

COVID-19 Policies

This is a living document that provides a framework for our life together as a congregation during the pandemic. The love of our neighbor has always been our guide, and our congregation has struggled to live and to make decisions and to unfold the love of our neighbor while considering the most vulnerable among us. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact the church office by phone or email. Thank you for being an important part of this community. *The policies within this document are effective July 17, 2021 and apply to all gatherings and church business.*

Face Coverings:

- When indoors, face coverings are optional for people who are fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated children and adults should still have a face covering on, as well as people who are immunocompromised. Children under 2 are exempt. This is in accordance with the CDC.
- Face coverings may be removed when actively eating or drinking, during communion service. Pastors may remove face coverings when leading worship.
- When outdoors, face coverings are optional.

Other Precautions in Place:

- Signs are posted with current precautions.
- Sign-in is required (except staff) for contact tracing in case of need.
- At check in, there are supplies available such as hand sanitizer, face coverings, disposable gloves, offering collection, bulletins, individual communion, etc.
- Access is limited inside the building.
- Indoor capacity is 75%.
- During worship, there is no-touch passing of the peace and singing may be limited.
- Self-service food and drink (including water fountains) is unavailable.
- Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing takes place between gatherings.
- Indoor ventilation is improved by opening windows and doors or by using air purifiers.
- Leaders of gatherings at the church
 - must schedule the gathering with church office, so we can clean and sanitize,
 - must communicate our policies at the start of each gathering,
 - may sign in on behalf of the group (without listing all the names), and
 - may stop the gathering and excuse all participants if participants are not willing to follow our policies.
- **We ask that you please**
 - keep your 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), and
 - stay home if you are quarantined or test positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- **In case of an exposure to COVID-19,**
 - 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.

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>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.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/>