

St. James-St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

119-15 135th Avenue

South Ozone Park, NY 11420

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We Worship Every Sunday at 10:00 am

Visit us at SouthOzoneParkChurch.org

Greetings Church family:

I pray that this note reaches you well, especially during these uncertain times!

Yes! In-person worship services resumed at St. James-St. Matthew's on Sunday, September 13. There is seating capacity for 45 worshippers (including the overflow into the Fellowship Hall) and the windows stay opened for airflow.

We will continue to have a recorded version of each in-person Sunday Worship Service available by 6 PM—same day on YouTube. And yes, a DVD with multiple recordings will be available for our members without internet access.

Our Resumption Team developed some protocols to resume “in-person” worship at St. James-St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, and they have proven to be very effective since we reopened our doors.

Congregations are advised to use common sense with regard to preventing the spread of pathogens while gathering around the means of grace – word and sacraments. Therefore, these are simply plans (though subject to change) as the season unfolds:

First of all, do not fear, for God is with us! Our entire building will be cleaned thoroughly prior to each worship service. If you feel sick or in that “**vulnerable**” population (elderly, with pre-existing medical conditions, asthmatic, etc.) please stay at home. You may call the Church office to inform us of your illness or need for Pastoral Care and prayers.

Secondly, in-person Worship Services will be very different when we resume. Here's how:

1. A **face covering** (masks) must be worn anywhere on the Church's premises. If you do not have a face covering, one will be provided for you.
2. Your **body temperature** will be tested prior to entering the Church building. You will NOT be permitted into the building if your temperature is above the prescribed range.

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3. You will complete a **Questionnaire** about yourself strictly for contact and tracing purposes.
4. You will be ushered to an **assigned/numbered seat** (6-feet apart) – please stay in your assigned seat throughout the Worship Service. You will find a **worship bulletin** placed on your seat. Please **take your bulletin** with you when you leave.
5. There will be **no congregating** in the back of the sanctuary, aisles, restrooms or fellowship hall either before or after Sunday Worship.
6. **Restrooms** will be limited to **One Person at a Time** – unless it's a family, parent/guardian and child.
7. The Worship Service will be centered around the **Word and Sacraments**:
 - a) Ushers will be trained by the Resumption Team to ensure the safety of everyone in attendance at Worship. Please **listen** to them and **obey** their instructions.
 - b) You will **remain seated** throughout the Worship Service – which will be adjusted to be under 30 minutes in length.
 - c) There will be **no singing** or communal responses (e.g. The Lord be with you...And also with you and The Lord's Prayer) by the congregation. Pathogens (droplets) spread the most in this manner.
 - d) The **passing of the peace** is an integral way that the family of God recognizes the presence of the peace of Christ in its midst. After making eye contact with your sibling in Christ, simply bow to the person with clasped hands and gesture.



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