

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Family,

The Church Council met on May 21, 2020. After much prayer and studying the guidelines from the CDC, the ELCA, local health department, and consultation with our insurance company, the church council voted to reopen our church for in-person worship on June 21, 2020, at 9 a.m. Please pay attention to the guidelines that the church council has provided below. These guidelines are for your safety and the safety of your neighbor.

### **General Information**

- ILC will continue to provide online resources and home worship resources. This is for the sake of those 65 or older, vulnerable, or not comfortable to gather in person.
- Pastor will continue to provide Bible studies online and church council will meet online.
- Regular Sunday worship will continue to be held online.
- We will not have coffee hour or other social gatherings.
- **High-risk individuals (people over 65 or with underlying conditions), including staff, are encouraged to shelter in place.**

### **Physical Building and Grounds**

- Initial small gatherings will be held outdoors (weather permitting). You are encouraged to bring your own chair. We will inform you when we will worship outside.
- We will close spaces and rooms in the building where people do not need to be with tape.
- We will open windows and doors to encourage fresh air over recycled air into the worship space.
- All hangers will be removed from the closets.
- Nursery will not be provided, and the nursery room will be closed.
- Please only 1 person in the restroom at a time with social distancing if you are waiting to use the restroom.
- All materials will be removed from the worship and gathering spaces such as bibles, hymnals, pens, information cards, welcome pads, children's bags, etc.
- We will not hand out paper bulletins. The entire service will be projected on the screen.

### **Hygiene and Safety**

- We will provide hand sanitizer at all entrances and in the pews/seating area.
- We will clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces after the service.
- **Face masks/coverings will be required at all times. The pastor will not lead the worship service unless all are wearing a mask.**
- You are encouraged to use good hygiene practices.

### **Physical Distancing**

- We will offer one service at 9am on Sunday.
- We will use every third pew. We will use tape to close off rows in order to guide worshipers to sit at least six feet from each other.
- We will provide visual cues for physical distancing in the sanctuary with tape.
- There will be no more than two people per pew. This does not apply to family members in a single household.

### **Speaking, Singing, and Playing Instruments in Worship**

- **Singing together, even from a distance, is one of the riskiest behaviors due to the spread of aerosol and droplets that can carry the virus a significant distance and remain suspended in the air.** There will be recorded music, but no congregational singing. Humming will be encouraged!!!

### **Worship Practices**

- We will refrain from passing a collection plate or basket during the offering. We will have a station where you can place offerings. We also have lockbox located at the parking lot entrance. We do offer online giving options.
- We will omit offering processions where ushers handle money/plates or communion vessels.
- There will be no sharing the peace. You may, after worship, exchange words, waves, offering a reverent bow, or using American Sign Language while practicing Social Distancing.
- There will not be “receiving lines” at the door before and after worship.

### **Holy Baptism**

- The baptismal font will not have water in it. When there is a baptism, we will sanitize the font before a baptism.

### **Holy Communion**

- The communicants will only receive the body of Christ placed in a food safe plastic bag. The body of Christ will be placed on a table and the communicants will come to pick it up and go back to their pews. The communicants will keep 6 feet apart. The Pastor will use the highest sanitizing practice as she places the body of Christ in the plastic bag. We have communion only on the first Sunday of the month at this time.
- During the Great Thanksgiving, the presiding minister will stand back from the table and not further touch the bread and cup. The presiding minister must be wearing a mask.
- The Congregation will refrain from kneeling or standing close together at a communion rail or in a line.
- Wafers is our safer option during this time.
- We will not provide Communion in small glasses in trays or intinction at this time.
- According to Lutheran theology, receiving one element of the Holy Communion, bread alone or wine alone, means that the communicant receives the full communion.

### **Worship Leadership**

- The presiding minister may choose to not wear a mask while leading the worship service if she is over six feet away (an analogy for this would be public health officials who do not wear masks for press conferences when following physical distancing protocol). Leaders may still choose to wear masks and they should if they come into closer proximity with others.
- The presiding minister should use a stand, chair, etc., for books rather than have these held by an assisting minister.
- The presiding minister and the assistant minister must be mindful of physical distancing when speaking, especially because leaders need to project their voices.
- Leaders will refrain from greeting worshipers at the door before or after worship.