

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Policies during Covid-19 Pandemic

It is our goal to keep the community, our neighbors and staff safe and healthy during this time. We have created these policies with guidance from Governor Walz, CDC and the Scientific Community. The church plans to stay informed about local COVID-19 in the community and update these policies regularly.

## How to prevent becoming ill, being exposed and spreading the virus:

- **Stay home if sick**
- **Stay quarantined if you have recently been in contact with a known COVID positive person**
- **Wash hands often/frequently**
  - **Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60% or higher) if soap/water is unavailable**
- **Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth**
- **Avoid close contact with sick people or with people outside of your home**
  - **Stay 6 ft from other people**
  - **Do not gather in groups and stay out of crowded places**
  - **Especially keep your distance from the vulnerable at higher risk of getting very sick**
- **Cover mouth and nose when around others.**
  - **A person can spread COVID-19 to others even not feeling sick**
  - **Face covers (cloth or surgical mask) for anyone age 2 years or older**
  - **Not a substitute for social distancing**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

## Gatherings

### 1) Church Sponsored Gatherings/Meetings

- a) Virtual whenever possible
- b) Must be 10 people or less for inside church gatherings
- c) 6 ft apart (of different household members)
- d) Face coverings if members of different households are present
- e) Outdoors recommended, weather permitting
  - i) If social distance can be maintained, no face covering required.
  - ii) Must be 25 or less people if gathering is outside
- f) Any items used from the church or indoor space used must be disinfected or allowed to sit for 5 days prior to reuse

## 2) Church Worship Services

- a) Currently unavailable as a result of increased precautions due to COVID-19. To be compliant with increased cleaning/disinfecting and HVAC capabilities, GSLC is unable to comply due to finance and personnel limitations.
- b) Services are available on-line at this time (via email and Facebook)
  - i) Email to get on the audio file list: [admin@goodshepherdigh.com](mailto:admin@goodshepherdigh.com)
  - ii) Dial: 651-372-3162
  - iii) Intergenerational message: [www.facebook.com/goodshepherdigh/](http://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdigh/)
- c) Wednesday Small Groups with Holy Communion
  - i) Will be available the summer of 2020 on designated Wednesdays
  - ii) Email or call for reservations: [admin@goodshepherdigh.com](mailto:admin@goodshepherdigh.com) or 651-451-6225
  - iii) Small groups of 25 or less will meet during each time slot
  - iv) Bring your own lawn chair, If social distance can be maintained, no face covering required.
  - v) Communion will be safely provided
  - vi) Children and youth welcome (stay close to family and practice social distancing)
- d) Availability of in church worship will be re-evaluated monthly based on current COVID-19 status and recommendations (e.g. decreasing trend in positive cases of COVID in MN). The start of September is the goal for reopening worship services.

## 3) Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

- a) Must be 10 people or less for inside the church
- b) 6 ft apart (of different household members)
- c) Face coverings if members of different households are present inside the building
  - i) Not required of children 2 years or younger
- d) Outdoors recommended, weather permitting
  - i) If social distance can be maintained, no face covering required.
  - ii) Must be 25 or less people if gathering is outside
- e) If inside, area of the event must be cleaned and disinfected before use of church again. The same for equipment of the church used. The payment to have areas cleaned may be the responsibility of the family if the event is scheduled outside of the church's regular cleaning.
  - i) Alternatively, if possible, the church is to remain vacant for 5 days

### Resources:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>
3. <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>
4. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>
5. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/communities.html>
6. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
7. [https://mn.gov/deed/assets/worship-guidance-ACC\\_tcm1045-433301.pdf](https://mn.gov/deed/assets/worship-guidance-ACC_tcm1045-433301.pdf)