



“Stepping Back into Bethel” – Revised Protocols (March 7, 2022)

Summary

Bethel continues to worship and fellowship with guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Bethel will follow specific guidance from the CDC’s “Covid 19 County Check” to determine best practices at any given time. Bethel is located in Ramsey County, Minnesota. That dashboard can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Continuing to operate in a spirit of love and concern for our neighbors’ well-being, we amend our previous operational protocols to be as follows:

Worship ~ Seating

There are no longer any capacity limits (indoors or outdoors) for houses of worship.

The MDH recommends attendees from different households maintain social distance.

Worship ~ Masking

Per CDC guidance: “Wear a mask based on your personal preference, informed by your personal level of risk.”

(source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/gatherings.html>)

Attendance at Worship , Gatherings & Christian Education Programs

- 1) ***Self-Check for Illness...*** please stay home/do not attend if you are displaying signs of illness (including symptoms like: fever [> 100.4 F], cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).
- 2) ***At-Risk Persons...*** for those with pre-existing health conditions and/or in certain age groups - know the risks and choose wisely as to whether to attend. As always, Sunday services will continue to be provided via 2or3 Worship Media.
- 3) ***Coffee, Refreshments & Fellowship Meals...*** those wishing to provide coffee, refreshments and/or fellowship meals for Bethel events are welcome to do so.

Following the spirit of the Apostle Paul's counsel in 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, those wishing to provide these services will:

...sanitize their hands before and during food preparation and distribution;

...wear food service gloves when handling food items;

...and will remain masked during preparation and distribution of food and beverage services.

During Worship & Gatherings

- 1) ***Air Flow...*** weather permitting, windows will remain open to allow for proper air circulation. Please do not close windows without first consulting with staff.
- 2) ***Offering...*** will continue to be received via plates available as you enter the Sanctuary.

Celebration & Reception of Holy Communion

Following the spirit of the Apostle Paul's counsel in 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Bethel's pastoral and lay worship leaders will do everything possible to accommodate the needs of Bethel worship attendees. In that spirit, we will continue the following:

- 1) ***Pre-Sacrament Preparation...***the Presiding Pastor and lay Communion assistants will continue their practice of sanitizing hands and wearing individual masks for distribution.

- 2) ***Reception of Elements...***worshippers will continue having the option of receiving the elements via:
 - a) ...Intinction (i.e., the bread dipped into the wine and together dropped into hand), OR;
 - b) ...Individual Elements (i.e., reception of bread followed by selection of individual cup).

Tenants of Bethel

Those organizations renting space from Bethel will be provided with a copy of these protocols.

Posting & Review

Bethel members will be advised of these revised protocols.

A revised version of this document will then be posted around Bethel's building.

Protocol Review

Bethel elected leaders and Senior Pastor will continue to regularly review these protocols along with MDH and/or CDC guidance for amendment and implementation.