

Dear Friends,

“Covid25.” No, not a new virus, thank heaven. Rather, on my computer, Covid25 is the name of this week’s letter. Last week was Covid24. Next week will be Covid26. The bad news is it’s nearing six months of life in a pandemic. The good news is we’re still here, making our way through it, adjusting, learning, living, serving. The Good News is God is with walking with us. He loves us and has redeemed us, and (I trust) is squeezing some good cider out of these gnarly apples.

Last weekend, we had the best attendance yet since reopening at the end of May. In fact, we slightly exceeded our self-imposed cap of 65 at two of the three services. I’m proposing we take a couple of weeks to look at trends, and, if necessary, add a third service on Sundays, maybe at 9:15 am. Some churches have a Thursday night or Monday night service, but rarely with much success. The common wisdom is if it’s not on the weekend, people won’t come. Currently, we are not running Sunday School classes, so a 9:15 service might work well. It would also work well for Dr. Paavola.

I’ve been working mostly from home, but I hear the reopening of school is going well. Of course, the staff and students alike are on high alert for any symptoms of Covid19, and a number of children have gone home with headaches, sore throats, mild fever, coughs, nasal congestion, etc. A few have already been tested for Covid, but the tests keep coming back negative. We’re thankful for that!

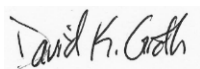
Starting soon, we’ll have a couple of new Bible Studies that will be offered during the week. One will be led by Pastor Thompson, the other by Ron Wille. Both will take place in the sanctuary. More information will come out with Covid26! I’m thankful to both these gentlemen for filling a void we’ve had at Good Shepherd these past months.

The Sanctuary Committee met last night (Tuesday, Sept. 1). We started going through the report from the Riedel company on how we might achieve better acoustics in the sanctuary. Some changes would be easy enough and economical; others . . .not so much. We also haven’t forgotten about the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Our goal is to have most if not all of the changes made in time for our 50th anniversary, which is only a year away or so.

The memory verse for this week is from 1 Peter 1:3, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Finally, we’ve been praying for 14-year-old Ava Finger, the great granddaughter of Jeanette Singletary who lives in Clyman. Ava was seriously injured in a mountain biking accident out west while visiting family. She went through major surgery, but the doctors believe she is and will remain paralyzed from the chest down. Ava has been flown back to Chicago for a long and specialized rehab. As you might imagine, the medical bills not covered by insurance are immense. If you wish to support Ava, a GoFundMe page has been set up at <https://gf.me/u/ys6hq3>. If you prefer, you could also write directly to Jeanette Singletary whose address is in our Directory.

That’s enough for this week. God bless and keep you. I’m praying for you.



Pastor Groth