

Ascension Lutheran Church
Shelby, NC

Policy and Procedures

Subject: Outdoor Communion Services

Effective Date: 08/1/2020

Issued by: Congregation Council

Date: 7/15/2020

PRECAUTIONS

We will not be screening employees or visitors, but we encourage everyone to be aware of COVID-19 symptoms and the chance that you could be asymptomatic.

COVID-19 Symptoms:

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Or at least two of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

If you think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider immediately. Most people have mild illness and are able to recover at home. If you have been at church and you become sick, please notify Pastor Christina. She will work with local health officials to follow up on next steps. Individual names will not be released to the congregation.

PARTICIPATION

Anyone experiencing symptoms named above is requested to stay home. Vulnerable populations or anyone afraid to come to worship also are encouraged to stay home from in-person worship and continue participating in remote worship via Zoom or Facebook Live. The video recording is also shared on YouTube and the audio recording is archived on FreeConferenceCall; both are also available on the website.

When we have outdoor communion services, a “sending of home communion” will be included in the streamed service so that you may commune at home if you cannot participate in person.

“Vulnerable Individuals” are defined as people over 65 years of age, people with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, or asthma, and people whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring such therapy.

WEATHER and COMFORT

If it is raining thirty minutes before the communion service, the communion service will not be held.

Please prepare for the heat especially because we will be on the pavement. Please consider bringing a hat or umbrella, sunscreen, and your own water.

The buildings will remain closed. That includes the bathrooms and water fountains.

SOCIAL DISTANCE and MASKS

We will be in the parking lot behind the education building using the parking spaces to socially distance.

Handshakes, hugs, and close contact with others outside your household are discouraged.

Masks, worn over your mouth and nose, are required but may be removed to receive the elements. If you have a medical reason not to wear a mask, please let Pastor Christina know so we can accommodate your safety and those of the others who are gathered. Extra masks will be available.

PARKING

Please enter from Lafayette Street to park, or park on the street. The Marietta Street entrance will be closed.

SEATING

Please bring your own chairs or blanket to sit on the ground.

WORSHIP

Please print your own bulletin or use your mobile device to follow the service. If you do not have access to a printer or a mobile device, please let Pastor Christina know before Thursday.

We will not have music at these communion services.

Hand sanitizer will be available.

Elements will be pre-packaged for the participants and on a table. Please use the hand sanitizer, keep social distance and pick up the elements for you and your household before the service begins.