

Bethlehem Lutheran Church's Expectations and Rules For Protecting Parishioners and Guests During the Covid-19 Pandemic

➤ **Sick Church Members and Visitors — Please do not attend!**

- Church members and visitors are asked to self-check, that is, to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and to stay home if you have symptoms.
 - Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal indications like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Church members and visitors will be asked to use the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist to self-evaluate. This screening also addresses close contacts with confirmed cases and quarantined cases, and recent out of continent travel. Church members and visitors must stay home if they have had any exposure.
- Notices will be posted stating that if church members and visitors do not feel well, have any symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or any other illness, then they should not attend services.
- Church members and visitors who may be at higher risk for severe illness are strongly encouraged not to attend services.
 - The at-risk population is anyone 65 years old or older, and anyone with chronic lung disease; moderate to severe asthma; chronic heart disease; severe obesity; diabetes; chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; liver disease; or weakened immune system.
- If a church member has even one household member experiencing symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or any other illness, then the entire family unit must stay home.
- If a church member or visitor begins to feel unwell while in the building, they should leave immediately, return home, and isolate themselves.

➤ **Hand Washing and Sanitizing — Please do it!**

Church members and visitors must wash and/or sanitize their hands upon entering the church and frequently while in the building. Handwashing can be done in the lavatories/restrooms and at one sink in the kitchen. Hand-sanitizer stations and containers will be available at entrances and in the pews. Church members and visitors are strongly encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer.

➤ **Face Coverings and Masks — Wear one! — Please bring your own!**

Church members and visitors are required to wear a face covering or mask when in the building and during services when they are able. A limited supply of extra masks will be available for people who do not arrive with one.

- **Physical Distancing — Worshippers must be at least 6-feet apart!**
 - Church members and visitors must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from people not in the same household. This includes keeping this distance with people next to you and in front and behind you. This means that two or more members of the same household can sit adjacent to one another, with 6 feet of empty space on either side of the group, and worshippers must leave approximately every other row empty.
 - Ushers will direct church members and visitors entering and exiting the sanctuary to maintain proper physical distancing. Seating will be blocked off and clearly marked to ensure adequate spacing of worshippers.
- **Occupancy Limits — No more than 90 worshippers!**

Sanctuary occupancy will be reduced to maintain the required physical distancing of at least 6 feet between people who do not live in the same household. Occupancy will not exceed 25% of our total capacity or a maximum of 250 people. These limits include leadership, assistants, and worshippers.
- **Worship Aids — Hymn books, no; bulletins, yes; projection, yes!**
 - Hymnals and Bibles will not be available in the pews.
 - A full-service bulletin will be placed on the pew where an individual worshipper may sit but it should not be shared.
 - The order of worship, prayers, liturgy, readings, and lyrics will be projected on a screen.
 - Electronic copies of the bulletin will be available for worshippers to access on their personal devices prior to the service.
- **Worship Practices — Some restrictions!**
 - There will be no shaking of hands, hugging, fist-bumping, high-fiving, etc., to greet one another before, during, or after services, whether in the building or elsewhere on the church premises.
 - Speaking and singing will be permitted but only while wearing a face covering or mask.
 - There will be no passing of offering plates. Plates will be located at entrances/exits where you can simply drop your offering into the plate or other container without touching it. You are strongly encouraged to make use of pre-arranged giving through your bank, Vanco Payment Solutions, and/or their personal device application, "GivePlus Mobile".
 - There will be no celebration of Holy Communion until further notice.
- **Coffee Hour, Faith Formation Classes, and Other Activities**

Fellowship, coffee hour, snacks, Bible studies, Sunday School, Confirmation, WELCA, and all other after worship meetings, gatherings, and programs are still suspended until further notice. Bible studies and other faith formation may take place online.
- **Virtual Worship — When in doubt, stay home and participate remotely!**

Worship services will be live-streamed or recorded and posted online to accommodate vulnerable church and community members. "At risk" church staff, church members, and visitors are strongly urged not to attend services and to participate remotely, if possible.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church's

List of Expectations and Rules for Protecting Worshippers During the Covid-19 Pandemic

- **Sick Church Members and Visitors — Please do not attend!**
 - Church members and visitors who have symptoms of COVID-19, or any other illness, should not attend services. Please stay home!
 - Church members and visitors who may be at higher risk for severe illness are strongly encouraged not to attend services. Please stay home!
 - If a church member has even one household member experiencing symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or any other illness, then the entire family unit must stay home.
- **Hand Washing and Sanitizing — Please do it! — You are encouraged to bring your own hand sanitizer!**
 - Church members and visitors must wash and/or sanitize their hands upon entering the church and frequently while in the building.
- **Face Coverings and Masks — Wear one! — Please bring your own!**
 - Church members and visitors are required to wear a face covering or mask when in the building and during services when they are able.
- **Physical Distancing — Worshippers must be at least 6-feet apart!**
 - Church members and visitors must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from people not in the same household.
 - Ushers will direct church members and visitors entering and exiting the sanctuary to maintain proper physical distancing.
 - Seating will be blocked off and clearly marked to ensure adequate spacing of worshippers.
- **Worship Aids — Hymn books, no; bulletins, yes; projection, yes!**
 - Hymnals will not be available in the pews.
 - A full-service bulletin will be placed on the pew where an individual worshipper may sit but it should not be shared.
 - The order of worship, prayers, liturgy, readings, and lyrics will be projected on a screen.
 - Electronic copies of the bulletin will be available for worshippers to access on their personal devices prior to the service.
- **Worship Practices — Some restrictions!**
 - No shaking of hands, hugging, fist-bumping, high-fiving, etc., to greet one another before, during, or after services.
 - Speaking and singing will be permitted but only while wearing a face covering or mask.
 - No passing of offering plates. Plates will be located at entrances/exits where you can simply drop your offering into the plate or other container.
 - No Holy Communion until further notice.
- **No fellowship, faith formation, or other programs after worship!**
- **Virtual Worship — When in doubt, stay home and participate remotely!**
 - Worship services will be live-streamed or recorded and posted online to accommodate vulnerable church and community members.