

Updated Coronavirus Protocols
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Effective Date: August 8, 2021

For Sunday Morning Worship

Because of the current growing number of confirmed cases of the virus, both locally and nationally, and the subsequent information and guidance provided by local and national health-care experts and organizations, the wearing of face masks in our worship service is now officially “recommended.” Individuals are asked to exercise the recommended spacing and social distancing with which they and those around them are comfortable. Hand-washing and the use of disinfectants continue to be strongly encouraged.

Other additional changes to the service have been made and will continue to be made as felt needed in order to effectively reflect Christian love.

Individuals may enter the sanctuary anytime the front double doors are open prior to the worship service and sit in whatever pew they would like, being mindful of social-distancing guidelines. If entering before 10:00am we ask that individuals find a seat immediately after entering the sanctuary, not congregating near the entrance once inside the sanctuary, and that, respecting worship leaders already in the sanctuary preparing for the worship service that morning, individuals remain as quiet as possible. We ask that all worshipers gladly comply with the requests of the ushers as they attempt to provide accommodations for mobility, vision/hearing, space, and other basic physical and safety needs. At the conclusion of the service an usher may come forward to assist those who choose to leave the sanctuary at this time. Others, however, are free to stay in their seats, remaining in the sanctuary for conversation, counsel, or prayer with the pastor,...or for simply private reflection,...following the service.

Once the service begins individuals are asked to follow the instructions of those leading the worship service. If you have any questions or needs or problems, ask one of the ushers.

Currently, when Holy Communion is celebrated, St. John offers the elements using the traditional wine and grape juice, and regular and gluten-free wafers. Those partaking of the sacrament are ushered to the front of the sanctuary, by using the center aisle, up to the first step of the chancel. Those seated on the south side (right side facing the altar), after receiving the elements, exit to their right and return to their pew using the aisle next to the south wall. Those seated on the north side (left side facing the altar), after receiving the elements, exit to their left and return to their pew using the aisle next to the north wall.

After those wishing to partake of the sacrament have come forward and received the elements, those unable to come forward due to mobility issues will be communed in their pews. *(Those with mobility concerns are asked to inform the usher that they would like to receive the sacrament in their pew.)*

St. John may return to the practice of using pre-packaged Communion kits in the future, however, if the current situation appears to warrant this practice.

Please check St. John’s weekly e-messenger “In Touch” for the latest information.

