

Gloria Dei's Safe Worship Protocols during Covid -19

We will be having our first in person worship on July 5th at 10am. This letter will review safety procedures to keep everyone safe and healthy as we come together in person.

I want to let everyone know that your safety is at the front of every decision we make as a church council. Please know that we have taken precautions recommended by WorkSafeBC and the BC Public Health officials.

The most important thing that you can do to keep everyone safe is to screen yourself prior to attending church. Please go to <https://bc.thrive.health/COVID19/en> and complete BC Covid-19 Self assessment tool. This will guide you through a series of yes or no questions to aid in deciding if you should attend church.

Please do not attend if you feel the slightest bit unwell, have travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days or have been asked to self isolate by Public Health. If you have any doubts whether or not you should attend, please stay home.

Please follow these instructions to find your space within the worship space.

We will be worshipping indoors in the sanctuary.

- Please enter only through the NORTH Entrance. All other entrances will be marked with arrows to guide you to the open door.
- We will have a sanitization station set up inside the entrance of the sanctuary. Please use these stations prior to entering the worship space.
- There will also be a welcome person, wearing a mask, supervising hand washing and taking attendance. This log is required to aid Public Health in contact tracing if needed and will not be shared with anyone else.
- Church Council highly recommends you wear a mask but it is not mandatory. If you forget your own mask some will be provided. If you choose to wear a mask please practise appropriate mask etiquette. Be mindful to not touch your face or mask at any time. If you do please sanitize your hands before touching any other surfaces either with your own sanitizer or at one of the stations provided.

To ensure safe social distancing the pews have been marked. Every other pew has been closed with tape.

- You may sit within your family group but please allow 6 feet or 2 meters between you and the next grouping. This distance has been marked with purple markers or green tape.
- Please sit ON the marker. If you are sitting next to a group of people please ensure you leave a marker empty before sitting down on the next marker. If you are unsure of where to sit remember that 2 arms lengths is about 2 meters.

- Please limit moving around the worship space and church. The more we can limit movement around the church the better. We encourage you to not access the kitchen, hall or music conservatory. If you require some assistance during the service please raise your hand and an usher will be able to assist you.
- Please only use the wheelchair bathroom near the North Entrance. It will be monitored for use through the service and high touch surfaces cleaned regularly.

Social Distancing Etiquette

The first time we meet will be an exciting time. However we need to respect personal boundaries. It can be hard to not accept a hug or handshake so we need to practice different ways to say hello. Waving, saying hello or even bowing are great ways to show our welcome while keeping our distance

If you start to feel unwell during service please present to one of the ushers. We have procedures in place to ensure everyone's safety.

Church Service

We will have a shortened service about 45 minutes as we know shorter times together are safer. We are taking a measured incremental approach to the resumption of in-person worship. That means that we will begin with Services of the Word and then resume Communion with modifications at a later date.

Singing

There will be no singing by the congregation. We know that singing seems to increase transmission of COVID 19. There will be designated soloists in the choir area. They will be appropriately distanced from everyone and screened for COVID-19 symptoms. Reading responses as a group it's OK in quiet speaking.

Sharing of the peace

Sharing of the peace will consist of NO contact. Please remain in your seats and acknowledge your neighbor with a nod, a bow, or folded your hand(s) over your heart.

Coffee Time Fellowship

For those interested we will hold fellowship following the service. Please bring your own coffee or beverage and we will provide a pre-wrapped cookie for your enjoyment. Please wait for the usher to acknowledge your row Prior to leaving through the North exit. Please remember to maintain social distance as people leave.

Thank you for following these important protocols outlined in this letter.



Candace Storm, Church Council Chair
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church