



Christ Lutheran Church
126 Front Street, PO Box 166
Cottonwood, MN

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Christ Lutheran Church, with guidance from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has formulated a plan of action to safely continue to have our facilities open for in-person worship services and other in-person activities. As a community of faith, our primary concern is to follow Jesus' commandment to "love thy neighbor." This means it is paramount that we safeguard the health and well-being of our members, staff and general public. To achieve this goal, this plan was developed in consultation with local health professionals and adheres to the guidelines set forth by Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Department of Health. **If there is a spike in the number of positive cases for the safety of all, in-person worship and activities may need to move back to other benchmarks including online/cable worship only.** Christ Lutheran Church will make every effort to enforce the guidelines put forth in this plan to ensure the safety of all.

General Guidelines: As we continue to have our facilities open for regular in-person worship services and other activities, these general guidelines provide details on what to expect upon entering the church building and may help you make personal decisions.

- For those who do not feel comfortable worshipping in person, our worship services will continue to be broadcast on cable station 180 and linked on YouTube.
- As of May 13, 2021, the CDC announced that masks are no longer required for fully-vaccinated individuals, either indoors or outdoors.
- Our worship services continue to be a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated worshippers, and we continue to focus on taking care of each other. At this time, mask wearing is now *recommended* in our church building, *but not required*.
- In accordance with relaxed restrictions in the State of Minnesota due to Executive Order 21-23, and by decision of CLC's preparedness plan task force and the Church Council, we encourage you to do what seems best for you and is within your comfort zone. We will continue to work together to make our worship and meeting spaces where all can gather together safely and comfortably.
- Anyone (staff or parishioner) who is experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19 should stay home. These include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste and smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms.
- Anyone who is living with someone who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (see above) should stay home.
- Anyone who begins to feel unwell while they are in the building should leave immediately and isolate themselves at home.

Building and Occupancy: The guidelines below are designed to ensure all attendees at in-person worship services and other activities are safe from the time they enter the building until the time they exit. Please review them carefully and adhere to them while in the building.

- As of 3/10/2021, the current Department of Health guidelines have removed all occupancy limits, but continued to recommend that we allow for comfort of people a distance between households. This will be available per request and personal preference.
- The Front Door entrance has both hand sanitizer and face masks available for those who would wish to use them. Hand sanitizer will be made available throughout the church.
- Beginning June 13, 2021, coffee, refreshments and meals may be served following appropriate serving regulations and accommodations.

Worship Service Guidelines: The following guidelines explain any service accommodations for larger gatherings and worship services.

- Printed copies of the bulletin will be made available and minimal person-to-person contact will be implemented for distribution. The bulletins are asked to be taken home with individuals or disposed of in following worship.
- Communion will be conducted with minimal person-to-person contact or with appropriate serving accommodations for those with special requests.

Sanitizing of Facilities: The following spaces and items in the church will be sanitized on a weekly basis or following a large event.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| • Doorknobs/handles and doors | • Chairs and cushions |
| • Handrails | • Offering receptacle |
| • Elevator (buttons, doors, etc.) | • Sound equipment (controls, board, microphone, etc.) |
| • Light switches | • Musical equipment (piano, organ, etc.) |
| • Bathrooms | |

Other spaces in the church will be cleaned and sanitized as per the normal schedule.

Staff Guidelines: All staff members are expected to abide by the guidelines set forth in this plan and assist in the enforcement of them. Specifically, staff should:

- Not report to work if they are feeling ill or have any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 set forth in the *General Guidelines* section.
- Wash hands thoroughly and use hand sanitizer when this is not possible.
- Wash and sanitize work surfaces used and shared equipment such as copiers, keyboards/mice, phones, filing cabinet and desk handles and locks, door knobs, etc on a regular

Resources Consulted in Preparation of this Plan:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Coronavirus (COVID-19) - <https://www.cdc.gov>
 Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): Coronavirus - www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/

Members of the Preparedness Plan Task Force

Amy Jo Remmele, Susanne Lee, Tracy Sterner and Pastor Janel Kuester