

## **St. Peter's Welcome's YOU Back!**

*We are excited to be opening our doors to worship once again. Unfortunately, it won't look the same as before because we are obligated to follow the public health guidance for worship set out by our government to minimize the risks of spread and the impacts of COVID-19. By doing so, we want to keep everyone, especially the most vulnerable, safe.*

—The Board of Worship

### **How will safety look according to government's guidelines?**

- To protect each other, we kindly ask that you wear a mask and use hand sanitizer upon entering the church.
- Please use the self-assessment tool PRIOR to attending church. If you feel sick, please do not attend worship.
- Physical distancing must be maintained between people who are not from the same household or cohort at all times.
- Infants and children should remain with their parents or guardians at all times, and it is recommended that children under the age of 2 years old be held by a family member.
- Please refrain from handshaking, hugging or touching.
- As a church family, we should make every effort to follow respiratory etiquette e.g., coughing or sneezing into a bent elbow, and disposing tissues into the trash, and washing/sanitizing afterwards.

### **How will we enter/exit the church building?**

Entrance:

- With help from our ushers, we will ask that people line up outside the church's main doors and stand according to the markers used to keep a safe distance between members/families.
- Once the main church doors are opened you will be greeted. This includes taking attendance, applying hand sanitizer, and putting on your mask.
- The usher will direct you and/or your family to a pew.

Exit:

- Please wait for the usher to lead you from the sanctuary to the church doors.
- You are welcome to retrieve your mail after you are ushered out of the sanctuary, but remember to maintain 2 meter separation from others and do not socialize.
- You may use sanitizer before you leave the church.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting:**

- Following the service will be cleaning and disinfecting high traffic areas, common areas, and public washrooms.
- If you use the washroom, please follow the directions on the poster to wipe down the bathroom before exiting. Please wash your hands or use hand sanitizer afterwards.

### **Other housekeeping:**

- To reduce spread, the offering plate won't be passed around; instead it will be sitting at the back of the church.
- Please keep your coat with you or in the car during the service to avoid touching more surfaces.
- There won't be access to pew cushions or children's activity bags.
- Socializing (while in church) is discouraged by AHS.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ of St. Peter's,

Jesus said: **"God is spirit, and His worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth."** (John 4:24)

In March the pandemic of COVID-19 led us to suspend worship and all public gatherings at St. Peter's. Now that restrictions have been lifted, we feel confident and competent to worship publicly starting Sunday, September 13, according to the below plan that abides by health guidelines.

St. Peter's will continue to offer livestream worship on Sunday mornings, albeit going from 10 am to 9:30 am.

Corporate (public) worship will then occur on Sunday mornings @ 11 am.

- I. SUNDAY LIVESTREAM WORSHIP @ 9:30 am
  - a. Sunday livestream worship will continue to follow the rotating pattern of Divine Service V (or To God Be the Glory) on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, and Blended worship with contemporary music on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. There will be NO WORSHIPPERS in attendance; except those serving to make worship available upon the internet.
  - b. Livestream service length will be capped to 45 minutes to allow enough time to clean and disinfect surfaces in preparation for corporate (public) worship @ 11 am.
- II. SUNDAY CORPORATE (PUBLIC) WORSHIP @ 11 am
  - a. Blended worship with contemporary music on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of every month,
  - b. Lutheran Service Book Divine Service with hymnody and entire liturgy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of every month.
- III. REGISTRATION
  - a. Register for corporate (public) worship upon the homepage of St. Peter's website using Sign Up Genius. Please register for one Sunday a month; and cancel your registration if you become ill or cannot come for any other reason.
  - b. Members who do not have access to the Internet will be personally contacted, and be considered first in queue (in line) to attend public worship, since they have not been able to watch any livestreamed worship service.
- IV. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
  - a. Wearing a mask during corporate (public) worship is mandatory.
  - b. Please come wearing your personal mask. If you do not have a mask, you will be given one and asked to wear it while in the church.
- V. MUSIC @ 11 am public worship
  - a. Hymns/Songs will either be delivered live by a musician and/or singer (only 2 people at the most), or delivered electronically through an Internet source.
  - b. Proper protocol will be followed, whereupon, singers will be distanced away and sing towards the front of the church.

VI. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

- a. Congregational singing is a strong form of viral transmission. As mask wearing is mandatory, singing softly or humming is fine.

VII. OFFERING

- a. The offering plate will be stationed at the rear of the church, upon which you can place your envelope. Offering plates will not be passed around by ushers.

VIII. FELLOWSHIP

- a. Socially distanced conversations are encouraged outside of the church building.

IX. SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT: THE LORD'S SUPPER

- a. The Service of the Sacrament will begin shortly after we begin worshipping publicly. Once we begin celebrating the Lord's Supper, it will take place every Sunday thereafter.
- b. Those preparing the Lord's Supper will use hand sanitizer, be masked and gloved, and will separate the elements for singular pilgrim style distribution.

X. FUNERALS

- a. Funeral Services can take place at St. Peter's, whereupon, the same protocol will be followed as in a regular corporate (public) worship service on Sunday.
- b. Worship attendance will be capped to 40 people (including pastor, PowerPoint operator, and musician).
- c. The basement will NOT be accessible for fellowship after the funeral.
- d. The family of the deceased will be made aware of, and be asked to abide by, all necessary protocol, while also selecting someone to be: an usher, a check-in person (who notes all in attendance by name with contact information), and someone to require hand sanitization and mask wearing.
- e. The family of the deceased will be asked to pay an honorarium of \$200 to the janitor to disinfect the church (pews, high touch surfaces, and restrooms) after the funeral.

Our thanks goes to the Board of Worship for abiding by (and putting into place) Alberta guidelines to insure safety. As this is a fluid time, we will continue to respond to ongoing events in our church (and province) and act accordingly.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Neil Stern