

Duluth Vineyard COVID-19 Worship Service Protocol (Outdoor)

Worshiping God Is Vitally Important Right Now

- During this difficult time, we need to stay connected to God and to one another. God is our refuge and our strength. Please join us for either our on-line or in-person worship services as we come together with others and experience the Holy Spirit and his life changing love for us.
- There are important benefits from gathering in-person to worship together, and we must acknowledge that during this pandemic gathering in-person remains a high risk activity. Larger gatherings for extended periods are still dangerous and you could catch COVID-19 at one of our in-person worship services.
- Although we can't tell you it is 100% safe to come to an in-person worship service, (as you'll read below) we are taking important steps to minimize the risk to you and to the Twin Ports Community. We are trying hard to follow medical and governmental guidance. And, even more importantly, we really want to love others (like Jesus would) through the precautions we take when we gather in person to worship.

In-Person Worship Services on Sundays

- For now, Sundays 10am will be our in-person, outdoor worship service.
- We will continue to live stream, on-line worship services on Saturdays at 6pm and Sundays at 9am and 11am.
- We will shorten our in-person worship service to about 45 minutes so we can better accommodate families with young children and shorten exposure.

If You Are At Higher Risk, If You Are Sick, OR If You Have Been Exposed To COVID-19, DO NOT GO To An In-Person Worship Service:

- If you are over 65 or have an underlying health condition (such as heart or lung disease or diabetes) we strongly encourage you to stay home and participate in our online worship service.
- Before you leave for an in-person worship service, take your temperature and check if you have any symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. If you or anyone in your household has COVID-19 or any of these symptoms, you should stay home and attend our on-line worship service.

- If you have had exposure to someone with COVID-19, stay home and attend our on-line worship service for at least 14 days. Medical workers or others that wear the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) can still participate with us at our in-person worship services.

Pre-Registration Required

- If we have your email address, you will receive an email with the registration form for the in-person worship service. Please fill out the form to reserve your spot.
- Generally, on Sunday, you can start registering for the next Sunday's service.
- Registration spaces will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis until each in-person worship service has reached social distancing capacity.
- At this time, church gatherings must not exceed 250 people in outdoor settings.
- About 10% of capacity will be left open for any walk-ups who do not have access to technology or who do not know registration is required. We hope this will ensure that new visitors will not be turned away.

You Need To Bring These Things

To protect you, we want our in-person worship services to be as touch-free as possible. Please bring with you everything that you'll need to touch physically.

- Bring and wear your own facemask.
- Bring your own Bible or Bible reading device.
- Bring your own chair, if you can (we will provide some chairs).
- Bring an umbrella, if you'd like shade or protection from a little surprise rain.
- Bring your own beverage, if desired (we can share the love of Jesus, but we can't share food or drink).
- Bring your own sanitizer and disinfectant wipes, if that makes you more comfortable.
- Bring yourself in whatever shape your soul is in and let the Holy Spirit meet you and love you.

Masks or Face Coverings

- Masks or a face covering will be a requirement for participation outside of your car.
- Children under 2 are not required to wear a mask.
- Regardless of various views on the effectiveness of masks, we want to lean towards the side of caution and believe when wearing a mask you are communicating "love for neighbor".
- Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for maintaining a physical distance of 6-feet from other people.
- A limited number of disposable masks are available upon request for anyone who does not have one or forgot to bring theirs to the service.

Social Distancing

- We will be enjoying no-touch greetings (the more joyful the better).
- Everyone should maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from people not in the same household at all times.
- Only members of the same household should sit together.
- If you bring your own chair, please be sure to set it up at least 20 feet away from the stage area and at least 6 feet away from other people not in the same household.
- If extra social distancing makes you feel more comfortable, feel free to spread out in the parking lot or even participate in the service from your car.

Singing

- We will worship God together, but without singing out loud. Singing (even with a mask) is a higher-risk activity as it more forcefully expels respiratory droplets than speaking. And, the act of singing can put others in danger of infection.
- As you listen to our worship leaders sing on stage from a distance of at least 20 feet, try letting their words become your own as you welcome the Holy Spirit and offer him the worship within your heart.
- Again, we'd invite you to make not singing be a sacrificial act of worship to our Lord. But, if you must sing, please find a place in the parking lot that is at least 20 feet away from people not in the same household.

Communion and Offering

- There will be no common communion available or baskets passed for financial tithes and offerings.
- If we do communion, it will only be offered in pre-packaged, individualized cups.
- Offerings will be received online through our app or website.
- There will be stationary baskets that people can put their offering in if they do not wish to give online.

Ministry Time

- We will still pray for one another, but without "laying on of hands" (touch-free prayer) and keeping 6 feet of distance.
- To receive prayer, go to the lawn on the South side of the building. There will be markers to designate the 6 feet of social distancing.

Restrooms

- Restrooms will be open, but shared restrooms will be limited to two people at a time.
- We encourage everyone to regularly wash and/or sanitize their hands.
- Disinfectant will be available in the bathroom for personal use, if desired.

Children's & Youth Ministry

- This programming will not be offered on Sunday mornings in the beginning stage of re-opening.
- Activities will continue to be provided online for children, youth and families.
- Anyone under the age of 14 and able to move on their own must be accompanied by an adult and remain within six feet of their adult while at our facilities.

Employees & Volunteers

- This group of people will be screened as they arrive Sunday morning, with a temperature check and a personal health checklist, to ensure they have not experienced any known symptoms or have been in proximity to someone who tested positive to the virus within the last 14 days. Anyone experiencing a temperature or symptoms will be sent home.
- This group is also required to wear masks from the time they arrive to when they leave (except while speaking or singing from the stage).

If You Get COVID-19 After Attending Our In-Person Worship Service

- If you attend an in-person worship service and are later diagnosed with COVID-19, please call 218-525-3462 and let us know ASAP.
- While respecting your privacy, we want to inform others that they were exposed.

In Case of Bad Weather

- We may cancel the outdoor service due to bad weather. If the weather looks bad, we encourage you to check your email before leaving for the service on Sunday morning.
- If weather prevents you from attending our outdoor service, we encourage you to join us for the live stream, online worship service Saturdays at 6pm and Sundays at 9am and 11am or to watch the service on-demand at duluthvineyard.org.

If You Have Questions, Concerns or Complaints, We'd Love to Talk

- You can call us at 218-525-3462 or send an email to info@duluthvineyard.org
- For more information, our Duluth Vineyard COVID-19 Preparedness Plan is available on our website and posted within our facilities.
- We need everyone to take safety seriously. The MN Department of Health says that we shouldn't meet in-person "if adequate protective measures cannot be implemented." Really, we're just asking that we all love each other really well - like Jesus. Thank you!