

LIVING GOSPEL CHURCH NEWS

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Simply Living the Gospel

December 2020

Immanuel– God With Us

This year we must remember this promise from our Father that He is with us. **Immanuel**, His very name states this truth. “I AM with you.”

When this was prophesied by Isaiah to the people of Israel, this was hundreds of years before Christ was born and they were about to enter a very difficult season in their history. They would be taken captive by their enemies and forced to leave their home country to live as foreigners; forced to serve foreign kings and all that they knew would be different. But in the impending darkness, that would become all too real, there was this promise of hope from God.

Isaiah 7:14 ¹⁴ **Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.**

No matter what they walked through or what their world looked like while darkness rose and things were so different, they could cling to this promise that one day, their Savior would come. One day, God Himself would dwell among them.

You and I know this day came when Jesus was born to the virgin Mary. The angels rejoiced at the site of God in the flesh-*Immanuel was here!*

Luke 2: 13-14 ¹³ **Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,** ¹⁴ **“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”**

Immanuel. The gift of God Himself to all who believe in Him. What greater gift could there be than God with us? Remember no matter how things appear, your Savior, Immanuel came to earth as the Light of the World.



Isaiah 7:14

*The virgin will
conceive and give
birth to a
son, and will call
him*

Immanuel.

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2020– Freedom in the Spirit!

Galatians 5:1 ¹⁵*So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.*

Galatians 5: 22-26 ²²*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.*

If you recall way back in January of 2020, before we had any clue what was coming this year, we proclaimed we would seek greater freedom in the Spirit. This was the theme for this year and how perfectly timed this focus was. *What better year to put into practice being led by the Spirit in all areas of our lives, then this year?*

So how have you done? This is not a question to see if you passed a test or not. This is a question for you to ponder with God. How have you grown in your faith? How have you felt greater freedom as you let the Spirit lead areas of your life? Where might you still feel bondage to the law that you are holding on to? **Are you farther along on your pursuit to freedom in the Spirit then you were at the beginning of 2020?**

I hope so. I pray we have all pressed into our faith all the more in this trying year and we look back with gratefulness to see countless opportunities for us to invite the Spirit to lead and guide us; for opportunity to stand in faith over fear; for opportunity to trust God when we can't see how things will play out.

Can you look at 2020 *as a year of testing your faith to prove it genuine* and the opportunity to practice letting go of the reins for the Spirit to guide you? Freedom is found in letting go.

If so, then I would say we have accomplished what God asked of us and for that we can be grateful. If not, *the year is not over* and now you have something to ponder with God as you come to Him in prayer. **Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.**

Celebrating-

December Birthdays

Faye Hawley	December 12
Dan Batz	December 13
Jenny Tomlinson	December 16
Stacy Holder	December 22
Raymond Ebert	December 26
Al Sugden	December 30

Wedding Anniversaries

Melisa and Joe Arndt	December 30
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Please let Pastor Karrie know if we missed your special days so we can add it to our database. Thank you!



Thank YOU For Your Faithfulness

We thank you so much for all who have given to the care of our church in countless ways this year!

What a challenging and different year for sure.

I continue to be in awe of how our God cares for us even in times like this.

Who would have thought a good majority of our congregation would be worshipping online, not seeing others face to face for the better part of this year? Who would have thought early March would have been the last time many of you stepped foot inside our church?

And yet, God's grace flows and His provision remains constant.

We thank you all so very much for your faithfulness to give to your church and care for the people within the church, even if it had to be from a distance.

This could have been a devastating year for our church, but because of your faithfulness and God's grace, **we press on**. Know that God sees and God rewards the faithful.

God bless you all abundantly and may we continue to give and serve generously as He calls us to, knowing it is to His glory and to our joy as we do!

With much love and appreciation,

Pastor Karrie



December Love Offering– Ark Constanza, Clothing the Children

Matthew 25: 34-36 NKJV ³⁴Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

For December we are seeking love offerings in the form of financial giving, to send to our friends at the Ark in Constanza, Dominican Republic. This year has been challenging for their ministry as well, as all the service teams from spring on were canceled.

When our service team would travel to their site, most team members would bring one to two extra suitcases or bags filled with supplies, clothes and shoes to leave for the families they care for. You likely helped contribute to these donations. This year that didn't happen. Directors, Fred and Kassandra have shared their supplies of clothing are really depleted and they would be so grateful for any offerings to assist in buying clothes locally.

If you don't know, the Ark has about 40 children full-time in their care living in four houses there. They have house parents and there are about 10 children who become like siblings in each house. They are all ages so that is a lot of clothing needs to provide.

We cannot send actual items so please do not bring any physical items to church. They cannot receive packages there in the mail. We had to bring items they wanted with us as we traveled in person. But we ask you to pray and see how God might be stirring in your heart to give any amount to bless this wonderful ministry that is changing the lives of the next generation in Constanza. Give throughout December and we'll make sure to send all "mission" donations to this ministry. God bless you all for your generous hearts!

Coming Events

Monday Dec. 21st- Ladies prayer group. 9 am at church or Google Hangouts

Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24th– 6 pm at church or via Facebook Live. Please invite your families to join online as we celebrate the birth of our Savior! Let us rejoice together!

Freedom in the Spirit– Deepening Your Faith in Small Groups.

Real Moms. Real Jesus. Meeting monthly online. Talk with Britt Sugden for information. Join in any time! *You are welcome!*

Mondays: Men’s Bible Study 6:00 pm via Zoom. Contact Pat Graham for more information.

Wednesdays: 7 pm for adults through the 16th-off the 23rd and 30th. Via Google Hangouts.

Luke 6:40 *“The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.”* (we are the students, Jesus is our teacher. Let us learn to be like Him.)

May God Bless You and Your Families This Christmas and Keep You all in Good Health.

Virtual Coffee with Pastor Karrie

*Just because we can't
meet face to face right
now doesn't mean we
can't meet up.*

I miss you all!

Remember I am here-just a phone call, text, email or video call away. The holiday season can be stressful and hard for some, please reach out. I am here with an encouraging word and prayer-always. Email: pastor@livinggospelchurchrio.org

Or via cell phone:
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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