

## RETURN TO OPERATIONS AT ST. JOHN'S: STEP ONE

In consultation with Bishop Derek Lecakes, president of the Atlantic District, and in order to keep the commandments of our Lord pertaining to caring for our neighbor's physical well-being (5th commandment) and honoring the authorities (4th commandment), St. John's has developed the following Return To Operations plan (RTO) for use during the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan is subject to change when deemed necessary. This plan also depends on NYC entering Phase Two of the NY Forward plan in order to be enacted (as of this writing NYC is currently in Phase One).

### RETURN SCHEDULE

Alternating weeks between a brief in-person Service of Holy Communion without music (approximately 30 minutes in length) and a pre-recorded Service of the Word with hymns and music (recorded with ONLY Pastor Matt and Dom in attendance). At the end of August/beginning of September we will re-evaluate our RTO plan for possible next steps.

July 12, 2020: in-person Service of Holy Communion.

July 19, 2020: pre-recorded Service of the Word.

July 26, 2020: in-person Service of Holy Communion.

August 2, 2020: pre-recorded Service of the Word.

August 9, 2020: in-person Service of Holy Communion.

August 16, 2020: pre-recorded Service of the Word.

August 23, 2020: in-person Service of Holy Communion.

August 30, 2020: pre-recorded Service of the Word.

September 6, 2020: in-person Service of Holy Communion.

September 13, 2020: pre-recorded Service of the Word.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR CHURCH ATTENDANCE

- + Signage pertaining to these expectations will be posted outside and inside the building.
- + As a common courtesy to all please do not attend church if you are not feeling well, or have had a fever in the past 24 hours.
- + Before entering the church all attendees will have their temperature scanned via an infrared thermometer (this thermometer will not make physical contact with attendee).

- + Upon entering the church all attendees will wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth at all times until attendee exits the church building and grounds. Attendees will not wear the mask only covering mouth and exposing the nose (or vice versa), attendees will not remove the mask to make conversation easier, and attendees will not remove the mask in order to sing (during Step One of our RTO there will not be any in-person singing). Pastor Matt, Deacon Ernie, and any assistant(s) will follow the same procedure.
- + Upon entering and exiting the church all attendees will sanitize their hands at the hand sanitizing stations that will be set up at both doors leading to the outside. St. John's will have hand sanitizing stations at these locations and also downstairs outside the bathrooms.

## FORMAT FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Confession & Absolution

Opening Prayer

Readings

Homily

Creed

Prayers (THERE WILL BE NO SHARING OF THE PEACE IN ORDER TO LIMIT CONFUSION)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Post-Communion Collect

Benediction

Communion Distribution

## COMMUNION PROCEDURE

We will distribute communion following the benediction so attendees may commune and immediately leave the church. We will not be using the Chalice for individual consumption nor will we be using individual glasses. Instead we will be using a distribution method called intinction—but the pastor will be the one doing intinction, not the congregant. Since the pastor's hands will be sanitized he will dip the wafer into the chalice and place the wafer on a sanitized paten. Once the congregant—or family unit—commune the paten will be taken by the communion assistant to be sanitized. We will make use of all three of the patens we have and rotate them during distribution for use and cleaning. If necessary, Pastor Matt and his assistant(s) will sanitize their hands during distribution.

## SANCTUARY CLEANING PROCEDURE

Part 1: Immediately following the service the staff will sanitize all surfaces and doorknobs with isopropyl alcohol (at least 70%) or ethanol alcohol (at least 60%).

Part 2: During the week St. John's will contract with an outside cleaning service for regular cleaning of the building.

#### MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

Pastor Matt will continue to offer Morning and Evening Prayer on Wednesdays via YouTube and Instagram and will also offer a brief Morning Prayer reflection via YouTube and Instagram on in-person Communion Sundays for the benefit of those who are not able or willing to attend in person at this time.

#### COFFEE HOUR

During Step One of our RTO we will not be hosting Coffee Hour. Congregants are encouraged to visit with one another outside while practicing social distancing (mask wearing + at least 6 feet distance).

#### BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will remain online via Zoom until further notice.

#### FINAL WORDS

The thoroughness of this document may lead us to think that we are afraid of the novel coronavirus or, worse, that we are afraid of each other. This document is not about fear; it's about love. We believe we have been called to love our neighbor and we believe that because Jesus is risen from the dead we can courageously love our neighbor even in this inconvenient way.

Our RTO aims to have broad accessibility so that as many people as possible may attend public worship. These guidelines were created in close consultation with the Atlantic District and is reflective of what other public institutions are doing at this time. If you have any concerns please feel free to contact Pastor Matt or a member of the Board of Trustees.

Grace and Peace,  
The Board of Trustees  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church