

May 27, 2020

To: Northlake friends and family,



As we begin to see some loosening up of the restrictions imposed on all of us during this pandemic, the church staff and elders want to assure all of you that we are praying for wisdom and working hard to try to have a strategy in place for how and when we can begin to meet in person. We know that a big part of our Christian experience is coming together to worship our amazing God and proclaiming our praise for what he has done for us. We dearly miss the fellowship of worshiping together in our small groups and corporately on Sunday morning. We also know that this pandemic has created risks for all of us and that in this time we have all had to adjust our expectations about “church”. All of this has helped remind us that church isn’t about a “building” but the local church is indeed each of us serving our God and each other in Christian love.

Many of you have expressed your gratitude and thanks for the amazing work of our staff in continually caring for our church’s needs as well as providing engaging content online through our church at home programming. We have learned a lot and we anticipate that our online experience will continue to be a big part of our overall church experience going forward, even after the waning of COVID-19. In the meantime, our staff is still hard at work in their daily tasks and readily available to assist you with any needs you may have – please feel free to call or e-mail the church at any time and we’d love to assist you.

The biggest question you may have right now is the one we’ve been actively addressing: **What’s next?** Our primary goal is to be as flexible as we can with the everchanging conditions and directives given to us, including our governors most recent step of relaxing church gathering restrictions. As we continually look at all the different options for us to gather as a congregation, you can rest assured that whatever steps we take will be done with the utmost concern for the safety of each of you.

As we look to the immediate future, our first step will be to better understand the CDC’s guidelines for church meetings and to consult with a few physicians in our congregation to better understand how we can safely gather together. Our hope is they will help guide our steps so that we respect our governing authorities as well as keep everyone as safe as possible. As of right now, we see that we will likely begin meeting again in smaller groups than we had previously, slowly working our way to meeting all together again as COVID-19 subsides. Our staff are currently working on the best ways in which we can gather at our home campus and navigating how soon we should begin. We will also be looking at how we can incorporate our small groups into opportunities for getting together to worship. Already our Easter and Mother’s day promotions provided

an opportunity to have some contact with you while still social distancing. Many ideas on this are coming forward and as these ideas are implemented we will be sure to communicate with you about attending.

Bottom line is that we are considering all options for opening up the church, but our elders believe that we need to do so with respect for our governing authorities and with our foremost concern keeping you safe. So when we do finally meet again it will look a little different, but we believe that jumping through inconveniences is worth it in light of meeting together again as Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to.

We will continue in our planning and the implementation of those plans as soon as we can, in the meantime please do three things:

- Pray – Please continue to pray for our church, for our members, staff, and elders, and for wisdom as we seek to take steps toward meeting together again. Along with your prayers, our prayer team is actively praying for everyone who calls Northlake home and would love to hear any prayer requests you have.
- Worship with us online – our weekend services are posted every Friday afternoon on Youtube and e-mailed to everyone on our mailing list. You can also tune in with us live on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. on Facebook.
- Connect with other Northlakers – whether it be through a phone call, zoom meeting, or a cup of coffee from a few feet away, connecting with other believers is essential as we aim to walk through our current situation like Jesus. Let us live out Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes 4:12 when he says "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

By doing these things we will see that the church really is much more than a building. Finally, our Elders, Pastors and Staff are here for you and deeply care about you. If you have any needs, or just want to say hi to one of us, please let us know. You can leave us a message on the church phone (they're checked often) - 360.671.9500, or email us at [info@northlakeonline.org](mailto:info@northlakeonline.org)."

In Christ,

The Elders & Pastors