



Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

6 Osborn Ave., Manasquan, New Jersey 08736
Phone: (732) 223-0533 ♦ office@holytrinity-elca.org

Rev. Mary V. Farnham, Pastor ♦ Study (732) 223-7830

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - Guidelines for reopening

The public health emergency caused by the active spread of Coronavirus Disease "COVID-19" is still a risk in our region. The following guidelines have been prepared based on CDC recommendations and Governor Murphy's Executive Order limiting indoor capacity for religious institutions.

While everyone needs to make their own decision as to whether or not to attend in-person worship under these circumstances, **we strongly encourage our members and friends in high-risk groups to continue worshipping with us virtually.**

If you are feeling sick, have a fever, symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, PLEASE STAY AT HOME.

The following protocols will be in place for in-person worship, until further notice:

- In-person worship will resume on **Saturday, September 26 at 5:00 p.m.** This service will also be available via Livestream. On Sunday, September 27, 8:45 a.m. service will be virtual only. 10:30 a.m. worship will be outdoors, weather permitting.
- Seating capacity for in-person worship will be limited to a **maximum** of 50 people, including worship leaders. (The exact number will vary according to how many single worshipers and how many couples/families sign up.) **Reservations will be required** to physically attend worship, so we can manage capacity restrictions and provide socially distanced seating assignments. The link to the reservation form is on our website, **www.holytrinity-elca.org**. Those who are not on-line may call the church office worship RSVP line at 732-305-0126. Those who sign up after capacity has been reached will be placed on the following weekend's RSVP list, if they so request. **There will be no walk-up attendance.**
- Pre-arranged seating is necessary to manage our capacity constraints. **We require that all worshipers follow ushers' directions and adhere to the pre-arranged seating chart.** We will be utilizing a zig-zag pattern, with each pew alternating seating between the center and side aisles. Family units will be seated in a single pew, leaving an empty pew ahead and behind.
- **Face Coverings for everyone above 2 years old are required at all times when entering the building and throughout the worship service.** Please bring your own face covering. Disposable masks will be available for those who may have forgotten to bring one.



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- The only portion of the building that will be open to the public is the main sanctuary. Please use the Main Street entrance to the sanctuary. The Fellowship Hall entrance will remain closed.
- Hand Sanitizer will be available at the entrance to the narthex (foyer) and on the sanctuary window ledges. Please sanitize your hands with your own personal sanitizer or the one provided. Free-standing, touchless sanitizer dispensers have been ordered and will be installed as soon as they become available.
- The single occupancy lavatory in the narthex will be available for use.
- The order of worship will be published in advance of the service. We ask those with mobile devices to download the order of worship **at home** and bring the device (or a hard copy) with you to the service. **(Worshipers will not be able to download the service over the church wi-fi network while in the sanctuary.)** We will have limited one-time-use printed copies available. Please remember to silence your devices.
- Please refrain from personal contact. No hand-holding, hand-shaking, hugging or other personal contact. We know that it's been hard not seeing our friends, loved ones and Pastor Mary, but we ask that you remain vigilant during this time.
- Hymns will be sung by the limited number of choir members. We ask that attendees follow along with the hymns silently.
- Kneelers in the pews will not be used until further notice.
- Offerings will be collected by placing them in the plate located in the center aisle as you enter the sanctuary. Please consider giving electronically.
- The sign of peace can be shared by waving at or gesturing toward others from your pew location.
- **Holy Communion will be given as the consecrated host only at this time.** Pastor will drop the host into your open palms. Please keep your face covering in place until after you have stepped away from the pastor.
- At the conclusion of the worship service, attendees will be dismissed by the ushers and will recess out of the sanctuary through the narthex, beginning with the rear pews. Please do not congregate near the entryway. If you wish to have some in-person fellowship with others, we ask that you do so on the sidewalk or the lawn areas, ensuring you maintain social distancing and that others can pass by safely.