

Bethany Lutheran Church

In Person Worship Guidelines

We welcome you to worship with us at Bethany Lutheran Church, West Hartford. We are doing our very best to prepare for worshipping in the sanctuary while keeping the risks of contracting or spreading the COVID-19 virus to an absolute minimum.

We urge anyone who does not feel comfortable attending church in person to continue to view our worship services online on Facebook Live.

Here are some changes to our worship experience if you attend in person:

- Preregistration will be required if you plan to attend services in person. This will allow us to adhere to CDC and State of CT guidelines for the number of people allowed to gather and ensure we do not exceed the recommended capacity. Instructions on how to register are attached in a separate document in this email. For those who do not have access to email or the internet, they may call the church office to register.
- Worship service will begin at 10:30 am. We strongly encourage you to arrive at least 30 minutes early to allow the proper steps to take place prior to entering the sanctuary.
- FACE MASKS ARE MANDATORY. Please wear your mask at all times in the church.
- Doors will remain open to reduce the touching of hard surfaces.
- The entrance, narthex, handicapped bathroom and sanctuary will be thoroughly cleaned before and after worship services.
- There will be no hymnals in the pews. The Order of Service will be projected on the monitors in the front of the sanctuary. A copy of the Order of Service will be emailed several days before the service if you wish to print it out at home. A very limited number of printed copies will be available for those who do not have email.
- The handicapped bathroom will be available. Sanitizing wipes will be in the bathroom and we ask that you wipe down any touched surfaces before you leave the bathroom. Please dispose of the wipes in the wastebasket only.
- At no time before, during or after the service will members be allowed in the library, kitchenette, Duchow Room, undercroft or classrooms.
- Holy Communion will not be served for at least the first week of in person services. We need to ensure that the procedures in place are the best and safest for all involved before we introduce the process of serving communion.

What to Expect When You Arrive at Church for In Person Service

- When you arrive at Bethany, please enter through the glass doors on South Main St. Please maintain social distancing as you enter.
- An usher will greet you at the entrance to the narthex and do the following:
 - Ensure everyone is wearing a face mask
 - Ask if you have preregistered.
 - Ask that you use the hand sanitizer provided
 - Ask you basic wellness questions as provided by the CDC. If you are not feeling well or have any of these symptoms, we ask that you return to your home.
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- The usher will direct you to the next station where an usher will take your temperature. Those with temperatures over 100.4 degrees will be asked to return home.
- You may then proceed to the entrance of the sanctuary where an usher will check your name off the list, assign you to a seat, and an usher will escort you to your seat. Please note that seats will be filled from the front of the sanctuary to the rear as much as possible. We acknowledge this may be uncomfortable for many Lutherans to not sit in their favorite pew, but we ask for your cooperation in this unprecedented time.
- Offerings may be placed in the box at the rear of the sanctuary.
- At the end of the service, ushers will dismiss members by row, beginning from the rear of the sanctuary to the front. Please wait to be dismissed and maintain proper social distancing as you exit.
- Exiting the church will be through the wooden doors in the narthex unless you require use of the elevator.
- **Fellowship will take place outside the church building only.**