

Trinity Lutheran Church  
COVID-19 Transition Team Sanctuary Worship Guidelines  
Adopted October 2, 2020  
Updated April 16, 2021  
Updated May 28, 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. 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 75
- Anyone not feeling well, or with recent (within 10 days) known coronavirus exposure must not attend
- Anyone who becomes ill within two weeks 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
- All worshipers must bring masks and wear them at all times, except children under two years
- Printed bulletins and hand sanitizer will be provided and placed in the pews
- 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.
- 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 to partake of the elements.
- Funerals will occur as usual. \*
- Baptisms will occur as usual with the pastor sanitizing hands before the ceremony.
- Weddings will occur as usual. If the wedding party, vocalists and musicians are all fully vaccinated, they and the officiants may participate without masks. \*
- All utilized rooms will be cleaned and sanitized following the service if the space will be used again within 48 hours

- Nursery will be provided for children up to age 5. Nursery attendants will be fully vaccinated and wear masks at all times. Children over age 2 will wear masks according to the preference of the parents. All adults entering the nursery will wear masks.
- Ushers, greeters, and communion assistants will be fully vaccinated as they cannot distance from members of the congregation as they perform their duties.

\*for use of the facility for gathering after events in the sanctuary, the Facility Use Guidelines apply