

NEW HEALTH PROTOCOLS FOR WORSHIP

St. John Lutheran Church ♦ Freedom Twp. ♦ Napoleon, Ohio

As we return to public services, a number of protocols have been put in place to help mitigate the spread of any viruses among us. These are in line with recommendations from the CDC, as well as the Ohio Dept. of Health and the Henry County Health Dept.

1. Please stay at home if you are exhibiting any symptoms of a cold or flu, or if you are even remotely suspicious that you have had contact with someone else who exhibits these types of symptoms. You should self-quarantine for at least 14 days.
2. “Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions” (per CDC website) should consider themselves ‘high risk’ for serious illness, and should not return to public services until they are completely comfortable doing so, and be very careful when they do so.
3. We will continue to record services and make them available on our YouTube channel on Sunday mornings by 9:00 a.m.
4. An FM transmission of our services is available in the church parking lot. Worshipers can drive through the carport before worship to pick up a bulletin and service folder. Drive-thru Communion will be offered after Communion services on the first and third Sundays. Worshipers should wait for the parking lot to clear a bit. The flow will be northward from the parking lot toward the old school.
5. We are resuming worship with three weekly services to keep our numbers down --- Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. All services will be identical.
6. There will be no Sunday School or Bible study gatherings for the time being.
7. All services will be held in the sanctuary to allow more room for social distancing.
8. **We will respect each other by adhering to all social distancing requirements.**
9. Pews are marked with colored masking tape. Thursday evenings - RED pews; Sunday early service – RED; Sunday late service – BLUE
10. Sanitizing of the sanctuary will take place between services.
11. Hand sanitizer will be available in the narthex, or you are encouraged to bring your own.
12. Bulletins and orders of service will not be handed out, but picked up in the narthex.
13. Offerings may be given at the sanctuary entrance doors - no offering plates will be passed.
14. Pastor and greeters will not be greeting before or after worship.
15. Communion will be celebrated as usual on the first and third Sundays, as well as on Thursday evenings prior to those Sundays. Safety Protocols will be announced.
16. Worshipers will be asked to remain in the sanctuary end of the building and not use other parts of the building.
17. We will dismiss from worship one pew at a time, starting at the back, and head immediately to the parking lot - no congregating in the narthex.

A SPECIAL WORD ABOUT MASKS: We strongly encourage wearing face masks in the church, especially when social distancing is difficult. If wearing a mask feels awkward to you, consider at least wearing one as you enter and exit the church, and removing it during worship when you are distanced from others in the pews. Thank you for your consideration! Face masks are more for the protection of others than ourselves, a Fifth Commandment matter of helping and supporting our neighbor in every physical need.