

# LIVING GOSPEL CHURCH NEWS

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Simply Living the Gospel

March 2023

## *New Life Bursts Forth*

***Revelation 21: 5-7*** <sup>5</sup>*He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”* <sup>6</sup>*He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.* <sup>7</sup>*Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.*

Spring is the perfect time to see how God takes things that have been dormant or seemingly dead and breathes new life into them. It is such a joy to see bursts of color springing forth from the ground. Those shoots popping out of the ground bring renewed hope that the long, cold winter is coming to a close and warmer days are ahead! We wait in hopeful expectation for those signs of new life to emerge; budding trees, green grass once again, flowers popping up through the dreary brown remains and birds sharing their sweet music as they make their home in the trees once more. In the spring we witness all things being made new. It is one of the greatest blessings of this season, to see the awakening of life all around us.

This is what God is doing in our lives too. We who were dead in our transgressions have been made alive in Christ! We who once had a dormant Spirit have been awakened as we are filled with His Holy Spirit! We who were thirsty have been offered the water of life! Day after day, as we seek our Heavenly Father, we are being made new into His glorious image! Praise God, who redeems, restores, and repurposes our lives according to His perfect will! Praise God who awakens new life within each one of us through His Son, Jesus Christ.



## *Revelation 21:5*

*He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”*

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## Preparing Our Hearts for Easter

**1 Peter 1: 3-4 NIV** **3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,**

Let us prepare our hearts this month for the significance of Easter. Our entire Christian faith is founded in the truth stated above.

Let us come before the Father and ask Him to release His power through us so we can truly live the life of freedom Jesus died for. Let us prepare our hearts to worship our Savior in humble adoration this Easter.

“Just like the farmer has to prepare the soil each year for a new crop, we too should cultivate the habit of preparing our hearts for the season to come.”  
Jericha Brown

Here are some ways we can prepare our hearts as the season of Easter approaches:

**Seek God in prayer**-bring a repentant heart for sin; pray for the soil of your heart to be receptive to what God wants to grow in you.

**Read the Gospels** to be reminded of the price Jesus paid to save you from your sin.

**Find someone to bless**– Just as Jesus gave of Himself, let us give to others. Ask the Holy Spirit to point you to someone to bless and serve them in love.

**Give Thanks!** Express your gratitude to God for His free gift of grace bestowed on you. We didn't earn salvation. We simply receive it!

*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

## Celebrating-

### March Birthdays

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Steve Wearne       | March 1  |
| Ann Jennings       | March 8  |
| Mary Martinez      | March 11 |
| Kathryn Martin     | March 15 |
| Gaylene Richardson | March 25 |
| Carolyn Rood       | March 27 |
| Kalleb Sugden      | March 31 |

### Wedding Anniversaries

Laurie and Doug Muench March 10

Please let us know if you want your birthdays or anniversaries added to our database for 2023!

We love to celebrate YOU!



## *Italian Night and Pie Auction Fundraiser*

***Saturday, April 1st***

Doors open 4pm  
Serving begins at 4:30pm

Options include  
Spaghetti, Lasagna, or  
vegetarian lasagna  
Served with Choice of  
lettuce salad or italian pasta  
salad, garlic toast, dessert  
and beverage

**Live Pie Auction** begins at  
6pm - entries  
welcome! Lively bidding  
encouraged!

### **Silent Auction**

Bidding closes at 6:45pm  
donations also welcome

Please see Dawn with any  
questions or donations.

The Italian Night fundraiser has  
been a successful event in past  
years, generating community  
interest and raising funds for  
the team that is sent to  
Costanza, DR. Kids Alive and  
Costanza has touched the  
hearts of many over the past 15  
years, and with God's grace  
will continue to do so for  
generations to come.

We welcome participation and  
help in preparation and serving  
of food during the event,  
donations of all kinds toward  
the event, as well as attending  
and inviting others to come.

All engagement and support is  
a blessing and part of the larger  
blessing we are able to offer our  
partners in Constanza, DR.

*Thank you for helping spread  
the word and joining in this fun  
night!*



## *Do You Want to Join our 2023 Service Team?*

**Isaiah 6:8 NIV Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”**

**And I said, “*Here am I. Send me!*”**

**There is still time to join our 2023 service team** committed to going to Constanza, DR this summer ! If God is calling you, then we encourage you to listen and join this team! We will go the last week in June this year.

Bob Breneman shares a bit of history about this mission trip:

The first mission team to Constanza went in 2008. At that time the Kids Alive site was a cultivated vegetable field. Construction had just begun on two homes. These homes have a main open floor plan with a boys' bedroom, a girls' bedroom and a bedroom for the house parents. The homes provide housing for the house parents, their children plus rescued children.

Since that time, service teams like ours from all over the country have built five homes, a school that services 200 children, a lunch and assembly building, and an office building. The school has a strong Christian focus and also serves certain children from the community who need extra help getting an education. The Ark works with local social workers to seek out children most in need, to be placed in their school system and to be housed onsite.

Teams attend Church on Sunday morning with the families and teachers from the Kids Alive site .It is a joy to worship alongside them and experience how they worship Jesus. The week is spent working on the needs of the site . This can include painting, construction, repairs, clerical, helping with summer school, sports, and ministry. There is typically a visit to a struggling family in the barrios and our team will bring groceries and offer prayer. **The experience of going to a different culture and working with the local people to improve their lives even a little is a powerful blessing to us.”** - Bob Breneman

## Coming Events

Monday March 20th– Ladies' Prayer Group. 9 am at church. All ladies welcome!

Sunday, March 26th Reverend Bill Harris will preach for Pastor Karrie who will be on vacation. Please welcome him.

**Save the Date! April 1st Italian Night Fundraiser** at church

### Small Group Discussions and Study: Build Friendships and Faith

**Wednesday's:** 7:00 pm at church; **All are welcome: from brand new Christians to lifetime followers of Christ.** We learn and grow together. Come for the fellowship. Leave blessed, renewed, and strengthened.

**Gather 2-3 others** on a day and time that work for you. You will grow by leaps and bounds when you discuss His Word *together!*

**Jeremiah 29:13** (NKJV) And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

## Encouragement With Pastor Karrie

*When is the last time we have chatted? Really chatted and connected. You matter to me. What's on your heart and mind matters to me.*

**Let's connect in this new year.**

Email: pastor@  
livinggospelchurchrio.org

Or via cell phone:  
608 566-3936

***May God Bless You  
and Make His Face  
Shine Upon You.***

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE