



# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

1035 Wayne Drive  
Newmarket, On. L3Y 2W9  
905-898-1682

**Progressive in Approach: Christlike in Action!**

## **Public Health Protocol** **UPDATED:** March 13, 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](http://www.holycrosslutheran.ca)

**Worship Services:** All our gatherings are classified as "small" – under 50 people. 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.** Please let us know if you are ill. We are stepping up the monitoring of voicemail to the Church phone: 905-898-1682. Let us know if you are ill and your name will be added to the CARE Team's list so that we can check in with you from time to time. 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](mailto: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. Call the Church 905-898-1682 and let us know if you are self-quarantining, or if you are ill.

**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** a sanitizer is available as you enter the building. **Please sanitize your hands before coming upstairs.** Two Hand Sanitizers are located on the west-wall of 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 in the Accessibility Washroom before putting on gloves to help in the Kitchenette. Please do not use the kitchenette for handwashing!

**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. Do not use cloth hand-towels to dry items. If necessary, paper-towels may be used (from the box near the sink), however, air-drying is best.

**WORSHIP:** At the moment Public Health officials are issuing guidance against “mass” gatherings of 1,000 people and defining “large” gatherings as those in excess of 250 people. As our gatherings do not exceed these numbers, 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 located on the west-wall of the sanctuary and worshippers are encouraged to use them as often as necessary.

**Offering plates** will not be passed around by worshippers. Ushers will circulate the offering plates.

**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.

**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.

**Common Cup:** **we will no longer be offering the common cup!** We shall use the common cup as a symbol of our unity in Christ. But we will not be offering the cup to one another. We shall happily return to the common cup when we celebrate the end of the current crisis

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

**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](mailto: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.