

## St. Peter's Lutheran Church: Indoor Worship Guide

**Worship Time:** 8:45 AM – Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the starting time. Allow extra time for a slower building entry process that is for everyone's protection.

**What to bring:** **Masks** must be worn at all times. A **pen or pencil** for the attendance card (required for virus contact tracing and helpful for church records) and for making notes. Your weekly **offering** in an envelope.

**Ushers:** For our first few services, we will be employing members of the Safe Church Committee and Council who have been trained in the new procedures to serve as ushers. Those who have previously served as ushers will be trained and invited to serve as we go forward. There will be 4 ushers for each indoor service.

**Other Worship Servants:** Those who previously had been serving as acolytes, communion assistants, lectors, ushers, and tellers are being asked if they are willing to serve now. We will employ people as needed, according to their gifts and willingness to serve. Each week, there will be one person who will be the assisting minister, reading the lessons and leading the prayers from the stationary choir loft microphone. The acolyte will light and extinguish the candles from the front of the church. Communion assistants will be re-purposed to assist in other ways.

**Arrival:** When you arrive, there may be a line at the front door. Please be patient. An usher will greet you at the front door and ask you to read a red and white COVID-19 symptom screening sign. **We request that if you feel ill, have loss of smell or taste, have a persistent cough, have a low grade or high fever, or have shortness of breath, to please stay home.** If you indicate that you do not have a fever, cough, or shortness of breath, the usher will open the door and ask you to read an "Enter at your own risk" blue and white screening sign on the next door that indicates some conditions that pose a risk to attendees, such as COPD, diabetes, and heart conditions. If, after reading that sign you choose to enter, you will stop at the bottom of the steps.

**Once Inside:** An usher at the bottom of the steps will invite you to sanitize your hands at the sanitizing station and assist you with the elevator/stairs. Upstairs, an usher will greet you, hand you a bulletin and attendance card, and escort you to a seat. **If you feel you will need to leave during worship to use the restroom, please let the usher know to seat you in the back of the church.** Seating in the back of the sanctuary will be reserved for such needs.

**Attendance Cards:** We are asking that each person or family fill out an attendance card so that we have a record for contact tracing. It also helps Terri in the office to keep a record of communion. You may also use the back of the card to write a prayer request, message to the pastor, or helpful comments. Cards may be placed with your offering in one of the boxes either at the front or the back of the church.

**Music:** Tim will play a prelude to the service and a postlude during the distribution of Communion. The rest of the service will be spoken for now. The service will last about 30 minutes. When speaking, please do so softly.

**Passing the Peace:** We should not be touching anyone outside those in our immediate household or personal space. At this time, you may elbow bump with others next to you. For others nearby, you may show a peace sign and a smile, but please do not shout or offer to make any type of contact, for everyone's safety.

**Communion and Offering:** At the end of the service, the ushers will come forward, sanitize their hands and receive Communion (wafer only). One usher will open the doors by the pulpit. Another usher will begin to dismiss you, beginning with the front pews on the pulpit side. Please **remain seated and respectfully quiet until an usher has dismissed you.** You will exit your pew by the center aisle, place your offering and attendance card in the box, sanitize your hands, and receive the Communion wafer from the pastor. Please hold your hand out with open palm up to receive the wafer. Please do not grab it with your fingers, so we can assure a touchless transfer for both your safety and hers. She will use sanitized tongs to drop the wafer onto your hand. Normally, we receive both the bread and wine, but at this time, we will only receive the Bread. We receive the fullness of Jesus' saving presence in either element.

**Sending:** Immediately after receiving Communion, those who were sitting in the front pews will exit through the doors by the pulpit; those sitting in the back pews will exit through the main door. Exceptions for mobility reasons will be handled case by case.

**Bathrooms:** We hope to keep bathroom use at a minimum. If you or your child need to use the bathroom, please be sure to wash and sanitize your hands before returning to worship. Any child under the age of 12 will be required to be accompanied by an adult.

**Respect boundaries:** I know this sounds horrible, but for everyone's safety, we will require that you do not leave your seat during worship or try to hug or shake hands with someone seated near you. Families should stay together. Please do not wander to say hi to someone you didn't see in a while, or the newborn baby, or the newlyweds, or Pastor. We currently need to respect each other's space to make this is pleasurable and safe for everyone. Please don't put others in an uncomfortable position by approaching them. They may not share the same comfort level of personal health as you do. The day will come where all of these restrictions and precautions will be lifted. Until then we need everyone to be conscious of each other's safety so that everyone feels safe at church!

**What if I feel ill after the service:** In the event you become ill (not feeling well in general, low-grade or high fever, or your doctor asks you to be tested for COVID-19), please let the office or the Pastor know.

Remember, everything we do right now is experimental and tentative. We want to worship, but also maintain best practices for safety. We are learning as we go and trying to make wise decisions based on the available scientific data.