Dear Winnetka Bible Church,

This past Sunday in our worship service, our guest speaker Ian Lawson delivered a sermon on the authority of Jesus Christ. Ian showed us from Matthew 28:18 that the Father has given Christ authority over ALL things. We were powerfully moved as we heard that Christ’s authority extends over Creation, History, Conversion and Disease. It was a blessing to be together.

Going forward, due to the escalating public health situation and new local and federal directives, we are planning to implement a new approach to ministry to protect our church family and to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Here are a few of the measures we are planning to put in place:

* As of today, March 16th, 2020, **all WBC ministries held in our facility will be immediately suspended until March 31st, 2020**. This includes ministries like AWANA, youth group, men’s & women’s ministry meetings, young adult events, senior events, Mother’s Together, Precepts, What the Bible is All About, Children’s Ministry, etc. We are also suspending outside groups like book clubs, homeschool meetings, play rehearsals, gym rentals, workout classes, basketball leagues and other outside activities. We will reevaluate the situation before March 31st, 2020 and consider any further steps necessary at that time.
* **Our plan for this Sunday’s worship service is to make our preaching/teaching ministries available remotely.**Things will look very different for the next few weeks. According to new guidelines from the White House, we are advised to have no more than 10 people in a single gathering place. We are therefore encouraging families and small groups to meet together in homes rather than in the sanctuary on Sunday morning. We are still working out the details on how this will be implemented. We hope to announce specifics later in the week.
* **We are asking that all seniors & anyone at-risk remain at home** for your own safety at this time.
* **We are also asking home-based ministries to continue IF the leaders and the group members are willing to meet.** We are hoping that our small groups and family-to-family connections might fill in some of the gaps we may experience in the next few weeks. As a reminder, all home-based meetings should adhere to the CDC guidelines, including proper hand washing, social distancing, and limiting group size to a maximum of 10 people.

As we adjust to the sudden changes in our lives, please pray earnestly. Pray for the elder board as we seek wisdom and guidance from the One who holds the future in His hands. Pray for your fellow brothers and sisters, especially at Winnetka Bible Church, that we would be protected from disease, but also from fear, despair, loneliness, and from the schemes of the enemy. And finally, pray for opportunities to share the Gospel with those who may be unsettled by the times and for creative ways to encourage one another.

In a time when we are not able to gather together, it’s okay to lament what we have lost for a season. But let us also look around for opportunities and blessings that might spring up and look forward to the time when we can be together again.

For now, *“May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of his eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will…”*(Heb. 13:20, 21). 

Every blessing in Christ,

Keith Doyle, Senior Pastor                   Louis Kolssak, Chairman of the Elder Board