

March 12, 2020

LBC Family,



Grace and peace to you in Christ! As your elders, we wanted to write you with a brief update on the church's response to COVID-19 (coronavirus). This situation may tempt your heart toward fear or anxiety, but God's Word brings peace and comfort as we find in Psalm 46:1-3, *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling."*

**First, we want to assure you that LBC is well-prepared and worship services will be held.**

- Our maintenance staff already sanitizes all door handles and surfaces every week as part of their routine cleaning practices. They will continue to do so and be vigilant about it long after this situation subsides.
- One way our church is prepared is through LBC's online community on Faithlife ([faithlife.com/leonardtwnbc](https://faithlife.com/leonardtwnbc)). Should we be directed by governmental authorities to suspend worship services or other gatherings, we will use that platform to share sermons and remain connected to one another during any disruption. We strongly encourage anyone who has not done so to register for an LBC Faithlife account by going to [faithlife.com/leonardtwnbc/about](https://faithlife.com/leonardtwnbc/about) and clicking the "Follow" button.
- Another way to minimize the kind of contact that spreads COVID-19 is using a digital giving option. We have a digital giving option already in place. Regardless of how this situation progresses, you may want to move your giving to the Faithlife platform to continue your financial support. To setup giving in this way, please go to: [lbcmd.org/give](https://lbcmd.org/give) and click the "Give" button.

**Second, we ask your cooperation as we seek to care for one another.**

- The first way we can do this is to stay home if you or a family member are sick. We love gathering together to sing the praises of our Lord, to pray, and to hear from God's Word, but we also know that because of Christ we are under God's grace (hint: perfect attendance is not required). If you are ill, please stay home and take care of yourself or your loved ones until you are well enough to rejoin us.
- Another way we can care for each other is to avoid shaking hands and limiting similar physical contact. Please don't be offended if others choose not to shake your hand or embrace. We will sound the "all clear" when we believe it is safe to resume encouraging others in this way. Also, if you must cough or sneeze, please do so into your own elbow (this should be everyone's normal practice anyway).



- A third way we can care for each other is to wash our hands properly and to use sanitizer between hand washings. To encourage everyone in this, reminders of best hand washing practices have been posted in every bathroom and by every sink.
- Most of all, we can care by praying. By God's grace, we are not aware of anyone affiliated with LBC contracting or being exposed to the virus at this time. We call upon our whole church family to pray daily for those enduring it and those who have lost loved ones to it. If you or a family member do become ill, please let the elders know so we can pray for you as well.

**Third, we will announce any changes to the church's schedule and calendar via email, Facebook, Faithlife, Remind (texting service), and the church's voicemail box.**

We are regularly monitoring instructions from local, state, and federal health agencies. As of the distribution of this update, March 12 @ 7 PM, both church services will continue to be held each Sunday. In light of announcements from the Governor and the Maryland Department of Education and in an effort to honor our government's instructions, we are cancelling Bible Fellowships for all ages for March 15 and 22. The status of our Bible Fellowships will be reevaluated as time and developments unfold. As soon as possible, we will resume all Bible Fellowships.

All other activities and events scheduled for Mar. 13-27 are postponed including: choir practices, Women's Bible studies, and the Senior Potluck that was to be held next Friday, March 20, and the Youth Ice Skating activity for Sunday, March 22. We plan to announce a new date and time for these events as soon as it is safe to do so.

**Finally, and most importantly, our God reigns.**

We are sharing this information with you out of a concern for our community's well-being and to protect our church's witness to this community. We do none of this out of fear. We encourage you to consider Paul's words in Philippians 4:6-7, *"Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*

What grace and peace is ours in Christ! We look forward to seeing you this coming Lord's Day for worship.

In His Name,

The Elders of Leonardtown Baptist Church

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**SEEK**  
*The Lord*

**STUDY**  
*The Word*

**SERVE**  
*The Body*

**SHARE**  
*Christ*