

November 28, 2020

Hey Church,

As I am sure most of you are aware, new gathering restrictions were passed by the provincial government this week. So how do these new restrictions effect our church life? While the rules seem to be changing frequently, here is what we know is in place for as long as we are in an enhanced zone.

Worship services

“Mask use is mandatory” in places of worship.¹ As there is currently little more direction given on this matter by the government, for the sake of consistency for our children, we will follow Wolf Creek School Divisions policies and make masks optional for those in grade 3 or under. If the government makes this mandate clearer, our policies will adjust to match. Worship services will continue to be recorded and made available on our church website and YouTube pages.

Small Groups

“In-person faith group meetings and other religious gatherings are not permitted in private homes while these measures are in effect. In-person faith group meetings conducted at a place of worship can continue but physical distancing and public health measures must be followed” Small group meetings are still permitted at the church building and some groups have already chosen to move to this space. Other small groups have chosen to pause their meetings for the time being. If you are in a small group, please contact your group leader to see how these changes will affect your group.

Youth Group

As it is a structured event, Life 360 will continue to meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the church. Masks will be mandatory. Physical distancing and other health measures will be practiced. Weekend youth events will be paused for the time being.

Kidspot

Kidspot weekend events will also be cancelled until further notice. As Sunday school is a seated, structured event it is permitted to continue. Mask use and physical distancing procedures will be followed.

This is a difficult season. If there is any way the leadership team can support you in this time, please don't hesitate to ask. The leadership of Lacombe First Baptist Church encourages you to do these two things:

¹ Unless otherwise stated all quotes are from the Alberta governments website and found under instructions to places of worship. (<https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>)

1. Worship God. Whether it is at home with your family, in the building on a Sunday morning or throughout your day; worship God. No matter what is asked of us or what we are experiencing, He is worthy of our worship. Do not allow these public health measures or a rebellious heart to prevent you from experiencing God in the weeks ahead.

2. Obey the government. While we see it as a violation of our religious freedoms for the government to attempt to use church leadership to enforce provincial law, as the current law is written, the pastors, board and other leaders are currently liable and “If you violate a public health order, you may be subject to a \$1,000 fine. Additionally, you can be prosecuted for up to \$100,000 for a first offense.” As scripture reminds us, whenever possible, obey the law so you will not have to fear the sword that the government rightfully wields. (see Romans 13)

We acknowledge that there is a wide range of views on these matters in our congregation. We urge you to speak to one another in gentleness and love when you discuss these things.

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. – Numbers 6:24-26

In His Service,

Pastor Rob Klingbeil

on behalf of the Ministry Management Board