

June 9, 2020



Dear Members of Emanuel,

As you read this, we are preparing to return to in-person worship at Emanuel on Sunday, June 14th. Thanks to our Council, Worship Committee and staff who have worked hard to make this happen as safely as we can. Due to our current situation, worship will be different upon your return. We all pray for the day that we are free to practice our Worship as we once did.

Here are important things we want you to be aware of:

- ♦ We cannot create a risk-free environment for worship. We will follow the guidelines established to minimize the risk; but each of you will need to decide whether you are ready to return to the sanctuary for worship. And please know that we respect your decision. If you are uncomfortable or have reasons not to join us in person, we will continue to be together online. The services will be live-streamed on our Facebook page and downloaded to YouTube later on Sunday; as soon as the public library is open we will provide televised broadcasts of our services as well.
- ♦ You can help us reduce risks by your choices as well. Please greet one another with a wave, a nod, or an air-hug, while maintaining a six-foot distance. Wear your mask. Avoid touching surfaces. Do not sing.
- ♦ Due to limited space for seating, because we are following the social distancing rules, we are asking you to notify us if you plan to attend a Sunday morning worship service. This is the only way we can manage the number of worshipers at a service. No nursery or classrooms will be open. Call the parish office (231-843-3686) if you plan to attend. Please let us know how many will be in your party. You may leave a message. Messages will be checked through Saturday afternoon. If you find you cannot attend after calling in, please call and cancel so others may attend.

Entry doors will be open as usual. All doors will be locked after the start of the service except the main entrance on Danaher Street into the narthex.

When you arrive we will provide: hand sanitizer for everyone attending, a plate into which you can drop your donation envelope, bulletins to pick up from the table, and a pre-filled communion cup from the basket. Once you have those items, an usher will seat worshipers from the front to the back of the church via the center aisle. Every-other-row is closed off with a ribbon. There are no processions during the service. If you would like to sanitize more often during a service, please feel free to bring hand sanitizer with you. Individually wrapped sanitary wipes will also be available in the pews.

Worshippers are asked to wear masks and maintain 6' social distance while on the church grounds. If you are ill or at high risk, please continue to worship with us online. Please bring your masks from home, but we will provide masks to those who forget. Once you are seated, you may remove your mask. If at all possible, we ask that you remain in the pew until the service ends. This request applies to both children and adults. However, restrooms will be open as needed.

Dismissal will also be directed by ushers, starting in the rear and moving toward the front.

There will be things that we will miss about our previous worship experience that cannot be part of this service: sharing the peace, coming forward for communion as a congregation, singing hymns, having a coffee hour. But our worship must not now be about us, but about our neighbor. We gather, not to satisfy our wants but to be with one another.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you ... And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal grace in Christ, will Himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you." 1 Peter 5. Let God gather us in person or online, and give us a spirit of wisdom and compassion.

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Parish Office Hours -

Monday through Thursday

9:00AM to 2:00PM