

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

August 27, 2020

My dear Friends:

As I mentioned in the accompanying video, this letter is a summary of the plans that the session approved to restart nursery, Sunday schools, and Wednesday night activities, starting the week of September 13. There will be more specific, detailed protocols for our parents and children coming to you over the next couple of days from our Children's Ministry or Student Ministry, depending on the age of your children.

For our children's Sunday school and nursery, we will be adopting a phased approach with the various ages starting on the respective dates:

September 13 — Nursery, PK, JK (0-4 years old)

September 20 — 3rd-5th grades

September 27 — K-2nd grades

One reason for this phased-in approach is that it will allow us to bring our children, staff, and volunteers back to campus in a safe fashion. We also are continuing to learn from other schools and churches as well as our own ministry as we bring different groups back on campus. We recognize that some of you may have a four-year old and a six-year old at home. If that's the case, we recommend that you wait until September 27 to come back to Sunday school.

Two things to note here: first, for the present time, **nursery will only be offered for the first morning service and the Sunday school hour**; we will not be offering nursery for the 11:00 a.m. service or for Sunday Evening Praise. Our intention is to create a "bubble" for our children and staff in which they have limited interaction with non-volunteer/staff adults. Parents may pick children up after the 8:30 a.m. service, but only those children who enter nursery for the 8:30 a.m. service may remain for Sunday school—no new children can be brought for the Sunday school hour.

Second, you will need to register your children in advance each week for nursery and Sunday school. We will be limiting our class sizes to make sure that we can appropriately distance children in their classrooms. Obviously, with some of our children's ages that will be easier than with others.

With our adult and student Sunday school classes, **which will begin on September 13**, we will also be asking people to register in advance and limiting the number of people who can register. This will allow us to make sure we can distance people in an appropriate fashion, depending on your

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classroom. Masks will be required in the Sunday school rooms as they are for Sunday morning and evening worship.

One of the things that will help us with our Sunday school classes is how we have configured our Wednesday night program. Essentially, from September 16 through November 11, instead of running a small group program, we will offer the same adult Sunday school class on either Sunday morning or Wednesday night. This will allow us to divide the Sunday school classes for those who desire to participate in a fashion that ensures you won't miss the lesson or interacting in person with others.

For our children, starting Wednesday, September 16, 6:15–7:15 p.m., we will be offering “That Thing” instead of our regular BLAST! program. Our children's and music teams have developed a program that will offer non-vocal musical instruction, catechism teaching, and craft and/or service opportunities. This will last through the fall—we will re-evaluate the present situation and guidance after Thanksgiving as we look to the spring.

At our annual meeting a couple of weeks ago, I told you that we wanted to press ahead with offering various ministry programming rather than waiting for Spring 2021. We hope that you will take advantage of these opportunities to come back to in-person activities, but we also recognize there is still a great deal of uncertainty where the present public health crisis might develop. We want you to exercise your judgment and self-select in which you might participate.

Our great desire, though, is that we might go forward together as God's people in this moment in time. Mid-September will mark six months since we had to shut down our “regular” community practices. That's long enough—let's come back together as we are able so that we might gather, grow, and go together.

In the grip of God's grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sean".

Sean Lucas
Senior Pastor