

Guidelines for Outdoor Worship at Salem Lutheran Church

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 office. Please RSVP for anyone in your household who plans to attend with you one week prior to the service. Each worship service will have a limit of 70. If your preferred service is full, please consider attending a different service.
- Reminder: **Online worship WILL continue indefinitely even when outdoor worship begins.**
- **In the event of inclement weather (rain or extreme heat):** a cancellation decision will be made and communicated to the congregation on Saturday morning for Saturday evening services and Saturday evening for Sunday morning services.

Arriving to Worship:

- Please **plan to arrive 15-30 minutes prior** to the beginning of worship in order to get checked in and seated.
- **Please use the Newburg entrance to Salem's parking lot.** The Frederick Road entrance will be blocked off for the safety of those gathering. Please take care to maintain distance from others when getting in and out of your vehicle and navigating the parking lot.
- 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 not be permitted to enter** according to CDC guidelines. If you arrive and there is a line of folks waiting to check in, wait in your air conditioned car until the line has decreased. **Note: Standing in the sun and drinking hot coffee right before temperature check could affect your reading.**
- **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 only be pulled down to receive communion or drink water during the service). Please be aware that wearing your mask outside in the summer will be hot and uncomfortable. **Please only attend outdoor worship if you think you can keep your mask on properly for 30-45 minutes of being outdoors.**

- There will be **NO** access to the building for worship attendants except for the leadership team. **This means NO restroom access.** Again, please consider whether you can go without a restroom for the time you plan to be at worship.

Worship - What to Expect and What to Bring:

- **Please do NOT bring your own chairs.** Chairs will be set up according to the number in a household so that you can sit with your family unit. Each household will be separated by at least 6 feet from the next chair(s). Please do not move the chairs. If the configuration needs to be changed, an usher will assist you. We will be using metal folding chairs for easy sanitation between services, so **please DO bring a cushion if you need it for comfort.**
- **Offering baskets will be set up at both the entrance and exit point** for easy, no contact offering. Ushers will be attending to these stations.
- **Hand sanitizer will be available**, but you are also encouraged to bring your own.
- **Worship will be shorter than usual**, with no communal singing, fewer readings, no bulletins or hymnals, and no special music. Expect worship to last 30-45 minutes.
- Although the service is abbreviated and there is *some* shade on the lawn, **it will be hot and many people will be sitting in the sun.** Please wear sunscreen and hats to protect yourself from the sun and **bring a bottle of water.**
- When we resume communion, **we will receive communion “in one kind”** meaning we will only receive the bread. Worshipers will stay seated and the pastors will sanitize their hands before coming around and dropping the bread into your hands without touching. Please wait for the pastor to move to the next household before pulling down your mask to consume the bread.
- **Please exit the worship area promptly after service ends** so that chairs can be sanitized and moved. There will be no fellowship hour after service.

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 outdoor worship or if we need to temporarily suspend it.

