

Faith Lutheran Church is following recommendations of the CDC and other national, state, and local health authorities, and continuously monitoring the COVID-19 situation.



Protocol and Procedures for Safe* Worship in the Sanctuary at Faith Sundays - 5 pm

*One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. Psalm 27:4*

As we return to the Sanctuary to hear God's Word, receive His gifts and respond in thankfulness and praise, please observe the following procedures for the care of each other.

Before you come:

- Do **you or anyone in your household** have COVID-19 or its symptoms, or have you been in contact with anyone known to have it? *If so, please worship with us ONLINE.*
- Are you willing/able to **wear a mask** throughout the time you are inside the building (*required* by city/state mandate)? *If not - for any reason - please join us ONLINE or at the 9am Drive-In service.*

If you're still able to join us in the sanctuary, please read on:

- [Download this Sunday's worship bulletin](#), or plan to bring your Bible and use the hymnals in the pew.
- Bring sanctuary-appropriate kids' books/activities as needed.
- **Sign up** via the link [on our website](#) to help us plan.

As you arrive:

- **Wear a mask** (*required*).
- Enter facility **through the open doors** under the lower canopy.
- Use **hand sanitizer**.
- **Maintain a minimum 6-foot distance** from anyone not in your own household.
- Seat yourselves in the **open/marked pews**, while maintaining social distance. (One family group to a pew; individuals may share a pew at opposite ends.)

During the service:

- **Remain in pews** until dismissed in an orderly fashion by the pastor (*see next column*)
- Refrain from food or beverage consumption.
- Place **offering** in plate at the door or consider [electronic giving](#).
- Continue wearing **mask** throughout service.
- Listen to and meditate on the lyrics of the hymns as they are played. (*We will not be singing corporately.*)

As you leave:

- **Await direction** of pastor for dismissal, beginning with back row when there is no celebration of the Supper (*for Communion service procedures see below*).
- Doors will be propped open as you *depart in peace to serve the Lord*.
- Continue to **maintain physical distance** as you greet one another, moving **outside** to visit as you make your way to your vehicle.

Holy Communion:

- Pastors will first offer Communion to those who are unable or uncomfortable coming to the chancel area.
- Pastors will then invite families and individuals to approach the chancel area for distribution while maintaining social distance.
- For your care:
 - Pastors will sanitize their hands between distribution for each family unit or individual.
 - Pastors will make the sign of the cross *above* the head of infants and children for the blessing.
- After receiving the Supper, you are encouraged to *go in peace as you serve the Lord* (do not return to your seat; make your way to your vehicle.)

** "Safe" does not offer any guarantees, and whatever is truly "safe" in this world is open to interpretation and the individual; so do not take the use of the word "safe" to be a guarantee that you will not come into contact with any virus if you attend any service in the sanctuary. Worship at your own risk.*

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Other precautions for your care:

- Exterior doors will be propped open prior to and after service in order to lessen contact with high traffic touch areas.
- Exterior bathroom doors will be propped open for the same reason.
- Sanctuary windows will be open as possible during service for increased fresh air flow.
- Sanctuary bathrooms and all public areas will be cleaned and disinfected after each service.

In the event that you test positive for COVID-19 after attending service, please contact the church office immediately. Appropriate Church staff will:

- Ask that you share the names of anyone with whom you would have had personal contact during service.
- Notify pastors and elders that we have had a member test positive.
- Communicate by phone or email with those gathered on the previous Sunday that we have had report of a positive case in our sanctuary.
- Encourage you to follow CDC recommendations and refrain from public worship for 14 days.
- Pray with you and minister to you in the midst of your diagnosis.



These precautions and protocols are put in place for the care of the congregation and the community in which we live. *If worshipping indoors under these conditions is not a good option for you at this time*, please join us either at our Drive-In Service at 9am on Sunday mornings or from home via our online worship.

We pray that these services are an encouragement to you as we seek to best serve and love our neighbor while maintaining safe physical distance. Each week, please let us know which way you have chosen to worship with us via the [green button on the home page](#).

Finally, **we trust in God's promise** which proclaims, *"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."* 1 Cor. 4:16-18

Together in Christ,

Pastor Edwards (pastoredwards@faithbtown.org or 414-732-6534)

Pastor Beck (pastorbeck@faithbtown.org or 812-508-6497)

Elders and Leadership of Faith Lutheran Church, Bloomington IN



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