

Our Savior's Safer Plan

Based on the "Make it Safer" Option from the Wisconsin Council of Churches
Holding Our Plans Loosely: Returning to Church 2.0

You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: Love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour each other, be careful that you don't get eaten up by each other!

...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified self with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:13-15, 22-24 (CEB)

Guiding Priorities:

- "Serving God, God's People, and Our Community" by making choices that protect people who are the most vulnerable as a witness to the Gospel.
- Creatively adapting our methods and practices as we continue to be a vibrant community of service, prayer, faith formation, witness, and worship.
- Flexibility and commitment to Our Savior's as our home congregation.
- Use of the best current information for decision making. Decision-making authority rests with the PPC.

Three metrics to meet before any gathering in person:

- Staff access to vaccines
- St. Louis County adult vaccination rates 50% or more
- Viral Transmission in St. Louis County
 - Cases 5-10/100,000 in Duluth Area
 - Positive Tests <10%

When gathering is possible:

- Face mask mandatory
- Physical distancing
- Low-touch environment
- Outdoors or increased air exchange
- Shortened time of service
- Singing by worship leaders only
- Focus on sanitizing high-touch surfaces
- Sign-in/ attendance list

Specific Activity Mitigation:

Singing:

- Masked, 6-10 foot distance, outdoors, leader instead of assembly (communal singing one of last things to be re-introduced)

No Indoor Fellowship (Eating/Drinking)

Holy Communion:

- Prepackaged in pews or picked up on way in

Home & Care Facility Visits:

- Mask and face shield
- sanitize hands
- limit 1 visit/day
- change clothes after visit

When COVID numbers look like... We'll...

Hold each phase at least 2 weeks

Vaccinations¹ <50% of adult population

- *Encourage vaccination*
- *Encourage the staff to flex work for safety*

Vaccinations >50% of adult population AND fewer than 25 cases/100K

- *Re-evaluate phasing plan*
- *Update the congregation*

Vaccinations >50% of adult population AND fewer than 10 cases/100K

- *Re-open the church for visitors and small groups (masks & distancing required)*
- *Set up the property and procedures for in-person worship*
- *Offer parking lot worship*
- *Update the congregation*

Vaccinations >50% of adult population AND fewer than 7 cases/100K

- *Resume worship in the sanctuary*

Vaccinations >50% of adult population AND fewer than 5 cases/100K

- *Resume coffee hour in fellowship hall*

Vaccinations >70% of adult population AND fewer than 5 cases/100K

- *Resume community meal in fellowship hall*

Data will determine stage change

Resources for current data:

Vaccine Distribution Data: <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/data/index.jsp> (using estimate of 160,000 adults in St. Louis County)

St. Louis County, MN COVID-19 Dashboard (*Schools* tab select “Duluth area” for cases per 100k; *Testing Data* tab for current positivity rate) <https://gis.stlouis-countymn.gov/portal/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=bf15f2cdf9454c93b8d-c9013aca76a5b>

¹ Completed vaccine series