

Dear siblings in Christ,

March 3, 2021

As we continue to see falling cases of COVID in Pierce County, together with more people receiving the vaccine, we are hopeful about being able to gather for worship. Consulting with the COVID team, the Council has agreed to increase the capacity for worship in the church. We are adopting the following updated guidelines:

1. The church is rarely near capacity (except for baptisms), so while you are encouraged to call ahead to reserve a spot (715-273-4570), you can also **check with the ushers before worship** to see if there is space for you to sit inside. The people at the health department have limited resources, and we honor their calling and assist the good work they do by limiting the numbers that gather. Because of the size of our building, we are able to have several zones for people to worship: the **sanctuary** (up to 40), the **balcony** (up to 12), and the **fellowship hall** (up to 20). Please remain in your zone.
2. **Wear a mask** when you are in the church building and **maintain distance of 6 feet** from anyone not in your household. We do this to give the virus fewer chances to spread person-to-person, and protect others by wearing a mask. Remember the mask needs to cover **from your nose to your chin** in order to be effective. If you don't have a mask, we have some available.
3. Please use the entrance closest to where you are sitting. You'll find a station in the entryway with hand sanitizer, communion elements, and bulletins. Please **sanitize your hands, grab a bulletin** and a **communion set, sign in**, and come in! Be sure to **sit at least 6 feet** away from anyone not in your household.
4. Please **do not sing**. This increases the risk of transmission. Music will play over the sound system with lyrics sung by members who have graciously shared their gift with us, and you are welcome to listen and follow the words printed in your bulletin.
5. When you are leaving, please **maintain the 6 feet of distance** from others not in your household, and keep your mask on until you are outside the building *and* are more than 6 feet away from others.
6. Finally, **if you are not feeling well**, experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, or are running a fever, **stay home**. There are several drive-in testing sites operated through the health department free of charge, so please consider getting a test to rule out the virus. We need to keep each other safe so we can all be there when we gather in full again.

Let's continue to love our neighbor by doing all that we can in this time to reduce the spread of the virus, listen to the good work of the health department, and trust that God is showing us something new and wonderful as we walk in this wilderness together. May we walk in the way of Jesus this Lent, and know that the hard work of discipleship holds the promise of Easter at the last.

In Christ,

Our Savior's Church Council