

Zion Lutheran adopted a 'Return to Sanctuary' Policy in 2021 as a result of the COVID19 Pandemic. The policy has been reviewed by Church Council at each meeting. Any changes are voted on and then communicated to the congregation by the Pastor. The following policy was approved on September 13th, 2022 and is in effect as of **September 18th, 2022**. Please note changes from past practices.

Church Council continues to follow guidelines as set by the CDC, Michigan DHHS and local protocols.

Please be sensitive to the different comfort levels of distancing and mask wearing that may exist in our congregation. If you feel like you are too close to someone in the sanctuary, you are welcome to change seats, no judgment needed.

1. Vaccination status will not be asked, but the council recommends that only those who are vaccinated attend in-person service in order to maintain the safety of all.
2. Mask requirements in the sanctuary and other public areas of the building will correspond to the risk level for Oakland County as indicated by the Kinsa Health Weather Map rating

https://healthweather.us/map/michigan-MI/oakland-county-26125?mode=covid_risk

When the rating is Low (0 -24) or Moderate (25- 49) in Oakland County masks are optional.

When the rating is High (50 - 74) or Critical (75 - 100) in Oakland County masks are mandatory.

Signage at the sanctuary entrance each Sunday will indicate if the risk level is at High or Critical for Oakland County – thus requiring masks to be worn.

3. Worshipers are asked to maintain 6 feet of distance between households while waiting to enter the sanctuary, and to use the hand sanitizer provided upon entering and when leaving.
4. For communion, we will be using pre-packaged grape juice and host that worshipers will pick up on their way into the sanctuary and open at the designated time in the service. This will minimize the exposure for our worship leaders and allow worshipers to remain in their seats and not congregate in the aisles.
5. There will be signage upon entering the sanctuary that will remind worshipers to please not enter if they have any symptoms of Covid, have a fever, or are not willing to notify the church if they or someone in your household tests positive for Covid.
6. Zion will notify worshipers if there has been an exposure during service. All notifications will be made in a private, confidential way. No names will be shared.