

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
COVID-19 PROTOCOL
OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

Description: Outdoor worship service in the Immanuel church parking lot at 10AM on Sundays.

Leaders: Pastor Jamie plus one assisting minister, musicians and 2 ushers to assist with parking, seating and communion set-up/management

Supplies/Equipment: Lecterns for each worship leader; two tables; microphones for each worship leader; prepackaged communion elements in a cooler, signs for choices of elements (wine, juice, Gluten free); Offering container to prevent offerings blowing out in the wind.

Attendance

- Maximum number gathering per current health department recommendation for outdoors.
- Persons in quarantine or experiencing any symptoms of illness should stay home
- Outdoor service could be cancelled at a moment's notice, due to inclement weather or if public health recommendations change.

Set-up

- Worship leaders, assistants, musicians seated in semicircle in front spaced from each other and attendees, with as much distance as possible from attendees and each other.
- Communion table set-up near lectern. Prepackaged communion elements in a cooler by the table. Signs for choices (wine, juice, gluten free).
- Offering container (heavy weight that won't blow off in the wind) at the communion table.
- Have masks available for those who arrive without them

Masks

- All congregants above the age of 2 years old, staff, and worship leaders will wear masks.
- A positive message of care will be consistently expressed urging people to wear a mask.
- If people refuse to wear a mask, they will be encouraged to participate in worship via livestream service.

Spacing

- A minimum of 6-feet will be maintained between seated individuals and family groups
- A minimum of 6-feet will be maintained if standing in line.

Bathrooms

- Wear mask.
- One person or family at a time, sign posted.
- 6 foot spacing while waiting in line.
- Sanitizer and waste basket located outside the bathroom doors.
- Signs posted to reinforce proper handwashing and to sanitize hands with sanitizer before entering and after leaving the bathroom.

Procedures for Leaders

- Upon arrival, direct parking away from the designated worship area (Golf Rd side and back of parking lot or on street).
- Symptom checking?
- Ensure 6 foot spacing between seated individuals and family groups (use 6-foot string), as attendees bring their chairs to the worship area.

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- Provide masks for those who arrive without them.
- Wipe lectern with disinfectant between users. Do not place masks on lectern.
- Communion procedure:
 - Elements separated into 3 choices on the table by assistants. Assistants sanitize hands, may glove and then sanitize hands again afterwards. Set up 10-12 of each kind and replenish as needed. Reminder to only touch one ☺
 - Direct attendees to communion table with spacing between individuals and families.
 - Each attendee touches and picks up one packet to bring back to their seat.
- Take attendance using a clipboard with a printout of directory member names and phone #'s on it. Write in any visitors' name, phone, address. Everyone is approached before the service or at dismissal with distance maintained.
- Attendees encouraged to go directly to vehicles (maintain social distancing) when dismissed.
- Singers are masked and distanced 6 feet from each other if positioned side-to-side and 15 feet from congregation.
- Singers are masked and distanced 15 feet apart if facing each other and 15 feet from congregation.

Safety Procedures

- Immanuel Lutheran will follow the guidelines of state and local recommended protocols and consider WCC and synod recommendations.
- Attendance will be taken should contact tracing and follow-up by the health department be needed.
- In the event that a worshipper or worship leader tests positive for COVID19, Immanuel will seek the guidance of the Health Department.

Cleaning Procedures

- Wipe down communion table, equipment, door, restroom, chairs with disinfectant after event

Communications for Worshippers ahead of time

- If you are ill, please stay home
- If you have been exposed to anyone who has tested positive, please stay home
- Contact Immanuel COVID-19 Team if you have any questions about exposure
- Remind everyone that anyone who is high risk due to age and/or underlying medical condition can opt out.
- Please understand that the outdoor service could be cancelled at a moment's notice due to inclement weather or if public health recommendations change.
- Bring a mask and wear it throughout the service and if entering building for bathroom use.
- Bring your own lawn or folding chairs. Church will not be setting chairs out
- Maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet between individuals or household groups at all times, including when arriving/leaving
- No bulletins will be provided
- No singing by attendees
- Restroom use is discouraged but if unexpected needs should arise, protocols will be followed
- After careful review and consideration of the outdoor service details and expectations, each person can make a decision on whether attending an outdoor service is in your best interest and the best interest of the community. We care deeply about the health and safety of each and every member of our church family and have all been called by God to care for our community.

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- Park on the Golf Rd side of the parking lot and bring a chair over or if you feel more comfortable, park in designated spots and place your chair near it. Parking is also available along Commerce Valley. Parking attendants will assist you.

In case of questions, contact:

- Pastor Jamie Brieske at the church office: jamie.brieske4hope@gmail.com , 715-832-7932 or
- Karen Betzig-Lundberg: betziglundberg@charter.net , 715-579-9892

Resources

- Wisconsin Council of Churches, Returning to Church, 1/14/21
- ELCA NW Synod
- WI Dept of Health
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- Eau Claire County Community Expectations for Gatherings (Public or Private), 1/25/21
<https://coronavirus-and-covid-19-information-hub-eccounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/e86da215a6814355b45695a0af7a71e8>
- CDC 'Event Planning and COVID-19: Questions and Answers (Information for Event Planners and Individuals).' 1/5/21