

# LIVING GOSPEL CHURCH NEWS

[www.livinggospelchurchrio.org](http://www.livinggospelchurchrio.org)

Simply Living the Gospel

July 2023

## Freedom in Christ, One's Identity Defined

When you think about freedom, what comes to mind? For many, freedom is a state of being, meaning that one is able to make their own decisions. The freedom that was given to Americans came through identifying and defining the nation. The struggle for the founders of this great nation was largely focused on obtaining independence from Britain, which was evident in the grandiose way they spoke of liberty:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

In today's modern society, freedom and liberty have taken on a life of their own. Many struggle with the understanding that freedom and exactly where freedom is and can be obtained. As Christians freedom has already been given to each and every one of us. In Romans 8 Paul speaks to the fact that God wants us all to live free of condemnation by living in the spirit and not of the flesh. Through the Spirit of life, we are granted eternal freedom.

The more time one spends living in the spirit and not of the flesh, the deeper the connection with God. In Ephesians 2:10 Paul says "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." We are a masterpiece created by Christ.



## Romans 8: 1-2

**1 Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.**

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## Return to Costanza

### Celebrating 15 years of partnership

After having to take a couple of years off from physically traveling to Costanza to help at the Ark, this year a team was able to travel in person and offer help and support!

Bob Breneman shares:

This year our labor was focused on painting the basketball court walls, the walls around the entrance gate to the site and the guard house. The colors are being changed from bright yellow to nice grays.

We painted each morning and in the afternoon played games with the Ark children. The days it rained in the afternoon we played bingo with the Ark children. Two days we ate the noon meal in Ark homes with the families. We did a home visit to a 20 year old who lived in the Ark until 18 years old. We took a gift of food. She graduated from high school and is pursuing some additional schooling to be a chef. She is the example of how these children are being helped by Kids Alive.

We visited the waterfall, the statue overlooking Constanza, the baseball ministry. The school and baseball ministry are the Light in Constanza. The community around the school is growing and improving. The baseball ministry is keeping boys in school and attending church. All of the baseball coaches are young men that the baseball industry discarded with no education so they are working hard to help these boys.



Costanza DR 2023 Service Team



The family of our beloved Delbert Curtis shared their sincere appreciation for the help with the service.

“Deb always spoke highly of the church and his church family. He loved serving in different capacities over the years. The love that the church family holds for Deb also shined through in the kindness and caring displayed at the service.”

Delbert celebrated his 81st Birthday on July 4th in the arms of our Lord and Savior.

### Psalm 73:26

My flesh and my heart may fail, but  
God is the strength of my heart and  
my portion forever.

## ***Filling the Backpacks***

*USA Today recently reported that the average school supply cost per child was \$661.00 a year. Additionally, it was also reported that more than half of the parents surveyed indicated that they could not afford the needed school supplies. The NCES, National Center for Education Statistics reported that 83% of the public schools “experienced procurement challenges”.*

*Through the program “Filling the Backpacks” started in 2018, Rio Community schools have generously been providing all needed supplies to all students through generous community donations. Backpacks are also provided to any child in need.*

*While it is such a wonderful blessing for families to know this is one area that will not be a financial burden to them, it is also a much needed savings for teachers in the district. In addition to filling the backpacks, additional classroom supplies such as kleenex, disinfectant wipes, dry erase markers, and other classroom necessities are also able to be provided.*

*NCES reports that 90% of the teachers spend their own money on supplies that the students need, with the average teacher spending \$500 per school year. Sarinity Pendleton, 2018 Rio High School graduate and my daughter, just completed her first year of teaching in the La Crosse school district. This was a topic that we discussed often as she, like many teachers, had shortfalls of needed classroom supplies.*

*Missions donations for the month of July will be designated to filling the backpacks. You can give online under missions or with an envelope marked for missions. If you would like to give donation directly, they can be made payable to: Rio Community Event Fund, 207 Lincoln Ave, PO Box 276, Rio, WI 53960*

*Thank you!*

*May God bless your generosity and care for our area students.*



## **Celebrating July Birthdays**

Brittany Sugden July 3

Lois Thurber July 8

Nick Kuenzli July 17

Riley Landsverk July 19

Reese Landsverk July 21

Lexi Piekarski July 27

## **Wedding Anniversaries**

Shari and Rick Kleist July 14

Cindy and Gary Waterworth July 23

## Coming Events

Sunday, July 9th Pastor David Lusse will be filling in for Pastor Karrie. Please come and hear his word of encouragement and truth.

Sunday, July 9th is the Potluck picnic at the home of Skyler and Samantha Hawley. 312 Railroad Street, Rio.

Thursday July 13th - Photo Day for Church Directory

Monday, July 17th Ladies Prayer Group. 9 am at church. Outside if it's nice!

July 17, July 19 & July 21 - Living Gospel Church Sponsored Library Lunch Week.

Sunday, July 23rd Community Worship Service in the Rio Firemen's Park. Area churches join together in worship. 10 am. Picnic potluck to follow.

### Connect in a Small Group.

Wednesdays: 7 pm Adult Study and Fellowship— **Come and join the fun!** Do something different this summer. Get to know God in a new light. Wed's don't work? **Create your own small group—"Where 2 or 3 gather there I am"**

*Seek Him and find He is always GOOD!*

Living Gospel Church  
322 Lincoln Ave.  
Rio, WI 53960

**Always Here for You**

### Encouragement with Pastor Karrie!

**Let us be in the habit of meeting together.**

Is there something troubling your heart? Could you use someone to talk to and pray with? Could you use some spiritual counsel on a matter?

I am here for you.

Email:  
pastor@livinggospelchurchrio.org  
Or via cell phone:  
608 566-3936

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