

FOUR-PHASE COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

Please note, this plan primarily focuses on our weekly worship services.

Plans for other church activities such as Kingdom Kids, confirmation, etc. will be solidified as fall approaches.

OPENING REMARKS

We continue to follow the guidance of the ELCA, our local bishops, and the CDC as we slowly return to our typical worship services. As simple as that may sound, it is not a clear-cut process. This is everyone's first global pandemic. Your pastors and council are attempting to take a measured approach to reopening, and we do so knowing that different churches around the state are following their own path back to some level of normal. Some churches have an in-depth screening process in place at their doors. Some churches are choosing to remain closed to in-person worship until the fall. We trust our congregation members to continue to follow both state and local public health restrictions, as well as to be respectful of our church guidelines as outlined below. All of that said, please be aware that your council and pastors continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation in Sherburne county. All phases and dates outlined below are subject to change as the situation continues to evolve.

PHASE 1 (June 21 – July 5)

- Three Sunday Worship Options
 - Virtual service – pre-recorded
 - 8:00AM drive-in service
 - Allow lawn chairs/blankets to be used at drive-in service; social distance must be maintained
 - 9:30AM indoor service
 - Request RSVP – allow people to sign-in as they come inside (for contact tracing and spacing purposes)
 - Numbered pew spots an appropriate distance apart, assigned at RSVP
 - Masks required in our building for the good of the other (SSLC will provide if needed)¹
 - No communal singing or speaking
 - No communion
 - Offering baskets available in narthex – no passed offering
 - Birthdays celebrated in worship with a round of applause, anniversaries celebrated with usual blessing
 - No coffee fellowship following service
 - No nursery available

¹ We understand that there are a variety of opinions and conflicting information when it comes to wearing masks. However, please understand that cloth masks are meant to keep those around you safe from catching any virus you might have, not vis versa. With this focus on protecting the neighbors worshiping with us, we respectfully ask that you wear a mask. In addition, we welcome congregational feedback particularly in this area, and our mask rule is subject to change based on that feedback.

- Pews sanitized after service, no books in pews
 - Utilize FM transmitter if we reach sanctuary capacity
- Wednesday Small Group Prayer Services and Virtual Service offered
- Office continues to be officially open on Mondays only; both pastors in on Wednesdays; Pastor Angela works from home Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Online devotionals on Tuesdays and Fridays only
- Baptisms allowed as private family events

PHASE 2 (Beginning July 12)

- Sunday Worship Options Reconsidered
 - Virtual service – pre-recorded
 - Need for 8:00AM drive-in service reviewed week-by-week based on needs and participation
 - 9:30AM indoor service
 - Sign-in when you enter, assigned spots in sanctuary (no RSVP needed)
 - No communal singing or speaking. Exception made for Lord's Prayer²
 - Communion celebrated on 2nd and 3rd Sundays using prepackaged single-serve packs
 - Masks required in our building for the good of the other (SSLC will provide if needed)
 - Offering baskets available in narthex – no passed offering
 - Birthdays celebrated in worship with a round of applause, anniversaries celebrated with usual blessing
 - No coffee fellowship following service
 - No nursery available
 - Pews sanitized after service, no books in pews
 - Utilize FM transmitter if we reach sanctuary capacity
- Wednesday prayer services reviewed week-by-week and may be discontinued based on needs and participation
- Office continues to be officially open on Mondays only; both pastors in on Wednesdays; Pastor Angela works from home Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Online devotionals on Tuesdays and Fridays only
- Baptisms allowed as private family events
- Homebound visits resume based on individual's and pastor's comfort levels. Adhere to any care facility rules.

PHASE 3 (Decision to move into Phase 3 is at the discretion of the council and pastors)

At our August council meeting, we will compare recent statistics and trends of local cases.

- Sunday Worship Options Reconsidered
 - Virtual service – pre-recorded

² Unless we see a dramatic increase of cases in our or neighboring counties.

- Need for 8:00AM drive-in service reviewed week-by-week based on needs and participation
- 9:30AM indoor service
 - Sign-in when you enter, but no assigned/directive seating. Households continue to sit a comfortable social distance apart.
 - Return to communal speaking, but no singing
 - Masks strongly encouraged in our building (SSLC will provide if needed)
 - Communion celebrated on 2nd and 3rd Sundays using prepackaged single-serve packs
 - Offering baskets available in narthex – no passed offering
 - Birthdays celebrated in worship with a round of applause, anniversaries celebrated with usual blessing
 - No coffee fellowship following service
 - No nursery available
 - Pews sanitized after service, no books in pews
 - Utilize FM transmitter if we reach sanctuary capacity
- Wednesday prayer services reviewed week-by-week and may be discontinued based on needs and participation
- Office continues to be officially open on Mondays only; both pastors in on Wednesdays; Pastor Angela works from home Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Online devotionals on Tuesdays and Fridays only
- Baptisms allowed as private family events
- Homebound visits resume based on individual's and pastor's comfort levels. Adhere to any care facility rules.

PHASE 4 (Begins when local, state, and federal COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, along with continued evaluation by council and pastors)

- Sunday Worship
 - Return to one (or two, in the fall) service only with livestreaming. Prerecorded virtual worship discontinued.
 - No masks required in service
 - Return to singing and speaking corporately, passed offering
 - Communion celebrated in usual fashion: two-service schedule, home-baked bread, individual wine cups
 - Coffee fellowship resumes
 - Nursery space available during Sunday services
- Wednesday worship discontinued until start of confirmation year
- Church office open Mondays – Thursdays
- Online devotionals discontinued
- Baptisms in Sunday service