

June 24, 2021

Family and Friends of Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

Summer greetings to you, I hope and pray that you are all well. The entire world has been through so much in the past 16 months in response to the global pandemic, we all had to make adjustments to our lives and the church did as well. I am pleased to share with you some updates as it pertains to gathering for worship and other events at the church, these are in line with current CDC recommendations and have been modified a bit for our purposes.

Updated Worship Protocols effective Sunday, June 27:

- Signing up to attend worship is no longer required
- Temperatures will no longer be taken but we ask that if you are not feeling well or have been exposed to someone diagnosed with Covid that you not attend in-person worship
- Please sign-in as you come into worship, this will be the way that we track attendees in case we need to make contact
- Hand sanitizer is available by both doors leading into the main church building
- If you are fully vaccinated, you no longer need to wear a face mask but anyone is welcome to wear a face mask, to accommodate for a variety of comfort levels
- No assigned seating but we ask that you continue to physically distance while in the sanctuary
- We will continue to hold abbreviated worship services with current procedures, which include no "passing of the peace", no hymnals in the sanctuary, using the individually packaged communion elements, offering may be placed in offering plate at the entrance of the sanctuary, no coffee hour, and we ask that if you would like to visit with folks after worship that you do so outside (front sidewalk or courtyard) leaving adequate space for others to pass by
- Continue to use your "inside" voice with spoken responses and singing, maybe an even more "inside-inside" voice since many may not be wearing face mask
- Please dismiss, leaving adequate space, from the back pews alternating side to side to the front pews
- Please continue to honor one another's varying comfort levels as we gather together

The congregations' patience, flexibility, and understanding throughout these past several months continue to be appreciated and valued. We had to abruptly pivot more than once and you have responded with grace; many, many thanks to our volunteers who have helped in these various transitions. We hope that we will be able to return to our previous liturgies for worship, as well as a return to coffee on the patio, fellowship events, Bible studies, meetings, etc... We will continue to update you on additional adjustments for worship and other gatherings. And of course, all of these adjustments are contingent on the guidelines and recommendations set forth by health authorities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Peace,

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E-mail me if you'd like my cell phone number