

**SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH
CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) GUIDELINE**

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness, with symptoms such as fever, cough, difficulty breathing and shortness of breath, appearing 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. It is spread by respiratory droplets (infected person coughs/sneezes and lands in the mouth or nose and or possibly inhaled into the lungs of those close by). Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time and having direct contact with bodily fluids, including blood, phlegm, and respiratory droplets, from an individual with COVID-19.

(Source: PA Dept. of Health)

This is a very fluid situation and the updated guidance and recommendations of the Pa. Department of Health (DOH) and Federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) shall be followed and may override the guidance of this guideline.

Effective immediately, there shall be no Sunday worship services, Sunday School, Lent services, or other church-sponsored activities until such time as state/federal guidance is relaxed.

Frequent hand washing and good hygiene should be practiced at all times by all members.

Church members and professional staff (Minister, Secretary, Sexton, Organist, Music Staff) shall practice "Social Distancing" by standing or sitting 6 feet away from persons whenever practical and possible.

Shaking of hands should not be done during this time, but may be replaced by elbow rubs, nods, waves, etc.. While hugging is not recommended, there are times when hugs are appropriate and needed.

During this time, in line with federal recommendations, groups such as Committees and church sponsored organizations should limit themselves to 10 people or less when inside the church.

During normal church hours, people entering the building should check into the office.

This is especially difficult in times should there be a funeral or memorial service. The Minister and Funeral Director may have discussion and discretion as to the type of service. (example: If approximately 50 people or less are expected and social distancing can be achieved, it may be possible to have the church service in the building; or a service may be limited to immediate family members).

There may be times when individuals and small groups may want to enter the church for private prayers and meditation. This is to be welcomed keeping in mind that security procedures for access are to be followed.

Any use of the church or questions not covered by this guidance shall be at the discretion of the pastor or ranking member of Church Council in the pastor's absence.

Adopted by Church Council
March 17, 2020