

June 12, 2020

Dear Family of Believers!

This note is about plans. As we talk about plans, it is important to remember:

***The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.*** Proverbs 16:6

We all come into to this conversation on opening up our church for in-person and in-the-building worship with our own plans in our hearts. The challenge is first, as our heart plans, to let the Lord establish our steps. The second challenge is to take all our individual plans and make a plan that serves not one of us or a group of us but our Family of Believers and community. So, join with our leaders in confessing the plans of your heart and praying the Lord establishes our steps as a Family of Believers.

***<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.***

***<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.*** Proverbs 3:5-6

During this global pandemic we are in a time of uncertainty. It is not always clear what the next step will be. The thing we are certain of is the importance of proclaiming the Gospel. That has never stopped and will never stop. As leaders, we continually ask questions like 1) Are we proclaiming the gospel? How? How can we improve? 2) Are we caring for our members in the best ways we can? How? How can we improve? As we answer these questions, it is clear that our building closed but our church never did. It is clear that the in-person worship stopped but the proclamation of the Gospel never did! As we ask this, it also shows the importance of being a Family of Believers. You are helping us in great ways to answer these questions by your actions! Keep up the High Fives!

The time will come when we are together again in the building. That time is not here yet. As we continue to be people of faith and not fear but also continue to not be foolish and honor the medical data we have from people we trust – it is still clear that it will be important to take things slow. The great news is – things are moving now. We cannot yet answer the question, when will we worship in the building or what worship will look like with all the new regulations to keep our Family of Believers and our Community safe. We are working on it though! We can tell you where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. Here is a general timeline.

1. Invested extensive hours to implement and improve Livestream format from day one! Livestream is something we will stay dedicated to as we continue the reopening plan. Anything we do for this time will be considered in addition to our livestream service. The amazing thing is WE NEVER DROPPED A WORSHIP SERVICE. We started livestreaming three days after we closed our church!
2. Sunday School by and large only missed one Sunday and was up and running March 29<sup>th</sup>.
3. Choir groups switched to virtual platform on April 5<sup>th</sup>.
4. April 12<sup>th</sup> – Easter Challenge: Give your High Fives. Wow you have done LOTS of these!
5. April 13<sup>th</sup> Calling Team created by Pastor Koglin with the help of our Elders and Stephen Ministers work in contacting zones. Led by Rich and Molly Gommels. Goal is to call anyone we know that cannot be cared for with livestream EACH WEEK. If you would like to be added, please get your contact information to the church office. 289-5147.
6. Adult Education started via Zoom on April 16 but our Men's Bible Study never missed a week.

7. Transition Team Sanctioned by Council on May 12.
8. Transition Team first meeting May 18.
9. Survey our congregation to hear from all of you May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup> (over 200 responses!!).
10. Transition Team presents our Preparedness Plan to Church Council on June 9. This is a document needed by the State before we can take any additional steps towards reopening.
11. A ventilation review is an important step in the process to reopen and required by the State. This review has happened, and our Transition Team, Trustees and Church Council are all waiting on a report and updating ventilation proposal.
12. Plotted out our worship space to follow social distancing guidelines. The Department of health has changed to 50% occupancy, but, the limiting factor for our space is not the percentage but the social distancing requirements.
13. Survey all our volunteers that help make worship happen. To open we may need more volunteers now than before but we also need to give the grace and permission for our volunteers to not feel obligated to help during this time.
14. Reopen the office and room 102 by appointment only and the church building at Door #2 for drop off and pick up of materials on June 15 (see attached policy).
15. Open Room 101 for RSE.
16. Reopen the sanctuary for individual prayer starting on June 22. (watch website for update)
17. Continue to offer communion and improve how it is offered in the parking lot on every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Looking into ways we can do this together inside/outside too!
18. Now, we turn our attention to worship and start looking at creative ways for us to gather together inside/outside for worship under current guidelines.
19. Stay informed – watch the website and email blast for weekly updates.
20. Pray! Keep your Eyes on Jesus!

We seek to do the right things. We know that we will have an imperfect plan but we will have a good plan with the best information we have. We give our imperfect leadership to our perfect Savior. We give our imperfect plans to our perfect Leader who directs our steps with His perfect plan. Pastor Koglin is confident that God has put the right people in the right places for us to tackle this time together with our eyes on Jesus. Our staff and Transition Team are working hard. Our staff meets twice a week and our Transition Team weekly to keep us moving forward.

We desire to do the right things but more importantly we desire to do them with a righteous spirit. So join us in praying this great truth from scripture – a passage that tells us not to worry about tomorrow – not to worry about what we do not have – but to keep our Eyes on Jesus, the thing we will never lose!

***But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.  
Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself.  
Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Matthew 6:33-34***

Eyes on Jesus,

Pastor Koglin, Pastor Loos, Michael Harvey, April Beckman, Josh Heirigs, Chris Tjosaas, Randy Kautz, Bill Cochran, Grant Wilson, Tim Kanne, Aaron Peter, Ric Thieke, Connie Scheid, Lowell Dale, Delores McGillivray