

In-Person Worship Plans

Where will worship be held?

We will begin worship in Celebration Hall. Chairs will be spaced 6 feet apart, but families will be allowed to move chairs together.

Will there be tables for people/families to sit at in CH?

We will have tables for family groups with some form of labeling or advising that it is for family groups not for social groups. We plan to have three tables on either side of CH seating area

Since worship will be in Celebration Hall, does that mean there will be no Sanctuary worship service?

Worship will be held in Celebration Hall because it is a bigger space and we can easily move the chairs around to provide appropriate spacing between people. However, we will have both styles of worship. One week will be a Celebration Hall style worship service, the next week a Sanctuary style worship service.

How many people can come?

100 people max. Register by using SignUp Genius or call the church office.

What about masks?

Masks are required except for children 2 years old and younger, and will be available at the entrance doors for those that don't have one.

Will all the doors to the building be open?

Door #4 on the north side of the building and Door #2 on the south side of the building will be open when you come for worship. Handicap accessible Door #3 will also be opened. Hand sanitizer will be available at these entrances. People first arriving will be ushered to the front of the seating. Back rows will be ushered out first after the service to maintain social distancing.

Will the bathrooms be open?

Bathrooms will be open but will need to monitor to promote social distancing.

Will water fountains be available?

Water fountains will be covered and out of service until deemed safe.

Will singing be a part of worship?

Music will continue to be small groups either from the choir or Higher Ground depending on which type of service is occurring. The congregation, however, will not sing.

Will the nursery be available?

The nursery will not be open until it is deemed safe.

Will we have bulletins?

Printed bulletins will not be available at this time. We will use the overhead projectors for the service.

How will we take the offering?

The offering blue boxes will be placed at the entrances to CH and will be available prior to service and after service ends. The ushers will be close by for visual security.

What about Communion?

Individual communion cups will be available. They will be handed to people by the usher/volunteer after the majority of congregation is seated so as to not inhibit traffic flow entering CH. The ushers will be masked and gloved.

Will there be coffee or fellowship time?

At this point there will be no coffee or fellowship time until it is safe to do so

How do we discourage gathering in the hallways for conversations?

We will ask people to go immediately to their cars following the worship service and not to congregate for conversation in the hallway, respecting the request for social distancing.

What are we expecting ushers to do?

Ushers will hand out communion and help guide people to seats as best we can and watch for compliance of recommendations. They will monitor or secure offering boxes, answer questions and aid congregants as they are able.

What other kinds of volunteers do we need?

We are not totally sure what other needs we will have. We will need to be flexible with what the ushers do and how many we need for the service.

How will we sanitize the worship space?

An aerosol sanitizer/disinfectant will be utilized throughout CH and other areas after each worship service or event.

What kind of signs do we need around the building?

We will need some type of laminated or plasticized banners or sheets with the recommendations of the CDC and NDDOH on the entrance doors and along the Narthex and at doors of CH, large enough to be read from several feet away.

How will we keep people safe while they are here?

There will be several ways we will ensure safety

1. Masks will be required
2. Social distancing will be required (6 feet between you and others who are not members of your household).

3. There will be no coffee/social hour following worship
4. Worshippers will be expected to go directly to their cars following worship and not congregate in the hallways
5. Worship spaces and public areas will be sanitized following worship.

Should I attend the in person worship service?

- 1) Everyone is welcome if they currently are not infected with the Covid-19 virus, have not had a close contact with anyone infected with the Covid-19 virus for 14days, or do not exhibit any of the following symptoms:

Fever or chills

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fatigue

Muscle or body aches

Headache

New loss of taste or smell

Sore throat

Nausea or vomiting

Diarrhea

- 1) Each person will need to assess their own risk factors before deciding on attending in-person worship.
- 2) Sharon Lutheran will continue to have on-line streaming worship services for those that are unable to attend the in-person services

When and how long will the in-person worship services be available?

Sunday January 17th will be the first in-person service. There will be one service at 9 am. There will also be a Wednesday evening service January 20th at 6:15 pm. The in-person services will continue as long as the Grand Forks County covid numbers remain in the yellow or moderate risk level. The executive committee at Sharon will be monitoring the numbers weekly.