

# Guidelines for a healthy and safe return to worship at

## St. Paul Lutheran Church

Revised 6/16/2020 by Church Reopening Committee

Approved 6/16/2020 by Board of Elders

While many members of St. Paul are eager to get back to worshipping together, we realize that others are hesitant or not able to because of health reasons. Therefore, we will continue to livestream the church service every Sunday. To ensure everyone's safety a sanitizing team will clean the sanctuary, narthex, and bathrooms before and after each service. In order to establish the proper social distancing, the number of members will be limited. Other temporary procedures are as follows:

### Safety Practices

- Wearing a mask is expected of each worshiper during the sung and spoken portions of our service. The acts of speaking, singing, coughing and sneezing are the primary ways of spreading the virus to others. Worshipers may remove their masks during the "extended listening" portions of worship, such as the scripture readings and sermon. Pastors and worship leaders will wear masks when interacting with the congregation. They will not, however, wear masks as they lead worship because of their significant distance from the congregation. Remember, wearing a mask is for **your** safety and the safety of your St. Paul family.
- Entrance will be at the main parking lot doors only. Doors will be propped open.
- As you enter, you will be handed a worship bulletin. Please take it home at the end of the service.
- Hymnals, Bibles, etc. will be removed from the pews.
- The offering plate will not be passed during the worship service. Offerings will be received electronically, or you may place it in the plates on pedestals located in the narthex.

### Entering and exiting the building

- Worshipers are expected to wear a mask before and after church as they interact with one another. *(see 'Safety Practices' for mask wearing during the service)*
- Greeters will welcome people, provide a wellness check (how are you feeling today?), and remind people to hand sanitize.
- The ushers will seat you to ensure proper distancing. Families may sit together as a unit.
- Upon completion of the church service, ushers will dismiss parishioners by rows.
- After exiting the church sanctuary, **do not gather in the narthex, lounge, or other common areas.**
- You are asked to exit the building immediately.

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## Administration of Holy Communion

- We will use distribution through a continuous line.
- People in the line will maintain a distance of six feet from households before and after them.
- The pastors and assistants will use hand sanitizer immediately before distributing Holy Communion. They will wear face masks during distribution.
- All receiving the Lord's Body will be expected to do so with an outstretched hand instead of receiving host on the tongue.
- If the pastor or assistant senses that his fingers have made contact with a person's hands, he will pause and use hand sanitizer.
- We will be using individual cups for the Blood of Christ.

## Screening\*

Please review these questions prior to coming to church

- A. Do any of these symptoms apply to you?
- A fever of 100.4 degrees or higher.
  - Cough (excluding chronic cough due to known medical reason other than COVID-19)
  - Shortness of breath
  - (Any two of) Chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste/smell and/or diarrhea (excluding for other known medical reason), and extreme fatigue.

**If yes, do not come to church until at least 72 hours with no fever (three full days with no fever reducing medication) AND other symptoms have improved AND 10 days have passed since your first symptoms appeared.**

- B. Have you traveled internationally or outside of Michigan in the last 14 days?  
**If yes, do not come to church until 14 days have passed since you returned home.**
- C. Have you had close contact in the last 14 days with someone with a diagnosis of COVID-19?  
**If yes, do not come to church until 14 days after the last exposure to the person with COVID-19.**

\*This health screening comes from the Oakland County Health Department.