

Dear CCSM Family,

Isaiah 41:10 reads,

**“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”**

We can safely rest in the fact that our God is sovereign. He not only made us and loves us, but He is also watching out for each one of us and is completely in control.

As the threat of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) increases, we would like to address many of the pressing questions you may have regarding your church. We are heading into uncharted territory, never before has our church faced the health issues we now face. We're not surprised by the uprising of Pestilence in the end-times, we knew it would eventually come.

**Matthew 24:6–8**

**6** And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.

See that you are not troubled;

for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

**7** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

**8** All these are the beginning of sorrows.

We know that at this time there are no confirmed infections in the city of Santa Maria or in the County of Santa Barbara; and though the response to this declared pandemic is shifting rapidly, we plan to act prayerfully and appropriately as we monitor local, state, and federal governments and health agencies.

The spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) into the United States has brought many questions and concerns regarding how churches will function in the midst of this pandemic. **At Calvary Chapel of Santa Maria we want to maintain a healthy environment for our congregation to continue to assemble worshipping the Lord Jesus.**

New information arrives every day concerning the spread of this virus, it is wise for us to take proper measures toward keeping our congregation healthy. Here are some of those measures we are taking immediately until further notice. A further assessment will be made then based on updated CDC information.

**If you're feeling unwell, rest at home until you are better.** If you feel ANY flu-like symptoms, please do not attend church, school, or any other public related events. **Symptoms to carefully watch include:** fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, or fatigue.

- If you have recently travelled overseas and are unsure of contraction, please rest at home for the recommended two weeks. Please do not attend church, school, small groups, or any other related events. This is especially important if you have recently traveled to a country where an outbreak has occurred, which we recognize is updating daily. (CDC Global Monitoring)
- **If you are in the “high risk” category, please join the church service from home.** As guided by the CDC (website), older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions, like heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease, should take extra actions to reduce their risk.

**Wash and Sanitize your hands:** Please wash your hands, and your children's hands at home before coming to church. If you come into contact with someone else through hand shaking, please either wash your hands afterwards or utilize one of the many hand sanitizer stations in our Foyer and Sanctuary. Also, it is recommended that you use hand sanitizer before entering any room in the building. Children's ministry leaders will remind your children to wash their hands and not to touch their face or other children's faces.

**PLEASE** do not take our hand sanitizer bottles home with you, you limit our ability to minister to as many people as possible.

**Fellowship portion of our service:** To avoid the pressure of shaking hands, we will encourage you to wave, greet each other with a smile, or literally “rub an elbow”. We also promise not be offended by each other's resistance to the common mutual affection we give each other on a weekly basis. We love each other and understand our health is of significant importance.

**Church Services:** All Church services will be broadcast through **Live-Streaming**, available on our smartphone App and our Church website. Our Sanctuary doors will be **open every Sunday** for you if you decide to continue coming to church. We will continue to hold two services at 8:30am and 10:30am. **Please join us online, we want you to continue to participate even if you need to be away from our church facilities.**

**Children's Ministry** is making sure there are no sick workers on campus, and we ask that parents keep children at home who display any symptoms, such as: fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, or fatigue. Sanitary wipes are at all **Kid's Check** stations, and we're requiring workers to thoroughly wipe down the devices after daily use.

**Youth Ministries:** Youth ministry will **NOT** be meeting Wednesday nights at church but **WILL** be meeting on Sundays for regular service.

**Community Groups:** All home community groups need to be temporarily suspended.

**Women's studies:** All church women's studies on Fridays and Tuesdays will be temporarily suspended until after April 17, 2020. Since these meetings cannot be live-streamed we will resume the lessons when we return to regular meetings.

**Men's Studies:** All Men's studies on Tuesday nights and the last Saturdays of the month are suspended until April 17, 2020. Men's Friday Morning breakfast studies will continue at The Boy's Restaurant in Santa Maria studying through the Gospel of John with various teachers.

#### **Special Events:**

- The following special events have been cancelled for a season:
  - Resurrection Play
  - Men' Breakfast on March 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Youth Fundraising Yard-sale on March 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Java & Jams – March 15<sup>th</sup> evening
- The following events are still planning on meeting:
  - Speeders Ministry – March 15<sup>th</sup> for lunch
  - Men's weekly Breakfast Study – every Friday at The Boy's Restaurant
  - Resurrection Sunday
    - Sunrise Service @ 6am
    - 8:30 & 10:30 am special services though no Breakfast Buffet this year.

#### **CCSM Employees:**

We have asked that all church employees not report to work while they are experiencing symptoms, such as: fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, or fatigue. Employees are asked to remain at home for at least 24 hours after they are free of fever or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Many times, with the best of intentions, employees report to work even though they feel ill. Employees who report to work ill will be sent home in accordance with these health guidelines.

We provide paid sick time and paid time off in accordance with our leave policies to compensate employees who are unable to work due to illness.

### **What Is Our Spiritual Response?**

Being a Christian means not living in fear as well as preparing well and having wisdom. This is a moment for Christians to step up and intercede for our world. We want to pray for our friends, our loved ones, those vulnerable among us, those in authority guiding our response to this pandemic, and of course, those directly affected by it.

As the Lord leads, consider reaching out to a neighbor, family member, or friend who will be negatively affected by the Coronavirus. Especially consider the elderly in your community and consider reaching out to pray, encourage, and/or even run a needed errand.

As these perilous times mount, we pray that the Gospel would go forth and many would be saved. The Lord often uses times of hardship to bring many to faith.

**“God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7)**

Continue checking our Facebook space for the latest updates concerning CCSM, as we continue to keep our church family informed.