

## Grace Memorial Church - Wabasha, MN

Re-opening Plan

September, 2020

Grace Memorial will begin worship in-person in our worship space following the guidelines set forth below. Moving into this phase we will monitor both the state and Wabasha County positivity rates. As set forth by ECMN, we may worship in-person in our worship space indoors only if the state and county positivity rates are both at or below 5%.

Grace Memorial Faith Community is small in numbers with average Sunday attendance of 10. We are confident in our ability to maintain strict 6 foot social distance in our worship space with each person or family unit having their own pew with a pew between each other. We do not have a choir or multiple people serving on Sundays.

As we currently have one service each week on Sunday and currently no meetings held in our worship space, we are able to maintain a 7-day period of time when there will be no members in the church building. Our members bring their Books of Common Prayer with them each week. We will be able to provide Books of Common Prayer for guests if they need one and provide a 2 week time frame until it would be used again by a member.

### **Screening Procedures:**

Identifying persons with fever of 100.4 (38.0 C) and above –or- other signs of illness.

Self-Screening BEFORE coming to Grace Memorial: Before attending services or events at Grace Memorial, all staff, identified leaders, and volunteers are required to do a self-administered health screening.

People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combination of symptoms may have COVID-19. Staff, identified leaders, and volunteers will stay home if they exhibit any signs that may be related to Covid-19, such as follows:

- Cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Or at least two of these symptoms:
  - Chills
  - Fever
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Diarrhea

\*If ANY of the above symptoms are present and undiagnosed, you may not gather at Grace Memorial. If you experience any of these symptoms while gathering at Grace Memorial, please report them immediately to one of our Clergy or vestry members and return home at once.

If you have any of these emergency warning signs\* for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately:

- Trouble breathing

- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

\*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

**Screening process UPON ARRIVAL:**

When people arrive at Grace Memorial, they will maintain required social distancing as they enter the building. Faith community members will be asked to sign in to confirm they have none of the above symptoms, and to track those who have been in the church building. As masks are required to move throughout the building, if the member does not have a mask, one will be provided.

**Communication of Positive Case:**

If clergy/staff and/or a faith community member receives a positive COVID-19 test, those who had been in contact with that person at worship will be contacted to inform them that they were exposed to a person with a positive COVID-19 test result. The contact tracing form will be used to identify those who had been in contact.

Grace Memorial has no full-time staff and fewer than 12 people on any average Sunday attending our outdoor and indoor services. Being able to contact those who were in attendance will be done with little to no problems.

**Best Practices for Personal Health Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

Recommendations of the CDC and MDH indicate that use of masks may reduce the spread of Covid 19.

- Wear masks at all times when moving throughout the church building and when gathering in locations where proper physical distancing is difficult.
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth while wearing cloth masks to prevent potential contamination.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before putting on the mask.
- Remove the mask carefully and wash your hands thoroughly after removing.
- Wash the mask after each use, when appropriate.
- Wearing cloth masks does not replace the need to continue frequent hand washing, avoid touching the face, and practicing social distancing, which remain our best tools to help prevent the spread of illness.

**Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting Grace Memorial Church:**

Staff and designated contractors will follow cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting recommendations outlined by the CDC and MDH guidelines for cleaning during Covid-19.

General recommendations:

- Wear disposable gloves to clean and disinfect.
- Clean surfaces using soap and water, then use disinfectant.
- Cleaning with soap and water reduces the number of germs, dirt and impurities on the surface.
- Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
  - More frequent cleaning and disinfection may be required relative to facility use.
  - High touch surfaces include: Tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.

**Hard Surfaces:**

Recommend use of EPA-registered household disinfectant. Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product.

**Soft Surfaces:**

For soft surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, launder items (if possible) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.

**Electronics:**

For electronics, such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, copy machines, consider putting a wipeable cover on electronics. Follow manufacturer's instruction for cleaning and disinfecting. If no guidance, use alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol. Dry surfaces thoroughly.

**Disinfecting Wood Pews and Wooden Church Surfaces**

1. Fill a spray bottle with 2 cups water, 1 cup white vinegar and about five drops dish soap. The vinegar disinfects and the dish soap works as an added cleaning element.
2. Spray the solution onto the wood areas and wipe off with a damp cleaning rag. Using a damp rag removes traces of the vinegar and soap. Continue across the wood section until the area is cleaned and disinfected.
3. Wipe the furniture with a dry-cleaning rag to remove any excess moisture. Be sure to dispose of any rags and cleaning materials.

**Building Closure for Clergy and/or Staff Illness & Deep Cleaning If a COVID-19 case (or cases) is confirmed in a guest:**

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
- Open outside doors to increase air circulation in the areas.
- Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before you clean or disinfect to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas.
- If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
- Continue routine cleaning and disinfection until the site is re-opened according to MDH recommendations.

**Clergy and/or Staff Returning to Work**

**COVID-19 Positive, Symptomatic:** those who have home isolated under these circumstances may leave home under the following conditions:

- If you have NOT had a test to determine if you are still contagious, you can leave home after these three things have happened:
  - You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers);
  - Other symptoms have improved; and
  - At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.
- If you have had a test to determine if you are still contagious, you can leave home after:
  - You received two negative tests in a row, at least 24 hours apart. Your doctor will follow CDC guidelines.

**COVID-19 Positive, Asymptomatic:** those who have home isolated under these circumstances may leave home under the following conditions:

- If you have NOT had a test to determine if you are still contagious, you can leave home after these two things have happened:

- At least 10 days have passed since the date of your first positive test AND you continue to have no symptoms (no cough or shortness of breath) since the test.
- If you have had a test to determine if you are still contagious, you can leave home after:
  - You received two negative tests in a row, at least 24 hours apart. Your doctor will follow CDC guidelines.

**NOTE:**

In all cases, follow the guidance of your doctor and local health department. The decision to stop home isolation should be made in consultation with your healthcare provider and state and local health departments. Some people, for example those with conditions that weaken their immune system, might continue to shed virus even after they recover.

For any additional questions about your symptoms or care, staff, identified leaders, volunteers, and their families are advised to contact your healthcare provider or state or local health department.

**Phase II Worship**

1. Worship leaders and participants are expected to wear facemasks or cloth coverings when moving throughout the church building
2. All guests will maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance between on another
3. The Priests will vest in the Clergy Sacristy, as well as anyone else whose vestments are stored there.
4. At no time will more than TWO people be in the Clergy Sacristy
5. The Priest and the Deacon will sit on opposite sides of the Sanctuary
6. The Preacher will preach from the pulpit
7. There will be no touching or physical contact when sharing the peace or entering and exiting the building.
8. While both Bread & Wine will be consecrated at the Eucharist, only Bread will be distributed, and will be distributed exclusively by the Presider into open palms
9. The Presider will visibly disinfect hands at the Offertory AND immediately prior to distributing the Bread
10. All worship leaders and faith community members will leave the building promptly after the liturgy's conclusion.
11. All spaces in the church may be used. The sanctuary and sacristy will be in use on a regular basis on Sundays with the basement and kitchen used infrequently as we won't be gathering after services for coffee. The only restroom is in the basement area.

**The Rev. Timothy M. Kingsley, Canon Pastor of the Cathedral in Minneapolis stated it best in the Cathedral's plan on how we approach this reality we find ourselves in.**

"This will be a season that requires establishing and committing to a new covenant for each of our communities as we gather again in person. It is critical that clergy, parish leaders and community members all commit to a covenant that will demonstrate Christian love and care and provide for the health and safety of every person. As a community, we covenant to abide and hold each other accountable to these selfless actions:

- We will honestly self-assess our health condition prior to travelling to Grace Memorial.
- We will wash our hands carefully and completely.
- We will enter our spaces with care and intention.
- We will keep the recommended safe distance from others.
- We will wear masks.
- If we test positive, we will not enter upon the church property for any reason and will disclose our test result to our clergy or vestry member(s) so the church can provide assistance with quarantine, medical attention and take steps for the safety of the community.

- If a member of our household or family tests positive, or if we believe that we have been exposed to the virus, we will not enter upon the church property for any reason for at least 14 days, and only then after we have self-assessed.
- We will assist with compassionate contact tracing.

For us as Christians, washing hands and wearing masks become acts of care and devotion. Our masks provide only limited protection to us, but much protection to others if we are unknowing asymptomatic carriers. In doing this, we are required to acknowledge two truths. First, that we live in community and Jesus commands love for our neighbor, sometimes above ourselves. Second, that we are not invincible nor invulnerable to transmission. We are, in very practical terms, each other's keeper. As we consider how we will gather together in person again, we realize our gathering will necessarily look different than it did before this season of pandemic. We now must remember and take care to protect every person present as well as everyone with whom they will have contact. There is no shame when we act from selfless love. We will do this out of the abundance of our Christian love and service as we commit ourselves to this community covenant."

Source: The Rev. Timothy M. Kingsley, Canon Pastor