



## HOPE LUTHERN CHURCH RESUMING IN PERSON MINISTRY PLAN

1. **Our first in-person worship service will be held Sunday, August 9 at 9:30 AM.**
  - a. Our hope is to live stream this service for the online worshipping community, but we will need to adapt based on our audio/visual capacities. \*If the online service is not accessible at 9:30, please check back at a later time as this likely means we have had to record and upload the service later.
  - b. Our first couple of weeks will serve as a trial run by which future adjustments will be made, including possible change of worship times. You will be made aware of those changes in a timely manner.
2. **While local risk has moved to “high” in both Pierce and St. Croix counties, both local county health departments still approve gatherings of up to 50 people OUTDOORS and 10 people INDOORS.**
3. **Basic Guidelines for indoor and outdoor ministry gatherings:**
  - a. Please participate from home if any of the following apply to you. We look forward to having you with us when you are well.
    - i. If you are exhibiting ANY of the following symptoms: Fever, cough, chills, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, fatigue, muscle aches, loss of taste/smell, nausea, abdominal pain, diarrhea
    - ii. If you have come into contact with someone who was diagnosed with Covid-19 in the last 14 days.
    - iii. If you have a pending Covid-19 test result.
    - iv. If you are at high risk or do not feel personally comfortable joining in-person.
  - b. Ministry teams are allowed to meet in person **if they choose to do so**. Please still provide a way for team members to participate via phone or Zoom if needed.
  - c. Indoor gatherings are limited to groups of 10 or less. Outdoor gatherings are limited to groups of 50 or less.
  - d. Wearing masks is required BOTH INDOORS AND OUTDOORS. Individuals working outside who are distanced apart, or in their family unit do not need to mask (i.e. mowing the lawn, attending to property, gardening).
  - e. We will practice 6-foot social distancing by family unit for both indoor and outdoor gatherings. Please do not shake hands or congregate before or afterward, especially when indoors to allow for safe traffic flow.
  - f. All touched services need to be wiped down following any meetings or gatherings. Supplies can be found in the janitor’s closet.
  - g. **YOU WILL NEED TO BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR FOR ANY OUTDOOR GATHERING INCLUDING WORSHIP** (A limited number of chairs will be available at church, but this will help mitigate the time we need to spend sanitizing).
4. **We are committed to continuing our E-Worship via YouTube indefinitely. You will still be able to worship from home!** We are adjusting as we go and will keep you informed on when to expect worship to be available each week if anything changes.

**5. What In-Person Worship Will Look Like:**

- a. You will need to pre-register for these services in order to limit occupancy to 50\*. Each week links for “Sign Up Genius” will be provided in TWAH and on the website by Wednesday of each week for the next 2 worship services. For August 9th go to: [www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A4A82DA5F49-outdoor](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A4A82DA5F49-outdoor)
- b. Everyone will be masked\*. Masks may be briefly moved aside for Communion. While some masks will be available, we ask that you please bring your own, if possible.
- c. We will practice 6-foot social distancing by family unit.
- d. There will be no communal singing. We will have 1 vocalist sharing in song with us, who will be additionally distanced from the group. The congregation is encouraged to speak the words or hum softly.
- e. All music will be provided in the bulletin. There will be no communal hymnals available.
- f. Holy Communion
  - i. Upon entering you will pick up individually wrapped bread and wine/juice for your family. Kindly place these next to you in worship until the Offertory where we will “set the table” together. We will commune all at once and you will be encouraged to say the words to those near you. More detailed instructions will be given in worship.
  - ii. For those worshipping online, Pastor Annie will offer drive-thru communion on designated dates OR is happy to offer a drive-way communion visit for you and your family. **Please call or email her directly to set up a time for any at-home visits**
    1. **Drive thru communion will be held from 10:30-11:30 on 8/16, 8/30, 9/13, and 9/27.**
- g. The offering will be done in a new way
  - i. You are strongly encouraged to still utilize online giving options via the church website and the Give+ app. Instructions for utilizing these platforms can be found in the weekly bulletin.
  - ii. For those unable to give electronically, you are encouraged to place your offering in the designated box upon entry so we can bless them (or upon exit if you forget)!
- h. Arrival and Departure
  - i. You will be greeted by a series of ushers who will help you safely sign-in to worship, get all necessary supplies, sanitize hands, and get seated.
  - ii. In an effort to help with traffic flow we ask that you avoid congregating before and after worship and simply follow the directions of the ushers\*.
  - iii. Ushers will direct you to previously marked out spaces to set up your chairs, by family unit. You will be seated from front to back in the order you arrive. Once seated feel free to greet those around you!
  - iv. You will be dismissed back to front by the ushers at the conclusion of worship in an orderly fashion to minimize traffic congestion.
  - v. Trash/recycling receptacles will be provided for your bulletins and communion cups. Please make sure to take your own trash from your seating area.
  - vi. Bathrooms will be accessible if needed, but we do encourage you to minimize this need when possible. Please be respectful of distance markers which have been placed indoors.

- i. Children In Worship
    - i. There will be no children's busy bags available during this time. We will provide children's bulletins, but please remember to bring your own writing utensils, toys, and snacks.
    - ii. Pastor Annie will still deliver a children's message, but kids will not be encouraged to gather up front. She will make it interactive from where they are seated.
    - iii. We understand kids need to wiggle. Please be mindful of social distancing of others. Feel free to make good use of our green space!
  - j. Fellowship\*
    - i. We will not gather for coffee hour and no refreshments will be served. Feel free to bring your own coffee/water to worship with you.
6. **We are so grateful for your flexibility, participation, and generosity!** We could not do this without all of you! Thank you for all the ways you continue to BE the church in these days! The Worship Ministry will be looking for worship volunteers and we welcome all who are able and willing to serve in this way!
7. **We will make you aware of important information moving forward!** Feel free to share your ideas, questions, or concerns with Pastor Annie or any member of the HOPE Council directly.

*\* While we plan to begin out of an abundance of caution under these protocols, we plan to evaluate things regularly and will lift or replace these restrictions if and when appropriate.*

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