

Guidelines and Procedures for Worship

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

Entering the church:

- Doors will be propped open for easy entry and exit.
- All attendees and parishioners are asked to wear masks to demonstrate love and respect for our fellow church members.
- Attendees are asked to bring their own mask, but masks will be provided if needed.
- Communion materials will be handed out to attendees at the door in sealed containers, to be taken in pews during communion service.
- Church bulletins will be handed out upon entry.
- Ushers will escort attendees to pews. Every other pew will be cordoned off to ensure proper social distancing is in place.

During the service:

- All songs will be led by choir members. Attendees are asked not to sing along to minimize chance of virus transmission. Everyone is encouraged to hum rather than sing.
- Family groups may sit together. All other groups will be asked to practice social distancing in how close they sit to another attendee.
- The offering plate will not be passed during the service. Instead, offerings will be accepted in a box placed near the church doors – offerings may be placed in the box before or after the service.
- Both services will be shortened to approximately 30-45 minutes.

After the service:

- Families will be escorted out of the church by the ushers from the back of the church to the front of the church.
- Attendees are asked to stay in their pew until they are escorted out, and to observe all social distancing guidelines.
- Church bulletins will not be re-used. Families are asked to take them home for recycling.
- Families may visit with one another once they are out in the parking lot.

Other important details:

- Thorough cleaning and disinfecting will occur after each service.
- Restrooms will be open, but only one person at a time will be allowed.
- Nursery, preschool room, Family Life Center, office and kitchen will all be closed.
- There will be no Sunday school or adult bible school – zoom meetings will continue.
- All services will continue to be livestreamed for those who wish to worship at home.