November 2, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Triune God: Our Refuge, Truth, and Helper!

We continue living in a time of ongoing disruption in our world due to COVID-19. As the days progress, we are thankful for the way our faith community is adapting ministry for this new era. On behalf of our Campus Reopening Task Force, I thank you for your continued prayers for Triumphant Love.

In July, our Campus Reopening Task Force created the Phased Gathering Guidelines for how we will resume gatherings on our church campus moving forward. Because nationwide cases are rising but local cases are holding steady, we remain cautiously in Phase 4. Most notably this move means that members can gather in groups of 10 or less in the outdoor areas of our campus. A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found HERE.

While these decisions were made according to specific guidelines and health regulations, we have found they align with what most members of TLLC deem safe and comfortable for our community. We received responses from about 115 households to our second Campus Reopening Survey. Here is some of what we learned:

- About 65% do not feel comfortable returning to in-person worship until at least January
- More than 90% of respondents say our online “Worship Where You Are” has met or exceeded expectations
  - Many appreciate the number of faces they see as well as music, sermons, quality, and viewing flexibility
  - With more requests for both traditional and contemporary music selections
    - Please note that while we are only creating one worship service, worship leaders are attempting to take the best of both services. We hope you will see this as a time to appreciate both styles!
- About 80% of households say that we are meeting spiritual and social needs effectively
  - Many are finding virtual gatherings helpful and new in-person gatherings have been safe and successful
- More than 97% of members approve of the task force’s work and 93% approve of the phased guideline approach

“Worship Where You Are” at our normal worship times of 9 and 11 AM has been our largest connection point as a community, but because of a slight uptick in requests for in-person options we launched our Awe + Prayer + Praise monthly in-person small group outdoor worship services in October with great success. We plan to continue these in November and December. Check your e-newsletter for details. We also welcome small groups to make requests to gather on our campus outdoors. If you would like to organize and gather in a small socially-distanced group outside on campus, please contact Tracy Wells or Geoff Roach and use this form first to coordinate a meeting for your group. In this prolonged time of “physical distancing,” it is increasingly important that we not feel spiritually distant from one another!

As we move into a time of thanksgiving we remember the story of the healing of the ten lepers: “15Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him” (Luke 17:15-16). Trusting in Jesus’ healing, we continue to pray for the healing of all those who are ill. Trusting in these words, I ask you to give thankfully and joyfully as you are able so that our ministry can continue bringing the good news of the kingdom of God to our community.

Peace,

Pastor Danielle