

Stage 2 Reopening Guidelines
Lutheran Church of the Newtons (LCN) Outdoor Worship Services

September 13, 2020

Key Criteria

- Follow all LCN Stage 1 Guidelines as well as those in this Stage 2 document
- Observe all MA directives: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-places-of-worship>
- Ensure that adequate safety measures are followed at all times (hygiene, physical distance, masks)
- Undertake detailed planning and preparation
- Continue online Worship Service so higher-risk persons can be involved without endangering themselves or others

Our Pastor, Music Director, & Worship Committee, in consultation with the Reopening Task Force, will create a detailed plan for holding outdoor services. Topics to include in the planning are listed below.

1. For services held in non-LCN outdoor space, complete any required permits, learn about other restrictions that may apply to hosting an event, and explore the availability of bathroom and parking.
2. For services held in the LCN Assisi Garden, inform people that no bathroom facilities are available in the church building at this time.
3. Arrange online sign-up for services and events in advance to monitor and limit the number of attendees in accordance with MA size of gathering directives.
4. Create a plan for safety measures. For example:
 - a. recruit and train additional volunteers to greet participants and to lovingly but firmly monitor and enforce all safety precautions,
 - b. post signage to direct people to the check in table,
 - c. take temperature readings at check in,
 - d. have participants complete health checklists,
 - e. have a supply of masks and hand sanitizer available at various stations,
 - f. mark off physical distance spaces for participants, and
 - g. make sanitized seating available for those who may need it.
5. Make a Backup Plan in case something goes wrong or a rain-date if needed.
6. Create options for children, as appropriate.
7. Secure sound amplification as needed and appropriate.
8. Prepare & distribute communication so the congregation knows what to expect and comes prepared.
9. Distribute one-time use bulletins for worship liturgy.
10. No congregational singing is allowed at in-person outdoor worship services.
11. Communion may be held with bread only.
12. The Peace is to be exchanged without physical touch (a reverent bow or wave, or a greeting with words) and at safe distance.
13. Offering is to be collected by having offering baskets placed in convenient locations rather than passing them among the congregation. Online giving is also encouraged.
14. No communal gatherings pre- or post-service are permitted such as coffee hours that would extend our time together.
15. After each service, leaders will seek feedback from those who attended the event. This information will be used by leaders to evaluate the successes and challenges for future events.