



March 19, 2020

Dear Lifetree Family & Friends,

In compliance with our President's and Governor's current restrictions/recommendations on public gatherings, we will not be holding our normal open Sunday morning services March 22 or 29. Unless these restrictions change, we plan to return to normal services on Sunday April 5, Palm Sunday.

In lieu, we are offering a live feed of our service these next two Sundays, which will include our typical Sunday worship and message, broadcast from our sanctuary. Look for the YouTube link on our church home page, www.lifetreepa.com. Once there, click on the YouTube link, then the "live" icon. You can view the live service beginning at 10 a.m. It will also be uploaded to the YouTube site for viewing later. This video concept will allow us to remain within the scope and purpose of the current public gathering restrictions, while still assembling together to worship our God in song and word. We hope you will join us live online!

Lifetree leadership believes we have a responsibility to comply with our governments' instructions under such circumstances, both ethically and spiritually. A chief purpose of the governmental restrictions is to not risk the sudden overloading our already heavily-burdened healthcare system, nor risking the welfare of the workers (and their families) who staff these facilities. Clearly our government has determined that the larger the meeting, the greater the risk of coronavirus being spread.

In addition, the scriptures give guidance regarding honoring governmental wishes, provided they do not violate God's law. Paul instructs the church on such matters when he writes:

"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience 'sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor." (Romans 13:1-2, 5-7)

By rendering honor to the directions of our government, we are honoring the ordinance of God.

Finally, with respect to our tithes and offerings, we will of course need our congregation's continued faithful support. Please consider one of the following options:

- Give on-line at our website by clicking the "Home" button, then "Giving" and follow instructions (requires credit card).
- Give by mail to Lifetree Ministries, 500 River Road, Jersey Shore, PA 17740
- Bring your tithes and offerings with you to our next regular service.

As we stated in an email earlier this week, we have cancelled our Lifetree Family Meal for this Sunday. In addition, the Lifetree "Core Values" session has been postponed until a later date which will be announced.

Lastly, if any Lifetree person/family encounters financial hardship due to the impact of the coronavirus, please contact Pastors Don or Cheri. We will be glad to meet with you.

In closing, despite the numerous uncertainties that surround us now, one thing remains certain and unmovable - **Our God is still on the throne!** *"My help will come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let you fall; your protector is always awake."* (Psalms 121:2-3). He WILL see His people, His church and our nation through these times, as we continue to pray and look to Him!

In Christ's Constant Love & Care,
Pastors Don & Cheri And Lifetree Leadership Team

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