

Old Apostolic Lutheran Church of Woodland Park, Minnesota

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

May 29th, 2020

The State of Minnesota has issued reopening guidance for faith-based organizations. This plan has been prepared to comply with these guidelines. We strongly encourage everyone to read the guidelines issued by the state to ensure that compliance is maintained (click here https://mn.gov/deed/assets/worship-guidance-ACC_tcm1045-433301.pdf). Also, the CDC guidelines are recommended (click here <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>). The guidelines are intended to reduce the chance of spreading the disease so taking these precautions will help protect the health of the congregation.

Note that this plan also applies to baptisms, weddings, and funerals. The plan is based on current conditions and may change as the situation evolves. Please contact one of the board members if you have questions.

The state guidance allows for in-person church attendance **limited to 250 people**. The plan is to return to church in a rotation as shown below. Those not on a cooking group will be assigned to a group for this rotation. All others are invited to join the service via the phone patch.

- Youth/Teenagers (confirmation age & up) invited every Sunday
- Cooking groups 1 & 2 invited Sunday, 5/31/2020
- Cooking groups 3 & 4 invited Sunday, 6/7/2020
- Cooking groups 5 & 6 invited Sunday, 6/14/2020
- Cooking groups 7 & 1 invited Sunday, 6/21/2020
- *Rotation continues with 2 groups each Sunday..*

General Guidelines

- Stay home if you're sick and don't attend church until you have been symptom free for 3 days.
- If you may have been exposed to COVID-19, the guidelines are to stay home until 14 days after your last exposure.
- If you are not comfortable with attending church be free to stay home and receive the phone patch.
- Wearing a mask is recommended.
- No Sunday School at church; continue to hold Sunday School at home.
- Communion is postponed until further notice.
- No coffee or food served until further notice.
- No food to be delivered until further notice.
- The church building will be opened at 10:40 and close approximately 20 minutes after the service.
- Parents or others are asked to attend to small children that can't understand physical distancing. Please talk to your children about physical distancing.

Components of the Plan

Maintaining Social Distance of 6 Feet

- Seating to comply with social distancing guidelines.
 - Maintain a minimum of 6 feet between households.
 - One household per bench.
 - Every other bench will be taped off.
- Ushers will ensure that social distancing guidelines will be followed.
- Signs will remind everyone to conform with social distancing guidelines.

Hygiene & Sanitation

- Face masks, hand sanitizer, and tissues will be made available on tables at the entrances.
- Song books and other books for general use will be removed from the sanctuary.
- Water fountains will be turned off and covered.
- Doors will be propped open where possible.

Building & Ventilation

- Areas/rooms open are the sanctuary, nurseries, and bathrooms.
- Areas/rooms closed are the cafeteria, kitchen, coffee counter, and Sunday School rooms.
- The ventilation system in the building exceeds the requirements for adequate fresh air.
- The system will be set to maximize fresh air.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Cleaning will wait until Wednesday or Thursday of each week to allow for 72 hours to pass since the building was occupied. This will reduce the risk to the cleaning groups.
- The custodians will provide special cleaning & disinfecting procedures to the group leaders and ensure that the correct products are available for cleaning.

Communications

- This plan has been reviewed and approved by the board of trustees.
- The plan will be posted onsite at the church.
- The plan will be made available to the congregation members who will be strongly encouraged to read it along with the State of Minnesota's guidelines for faith-based groups.
- The individuals asked to help implement this plan (e.g., board members, ushers, custodians, group leaders, etc.) will be trained and made aware of their responsibilities.