



Shepherd of the Hills

COVID-19 Plan

Modified In-Person Worship

General Considerations:

- This plan and all future plans prioritize caring for our neighbors. Through the Gospel, we have been called to serve the “least of these.”¹ During the COVID-19 Pandemic, this means that we will be acting in a way to protect those who are at a high risk for infection and complications.
- This plan and all future plans are fluid and subject to revision. The possibility of full in-person worship coming back in a linear fashion is not guaranteed.
- All of these instructions have been composed in consultation with documents from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the State of Arizona, the Grand Canyon Synod, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Personal Instructions:

- Please do not attend in-person worship if you have been or are feeling ill, have been exposed to COVID-19, have a compromised immune system, or are at a high risk of exposing others.
- Masks are required of all worshipping individuals. The mask may be lowered to receive communion, but should be raised immediately afterwards. Masks are available through our mask-sewing group, if you are in need of one. Please contact the church office for a mask.
- Hand-sanitizing is required upon entering the church building and upon exit.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes at all times.
- Physical distancing is required at all times. Please position yourself at least six feet away from others. Utilize our large sanctuary to sit at a distance from other worship participants. Families and couples who are together during the pandemic are welcome to sit with one another.
- Please do not leave the sanctuary and enter other parts of the church building unless you have a specific need you have discussed with the Pastor. This helps us limit our cleaning and minimize exposures.
- Nursery will not be provided at this time.
- In-person Sunday School and adult education will not be provided at this time. Youth Sunday School has been converted to an at-home Bible reading program.
- Bible studies and committee meetings will continue online.
- Fellowship will not occur during this time.
- Please limit restroom use as much as possible as restrooms are high-risk areas. If you must use the restroom, please observe proper handwashing procedures and wipe down the fixtures you have used in the bathroom. Handwashing signs will be posted and disinfectant wipes available.

¹ Matthew 25:31-46

In-Person Worship Modifications:

- Services will be held on Sunday mornings at 9:00am, 10:00am, and 11:00am. Services will be approximately 30-40 minutes in length with intentional time between. This is for cleaning and for individuals to safely depart and arrive.
- Services will be limited to 50 people or less, including Pastor Adam and musician. There will be an online and phone sign-up for these times. The pews will be labelled, so that, when an individual signs-up, they will be able to specify where they would like to sit in the sanctuary. This is to ensure we have the correct amount of space to provide safe distance and individuals know where to go.
- There will be one greeter in the narthex to welcome people. His/her role is to ensure that people find their pews easily, answer any questions about this plan, provide a mask if someone needs one, and observe the offering plate.
- There will be no Sharing of the Peace. Worshippers are encouraged to greet each other, at an appropriate distance, as they come and go from worship.
- Offering plates will not be passed. There will be an offering plate located in the narthex (entryway) of the church for offerings to be placed. Online giving remains the best option for our stewardship.
- Bulletins will be strictly single-use. Worshippers are asked to take their bulletin home with them. They may retain them for their own reflection or recycle them at home.
- All printed materials will be removed from the pews to assist with cleaning (hymnals, Bibles, and envelopes).
- Music will be piano, organ, strings, or percussion during this time. There will be no singing. Singing increases the distance that particulates can be projected and creates an unnecessary risk.
- The baptismal font will remain filled with small blue stones. If a person wishes to carry a blessing with them, that they would normally find in the baptismal water, they are welcome to take a stone with them. The remaining stones will be disinfected between services.
- Communion will be modified in the following manners:
 - Pastor Adam will always wear a mask during communion and sanitize his hands prior to communion.
 - Wafers will be handed individually to each participant. Please do not reach for a wafer.
 - Individual cups will be used for our wine and grape juice. Again, cups will be handed to each participant. Please ask for “wine” or “grape juice” and don’t reach for a cup.
 - Pastor Adam will invite each individual or family unit one at a time to come forward to receive communion.

Online Worship:

- Online worship will continue in the form of a streamed service.
 - The link for the service will be provided before Sunday mornings.
 - After the service is streamed at the appropriate time, it will remain available to watch at the online link.
- If a congregation member is unable to access the online worship, the printed liturgical materials can be provided to them by mail. Please let the office know of this kind of need.