



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

20097-72 Ave | Langley, BC | V2Y 4J8 | Office: 604-530-1311 | Fax: 604-539-8711

www.svlc.ca | svlc@shaw.ca

Pastor Kristen Steele

September 7, 2021

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it will be just a couple of days short of eighteen months between in-person worship services in our building here at Shepherd of the Valley. I know that we have all missed coming together in person and some are anxious to return while others are feeling quite anxious and aren't quite ready yet. This has been an incredibly challenging time and we are not out of the woods yet. It is important that we remain cautious and vigilant through this fourth wave.

I look forward to welcoming those who are coming back for in-person worship on September 12th. Council has worked hard to prepare protocols to ensure we take steps to keep each other safe. Council has reviewed guidelines provided by the BC CDC and Ministry of Health, as well as the BC Synod of the ELCIC. Based on that information, we will be adopting these protocols for our in person worship services:

1. Please do not attend in person worship if you are not feeling well.
2. Everyone 12 years and older will be required to wear a mask at all times while inside the church building.
3. Please practice physical distancing (min. 6 ft.) while inside the building. This includes ensuring you are distanced from other individuals and families when you choose where you will sit for worship.
4. Those who are 12 years old and older are asked to only attend if they are fully vaccinated.
5. Hand sanitizer will be available when you walk in the building. Please sanitize your hands upon entry or proceed immediately to the washroom to wash your hands with soap.
6. Bathrooms will have a capacity limit. Signs will be posted on the doors.
7. Coffee/Fellowship Time will be outside, weather permitting.
8. Doors and windows will be open during the service regardless of the weather outside. Please dress accordingly.

During worship you will notice the following changes to our services:

1. Bulletins will be placed on pews throughout the sanctuary to avoid a traffic jam at the door.
2. Offering plates will not be passed through the pews but rather placed on the usher's table by the door to the sanctuary.
3. Sharing of the peace will be done with waves, words, and nods from your seat.
4. Communion will be wafers only. As Lutherans we believe that Christ is fully present in both bread and wine and so you have fully received even if you only receive in one kind.
5. Communion will be served by a continuous line coming up to the front via the middle aisle, receiving the wafer and then returning to your seat via the outside aisles. Please maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet from the person/family in front of you.



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We are working toward installing livestreaming capabilities in the sanctuary. Until that is in place, we will be experimenting with various types of recorded services. Please keep an eye on your email for more information.

As we prepare to return to worship in the sanctuary starting on September 12th, flowers can again be offered to the glory of God. If you would like to honour or celebrate a special occasion with flowers, please choose one of the following options: either add your name to the small sign-up sheet on the board in the narthex when you are here on a Sunday, or email Eleanor in the office (eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca) with the date you would like and she will add your name to the sheet.

Flowers need to be brought to the church and arranged into vases either on a Friday afternoon or Sunday morning. If neither of those days work for you, please make other arrangements to bring in your flowers.

For the time being, I will continue to offer communion services via Zoom on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

These are challenging times for everyone and, as we move toward this new way of being together while staying safe, I encourage you to only participate in the ways you feel comfortable. I recognize this will look different for each individual and each family, and may change as circumstances change. Please continue to connect with each other and know that I am available for pastoral care.

Peace,

Pastor Kristen