

## COVID-19 Policies

The safety and health of our church family and community is of the utmost importance. Please know that as this pandemic continues to be fluid, policies are subject to change as new information, guidelines and mandates are released. If you have any questions, please contact the church office by phone or email. Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding!

### Precautions:

- Face coverings (over nose and mouth) are required. Children under 2 are exempt.
- Face coverings that are recommended by the CDC are required, i.e. not gators or shields.
- Maintain at least 6' physical distance between members of different households.
- Keep hands clean and follow good hygiene.
- Stay home if you or anyone in your household is ill
- Stay home if you are in the vulnerable population (as defined by the CDC)
- Stay home if you are quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure or positive test
- Employees, volunteers and visitors must check for elevated temperature and COVID-19 symptoms before coming on-premise.

### General process changes:

- Entry doors are locked (please call ahead for visits).
- Signs are posted with precautions.
- Access inside the building is limited.
- Items are removed from pews and other areas.
- Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing daily and in between gatherings.
- Food and drink are not allowed during indoor gatherings (including water fountains).
- Gatherings must be scheduled with church office.
- Sign-in sheets are required in case of the need for contact tracing.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available at all times.
- Floor markings are being used and chairs removed or marked as 'do not use'.
- Indoor ventilation is improved by opening windows, doors and/or using air purifiers.
- We may use a larger room or reduce the number of people, the amount of time, and/or the amount of group speaking at in-person gatherings, as needed, to reduce risk.
- Leaders of any in-person gatherings are responsible to communicate our policies.
- If participants of in-person gatherings are not willing to follow our policies, the leader will stop the gathering and excuse all participants immediately.
- If a person who was in our building tests positive, we will immediately shut down the building and contact the health department for guidance on cleaning and reopening.
- If an employee or volunteer is exposed, they must quarantine following health department guidelines.

**Worship process changes:**

- Sign-ups are requested ahead of time, due to limited capacity.
- Face coverings, disposable gloves, offering collection, bulletins, individual communion, etc., are available at the check-in table.
- Seating areas are marked for physical distancing between households.
- Worshipers are ushered in and out.
- No group singing, limited group speaking, no touch passing of the peace.

**Approved Exceptions:**

- Employees may remove face coverings temporarily for essential activities, e.g. eating, drinking, and while alone in their office with the door closed.
- Face coverings are not required when outdoors with less than 10 people and when physically distanced at least 10 ft apart.
- Face coverings may be removed just before taking communion and must be replaced immediately afterwards.
- During baptism, the Pastor may be closer than 6 ft while pouring water and/or anointing when wearing a face covering.
- During online worship, one or two people may sing with face coverings and while physically distanced as far as is feasible, and with agreement from all others in the room.
- A single person speaking without a face mask may be recorded by a single other person who is wearing a face covering with a physical distance of at least 20 ft apart.
- A single person playing a wind/brass instrument with a bell cover may be recorded by a single other person who is wearing a face covering with a physical distance of at least 20 ft apart.
- A vocal soloist with a face covering or a wind instrument soloist with a face covering and instrument bell cover may perform from the choir loft during indoor worship.
- Pastors may preside over worship without masks when outdoors with at least 15ft of physical distance from the worshipers.

I have read and understand this policy.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## References and Resources

Southeast Iowa Synod Covid-19 Resources (Includes Iowa and CDC resource links)

<https://seiasynod.org/covid-19/>

ELCA Covid-19 Resources

<https://www.elca.org/publichealth>

Covid-19 in Iowa (Statistics)

<https://coronavirus.iowa.gov>

Scott County Covid-19 Information

<https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health/covid19>

CDC Guidelines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

CDC information for schools and childcare

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html#thresholds>

Singing during the pandemic - American Choral Directors Association:

<https://acda.org/resources-for-choral-professionals-during-a-pandemic/>