

Trinity Lutheran Church  
COVID-19 Transition Team Sanctuary Worship Guidelines  
Adopted October 2, 2020  
Updated April 16, 2021

These guidelines are established using recommendations from the CDC, SC DHEC, ELCA, and SC Synod. Due to the nature of the circumstances, this policy will be periodically reviewed, and is subject to change without notice.

We are at a time and place where it is not yet safe for the full congregation to use the Sanctuary and full church property, and we are therefore making use of online services and small group gatherings to maintain collective worship opportunities and community. However, we are at a point where enough information is available about COVID prevention that in-person worship in the Sanctuary can occur reasonably safely, using the following guidelines:

- All participants are strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated, especially those at risk for serious COVID disease. Vaccination does not preclude all precautions, including wearing of masks at all times, distancing, and use of hand sanitizer.
- Worship may be held in the sanctuary provided appropriate precautions are followed by all
- Total number of attendees, including Trinity staff, will not exceed 50
- Anyone not feeling well, running a temperature above 100.5, or with recent (within 2 weeks) known coronavirus exposure must not attend
- Anyone who becomes ill within 10 days of attending worship must notify the church office immediately
- Persons at risk for severe COVID-19 illness (including those over age 65, or with heart or lung disease, or diabetes, or immune suppression) should not attend
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the narthex, the pews, the choir loft, the parlor and assembly room, and bathrooms, and should be used when entering and exiting the building
- Worshipers will complete a record of worship card and place it in the offering plate, to allow rapid contact tracing in case of an exposure
- All worshipers must bring masks and wear them at all times, except children under two years
- Ushers will seat families at 6-foot intervals in every other pew
- Worshipers are encouraged to download the bulletin, which will be available online the day before, onto a tablet or other device and bring it to the service. A limited number of printed bulletins will be provided and placed in the pews
- Worshipers will enter through the doors at the front of the church, which will be opened 15 minutes before the service, maintaining 6 feet of distance between families as they enter. Wheelchair access will be the exception, with use of the canopy door entrance and elevator if required, and should be arranged ahead of time by calling the church office. The choir loft will be reserved for those participating in providing music for the service.
- Doors will be propped open to prevent the necessity of touching the knobs and handles
- Restrooms to be used are limited to those on the first floor of the Pence building
- At the conclusion of the service, the ushers will dismiss worshipers by row so as to maintain distance.
- Worshipers will greet each other with a bow or head nod, as there can be no hugging, hand shaking, or other physical contact.

- There will be no congregational singing, children's sermon, vocal soloists, or wind instrument musicians.
- Holy Communion may be experienced by each family group coming forward down the nave to receive the elements, then continuing across the transept and down the side aisle to their seat in the pews.
- All utilized rooms will be cleaned and sanitized following the service if the space will be used again within 48 hours
- No nursery will be provided