**Lutheran Church of the Savior Covid-19 Safety Protocols**

*“ [A lawyer asked Jesus] Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” 37 He [Jesus] said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.* – Matthew 22:34-39

This time of Covid-19 has been difficult for many of us. We have greatly missed being able to gather for public worship to praise God together, to thank God for our blessings, and to celebrate being the body of Christ. As we prepare to begin returning to public worship at LCS we recognize that the threat of Covid-19 is still present. Until there is a tested and proven vaccine and effective treatment Covid-19 is in the United States to stay. To practice loving our neighbors by providing as much safety and prevention as possible LCS Council has unanimously approved the following protocols for worship.

1. Anyone who has had Covid-19, has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, or who is not feeling well should remain home.
2. Those with preexisting conditions: those over age 60, those with underlying health conditions, or primary caregivers for someone over 60, should carefully consider whether to attend worship at this time.
3. Only the main entry doors are available for use.
4. Mandatory mask wearing. Masks are required for everyone except those ages 2 and under. Extra masks will be available upon arrival at LCS for anyone who does not have one. Masks must be worn at all times.
5. Gloves will be available for those who wish to wear them during worship as an extra precaution.
6. Hand sanitizer will be available in the pews for your use during worship. Please do not remove the sanitizer from the sanctuary.
7. Social distancing of 6 feet in all directions is always to be maintained in the building. Spaces are marked on the pews where you can sit. Households may sit together.
8. Due to limited capacity regulations we can have no more than 35-45 persons in worship.
9. There will be only one restroom available during worship. Please do not form a long line while waiting for bathroom use.
10. The office wing of the building and fellowship hall/kitchen are unavailable at this time.
11. There will be no Sunday School or nursery available.
12. Fellowship time and all church activities continue to be suspended.
13. During worship there will be no congregational singing, Holy Communion, or sharing of the peace.
14. Offering plates will be placed at the sanctuary entrance you may place your offering envelope in the plates as you enter or leave the building.
15. After worship please do not congregate in the building as it must be sanitized following worship.
16. If you wish to visit with someone as you are in the parking lot, you should continue to wear your mask and stay at least 6 feet apart.
17. If anyone who attends worship later tests positive for Covid-19, or if the safety protocols are violated LCS will close for at least 2 weeks for public worship for a time of quarantine.

We recognize this is not the way we are used to worshiping, and it is not how we would like to be worshiping together at this time. These changes are temporary but certainly difficult for many of us. But these safety precautions are the best way we have to love one another by protecting each other, as much as we can, from the Covid-19 virus. As the health situation improves these guidelines will be reevaluated and updated. LCS Council thanks you for your patience, prayer, and cooperation in following these guidelines.