

September 18, 2020

Dear Church Family,

This is a very busy time of year with schools back in session and harvest beginning. We trust you are staying well and safe as fall activities begin.

As you may know, Governor Ricketts moved the whole State of Nebraska (except Lancaster County) to Phase 4 of re-opening. Basically, the Directed Health Measures (DHM) of social distancing and wearing of facial masks are now recommended instead of mandated in many settings including churches. But COVID-19 activity is still rising in our district and Gage County. On September 16, Gage Co. recorded 176 cases (104 on Aug. 19) and 40 new cases testing positive in the last 14 days. Total cumulative cases in Public Health Solutions District (5 counties) is 948 positive cases with 770 recovered.

Last night the church board reviewed current COVID-19 activity in our public health district and Gage County and discussed various options going forward. After discussion, the Board decided to put the following actions and practices in place through September and early October, until the next Church Board meeting October 15:

1. Re-start both children and adult Sunday Schools, September 20<sup>th</sup>. A multi-age format for children will begin outdoors and/or church basement depending on weather. This allows for social distancing, wearing face masks, and singing. JYF & SYF will assist in storytelling, play time, and supervision.
2. Peace Club will begin Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>
3. Worship attendees can leave their pews, following the Benediction, without being ushered to the outside exit.
4. Since Sunday school has begun, children can resume going to the front of the sanctuary for children's story time during worship if parents feel comfortable allowing their children to do so.
5. Soloists, quartets, or other small singing groups may sing the congregational hymns throughout the fall as appropriate.
6. We still encourage members to wear masks. But you are welcome to attend worship even if you choose not to wear a mask. We all need to be respectful of each other's choices.
7. Please stay home if you are not feeling well.

We will re-evaluate the Coronavirus activity at our October 15 Church Board meeting and move forward as the COVID-19 activity dictates. Public health and the safety of our church fellowship is a priority for the Church Board. We appreciate your thoughts, opinions and most importantly your prayers as we discern next steps as a church.

Dorothy Zimmerman, Chairman  
For the Church Board