

Worship Service Policies at St. Timothy Evang. Lutheran (Lombard, IL) During the COVID-19 Pandemic

St. Timothy's mission is to serve the spiritual needs of members and others, especially by means of our indispensable public Divine Service of Word and Sacrament (which has been the historic practice of the Christian church for 2,000 years). During this pandemic, we are divinely obligated to seek to maintain our worship services, along with other fellowship gatherings, to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of our worshipers, and to respect the lawful government authorities as directed by the Word of God. Following is our COVID-19 Protocol for members and other worshipers.

1. Know the symptoms of COVID-19:

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| — Fever or chills | — New loss of taste or smell |
| — Cough | — Sore throat |
| — Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | — Congestion or runny nose |
| — Fatigue | — Nausea or vomiting |
| — Muscle or body aches | — Diarrhea |
| — Headache | |

If you have any of these symptoms or you have had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, out of love for your neighbor, do not enter the church and stay at home. We will make other arrangements for you to receive the Word and the Sacrament. We will also make sure you are not left alone and have what you need (medical attention, necessities, etc.). Symptoms may not appear until 14 days after one has been exposed and contracted the virus. If you are considered to be at-risk due to your age or health conditions, we trust you to take necessary precautions and make wise decisions for the good of your neighbor and yourself.

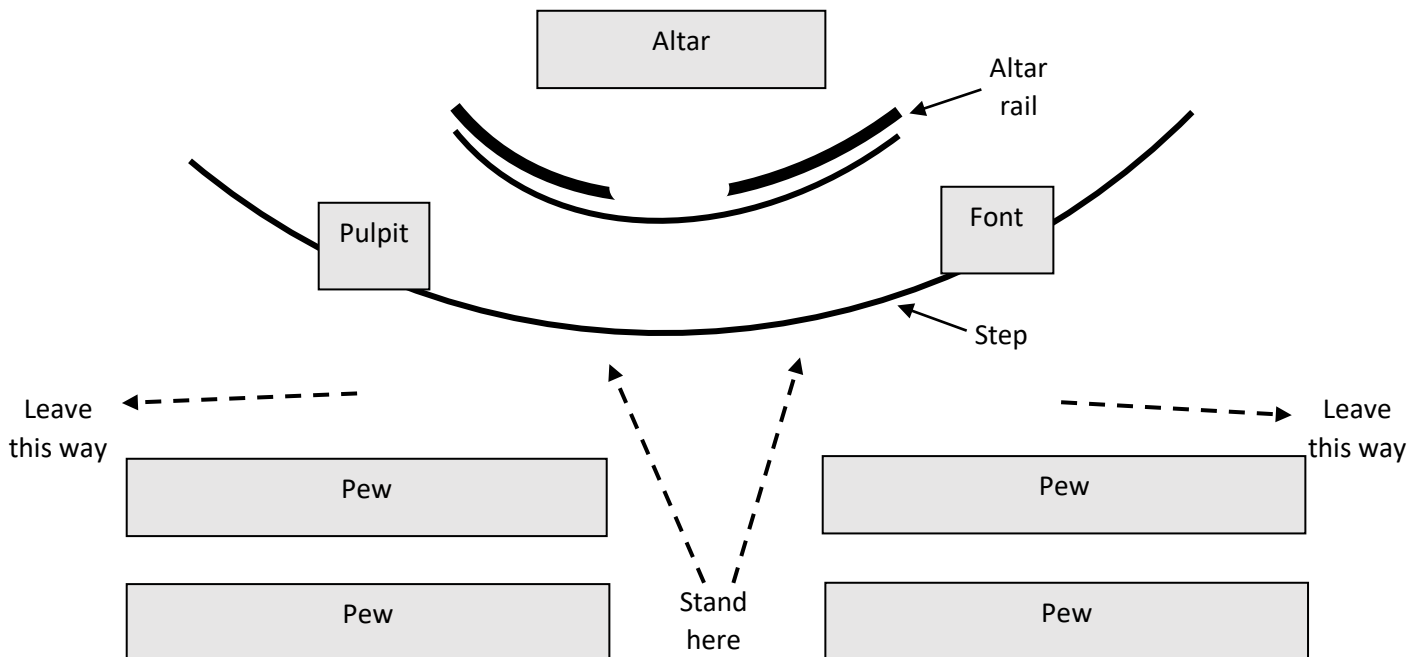
2. Sunday services are now held at 9:00 and 10:30. Each service can accommodate around 30 worshipers (using, for now, the 6-foot safe distance measure recommendation). Members are being contacted by our elders and asked which service they prefer to attend. Try to attend the service you indicated to the elder. We will continue to seek reasonable accommodations to lawful health regulations and encourage worshipers to maintain appropriate safe practices while at church. Here are some things you could do that may benefit your fellow member or visitor at St. Timothy:
- Know the symptoms above,
 - If you suspect you might have a fever, take your temperature before you leave home (we may be able to check your temp here if you prefer),
 - Bring a face mask with you and wear it appropriately (we have extras if needed),
 - Refrain from touching others not of your household (handshakes, hugging),
 - Wash your hands with soap thoroughly or use a hand sanitizer after touching a surface or an object that might have been handled by others (we have several hand sanitizers around),
 - Wipe down objects and surfaces with sanitary wipes that others might use after you (like bathroom faucets, light switches, door handles, pew surfaces¹),
 - It is possible that “full-throated singing” could more easily spread COVID-19, therefore you might want to make sure you are 10 feet or more away from others (unless they are of your household), wear a mask while singing, or sing a little quieter.
3. Try not to arrive more than 10 minutes before the service begins. Try to leave in a timely manner before the next worshipers enter.
4. The main doors are designated as the **ENTRANCE**. The doors across from the offices will be **EXIT** doors. If you have a coat, it might be a good idea to bring it with you into the pew rather than hanging it with other coats on the coatrack.
5. Bulletins, with the hymn lyrics, can be picked up on the way into the sanctuary. You can also use the hymnaries and Bible in the rack in front of you (they have not been handled for at least 3 days).
6. We have designated certain pews for each service with 6-foot intervals indicated.

¹ At the end of each service, we ask one of you in each pew to use one or two wipes to wipe down the wood of the pew being sat in and the pew in front of you (e.g., any parts of the pew that would have been coughed, sneezed, or breathed on). We encourage you to use a mask and gloves. Do not dry off the areas you have wiped. Please dispose of the gloves and then wash your hands.

7. Offering plates will not be passed but will be at the back of the church where members can leave their offering (you may also donate online: www.sainttimothy.org).
8. On communion Sundays, **the preparation** will be done by Pastor alone having washed his hands, sanitized the communion ware, wearing gloves and a mask, etc. He will remain reverent and take appropriate precautions during the **consecration** (the words of Christ said over the elements) and the **distribution** of the Lord's Supper. **During the distribution**, two communicants² at a time will approach the altar but are to remain on the lower level and stand at least 6 feet apart (SEE DIAGRAM BELOW). While standing there, the pastor will place in your hand a plate that will have both the body of Christ (the host/wafer) and the blood of Christ (wine in an individual cup). The pastor will then step back and direct you to "take and eat" and "take and drink". Leave the altar area by going to the **outside** of the pews, placing your plate and individual cup in the container found on the front pew.

Other safety measures:

- In between services, an elder and pastor will sanitize other areas of the sanctuary and narthex.
- Doors and windows are usually left open for good ventilation.
- Pastor Thompson and the elders are designated persons responsible for COVID-19 policies among us and should be contacted if there are concerns or if someone among us contracts COVID-19.
- Our congregation understands, treasures, and will retain individual privacy and civil rights, especially our First Amendment rights that guarantee the free exercise religion, the freedom of speech, our right to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.
- St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church is obligated to:
 - Honor the governing authorities, including our state and federal laws and constitutions, and to do so as far as our conscience – directed by the Word of God – allows.
 - Love our neighbor by doing him no harm and help and befriend him in every need.
 - Fear, love, and trust in God above all things, especially when it comes to the essential regular gathering together as a congregation to hear the Word of God, to be absolved by our pastor, to receive the Sacrament as often as we can from our pastor, to pray and sing to the Lord, and encourage one another in word and deed. This is our historic Christian faith and practice.



² Or a family residing in the same home