

I know... "We don't want to."
I hear you... "We shouldn't have to."
Tell me about it... "We have been lied to."

Those above statements... I have said them all or at least thought that way a number of times. Can you say the same? Be honest now. Today's Covid-Consuming and "Culture-Crisis" life is tough. Maybe we all need to be reminded of God's plan to lead his sheep to still waters? I am tired of the waves (Ps. 23:2)!

What waves are crashing into your boat? The New Normal? Sickness? Chaos in the streets? In turbulent times, I pray that our "With Jesus" relationships add strength to our lifeboat vs. worsening the waters around us. **I am confident** that you and I disagree over something. Different passions and perspectives are everywhere. May my rights never trump a unified and God-glorifying friendship with you! May my wants never cause your boat to capsize!

I am confident the obstacles in front of us are opportunities for us. You and me, we get to practice loving each other as we love Jesus (Mark 12:31). This becomes more than words we speak. I have not seen more practical ways to portray love in my lifetime. Chief among these ways; laying down my desires and wants for my neighbor (John 15:13). You are my neighbor and I am yours. We are subdivision buddies with Jesus. **I am confident** that we will live in harmony and peace with each other (Rom. 12:16-21).

I now ask you, my neighbor, how does these words of truth help determine your answer on wearing a mask? I love you and **I am confident** that the Spirit will lead you into all truth (John 16:13). In light of this, the NLF Elders have decided:

1. To require wearing a mask as you enter and exit the building, and when 6 feet social distancing cannot be maintained.
2. To require wearing a mask if you would choose to sing out loud. Masks are not required to listen, sit, clap etc...
3. To not let wearing a mask divide us. We want to do what we can to help as many attend as possible.

I cannot wait to worship collectively with you. All are welcome. Invite a friend. If you are comfortable and ready, please come. We miss you! We will continue to livestream our 9:00 am and 10:30 am services. **I am confident** that you will be blessed (even though we will be wearing masks 😊).

May Christ reign in all of our hearts!

Pastor Drew