

SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH REOPENING GUIDELINES
Adopted by Church Council, June 17, 2020

The following are the guidelines we will follow as we resume in-person worship.

If the Governor declares Lancaster County to be in the Green phase by July 3, the first service will be held on Sunday, July 5. July 5 would be the earliest we go back. In the event that the County is not green by that time, a decision will be made as to a later target date.

The weekly service will continue to be taped and made available on the Internet.

There will only be one service at 8:30 a.m.

Everyone will use the front entrance to enter. We will ask members to save the parking spots closest to the entrance for older members and those with impairments. All other entrances will be locked.

All people, except for young children, will be required to wear a mask while inside the building and practice social distancing unless with the same household. Masks will be made available for those who do not have one.

Greetings should not be accompanied by physical contact, such as hand-shakes, hugs, etc.

We will offer to take member's temperature with a scanning thermometer, but it is not mandatory.

There are 40 full pews and (2) ½ pews. From front to back, every other pew will be roped off, so there will be no one sitting directly behind a person.

All hymnals, bibles, cards, etc. will be removed from the pews and every aspect of the service will appear in the bulletin.

Families from the same household may sit together, but otherwise people should sit independently in a pew using social distancing

We will not engage in communal singing in liturgy or hymns. Liturgical responses and the Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed, etc. shall be in a soft voice to avoid droplet projection.

A list of attendees will be maintained for each service, so that if someone would be found to be positive, it will be easier to track who may have been contacted by the person.

Pastor Kurt, Guy or Connie, and Sue will be the only ones up in the altar area.

Communion will be offered. The Service Committee, working with Pastor Kurt will choose the distribution of wafers, bread cubes or bread already torn apart. Prior to Communion, Pastor Kurt and the communion assistants will leave the altar area and wash their hands in the sacristy sink.

Communion will be distributed by the pastor and one communion assistant. One side of the church will commune at a time. Ushers will dismiss a row of pews and people will approach by the center aisle retaining distance from each other. The communion bread will be received from the pastor. Communion

wine will be received by pre-filled glasses. Individual glasses (or plastic cups) will be spaced apart on the tray in order to prevent people from touching other glasses. After communing the person will place their glass in a container and return to their pew through the overflow area towards the rear of the church and down the side aisle.

Offering plates will be made available to place offering in, both in the narthex and prior to communion. Offering plates will not be passed during the service.

At the conclusion of the service, people will be dismissed by row starting from the rear of the church. Members are encouraged to leave through the front door. There should be little socializing in the building itself and people can talk/socialize outdoors in the open.

It is requested that after each service, a few people assist John in sanitizing/cleaning the Sanctuary and areas of the Church that are used.

The Social Hall will not be open before or after the Service. The nursery will also be closed.

These procedures will be a process that we learn from and can change as needed and the situation warrants. For the immediate future, services will certainly not be normal. We have to remember that we are taking these steps to minimize the threat of members getting Covid 19 and possibly getting ill or dying. Everyone looks forward to the day that these procedures can be lessened and we return to a "normal" way of honoring our Lord.