will use a battery-powered speaker for Saturday nights and will plug into the church on Sunday mornings. We will also broadcast the Sunday services over our low-frequency FM channel, so that those who wish can remain in their vehicles.
- We are using some of the funds raised by Eric Johnson's 2018 benefit concert at Faith to purchase a digital piano. Thank you, Eric! We will be able to use this instrument for the outdoor Sunday services.
- We have purchased sanitizing equipment, including an electrostatic sprayer, and have developed protocols for sanitizing the sanctuary (and other indoor areas) after each use. These protocols will come into play once we resume indoor worship and other indoor gatherings.

We are a work in progress:

- As we continue to learn from our experiences, and as the pandemic situation continues to evolve, we will almost certainly continue to make changes and adaptations!
- If you have questions or suggestions, please share them with the pastor or any member of the worship and music committee. We welcome and encourage your constructive feedback.
- Pray without ceasing. Be patient. Love one another.

Church office re-opens: Monday-Thursday, 9:00-1:00

For the safety of our staff and members, please follow these protocols:

- Masks must be worn when in the building
- Only one visitor in the office at a time (two, if they are a couple coming in together)
- Visitors must maintain 6-foot physical distancing
- If we have more than one visitor arriving at the same time, they will be asked to wait either in their vehicle or in the narthex, and to observe physical distancing.
- If you would like to call ahead or make an appointment, please do. (Drop-ins are also welcome).