

## **Guidelines for Indoor Worship at Salem Lutheran Church in the time of COVID**

*\*Please carefully read these guidelines in their entirety with your household. We are asking all who plan to attend worship to consent to and follow these guidelines so that we can worship together safely.\**

### **Prior to Worship:**

- **All who plan to attend worship must RSVP** using the online form or by calling Robin Schaefer in the church office. Please RSVP for anyone in your household who plans to attend with you. Each worship service will have a limit of 25. If your preferred service is full, please consider attending a different service. Sign ups close on Fridays at noon.
- Reminder: Online worship WILL continue indefinitely
- **If you are feeling ill or experiencing any symptoms related to COVID, please stay home and worship with us online.**

### **Arriving to Worship:**

- Please **plan to arrive 10 minutes prior** to the beginning of worship in order to get checked in and seated.
- When your household arrives, you will **enter according to the signs at the check in station** where an usher will check to see that you have RSVP'd and take your temperature with a contactless thermometer. **Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or above will be encouraged to return home and worship online.**
- **Masks are to be worn from the time you arrive to the time you leave. Masks must be worn covering both nose and mouth at all times** (they can be pulled down to receive communion).
- The narthex will function like a two way street, with worshippers entering to the right and heading to the sanctuary. Worshippers will exit on the other side of the narthex. When in doubt, follow the arrows!
- Restroom access will be limited to emergency use only, with only one occupant allowed at a time. Please use the restroom before you come.

### **Worship - What to Expect:**

- Upon entering the sanctuary, **please wait for an usher to show you to a seat.** Pews will be marked off for social distancing.
- An offering basket will be available in the back of the sanctuary for easy, no contact offering. You can drop your offering in upon entrance or exit.

- **Hand sanitizer will be available**, but you are also welcome to bring your own.
- **Worship will be shorter than usual**, with no communal singing and fewer readings. There will be instrumental music. Expect worship to last 30-45 minutes.
- When we administer communion, **we will receive communion “in one kind”** meaning we will only receive the bread. The pastors will commune one side of congregation at a time and worshipers will be instructed when to go up for communion by an usher.
- **Please exit the sanctuary promptly after service ends** so that pews can be sanitized and we can maintain distance. There will be no fellowship hour after service, although members are welcome to greet one another outside the building.

#### **In the Event Someone Becomes Sick:**

- In the event that you or someone in your household becomes ill and tests positive for COVID-19 within two weeks of attending a Salem service, **please contact the church and the local health department.**
- **Salem will notify the congregation in the event that someone who attended one of our services tests positive for COVID-19** and the leadership team will assess whether we believe we can continue with indoor worship or if we need to temporarily suspend it.