



# Christian Reformed Church of Pease

Building with Faith • Laboring With Love • Inspiring with Hope

November 19, 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters at Pease CRC,

As we approach the coming holiday season, the increased rise of COVID-19 cases has come at a very unfortunate time. Many of the things we look forward to this time of year such as family gatherings, Christmas parties and programs, and other special things are being scaled back or canceled altogether. We know this is frustrating, sad, and disappointing for many.

And so, it is with heavy hearts that we announce the suspension of several of our in-person ministry activities at Pease CRC. We were hoping it wouldn't have to come to this, but the current environment in which we find ourselves makes these difficult decisions necessary. Our rationale for reaching these decisions is as follows:

1. Local and state officials have strongly urged MN residents to scale back on social gatherings of any significant size. It is our desire to pay attention and listen to those who are appointed to those roles.
2. Our local and regional hospitals are overwhelmed. It is our desire to do everything in our power to ensure we are doing what we can to help that situation and support our local health care workers in doing their work.
3. While the governor has not mandated the suspension of corporate in-person ministries, we do not believe that a mandate is necessary in order to act in the best interests of the needs of our community.
4. We desire to make these decisions proactively rather than reactively. That is, we wanted to do these things voluntarily in an effort to avoid a potential outbreak rather than having to be forced into these things as the result of one.
5. There is an increasing number of members within our church community who have tested positive in the last few weeks and we do not anticipate that number going down in the next few weeks.

It is for these reasons and more that the Administrative Team, with the support of the Council, has decided to:

1. Suspend all in-person corporate Sunday worship ministry, including Children's Worship and Little Lambs, through Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to continue to worship with us either online through our YouTube Channel (Pease Christian Reformed Church) or on the radio on WQPM (1300AM or 107.5FM).
2. Suspend all Sunday Night Live Ministries (Kid's Club, GEMS, and Cadets) through the end of the calendar year. Wednesday night Youth Group will continue on a week-by-week basis.
3. Cancel our planned Thanksgiving Morning Service with Bethel CRC.
4. Postpone the Congregational Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

In light of postponing the Congregational Meeting, it is necessary to do things a little differently this year. To that end, we have asked the six council members who would be ending their terms of service to extend them for up to four months. We are grateful that all of them have agreed to do so. This allows us to maintain continuity in leadership during this challenging time and delays voting on new officebearers until a later date – perhaps early in 2021.

As for voting for the two additional items on the ballot – the 2021 Budget, and the plans for remodeling the upstairs – we are asking all voting members to submit their absentee ballot providing their YES or NO vote on only those two items to the office **no later than Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**.

If you have any questions or concerns about these two items, or anything else, you are strongly encouraged to contact one of the following members of the Administrative Team: Steve Hubers, Carol Veurink, Laura Broberg, Jay Goslinga, Jan Pearson, or Pastor Michael.

Finally, please continue to keep your church family in your prayers. During these challenging days we want to encourage you to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, the one who is Emmanuel – God with us.

In Service to the King,

The Council of Pease CRC