

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, it is mandatory that we wear a mask and use hand sanitizer upon entering the church. Please wear your mask during the entire worship service until you leave the building.
- 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 one family or cohort at a time. 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 until you are outside the church.
- 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)

On Sunday, September 13, St. Peter's began corporate (public/open) worship according to the below plan that abides by health guidelines.

St. Peter's continues to offer livestream worship on Sunday mornings via YouTube at 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 follow a rotating schedule between Divine Service and Blended Worship. Please refer to the monthly calendar to specifically determine which service is planned for a particular Sunday.
 - b. There will be NO WORSHIPPERS in attendance; except those serving to make worship available upon the internet.
 - c. 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. Sunday corporate (public) worship will follow a rotating schedule between Lutheran Service Book-Divine Service (with hymnody and sung liturgy) and Blended Worship (with contemporary/alternative music).
 - b. Please refer to the monthly calendar to specifically determine which service is planned for a particular Sunday.

- III. REGISTRATION
 - a. You will need to register your intent to worship by contacting Darla at stpeterslutheran@shaw.ca or (780)221-8152. Please register for one Sunday a month. If you desire to come more than once a month, please inform Darla and you will be placed upon a waiting list. Please register by Thursday @ 8 pm. Please cancel your registration if you have become ill or cannot come for any other reason.

- 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 be delivered live by musician/s and singer/s.
 - b. To observe proper protocol musicians/singers will exercise social distancing and sing towards the front of the church.

VI. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

- a. Congregational singing is a strong form of viral transmission.
- b. As per Guidance for Places of Worship (alberta.ca/BizConnect): “Congregational singing is strongly discouraged and should not occur whenever possible, at this time.”
- c. Since singing is not required for religious reasons, for we can speak words of praise – there is no congregational singing at St. Peter’s at this time.

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 is celebrated on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of every month.
- 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.
- c. Due to mobility issues the pastor/s are able to bring the Lord’s Supper to people in the pew. Please notify them of your desire to do so before the worship service.

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 50 people (including pastor, PowerPoint operator, ushers and musician), because of the prevalence of cohort families.
- 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.

The attached document shares guidelines that will be followed during corporate worship.

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