

Williston Church Family and The Coronavirus

I think it is safe to say that we are in uncharted waters when it comes to the Covid-19 pandemic that is spreading across nations and has infiltrated our own nation. Everyone has strong opinions about what we need to do as a church body and we have heard many of them. Major Industries are shutting down and the stock market is tumbling down.

President Trump has daily news conferences to update us on things he is requiring of Americans and they get stronger and more restrictive each day. He is trying to get us back to a life of normalcy as soon as possible. One area where there has been relative silence is in what should churches do? The latest directive from Washington is for people to eliminate mass gatherings of 10 or more. Some might say that applies to every other group in America but not the church. But the Apostle Paul tells us to obey those with governmental authority over us (Romans 13:1-5) until they require us to go against our Christian faith and then we must "obey God rather than men."

So I sought the Lord, the counsel of godly men and gathered as much information as possible from other churches on how to address this problem. As you know our schools will be closed until at least May 1st and restrictions have been placed on businesses where large groups congregate, like restaurants. So to set a good example in the community and to do what we can to get things back to normal as soon as possible I have decided, with the help of the pastoral staff and oversight of the church council, to implement the following temporary changes in our local church body.

1. We are suspending our regular services from now until May 3. That includes our Sunday Services and Wednesday Night Services and our midweek prayer services. We are also cancelling the Men's Steak Supper scheduled for March 26th and April 30th.
2. We have developed a way for our members to stay connected with each other and we're implementing an assistance program for any elderly members who need help with things like grocery deliveries.
3. We will keep the church office open so that our members can continue to be obedient to the Lord in tithes, offerings, mission pledges and to call in any prayer needs
4. We will provide Biblical Activities for parents of children in Bible Block to keep them engaged.

We are making plans on how we will move forward if it is necessary to continue with restrictions in the coming weeks and we will keep you informed. This complete suspension is just for these few weeks and after that we will reevaluate. Just because we are suspending services does not mean we are suspending prayer or personal and family devotion. Take this time to reconnect with your family and to reorder your priorities in life. I look forward to getting back on schedule and knocking this virus out of our nation. Stay in touch with your brothers and sisters by phone, texts, or email but mostly stay in touch with God! We are all a little discouraged but let's all step up project a Christian attitude and witness. Keep on praying...stay in the Word..encourage one another.."this too will pass!"

Sincerely,

Pastor Wes