

Old Apostolic Lutheran Church of Minnetonka

Announcement for Returning to Church

The board has been reviewing the steps, along with guidelines set forth by the CDC and the state department of health, to come up with a plan for the Christians to attend church in person.

This plan is based on current conditions and may change as required. Please contact one of the board members or laborers if you have any questions.

We can gather at our church building if we allow for reasonable physical distancing, good hygiene, and appropriate sanitation at this time. We are also required to restrict occupancy to accommodate these provisions, thus we cannot all attend church at the same time.

The plan is to return to church in groups, taking turns attending on a rotation basis. The groups have been identified as follows:

- Group 1: Last names beginning with **A thru E**
- Group 2: Last names beginning with **F thru M**
- Group 3: Last names beginning with **N thru R**
- Group 4: Last names beginning with **S thru Z**

For Sunday services, the first in person church service will begin on June 7th, 2020

- Only one group will attend per service. All others can receive the telephone patch as we have been. Households with high risk individuals should consider staying home.
 - Group 1 June 7th
 - Group 2 June 14th
 - Group 3 June 21st
 - Group 4 June 28th
- If you have been ill the guidelines are to stay home until you have been symptom free for 3 days.
- If you may have been exposed to COVID-19 the guidelines are to stay home until 14 days after your last exposure.
- If you are not comfortable with attending church be free to stay home and receive the phone patch.
- Please follow physical distancing practices between households. Per health guidance this means:
 - Maintain 6' between households before, during, and after the service. The sanctuary will be set up for this and guidance will be provided by the ushers.
 - Refrain from handshaking and embracing.
 - Singing will be limited to only the song leaders singing at church following MDH church guidelines.
- Signs will be posted encouraging good hygiene, physical distancing, etc. The Christians should feel free to bring and wear a mask.

- Hand sanitizer stations will be set up for use.
- Areas that are not needed will be closed off, including the entire basement area.
 - The mother's nursery will remain open.
 - The women's upstairs bathrooms will remain open along with the handicap bathroom.
 - The old upstairs father's nursery will be closed to regular use with the bathroom being used as a men's bathroom. Signs will be posted.
- Parents are asked to attend to small children that can't understand physical distancing. Please talk to your children about physical distancing.
- Coffee and meals will not be served. Drinking fountains will be closed.
- The church building will be opened at 10:40 and close approximately 20 minutes after the service.

For Weddings and Funerals, the church may also now be utilized

- Same guidelines as outlined above for church services.
- Kitchen etc., closed as noted for church services.

Baptisms may also take place following physical distancing guidelines in a limited number at church. Contact one of the preachers regarding baptisms.

We will not be able to hold a **communion** service at this time and **confirmation** dates are under consideration.

Please refer to the following government websites for additional guidance for good hygiene and physical distancing practices.

[cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

In order to remain in compliance with health guidelines we will need to know if any confirmed cases have been in the building. Please contact the Chairman (AJ Korpela) if this occurs.