

## **Duluth Vineyard COVID-19 Worship Service Protocol (Indoors)**

Updated August 26, 2020

### **Worshipping 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**

- Sundays at 9am and 11am will be our in-person worship services.
- 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 services to about 45 minutes so we can accommodate social distancing measures, shorten exposure, and provide adequate time to clean between services.

### **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 online worship service.
- Also, if you begin to feel unwell while at the service, you and everyone in your household should leave immediately. As soon as possible after you leave, please call 218-525-3462 and let us know why you left.
- If you have had exposure to someone with COVID-19, stay home and attend our online 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.

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## **Pre-Registration Required**

- If we have your contact information, you will receive an email with the registration form for the in-person worship services. Please fill out the form to reserve your spot.
- On Sunday, you can start registering for the next Sunday's services.
- Registration spaces will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis until each in-person worship service has reached social distancing capacity.
- To better accommodate social distancing, registration is limited to 200 people per service.
- 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. Other than a chair, 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 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.

## **When You Arrive (Entering & Exiting)**

- We will be enjoying no-touch greetings (the more joyful the better).
- Please keep 6 feet of distance between households as you approach and enter the building.
- Attendees will enter through the main entrance doors, one household at a time, and will be asked to proceed directly into the auditorium.
- The front doors and the auditorium doors will be propped open so no one will need to touch or come into contact with any surfaces.
- You will be asked to use hand sanitizer as you enter.
- Once the worship service is finished, greeters will direct attendees to separate exit doors in the back and on the side of the building. The exit door will remain propped as well so no contact is necessary.

## **Masks or Face Coverings**

- Wearing a mask or face covering over your nose and mouth will be a requirement for participation. Folks who are not wearing masks will not be allowed entrance to the building and will be asked (nicely) to leave if they remove their mask in any public space.
- 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".
- Children under 2 are not required to wear a mask.
- If for any reason you cannot wear a face covering, please participate in our online worship service.
- 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.

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- Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for maintaining a physical distance of 6-feet from other people.

## **Social Distancing**

- Everyone should maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from people not in the same household at all times.
- We will use colored tape on the floor to create aisles and direct traffic flow.
- Only members of the same household can sit together.
- The rows of chairs in the auditorium are at least 6 feet apart. Households need to sit with either an aisle or 3 empty chairs on both their left and right.
- For those who prefer not to touch anything the back row around the auditorium will be available as "standing room only", and will have markers to designate the 6 feet of social distancing.
- When chairs are used, a designated employee or volunteer will use disinfectant on each chair following the attendees' departure and before the next service begins.

## **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.

## **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 a stationary basket 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 Student Ministry room or (weather permitting) outside on the adjacent lawn. 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.
- Additionally, between each service all restroom surfaces will be disinfected (including all door handles).

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## **Children's & Youth Ministry**

- This programming will not be offered on Sunday mornings at this time.
- 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.
- We encourage parents/caregivers who do not want to bring their children to consider having one parent attend the 9am and the other attend the 11am service so you both can attend.

## **Employees & Volunteers**

- This group of people will be screened as they arrive Sunday morning, with a temperature check and a personal health checklist. Anyone experiencing a temperature or symptoms will be sent home.

## **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 may have been exposed.

## **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](mailto: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!