

# Alexanderwohl Guidelines for In-Person Worship

- As we gather to start worshipping together in person, the COVID-19 task force recommends these guidelines as a way to keep our congregation safe from exposure to the coronavirus.
- Our goal is to follow Jesus's teaching to practice love for our neighbors as well as for ourselves by taking precautions to keep each other safe. We seek to be an inclusive community for those who are at a higher risk of serious illness if they contract COVID-19.
- Our task force has considered CDC, medical, and other guidance as these recommendations have been created. These guidelines may change as we better understand COVID-19 through new data. We will continue to monitor and take into account statistics for new positive cases and the percent positive testing rates for Marion and neighboring counties.

## Covenant for in-person worship

We ask everyone who participates in our in-person worship services to commit to the following principles:

I commit to caring for myself and loving my neighbor in daily life by...

- Washing my hands or using hand sanitizer often.
- Limiting the number of people with whom I have close personal contact.
- Practicing social distancing and wearing a mask when in public or in the company of those outside my close circle.
- Staying home if I am ill or after exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Talking to a medical provider if I suspect I have symptoms of COVID-19.

We acknowledge that there can be some stigma around having a positive test result.

Reasonable precautions may reduce but not eliminate risk of infection. With this in mind...

- I commit myself to not passing judgment on those I know who have tested positive.
- I commit myself to informing those with whom I've had close contact if I have tested positive or think I likely have been infected.
- I commit myself to inform the church if I have tested positive or think I likely have been infected. This information will be held in confidence to the degree possible and will be taken into account in our plans for church gatherings.

### **Guidelines for worship services:**

- Print and bring your own bulletin. However, extras will be available from the ushers.
- We will require all those 4 and older to wear masks, as an expression of love and care for others worshipping together with us.
- Enter through the northeast entrance. The elevator and ramp entrance will also be available. The north office door is available as an exit.
- As you enter, please do your best to maintain and respect other's space. You are encouraged to be seated immediately upon entering the church.
- Extra masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance. Keep your coats with you as you are seated.
- Every other pew will be taped off to help with social distancing between family groups.
- The ushers will seat you to help maximize seating within the guidelines. Family groups are encouraged to sit together in one pew. Singles and couples are encouraged to distance with 2 to 3 units in a pew.
- Only the main level and balconies of the church will be used for worship services.
- There will not be congregational singing at this time. Instrumental and prerecorded music will still be part of the service.
- Children will be asked to stay seated with their families during Children's Story Time.
- The nursery will not be staffed and will not supply toys, but both nursery spaces and the chapel will be available for parents to take their children to if needed. Please provide toys and activities for your own children.
- Offering boxes will be placed in each lobby for offerings to be deposited in before or after the service.
- The ventilation system and ceiling fans will be on.
- After the service, you will be ushered out by rows. If you are able, please proceed directly toward the available exits. You may choose to gather in small groups outside for conversations, but please remember to maintain appropriate social distancing to help protect our congregation.
- We will not be using our church mailboxes for the foreseeable future.
- All persons and families are encouraged to participate at the level to which they are most comfortable. To make sure that persons are not left out, the service will still be recorded and/or live streamed.

~ Members of the Alexanderwohl COVID task force: Nancy Stucky, Robyn Hartvickson, Brendon Nafziger, Renae Peters, Janine Peters, Marilyn Unruh Flaming, and Pastors Caleb Yoder and Lois Harder