

COUNTRY  
FAITH  
CHURCH



## Summer E-Newsletter June-August 2020

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FROM THE  
PASTOR'S  
HEART

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**"It's a Big, Strong Body"**

- Pastor Larry Dorman

Greetings Church family. I hope this finds you doing well by daily drawing near to Jesus in these unusual times. He is a "very present help in times of trouble". (Ps.46:1)

I had the opportunity and privilege of joining a zoom meeting with 100 Minnesota pastors from various streams and denominations. It was hosted by State Senator Dan Hall, a friend and former Truebridge pastor, and our Senate majority leader, Senator Paul Gazelka. The meeting was the morning after our Governor's press conference addressing Places of Worship. We had all been hoping to hear a lessening of restrictions on church gatherings, since the week before he had done so with bars, restaurants and other social venues. On his "Dial of Reopening", churches were actually listed before those other places. Much to our dismay and with no clear reason, he made no other changes for churches, keeping indoor and outdoor gatherings limited to no more than 10. This was for most of us (if not All of us) on the zoom call, a clear case of discrimination against our religious freedom. Prior to this, we at CFC, along with most churches in Minnesota, were endeavoring to do our part to respect and honor our Government leaders, following their directives to help stem the spread of the pandemic. Churches were a part of all social gatherings that were being asked to sacrifice for the common good of all. That briefing by our Governor on May 20th was a "watershed" moment for many church leaders, including us at CFC. We had decided after that, to respectfully disobey the directives, and continue with our plan for "regathering" (not reopening since we never "closed" being the church) starting Sunday, May 31st. On Friday May 22nd, in response to certain states not allowing religious gatherings, our President held a press conference declaring all houses of worship "Essential". He stated that something is drastically wrong when abortion clinics and liquor stores are deemed essential and houses of worship are not. Thank you Mr. President! I do want to make clear that our heart as elders was not to defy our Governor with a spirit of rebellion. As I stated earlier, we felt that it was time to respectfully disobey what was an overreach of authority, and discrimination against our religious freedom under the Constitution. There's a reason the Bible encourages us to pray for those in authority. It's not an easy position to be in. A word of encouragement.... Let's judge and criticize less, and pray more!

Now, I'd like to explain the title of this article. We at CFC are not an independent church in the aspect of standing alone. We have autonomy and don't have a denomination dictating our practices and beliefs. That's good and Biblical. We are a part of a network of "like minded churches" (not identical churches), called Truebridge. I have the privilege of serving on the TB Leadership team. I won't take the time here to describe all the benefits of being part of a network of churches like TB, but there is an amazing strength of discernment, wisdom and encouragement that comes from being connected. Those strengths of "The Body of Christ" were multiplied for me when I saw 100 pastors, from different streams, unified by the Spirit of God. I was also greatly encouraged by Godly Senators and Representatives serving and speaking truth in our halls of government.

These days are, if nothing else, a wake up call. Is this "the end"? Will the antichrist show himself soon? Is this the beginning of losing our freedom? I don't have all the answers to those questions and others like them, but I do know this. Our God is on His throne, which is far above every other. HE has a church that He will lead and guide through every challenging circumstance we face. We at CFC are connected to a Big, Strong, Body of

Christ that will be victorious and overcome every challenge and difficulty. We will know what to do, and what not to do. Why? Because He is the LORD of Hosts, and He is with us!

There are so many “voices” available today on the internet. Though many say that they are speaking for God, not all have a pure and clear word from heaven. Be Careful! It’s good to stay informed, but also easy to be affected negatively. Please feel free to contact pastors or elders if you are wondering if a message is valid. Staying connected to the body is a much better safeguard than spending hours on the internet. Just sayin :)

A final word.... Shine! We are the light of the world representing the Lord Jesus, who gave Himself for those around us. Let’s show them who He is, and how much He loves them!

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## Sunday Morning Encouragements

### - Pastor Nathan Nordlund

#### Sunday Morning Encouragements

During these days we are traversing all kinds of changes. Being a church family who is ready to roll with things and full of grace will be key to maintaining unity. Honestly, things will not be ideal for a season. We won’t experience the same comforts that have been afforded in the past. There will be situations that are less than ideal; situations that make us uncomfortable, inconvenienced, distracted, and frustrated. However, all of these things can ultimately be for our good. We can learn to be more selfless, more content in every situation, and more focused on what really matters.

As we come together I want to remind us of how we aim to engage with one another, and layout some of the things to expect on a Sunday morning. Much of this has been communicated already but I think it is worth touching on again, just to keep us on the same page during this season. And again, be ready to be fluid. These things may change, but this is what we would like to see right now.

- Please keep all personal belongings; jackets, purses, hats, etc. with you at all times.
- Please bring your own coffee or water. The coffee bar and water fountains will be unavailable for this season.
- Nursery and Children’s Ministry will not be available for a season. Resource packets will be available weekly for each child.
- The nursing mothers’ room will be available with a max occupancy of 2. An additional area will be setup for nursing mothers in classroom 1 in the education wing.
- Social distancing will be encouraged, physical contact discouraged. As much as we love to hug & shake hands, we want to limit the risk of exposing each other.
- A hand sanitizing station will be available for use.

- Masks will be available. Please feel free to use them, but they are not required.
- Seating will be arranged to allow for social distancing. Families will be seated together, and space maintained between different households. Additional overflow seating will be setup in the foyer and classrooms 3 & 4 if needed.
- Ushers will direct you to seating as soon as you come in the building and will dismiss you at the end of the service. This system will limit your conversation indoors, but please feel free to safely converse outside with one another.
- All communication will be done electronically if possible. During this season, we will not be using the church mailboxes.

In these days we can keep our focus on the greatness of our God. We can enjoy His presence. Together we will give God much glory! We have an AMAZING God who is worthy of our praise! Let's enjoy praising Him together for who He is and the life He provides for us. Excited to see you in the upcoming weeks!

Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor Nathan

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## Our Story, His Story

### - Jason & Kristen Lieving

Hello church family.

We're Jason and Kristen Lieving who, towards the end of last year, relocated from Illinois to this beautiful great North, where Jason accepted a job at TEAM Industries. We are grateful and blessed to recognize this move as an answer to prayer and the workings of a great God who loves us. We admit that we haven't always placed God first in our life or our marriage, but when we fully committed to do so, how sweet the sound has been. Of course, all the struggles and challenges of life never go away, but knowing there is a God who has personal relationship with us and the blood of Jesus that covers us, we are able to get through what life throws our way, together. We are not strangers to Minnesota as we lived here in the early 2000's, first in Park Rapids and then in Duluth. It was during our time



in Duluth that God began to reveal his plans for us, through the relationships we formed at church, and by both of us attending men's and woman's ministries. Our life in Duluth was rather short lived, but God's hand in our life became even more real as Jason felt called to enter some form of ministry. We packed up and moved back to central Illinois where Jason pursued and received a degree in ministry from Lincoln Christian University and was ordained at Mt. Pulaksi Christian Church. Jason has been involved with many areas of ministry since his graduation at several churches, but mostly student ministry, small groups, and associate roles. Kristen has always taken a supportive role to whatever and wherever God has led us, but her heart has always been in some form of woman's ministry, worship, and hospitality. We love being outdoors together, experiencing the beauty of God's creation; whether it be walking through the parks, sitting by the lakes, working in the yard, watching and listening to the birds, or relaxing by the fire. We just recently purchased a home in Clearbrook and are beyond excited to see what God has in store for us. We are also looking forward to meeting more of you once we get back into the normal swing of things; whatever that may look like.

Peace and blessings to you,  
Jason and Kristen Lieving

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# COUNTRY FAITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Hello all,

You may be wondering, what does Children's Ministry look like over the coming days? Well, that is a good question. We are currently going through an experience that most of us have never seen before. Life looks different right now and its unknown for how long yet. However, I believe in love and grace for each other, we can move forward trusting for God's best and purpose in all of this. I would like to update our current plan and vision for moving forward with Children's Ministry during these Covid days, and how we want to remain connected!

**Jr Church/Nursery:** There currently is NO Jr Church/Nursery on Sunday mornings, families will remain together through service.

- We will continually assess the safety of our congregation and recommendations from the CDC/MDH on a week to week basis. We will update any changes regarding our Jr Church/Nursery program as soon as it is available.
- Activity packets for each child will be available Sunday morning to use during/after service. They will be handed to you upon entrance. Each packet will contain resources to help children engage in the lesson and continue exploring at home. You will be taking these packets home and do not need to return any portion of the packet.
- Each week, lesson content/videos will continue to be added to our private FB group. Please contact Nicky Ubert if you are not a part of this group yet.
- You may also access lesson activity/take home sheets online. Head to our website and click on Children's Ministry, there you will find the resources to help support at home biblical discussion.

**Kid's Worship:** There will be NO Kid's Worship until further notice.

- Every Summer, our normal pattern is to drop to one time a month. However, until Jr Church resumes, we will not schedule Kid's Worship dates.
- Again, please access our online videos in our private Facebook group as each Jr Church lesson includes praise and worship songs.

**Kids' Camp & Day Camp:** Postponed until 2021

- Although the decision was not easy, our camps have been cancelled due to current restrictions and other considerations that have been prayerfully factored in.
- We so value our camp experiences and what it provides for the kids, as well as our volunteers who serve. The Children's Ministry team will be meeting to discuss potential alternative options that will connect smaller peer groups together, following current recommendations.
- We encourage families to utilize Camp Dellwater for a family camping experience. They have very reasonable rates, great facilities and can host family gatherings.

Although it can feel disappointing to not have things as they were, I do strongly believe there is great opportunity to grow closer to Christ during this process. Our heart for Children's Ministry is to continue supporting families through the journey of raising kids who know the Lord. We look forward to filling our classrooms with the sights of children engaging in biblical instruction and social interaction with peers as the Lord leads.

During this time if you need any support or resources please do not hesitate to reach out as I am more than willing to connect and help how I can.

God is with us,

Nicky Ubert

CFC Children's Ministry



To be honest I know I need to write something to keep parents and youth informed but things seem to change so quickly lately. So, with that said here is what we do know. Youth Camp at Camp Dellwater is canceled. However, the youth admin team is discussing some sort of alternative. When we have more of the details worked out we will get them out to everyone.

Sunday youth nights are currently suspended. But with school out and the sun shining we are working on some plans for the near future to starting gathering again in a safe manner. I would love to hear from parents in regards to any ideas or concerns you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me. The entire team misses the youth and we are eager to gather again but we do want to do it with God's wisdom. I am hoping to have some sort of schedule out early June.

As mentioned before all this could change quickly. But this one thing has not changed. Jesus is alive and well. He is working on the hearts of the youth and I am confident He wants to pour out His spirit in a powerful way. Interesting yet exciting times we get to live in.

Stay tuned for important info

God Bless  
Pastor Brad



## A New Opportunity at Camp Dellwater

Normal summer plans have been falling to the wayside. Our Kids and Youth Camps have been cancelled. Many of our typical summer gatherings have been disrupted. Our summer is shaping up to look different. All these changes in our plans also provide some new opportunities.

Camp Dellwater is inviting families from CFC to come stay and enjoy their facility during the time that had been scheduled for Kids Camp, July 9-11. Families would be responsible for their own registration, meals, and activities. Fire rings will be provided for each cabin for open fire cooking, or people can bring their own camp stoves. Families will have access to the waterfront and the many outdoor activities available at the camp. It would be a great opportunity for families of CFC to enjoy the fun of camp together.

If you are interested in taking part in this opportunity, please sign up by June 21<sup>st</sup>. Call or email Lisa Peldo at the church if you are interested in this opportunity.

### Cabin Rental Rates:

All standard camper cabins: \$65/night

Nurses cabin: \$100/night

Lodge double room \$100/night

For more specific information about Camp Dellwater you can call 218.243.2061 or email [campdellwater@gmail.com](mailto:campdellwater@gmail.com).