



# Church of Our Saviour, Lutheran

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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*The Reverend Marc Herbst, Pastor*

June 17, 2020

Dear People of God,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

With the State of New York lifting its restriction of in-person worship, we are pleased to inform you the Church of Our Saviour, Lutheran will resume its weekly Sunday worship services this week, **Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM!**

Placing health and safety in the forefront, we will abide by the standards and guidelines set forth by public policy. If you are unhealthy or feeling vulnerable, we strongly suggest you remain home for your own well-being and the safety of others. Please be comforted knowing you will remain in our prayers. We will also continue the online worship opportunities.

Our intention is to hold worship outdoors, weather permitting, in our parking area throughout the summer. You will be invited to remain in your personal vehicles. Should you prefer to exit your vehicles, you are free to bring along any personal chairs for your individual use in the lawn areas. Please know you must observe the mandated safety precautions, specifically wearing face masks and socially-distancing six feet apart from others. The worship liturgy will be brief (20-30 minutes) and follow the recommended safety practices. The required guidelines are noted in the synopsis provided on the reverse side of this letter.

If inclement weather requires indoor worship on any Sunday, we will use the sanctuary. In such an event, we will announce procedures and requirements.

We look forward to gathering once again this Sunday in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Blessings,

Rev. Marc Herbst  
Pastor

## Re-entering Places of Worship

New York State allows in-person worship beginning June 6<sup>th</sup>. The Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA provided a webinar on the government regulations and suggested guidelines for implementation. Below is a synopsis with respect to implementation at the Church of Our Saviour, Lutheran, Manhasset, NY.

- **Business Plan** - we must follow CDC guidelines and State regulations specific for our County and Business Industry (#813110 - Religious Organizations) and develop a formal business safety plan
- **Signage** – directional signs need to be placed in building, with description of requirements (i.e., wearing masks required)
- **Cleaning and Sanitizing** – must be thoroughly done between all worship services according to CDC standards
- **Tracking/Tracing** – a log of all who enter building must be maintained
- **Capacity** – Worship space is limited to 25% capacity (COSL sanctuary 60 people – includes pastor, ministers, choir and worshippers)
- **Social Distancing** – six-foot social distancing, unless immediate family, speakers and singers must be twelve feet away from other people
- **Coverings** – all attendees must wear face coverings – no exceptions
- **Singing** – worship should be restricted to four or less singers, each maintaining twelve-foot social spacing when performing; congregation restricted from singing
- **Musical Instruments** – wind instruments (i.e., flutes, trumpets) are restricted
- **Liturgical Responses** – worship should not include responsive messages from congregation (i.e., responses to apostolic greeting, prayers of intercession, or recitation of Creeds or Lord's Prayer)
- **Entranceways** – all doorways, wherever possible should remain open (avoid touching handles)
- **Sanitizers** – hand sanitizer should be available for attendees (COSL has order two free-standing hands-free dispensers)
- **Bulletins** – printed bulletins may be available for single-use only
- **Bibles/Hymnals** – texts for worship should not be used
- **Offering Plates** – offering plates should not be passed, but placed in stationery position
- **Microphones** – microphones are limited to individual use, or sanitized between each use
- **Rest Rooms** – should be sanitized after each use
- **Worship Duration** – sermons and liturgical duration should be constricted in time length
- **Holy Communion**
  - Altar guild should be limited to one person
  - Presiding Minister and Eucharistic Ministers must sanitize hands before distribution
  - Common cup and intinction not permitted
  - Distribution of only bread/host is acceptable
  - Gathering at communion rail restricted
  - Continuous distribution, with six-foot spacing allowed, with one-directional flow
  - Words of Institution/Consecration of Elements at Altar, with silence at distribution (corporate, "This is the body of Christ," may be spoken in advance)
  - Wine may be distributed with pouring chalice into disposable cups
  - Sharing of the peace not permitted
- **Outdoor Worship** – parking lot/lawn area worship is permitted, so long as social distancing, masks and other above guidelines are followed.