

Resuming In-Person Worship at Fjeldberg, Spring 2021

With an abundance of caution, the Congregation Council of Fjeldberg Lutheran Church will gather for in-person worship taking the precautions identified below.

We take extra care because of our concern for the well-being of ALL people in our congregation.

Requirements for In-person Worship:

1. The congregation may resume weekly in-person worship beginning March 28.
2. On-line worship will continue to be offered along with in-person worship.
3. Those in at-risk groups (chronic illness, over 70, respiratory conditions like asthma or COPD, diabetes, or suppressed immune system) are *strongly encouraged* to worship at home.
4. Those with symptoms, those who have been exposed to the virus, and those who have traveled recently should *NOT* attend worship until they know they do not carry the virus.
5. Masks shall be worn. Worshipers are asked to bring their own masks. Disposable masks will be provided if needed. Children are asked to wear masks. Where this is impractical, family seating areas will be set aside for families with young children.
6. Non-contact hand sanitizers are placed at each entrance.
7. Worship will be shortened to approximately 35 minutes.
8. There will be no congregational singing and no choir.
9. Congregational spoken responses may be used (examples: "And also with you", "Thanks be to God", etc.). Masks must stay on.
10. The pastor, lectors, and others who speak in worship may remove masks while speaking. They shall remain 20 feet away from the congregation when speaking.
11. Holy Communion may be celebrated as follows: use pre-packaged single-use bread/wine containers; congregation remains in the pews; servers will come to them; servers will wear masks.
12. Instrumental music may be used for worship (piano, organ, handbells, or other). Musicians shall be seated to avoid walking past others.
13. Soloists may sing in worship. They shall remain 25 feet away from the congregation when singing and shall be seated to avoid walking past others.
14. There will be no Sharing of the Peace and no handshaking before or after worship.
15. Children will remain in their seats for the children's message.
16. Access will be limited to the south (elevator) and east (sanctuary) entrances only.

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17. Worshipers will sit in every other pew. We ask that only members of the same household share a pew.
18. Bulletins will not be printed; the order of the service will be projected on the screen.
19. Frequently touched items have been removed (hymnals, Bibles, visitor cards, kids' activity bags, cards & pencils in pew racks).
20. An offering plate will be placed at the back of the sanctuary instead of passing the plate.
21. There will be a single usher at each entrance to ask worshipers to go directly to their seat to prevent gatherings at the entrances.
22. Worshipers are asked to minimize restroom use and only use the upstairs restrooms.
23. There will be no food or treats served before or after worship.
24. The nursery will not be open.
25. As weather permits, worship may be held outdoors.
26. If a worshiper tests positive for COVID after attending worship, they need to notify the church office so that information can be relayed to the congregation (names of persons with virus would be withheld). Fjeldberg will NOT be keeping individual records.