

LIVING GOSPEL CHURCH NEWS

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Simply Living the Gospel

January 2021

Go Forth in My Spirit

Joshua 1: 5-6 ⁵No man will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. I will be with you just as I have been with Moses. I will be faithful to you and will not leave you alone. ⁶Be strong and have strength of heart.

Joshua 1:9 ⁹Have I not told you? Be strong and have strength of heart! Do not be afraid or lose faith. For the Lord your God is with you anywhere you go.”

As we enter a new year following a year like we had we might find it hard to be excited or hopeful. We might be thinking, “I don’t know if I can take another year like 2020.”

Let us look to the words of hope and promise spoken to Joshua from our God. Joshua was the one chosen to follow after Moses and lead Israel into the promised land where they would take possession of the land promised to Abraham as their inheritance. To do that, would require the people leaving what they had come to know as their normal way of life, trusting God as they waded into deep waters, and taking a stand in faith against their enemies. The promise was upheld, *and they had to do their part to appropriate that promise into their lives.*

God has spoken these words for us to heed in 2021: **GO FORTH** in My Spirit.

Much is still uncertain as we enter 2021; and yet God is calling us to go forth in hope, courage and confident expectation that He is with us in all that we do. He fulfilled His promise to Moses through Joshua and He will fulfill His promises to us as well. We must be willing by faith, *“to get up and cross the Jordan River.”* We must keep seeking God and serving as He calls us to in 2021. Let us not shrink back. **Let us go forth in His Spirit.**



Joshua 1: 2

So you and all these people get up and cross the Jordan River to the land I am giving to the people of Israel.

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Let Us Go Forth in Service.

1 Samuel 12:24 ²⁴ But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.

As we begin a new year let us come before God and ask Him how He would have us serve Him in building His kingdom. Let us ask Him how we can be a light in the darkness and hope to the hopeless. Let us ask Him how we can love our neighbors for His glory.

This past year brought a screeching halt to many of our ministries as we were accustomed to and maybe left many of us feeling a bit lost in how we serve God and others.

For many serving others just meant getting creative and changing up how we care for one another and shine the light of Christ into our communities. That has truly been a joy to witness!

The love of God is never put on hold. Building the kingdom of God is never put on hold. Willingly serving God should never be put on hold.

It might look very different from year to year depending on our circumstances, our health, our time, and our resources-but make no mistake our calling to love and serve God with all our heart always remains our priority.

As we enter a new year, I invite and urge you to pray and see what God is putting on your heart to engage the women, men, youth, children, elderly, new believers, young adults, guests who join us (hospitality), people who connect on social platforms, hearts in praise worship, local community aid, global mission efforts, in the care of our church property... or any other ministry God might be stirring in your heart. We all have gifts given to us by our Father in heaven-to use for His glory and divine purposes.

A pandemic does not mean all those ministry efforts stop indefinitely. It means we need to come before God and ask how we creatively serve these various groups to keep shining the light of Christ in the hearts of those who are seeking.

Let us each be in prayer and let us collectively **Go Forth** in service to God and His people.

Celebrating-

January Birthdays

Bob Breneman	January 1
Abra Shimpach	January 4
Karrie Landsverk	January 11
Fran Porter	January 18
Brody Keepes	January 19
Kassadie Sugden	January 22
Shari Kleist	January 25
Brinleigh Batz	January 26

Please let Pastor Karrie know if we missed your special days so we can add it to our database. Thank you!



2021 Goals and Budget

Our board of directors will be preparing a financial budget for our 2021 year and they welcome your input.

We will hold our annual meeting to discuss and vote on our 2021 budget near the end of February.

The board asks as you serve in specific ministries look at what your needs are (even though many have been put on hold this past year, let us plan for them to be operating again at some point in 2021). Consider what hinders you from meeting those needs and what ideas you have to expand those ministries.

Please also share your ideas and concerns with the board regarding all maintenance and aesthetic improvements to our church. Our youth room rebuild will be a major focus for 2021. What other improvements should be considered for our building and property?

We are so grateful for the faithfulness of God to help us meet our yearly budgets even in a difficult year like we just experienced. Know each year He calls us to give and build more, *for we are never meant to be complacent.*

We are called to **Go Forth** to advance the kingdom of God. As we faithfully obey and follow His will, He faithfully and creatively provides means for us to fulfill His vision.

Let us continue to build and give in faith this year, knowing He is able to do immeasurably more than anything we can ask for!



River Haven Shelter and Support

1 John 3: 17-18 ¹⁷ **If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?** ¹⁸ **Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.**

River Haven Homeless Shelter is a local organization that we as a Church support as part of our local missions. Did you know that it costs over \$50 to house an individual in the shelter for one night?

Your support provides overnight shelter and other basic human needs including safety, food, personal hygiene items, laundry services, showering facilities, and clothing items. River Haven is not a drop shelter! Residents have to be approved for admission and once admitted into the shelter, they are required to do case management Monday-Friday with case managers. This continues until they are successfully housed and often continues after that to help them maintain their success. The services offered go far beyond the doors of the shelter; as ongoing support and services are offered to individuals, including services to help people keep from being evicted as well as working with individuals to help them find and sustain successful living environments.

For those wishing to help, there are a multitude ways in which you can help the Shelter. Volunteers are always needed to assist at the shelter and with shelter fundraising and awareness. Monetary donations assist in the general maintenance, upkeep, staffing and stocking supplies as well as enabling further support to those in need. Additionally, our website and facebook page have lists of items that are needed as well as a link to the Amazon Wish List for the shelter for those seeking to have donations sent directly to the shelter. **Throughout the month of January Missions funds that are collected will be donated to the Shelter.** If you would prefer to donate items on the wish list, you can drop them off at the Church in the tote near the back door. All donations will then be taken to the Shelter later in the month. Connect with “River Haven Shelter-Portage, WI” on Facebook or visit their website at riverhavenshelter.org. The list of needs is under the Donations tab.

Thank you so much for supporting River Haven Shelter.

Coming Events

Sat. January 9th- Ladies virtual coffee fellowship and prayer. 9 am online or church with masks.

Go Forth in My Spirit– Join a Small Group and Let the Holy Spirit Guide You into Greater Truth

Real Moms. Real Jesus. Once per month. Talk with Britt Sugden for dates and online meeting space. Join in any time! *You are welcome!*

Wednesdays: 7 pm Adult Study and Fellowship-*Meeting online.* Contact PK and join the conversations!

Create a new small group-*"Where 2 or 3 gather there I am"*

Zechariah 4:6 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.

May the Favor and Wisdom of God Be With You and Your Families Mightily This New Year!

Let Us Purpose to Meet

We enter a new year. Let us purpose to connect and encourage one another. Let us purpose to pray together. Let us purpose to build one another up in the faith. **Let us be in the habit of meeting together.**

Contact Pastor Karrie. We can meet however is most comfortable for you. Email: pastor@livinggospelchurchrio.org

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE