



 Pastor Joe Naumann

 (920) 266 5386



 Joe.Naumann@ImmanuelMankato.org

 Pastor Neal Radichel

 (920) 268-8002

 Neal.Radichel@ImmanuelMankato.org

 immanuelmankato.org

 421 North Second Street Mankato, MN 56001  (507) 345-3027

Saturday, June 20, 2020

Immanuel Reopening Policy

General Information

Please be aware that all of the following policies being implemented are risk reduction only. There is still a chance that COVID-19 may be spread as a result of attending in-person services.

The church and school have been deep cleaned and sanitized and will be cleaned on a regular schedule moving forward (between services, etc.). Sanitation and cleaning efforts include but are not limited to:

- Wiping down and spraying all pews and contact surfaces
- Sanitizing doors, pulls, knobs, and common areas
- Sanitizing restrooms, handrails, light switches, etc.

We will continue with live-streaming and recording of services.

If anyone does not feel comfortable attending in-person services, please feel free to remain home and connect via our live-streamed service.

The boards of Deacons and Property have established our maximum capacity in accordance state guidelines. Our current maximum capacity is 250.

- There will be 2 separate services.
 - Saturday evening at 6PM
 - Sunday morning at 10AM

Congregants and service volunteers should stay home if they or any member of their household have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pains, sore throat, or loss of taste/smell, as well as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

If a participant begins to feel unwell while within the facility, they should depart immediately. If assistance is needed, please contact a Deacon or usher.

All hymnals and supplements have been removed from the pews, as they cannot be effectively cleaned. All service information will be found in the bulletin and on the screen.

Outside food and beverages are prohibited, including disposable and reusable water bottles and coffee cups.

Congregants are encouraged to exit the building and depart directly following each service.

Participants from separate households should NOT interact from closer than 6 feet before, during, or after services.

Hand sanitizer stations will be provided at doors and other key locations.

Before & Between Services

The board of deacons asks that all attendees wear a mask or face covering.

- Masks may be provided upon request if one is needed.
- Masks must remain on except briefly while receiving communion.
- Small children under two years of age have the option to forgo wearing a mask.
- If you have a specific medical circumstance which does not allow a face mask to be worn, please reach out to the pastors or deacons to discuss options before attending any services.
- If you have reservations about wearing a mask, please reach out to the pastors or deacons before attending any services.

Doors will be propped open to allow touch-free entry.

Please be conscious of social distancing and prevent congestion at doorways. Allow ample time to arrive before the service.

Please be aware that under health guidelines, we have limited occupancy. A survey/registration for services will be sent out to limit the risk of “overbooking.”

If you arrive to a service after maximum capacity is reached, you will be invited to attend a service at another time.

A basic health screening page will be posted at all entrances. Please review it when you enter.

Ushers will not distribute bulletins. They will be found in the pew or in the narthex and should be disposed of or taken home after use. They should not be returned for reuse.

During Services & After Service

As a stipulation to reopen, health guidelines require that 6 feet of social distancing must be maintained between family groups.

Pastors will not physically greet congregants before or after the service.

Parents are asked to accompany children to use the restrooms or when leaving the sanctuary.

No outside food or beverages may be brought into the building.

Water fountains will be blocked in accordance with health guidelines.

After receiving quite a bit of feedback, we have decided that singing will be allowed. Notices will be put on the doors that singing will be taking place, along with the following warning from the MNDH:

“And Jesus died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” (2 Corinthians 5:15)

- *"Singing is a higher-risk activity as it more forcefully expels respiratory droplets than speaking. And the act of singing may contribute to transmission of COVID-19, possibly through emission of aerosols" (Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening: Faith-based communities, places of worship, weddings, and funerals - page 6, point 10).*
- So that we can continue this practice of safe singing, it is especially important that everyone continue to wear masks and practice social distancing.
- Singing forcibly expels breath and particles from the mouth and can force through most masks and cloth face coverings. This poses a significant health risk, even while wearing a mask.
- The deacons and pastors are intently exploring alternatives until such a time as we can safely join together in song.

The offering plate will not be passed.

- Plates to receive offerings will be posted in the narthex prior to the service.
- You may place offerings in the plates as you enter or as you depart. They will be monitored by the deacon(s).

Communion

We will continue to utilize communion packets to maintain best safe practice, and commune as one table from the pews.

Consumption of food/beverages outside of those required for communion is prohibited.

These policies and changes have been evaluated at length by the deacons and the pastors.

These decisions are based on the best health information available state and federal guidelines, and input from our members.

When new information comes to light, we will revise these policies to best attend to the spiritual and physical well-being of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Deacons,

Logan Wendt, Chairman