



MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

(The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod)

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Dear Members and Guests of Mt. Calvary,

We are excited to share the news that as of June 21st we are going to be resuming our Sunday morning in-person worship services. The leaders of our congregation, primarily the Church Council and the Board of Elders, have worked hard to customize a set of guidelines that are in full compliance with what the State of Colorado Health Department has put in place for our current Covid-19 response strategy.

Please know that all of the decisions have been made based not on fear but out of an abundance of Christian care for all in our family of Christ and the community in which we live.

Of course we want all members to join us as we come back to worship in our sanctuary, but we also recognize that not everyone's personal and health situation is the same. So if you do not yet feel comfortable joining us in person, we will still be posting a worship recording with "home worship materials" on our church website (www.mtcalvaryluth.org) for the foreseeable future. These will be an actual recording of our in-person worship service so they will not be posted to the website until early Sunday afternoon.

In Christian care we must follow certain guidelines to ensure the safety and health of those who desire to attend, so we ask all attendees to please respect your fellow Christian brothers and sisters and abide by the following guidelines when you come to worship.

Required pre-registration for attendance - In order to abide by the state guidelines, because our sanctuary is quite small, we are only able to accommodate a limited number of people in each worship service. We will worship at 8:00 and 10:30 am, but we must know in advance who is going to attend each service. To reserve your spot for worship please contact Brittany at the church office (303-857-6827, leave a voice mail if necessary) or by e-mail (office@mtcalvaryluth.org) before each Friday at 12:00 pm and she will confirm your reservation for worship.

It is very important that you keep your reservation and attend so that we do not end up with empty spots that could be used by others desiring to attend. If you will not be able to keep your rsvp, please contact the church as soon as possible.

Face masks – It is strongly recommended by the State Health Department that all people attending worship wear face masks while on the premises. Children 2 and under, those with trouble breathing or those unable to wear a mask for another reason are exempt from this guideline. Please bring your own mask if possible because we expect to have only a limited supply of disposable masks available at church.

Entering and Exiting the building – In order to help each household group remain safely distanced, please plan to arrive for worship 15-20 minutes early. Doors will be propped open so that you can enter "touch-free". Please maintain at least 6 feet of distance in every direction between your household group and those around you. **Do not congregate near the doors.**

As you enter there will be hand-sanitizer pumps available for your use. This will help prevent any unknown contaminants from entering the building. Please go directly to the sanctuary to be seated.

Please use the taped markings on the floor to help guide you in maintaining the 6 feet distance between groups.

At the end of the service, we will usher each household out **from the back of the sanctuary to the front**. Pastor will greet people from a distance as you pass through the fellowship hall or down the ramp but we will **not** be shaking hands at this time.

Sharing God's Word! Serving All!

Please do not congregate, but proceed directly out of the building to your car. We know this is hard, but for now this helps us care for each other and allows us to move forward faster to hopefully loosened guidelines in the future. This also allows us the time required to properly sanitize the building before the next service.

Areas that are temporarily off limits – For now the kitchen, office and classroom area and basement are closed to free access on Sundays. Please help us maintain a safe and sanitized facility by honoring these limits. Those serving in specific roles on Sunday may still use these areas when required by your serving role.

Mail and Orders of Worship/Bulletins – As you approach the sanctuary, please gather any mail from your mail box quickly then receive the printed order of service from the usher. We **will not be using the hymnals** at this time for sanitary reasons. If you would like to bring your own hymnal from home that is recommended.

Seating in the Sanctuary – Pews will be roped off to indicate where seating is available. **Only one household may sit in each available pew.** Please sit toward the center of the pew to provide social-distance from the aisles. We are asking members to temporarily put aside the idea of having a “favorite pew” and fill in the pews from the front to the back of the sanctuary.

Offering – Please plan in advance to have your offering ready. At the time appointed one usher will pass down the center aisle only and have the offering plate for you to place your offering in it. The plate **will not** be passed around from hand to hand.

Communion – At this time communion will not occur at the communion rail. We will usher one household at a time to approach the front using the outside aisle. Please offer your hand palm up to the pastor where he will place the body of Christ in your hand “touch free” then step beyond the pastor before placing it in your mouth.

Proceed next to the elder for the blood of Christ. (We are temporarily not offering the common cup.) Pick up the individual cup with minimal touching of the tray and then step aside to drink the blood. Then return to your seat using the center aisle.

We will commune one entire side of the sanctuary and then the other.

Restrooms – We encourage you to limit the use of our restrooms because of our small restroom size and the increased risk of exposure. We are asking that only one person (or parent with child) use the restroom at a time. Please use the taped markings outside the restroom entrance to keep 6 feet of space between you and others waiting to use the restroom.

Remember to wash hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap. A good guide is to sing the Common Doxology (“Praise God from whom all blessings flow”) or say the Lord’s Prayer or recite the Alphabet.

Additional Guidelines

- Please do not bring any food or beverage into the building at this time. This will help to protect us from the potential risk of contamination in case there is a spill of any kind.
- We have chosen to continue our singing heritage but because it is unclear whether aggressive singing increases the risk of viral spread, please sing at a moderate volume for now. (I know this one really hurts me too!)
- We have removed the water dispenser and will not be offering coffee at this time to help prevent potential spread of the virus.

With King David, I pray that even with these additional guidelines, we can all say in full sincerity, “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD!’” (Psalm 122:1). It is such a great joy to think of our beloved family of Christ soon worshipping our Savior together in His house again.

In service to Christ and His people,



Rev. Keith Besel, Pastor