



2217 South 99th Street West Allis, Wisconsin, 53227

Members of Woodlawn,

As “Safer at Home” orders around the state are expiring, many of you may be wondering when we will return to having worship services at church. We are in the process of preparing for the time when we can be together again. **We are tentatively planning to resume services at church the weekend of June 7.** A survey will be sent out soon to determine how many members are considering returning to worship services at church, which worship times will be preferred, etc.

However, returning to church will not be “business as usual.” Our worship and fellowship practices will need to change due to the pandemic. To that end, we are considering the following practices for gathering at church.

Worship

Worship services will be held in the sanctuary with the following changes/additions:

- We are currently anticipating worship groups of around 50 people during a service. We may require that you sign up for the service you wish to attend.
- The doors to the sanctuary will be open (and remain open).
- Worshippers will be seated in family groups or individually, with space between each group.
- There will be at least one empty pew between the pews in use.
- The church will be seated from front to back to properly fill the space. The ushers will seat you as you come into church.
- Pew bibles and hymnals will not be used. The entire service will be in the worship guide, and we ask that you not return the worship guide.
- We are considering the best options for music during the service.
- We will not pass plates to collect the offering. There will be one or two locations where you can place your envelope if you bring an offering. You may also continue to give online offerings.

- Worshippers will be dismissed from the back of the church to the front. The ushers will dismiss you.
- We ask that you do not congregate in the entrance to the sanctuary or in the narthex (the space immediately outside of the sanctuary near the 99th street entrance). Please leave the building or move away from the sanctuary entrance so others may leave.
- The Mothers Room will be available for parents with infants (who need to be changed, fed, etc.). We ask that all others refrain from using the Mothers Room.

Communion

We are still determining our protocol for communion. This may initially remain a separate gathering, such as we have been doing during "Safer at Home." For large groups, we will most likely use a "continuous flow" method (constant procession, gaps between those communing, no kneeling or large groups for communion). Common cup will not be available.

Cleaning

The ushers and cleaning volunteers will help to clean and sanitize our public spaces, such as the sanctuary and restrooms. This will include disinfecting surfaces (pews, handrails, door handles and knobs, light switches, etc.). Cleaning will be done between each service.

General Guidelines

We ask all of our members to follow the following guidelines:

- Anyone who is in a high-risk health category, or feels uncomfortable attending in-person worship services, is welcome to stay home. We will continue to have services available online.
- We encourage you to use hand-sanitizer. We will do our best to have some available for use.
- Greet others from a distance. For now, we ask that you refrain from handshakes, high-fives, hugs, etc.
- You are welcome to wear a mask. You can find [additional information on cloth face coverings](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).
- If you or someone you live with is sick, then please stay home.

These plans are tentative and subject to change. There is a lot of information regarding best practices for gathering, much of which is conflicting. We are diligently researching

these issues and making decisions that best serve our congregation. We will send out finalized information ahead of our return to worship.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact the pastors or the congregation president, Joel Davis.

Please pray for one another and our congregation as we continue to walk together in God's grace.

Woodlawn Church Council
May 19, 2020