

# LIVING WORD

## Weekly Update

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

### Update

As a staff our hearts, minds and work had been SO focused on Holy Week and Easter that living on the other side of it now feels very strange. We are SO grateful to God for His faithfulness to us and that in the end it's all about Him! All our planning and prepping for Holy Week, though important and helpful, pales in comparison to the presence of the Holy Spirit. No amount of pageantry can aid us if the Holy Spirit isn't present, if God doesn't pour out His love, grace and forgiveness in and through worship. Once again, as a staff we were reminded of how good and faithful God is to us. He truly made this strange Holy Week a blessing for many! Praise God!

With Easter behind us for the year, we are left to once again deal with daily life. We are left trying to understand how to do "normal" ministry considering what is happening in our lives and world. It isn't totally clear, but we press on drawing close to the Lord and relying on one another trusting that we will be used and that the Lord will use this time for good. We believe that to be true! We want to re-iterate a few things so that you can understand where we are headed and how we will be the church together. First, we will continue to do one service that is live streamed on Sunday mornings at 10:30. We don't know when this will change but make no mistake, we are looking forward to worshipping in person with all of you once again. For now, we are grateful for the ability to connect in worship through technology and the team of people who make it happen. If you have any questions or are unable to access the service for any reason, please contact one of us to help you resolve the issue. Second, we started several Bible studies last week using the Zoom software that makes it possible to meet remotely, see everyone's face, and discuss scripture together. It isn't difficult to use or understand. Don't be intimidated by it. We can help you. If you have a computer and internet access you can join us for one of these studies! I hope you do. The studies are listed below in the community section with the links that are used to join the studies.

As always, the staff is continually assessing how we can be better at connecting with you and offering ministries to be a part of during this time. We commit to you that we will work diligently, that we will seek the Lord constantly, with the intention of serving the Lord to the best of our abilities and serving all of you in the process. Please continue to pray for our world, our nation, our communities, friends and family and Living Word. We have several ways for you to share your prayer requests with us. Please do. We know that this is not an easy time. You are not alone. We are with you. God is with you and remember, the Lord is compassionate, gracious and good. His mercies are new every morning!!

### Community

- 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.
- Sunday Worship Services at 10:30AM: Sunday Worship Services will continue to be available via live stream at 10:30 AM on our YouTube channel LivingWordMarshallMN. [www.youtube.com/user/LivingWordMarshallMN](http://www.youtube.com/user/LivingWordMarshallMN)
  - You can either join us live for these services or watch them with your family at a later time.
  - Subscribe and sign up for notifications to our LivingWordMarshallMN YouTube channel to receive a notification whenever we go live or add a new video. Also, going to "Playlist" when you get to our channel will make it easier to find the video you're looking for.
- Sunday Worship Service Replays: Marshall Studio 1 TV (Charter channel 180, Vast channel 17) at 11:00AM Tuesday and 5:00PM Wednesday; Cottonwood Access TV (Charter/Spectrum channel 180) at 7:00 PM Monday
- "2 Minute Faith Break" Videos: Shared on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday via email, Facebook & YouTube.

- Community Life Groups: 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 connect with the others. Please let us know if you don't hear from somebody or would like to be added to a group. 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 you each week regarding Bible Education, Ignite and Confirmation via email, text, Zoom, etc. This information has also been added to the Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry areas on the website.
- Young Adult Online Bible Study (hosted by Greg Pavek): Gather online via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7:00PM. Please contact Greg if you have questions. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/784884197>.
- Wednesday Evening Online Bible Study "Overcoming Anxiety During COVID-19" by Jonathan Pokluda (hosted by Pastor Kelly): Gather online via Zoom on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. The study speaks words of comfort and wisdom, to help Christians navigate the areas of life COVID-19 is affecting. During this series you'll be encouraged in how to overcome anxiety in these troubling days and explore ways you can remain faithful to God and to others. Please contact Pastor Kelly with questions.  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/2698640500?pwd=SHg1Wm5HRmszSmZEWTVZaVRnUCtadz09>  
Meeting ID: 269 864 0500, Password: 325350
- Thursday Morning Online Men's Bible Study: Gather online via Zoom on Thursdays at 6:30AM. All men are welcome to join the call to read and study scripture together. Please contact Pastor Dave with questions.  
Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/2698640500?pwd=SHg1Wm5HRmszSmZEWTVZaVRnUCtadz09>  
Meeting ID: 269 864 0500, Password: 325350
- Weekly Updates: We be sending updates like this via email at least weekly. Please look for them, read them and share the information with others.
- "Joy in Motion Christian Exercise": Living Word member, Erin Koch, has posted her exercise videos with scripture meditation and other interesting information on her website [www.joyinmotion.net](http://www.joyinmotion.net)

### **Pastoral Care/ Prayer**

- If you or somebody you know needs physical, emotional or spiritual support please reach out to us.
- Please reach out to us with prayer requests! We want to pray with and for you. Email or call us or submit a prayer request via the prayer ministry link on our website <https://www.livingwordmarshall.org/prayer-ministry/>.
- "Our Daily Bread" daily devotional booklet - Please let us know if you'd like us to mail one to you.
- RightNow Media & other ministry resources - Now is a great time to spend additional time studying God's Word, watching online Bible studies, etc. Our website has a link to register for a free RNM account and numerous other ministry resources, 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**

More than a decade ago I lived on a place where there was little variation in the weather (it was hot all the time—with no clouds) and everyone wore the exact same outfit every day and ate at the same cafeteria. It wasn't a school or a penitentiary. It was a deployment to the Middle East. Life seemed to crawl at the speed of a pair of horses pulling a wagon uphill, which is about 4 MPH. The simplicity (and speed) of life during a deployment is often complicated by the level of danger multiplied by human and other factors that can make the easiest tasks seem difficult. The sense that every day was 'Ground Hog Day' was a fitting description of how we experienced our communal life. We ran our 'tractors' in field gear except when brief flashes of excitement burst onto the scene as the sirens sounded; then we ran to the bunkers. One of the Psalms I have shared with many people facing a myriad of challenges in many settings is Psalm 27. It 'covers the waterfront' in terms of the height and depth of the things people face from time to time. Those who pray this Psalm recognize the fear-driven anger that can come when we think the LORD is hiding his face from us (vs. 9). If you read over these words a few times you can't miss the fact that the LORD is doing most of the work—hiding us in his tent, lifting us up, taking us in!

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? <sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. <sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup>One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. <sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup>And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. <sup>7</sup>Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>8</sup>You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek. <sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

<sup>10</sup>For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in.

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. <sup>12</sup>Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence. <sup>13</sup>I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! <sup>14</sup>Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!"

As much of the world is still cloistered with a murky view of what comes next, the LORD is not startled, surprised or afraid. He waits with us as we wait. He is the source of the goodness and courage we need in every circumstance whether we're cruising along at 70 or plodding forward with a loaded wagon at less than 5 miles an hour.

Blessings ~ Pastor Kelly

**How to Reach or Connect with Us** - Please contact staff via email or cell phone listed below:

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

Instagram for Youth Ministry: Ignite56258

*God's Peace ~ Living Word Pastors, Staff & Leadership*