

REVISED COVID POLICY
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLOVER
NOVEMBER 14, 2022

The Covid Task Force and Church Council of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church have adopted the following revised Covid 19 policies.

Revised Policy:

- **Masks Optional.** All Church services, meetings, meals, events, and gatherings at the Church will be mask optional (affirmed, but not required).
- **Communion.** We will continue communion distribution around the table (coming forward to receive the elements); and also continue to offer communion kits to those who wish to use them for health/safety reasons, and we intentionally affirm their use.
- **Singing.** Our Church Choir, Sunday School children, the Congregation, and others would be permitted to sing without masks or masks optional at any service.
- **Collection Plate and Contact Activities.** We will not yet pass the collection plate and will gently discourage handshakes during the greeting, along with other compulsory contact (while Covid is still a significant concern and during flu season) until sometime in the future when the Task Force and Church Council are comfortable making a change.
- **Other Contact Activities and Options Offered.** For other high contact activities (such as applying the ashes on Ash Wednesday or anointing for healing), the Congregation will be offered a choice to receive them from the pastor or to self/family administer them at their pews.
- **Communion Recordkeeping.** ELCA churches are required to maintain records regarding communion. Prior to Covid-19 we passed a clipboard from person-to-person for those in attendance receiving communion and to acknowledge visitors, for them to print their name and then pass the sheet to others in their pew row. Because of the pandemic, we switched to a sign-up in the welcome area for (a) communion recordkeeping requirements, (b) to be able to send welcome information to visitors, (c) to encourage our community members to keep their contact information up to date with our church office, and (d) for contact tracing. We are no longer required to maintain contact tracing records. We will continue with sign in at the Welcome Table as we have been for a few more weeks while our staff switches to a new system to be in place by mid-December.
- **Meals.** We will still observe caution with respect to potlucks and serving food. Information will be provided prior to in-person meals regarding applicable

precautions and safety protocols, depending on many factors such as the number of participants expected, Covid-19 active cases, and input from those hosting the meal.

- **Future Modifications Depending on Changing Circumstances.** Our Covid-19 policies continue to be subject to modifications depending on circumstances as they develop, such as a new surge, the spread of a more virulent strain, recommendations from health professionals, and guidance from the CDC and other government agencies.

Self-Screening. Members should continue to self-screen and assess their health status. We encourage all participants of in-person Good Shepherd activities to perform a self-screening. If a participant answers yes to any of the following questions, please follow CDC guidelines and participate in the meeting or activity through a virtual or phone service, if available, or for a worship service please join our livestream on Facebook or YouTube. Please ask yourself (a) do you have any Covid symptoms, (b) have you been in close contact with anyone who has or recently had Covid or Covid-like symptoms, (c) did you have had a recent positive Covid test, or are you awaiting results of a covid test, and (d) did a public health or medical professional tell you to self-isolate or self-quarantine because of concerns about Covid-19? This screening is based upon a concern for your health and the health of others.

Philippians 2:4

⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.