



Temporary Practical Steps We are Taking in Worship During Our Life Together in Christ

Are we having Church and are we having Bible Studies? At this time, the answer is YES!

Friends, you are loved and this is an important time in our life together to BE THE CHURCH. With eyes on Jesus, let's grow closer to our Savior, fear/love/trust in God above ALL things (First Commandment Issue), let's grow together in Christian love while exercising care for the weak, vulnerable, and let's receive the healing and peace our Savior may bring to us each day and every day through His steadfast love. Please understand these policies may need to change or be flexed. Below are hopefully some helpful questions/answers for you.

1. When I walk in will greeters be shaking hands?

The answer is: No handshaking. A simple verbal greeting will be given. We encourage everyone to continue to smile and love one another but without physical contact.

2. Will Pastors be present after service?

Yes, but with no handshaking. Pastors want no one to feel awkward as they say hello nor compromised so they will say hello but will now not be shaking any hands.

3. Will there be a greeting of peace during the services?

No. This is temporarily suspended.

4. How are we serving communion?

a. All services will have only walk-through communion.

b. Pastors will leave the sanctuary (as they typically do to go and wash their hands prior to setting up communion). The Elders/Communion Assistants are also washing their hands prior to assisting with communion.

c. For the unleavened bread/body of Christ, please hold out your hands and the server will drop the wafer into your hand. No wafer will be placed in anyone's mouth. If you need gluten-free, please only take one gluten-free wafer off the tray.

d. For the wine, those who desire the **common cup** will be asked to come up immediately on the lectern side (Sat 5pm, Sun 8am & 11am only). Please do not touch the chalice except with your mouth. Pastors will always immediately wipe prior to the next person. Once those desiring the common cup are finished, the one distributing the wine/blood of Christ will move toward individual cups.

5. What are we doing with offering plates and WE CARE CARDS?

a. Offering (and We Care cards) will be collected AFTER each service; **except for 9:30am**.

Ushers will be present and members/guests with physical offerings and WE CARE cards will place them in the plates after the service at each exit.

b. **9:30am** service we will have offering collection at the entrances as the service begins. This is to accommodate our offering Counting Team.

We Care cards will be collected upon exit at 9:30am service.

Any offerings that are "late" from 9:30am parishioners will go into the 11am collection.

c. For those wishing to go to electronic giving, please contact lisa.cheeseman@splgrafton.org or give by text. Quick note: Give joyfully, generously in proportion to your blessings! If you are earning less, give less. If you are blessed with more, give more. Trust the Lord with your 'Daily Bread' and know that He knows how to provide for you. [Ways to Give](#)

6. What about Bulletins?

Any bulletins collected after services will be discarded. Bulletins being distributed will currently be one per family. Please enjoy taking your bulletin home!

7. What happened to the Busy Bags for Small Children?

They are temporarily removed for hygiene reasons.

8. What about our coffee/snack ministry on Sunday mornings?

It is temporarily suspended.

9. Are there hand sanitizers and sinks?

Of course! We have 4 hand sanitizers in the back of church (if one is out, please use a different dispenser if you need until we can refill the empty one). Sinks for washing hands are in bathrooms.

10. How is the Church being cleaned?

We are working with our cleaning crews to keep our sanctuary as clean as possible. Be prepared for a potential soon-to-be volunteer request.

11. What happens if I am feeling sick?

- a. Please review our document, ["Personal Precautions and Illness Prevention Strategies"](#) for health-related concerns.
- b. If you happen to become isolated or need pastoral care or assistance from the church, please contact us immediately at 262-377-4659 and we will help out as soon as possible.

12. What are the churches electronic resources if I need to stay at home?

Great question! Visit splgrafton.org. There is a blue button on the right-hand sidebar that says **"Click Here To Watch Sermon & Bible Videos"** on the home page. Currently, all St. Paul Sermons and Sunday 9:30am Bible Studies are online for you to view. St. Paul is also testing Livestream capabilities. We will keep you informed.

13. Are there other electronic helps for my spiritual life?

Yes, we will be sharing more next week. Stay tuned!

14. I'm feeling anxiety or fear. Do you have any words of comfort or encouragement or a prayer to assist me in Christ?

Absolutely! First, EYES ON JESUS!!!

Listed below are helpful Bible verses followed by helpful prayers, followed by links and resources:

Psalms 121 worth the time to read.

Psalms 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"

Isaiah 41:1 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in

Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:25-34 “God cares for you. Don’t be anxious. Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.”

Isaiah 43:2 Very realistic about stress. Passing through the waters, rivers, fires...we are not promised a life free of difficult situations, but we do have the promise that we are not alone when they occur. Our stability comes from Christ himself who is our strength.

Philippians 4:4-7 “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”

This is the God who knows everything. Not even a little bird falls to the ground without His knowledge. He knows what worries us, what troubles we face, and what concerns are on our minds. He knows, and He cares. He cares so much that He sent His Son to the cross to forgive us our sins and to assure us of life in all its fullness.

He cares for you! I leave you with this thought, in the words of St. Paul: “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” The second stanza of a favorite hymn, “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me” (LSB 722), says it nicely: Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear, For You, the Rock of Ages, are always near. Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe, For when Your hand is guiding, in peace I go.

We entrust this situation and all our days into God’s hands trusting in His good and gracious will. We ask you to join us in praying for His mercy for all the world at this time:

Spare Your people, O Lord! Preserve us from this and every illness. Give healing and strength to those who are sick, protect those who care for them, and grant us steady minds and calm hearts in the face of fear. You have borne our infirmities in this human flesh and purchased us with Your own blood. Keep us in this faith and embolden us in love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, heavenly Father, give us grace to trust You during this time of illness and distress. In mercy put an end to this pandemic that afflicts us. Grant relief to those who suffer, and comfort all who mourn. Sustain all medical personnel in their labors and cause Your people ever to serve You in righteousness and holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Collect in times of epidemic, Pastoral Care Companion, © Concordia Publishing House, 2007)

Links/Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

<https://blogs.lcms.org/2020/coronavirus-nothing-new-about-disease-or-the-need-for-the-gospel>

<https://communication.cph.org/care>

<https://lcms.org>