

August 9, 2021

Dear Congregation of TLC,

The Church Council recently met for our monthly meeting where we review our Covid Safety Protocols to make sure we are providing the safest possible environment for us to conduct worship and other church activities. When making these decisions we review current data provided by the state on the 7-day rolling positivity average and the data on our current vaccination rates for our three county area. We also balance this information with thought, prayer and scripture. Currently we have seen a large spike in the positivity rates which is putting our most vulnerable at further risk. We have decided to amend our protocols slightly to create the best balance that we feel allows for us to really exemplify our mission which is, "We Grow in Christ to Serve Others."

The protocols are amended as follows:

- Masks are HIGHLY encouraged for all indoor activities including Worship, Wednesday Night Live and other activities conducted at the church. If you are not vaccinated, they are mandatory. If you are vaccinated, they are optional but we recommend wearing a mask.
- The 5:00PM Service will be a mask required service for all attendees. The Council felt having one of our services to have masks required will allow members and visitors to feel like there are as many options available as we can possibly provide for in person worship.
- All ushers, greeters and worship leaders will be required to wear a mask as they have the most contact with worship attendees.
- Communion will remain at the rail with appropriate social distancing. Those that wish to have communion at your seat will have the opportunity to pick up communion kits as you check-in.
- Any outdoor activities will be mask optional including outdoor worship services
- The Council also made recommendations to the Early Childhood Program; teachers and staff along with parents picking-up and dropping-off their children will be required to wear a mask indoors. Children will not be required to wear one as that will be at the discretion of their parents.
- As a reminder our other protocols are still in place such as: providing masks and hand sanitizing stations, using our electrostatic sprayer after services to disinfect surfaces, maintaining our I-Wave system which filters out viruses including Covid-19 and checking in for service when you enter to document in the case contact tracing is needed. Along with our janitorial company using high grade cleaners, we are doing all we can to provide a clean and safe facility.

The pandemic has reached every aspect of our lives. God has given us the tools to fight this disease; trusting Him and knowing He has given us the tools to fight this allows us to draw closer to Him in our time of need. The greatest tool he has given us is our ability to be humble and put our neighbors before ourselves. Wearing a mask can be an outward expression of putting others before yourself as stated in Philippians Chapter 2, Verse 3, a verse I shared with you all in one of my first Trumpet articles. Getting vaccinated is also an expression of putting others first. Both are admirable and both lead us to the same conclusion, that if we trust in Christ's message we can move forward and away from the challenges we have all experienced.

If there are any questions or concerns about these changes I am always happy to hear from anyone and discuss or processes with you.

Thank you and Many Blessings!

John Gallo
TLC Council President