

ACEFC Family,

After much research, consideration and prayer, we as your elder board feel lead to discontinue church activities at this time. This will include Wednesday evening clubs, the men's group "33," and Sunday morning services including Sunday School. Any other events that include 10 or more people will be discontinued through the 29th of March, at which time leadership will re-evaluate the situation. So, anything listed in last week's bulletin up to and including March 29th is cancelled.

We came to this decision based on two primary things:

First, submission to the governing authorities is Biblical. The government has implemented restrictions on groups of 10 or more gathering. Our very own EFCA Central District leadership has sent out a statement encouraging us to follow our state and local regulations. According to Scripture, as believers we are supposed to submit to the governmental authority put in place over us as if we are submitting to the Lord Himself (Romans 13:1-7 & 1 Peter 2:13-17). Our leadership (secular and spiritual) have both advised us to discontinue gathering. If this were being done from a persecution motive, I would be the first to ignore them and have church as usual; however, this is not motivated by persecution and they are not asking us to recant our faith or burn our Bibles. This is simply a public health and safety issue.

Second, loving others (Mark 12:31) and putting their needs first (Philippians 2:3) is a priority to Jesus Christ and should be to us. We have many people in our congregation who do fall into the "high-risk" category at all ages and there are those who we will encounter out in the general public. Whether we think it is silly or not to discontinue meeting, we are to out-do one another in showing honor to each other (Romans 12:10).

As leaders, we will continually evaluate the situation and give updates as necessary. Please pray for us as this has been exhausting. Please pray for our government leaders, health care professionals, and those who are suffering in other ways due to job closures, school closures, etc. Most importantly, pray for those who have been affected by the virus and for the safety of those who are susceptible to it. We will offer something in the form of a church service this Sunday via online sources, and more to come in the future, so keep a watch for that information as it comes out.

This is an opportunity for us to "be the church" to our neighbors and those around us. Look for opportunities to be a blessing and to help others.

Please remain hopeful and vigilant in the Lord as we endure this *light and momentary affliction together*.

Your pastor,

Jesse