



## BOARD OF ELDERS

Dear Valley Family,

As you are likely aware, the spread of COVID-19 in Lakeville and Dakota County has risen to levels we have not seen before during the pandemic. Hospitals are either at, or are close to, maximum capacity especially in critical and intensive care units due to COVID-19 patient load.

**Out of an abundance of caution and concern for our church community, the Board of Elders has made the decision to suspend in-person gatherings beginning tomorrow, Thursday, November 12.**

**Tonight's Wednesday Family Table Time and Youth 2Gether on-campus events will be our last in-person gatherings. Beginning tomorrow, all worship, groups, classes, and activities will be offered only via online channels.**

It is our hope that a return to in-person activities in January is possible, but we will closely monitor trends and follow what is happening in our local area before we make a decision to do so.

Predictions from public health officials are that we will continue to see COVID-19 at high levels of community spread through the holiday season. While the State of Minnesota is unlikely to impose further restrictions upon places of worship, we are compelled to do our part in preventing community spread of COVID-19. As we communicated last week, we believe this is congruent with Jesus' teaching to "love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:31)

During the "Stay at Home" order last spring, we engaged via online channels, rethought how to regather, and created new avenues and opportunities for everyone to "be the church" amid a socially distanced world. We think that this shift back to online-only will be better. We will have a refined production for online worship, and we are focusing resources to improve that experience. Advent is weeks away, and our season of anticipation and celebration of the birth of our Lord will be special – and not simply online. More on that to come!

We are obviously frustrated, but we believe this decision is necessary. On the other hand, we are encouraged by the level of engagement we have seen by our church throughout the pandemic. Please continue to have grace, understanding, and love for one another. Pray for those on the 'front lines' – we have several in our church family (nurses, doctors, healthcare professionals, EMTs). Pray for our educators as well as they pivot yet again to educate our students in new ways. Pray for healing and health. God is with us, and you will not doubt it as He sees us through it all. Through His will, and by the Spirit, we will remain His Church!

The Valley Christian Church Board of Elders

Kris Pierson, Chairman  
Michael Warnken, Vice Chairman  
Steve Twiss, Secretary  
Dewey Roth, Elder  
Micah McLellan, Elder Apprentice

Dave Burkum, Lead Pastor  
Brad Dewing, Transition Pastor

**Seeking, Sharing, Serving**