

LIVING GOSPEL CHURCH NEWS

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Simply Living the Gospel

October 2023

Send Out the Dove

This year's theme for the national IMA (International Ministerial Association) Conference was *Send Out the Dove!* That title might cause you to question, what does that mean? It did for several of their speakers at first also as they were asked to share. As we ponder doves and how they are displayed in the Bible we begin to see what Jesus is asking of us, His church in how we build His kingdom.

Doves are a symbol of peace, innocence, and purity. The dove was sent out by Noah from the Ark to determine if the waters had receded and when there was not peace yet to leave the Ark, the dove returned to him. When there was peace to leave the Ark, the dove did not return. (Genesis 8). We also read how God sent the Spirit of God in the form of a dove to rest upon our Savior Jesus, as a symbol to John the Baptist that Jesus was indeed the Lamb of God. (Matthew 3: 16-17).

Jesus is called the Prince of Peace and brought forth the Gospel of Peace. We have been called and are being sent out to share this gospel of peace. Indeed, we will be like sheep in the midst of wolves at times, for there is darkness around us. So let us be wise, being led in truth through the Holy Spirit and God's Word, so we are not devoured by those who wish to see the church crumble. But let us also in our conduct and motives, be innocent and harmless like a dove. Let us demonstrate the gospel of peace in our relationships and within our communities.

Let us truly love others as Christ loves them. Let us share the hope of Jesus in word and deed. Let us develop and nurture a great love for the lost and broken to find healing and hope; a love for the communities we live in to be redeemed in Christ. One of the speakers shared this for us to ponder,

"if we know Christ and we're hurting, imagine the heart of those in your community without Christ and without hope."

Another speaker said, "love sees those others despise."

Where there is love, there is growth in a church. So let us love one another and let us practice sending out the dove wherever we go and may it not return to us but accomplish that which it was sent for.



Matthew 10:16 ESV

"Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves."

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Kids Corner

Christian Hospitality verses Worldly Hospitality

When you think of hospitality, what comes to mind? This month the focus of the Children's Ministry will be learning about hospitality. The memory verse for the month is Romans 12:13; in which God calls us to show hospitality toward his people. What do you think that means though? Are we to ensure that things are perfect for our guests or should the focus be more on the quality of the time we spend with our guests?

Luke 10: 38-42 talks about the visit from Jesus to the home of Martha and Mary. There is an obvious difference in how the two respond. Martha spends so much time in preparation and working for the visit while Mary chose to give her attention to Jesus and what he was saying. Now consider the last time you had a guest into your home. Were you a Martha or a Mary?

The word hospitality comes from two Greek words; philos, which means friend, and xenos, which means stranger. Simply put, Christian Hospitality is the act of treating friends and strangers alike, and being present for those around you. When we do this we are honoring God! God wants our obedience and attention more than anything else!

Throughout the month the children will be challenged to show hospitality both at church and in their daily lives. They will start by making a list of simple ways that honor God through showing hospitality. Smiling at someone and saying hello, reaching out to a friend who may be feeling down, helping a sibling or neighbor, or simply being present and listening as someone is talking are all ways that Christian Hospitality can be demonstrated. Please consider engaging with the children this month and showing them some Christian Hospitality and enabling them to engage back with you in those times. This will be a true blessing to them and also to you as they are able to respond.

At the Home of Martha and Mary Luke 10: 38-42

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. **39** She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. **40** But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, **42** but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Romans 12:13

"When God's People are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality."

Pastor Appreciation Month



Pastor Dr. Karrie Landsverk

Pastor Karrie has faithfully served as the Pastor for Living Gospel Church for over 8 years. Her dedication and commitment to not only the congregants of the Church, but to the Lord, is remarkable! The love and genuine caring that she displays toward everyone she encounters radiates the spirit of the Lord.

In praying on what to write about Pastor Karrie; one word kept coming to mind, **Glue!** When I look at the most recent group picture, I see one aspect that holds true; we truly are a Church Family. At the center of our "family" is the glue that in one form or another has been an integral part of holding the hands and shepherding the hearts of many to help them find their way to the Lord and grow stronger in their personal relationships with the Lord.

Ephesians 4:12 reads "And their calling is to nurture and prepare all the holy believers to do their own works of ministry, and as they do this they will enlarge and build up the body of Christ. This is exactly what Pastor Karrie does. She pours out the love of Christ on everyone. While we attend Church on Sunday and hear the message God has placed on her heart, there is so much more that a Pastor does. As a Church family, we are blessed beyond measure that Pastor Karrie responded to God's calling, continues to be filled with the love of the Lord, and holds strong as the glue in keeping our Church family together and thriving.

This month, I lay out a challenge to each and every one of you. Reflect on the lessons Pastor Karrie has shared. In doing so, think of areas in your own lives that perhaps you could change your heart. What can you let go? What can you do to honor the Lord? Now act upon what God has revealed to you! Share your testimony with Pastor Karrie or others in your Church Family.

Jeremiah 3:15 reads "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." Praise God for the wonderful "Glue" he has given to not only Living Gospel Church, but to all in the community and beyond that Pastor Karrie shares the light of the Lord with.

Dawn Keepes

Let us Consider Jesus First

Every seemingly impossible situation we read about in the New Testament, is overcome when the people stopped considering what they could not fix or provide for, and they started considering Jesus.

The disciples asked a profound question of Jesus, "*Who in the world can be saved?*" Jesus replied with spiritual truth we must remember when we need saving of all kinds: *Jesus looked at them and said,*

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." *Matthew 19:26*

You and I will not fix all that is broken in our world on our own. We don't have the wisdom, knowledge, resources or grace to mend all the broken pieces.

You and I cannot fix all that is broken in our lives, our families, or our communities.

But praise be to God, Jesus can do what we cannot! He can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine!

Rather than exhausting ourselves in worry, fear and striving in our own power, let us make a habit of considering Jesus first. Let us come to Him with expectant prayer, knowing He can and will do the miraculous!

He will heal, mend and make new!

Let us consider Jesus-Our Savior.

Giving Online is Simple, and Safe!

We would like to remind you of the convenient option we have in place for online giving and tithing. It is a safe and secure platform that meets all security regulations handling online payment processing - no different than any online bill payment or purchasing platforms you might already use. This is done through a trusted third party vendor, Tithe.ly.

Online giving can be done in single transactions or as a recurring offering. Recurring offerings can be especially helpful for busy on the go individuals and families, or for those who are setting a monthly budget and want to incorporate a consistent giving amount that supports their budget - *you simply set it and it's done!*

Coming Events

Dear Daughter of Mine Conference October 14 9am -2pm

Ladies Prayer Group October 16 9am

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!

Just enter your name and information, set the start date, choose the frequency and the amount, and you are done! Each offering will send you an email notification so you know when it will be debited from your account. You can modify your giving any time you like. *Several members have found this to be quite helpful and we believe you might also.*

To try online giving, go to our website (listed at the top of the front page of this newsletter) and look for GIVE in the top menu on any page. Click on it and walk through the simple steps. *See if online giving might simplify giving 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.***

Celebrating October Birthdays

Dakota Sugden	October 1
Jon Landsverk	October 5
John Moll	October 8
Charles Biddle	October 25
Karen Breneman	October 29
Al Sugden	October 30

Wedding Anniversaries

Jane and Charles Biddle	October 3
Courtney and Blake Brandner	October 11
Karrie and Jon Landsverk	October 13
Kaitlyn and Dan Batz	October 13
Pj and Bob Lentz	October 16
Joan and John Theel	October 21

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Always Here for You

