



Dear Church Family,

At the start of the 2020 New Year, we chose the theme, “Together on Purpose.” It sure was a unique year to have that theme!

The theme for 2021 is, “Opportunity!” We are eager to see and embrace by faith the opportunities that our gracious God has for us in the New Year! He has given us an opportunity right from the start!

This week, two of our pastoral staff family members have tested positive for COVID 19. We are grateful that they are at home and recovering well. So that you can specifically pray with a name, Melinda Von Bokern and Tom Wiggs have positive tests. There are others in Pastor Steve’s home who are showing symptoms and that’s to be expected. Everyone is doing fine. We have no needs and will keep you updated.

What does this mean for our church family? It means that we have some unique, God ordained opportunities! Here are the principles that will guide our current decisions:

1. God’s Glory – Every decision that we make we want to do knowing that it is by faith for God’s glory.
2. Safety - We want to do what we can to properly quarantine and see the church continue meeting safely. We have had a few other cases that we are aware of within our church family so we want to think of the church as a whole and care for those who may unknowingly respond severely to the virus.
3. Togetherness - We believe that meeting *in-person* is a priority if at all possible.
4. Thankfulness - We are thankful that we have various opportunities to meet during this time and that God has gifted the church with others who can serve the church body in specific ways.

With those principles in mind, we have the following plan for the next two weeks (January 3-10).

1. All three pastoral staff families will stay home this Sunday from our *in-person* gathering. We believe, given our close proximity to each other over the past few days, that it is best for the Stewarts to do the same even though they do not have confirmed cases.
2. To give our church families an extra level of caution, we will gather ONLY at 10 am for the next two Sundays (January 3 & 10). Our desire is that this will allow for any likely *holiday* spread to diminish. We will not have our 9am Sunday School Bible studies at this time. We will postpone our Sunday evening and Wednesday study until the pastoral

staff can be present. The 7pm Zoom prayer meeting will resume on Wednesday, January 6. We will not offer our 10am Children's Church classes for the next two weeks. If you can join us at 10am, we look forward to worshipping together!

3. This Sunday, other members of our loving church will serve us. Daniel Overly will share the Word of God with us at 10 am. The service will be condensed to focus on a few songs and the Word shared. We will also record and upload the service for internet viewing. Unfortunately, we are still waiting on high-speed internet to begin at the church.
4. We encourage you to continue to use caution when entering and worshipping together at Lifeway. We have plenty of masks and hand sanitizers available for your use.

We are grateful we can worship together and we thank God for the 2021 opportunities He has already given our church family. Please pray for Daniel as he prepares to share the Word on Sunday. I know it will be a blessing to all of us!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Steve and the church officers