

## **Growing Pains and Preventing the Spread of Illness at Church**

Michael Hentrich  
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Dear community,

As our community continues to grow, we are going through growing pains. On any given Sunday, we often have over 50 children in our building, and that number is continuing to increase without any signs of slowing down in the near future. This is a wonderful thing, and Adonia and I are truly inspired by our families' dedication to participating in our Sunday services and other activities.

The challenge is that when we have so many people together at one time, it can be easy to spread sickness, which has unfortunately been happening quite a bit in recent months.

We've realized that we need to make some improvements and offer some guidelines for coming to church if you have sick children or have been sick recently, for the sake of the well-being of our whole community and considering that we have quite a few new-born children as well.

We will put in place a system for sanitizing the Sunday schools rooms, play room, cry room, and high chairs every week. We will need a volunteer or two for this, so if you would like to help, we would appreciate it.

We will open up the church and air it out twice a month

We ask that if you have been sick and have had symptoms in the last 24 hours, that you please do not come to church or help with meal preparations. If you have meal prep, Sunday school, or other responsibilities, please let us know and we will do our best to find a way to swap or cover for you in some way.

If you have had the stomach bug, please wait until 3 days after the symptoms are gone before coming to church. The stomach bug is very contagious even after the symptoms are gone. These are the same guidelines that schools use for preventing the spread of illnesses.

Naturally, the last thing we want to do is discourage people from coming to church when they want to be there, but we hope that this way, the overall well-being of all of our families can be improved. Thank you for understanding, and please let us know if you have any questions or would like to help.

Sincerely,

Pastor Mike