

# Westgate

## CHURCH *of* CHRIST

SEEKING AND SAVING THE LOST, CHANGING LIVES AND  
NURTURING THE FAMILY OF GOD.

Dear Westgate Family,

We may not remember the spring of 2015 or 2018, but all of us will likely remember the spring of 2020. This has been an extremely disruptive and chaotic year and we know that in the midst of all that has been going on, one of the things we have missed most is the opportunity to be together in the same place and to worship together. We know that not everyone is in a place, at this point, to be comfortable returning to worship together with everyone and we want you to know that we understand that, we respect that and we want to affirm you in that decision.

For those that do feel comfortable, and that is a significant portion of Westgate based on your survey responses, we want you to know that there has been a great deal of time spent in prayer, consideration and discussion regarding a return and we are happy to announce that we have a plan in place that will support the return to worship in the auditorium together for those who are comfortable doing so beginning this Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a number of new things involved in order to meet the standards set out by the Governor of Texas for our return to meeting together, so we want to review those key aspects:

- As we acknowledge that some people are at higher risk for COVID-19, we have designated the seating area at the rear of the auditorium as reserved for members who would place themselves in that higher risk category. We ask those members only to park in the north parking lot and to use the entrance to the rear of the auditorium. That will allow us to do the most we can to reduce exposure and risk for those members.
- For all members who do not place themselves in that higher risk category, you must park in the main parking lot and enter the building through the south entrance that faces the main parking lot.
- Both entrances will be held or propped open so that members will not need to make contact with the door handles to enter the building.
- Near each entrance we will have a station where one adult from each family will be able to stop and pick up communion supplies for their family unit. These will be individually packaged and handed to you by a volunteer.
- When you enter the auditorium, first, remember that we are undergoing renovations so it looks completely different – there are no pews and most of the floor is concrete at this point.
- Second, seating for the next several weeks will be using chairs – the chairs will be clustered in groups to allow family units to sit together and to provide the appropriate social distancing between clusters of chairs/family groups. The governor's guidelines do allow members who have spent time with other members and have shared potential exposure to the virus together to sit together in worship, so your family unit may make that decision. It is your responsibility to look out for the needs of other members by verifying that your group's seating cluster is appropriately distanced from other clusters.

- Once we reach our capacity for the auditorium with appropriate spacing, we will use the fellowship hall as overflow seating for additional members and we will use clusters of chairs there as well. Between the two spaces, we anticipate having enough seating for all of the members who indicated they plan to attend.
- At the conclusion of our services, we will stagger departure from the building to have as few people in the halls at the same time as possible. We will use three exits from the building: the exit at the rear of the auditorium will be reserved for our members in the higher risk category who will be seated in that area; those members seated in the front half of the main portion of the auditorium will exit through the children's hallway into the main parking lot; and those members seated in the back half of the main portion of the auditorium will exit using the main hallway.
- At each of the exits, we will have an opportunity for children to give to the Hope for Haiti work, we will have a contribution collection box, and there will be a trash can for your communion trash.
- At this point, the playground will remain closed and you are asked to not congregate in the building to allow everyone to exit the building with social distancing in place.
- To preserve the health of our church family, you are asked to stay at home and join us on-line if you have been exposed to Covid-19, if you have had a fever or any symptoms in the last 14 days or if anyone in your family has been similarly exposed.

We look forward to having everyone back with us, but we want to make sure that we keep our members as safe as possible. We know that not everyone will be comfortable returning to worship physically together yet, and we understand that, respect your decision and very much want you to continue to join us as we stream our worship together.

In His Service,

The Westgate Elders and Deacons