

Guidelines and Protocols for Resuming In-Person Worship

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church – Canton, Ohio

We will resume in-person worship on Sunday, July 5, with this schedule and locations:

8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center

There will be no Sunday School until further notice.

Please review these guidelines and protocols. Everyone's participation is required and will help in maintaining the safety of all. Thank you.

Preparation and Communication

- **Each week prior to worship**, you will need to visit our website (**holytrinitycanton.org**), scroll down to the bottom of the home page, click on the link, and RSVP how many and which service you plan to attend. If you do not have a computer, you will need to leave a phone message for the office. This will help in providing safe space for everyone.
- Assess your health before leaving home, to help determine if you feel safe attending worship.
- Take your temperature. If it is 100 degrees Fahrenheit, or higher, please stay at home. You may worship via live streaming. If you live with someone who is sick or whose health is compromised in some way, you may want to consider staying at home that Sunday. Please exercise caution and care.
- If you are not ready to return to worship at this time, your decision will be respected. We each need to assess our own readiness. Your care for yourself and your family is important.

Arriving at Holy Trinity

- Face masks are required throughout the morning.
- Please respect social distancing (at least 6 feet), in the halls, worship space, restrooms, and parking lot. Family members may sit as a group.
- Please enter the main doors, which will be open. Upon entering, your temperature will be taken, and you will be asked to proceed directly to the worship space.
- There will be no gathering in groups, before, during, or after worship.
- Restrooms will be limited to 2 people at a time. Please respect distancing. Wash hands and sanitize surfaces after use. Trash receptacles will be outside the doors.
- Water fountains will not be in use.
- There will be NO NURSERY CARE AT THIS TIME.

In Worship

- Worshipers will be asked to sit at a safe distance from one another (minimum 6 feet). Families may sit together. We will use every other pew in the sanctuary.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided. You may bring your own, if you wish.
- Bulletins will be placed at the seats.
- Offering plates will not be passed. They will be located at the entrance to the worship space.
- You may share the peace from a distance, with a hand wave or respectful bow.
- During confession, worshipers should remain seated, minimizing contact with additional surfaces.

Speaking, Singing, Music

- **NO CONGREGATIONAL SINGING OR SPEAKING.** This elevates the level of risk, due to the spread of aerosol and droplets that can carry the virus and remain suspended in the air. This includes hymns, songs, worship responses, prayers, Lord's Prayer, and Creed. Speaking and singing will be limited to worship leaders, who will be at a minimum distance of 18 feet from worshipers. Worshipers may reflect and meditate on the words that are sung or spoken.
- The pastor may wear a mask at appropriate times. At other times, he will not wear a mask, but will observe safe distancing.

(SEE BACK SIDE)

Holy Communion

- Holy Communion will be celebrated, with additional safety measures exercised. The elements will be prepared by one person, who will practice safety measures (mask, gloves, sanitizing.) The prepared elements will be covered prior to use.
- There will be no kneeling.
- The sacrament will be served, one side of the worship space at a time.
- Proceed down the center aisle, maintaining safe distancing as you approach the table. Follow the usher's guidance, and the crosses taped on the floor.
- The pastor and server will wear a mask and gloves. Elements will be placed in individual cups.
- As you approach the table, UNCOVER YOUR FACE ... As the pastor speaks, "The body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you, LIFT THE CUP CONTAINING THE WAFER ... CONSUME THE WAFER ... PROCEED TO THE CUP OF WINE ... AFTER DRINKING THE WINE, PLACE THE EMPTY CUPS IN THE RECEPTACLE ... REPLACE YOUR MASK and RETURN TO YOUR SEAT BY THE SIDE AISLE.

After Worship

- Ushers will dismiss you.
- Please proceed directly to your car.
- Remember, no gathering in groups. Thank you.

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Thank you for reviewing these Guidelines and Protocol for Resuming In-Person Worship.

Appropriate changes may be made, with review and approval of the In-Person Worship Team, the Congregational Council, and the pastor.

The congregation will be informed of any appropriate changes prior to the next worship time.

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Lord, we thank you for the privilege of gathering together to offer you our worship and praise.

Give us patience and flexibility as we exercise these safety precautions.

Keep us mindful that we are a part of a community of disciples of Christ.

Help us to love one another by practicing these precautions.

Even as we remain safely distanced from one another, draw us close to you.

Lift our spirits, and touch our hearts, as we offer ourselves to you.

To your glory, always,

in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us strive to live by the fruit of the Spirit, as St. Paul writes in Galatians:

²² *By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,* ²³ *gentleness, and self-control.*

Galatians 5:22-23a