

Zion Lutheran Church's Sunday Worship Re-Opening Plan 2021

Zion Lutheran will be instituting these procedures when we re-open worship services on-site. Please be aware that these procedures do not eliminate the risk of COVID-19 exposure but do reduce the risk of contagion contact and are in accordance with WA State guidelines for religious gatherings (from the most recent document dated 1/11/21). We recognize this situation is far from ideal and that our worship will temporarily look different than before the pandemic. We continue to hold firm to and give thanks for what is central for us: the love and grace of God made known to us in Jesus. The Church Council will continue to monitor recommendations and scale these restrictions back as soon as we are able.

- Cleaning and sanitizing of bathrooms, sanctuary and narthex will occur prior to worship.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the narthex and throughout the sanctuary.
- The wearing of masks during services will be required, though it is permitted for one leader in front to not wear a mask.
- Temperatures will no longer be taken before entering the church, but please monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, chills, etc.) and stay home if you feel ill.
- No more than 25% of sanctuary capacity may attend worship at one time. Names of congregants will be noted to assist in contact tracing in the case of a positive COVID diagnosis.
- The only entrance and exit for Zion during this time will be the front entrance (steps) and the front wheelchair ramp. The basement and nursery will not be in use at this time.
- To avoid crowding, please move directly to your seat as you enter the sanctuary. We ask no more than three people in the narthex at one time. Any gathering and fellowship, before and after service, may take place outside. Coffee and treats will not be served.
- We will maintain physical distancing practices of at least 6-feet between persons (unless they are from the same household).
- Bulletins will contain all worship material for the service. Hymnals, children's activity bags and other small items will be removed from the sanctuary.
- An offering plate will be located at the back of the sanctuary. We will not pass the plates during the service.
- The congregation will not sing during services, though spoken prayers and responses are allowed. The pastor and assisting minister will be able to sing from the front, as long as masks are worn and at least a 12-ft of distance is maintained.
- For communion, we will use pre-wrapped communion sets (a small wafer and small cup of juice in an individually wrapped package). All will stay in their seats at communion time.