



Salem Lutheran Church

Growing People in Christ... to Love & Serve!

In-Sanctuary Worship Guidelines

For the safety of our members, volunteers, and staff, we are following guidelines from our internal task force, the Illinois Department of Health, CDC and the ELCA. While our worship will be modified, we will strive to provide meaningful yet low-risk in-person services. We ask for your help in upholding a safe environment by following the guidelines outlined below:

- We will have a limited capacity of up to 50 participants. Households (and extended family) may sit together and will be safely spaced 6-feet apart throughout the sanctuary for worship.
- We ask you to register to attend in-sanctuary worship. Please use the online registration mailed via Bugle Blast or available on Salem website. If you prefer, you may call the church office (688-9212) and get help to register.
 - Note – worship leaders, assistants and ushers do not need to register and are not counted against the limit of 50.
- At this time, starting conservatively, we will offer one service on Sunday at 9am. Depending on demand, we will evaluate and consider a second service on Wednesday evening.
 - We will continue offering the online service, so people have both options.
- Everyone over the age of 2 must wear masks for the duration of worship services – except while consuming holy communion.
 - Please plan to bring your own mask as we will have a limited supply.
 - Please wear your mask prior to entering the church.
- Services will not include group singing or group recitation at this time.
- We will be using a single entryway and exit. We will enter and exit via the main front entrance (north). The other doors will be locked.
- Upon arrival, please line up outside the front entrance maintaining a 6-foot distance.
 - Always maintain a 6-foot distance, both inside and outside the building, between persons not in your household (extended family is an exception).
 - Do not engage in handshakes or hugs or any physical contact.
- Ushers will wear masks and escort you to your seats. Pews will be marked to ensure a safe 6-foot distance. Alternating pews will be closed off. Ushers will escort you to your seats after entering the narthex, via the aisles at the sides of the sanctuary, filling the pews from front-to-back.
- Please sanitize your hands upon entering the church. Hand sanitization stations will be available in the narthex.
- When offering communion with the service, we will use pre-packaged communion elements which participants will pick up upon arrival in the narthex. Participants will pick up a communion container and take with them to their pew. The Pastor or worship leader will provide guidance on how to participate in communion during the service.
- At the conclusion of the service, ushers will excuse participants from back-to-front of the sanctuary down the middle aisle and direct them out the exit.





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- The worship service will be projected on the two projection screens in the sanctuary. We will not be using bulletins, bibles, or printed materials.
- The bathrooms off the Fellowship Lounge on 2nd floor will be available for emergency use; however, we recommend single occupancy and minimizing use.
- All other areas will be blocked off for access – please follow signs and direction of ushers. ***If you would like a tour of the building at another time, tours are being scheduled by the building committee.***
- The following in person activities have been suspended until further notice: Nursery, Sunday school, Fellowship hour. Drinking fountains are not available. If needed, please bring your own bottled water.
- Offering plates will not be passed during service. We will have offering baskets in the narthex when entering/exiting worship.
- Surfaces will be sanitized weekly between services.
- To reduce risk to others, if you feel ill or have a temperature, please stay home, and watch the online service. If you have been exposed to another person with an illness, you are also asked to stay at home and participate via the online service.
- Those with conditions that put them at higher risk (due to age, health problems or immune-compromised conditions) are encouraged to watch the online service, but every individual must make their own decision.
- All participants are asked to notify us (Salem Office) immediately if they become ill with COVID following attending a service, learn they have been exposed to a COVID patient in the 14 days before attending a service, or if they've been placed under medically required self-isolation.
- These guidelines will be updated as our experience, area health statistics and health organization guidance changes.

Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and prayers as we navigate through these challenging times.

