

# Covid-19 Update from Pastor Cecil



March 18, 2020

## LifePoint Church friends and family,

I want you to know that Leah and I, as well as the rest of the leadership of LifePoint Church, is praying over you, your family, our community, our nation, and our world, as we are in unprecedented times. With the ongoing spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and the incredible speed at which things are changing around us, we are continually adapting the ministry of LifePoint Church as we feel the Holy Spirit lead to ensure we are ministering with great effectiveness.

As I shared with you in a previous post, "Over the last several months, as we have been nearing the completion of our building project, we have been talking about how the church is people, not a place (building). I think it is incredible and timely that God has been reminding us of that over the past few months."

As I am writing this, we are only 11 days away from the planned Grand Opening of our expanded and updated facilities (scheduled for March 29). Billboards have been on display, invitations went out to our community, and preparations had been made—but God has other plans.

Although the current circumstances will cause us to postpone the opening of a building (as you will see below), I sense the CHURCH (God's people) in Pearland is about to be more open than ever before. During this time, God is leading the CHURCH to be more open than ever before to opportunities to love and lead our community through uncertain times. He's leading the CHURCH to be more open than ever before to spreading hope and healing in this incredible time of need. He's leading the CHURCH to be more open than ever before to new and creative ways of reaching people for Christ that will not only be effective during the current circumstances, but even beyond.

We (the CHURCH) know where our peace and confidence rest. As fear, uncertainty, and need grow around us, these things have no power over us. Our King remains in control and whatever happens, we know with utmost confidence that He is good—He has already laid down His life and secured our victory over all that stands against us. This is the message the world needs.

I can't explain it, but I have never been more excited for LifePoint Church—not the *place* but His *people*. I really do believe this can be the Church's finest hour! We will not shrink back, but we will advance.

While we continue to adapt as things change around us, we've made decisions on how to proceed for the time being. These decisions have been surrounded in prayer, as we ask God to lead us in faith and wisdom.

The current recommendations by our nation's leaders are to avoid public gatherings with more than 10 people in order to slow the spread of sickness and reduce its burden on our hospitals. We also want to do what we can to protect those most at risk within our church and community. Therefore, as of March 18:

### **Sunday Morning Services**

Effective immediately our regularly scheduled Sunday morning services at 9:00 and 10:45 AM will move to online only (no in-person services) until further notice.

As you are attending online, please hit the "share" button on Facebook or YouTube. Post a comment and say hello. Let us know that you're watching. Be sure to interact. Just as we have always done, Sunday mornings are not a time to just sit back and watch. You are an active participant in worship and in ministering to others. As we meet online, I want to encourage you to be even more intentional in actively participating in Sunday mornings.

You can also take it one step further and host your own "watch party" on Facebook so that your friends and family can join in and you can connect with them in the comments section. What a great way to spread hope!

Your Church Online options are:

- Facebook Live: <http://facebook.lpchurch.tv>
- YouTube Live: <http://youtube.lpchurch.tv>
- Church Website: <http://lpchurch.tv>

### **LifeGroups**

Effective immediately for the health and safety of all involved, in-person LifeGroups will be suspended until further notice.

Just because we are not having in-person meetings doesn't mean we cannot stay connected. Our team is working on creating new ways for us to still engage one another and grow in community and faith online and other creative ways. Stay tuned.

### **Children's & Youth Ministries**

Effective immediately, all our regularly scheduled in-person kids and youth ministry will be suspended until further notice (including KidsPoint, Champions Club, and Arise on Sundays, and Elevate on Wednesday evenings).

But don't worry—ministry will continue online. It is a high priority for us to walk alongside parents as they pastor their kids during this time.

Pastor Amy and Pastor Thomas have tons of special things planned for your kids and youth. Be sure to tune into the service on Sunday morning for more details and something special for your kids.

To stay up to date with LP Kids:

- LP Kids on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lpkidspearland>
- LP Kids on Instagram: <https://instagram.com/lpkidspearland>
- Arise Kids on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/arisekids>
- Arise Kids on Instagram: <https://instagram.com/arisekidsministry>

To stay up to date with Elevate Youth:

- Elevate on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/weareelevatelp>
- Elevate on Instagram: <https://instagram.com/weareelevatelp>
- Student text notifications: Text "lpelevate" to 31996
- Parent text notifications: Text "elevateinfo" to 31996

## Online Giving

At LifePoint Church, we believe a significant part of being a Christ-follower is honoring the Lord with our resources.

If you are part of LifePoint, we want to thank you for your faithfulness in giving and we want to encourage you continue to do so as God's Word declares and His Spirit directs. It is because of you that we are making an impact in our community and around the world.

If you have not already explored our online giving options, this is a great time to do so.

You can give one-time or "automate the important" by setting up recurring giving by visiting this link:

- <http://giving.lpchurch.tv>

## Stay In The Loop

Like, follow, subscribe, and turn on notifications to our online pages to stay up-to-date and to connect with us online.

- Like our Facebook page: <http://facebook.lpchurch.tv>
- Subscribe to our YouTube page: <http://youtube.lpchurch.tv>
- Add our church Website to your favorites: <http://lpchurch.tv>
- Sign up for email updates: <http://connect.lpchurch.tv/emailupdates>

Remember - Faith over Fear - This is a time for the CHURCH to shine.

Please know we are praying for you. For prayer, questions, or anything else, please feel free to contact us at [info@lpchurch.tv](mailto:info@lpchurch.tv).

We love being your pastors,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop that crosses itself, followed by a horizontal line and a short vertical stroke.

Cecil and Leah Whitton

