



# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

*Plan for gradual opening of physical facility throughout Shawnee County's Safer at Home Order*

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” 1 John 4:7

Gracious God, help us to fulfill your will as we move forward in these times. Above all, may all that we do be done out of love for you and our neighbor. Guide us in all our plans and give us what we'll need to stay safe and take care of one another. We ask for all these things in your Son's name.

Amen.

## Phase 1: Gatherings of 10 or fewer with social distancing

1. Our Savior's building is open during operational hours for 10 or fewer people. Pastor Jim has discretion to determine operational hours.
2. The secretary continues working either at the church building or at home. Place and time(s) is at the discretion of Pastor Jim as authorized by the council.
3. No adult or youth groups are to meet at the church including Bible studies, council meetings, committee meetings, and fellowship gatherings. If groups choose to meet outside of the church building, it is highly encouraged to meet through online meeting spaces like Zoom or in groups of fewer than 10 only if social distancing can be maintained.
4. Appointments may be made with Pastor Jim.
5. Online worship services will continue and can be found at the OSLC's [YouTube channel](#) and on its Facebook Page.

**Phase 2: Gatherings of 30 or fewer with social distancing. This Phase will take place when Shawnee County adopts it.**

1. All Phase 1 precautions will continue with this following exception
2. Online worship service could include the addition of worship volunteers.

**Phase 3: Gatherings of 90 or fewer with social distancing. This Phase will take place when Shawnee County adopts it.**

1. Building considerations
  - a. The church will be deep cleaned (surfaces disinfected) prior to the first worship services in phase 3.
  - b. Inside doors, especially to the Worship Center, will be propped open excluding restrooms so they do not need to be touched. Ushers will stand at the 3 main entrance doors to open them as worshippers enter and greet them honoring social distancing.
  - c. Hand sanitizer will be placed throughout the building including key areas in the worship center.
  - d. Pew chairs will be placed in rows six feet apart. The hymnal holders and hymnals will be removed so individuals can adjust chairs side to side to maintain 6 feet distance between non family members.
  - e. 6 feet distance will be marked on the floor of the center aisle in the Worship Center to assist worshippers in maintaining 6 feet distance between non family members.
  - f. Restrooms and other necessary surfaces will be wiped down prior to each service.
  - g. The Prayground will be removed from the worship service during this time. Nursery will be closed. All other rooms in the church will be closed except for two restrooms in the main hall.
  - h. The fellowship hall will store the extra chairs. Round tables will be taken down to accommodate additional seating, in case it is needed. The Fellowship Hall is closed.
2. Worship Considerations
  - a. In person worship will begin.
  - b. Online worship services will continue.
  - c. All vulnerable worshippers will be encouraged to continue to participate in worship online and avoid coming to the church building.
  - d. Worshippers will be encouraged to wear masks. Masks will be made available and

- washed after each use.
- e. Worshippers will be advised to avoid shaking hands or moving around the Worship Center.
    - i. We will not use Greeters during this time.
    - ii. During the sharing of the peace, we will bow or wave to other worshippers while remaining in the same location.
    - iii. At the conclusion of the service, Pastor will stand in the concourse 6 feet away from the Worship Center doors to verbally greet worshippers.
    - iv. Worshippers will exit the building after greeting Pastor.
  - f. Bulletins will be placed on chairs to avoid multiple people handling them.
  - g. The offering plates will be placed on a table for worshippers to place their offerings prior to receiving communion. Online giving is highly encouraged.
  - h. Choir and Bells will return next fall. This is consistent with past practices. New Dimensions would continue.
  - i. At the end of service the ushers will release rows to assist in maintaining a 6 foot distance between non family members while exiting the Worship Center.
  - j. Encourage everyone to complete the attendance sheets so if we needed to participate in contact tracing we could. They will be put in the offering plate.
3. Altar Guild considerations
- a. Individual cups will be used for communion and placed in every other space in the tray even if both the brass and silver trays need to be used. The cups will be disposed of after each service.
  - b. Parents are encouraged to pick up the cup for younger children who might accidentally touch other cups.
  - c. Wafers will be used for communion. After sanitizing his hands, Pastor will drop the wafer in the worshippers hands.
  - d. Communion preparers wash their hand thoroughly prior to preparing communion. Washing is twice as effective as hand sanitizer.
  - e. Pastor will consecrate the elements without touching them.
  - f. Those taking communion will maintain a 6 foot distance between non family members when going to/from the altar. Pastor will stand in one place along with the communion assistant(s) and worshippers will approach Pastor.
  - g. Water will not be placed in the Baptismal Font.
4. Fellowship Considerations
- a. Fellowship activities will be suspended until the end of Phase 3. Confirmation will be planned for next fall.
  - b. Food activities, including Coffee Hour, are highly discouraged. If food is shared, packaged food is recommended.

## Communication Plan

1. This gradual opening plan will be shared in the Mid-Week, Dialog, and posted in the church.
2. Signs will be posted in areas that are closed during Phase 3.
3. Pastor will offer reminders at the beginning of services.
4. Online Services will continue throughout Phase 3. Continuing online services will be evaluated by the worship committee, technology committee, and council as we move forward.

**This Plan Is Subject To Change.**