

Nordland Lutheran Church

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September 23, 2020

Hello everyone,

It has been over six months since we've gathered together for worship inside our sanctuary at Nordland. The pandemic has kept us from gathering in ways we have known our whole lives, and it has been a difficult road for all of us. The building may have been closed, but God has promised that the Church will live on no matter what comes its way. This is not been more true than these last few months. God's love and grace will always continue to find a way to move forward with or without a building.

This summer we were blessed with good weather to meet outside. Praise God for that gift! Now we look to move indoors for worship beginning Sunday, September 27. Even with this move, there will continue to be new practices and new ways to learn to be the Church in the weeks and months ahead. God is a God of resurrection - we will continue to made new again and again. Through all the challenges we have and will continue to face, we know that God has not left us alone and will continue to move us forward in love and grace for each other and for our community. Thanks be to God!

As you discern whether or not you are comfortable or if it is safe for you to come to indoor worship, please be mindful of the following. If you are feeling symptoms such as a fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, sore throat, body and muscle aches, etc. please stay home. Also if you are in a vulnerable group and have a high risk for severe illness from Covid, we encourage you to stay home as well. Please know you can watch and participate via Facebook live at 10:30, listen in our parking lot via our outdoor speakers, or radio frequency (in near future). Worship will also be available via our Youtube channel and our website by Monday of each week.

If you do plan on coming to indoor worship, please wear a mask and be seated in designated areas in sanctuary to keep yourself and others safe and at minimal risk. For more information on what indoor worship will look like, you can find our indoor worship protocols on the other side of this letter. These protocols may change as local infection numbers and/or state and local guidelines change. Thank you to the Re-Gathering Task Force and the Council for their thoughtful and deliberate work at putting this together!

We thank you for your patience, understanding, your continued support of Nordland's ministry, and for your continued love and care for one another. Thanks be to God!

Grace and peace to you,

Nordland Lutheran Church Council
Pastor Mark Kopka

Nordland Lutheran Church
Protocols for Indoor Worship
(as of September 17, 2020)

Spaces that will be used

1. Sanctuary, main restrooms, main entrance, and those hallways in between those spaces, while other areas will be 'closed off'. Overflow will take place in parking lot with help of the outdoor speakers.

Restrooms

1. Only one person to use a restroom at a time. Another adult may assist a child or adult who needs assistance.

Sanctuary space preparation

1. Removal of materials from the worship spaces such as bibles, hymnals, etc.
2. Every other pew taped off, with designated areas for households seated 6' apart.
3. Bulletins will be pre-placed in pews before worship.

Hallway preparation

1. Routes will be marked with tape with arrows for movement in and out, to and from.

As people arrive

1. Everyone (*including worship leaders*) must wear masks, unless they cannot for health reasons. Masks and face shields will be made available at entrance for those who do not have one.
2. Hand sanitizer will be provided at entrance for people to use as they arrive and as they leave.
3. There will be a sign-in as people arrive for potential future contact tracing in case of local outbreak.
4. Communion kits (*wine and wafer*), along with napkins, will be available as people arrive to take with them to their pew.
5. Congregation will seat themselves in designated areas in sanctuary as they arrive.
6. After worship, ushers will dismiss by rows (*back pew to front pew*), to help keep distance as people leave the building.

Worship practices

1. Worship leaders may remove masks only when speaking and/or singing.
2. No congregational singing or communal speaking parts. All singing and speaking will be done by worship leaders (1-2 people) up front at a distance from front pew.
3. When holy communion takes place during worship, all can participate together using their individual communion kits.
4. All liturgy and words will be on screens.

Cleaning and disinfecting

1. Custodian staff will clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces (pews, handrails, door handles, tables, chairs, restrooms, etc.) during the week.