

Returning to In-Person Worship at Grace Lutheran Church

We rejoice that we begin the return to worship in our sanctuary.

We know not everyone is ready to do so at this time for very good reasons of health concerns or personal comfort. Continuing to use the online worship service, viewing the service on DVDs or the weekly bulletin for prayer and devotion is just fine. Please know that it is wise to stay away from worship if you have concerns and particularly if you are not feeling well that day. God does not want you anxious or worried in worship.

To provide as much safety and care that we can for others and ourselves, Grace's Council adopted these health practices and social/physical distancing:

- masks are to be worn by everyone throughout the service
- please refrain from any physical contact with others – handshakes, hugs or other actions
- People will be seated by household units in the sanctuary
- 6 feet of space will be provided between households in the sanctuary
 - approximately 50 people can be seated in the sanctuary and choir loft)
 - more people can be in the Fellowship Hall
- Entry to the sanctuary will be through the office lobby
 - please give others room as you come into the church
 - you will be logged in as you enter – this will also serve as our communion record
 - It will be helpful if you arrive with extra time before the service as this will take time
- Singing will not be part of the worship service – as this can spread droplets and aerosols further than talking
- Communion will be offered – in one kind – just with the wafer
- Ushers will direct you to available seating – which will be physically distant from others
 - so it almost certainly will not be “your usual place”
- the bulletin/weekly news will contain everything you need for worship.
 - They are designed to be used 1 time only.
 - There will be no other items in the pews – no hymnals, paper or pencils
- Please place your bulletin/news and communion wafer envelope in the recycling bin on your way out of the sanctuary
- When the worship is over, please leave the Office Lobby promptly so others may exit with safe physical distance, too
- The bathrooms available will be in the hallway off the Fellowship Hall.
 - Once you have completed using the bathroom, please use the sanitary wipes that are in that space. Please be thorough cleaning all spaces that were touched.

The ushers will be very important members of our worship team as we return to in-person worship. They will be there to give you information and guide you. Please follow the instructions that they have for you.

The sanctuary and all the public spaces will be sanitized after every service to minimize the risk of any spread of virus or germs.

We ask you come with an open heart and mind for the opportunity to worship again together. And use the opportunity to see anew.

If worship proves too difficult following these guidelines, we may have to suspend worship again until we all are ready and safe to be together.

Let us celebrate that we can return to worship. It will be new. It will be different. Let us embrace the opportunity we have to worship and serve God with our praise and thanksgiving.