



May 27th, 2020

Dear church family,

These past couple of months have been extremely difficult for many of us. Since we have not been able to meet in person as the body of Christ, our hearts have yearned for that sense of community. As I preached in March, we were created for community. As a church, we have adapted how we meet. Everything had to move online. I think that some great things have come out of this time. Just a few- daily prayer time, weekly Bible study, and more people “joining” in for church. Of course, there were problems along the way and I know that we will continue to have problems at times. Satan always tries to attack the good things that are happening. One thing that has never changed since the pandemic started is that we are the church even if we cannot meet in the same building! The building does not make us a church. The people are the church. We are the church! I have been so encouraged by the way that you all have been reaching out to each other and out to the community and loving others by meeting their needs.

As the state begins to reopen, Leadership and I have been working on the reopening of our church. This is going to be a process that may need to change. Nothing will be set in stone. Our number one interest is the health and safety of all those who attend or will attend the church. We have not developed the full process, because there are many unknowns right now. However, we are looking to start a drive-in/outdoor church next Sunday, May 31st which is Pentecost Sunday! Pentecost is when we celebrate the birth of the church. What an appropriate Sunday to start to meet again. We have a team working on this new gathering. We know that we can fit 20 cars in our parking lot if we just used the spots that we have and parked every other spot. Each spot is 9’ wide. That is more than what is required. If we need more spots, we can measure out and mark 6’ spaces. We will use our outdoor music system, but will still livestream through Facebook and YouTube. If you don’t feel comfortable rolling down your window(s), you can listen to our livestream. I do think it will be loud enough since we do not have a large parking lot. We will have parking lot attendants who will direct you to a spot. People will be encouraged to remain in their vehicles. The bathrooms in the church will not be open to those who attend. Masks are not required if you do not get out of your car.

Our Sunday format will remain the same: 10:15am- Message and 11am Worship. You can come for one or both. Please let us know if you plan on attending. As I said, if we need more than 20 spaces, we want to plan ahead.

In coming weeks, we will continue to send reopening updates and request your feedback. Please know that I am praying for you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Also, if you have a need or a prayer request, I am here for you.

Peace, Love, and Faith
Rev. Randy Van Osten