

Resuming Indoor In-Person Worship Plans & Protocols
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Updated for March 2021

Service Plan:

Everyone planning to attend worship will be required to RSVP by a deadline of 48 hours (by 10:00 a.m. Friday). **Please reserve your seat with your name and the number of people attending in your group by email blclosalamitos@gmail.com or phone 562-430-3444. You must sign-up every week that you intend to attend worship.** We will have limited capacity attendance. If we have room for non-reserved persons showing up for service, they may enter after registration and following all regulations as listed.

Please bring a **face covering that covers both the nose and mouth**. These will be required of all attendees except for children age two or under or for those who have a medical reason to not wear a mask. If you do not have one, we will be glad to provide you with one upon arrival at the church.

All participants and ministering/working personnel will be screened for a fever, before being seated.

All participants and ministering/working personnel who will be attending service will need to acknowledge at check-in that they have not had or are not currently experiencing any coronavirus symptoms. There will also be a statement of not having any contact with anyone who has or has had the coronavirus within the last 14 days.

The ushers will guide you to your seats. Offering will be collected in a drop-off location.

Offering may be placed in the offering plate located in the narthex/entrance area of the church.

All ministering/working personnel will be placed and positioned at least 6 feet distant from each other during service.

We will be practicing physical distancing during church services. Members of the same household will be able to sit and worship together. There will be no congregational singing or recitations. No handshaking, hugging, or close gathering. Waving or bowing from a distance are acceptable greetings. There will be no coffee time or gathering for fellowship after worship.

Individually sealed containers of a wafer and grape juice will be available in the pew for communion, please do not handle them until the communion portion of the service. Containers and wrappers can be discarded in the receptacles located in the narthex/entrance area of the church following the service. Communion will be celebrated toward the conclusion of the service.

Restroom facilities will be limited to one person at a time, unless same family assistance is warranted and it is only to be used in case of necessity. At worship times, restrooms must be sanitized with disinfectant wipes or a disinfecting solution and paper towels, after each use, by the ushers. The water fountain will not be available. Please bring your own drinking water in a non-breakable container.

If people prefer to continue watching our virtual services, we encourage you to worship at home. Additionally, those in the highest risk categories should also worship at home. Those in high-risk categories include, but are not limited to: +65, immuno-compromised, diabetic, heart conditions, lung conditions.

The Role of Ushers & Greeters: This team is responsible for guiding people on this new worship experience. Prior to entering buildings, ushers/greeters should:

- # wear mask and gloves
- # assist in attendee parking so vehicles are properly distanced
- # perform a no contact temperature check in a discreet manner
- # remind people to keep masks on
- # remind people to practice social distancing
- # direct them where to go for worship service
- # ask each attendee to use hand sanitizer prior to entering any buildings
- # sign in attendees when they arrive and go to their assigned seat
- # direct attendees in exiting worship to maintain social distancing

Preparation: A team for preparation/closing will be put together to prepare for church service following necessary standards for disinfecting the seating. Door handles, lecterns, tables, microphones, and items to be used during the service will be set up, cleaned, and sanitized by the team. Sanitizer, tissues, trash receptacles, and masks will be placed at specified locations by the team.

Seating will be spaced so that each family is placed 6 feet apart from each other and presiding/ministering/working persons. The team will utilize gloves in stowing away all items and equipment. Gloves will also be worn to throw trash away by the ministering/working personnel and then their hands are to be washed. Cleaning and sanitizing materials are to be stored in the designated area.

Preparing Our Facility for Worship:

The Church:

Limited attendance by reservation 48 hours (by 10 a.m. Friday) in advance of service. Maximum of 60-70 people in church, for indoor services, depending on make-up of groups, under current health directives.

Limit or remove furniture in common areas to discourage people from gathering.

Disinfect the worship area, music stands and microphones, lectern, pulpit, and altar, altar rail.

Disinfect restrooms and hallway.

Restroom main door shall be propped open when possible (to avoid touching door handles) if there are individual stalls/urinals. Restrooms shall be limited to one person at a time, unless same family assistance is warranted, to maintain physical distancing. Signs shall be posted at bathroom entrances reminding members they are to be used only in case of necessity.

#Tape off or close off all water fountains.

#Mark out spacing for pews/seating with a minimum of six (6) feet between individuals or family units.

No Sunday School or Nursery will be provided due to safety requirements.

Hand sanitization dispensers and extra masks will be provided.

Signage will be present to remind people of safe practices.

The Worship Service:

Remember to turn off AC/heat during worship. Fan can be used to help fresh airflow.

If possible, keep doors open to ensure fresh airflow.

Any activities involving touch should be discouraged.

Worship team, singers, and/or pastor should be 10+ feet from attendees. Masks should be worn when not singing/speaking.

Passing of the offering plate is discouraged. State of California advises “drop boxes” or online giving.

Communion should not be passed/shared. Only prepared cups/wafers at the seat with a disposable bag for used cups/wrappings in the hymnal holder.

At conclusion of services, pastor and ushers will direct attendees to exit the building by family units to the parking lot and not to congregate/assemble or fellowship.

Outdoor Service Location, if conditions warrant: All members attending will be seated in the outdoor patio area between the sanctuary and the education building. Members will be directed to park in the back parking lot behind the education building. An usher will usher all vehicles to every other space to ensure a 6 feet distance between vehicles. Entry to the patio will be through the outdoor hallway, between Fireside and the education building, to the check in area.

Regroup & Revise: Reopening team and ushers should meet to make recommendations on how services should be adjusted (if necessary)

Additional:

Memorials and weddings: shall adhere to same regulations and limits.

Outside Groups: All regulations and limits shall be required by all small groups that might be allowed to host events at the church. Cleaning, disinfecting, physical distancing, and masks shall be required. All attendees must sign a waiver.

Signs to be posted at the service:

- # Social distancing
- # Wear masks
- # Health precautions
- # Previous sickness