

# **Reopening Plan for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Amherstburg**

10 June 2020

As we begin gathering together to receive our Lord's gracious gifts in Word and Sacrament as a church family, the following measures will be observed to maintain a reverent atmosphere befitting our worship of the Triune God, a sanitary environment, reasonable distancing, and the general welfare of our brothers and sisters in Christ. These measures may change or be gradually relaxed following Windsor Health Unit guidelines.

## **General Items**

- We will gather together for the Divine Service on Sundays at our normal time of 10:30 a.m.
- Exterior doors will be either propped open or attended by an usher wearing a face covering. Enter and exit by the front doors at the narthex, not the kitchen doors.
- We will have an attendant in the parking lot directing people to come in so that social distancing is maintained. Please ensure a space of 6 feet (2 meters) when entering the building.
- Taking into account that our building has been rated by the fire marshal to hold 200 people and the government guidelines of accepting 30% of our capacity, we should not have any difficulties with attendance. We will have overflow seating in the narthex if needed.
- We will utilize only every other pew for congregational seating. Sit only in the pews that are not blocked off. Please sit closer to the centre of each pew, if you are able.
- Do not congregate in the narthex before or after Divine Service. Visiting may take place outdoors in the parking lot, or underneath the overhang.
- There will be no fellowship lunch following the service.
- The restrooms will be open, however it is best that only one person use the washroom at a time. There will be an usher monitoring those who go to use the washroom during the service.
- The kitchen, fellowship hall/gym, and daycare are closed to congregation members as these areas will be used by our daycare.

## **Distancing and Etiquette**

- Please allow 6 ft distance between households when sitting in the pews.
- Hand sanitizer will be kept in the narthex by the front door, and then also by the doors in the sanctuary.
- Please make use of only the sanctuary doors to the narthex, and the front doors, as you enter, exit, and make use of the washroom during the service.
- Wash your hands with soap and water (preferred) or hand sanitizer as needed.
- In accord with the by law past by the Amherstburg Town Council on August 24, effective August 28, those attending our service are to wear a mask. Masks will be available as you enter into the sanctuary.

## **Order of Service**

- The Divine Service will be coming from the hymnal. Feel free to bring and use your own hymnal.
- When the service is completed, please lay your hymnal on the pew so that we can ensure that they will remain unused for 72 hours after the service.

- We will be shortening and speaking the liturgy and singing two hymns in order to limit our singing time.
- Worship bulletins will be available on a table in the narthex.
- Offering plates will not be passed out, but will be sitting on the side tables on the back pew of the sanctuary. They will be brought up by an usher at the proper time.
- Counters are requested to keep contact with the donations to a minimum for at least for 24 hours before counting them.
- The ushers will dismiss the congregation, beginning with the back pews and moving to the front. We will not be sharing the peace, or shaking hands after the service. Please follow the usher's direction.

### **Holy Communion**

- We will utilize a continuous line for the distribution of Christ's body and blood. The ushers will direct the communicants up the centre aisle on household at a time, where they will receive the Body of Christ from Pastor, and then an elder will hand them an individual cup, after which they will continue around the front pew, down the side aisle and then back into their pew.
- If households are waiting in line, please properly distance in the aisles.
- Pastor and the elder will both wear face coverings. They will either sanitize their hands immediately prior to the distribution or wear gloves.
- The Body of Christ will be distributed to your hand (if held in front of you) or in your mouth (if open).
- Though the chalice will remain to be present on the altar, we will be using only the individual cups for the time being.
- The dismissal will be spoken by Pastor from the altar after everyone has communed.

### **Live Streaming**

- Our live stream will now cease. However for those who are home bound, sick, working, have underlying health issues, or feel vulnerable to this virus, we will still have a short liturgy, the readings for the day, prayers, and an audio recording of the sermon available on our Facebook page.
- We will still have the bulletin available on our website every week by Friday afternoon.

### **Staying Home**

Please stay home if...

- you have Covid-19, Covid-19 symptoms, or have come into contact with someone who does in the last 14 days;
- you have a fever, cold, or are not feeling well;
- you consider yourself to be high risk;
- you are not comfortable going out into public or congregating just yet.

*Pastor Schneider*  
Pastor

*Ted Kempffer*  
President

*Bob Erickson*  
Elder