

ST. MATTHEW DURING THE PANDEMIC Revised and updated on Jan 21, 2021

At St. Matthew Lutheran Church (SMLC) we try to comply with all health and safety protocols to keep everybody safe and avoid the spread of the virus.

1 – IF YOU ARE SICK: If you have any Covid-related symptom or you don't feel well, we ask you to refrain from coming to church. You may watch our recorded services online, on our website.

2 – IF YOU WERE TESTED POSITIVE: We ask you to immediately call our pastor or our chairman, Peter Graumann to let us know. We are all responsible for each other!

3 – CURRENT PROTOCOLS: Members who plan to attend a Sunday service are expected to call our office prior to the services to register for those. There is only one entrance door and another exit door. We have hand sanitizers in different locations in the sanctuary. The practice and use of social distance and face masks are required at all times in our premises. Only families within their cohort household may sit together in the colour-marked pews. Our ushers will help with the seating while keeping distance between pews.

All pews and mostly touched surfaces are being sanitized before and after the services, as well as in between services.

There is no "coffee fellowship" after services, no handing out of bulletins or hymnals. There is no congregational singing. We use soloists to sing the hymns while being in a proper distance from others and using face coverings.

4 - PROCEDURE FOR HOLY COMMUNION:

1. We expect to offer communion on the first and third Sundays of each month while the pandemic remains with us.

2. All members will take communion where they are sitting during service

3. Each family should bring their own Communion dishes with them to be used during the sacrament One small plate per family to accept the bread. One Cup per person or one cup per household to be shared by everyone in the household depending on preferences. Cups and Plates should be glassware that can be taken home after service to be washed.

4. Pastor and the assistant will move through the church to distribute the sacrament instead of having everyone come forward.

5. Pastor and assistant will be wearing masks and gloves and will not touch the elements at all. The bread will be distributed with tongs The wine will be

poured from the "cruet" or "flagon" directly into the cups provided by each family.

6. The communicant members will hold on to the elements until the pastor and assistant return to the altar. Once both elements have been distributed then the Pastor and assistant will go back to the altar. Pastor then invites all to take bread together, then the wine, at the same moment, symbolizing the Christian fellowship we have with each other; The dismissal (final blessing) for all is then provided by Pastor.