



THE BEACON

SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

IN WORSHIP

An Apostle's Epistles

August 18 - September 22

Sundays at 9:00 and 10:30 am



In this series we will look at the many messages Paul shares with the churches he helped found. There are many similarities that each church faced, as well as differences. We'll look at each church and learn their significance to the church of today.

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Living Word's 2019 Legacy of Song Worship Concert, held on August 25, was a success! We are so grateful to all who attended the special worship event. A special thank you goes out to the Worship Choir and orchestra for putting on a fantastic performance under the leadership of Donna Baker, Director of Traditional Music Ministries.

FOLLOW US:



PASTOR'S PEN

Mission Exchange

Only 118 shopping days to Christmas. You better get to work! I was speaking with someone just the other day and she said, "I bought my first Christmas gift this week." Wow! I'm much more likely to wait until December 15 before I ask my wife, "What do you want for Christmas?" I'm not usually a planner for those sorts of things. On the other hand, I have my sermon series planned for the whole month of December and I have a pretty good idea of the content of each sermon. Some things I do plan for. I'll leave it up to you to decide whether I have my priorities straight.

As Christmas is "just around the corner," I want to share with you the plan for our annual Christmas Miracle Offering. Each year, Living Word takes an offering on Christmas Eve that is dedicated to our mission efforts beyond our own church. Since its inception in 2010, the Miracle Offering has allowed us to do mission work worldwide. Ghana, Mexico and the Dominican Republic as well as Slovakia and Mozambique have been recipients of our international mission work. While not all of those countries have received Miracle Offering Funds, we are nearing \$2,000,000 in mission funding over the last eight years. Living Word has been a blessing to people we will never meet, but whom God knows well.

Last year we expanded the application of our Miracle Offering to include local missions as well. There were five recipients locally and we will be bringing you reports soon on how those funds have been used. As we look ahead to this Christmas Miracle Offering, I wanted to give you information on how the Mission Team will work to determine the 2019 Miracle Offering recipients.

On September 8, there will be a Mission Exchange. Invitations have been sent to the 2018 Miracle Offering Recipients as well as all mission agencies we are aware of our membership working with. We may have missed some, so consider this your invitation to the Mission Exchange. If you work with a mission, you are invited to bring a representative from that mission (I suggest the executive director or whomever is responsible for grant writing) to join us. The Exchange will include a time to share ideas and best practices with over a dozen other mission executives and volunteers. This will be followed by a short presentation by Cyndi Miller, Executive Director of Circle of Concern. She will be speaking on "Navigating Organizational Change." Finally, we will be sharing the application process for a grant from the 2019 Christmas Miracle Offering. Please consider bringing your favorite mission representatives. Contact Beth Balzaine, bbalzaine@livingwordumc.org to RSVP.

The next important dates related to the 2019 Christmas Miracle Offering will be:

- September 16 – Request for Grant Proposals will be sent to mission agencies.
- October 16 – Requests for Grant Proposals due by 5 pm.
- October 28 – Mission Team meets to consider Grant Proposals and to generate follow up questions, as needed.
- November 11 – Mission Team meets for final consideration and decision on the 2019 Miracle Offering grant recipients.
- November 17 – Announce the 2020 Signature Missions (the recipients of the 2019 Miracle Offering Grants) in Worship.

Then on Christmas Eve, 2019, you are invited to consider your participation in the annual Miracle Offering that changes lives of people nearby and far away. I do hope you are praying a prayer: "Lord, in light of this Miracle Offering, what are you asking of me?"

In Christ's love,
Pastor Dave
disrael@livingwordumc.org

MESSAGE FROM THE HEART —

What Exactly is Congregational Care?

By Val Novatny

When we celebrate a baptism, the church is asked to “nurture one another in Christian faith and life, and to include the person in our care.” Each Christian is called to care. As a church, we offer care to the community through our missions and community service. We provide liturgies and sermons to help everyone (no matter where they are on their faith walk) to develop their relationship with our loving God. We share our stories, lift up life events and grieve with one another.

Living Word’s Congregational Care ministry encompasses this approach. Our pastors continue to be very important components to the Congregational Care ministry. Including our church family in this ministry makes the church a treasured resource for those needing care. Our Congregational Care ministry is being intentional by having in place various teams and groups that can help. Such teams include Stephen Ministers, Visitation, Pastoral Counseling, Prayer, Meals, Prayer Shawls, Cards, Memorial Receptions, GriefShare and AA support groups.



The Holy Spirit is working through us to be caregivers of our church. I personally have seen many acts of Christian love as the members of our church care for one another and for those in our community. We are truly a church family. As the Director of Congregational Care, I am here to help. Please call me anytime you need assistance or just need someone to talk to. My office phone is 636-821-2823 or my cell phone is 636-399-8873. We also have an emergency Congregational Care line, 636-821-2888. Finally, you may visit the church’s website for more resources: www.livingwordumc.org/care/.

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood.” Acts 20:28

GriefShare Beginning Monday, Sept. 9

It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you’ve lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you’ve probably found that there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. That’s the reason for GriefShare, a special seminar and support group for people grieving the loss of someone close. This group is facilitated by people who understand what you are experiencing and want to offer you comfort and encouragement during this difficult time. Each GriefShare session includes a video seminar featuring top experts on grief and recovery subjects with real-life stories of people who have experienced losses like yours.

GriefShare will begin Monday, Sept. 9, and will meet every Monday through Dec. 9 from 7-9 pm in Room 211/212. If you are interested in attending this 13-week course, please register at livingwordumc.org/living-word-news or contact Val Novatny, Director of Congregational Care at 636-821-2823 or vnovatny@livingwordumc.org. There is a \$15 cost for the participant workbook.

Release My Grip – Parents of College Students

Parenthood isn’t over after kids leave the nest...it’s just a new season. Saying goodbye to children as they leave the nest and learn to fly ushers parents into an emotional time of grief, joy and nostalgia. If you are that parent, please join us as we walk this journey together. We will use the lighthearted book, "Release My Grip," by Kami Gilmour, to deepen our relationship with Jesus as we enter this new season of parenting. We meet monthly at 7 pm at Living Word beginning Thursday, September 19. The facilitators will be Peggy MacGavin and Cheryl Young.

If you are interested in joining the group, please reserve your spot at livingwordumc.org/living-word-news, or contact Val Novatny, Director of Congregational Care, at vnovatny@livingwordumc.org or 636-821-2823. The cost of the book is \$11.

Please invite your neighbors and friends that may be going on this journey as well! The more, the merrier!
We hope you will join us!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Journey Through the New Testament

Journey Through the New Testament Devotion Book Five (September 9 – November 8) and new small group lists as well as the reading checklist are available in the lobby or at livingwordumc.org. Sign up for a Journey Small Group at lwinfo.org.

Charge Conference

This year's Charge Conference has been called by District Superintendent Robin Bell, to be held at St. Andrew United Methodist Church on Sunday, October 13, from 3-5 pm. All church members are welcome to attend; however, only the currently elected church officers may vote.

Coffee with the Pastor

Would you like to learn more about Living Word? Come to Coffee with the Pastor Sunday, September 15, at 10 am in Room 200. This casual get-together with Pastor Dave allows you to ask any questions you might have. Coffee, donuts and childcare provided.

Senior Social

Please join in the fun for any of the Senior Social studies or activities in September. Invite a friend!

Sept. 3, 10, 17: Senior Bible Study with Pastor Greg in Room 211/212 at 11 am.

Sept. 10: Senior Social Luncheon at Old Pond School at 12 pm - Meet at the church no later than 12:15 pm. Bring a school photo of yourself.

September 24: Senior Movie Day in the Youth Room at 11 am - We'll be playing the movie *Breakthrough*.

Save the Date

Sept. 3 – Early Childhood Center First Day of School

Sept. 8 – Mission Exchange

Sept. 9 – Men's Club Train Museum Outing

Sept. 15 – Coffee with the Pastor

Worship Attendance

August 4 - 447

August 11 - 531

August 18 - 509

August 25 - 537

Make a Difference in the Life of a Child!

We are looking for new volunteers to tutor students at Meramec Elementary School. We will be focusing on reading, with the goal of bringing students up to grade level in kindergarten through second grade. There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, Sept. 22, from 11:30 am to 1 pm. There you will have the opportunity to meet our new Reading Specialist, Shannon Fritts, and discover how you can help. A light lunch will also be provided.

Please contact Kelly Vincent at kellyvin33@gmail.com by Sept. 19 to RSVP to the meeting or if you would like more information.

Men's Club Chili Cook-Off

Calling all Living Word cooks! Dust off that secret family recipe and enter the first annual Chili Cook-Off on Thursday, Oct. 3, from 6-8 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Living Word.

Bring a large pot of your chili so that church members may taste each entry and vote on their favorite. The winner will receive a trophy and recognition in *The Beacon*. Men's Club will also publish a booklet of all the recipes that you can share with your church friends. Let us know if you need access to stoves or cooking pots prior to the cook-off. Tables, tablecloths and electrical outlets will be supplied.

Men's Club will provide china and all the utensils needed for the tasting. They will also provide cornbread and drinks, as well as cheese, onions and sour cream to garnish the chili. Cost per chili entry is \$10 each; while cost to taste is \$2 per advanced ticket or \$3 at the door. Proceeds will help offset the cost of supplies, the trophy, etc.

The cook-off will also provide the opportunity to sign up to work the Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot. The proceeds from tree sales are used to fund the club's scholarship program, which currently offers three \$1000 scholarships.

For more information or to sign up, contact Steve Ernst at 636-537-9030 or Scott Reichter at 636-399-0543 or reichter.scott@gmail.com.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



We welcome Dave and Jayne Leonard into church membership. Moving here four months ago, they are transferring from Asbury UMC in Madison, Alabama. Dave is retired and enjoys ham radio, while Jayne likes scrapbooking.

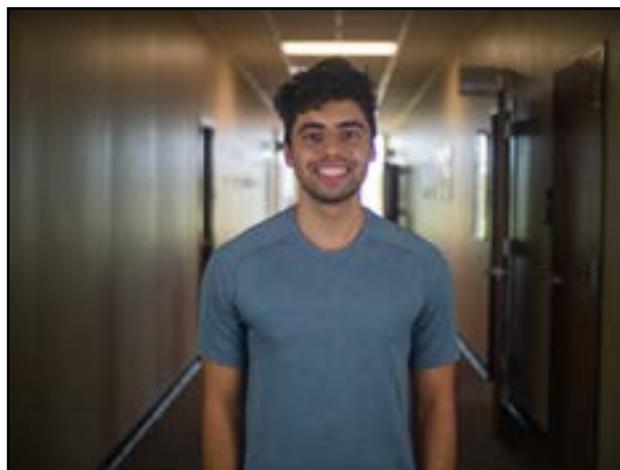
Dear Living Word Family,

On behalf of my family I wanted to thank you all for your various signs of love and support at the time of our mom's passing. I was overwhelmed by the number of sympathy cards we received, hugs given, food prepared, and Living Word people present at her Memorial Service. All of that meant the world to Pastor Dave and I, as well as my siblings, their spouses and all our children. A special thanks goes out to the Memorial Committee for the meal that followed the service. It was nice to not have to worry about providing food and it allowed us time to visit with friends and family, some of whom we haven't seen in years, and share memories of our mom.

In Christ's love,
Nancy, Pastor Dave and the family of Patricia Kunkel

LIVING WORD WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Alyssa Kellhofer is joining the Living Word staff part-time as Director of Contemporary Worship. Originally from O'Fallon, Illinois, Alyssa attended Missouri State University where she was a member of the MSU Gospel Choir, Concert Chorale and the all-female a cappella group, A Cub Bella. For the past three years, Alyssa has been working as a Prevention Educator for the National Council of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and will continue to teach part-time, traveling to schools in the St. Louis area. Aside from singing and teaching, Alyssa enjoys spending time with her husband, Jeremy, and their three children - Noah, Avery and Hadley. Alyssa joined Living Word's Worship Team and became a member of Living Word in 2012.



Devin Cline is returning to the Living Word staff part-time as the Band Director. Devin has attended Living Word since 2007, and he started playing with the Contemporary Worship Band in 2015. After much experience working with music and technology, he found his calling to be in worship music. Originally from St. Louis, Devin is a senior at Full Sail University where he studies audio engineering. In his free time, Devin likes to spend time with his family - Matt, Stacy, Chase and Kelly, and his two dogs, Tucker and Boogie. He also enjoys writing music, running, Star Wars and the Cardinals.

Please congratulate Alyssa and Devin on their new positions!

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



On Aug. 18, Living Word celebrated Pastor Daniel Shanks with a cake reception. Daniel served Living Word for four years as the Associate Pastor and Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. He was recently appointed to lead Arlington UMC in Bridgeton, Missouri. He will be missed, but we know that God has great plans for him!



Pictured are Living Word Youth Group members at the 2019 Youth Mexico Mission Trip.

Check out livingwordumc.org/youth for updates, details and permission forms or contact Zach Davis, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, at zdavis@livingwordumc.org for more information!

Save the Date!

September 14 - Epic 6

All students are invited to Epic 6 in Fenton, Missouri, where they can play laser tag, run ninja warrior courses, jump on trampolines, play dodgeball, go rock climbing and more! Cost is \$5 per student and dinner is included. For more info, visit livingwordumc.org/living-word-news.

October 12 - Dare2Share LIVE!

Dare2Share LIVE! is a one-day outreach event that gives youth leaders and all students (grades 6 – 12) an incredible way to reach people in their communities and schools by praying, serving and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. For more info, visit livingwordumc.org/living-word-news.

Beginning September 8, Living Word Youth Group will meet every Sunday: High School at 2 pm and Middle School at 3 pm.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please hold the following individuals in your personal prayers. Names are kept on the prayer list for two weeks. If you wish to remain on the prayer list, simply fill out the Prayer Request on the Get Connected Card.

Shirley Stevens	Sarai Ramnani	Students and teachers for a successful school year
Kathleen Westholt	Jim Stephens	
Danielle Bortner	Phyllis Sappington	Family and friends on the loss of Jesh Gandhi
Dora Trevino	Sophia Miller	The Pothoff and Tschannen families on the loss of Judy Pothoff
Doris Hirtz	Duke Goodwin	Family and friends on the loss of Ruth A. Kocut
Bob Vincent	Bill Brown	The Jackson family on the loss of Joyce Jackson's father, Harry M. Jackson
Stella Klein	Carol Margreiter	The Hauri family on the loss of Gerald Hauri's father, Gerry Hauri
Peggy Cruse	Judy Hoffman	
Bill Cruse	Jean Hastings	
Melva Kimker	Nini Schneider	

FOR MORE PRAYER INFORMATION:
livingwordumc.org/care
TO HAVE CARDS SENT:
livingwordumc.org/care

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

For pre-surgery prayer, please call the Church Office at 636-821-2800 with surgery date and time, check-in time and hospital name. To add a prayer to the above list, please fill out the Connect Card Prayer Request section or you may email prayerchain@livingwordumc.org. To schedule a home visit please contact Val Novatny at vnovatny@livingwordumc.org. Emergency Congregational Care 24/7 On-Call Phone: 636-821-2888.

BAPTISMS



Celebrating the baptism of Cassianna Barr on Sunday, Aug. 18!

Baptisms at Living Word

The baptismal covenant is initiated by God who by His grace adopts us as children and heirs of His Kingdom. Baptism brings us into union with Christ, with each other, and with the Church in every time and place.

Because baptism initiates us into Christ's whole Church and not only into a denomination, Living Word recognizes all Christian baptisms, and all forms of Christian baptism (sprinkling, pouring, immersion, infant, child or adult) as valid.

Because God baptizes, Holy baptism is administered only once, but may be reaffirmed each time we partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion or in services of "Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant."

For more information about communion or baptism please call the church office at 636-821-2800.



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Phone: 636.821.2800
Fax: 636.821.2801
Pastor On Call: 636-821-2888
Website: livingwordumc.org

Return Service Requested

WORSHIP CELEBRATION TIMES

9:00 am Traditional Service

10:30 am Contemporary Service



Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 am
Sunday School for preschool, elementary
and adults at 10:30 am

On Aug. 22, Living Word welcomed back our preschool teachers, who are busy preparing for school which will start on Sept. 3. We appreciate our teachers and everything they do for our children!

