



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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Progressive in Approach: Christlike in Action!

Public Health Protocol March 4, 2020

With the news of Covid-19's arrival in Newmarket, we have upgraded our Public Health Protocol so as to ensure that we at Holy Cross are doing what we can to limit the spread of the virus. Holy Cross Members and Friends will do our best to function as a family during this time, prioritizing the health and welfare of our Members, Friends and visitors. Updated Information will be posted on our website www.holycrosslutheran.ca

Worship Services: Unless or until we are advised by York Region Public Health to suspend public events, Sunday Gatherings will continue. Other events and activities will be evaluated on a case by case basis so please check our website for updates.

Attendance: If you are unwell, please stay home. Feel free to contact **Pastor Dawn** if you would like a visit or simply need information about our Holy Cross Family (text or call **905-868-0897**, or email dawnhutchings@me.com).

Sunday Gatherings will continue to be recorded and videos will be posted on our website.

Our Care Team will be coordinating volunteers to assist Members and Friends who have been advised to self-quarantine with shopping for essential items.

Hospitality: Welcoming people into our building is both a pleasure and a responsibility. Working together, we can help to limit the spread of viruses.

Hand Sanitizers are available as you enter the building. Please sanitize your hands before coming upstairs. Hand Sanitizers are located in the sanctuary and should be used frequently.

Hand Washing: soap, hot water, and time are necessary in order to ensure that your hands are washed correctly. Please wash your hands! Hands must be washed before putting on gloves to help in the Kitchenette.

Cleaning: All hard surfaces will be wiped down with disinfectant wipes prior to every public event. Disinfectant wipes are available in every washroom and users are encouraged to wipe down surfaces before leaving the washroom. PLEASE NOTE: all tables must be wiped down with disinfectant prior to each public event, this includes TV trays. DO NOT USE the plastic tablecloths as we cannot ensure that they are put away dry.

Volunteers who are both cleaning and preparing or serving food should change gloves after cleaning and before serving food.

Kitchenette: only those volunteers who are wearing gloves are permitted to be in the Kitchenette. Those assisting or serving at the table must wear gloves. Hands must be washed thoroughly before putting on gloves. Gloves can only be worn once and must be disposed of in the garbage bin in the Kitchenette immediately after removal. Do not leave used gloves lying around!

Dishwashing: ALL dishes/cutlery **MUST** be cleaned in the dishwasher (no washing by hand), this includes dishes/cutlery etc. which has been set out but not used. Coffee and tea pots must be washed with **HOT** soapy water.

WORSHIP: Sunday Gatherings will continue unless or until York Region Public Health instructs us to cancel.

If you are unwell, please stay home. Please let us know when you are unwell. It is important for us to take care of one another and this includes letting one another know how we are doing.

Depending on how the virus runs its course, Council will monitor attendance and make plans accordingly. Live-streaming services is one possibility Council is considering.

Hand Sanitizers: are available in the sanctuary and worshippers are encouraged to use them as often as necessary.

Passing the Peace: As media reports continue to increase levels of anxiety, it is prudent for us to change the way we pass the peace. For the immediate future we will not shake hands or embrace during the peace. Please greet one another with a bow. Consider placing your hands together in the prayer position or placing a hand on your heart before bowing. As soon as we are able, we shall happily return to our joyful embraces!

Communion: Working together we can continue to safely partake of Christ's table.

Slow down and take care. Pastor, Worship Assistants, Communion Assistants and everyone partaking of communion will need to slow down and take deliberate care. Hands **MUST** be sanitized after the peace and before giving or receiving the elements.

Altar Team: volunteers will wash their hands and put on gloves before setting up and cleaning up after communion.

Worship and Communion Assistants will need to arrive early and meet with Pastor Dawn before each worship service so that best practices can be reviewed.

Receiving the Bread: please allow the Pastor to place the bread on your opened palm. Do not clasp the Pastor's hand.

Common Cup: we will continue to offer the common cup. Council will continue to monitor the advice of Public Health and Synodical offices with regard to the possible suspension of the use of the common cup. In the meantime:

Intinction is NOT PERMITTED. The practice of intinction, dipping bread into the wine chalice exposes the wine to fingers which are far more efficient at transporting germs than our lips. Worship Assistants will carefully wipe the brim of the cup after each person has sipped. This includes: (1) wiping the chalice on the inside of the rim as well as on the outside, (2) opening the purificator to its full size so that a clean part of the purificator is used for each communicant (it will be necessary for the minister to use more than one purificator) and (3) wiping the chalice so that the next communicant does not drink out of the same place on the cup. Purificators will be liberally used and used purificators will be placed in the basket assigned for this. In addition, the chalice will be replaced after the brim has been circled.

Individual Cups: cups will be placed in trays leaving lots of space between cups.

Receiving in one kind: Lutheran tradition provides the option of receiving only the bread. It is perfectly acceptable to participate fully in communion by receiving one of the elements.

Offerings: If you are ill, we need you to stay home. However, we are a family and like all families our responsibilities continue to require our attention. Please, consider signing up for the PAR Program (Pre-Authorized Remittances) to ensure that together we can continue to pay our bills. PAR forms are available from the ushers. Offerings can also be made on-line. Follow this link to our donation page: **CANADA HELPS** click on the link below:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/131691727RR0001-holy-cross-lutheran-church/>
THANK-YOU!

Remember: our priority is the good health of the Holy Cross family and meeting our responsibilities as a family to do whatever we can do to help the wider community during the course of this epidemic.

Volunteers: If you are able to volunteer to help the Care Team, or with cleaning and preparation please email holycrosslutheran@rogers.com and help us be LOVE!

Our Prayers: We pray not to a far-off distant sky-god. We pray trusting that the ONE in whom we live and move and have our being lives and breathes in, with, through, and beyond us. It is the power of our prayers working in, with, through, and beyond us which will bring comfort and healing to us all. May the LOVE who IS God continue to embrace us, heal us, and empower us to be LOVE in the world! Amen.