



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Reopening Protocols

Pilgrim's Governing Principles

1. Our first priority will be the safety and health of our congregation and staff.
2. We will adhere to the federal, state, and city guidelines for opening up.
3. We will continue to consult with city leaders, other churches, and medical professionals.
4. We will stay informed on current trends of the COVID-19 virus.

What you need to know before you attend

1. Our streaming services will continue on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/wearepilgrim> for daily devotionals & Sunday Service.
2. Worship services will take place in the Sanctuary at 10:00am.
3. No study groups, Sunday Schools, Nursery/Childcare will be held in the building at this time.
4. Face masks are required while at the church. Please bring a face mask with you. Face masks will be required throughout worship and until you have left the church. Please follow this protocol and be respectful of your neighbor. Children aged 2 and under are not required to wear face masks.
5. Please do not attend in person services if you are feeling ill, have been exposed to COVID-19, are awaiting COVID-19 test results, have compromised immune systems, or are at high risk of exposing others. View our Worship service online on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/wearepilgrim>.
6. Social distancing protocols will be in place; your cooperation is appreciated.
7. The Narthex bathrooms will be open. **Small Children Must Be Accompanied By An Adult.**
8. The coffee station will not be available in the Narthex, nor will the water fountain be usable.
9. Literature racks will be empty. No publications will be made available in public areas.
10. Parents may wish to bring from home, items to occupy children during the service (i.e., paper & pencil).
11. Entrance/Exit doors/restroom doors & handles, will be wiped down before & after service. Pews will be wiped down at the close of service. Also note, the facility is regularly cleaned by our janitorial service.

Preparing the Narthex and Sanctuary for Worship

1. Hand sanitizer will be provided in each available seating pew and at the Welcome Desk.
2. Only one entrance door into the Narthex and Sanctuary will be available. Look for signage, the open doors and follow the usher's direction.
3. All other entrances will be closed. In case of an emergency, ALL doors should be used to leave the facility.
4. A one-way system for moving through the Narthex/Sanctuary will be in place. Follow the usher's direction.
5. Two exit doors from the Sanctuary and the Narthex will be available. Look for the open doors and follow the usher's direction as they dismiss each pew.
6. Entrance doors, exit doors and bathroom doors will be propped open at the appropriate times.

What to expect when you arrive

1. Entrances will open 30 minutes prior to the beginning of service (9:30am).
2. Be prepared to answer the following at the Welcome Desk:
 - a. What is your name?
 - b. What are the names of those with you?
 - c. What is the best phone number to contact you at?
3. You must wear a mask prior to entering the building and until you have left the church.
4. Signage will be placed throughout the facility to give direction and remind people of social distancing.
5. Tape will be placed at six-foot intervals from the Welcome Desk. All others should wait to enter the building, at the six feet intervals marked on the sidewalk with tape.

What to expect in Worship Services

1. Online services will continue each week on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/wearepilgrim>.
2. The target date for restarting in person worship is Sunday, June 14, 2020.
3. We will initially conduct one service at 10:00am.
4. All services will be held in the Sanctuary.
5. Upon entering the Sanctuary, you will be seated by an usher. This will enable us to sanitize each pew that has been occupied after the close of the service.
6. Pews will be marked indicating available seating. Please only sit where an usher directs you.
7. Members of the same household can sit together; however, social distancing must be maintained with other congregants.
8. There will be no choir during this transition period. Soloists/Small musical ensembles may be used, but there will be no congregational singing.
9. Offering plates will be placed at the exit doors of the Sanctuary. Please place your offering in the plate as you exit. There will be envelopes available in the pews, but you are encouraged to provide your own envelope. Or, continue to pay online at our website, www.wearepilgrim.com/giving or mail your offering to Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1430 N Lake Drive, Lexington, SC 29072.
10. Communion will take place at least once a month, subject to change. Please wait for usher direction to participate in communion.
11. No Nursery/Childcare, Children's Church or Sunday School will be offered at this time.
12. No one-on-one prayer will take place during the service; however, Stephen Ministers are available by appointment to talk or pray with you. Contact Pastor John to connect with a Stephen Minister at john@wearepilgrim.com.
13. The pastor will dismiss the congregation by sections with the ushers' guidance.
14. No bulletins or other publications will be distributed. The service will be posted on the screen.
15. Hymnbooks, Bibles and pencils have been removed from the pews.
16. Communication Cards will not be available. Continue to send Prayer Requests to plc@wearepilgrim.com or leave a message at 803.359.9421 ext. 200.

Pilgrim has faced difficult decisions regarding when and how to gather again for worship. Change will be inevitable as plans are put into place. Your patience, grace, and flexibility will be necessary as we strive to make the most appropriate plans. Risk is not avoidable as we come together again, but Pilgrim has taken steps in trying to reduce exposure to COVID-19. Your cooperation is needed to keep us all safe.

By attending In Person Church Services and Church Activities on the Pilgrim Church Campus, you are agreeing to follow the protocols outlined, understanding and acknowledging that there is a risk to social gathering and are freely choosing to participate. By freely attending, you are agreeing not to hold Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church liable should a COVID-19 illness occur.