



COVID – 19

Preparedness Plan for Public Worship

UPDATED 9/9/20

- Meetings for Peace Lutheran groups as well as outside organizations are **NOW PERMITTED** on the Peace Lutheran Church campus, but limited to 50% capacity of the room you are using.
- We ask that you schedule your meeting with the church office (320)587-3031 in order for us to have the area sanitize that you're requesting.
- Those who are ill, those who have been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, and those who are particularly vulnerable to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus will be urged to stay home. People will be encouraged to check their temperature before they come.
- Practice good hygiene: cover coughs and sneezes, wash hands often, wear face coverings or masks.
- People will be encouraged to bring and wear their own cloth face masks and other appropriate protective gear. A limited number of masks will be available at church to use and take home.
- Doors will be propped open and physical distancing upon entering and exiting the building will be maintained.
- The building will be thoroughly sanitized before and after each service, including all entryways and doors.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all entryways.
- This plan will be posted concerning distancing and sanitation requirements.
- People are to greet each other without touching and not to remain in the narthex for socializing before and after the service.
- Ventilation will be increased as much as possible (open windows, ceiling fans).
- Use of drinking fountains will be discouraged, and use of restrooms will require social distancing.
- Worship attendance in the sanctuary will be limited to 50% of seating capacity (in the church and in the balcony).
- Households can be seated together - maintaining physical distancing of at least six feet from other households or individuals.
- Disposable worship materials will be printed each week and made available in quantities sufficient for expected attendance.
- Collection plates and other items will not be passed from person to person.
- The Sacrament of the Altar will be prepared and distributed by the pastor and elders. They will sanitize their hands, wear gloves and a mask. We are asking you to "cup" your hands so a wafer may be dropped into your hands. You are asked to take an individual glass from the tray, being careful not to touch the other glasses.
- Education in the necessity for these precautions will be an ongoing part of communication with the congregation.
- If someone should become ill during worship, they will be assisted in leaving the building first, then the rest of the congregation will be dismissed, and the building will be closed.

- Once learning of a person with confirmed COVID-19 who has been in the facility, local health officials will be notified immediately. These officials will guide us in determining a course of action, which may include tracing contacts of that person. Please continue to watch for updates on our Reopening Plan.

Weddings and Funerals are permitted

- Stay home if you or anyone in your household is sick or has symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell.
- Persons who are at higher risk for severe illness (elderly or underlying health conditions) are strongly encouraged to stay home.
- Participants should understand and agree to follow the COVID-19 Preparedness Plans for the facilities where the service or ceremony will take place.
- Regularly wash or sanitize hands, cover coughs and sneezes, and wear a face covering.
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet between people from different households at all times (entering, exiting, sitting, and any activities during the service).
- Singing/chanting is a higher risk activity, so congregations are strongly encouraged to have pre-recorded music/chants or listen to a cantor who maintains distance from other cantors and participants during the service.
- Avoid touching items often touched by others if possible. Sanitize high-touch items between shared users and between services.
- Adapt all practices during the services to avoid close contact and maintain social distancing (greetings, collections, sharing of ceremonial objects, communion, etc.).

Receptions or gatherings that are providing food and beverages for on-site consumption have a limit of indoor and outdoor occupant capacity of 25% up to 250 persons.

- Food must be prepared and served in accordance with applicable rules and regulations guiding the specific event. Licensed food establishments must follow the Minnesota Food Code (www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/food/rules/foodcode/index.html).
- Control lines to ensure social distancing of at least 6 feet between members of different households. This can be done with floor markings or other indicators.
- Self-service food and beverage areas are allowed as long as oversight of the self-service area to ensure that social distancing is maintained, hands are being sanitized, and participants wear face masks in the self-service area. The responsible party can be the venue administrator or caterer.
- Face coverings may be temporarily removed to enable eating and/or drinking when attendees are seated and apart from members of other households but must be put back on when not eating or drinking.