

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Returning to – In-person worship

Parking:

Every other spot with at least 1 volunteer to help maintain 6ft distance and ask worshippers to put on masks before exiting their vehicle. May not be practical if coupled with parking lot service at the same time.

Entry:

Only the Handicapped entrance will be open. Weather allowing door should be propped open.
1 volunteer needed to help maintain 6ft distance - inside.
1 volunteer needed to take names of those who attend and ask the health questions -outside, if possible.
1 volunteer needed to take temperatures – outside, if possible.

Elevator:

One person or one family group at a time. Surfaces to be disinfected after each use.
1 volunteer needed to clean surfaces.

Stairway:

Maintain 6ft distancing. Handrail to be disinfected after each usage. 1 volunteer needed to clean surfaces.

Seating:

Reservations, RSVP will be needed to prevent overcrowding. 1 volunteer needed to help maintain 6ft distance. 1 volunteer needed to lead worshipper to next available seat.

Worship:

(Whew, finally got to the service)
No sharing of microphones, no response, no singing (unless soloist in another room) no hugging, touching, sharing of the peace, no shaking of hands.
There could be a children's sermon, but they will remain seated (i.e. not come forward).
Pastor need a face shield or install plexi-glass.
Communion – will not be offered, at least, for the first service, when we are again together.
A basket will be provided for offerings during the Exit process.
Pastor will remind attendees to go immediately to their car, keeping the windows up and leave i.e. not staying in groups in parking lot to speak to or see friends.

Exit:

Rows will be dismissed from the front. Can use seating volunteers from above.
Elevator and stairway volunteers still needed, doorway and parking lot volunteers still needed.

Additional items need before, during or related to In-person worship.

Signs in parking lot – Please maintain 6ft distance and put your mask on.
Entry way sign – ALL Restrooms are closed (hmmmm, maybe not??)
Hand sanitizer at entry point
No Touch thermometer at entry point, pad for who attended lists.
Health questions

All materials removed from sanctuary, including pew rack hymnals, cushions, stuff in the back
No Air conditioning, no fans, no self-fanning, cushions.
Bulletin to be on PowerPoint (no need to have extra surfaces in worship area or in my case the temptation to fan)

The nitty gritty:

If an attendee's temperature is above 100.4 they will be asked to go home; if they do not and insist on entry the service for that time period will be cancelled.

Masks will be available for those that forget or don't bring a mask.

If you cough during the service, you will be asked to leave, if you insist on staying the service will be immediately cancelled and all will leave, per the exit guidelines above.

Participation in these services is voluntary. Only you can decide when you are ready to come back inside St John's. People who don't feel healthy that particular day or who have health conditions that place them at high risk should not attend. We are trying to provide a responsible way for in-person worship services to resume.

The Congregational Church Council recognizes that some of these measures might seem drastic, but they have chosen to err on the side of the safety of our worshipers. It is our hope and prayer that our members and visitors appreciate the effort to keep them safe and will be willing to accommodate the changes. Should someone within the worshiping body become afflicted with the COVID-19, the council will try to notify anyone who may have been exposed (one purpose of the screening cards).