

## Guidelines for Worship and Bible Study during COVID 19 Outbreak

While we are excited about the opportunity to gather again, we also understand that it is at our own risk, and that the risks involved with the Covid-19 outbreak are still substantial enough to provide extra safety measures for our public gatherings. We understand that each individual will have different comfort levels about attending our gatherings. We will continue to offer options for at-home worship and Bible study and respect a person's choice to stay home. Each weekend's service will be recorded and made available on our website along with a copy of the service folder. We will also appreciate attendees' efforts to respect and follow the measures set forth below as the recommended best practices for mitigating the spread of disease in church gatherings.

1. We will ask our janitors to clean on Saturdays and use a bleach solution to wipe down pews every Saturday. Bleach is supposed to kill the virus for 24 hours.
2. We will ask members to practice social distancing and sit every other pew. Pews will be taped off to maintain these distances. We will ask you to refrain from handshaking and hugging. Singing and loud talking is known to spread the virus much like a cough or sneeze so spreading ourselves out will be important for worship.
3. We will ask ushers and volunteers to wash down pews, railings, doorknobs and other frequently touched surfaces in between services.
4. We will be removing all hymnals from the hymnal racks, and we will print service folders with the whole order of service. We will ask you to take them home or put them in a recyclable bin, but we will not reuse them.
5. We will not pass the offering plate but take a door collection as you leave.
6. We will provide hand sanitizer in the entryway and ask that you sanitize your hands before sitting down for worship. (Any donations of hand sanitizer or disinfectant wipes are appreciated.)
7. **Unless there is a health condition that disallows the use of a mask, those 5 years of age or older should wear masks to comply with the Wisconsin mandate.**
8. We will offer communion using continuous distribution. (This is a practice used by many Lutheran churches for distribution.) Ushers will invite people to join the line at 6-foot intervals one side of the church at a time. Each communicant will approach the pastor down the center aisle. The pastor will drop the host into your open hand and say "the body of Christ." You will then proceed to the left or the right depending on the side of the church you are sitting on to receive the wine. The pastor with the individual cups will place one cup on a stand. You will take the cup from the stand and as you do the pastor will say "the blood of Christ." After all have communed the pastor will speak the parting blessing. The pastors will sanitize their hands immediately before distribution and wear masks. Families may come forward as a unit to receive the sacrament. If you are comfortable attending services but not communing, you can make arrangements for one of the pastors to commune you privately.
9. We will ask people who are feeling sick or have any cold or flu symptoms to stay home. Those over 65 or in other high risk categories may want to consider staying home until the spread of the disease starts going down.
10. After the service please do not loiter in the building, but do your visiting in the parking lot with good social distancing if the weather permits.