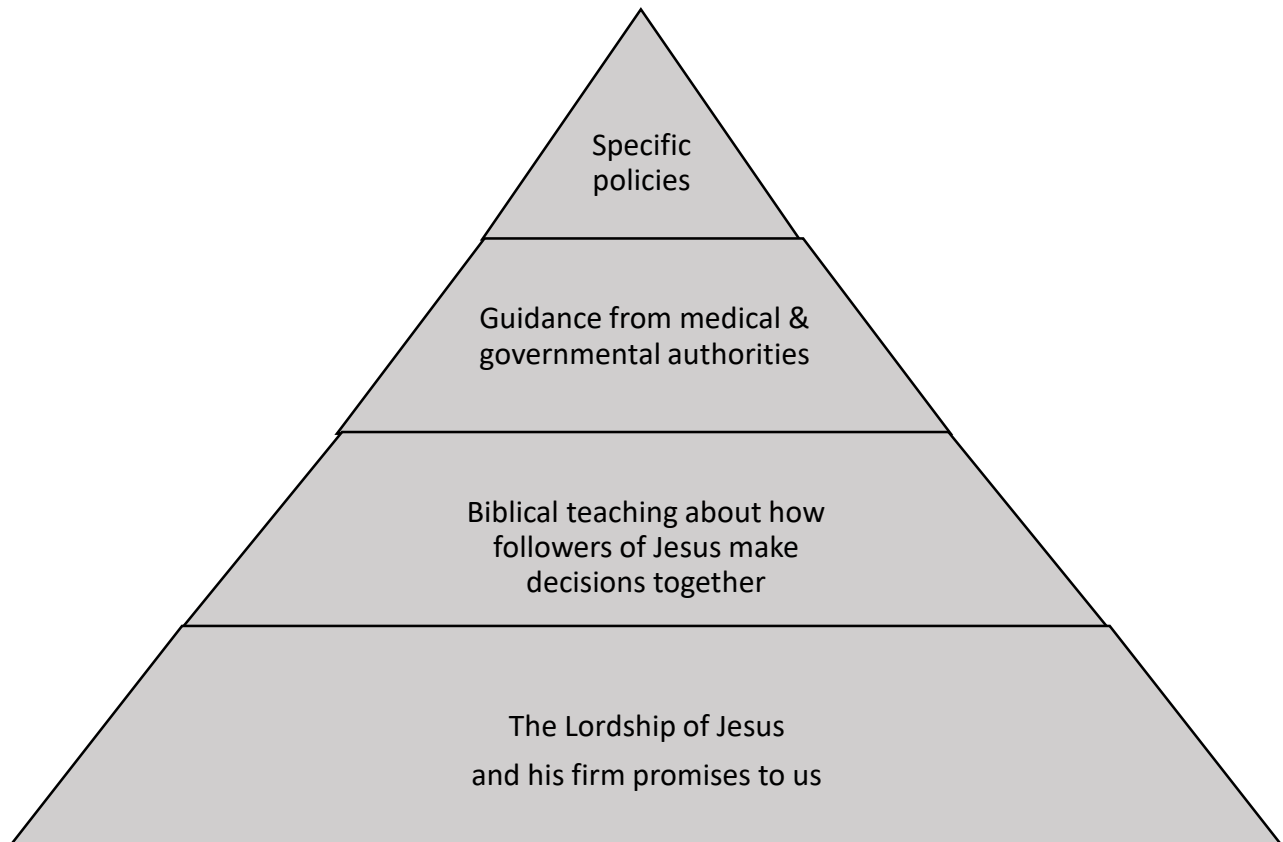


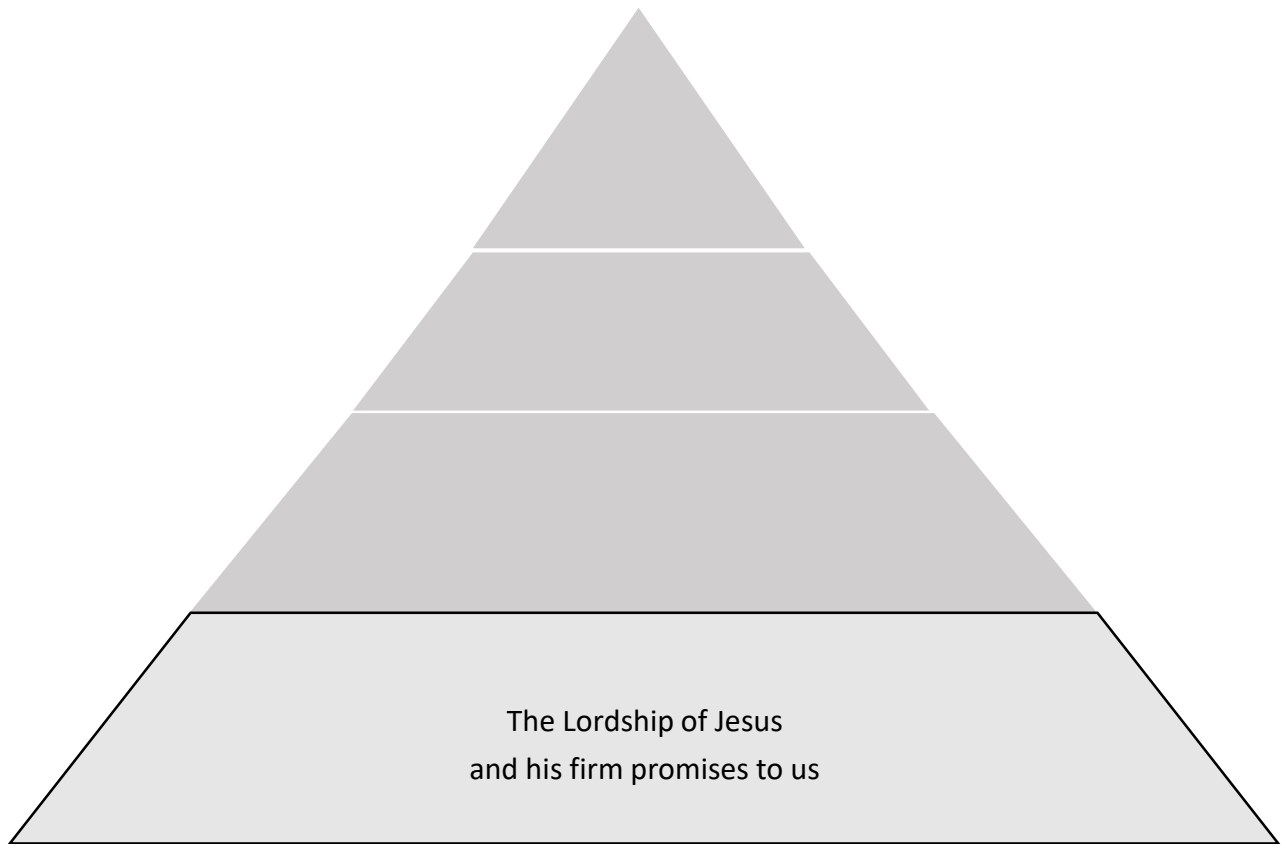
Covid-19 and Ministry at LaGrave Church May 2020

Spring 2020 has brought unexpected disruption and uncertainty to health and livelihoods in Michigan and worldwide. Due to the threat of Covid-19, many of our lives look very different today than they did three months ago.

As LaGrave Church begins to make plans to resume some modified in-person ministries, we do so following guiding principles that are important to state for our guests, members, leaders, and staff members. We conceive of these guidelines for decision-making as a pyramid structure. The Lordship of Jesus is the foundation of this pyramid. Biblical teachings about how our Lord wants his people to make decisions forms the second level of this pyramid. The third level of the pyramid is made up of guidance from governing authorities and medical experts. The final pyramid level is composed of the specific policies that will govern our safe return to church activities.



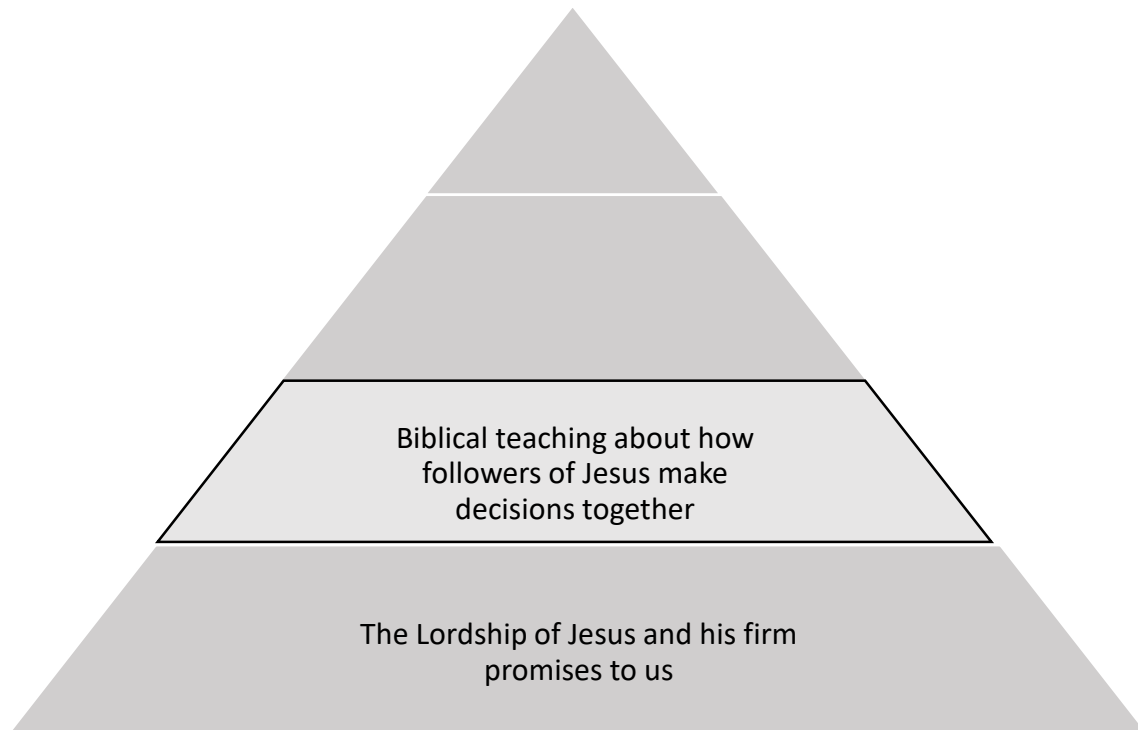
The Foundation: Jesus Christ Our Lord and His Firm Promises to Us



We believe God is the transcendent Lord of history, whose work in the world is not thwarted by Covid-19. God is also Immanuel, who walks with us each day. Longing to resume familiar church life patterns, we also listen for ways the Spirit may lead us into adaptable ministries.

(Jer. 29:11; Isaiah 43).

Level 2: We will ground deliberations and decisions in Scriptural values that guide life together for God's people.



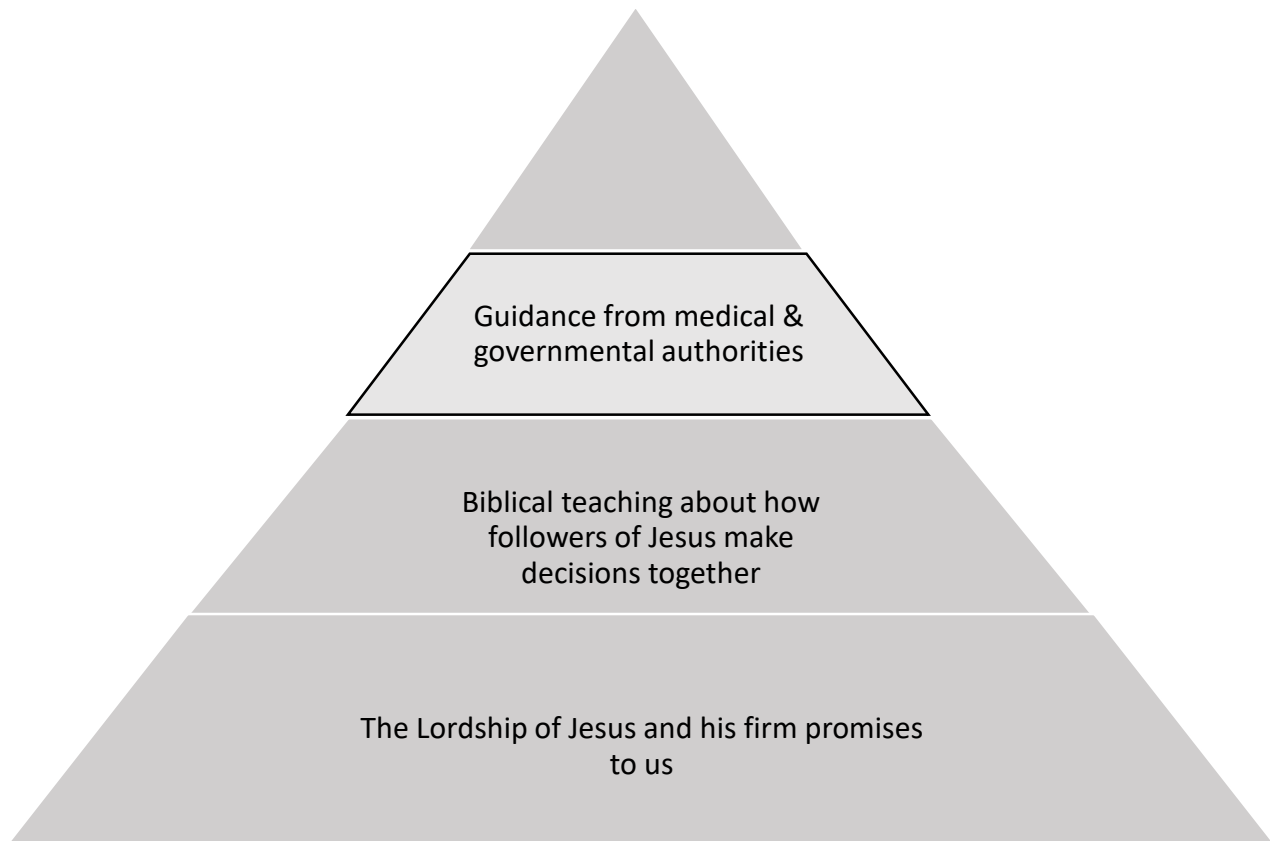
Love of Neighbor: When asked about the greatest commandment, Jesus says it is twofold: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments” (Matthew 22:37-40). God is love. Jesus commanded his followers to love by protecting the lives of our neighbors, including both family members and enemies. This love for neighbor is central to the Church’s witness. (Luke 10:25-37)

Community: Through the Spirit, the church is one body of Christ. We work, serve, and love, and grow together. Every member of the body matters. No one can say to another part of the body, "I don't need you." The weakest parts of the body are indispensable. (1 Corinthians 12:12-26)

Sacrifice: Followers of Jesus are called to live sacrificially. Jesus did not cling to equality with God or his right to remain on his heavenly throne but set these aside for our abundant life. Thus Paul instructs us to look to the interests of others before our own. (Philippians 2:3-4)

Grace: God is gracious with us, and we are called to be gracious with each other. We speak with kindness and gentleness, and we value others’ opinions. We receive truth and grace from others even as we are committed to showing grace and truth to them. (Col. 4:6)

Level 3: We will follow the best advice from medical and governmental authorities



As we make our specific decisions concerning the opening of our ministries, we will:

- Uphold the ordinances of government bodies authorized to make them.
- Follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Kent County Health Department.
- Consult with LaGrave members who are experts in the fields of medicine, epidemiology and public health, and school/business administration in defining gathering policies and mitigation efforts
- Rely on the best available scientific findings as results of Covid-19 studies continue to be published
- Monitor the reopening plans and practices of large public venues and churches in our area
- Adapt our own practices in light of new information or changing levels of community spread.

Level 4: We will enact reasonable policies and procedures that attend to public health and safety recommendations, maximize the comfort of members and guests, and allow ministries to continue in appropriately modified forms.

