



DETROIT LAKES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*We are a missionary force of Christians
offering the care and compassion of Christ to all,
meeting you wherever you are on life's journey.*

Dear Church Family,

Many of you have probably heard that we are now in the Orange Phase according to the Annual Conference of United Methodist Churches. This means that we can now restart in-person worship at DLUMC! Our first in-person worship services will be Imposition of Ashes services on Wednesday, February 17th, with one service at 12:15pm & another at 6:15pm. On Sunday, February 21st, we will come together for our first regular Sunday morning services at 8:15 & 10:15am, and on Wednesday, February 24th, we will have our first regular TGIW service at 6:15pm (Wednesdays will consist of *worship only*— we will not be offering a dinner before or any small groups after for now). All services will be held in the Sanctuary, as that room is the only space in the church that has a proper air-exchange system. Conference guidelines allow us a maximum of 50 people per service. Because of the limited seating, we ask that you please RSVP to the service you plan to attend each week. This can be done by contacting Beth in the church office either by phone (Monday– Friday between the hours of 8:30am & 2:30pm) at 218-847-4818 or by emailing her at secretary@dlumc.org. You will have to contact her *every week* that you plan to attend. RSVPs for Sundays can begin the Monday before (RSVP for the 21st starting on Feb. 15th) and for Wednesdays, you can call your RSVP in beginning on the Thursday before (RSVP for the 24th starting on Feb 18th). If you have already RSVP'd for a service and have a change in plans or are not feeling well, please let Beth know to take you off the list so that room will open up for others.

Obviously, going back into the church will not work in the same way as it did pre-Covid. Much thought & careful planning has gone into the following guidelines in order that everyone who enters DLUMC on Sunday mornings can feel safe & comfortable doing so. We ask that you carefully read & commit to following these guidelines. Review them often. If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please contact the church office. These guidelines will be posted on our website and there will be printed copies available at the church in case you lose this set. Please remember, worship will continue to be available for viewing online!

The DLUMC staff & leadership appreciates your compliance & cooperation as we work our way through this unusual situation.

Guidelines for attending in-person worship at DLUMC

- If you are sick or have had exposure to Covid-19 you need to stay home.
- If you have any symptoms of Covid-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste and/or smell), you need to stay home.
- If you are part of an at-risk population (over age 65 and/or with underlying health conditions), we strongly urge you to stay home.
- When you arrive at the church, please enter using the *south door* (the side door with the hallway that passes by the Fireside Room & Kitchen). You will be greeted there and given further instructions on entering the church.
- Masks are required to be worn at all times, **over the nose & mouth**, while in the church in accordance with MN Executive Order 20-18. Please bring your own mask as we have limited masks available for those who forget.
- Movement through the church will happen according to the enclosed map. There will be a one-way traffic flow in order to reduce congestion and the risk of being unable to socially distance.
- While we *do* have restrooms available, we highly encourage you to refrain from using them if possible. Only one person is allowed in each restroom at a time, and the outer door *must* remain open in order to allow for air flow.
- The coat hanging area will be closed for now. Please take your jackets, etc into worship with you.

-You will be signed in as you enter the Sanctuary. This is a required step in our Covid-19 protocol.

-Paper bulletins will be available for you to pick up as you enter the Sanctuary. Please either take them home with you or recycle them in the marked receptacle at the front of the church as you exit. Do not leave them in the pews... we are committed to keeping as many aspects of worship touch-free for ushers & staff. Responsive readings *will* be projected onto the large screen during worship.

-We will have sanitized hearing assistant devices available at the rear of the church for your use. There will be a table at the front of the Sanctuary for you to drop them off at as you exit the building. They will then be sanitized by staff.

-Pews & pew chairs will be marked according to where you can sit and remain 6 feet from other worshippers. Family units should sit together. A good measure to ensure that you are sitting 6 feet from someone who is not part of your family unit is to reach out and be sure you can't touch fingertips when both people's arms are fully extended. Please seat yourself accordingly. Ushers will be available to assist you, if needed.

-Offering boxes are located in the Sanctuary & in the entry area. They are clearly marked. Please deposit your weekly offering in one of these boxes as you enter or leave the Sanctuary, as we will not be passing offering plates during worship.

-Hand sanitizer stations have been set up throughout the church. Please feel free to use them as needed!

-We will not be taking part in fellowship times before, between or after services. No coffee or water will be available on Sunday morning. Water fountains will also not be available for use. If you need something to drink during worship, please bring your own bottle of water or coffee with you. You can pull your mask down to take a drink, but please keep it covering your *mouth & nose* at all other times.

-Please refrain from singing during worship. We will have a song leader each week singing to us from the front of the Sanctuary. You can, however, hum along if you would like.

-At the end of worship, you will be dismissed, row by row, by the ushers. You will exit out the southwest (front) Sanctuary door & leave the building through the west (front) double doors.

-The church will be sanitized between services.

Again, we appreciate your compliance & cooperation in following these guidelines in order that we keep each other safe & well during this pandemic. The guidelines provided are driven by our Three Simple Rules, as United Methodists:

We are a people that do no harm. We practice physical distancing to minimize harm to others, especially the vulnerable.

We are a people that do all the good we can. We care for the spiritual and physical needs of our neighbors, providing food, emotional support, and supporting our health care system.

We are a people that stay in love with God. When we love God through prayer, praise, and worship, we grow in love of our neighbor. Love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable.

Our United Methodist faith communities can and must be first responders in caring for the spiritual, physical and mental health of all of God's people all across Minnesota by actualizing these Three Simple Rules. We have come to understand, like never before, that the church is not a building. It is the expression of God's love made visible through the actions of devoted followers of Jesus.

We can't wait to see those of you are ready to return to in-person worship & we support, love & stand by those of you who aren't ready. *We wish for you all nothing but the best in health & well-being during this time.* If you are in need of a listening ear, for any reason, during this pandemic, please don't hesitate to contact the church. We are here for you in-person or on the phone!

In Christ,

The Staff & Leadership Teams of DLUMC