

Spirit of God Lutheran Church Duluth, Minnesota

(from July newsletter; updates are expected for the August newsletter)

Proposed Protocols for Returning to In-Person Worship

We will be following these precautions when we gather together again for worship:

1. If you are **feeling ill**, or have been exposed recently to Covid-19, please do not attend.
 2. **Masks** are required. Bring your own, if possible. Extra masks will be available at the doors.
 3. A **social distance** of six feet will be encouraged and reinforced in several ways.
 4. A **sanitizing station** will be set up at the two main entrances. Hand sanitizing, masks, and social distance will be verbally encouraged by an usher at each station. In addition, the ushers, masked and gloved, will welcome you and hand you a bulletin. Worshippers are also encouraged to use the hand sanitizer as you exit the building.
 5. The main floor level, and the approaching stairs and elevator, will be **cleaned and disinfected** between every worship service.
 6. The **other levels** of the building, the basement level and the balcony level, have been closed until further notice.
 7. Only one **bathroom** will be available. Try to avoid using it.
 8. Sanctuary **seating** will be limited to one row every three.
 9. In the first phase, we will not be **singing**. Hymn verses and liturgy will be spoken. The Choir will not be singing. Special music may be offered through recorded music or organ music, with the congregation praying through attentive listening.
 10. An **offering recessional** will be introduced. No offering plates will be passed down each pew. Instead, worshippers are encouraged to make an offering as you exit the sanctuary. Worship attendance cards will be placed in the offering plates as well.
 11. The **Sharing of the Peace** will happen without moving around, respecting social distance. We practiced this in March.
12. We will speak and pray the **Communion liturgy**, but only the pastor will receive the elements during the worship service. Following the service, the pastor will be in the parking lot and will distribute the host to anyone who approaches him in person or in vehicles. The distribution of both elements to every worshipper will resume just as soon as it is safe to do so.

When might we be able to gather again for worship? We simply don't know. Yet. It could be September 1st, but it could be sooner or later than that. An update on our starting date will be provided in the August newsletter.

Fireside Chats with Pastor Nathan will continue to be made available on Facebook and our website.