

Re-launch Plan for All Saints Lutheran Church August 14, 2020

Revised October 13, 2020

September 20th will be the start date for our in-person worship services.

The service will be live streamed provided that the equipment is ready. If it is not ready the service will be recorded and posted online later that day. Live streaming will accommodate people who are not comfortable gathering in person or cannot do so due to their risk of Covid-19 complications.

We will start with a **thirty-person capacity** (not including the pastor, musicians, tech team and greeters). We will re-evaluate our capacity during the last week of October. We'll consider increasing the capacity to 40 in November and 50 in December.

We will set up a few pews for unexpected guests so that we can welcome people in the community who want to check out our church.

We will celebrate communion on the first and third Sundays of the month. This will prevent over-stressing our volunteers.

Each Tuesday we will send out an e-mail blast with a signup sheet for the upcoming Sunday. It will include a consent clause to explain the reason for the signup and a note saying we need the responses by Thursday. Our administrator will keep a record of the names for two weeks for the purpose of AHS contact tracing in the case of an outbreak.

For people without Internet access we will have a "buddy system". They will be connected with someone with whom they can attend.

If people 65 or older with a greater risk of severe disease are not comfortable worshipping with the rest of the congregation we can offer a separate time for worship. This could be mid-week or a second Sunday service.

COVID SAFETY PRACTICES

According to Calgary Bylaw 26M2020 everyone is required to wear a non-medical mask during indoor worship. We'll ask that people bring their own mask. However we will have some available for those people who arrive without one.

People are asked to use the online self-assessment tool before attending a service. If they show any symptoms of illness, they must not attend.

Hand sanitizer will be readily available in the sanctuary and upon entry and exit to the church. We will encourage people to bring their own hand sanitizer if they wish to participate in communion.

We will have a greeter at the door to squirt hand sanitizer on each person's hands when they arrive and offer a mask if they do not have one.

We will not use bulletins or hymnals. Everything will be displayed on the overhead screens.

People will enter through the front doors and exit through the back door. Unused pews will be used to create a pathway to the sanctuary and the exit, blocking off the narthex and kitchen. Washrooms will be available for use during the service.

Proper signage for Covid-19 will be posted throughout the building. There will be no indoor gathering for fellowship after the service.

In the sanctuary people will sit in family or cohort groupings. Families with young children will be encouraged to keep children close to them. The play-room will be closed, except for mothers who wish to breastfeed their babies.

Sanitization will occur before and after services to include all high touch surfaces. The facility section of the Alberta Synod Guidelines has more details. Microphones cannot be shared, and will be sanitized after use.

CHANGES TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE PRACTICES

The congregation will not participate in singing. While wearing masks people may hum.

We will install Plexiglas in front of the musicians and pulpit. The musicians will sing and the pastor will preach his sermon without a mask. We will provide details on the use of instrumental music (including piano) and music videos.

For sharing the peace, people will remain in their pews. They can offer peace to their family or cohort and wave to others. At all times two meter distancing (except family or cohort) will be maintained.

For Baptisms, the pastor will discuss the procedure to be used with the family. This will include registering all guests that plan to attend.

Offering baskets will be placed at the back of the church. People can drop off their offering as they exit the service.

COMMUNION PRACTICES

People preparing communion will wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after they set up communion, and any time in-between if they touch high risk services.

We will set up a table at the front of the sanctuary with individual portions of cup and wafers set on individual napkins or paper towels. People will approach the table. From two meters away the pastor will say the words for both the bread and wine.

Each person will take their portions with the napkin back to their pew, remove their mask, sanitize their hands, eat and drink and put on their mask.

The altar setup will have the cup with a small amount of wine plus a wafer for the pastor. The pastor will consume this while the worship assistant says the words from two-meter distance. The worship assistant will take communion with the rest of the congregation.

People watching from home can also take part in communion. The pastor will send an explanation on how to set up communion from home. Because we are live streaming the service, these people will be included as part of the assembly.

After the service all dishes will be properly sanitized. We will consider the use of disposable cups. We will use wafers instead of bread. For ushering people to communion, we will designate footprints measuring two meters apart so people know where to stand.

OTHER EXCHANGES OF FOOD

As long as the current bylaw in place we cannot have potlucks or exchanges of food in our church building.

OTHER GATHERINGS OUTSIDE OF WORSHIP

Bible studies, meetings and other gatherings will continue to take place remotely for the foreseeable future.

RENTAL GROUPS

We will suspend rentals until January 1st, 2021. Prior to that date we will re-evaluate this decision. Liability issues and cleaning protocols will need to be worked out before rentals resume.

CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR POTENTIAL OUTBREAK

If a person who attended a Sunday service test positive with Covid-19 we will return to remote services for two weeks. This will allow us to determine if an outbreak has occurred and to do a deep cleaning of the church. If an outbreak has occurred we will return to remote services for the foreseeable future.

If Pastor Wallace contracts Covid-19 or is experiencing respiratory symptoms the worship team will provide lay leadership on the Sundays he is absent. Communion will be postponed until the pastor can return.

If caseloads are increasing in our area enough to cause us serious concern, we will consider taking a step back in our re-launch strategy.

