



grace university lutheran church

324 Harvard Street SE • Minneapolis, MN 55414 • 612.331.8125 • www.graceattheu.org • info@graceattheu.org

October 14, 2022

Dear Beloved Community of Grace University Lutheran Church,

Throughout these past two-and-a-half years of the pandemic, Grace has sought to keep the community safe: online worship and programming, limited building access and gatherings, outside worship, adapted and truncated liturgies, improved airflow in the sanctuary, masking and social distancing, and ongoing communication for the purpose of communal wellbeing. We believe these steps have helped us traverse the challenging and ever-changing dynamics of COVID-19. Following the data provided by Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control as well as discerning conversations among Grace staff and members, we have slowly resumed practices in our life together over the course of several months.

The Grace pastors and staff – in consultation with the congregation council and Grace’s medical advisory team – have decided to update the mask policy to “*Mask Wearing is Welcomed Here*” for worship services and all other events or meetings that occur at the church. This change will occur on Sunday, October 23.

Grace remains committed to the health and well-being of our community, and this policy affirms that individuals have and will continue to make good personal choices about COVID-19. All are welcome to return to worship when they feel comfortable, and Grace will continue with volunteer help to provide live-streaming of worship services for those who choose to participate virtually.

As you make decisions to keep yourself and others healthy, the Grace staff strongly encourages the following:

- If you are eligible for vaccination, ensure that you are up-to-date on your boosters.
- When wearing a mask, choose a high-quality one. While we give thanks for our sanctuary HVAC system that provides frequent air turnover, we know that SARS-COV-2 spreads through aerosols. N95 or KN95 masks prevent 95% of particles from entering the airway, and Grace will continue to offer these masks for both adults and children.
- Pay attention to local data on COVID-19 spread.
- Use rapid tests to help gauge your health especially if you have even the slightest symptoms of a cold or other illness or if you are asymptomatic but have had a possible exposure.
- If you are sick, please stay home and join online instead of in person. We are also mindful that flu season will be upon us, so all the more reason to stay home if feeling ill.

However you choose to participate in our congregational life, we hope that you know that you are welcome and valued. We will continue to monitor the changing dynamics of this pandemic recognizing a change in masking practices may be needed. But at this time, “Mask Wearing is Welcome Here.” Thank you for your ongoing engagement in our shared life together at Grace!

Peace be yours,

Pr. Amber Ingalsbe & Pr. Justin Lind-Ayres