



Dear Eastside Family,

May 31, 2020

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

I hope this is one scripture that you have been going to on a regular basis the last few months. I know it has been a mainstay for me. Most anything I encounter is dealt with right here. Lately, it has been around “When can we start having services again?” We as Elders have been praying and planning for this to happen. Here is what we see as a tentative timeline:

We believe Linn County will successfully complete the Governor’s Phase 1 on June 7th. If that happens, we will begin in-person services on Sunday, June 14th. We will have two services, 8:45 AM and 10:30 AM. They will be formatted the same. We will be limited to 100 people, so we are asking people to be flexible until we see how things balance out. What will be different?

- Every other pew will be blocked off to allow sufficient spacing. The Agape Room will be available with similar spacing.
- Face masks will be available for those who choose to use them and did not bring their own.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available around the building, as well as in the pews.
- Communion will be self-service at several locations in the sanctuary.
- Offering bags will not be passed, offerings will be collected using the offering boxes.
- Nursery will be provided for ages up to 4 years old. Children over that age will remain in the service. (We will be looking at restarting children’s ministry when we have a better idea of numbers and teacher availability.)
- No coffee or snacks will be provided.

We are asking anyone who is sick or believe they have recently been exposed to a virus not to attend. For those who are not able or ready to return to in-person services, we will be continuing the full Live Stream service at 10:30 AM.

Small groups will be restarting at the discretion of the small group leaders and the ability to provide appropriate safeguards for the group or event.

If you are in a ministry area and are planning to return, you will be contacted by the ministry coordinator. There are more comprehensive guidelines available by contacting the office at office@eccfamily.com or 541-928-9349.

We know that not everyone is ready to return to in-person meetings and that is okay. Please let us know how we can best serve you until you are. For those who are ready to return, please remember there will be people at many levels of comfort with being back, so please respect their comfort level when you interact. I look forward to seeing all your smiling faces very soon.

In Christ,

Elder Ben Atchley

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