



May 5, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Elida Immanuel Church,

I bring you greetings during this unprecedented and unexpected season of change and uncertainty brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. I pray that you are doing well, and that our Lord is protecting you and helping you to grow further in him during this chaotic time. May God continue to shine his grace and truth upon you in many ways. And what a blessing it was to see so many of you at the parking lot service last Sunday. Wow, what a blessing it was to see so many of you at the “parking lot” service last Sunday!

I want to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude for your letters and phone calls, your reaching out to other members in so many ways, the ladies who are making the masks (they have made seven hundred plus masks), and so much more. You have truly shown a heart of servant hood and hospitality. Thank you also for all your financial gifts, even going beyond what you may normally do sometimes. Some of you have increased your giving; others have begun giving again. You are a truly remarkable church. Because of your generous giving, we are current on all expenses, and ministries are enabled to function in new ways. May God truly bless you for all you are doing and giving. As the Apostle Paul told a very generous church in Philippi, “And my God will satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

Ministries have continued during this time through many creative ways. In addition to the on-line worship services, the youth have continued to meet through on-line venues on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. Marisha has given out activities for the children both on-line and by going to their homes. Members and other contacts have been helped through phone calls and cards. We supported Family Promise with \$500 to prepare meals for those needy families in quarantine. We are thankful that we have been able to continue in these new ways.

As you know, we’ve been doing on-line sermons and music through Facebook Live all throughout this pandemic. We have received quite an increase of views since all this began. People from all around the country and the globe are also watching these services. We will continue to broadcast this way even after returning to the building for worship.

We will continue with our “Parking Lot” Worship @ 9 A.M. Please check the church Website and/or our Facebook page for updates as this is all subject to change.

You may contact the church office @ 419.331.2366 for information (Monday – Wednesday from 1-4 P.M.).

Here are some guidelines for when we return to Sunday Worship and other activities in the church:

- 1.) We will take all necessary precautions to have the church cleaned and ready for you! We will follow the guidelines outlined by Governor Mike DeWine and Bishop Palmer.
- 2.) When you return to worship, new procedures will be in place for the foreseeable future in compliance with state/health regulations. We will resume church activities incrementally. To begin with, we will follow these guidelines:
 - a.) Families and couples may sit together but separate from the next family or next person.
 - b.) Worship services will be at 8:30 A.M. and 10:45 A.M.
 - c.) No connection hour between the services, including no nursery, preschool or Kidz Konnect.
 - d.) No gathering time or hospitality snacks for now. If you want coffee, you are certainly welcome to bring your own.
 - e.) Only use the two doors northwest doors under and near the canopy that open into the gathering area. All other doors will be locked.
 - f.) Ushers and greeters will open doors for you.
 - g.) Worship will still be on Facebook Live for those who do not feel comfortable coming back to church yet, and copies of the sermons are available on our website. Contact the church office if you would like a copy mailed to you.
- 3.) For your health and safety, a task force will clean the building before and after the services.
- 4.) You may wear your facial covering if you feel that will give you more protection and keep others safe too.

I know that we will make it through this time. We are not afraid, because our God is a powerful and all-knowing God who will guide and protect us. Therefore, we are confident in Him. And at the same time, we will take all the precautions necessary to live responsibly in this challenging season. May God bless each of you and keep you healthy and strong in him.

In His Almighty Name,

Pastor Randy