

Dear Church Family,

We are facing extraordinary times! It is important that we are caring for others and helping protect the vulnerable in our community. This week the government imposed more restrictions in an attempt to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. When governments do their best to protect their citizens they are functioning as God intended. The scriptures teach us to submit to human authorities because God has put them in place to hold back evil (1 Peter 2:13-16). Therefore, WE WILL NOT BE GATHERING ON SUNDAY MORNING AT 25 AXSMITH.

This does not mean that church is 'cancelled'. The church is not a Sunday service or a special building but a family of families. During the current restriction there are several things we will do to continue to work together as the family on mission that Jesus has called us to be.

- 1) Sunday Morning. We will connect online for a short update and teaching. We will also send out a reading and some ideas for individual families to have a short worship time together. Keep checking our website and your inbox for updates.
- 2) Gospel Communities. Leaders are encouraged to organize an online meeting or conference call for prayer and possibly a short discussion when you typically meet. Info will be sent to leaders soon.
- 3) Caring for one another and our neighbours. Pay attention to those who may need extra support, especially seniors or people who cannot work because of lack of childcare. 1) Who are the people on your block, 2) The people in your House Church / Gospel Community and 3) The people you're relationally connected to who might be vulnerable physically or financially right now? We'd encourage you to check-in regularly with anyone you know over the age of 60. Give them a call and ask how they are physically feeling, but also ask if they need groceries or have any other needs.

If a need pops up that you are unable to address call the church office 416-491-6421 or contact Sue 416-889-2013 and we will do what we can to find some help.

We take these steps not out of fear but in order to show love and care to those around us. Our faith is not in our ability to avoid germs but in Jesus Christ who is Lord of all. *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord."* - 2 Timothy 1:7-8 NLT

– Pastor Matt & The Elders Team