



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Reopening Plans - Summer 2021



Created by:

Members of the Executive Council (Nina Schiarizzi-Tobin and Julie Ackley), Worship Team (Worship- Nancy Gorton, and Digital Worship - Rebecca Sol), and Covid-19 Building Use Subcommittee (leader, Carleton Gebhardt).

Emmanuel's in-person worship guidelines were informed by numerous sources, including, but not limited to the CDC, Massachusetts COVID 19 Guidelines, the ELCA guidelines for transitioning to in-person worship, and the Massachusetts Archdiocese reopening guidelines

Reopening Dates:

SOFT REOPENING: The soft-reopening period will help us to work through any adjustments to the planning, set up, and execution of digital and in-person worship, so some plans/guidelines may change.

DATE: JULY 18th

FULL REOPENING: September, the specified date is to be determined.

Services:

Digital Worship- 9:30

In-person Worship - 11:15

We will no longer hold Communion-only services as of 7/18

What will Worship be like?

- **Style of worship for the soft reopening** - a typical Emmanuel summer service format, with a hybrid of traditional and contemporary music.
- **Singing and music** - Soft reopening - Music will be present during worship, however, we are still working with Gabby on the specifics of how it will be structured.
- **Sign of the peace** - During the soft reopening phase, we will hold off on physical contact during the sharing of the peace with those outside of members' families/pew mates. We encourage eye contact, a wave, a peace sign, etc...
- **Offering** - Offering plates will be placed at both entrances to the sanctuary. We encourage you to share your offering upon entry to Worship, since they will be brought forward during the service.
- **Communion practices** - The Worship Team met and determined that the best practice is to have members go row by row, one side at a time down the center aisle, and stand in line for Pastor and the Assisting Minister to distribute Communion.

Safety and Comfort Measures:

Vaccine status and mask wearing - Emmanuel is not requiring that members submit proof of vaccine. If members are not vaccinated, we respectfully request and trust that they will remain masked while in the building. Since small children are unable to be vaccinated at this time, it is recommended that families follow the CDC and their pediatrician's recommendations for attending church and mask-wearing over the age of 2. We will have adult paper masks available at the entrances.

Self-Checking and Illness- We will continue to include COVID-19 self-check lists in our weekly email, and post them on the doors of our building.

- We ask that any members experiencing ANY of the symptoms on the list to refrain from in-person worship, and if able to, attend online worship that week.

Safety and Comfort Measures, continued:

Distancing- As we ease into a more typical in-person worship experience, we acknowledge that continuing to enforce some distancing serves to provide both safety and comfort measures.

We will be roping off every other pew for the soft-reopening period. Seating is permitted in the balcony if members prefer more distance.

Cleaning and sanitizing - We will continue to employ careful cleaning measures in our building, and will keep windows open, and extra fans going during worship. We will keep bottles of hand sanitizer in each pew, and encourage members to use them.

Logistics:

Paper bulletins will be used for worship

Duties: There will be duties to fill each week for Assisting Minister, Lector, Usher, and Acolyte. We will be sending out a Sign Up Genius link for those who wish to sign up. If you do not use Sign Up Genius, you may call the office to sign up for a duty during normal business hours.

Flower Sign-Ups: The Church Council will be providing flowers for the 7/18 service. Sign Up Genius may be used for flower sign ups during the soft reopening phase. Stay tuned

Coffee Hour - During the soft reopening phase, we will not be holding coffee hour or congregating indoors after in-person worship.

General Building Use - This Summer

Emmanuel social groups and ministry teams - Some groups are meeting in the building or on the grounds, and will continue to do so. Other groups and ministry teams should continue to meet virtually for the rest of the summer. Since we hope to continue offering a Zoom join-in option, resuming in-person ministry team and social group meetings will likely occur this Fall, to allow for logistical planning.

Drop-ins- We request that you continue to follow the above mentioned safety protocols when visiting Emmanuel for the duration of this summer. If you plan to visit Emmanuel during the work week, please be sure to call, or make advance arrangements to ensure that someone is present to let you in.

Event Rentals - We are revisiting our event rental policies and practices in the coming months, and do not plan to resume booking social event rentals until that process is completed.

Thank you!

Thank you to all who collaborated and generously gave of their time and talents to collaboratively create this plan.

Thanks to our members for their flexibility, openness, and support over the past year, plus. We have done, and will continue to do much, together.