

Return to Onsite Worship Guideline

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC), Trumbauersville, PA

Due to the recent pandemic of Coronavirus (COVID-19), the following guideline has been established to describe CELC's plan to safely return to onsite worship. This guideline was developed in accordance with CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines and is planned to be implemented after the southeast PA region (Bucks County) moves into the Green re-opening phase. Based on the ever-changing climate of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), this guideline will be considered a living document and be updated, as appropriate.

Congregation Expectations ("Know Before You Go"):

- If you feel ill, please stay home and follow the recommended CDC guidelines for exposure.
- Live stream worship will continue to be offered for those who feel ill, do not feel comfortable coming on site, or simply wish to worship remotely. The vulnerable population includes: Over age 60 years, Chronic kidney disease, COPD / lung conditions / asthma, Immunocompromised, Obese, Serious heart conditions / heart failure / coronary artery disease / cardiomyopathies, Sickle Cell, Diabetics, Smokers, Pregnant, Liver disease, Dementia, CVA (stroke), and Hypertension (high blood pressure).
- Face coverings are required for anyone over the age of 2 years old. A cloth mask is recommended.
- Will need to remain in car until you are greeted by the Greeter who will direct you into the church or pavilion to be seated by an Usher.
-

Preparation of the Church:

- The church will continue to be cleaned and sanitized regularly and in between user groups.
- Signage on the front door that masks are required.
- Common high touch areas will be wiped down with disinfectant more frequently (e.g. doorknobs, railings, light switches, etc.).
- Signs will be placed around the building as a reminder of good hygiene (hand washing) and social distancing.
- Floor markers etc. may be present in areas throughout the church to re-enforce social distancing.
- Areas not needed during the worship, will be closed off (e.g. drink fountain).
- Seating in the narthex will be removed in order to discourage congregating before and after the worship service.
- High touch items in the pews (e.g. hymnals, bibles, information cards, pens, etc.) will be removed.
- Pews will be roped off in order to maintain a 6 ft social distancing space between families. Seating will be spaced out for Acolyte, Lay Liturgist and Pastor, as well.
 - To maintain 6ft social distancing, a maximum of 32 people will be allowed in the pews.
 - To maintain 50% capacity, 88 people will be allowed in the pews.

- A hand sanitizer dispenser will be available in the narthex as well as individual hand sanitizers in each pew. Individual packets of hand sanitizer will be provided until the dispenser is available. Disposable masks and gloves will also be available, if needed.
- The use of restrooms will be restricted to one person or one family unit at a time. Disinfectant wipes will be available in the bathroom to wipe down surfaces between use.
- Windows will be opened when allowable in order to increase the circulation of air in the sanctuary, including door knobs for exit

Worship:

- One worship service per week will be held at the normally scheduled time. This will be examined as attendance is monitored.
- Outdoor worship will be considered based on the ability to safely social distance, according to CDC, State and Synodical guidelines.
- Congregating in areas of the church (e.g. narthex) will not be permitted.
- Physical contact will be eliminated throughout the service (e.g. shaking hands with the greeter, sharing of the peace, Lord's prayer, etc.)
- Passing of common items will be eliminated (e.g. red books in pews). Attendance will be taken via an alternate mechanism should contact tracing be needed (e.g. sign up genius and Cathy's attendance sheet).
- Offering – An offering plate or box will be available upon entering and exiting the sanctuary for dropping in your offering. If you have a direct deposit, you are also encouraged to utilize that option.
- Communion – Individual, prefilled juice and prepacked wafers will be used. Worshippers will receive zipper lock bags containing the necessary elements from ushers upon entering the sanctuary to eliminate the unnecessary movement. Pastor will provide the blessing from the altar.
- Singing will be suspended.
- Coffee hour will be suspended.
- The nursery will be suspended.
- The Pastor's "receiving line" at the end of the service will be suspended.

Worship Assistants:

- Greeter – There will be no hand shaking at this time. Doors will be kept open, if weather permits.
- Ushers – Ushers will be encouraged to frequently use hand sanitizers in between their duties.. Ushers will assist with seating people in appropriate areas.
 - Will serve as parking lot coordinators for outdoor services.
- Offering Counters – Gloves are recommended when counting. After removing gloves, hands should be washed or sanitized. Counting should be done in an area (e.g. Library) that allows for ample social distancing.
- Altar Guild – will maintain pre-packed supplies for worship and ensure on table near church or parking lot entrances 30min prior to worship, for pick up by worshippers 15min prior to worship.
- Communion Assistants will be suspended.

- Lay Liturgist – will be suspended.
- Lectors – arrive 20-30 min prior to worship and will sit in reserved pew for them and their family.
- Acolyte – will be suspended.
- Pastor – will enter the sanctuary, just prior to the service, through the outside door located in the sacristy.

Misc. Church Interactions/Meetings:

- Visits to the church office (besides worship) should be limited in order to protect the safety of church staff. Appointments are recommended.
- Virtual meetings for committee, council, etc. are highly encouraged, where possible.
- The capacity of the areas may not be exceeded and may be reduced or eliminated based upon PA Governor guidelines:
 - meeting room – 50% of ????? (or by 6ft)
 - fellowship hall - 50% of ????? (or by 6ft)
- No gatherings over thirty minutes are recommended inside.
- Cannot share equipment.
- Masks must be worn the whole time.
- We encourage frequent handwashing and sanitizing.
- Quilters can use the Fellowship Hall along with those assembling the newsletter. Physically distance and wear masks.

Use of the Church by Outside Groups

Use of the church space by outside groups should be limited **Not recommended at this time for anyone not associated with the church.**

- **When permitted back** – groups are responsible for providing their own masks, sanitizers (both hand and wipes), and sanitizing all surfaces before and after use – otherwise a fee will be assessed.
- Must clean and disinfect all areas they have used.
- Bring your own chairs and tables if you need them.

