**

**“THANK YOU” LETTER**

*This letter is intended for every member. It should be mailed out the week after* Welcome Home *Sunday, early enough so it arrives before the following Sunday. Customize to fit your situation. It is simply meant to be a sample of what could be shared. This letter could be signed by the pastor, congregational president, or an elder.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I’m writing to thank you for making *Welcome Home* Sunday so special. Our goal was to have 100% of our members gather together for worship that day. We knew that would be almost impossible. However, we had an attendance of 162. We have 224 members. That’s 72%. That might be short of 100%, but it is substantially more people than we have normally. It was wonderful! If you were unable to attend, please don’t feel bad. Schedules get busy. I look forward to seeing you soon, hopefully this coming weekend.

*Welcome Home* Sunday involved a lot of work by members. If you were one of those people who volunteered your time, thank you for that service too!

*Welcome Home* tried to drive home this truth: a congregation is supposed to be a family… a home… a place of love, support, and encouragement. The reality is we desperately need the help of others if we are going to faithfully follow Jesus and his Word in this broken world. God knows we need this! It is why Scripture typically refers to believers as “brothers and sisters” or as “family.” Family supports one another. They are quick to forgive one another. Family does not remain quiet when one of their own goes down a dangerous path, but lovingly addresses that issue. *We all need this.* (Me too!) We need a spiritual home like this. It is what we want our church to be. If you ever have any ideas for how we might better do this, please contact me!

*Welcome Home* was a way to celebrate and commit to this ideal. Why did we want to have 100% attendance? *Because we are family.* When you have a family reunion, your goal is not to have 40% of the family to show up. You want to see *everyone…* to catch up with *all* your family.

A quick reminder… *Welcome Home* Sunday kicked off a sermon series that stresses the blessings of being part of this “home” that is Christ’s church… the benefits of living within a loving Christian community. It runs through the end of November. I hope you can make it to these. I pray you will find them uplifting for you both spiritually and emotionally.

It was wonderful to have a Christmas Eve or Easter Sunday type crowd on a regular Sunday. Scripture says, **“Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Rather, let us encourage each other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching”** (Hebrews 10:25 EHV). Something about having *our whole family* together, gathered around the Word, singing Christ’s praises… it is *extremely* encouraging. Let’s keep that encouragement going!

See you Sunday!

Name