

Trinity Lutheran Church, Sabin, MN
COVID-19 Preparedness Plan
June 2020

It is a wonderful opportunity to gather to worship our Lord and join in fellowship with one another, but we must also be careful to do so safely. This pandemic situation requires special considerations in how we gather while remembering that God is gracious and all powerful and has promised to be with us. “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Matt. 18:20.

These protocols are one effort to provide protections for ourselves and others. They will also help us honor our Lord by using His gifts. “For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” 2 Tim. 1:7. For the time being there will be two in person services. We will have our Sunday morning service at 10 am and a Wednesday evening service at 7pm. We will continue to live stream the Sunday Service at 10 am on Facebook Live. Once streamed a recording of the service will be archived for viewing at your convenience.

It will be a joy to see you all again and worship with you in the place we call “our church home.” The services that you have grown accustomed to will be different and we would like you to be aware of those changes before attending. Below you will see a comprehensive list of safety protocols.

GENERAL

- Those in any high-risk category or health complications are encouraged to stay home.
- Those who have ANY symptoms of coronavirus (fever – a temperature above 100.4, cough, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell) must stay home.
- We are requiring members to wear a facemask if you are able for the safety of all our members. (Children and those who have trouble breathing do not need to wear one.)
- Enter and exit the church using the doors by the office and organ side. Entry to the sanctuary will be the three doors in the narthex. Exit from the sanctuary will be by sections. You will be ushered out to the exit door closest to the section you are sitting in.
- Doors will be propped open to avoid touching the handle.
- Areas of the church not used for worship will have their doors closed. The education wing, Fellowship Hall and library will not be open as well.
- Facemasks will be available and sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the church.
- The restrooms will be open. Please use the sanitizer and paper towels provided on the handle when leaving. After each service the restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized.
- Weather permitting, windows will be open and air conditioning turned on.
- Reminders to stay 6 feet apart will be placed in the building.
- Signs of the protocols will be made available throughout the church so members and especially nonmembers will be made aware of them.
- The congregation will be informed if someone tests positive. If you test positive for COVID-19, please inform the church so we can help in informing our members.
- Communication with members will be by email, Facebook, Church’s Website and/or phone calls.

WORSHIP

- Worship services will be less than one hour.
- Please refrain from singing unless wearing a facemask.
- Offering collection plates will be in the narthex.
- The Elder on duty will wear a facemask.
- Social distancing should be maintained at all time. At this time there will be no passing of the peace.
- All hand-held items such as hymnals, Bibles, pens/pencils, and children's bags have been removed. Bring your own items from home for kids.
- Every other pew will have signs saying "closed for Social Distancing" to conform to social distancing (6 feet between persons not living together) and 50% capacity.

COMMUNION

- Communion will be done by individual Communion Kits.
- When you enter the church, pick up an individual kit that will be placed on tables in the narthex.
- After the elements have been consecrated, the pastor will instruct the members to open up the side with the wafer and we will then all eat together. Pastor will then do the same for the wine and we will all drink together.
- After service there will be trash bins to throw away the kits.

SOCIALIZING

- Please arrive for worship a few minutes before the scheduled start time.
- Please go directly to the sanctuary and sit down. It is requested that there be no socializing in the church.
- Once ushered out, please go immediately to the parking lot.
- Socializing may take place in the parking lot, maintaining social distancing.
- Interior church access will be limited to the entrances and hallways, the sanctuary, and the bathrooms.

Please Note: We as the Board of Elders have done our best to keep people safe, so please be mindful of the protocol and procedures that have been put into place. If someone is disregarding the protocols, they will be asked to begin following the protocols, stressing the importance of reducing disease transmission and informing them that we need to care for our brothers and sisters in Christ and follow the example of our Good Shepherd in loving our neighbors.