

# LIVING WORD

## Weekly Update

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

### Update

You will find attached to this email a one-page invitation to fasting and prayer. In it are both instructions of what we are asking you to do and some ideas on what it is that we can be in prayer about together. We hope you will consider joining us as we fast together from after supper on Wednesday evening, April 1<sup>st</sup> until before supper on Thursday evening, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. That will be 24 hours of fasting together. It will be 24 hours of praying together. It will be a day when Living Word unites as one body to seek the Lord. Through it, let's discover the promises that Joel gave us in Joel 1:13 (more on that in the Encouragement/Devotion below). God is good! His love endures forever! It is our prayer that all of this, ALL OF THIS, (though hard) will result in praise and worship! We know it will. The Apostle Paul reminds us of this in Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Praise God!

### Community

- Office: To connect with staff, please contact them via email or cell phone. Information listed at the bottom of this update.
- Gatherings: There will be no small groups, Bible Studies or activities meeting on location at Living Word until we are given the all clear to gather in person and in groups.
- Worship Services: For the foreseeable future, Worship Services will continue to be done via live stream on our YouTube channel LivingWordMarshallMN. [www.youtube.com/user/LivingWordMarshallMN](http://www.youtube.com/user/LivingWordMarshallMN)
  - Wednesday Night Lenten Service at 6:30 PM. This Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> is our final Wednesday service.
  - Sunday Morning Worship Service at 10:30 AM.
  - You can either join us live for these services or watch them with your family at a later time.
  - For viewing the live stream or recorded videos, we suggest you go directly to the YouTube website link above versus trying to access it via our website.
  - We suggest you subscribe and sign up for notifications to our LivingWordMarshallMN YouTube channel. By doing so, you will receive a notification on your computer or mobile device whenever we go live or add a new video. Just so you know, we are adding videos to our YouTube channel for keeping up with other groups (Confirmation, First Communion, Ignite, etc.) so you may receive notifications for videos other than worship services. To make it easier to find your way around, when you go to our channel click on "Playlists" to find videos related to the following specific lists: 2-Minute Faith Breaks, Worship Services, Ignite, Living Word Worship playlist, Confirmation, First Communion, Children's Ministry. If you'd like any help figuring all this out feel free to call one of us (preferably Greg!! Haha!).
- "Work as Worship" small groups (final on April 1): The questions and scripture for this week's session is attached to this email. We encourage you to discuss them at home with your family or discuss them with a friend, neighbor or co-worker following the Wednesday evening Lenten Worship Service.

- “2 Minute Faith Break” Videos: We will continue to provide you with these little faith breaks on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. They will be shared via email, on our Facebook page or available on our YouTube channel.
- Community Life Groups: All of our active members and active non-members have been assigned to a Community Life Group consisting of about 10 households. We’ve asked one person in each of those groups to call or communicate with the others. Please let us know if you don’t hear from somebody and would like to be added to a group. Please be open to the communications from these group leaders. We aren’t trying to burden you; we are trying to make sure that everyone is cared for and lifted up. This will help us all stay connected, check in with every member, receive prayer requests and answer questions.
- Children & Youth: Greg Pavek or Jaci Peterson will be connecting with various groups each week regarding Bible Education, Ignite, Confirmation, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion. Be watching for communication from them via email, text, Zoom, etc. This information has also been added to the Children’s Ministry and Youth Ministry areas on the website.
- Young Adults: Greg Pavek will be hosting a Zoom video call on Tuesday evenings at 7:00PM. The link to join the call is <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/784884197>. Please contact Greg if you have questions.
- Bible Studies: If you are interested in hosting a Zoom video call for Bible Study, please reach out to us.
- Weekly Updates: We be sending updates out via email at least weekly. Please look for them, read them and share the information with others, especially if there is somebody you know that doesn’t have access to electronic communications.
- Marshall Lyon County Library: The local library has accumulated a great wealth of information on their website regarding the community’s response to COVID-19. [www.marshalllyonlibrary.org/](http://www.marshalllyonlibrary.org/)

### **Pastoral Care/ Prayer**

- If you or somebody you know is in need of physical, emotional or spiritual support please reach out to us.
- Part of our response as Christians is to walk through this together with grace, love, confidence and faith. We are here for you.
- We want to pray for you. Please reach out to us with prayer requests! Email us or submit a prayer request via the prayer ministry link on our website <https://www.livingwordmarshall.org/prayer-ministry/>.
- If you’d like us to mail you a “Our Daily Bread” daily devotional booklet, please let us know. We also have a 14-day Easter devotional available we could send to you.
- Now is a great time to spend additional time studying God’s Word, watching online Bible studies, etc. Our website has a link to numerous ministry resources including free access to Right Now Media, Bible reading plans, etc. <https://www.livingwordmarshall.org/resources/>
- We invite you to join in a nationwide call to prayer from 8:00-8:01PM daily.

### **Encouragement/Devotion**

**“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”<sup>13</sup>  
**Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Joel 2:12-13****

We don’t know much about the prophet Joel, only that he was a prophet that spoke to God’s people, the people living in Judah (the southern kingdom). What we do know is that during Joel’s life a massive plague of locusts consumed everything and left the landscape barren. It causes him to ask the question in Joel 1:2 “Has anything like this every happened in your days or in the days of your forefathers?” Though clouds of locust haven’t covered our land consuming all in their path, we are facing a calamity. Joel’s question is something that I think we all have said in the last few weeks; “There has never been anything like this! It is without precedent!” We have left the boundaries of what we know and wandered into the uncomfortable place called “The Unknown!” That doesn’t feel very good does it? Especially for a people who’ve had it SO good for SO long. Our collective memory just doesn’t contain an event like this in it, so we can’t

wrap our brains around what it means, what will happen, what to do, or how to even live in the midst of it all. That is where our friend Joel, the prophet to Judah long ago, can help us. His words are terrifying in some ways – the calamity was huge and there is fear to be found in his writing. There is also a TON of hope, because Joel gives the people both a direction and promise! Joel says to them and to us, during the calamity pray, fast and return to God! That is Joel’s guidance and direction for His people and for us! Secondly Joel says to us; “The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love!!” These words are music to my ears. I need them SO much right now, and I bet you do too. So, let’s discover this together. Let’s listen to Joel’s words and take them to heart! Let’s pray, fast and return to the Lord, and as we do let’s claim the promises that God is gracious, compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Together let’s be one in our prayer and our praise!

In Christ, Pastor Dave Christensen

### **How to Reach or Connect With Us**

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Intern Pastor Greg 507-621-1817, [gregpavek@livingwordmarshall.org](mailto:gregpavek@livingwordmarshall.org)

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Kathy Dahl, Financial Secretary 507-423-5113, [kathydahl@livingwordmarshall.org](mailto:kathydahl@livingwordmarshall.org)

Website: [www.livingwordmarshall.org](http://www.livingwordmarshall.org)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LivingWordMarshallMN>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LivingWordMarshall/>

Instagram for Youth Ministry: Ignite56258

*God’s Peace,*

*Living Word Pastors, Staff & Leadership*