

LIVING WORD

Weekly Update

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Update

Well – this isn't the Holy Week we expected or wanted! How strange it is to think that we won't be walking this journey in any way other than how we have always done it. I want to see you all. I want to worship together with you...IN PERSON! It doesn't matter what I want. It doesn't matter if our traditions are meaningful or powerful. We can't do Holy Week the way we've done it in the past. We must let go of it. We can't sit in the disappointment or anger very long. It just doesn't help or solve anything. What we can do is realize that there are SO many things that are the same, that are constant. Those things, the constant and unchanging aspects of Holy Week are what we must cling to and claim together. What is unchanging? Jesus gave us the gift of Communion – His body and blood and we WILL celebrate that on Maundy Thursday. Good Friday already happened. Jesus gave His life to save us. His blood washes all our sins and we become children of God by believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and our Savior. Easter also happened. Jesus rose from the grave! He is alive! Our life is now wrapped up in His glory and resurrection. He has risen! He has risen indeed! The only thing that has changed is how we will experience these truths and celebrate God's love for us and the salvation that has been given to us!

So, how are we going to do it? We will be worshipping together online. You can join us on Maundy Thursday at 6:30. Good Friday at 6:30 and Easter Sunday at 10:30. **On Maundy Thursday we will be celebrating Holy Communion together in a new way. We invite you to find some bread, wine or grape juice and have it ready to give to your family or take on your own when we come to that point in the worship service.** It might seem strange, but it's important to do. From the very beginning of the church we gathered around the bread and wine, the body and blood of Jesus. We shared communion together and trusted that God was present with us, working in us and through us to accomplish His love, forgiveness and grace in our lives and through us in our world. I've been missing this connection to the Lord and to you all. Communion unites us as the body of Christ, and we will be celebrating it again on Maundy Thursday. **Between now and then – find some bread, wine or grape juice that you can use to celebrate Holy Communion with us on Thursday.** If you are unable to find any of these elements for some reason let us know.

Good Friday is one of my favorite worship services. I know it will be strange to experience it virtually rather than in person. That being said, God will use this service in powerful ways. I am sure of it. Scripture reminds us in several places that "The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man!" The Holy Spirit will move as we worship together from our homes. I know it. In fact, invite others in your life to worship with you by joining you online for that service! It will be different but powerful!

Finally, Easter will be triumphant. It will! Simply because all our typical experiences and patterns around it have been stripped away. It will be you, your family, the body of Christ (all believers bound together by the Holy Spirit) brought together to praise the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, our risen Savior Jesus Christ. Do you know what I think? I believe that this could be one of the most powerful Easters any of us have ever experienced! That is my prayer. Would you pray that with us this week? Pray for revival in the hearts of all Christians. Pray for those who have never known or experienced the love of Jesus to be impacted and drawn to Him. Let's pray that God would use this time to wake up the church and shake up the world so that as He speaks all ears would be opened and all eyes turned to Him! God is up to great things! Easter will be an amazing testament to this fact. Here again, invite your friends and neighbors to join us online. I know God is going to move.

Holy Week is going to be different this year, that is true. However, I know that it is going to be incredibly powerful, because God is good. God is on the throne. Jesus is alive! God is using this time for His glory and for those with ears to hear and eyes to see, God is moving. Let's witness it all together...even if we can't BE together. The truth in all of this is that we ARE together in Christ and we can and will worship as ONE BODY, the church!

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.

- 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
 - **Maundy Thursday Service, April 9th at 6:30 PM**
 - **Good Friday Service, April 10th at 6:30 PM**
 - **Easter Sunday Worship Service, April 12th at 10:30 AM**
 - You can either join us live for these services or watch them with your family at a later time.
 - Consider subscribing and signing up for notifications to our LivingWordMarshallMN YouTube channel to 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!).
 - **NEW!!!! Our Sunday Worship Services are now being replayed on Studio 1 TV in Marshall (Charter channel 180, Vast channel 17) at 11:00AM on Tuesday and 5:00PM on Wednesday.**
 - **NEW!!!! Our Sunday Worship Services are also being replayed on Cottonwood Access TV at 7:00 PM on Monday, channel 180 for Charter/Spectrum customers.**
- “2 Minute Faith Break” Videos: We will continue to share these little faith breaks on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday via email, our Facebook page or 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, 1st 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.
- **NEW!!!! Wednesday Evening Online Bible Study “Overcoming Anxiety During COVID-19” by Jonathan Pokluda (hosted by Pastor Kelly)**: We will gather online via Zoom beginning Wednesday, April 15th 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
- **NEW!!!! Thursday Morning Online Men’s Bible Study**: Men will gather online via Zoom beginning Thursday, April 16th at 6:30AM. Men will be reading and studying scripture together as in the past on Thursday mornings. All men are welcome! 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, especially if there is somebody you know that doesn’t have access to electronic communications.

- **NEW!!!! “Joy in Motion Christian Exercise”:** Living Word member, Erin Koch, has been working on an exercise program with Scripture meditation during their extended visit with family in Germany. She has recently put her first video online and is sharing it for those of you that will be blessed by it. Available on YouTube at this link. <https://youtu.be/yZTa3WSBepQ>
- **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/

Pastoral Care/ Prayer

- If you or somebody you know needs physical, emotional or spiritual support please reach out to us.
- 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.
- 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

“Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.” Matthew 28:1-6

Two truths sit side by side this week. The first is that the church building is empty, and it will be empty on Easter morning, except for the few essential folks who will help to put out the service. That emptiness will be felt by all of us. Those of us who are there will feel strange as our voices bounce off the walls of an empty building. That is one truth, but it’s not that big of a deal because of the second more important truth which is this; Jesus’ grave is empty! “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen!” The tomb is empty and because of this fact it doesn’t matter where you are on Easter morning. You will be with us and we will be with you. In the same way that Jesus is with us and we are with Him, the Holy Spirit binds us all together into the mystical bond of Jesus’ body, the church. It isn’t a building. The church is you and me together worshipping the risen Lord Jesus! So, buildings don’t really matter, they are helpful in gathering us together and creating fellowship, but they aren’t the way we are united. We are united because the tomb is empty, and the Holy Spirit has been poured out. This fact, this truth, that Jesus’ tomb is empty and that He is alive re-defines everything for us. As Romans 8:35 reminds us; “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?” Today we are invited to add to that list these words, pandemics, Covid-19, stay at home orders, social distancing...nothing, no nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. Nor, can it keep us from worshipping together as one! The church building is empty, but the church (you, me and all believers) aren’t empty. We are filled and united by the Holy Spirit because the tomb IS empty. Jesus is alive! May the risen Lord Jesus bless you ~ Pastor Dave

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

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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