

SOTN Answers to Question

Questions: With the change to 5pm services can we have Sunday dinner instead of doughnuts?

Pastor Lee: Absolutely yes! We want our 5pm service to be an experience, not just the same old church service! We're going to create some experiences before or after the service that make coming to church at 5pm an amazing! We might have a pizza day, we might have a Soul Food day. We want to make it fun for the adults and for the kids. We're thinking through that, and strategizing about it right now.

Questions: How will the 5pm service impact EagleKids and Rise?

Pastor Lee: Other than the meeting time, there will be no impact. But we are going to make Eagle Kids even more fun. We will have the same activities, experiences, and services that we would normally have at 8:30 and 10:30, we're just doing it at 5pm. Rise JV will continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday while Varsity will continue to meet on 2nd and 4th Sunday's.

Questions: Will we have to reserve to come to service at 5pm?

Pastor Lee: No, you don't have to reserve a seat. We expect there will be enough space given the number of members still engaging with us online.

Questions: Pastor Lee, are you concerned about losing members because of this change?

Pastor Lee: No I'm not. Now I'm not saying that some people won't pack their bags and go to another church. But you know...I believe that is between them and God. I don't talk people into coming to Eagles Nest and neither do I try to talk people out of leaving. **This is God's church.** My job is not to keep people. **My job is to preach the Word, to shepherd people, to love people, to care for people, to cast vision and just to be faithful.**

Here's what I believe. Whoever God has for us is for us, whoever God doesn't have for us is not for us. I'm hoping that most of you all, if not all of you, will take this journey with us, because I'm telling you, God is up to something big! I just don't know when and I don't know where, but I'm telling you all, it's big! I can feel it in my spirit.

Question: How long do we think it will take us to find another property so we can go back to our original service times?

Pastor Lee: I don't know. I really believe that we're going to find something in 2022. But even when we find something it could take us four or five or six months to build it out. Even if we come across an incredible deal, it's still going to take time. I need you all to be prepared for at least 6 to 12 months of doing this new arrangement.

Questions: Will you be able to accommodate everyone at 5pm since you're consolidating two services, and has there been consideration for a 7pm?

Pastor Lee: We'll start off January at 5pm, and let's see how the first month or so , then we'll just make some decisions after that. So just hang in there with us while we play it by ear.

Questions: What will be the report time for those serving?

Pastor Lee: The pre-service arrival time should be the same as it is now. For example, if your team needed to arrive two hours before service to prepare for the 8:30am service then you'll need those same 2 hours at 5:00 pm. So your arrival time would be 3pm. We will communicate specific times through your volunteer team lead and Workplace.

Question: Are we open to leasing or buying?

Pastor Lee: We would rather buy, but we would be open to leasing if it's a great deal.

Question: Does ENC need a good Commercial Real Estate Agent?

Pastor Lee: No, we are good. We have had some of the top Commercial Real Estate Agents engaged in our search since 2016, so we have all the professional support we need. However, if you do come across a property that may be of interest to us please email us at: info@eaglesnestchurch.org

Questions: How much time is remaining on the current lease?

Pastor Lee: Our current lease expires at the end of the year. We are signing a new lease for the use of the building on Sunday afternoons and evenings for 2022.

Question: Why don't we look at some other places outside of North Fulton?

Pastor Lee: Because the Lord has called us to the North Fulton area. However, I went before the Lord, talked to some of our advisors and our elders. Those conversations have led us to expand our radius. We're going to expand our reach a little bit more north, a little bit more south, a little bit more west, and a little bit more east. We're open to Sandy Springs and maybe even Dunwoody. Farther north we are open to some parts of Exit 12 that have an Alpharetta address, even though it's in Forsyth County. We recognize the historical issues Forsyth County & Cumming represent for black people in this area. But you know what? I'm open to whatever God wants to do.

Questions: Are we open to purchasing land and then building a church?

Pastor Lee: Yes, we are open to purchasing land and building a church. We have attempted to do that on two properties in Roswell, but we couldn't move the deal forward because of zoning issues and cost.

Building also takes a lot longer, so we think our best path forward is identifying an existing property but again, we are open to building if the right situation presented itself.

Question: How much money are we looking to spend?

Pastor Lee: That's a complicated question, because it depends on whether we are doing the deal alone or with a Joint Venture Partner. But let me say this. If any of you know someone who wants to donate a building or some property, then just tell them to give me a call! If someone wants to "hook a brother up" then by all means, let them do it! I like free!

But barring someone donating us some property or a building, our range is between \$7 million to \$15 million if we do the deal by ourselves. If we do a deal with a Joint Venture Partner, we can look at anything above 15 million, even up to 100 million! For instance, we had a deal that we bid on with a JV Partner for 35 million dollars. Unfortunately, we got outbid. However, if we had won the bid, our percentage would have been one-third of the ownership of the property or 11 million dollars or so. So again, what we can afford depends on how we structure the deal.

A Final Thought: We've had a lot of people praying for us, and rooting for us, pastors all over the country. But I'm telling you all, the Lord is with us! He hasn't forgotten about us! He hasn't abandoned us! Every disappointment that we have had at Eagles Nest—and we have had some disappointments—every disappointment has been HIS appointment! God allowed the disappointments because He had something better for us! I'm telling you, God is up to something great! We just have to wait it out. Keep us in your prayers. Thank you and God bless all of you!