

# AUGSBURG

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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November 30, 2021

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all:

I am writing to you today to inform you of some changes that are coming to our worshipping community. At a special meeting last Tuesday, Augsburg's Church Council approved a proof-of-vaccination requirement for attending in-person worship services. We will commence with these new procedures on **Sunday, December 5**.

What does this mean:

- 1) Per public health requirements, we will be checking your proof of double vaccination or medical exemption letter for those 12 years and older.
- 2) All members attending church will still be required to wear masks.
- 3) You will not need to pre-register your attendance for Sunday services. (We will be asking for you to pre-register for the Christmas Eve services. There is more information about this below).
- 4) We will be getting rid of the tape in the pews.
- 5) Even though we are going to relax the physical distancing rule, it would be prudent to continue keeping some distance from others.
  - Everyone should be mindful that individuals have different comfort levels when gathering in larger groups. This means that each one of us needs to be aware of how we are interacting with fellow worshippers. Please be respectful of other people's boundaries.
  - If you wish to continue to keep a 2 metre distance from others while seated in worship, please mention this to the ushers and they will seat you appropriately.
- 6) The cloak room will be available for your use starting on Sunday, December 5.
- 7) Our worship services will also be less restrictive:
  - services will still be shorter than normal
  - we will be inviting the congregation to **quietly** sing all the hymns.

- we will be inviting you forward to receive communion (bread only). We will do this one side of the church at a time.

**To be clear**, if you have chosen to not get vaccinated, unfortunately you won't be able to worship with us in person.

Our streaming service is available for those who would like to worship from home.

It is expected that the live streaming of worship is here to stay. This opportunity for participation in the life of our worshipping community is a vital link for many folks, We owe a debt of gratitude to those folks who have been instrumental in implementing and continuing this important online worship presence.

**For Christmas Eve:**

- There will be three services this year: 5:30pm, 7:00pm and 8:30pm. The services will be identical in format and content.
- Please take special note that an RSVP will be required for Christmas Eve. It is possible that we may see a increase in attendance, and managing potential crowd sizes is still important, even with relaxed measures. **Please RSVP to the church office by December 20th.** Please tell us the names of who is coming, and which service you'd like to attend.
- Quiet singing, proof-of-vaccination, and facemask requirements will all be in effect for Christmas Eve, just like Sunday worship.

As always, everything we do at Augsburg follows the guidelines of Peel Public Health and the example of Jesus: to care for those around us and those who are vulnerable. And, as is the case while living in pandemic times, everything could change at a moments notice. We will keep you informed.

Please know that the decision to implement a proof-of-vaccination requirement was given much thought and consideration by Church Council. We recognize that any decisions around COVID-19 protocols, in any organization, will not satisfy everyone all the time. Should you have questions or concerns around the process, or the implications of this decision for you, council members and I are available for conversation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or any council member.

Peace,



Rev. Nadine Nicholds, pastor  
Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Brampton, ON