

**COVID 19 Preparedness Plan for In-Person Worship\***  
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brainerd, Minnesota**

Following federal, state, and synod guidelines for dealing with COVID-19, Bethlehem Lutheran Church has implemented this plan effective September 20, 2020.

- If you are sick or feeling ill, or are having symptoms of COVID-19 or other illness, please stay home. If you begin to feel unwell while present, please leave immediately. Regularly wash and/or sanitize your hands throughout the day.
- People who would like to attend an in-person service will be required to RSVP beforehand using the church website [www.belcnet.net](http://www.belcnet.net) or contacting the church office at 829-3330 before the previous Friday at noon to RSVP and receive a confirmation. We will provide for 40 people to register online or by contacting the church office for each in-person service. Maximum occupancy of the sanctuary will not exceed 60 people (includes pastors, worship leaders, tech. crew, etc.)
- Everyone over the age of two will be required to wear a mask (fully covering both nose and mouth) while inside the building. People that are not able to wear a mask are encouraged to worship at our drive-in worship service or online using the live-streaming option. Extra masks will be made available inside by the front doors of the building.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the narthex and entrance to the sanctuary. Water fountains/dispensers are out of operation. Floor/entrance markers will be in place to indicate six-foot social distancing.
- If people need to use the bathroom, they will use the bathrooms located by the hall North of the sanctuary.
- People will enter the building through the middle two main doors and check-in with the usher to verify contact information (name, phone number) and then proceed toward the sanctuary allowing for good social distancing of at least six feet between households. Ushers will be ready to hand out a bulletin(s) and a communion kit(s) as needed. Communion kits will be placed on a hard surface by the usher for an individual/household to pick-up. Ushers will clean the surface between individuals/households.
- People will enter the sanctuary by the main center doors and proceed forward. People will be seated from front to back with the assistance of an usher. People will sit in every other pew (pews will be properly marked off using tape/signs) using good social distancing of at least six feet between households/individuals. Ushers will ensure that people are seated using these configurations: (1) household per pew of (4) or more people or (3) individuals from different households per pew or (2) household per pew for a maximum of (4) people in a pew.
- Hymnals and bibles along with all paper material will be removed from the sanctuary. People will refrain from singing during the service except for pastors/worship leaders/special music people. Pastors/worship leaders/special music people may remove their masks for speaking/singing. Pastors/leaders that lead in singing/speaking will remain on the front platform maintaining social distancing of at least twelve feet from the congregation.
- At the conclusion of the service, ushers will direct people as they exit from the back pews toward the front pews beginning with the pulpit side and ending with the lectern side of the congregation. People will exit using the side aisles and will move immediately toward the outer main doors of the building to exit outside into the parking lot where they may visit using good social distancing of at least six feet between individuals/households.
- Cleaning will happen before and after the event in accordance with Bethlehem's cleaning procedures.

If you have any questions, contact the office at 829-3330 or [office@belcnet.net](mailto:office@belcnet.net).

\*Reference, "Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening: Faith Based Communities, Places of Worship, Weddings, and Funerals" Minnesota Department of Health ([staysafe.mn.org](https://staysafe.mn.org))