



# THE BEACON

AUGUST 2021

## IN WORSHIP

**Summer Inside Out**

June 20 - September 5

## IN THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S PEN  
PAGE 2 – 3

MISSIONS  
PAGE 3 – 4

MESSAGE FROM THE HEART  
PAGE 5

IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
PAGE 6

PRAYER REQUESTS &  
MEN'S CLUB SCHOLARSHIP  
PAGE 7

WORSHIP ARTS  
PAGE 8

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER &  
BACK TO CHURCH FALL 2021  
PAGE 9

JULY AT LIVING WORD  
PAGE 10

FOLLOW US:



John Wesley gave the people called Methodist "Three General Rules." First, do no harm. Second, do all the good you can. Third, attend upon the ordinances of God. By "ordinances" Wesley meant that God had given us ways or "means" by which we can experience God's love in our lives. Today, in order to share Wesley's meaning in a more modern day language, we simply say that the third general rules was to "Stay in Love With God."

This summer we will spend several weeks looking at personal spiritual practices (how we love God on the inside) followed by social spiritual practices (how we love God outside).

### Join Us for Upcoming Sundays!

- 8/1 – Solitude
- 8/8 – Love One Another
- 8/15 – Pray For One Another
- 8/22 – Bear One Another's Burdens
- 8/29 – Provoke One Another
- 9/5 – One-Anothering Retrospective

*The worship services from the beginning of this sermon series, 6/20 – 7/25, are available at [livingwordumc.org/worship](http://livingwordumc.org/worship).*

# PASTOR'S PEN

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## *Mission*

The term “mission” in the church world has two meanings. The first relates to the purpose of the church. It’s usually expressed in a mission statement. At Living Word our mission statement is “We exist to live as a community who follows Jesus as we worship, learn, serve, and celebrate together.” That’s one way we use the word “mission.”

The other way we use the term is to describe the way in which we actively address “the hopes and hurts of the least, the last and the lost in this world.” At least, that’s how I’ve described it. “The Least” are those who go without; without food, water, clothing, basic medical care, and other needs. “The Last” are those who have suffered “evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they have presented themselves.” That last phrase comes from the membership vows in the United Methodist Book of Worship as well as the Hymnal. Finally, “The Lost” are those who are far from God but within our sphere of influence.

During the three years I’ve been here at Living Word there has been a lot of misunderstanding about the second definition of “Mission.” I own the responsibility for the lack of understanding and would like the opportunity to set that straight. After all, we have a vibrant and strong mission history and I want us all to be on board with our practice of mission outreach. I’d be satisfied if we could at least come to a clear understanding of how it works. Let me begin with a brief history. When I arrived in the summer of 2018, I became aware of The Ghana Project, our wonderful and God-inspired mission work in the country of Ghana. At that time I was also aware that we had accrued just over \$250,000 for the mission and, due to an issue with our Ghanaian contacts which has been resolved, not a clear time frame for expenditure. I did not think it appropriate for us raise more funds until we could see a spending plan that would deplete that account. With the approval of our Leadership Board, I created a task-force to discern the direction for our annual Christmas Miracle offering. The decision was to put out a “Grant Request Application” to mission organizations that we either had a church-wide relationship with or that members or small groups within our church had a relationship. In the end, the 2018 Miracle Offering went to eight “Signature Missions” with whom we partnered throughout 2019.

The number of Mission partners was reduced to seven in 2019 and five in 2020. The general thinking for this reduction was that our Miracle offerings were showing a decrease each year. We are also aware that vibrant and growing churches are seeking to do more with a few mission partners; in that way making a significant impact to their ministry. Though there are a number of factors that go into which partners were selected, here are a few that are significant. First, the team was searching for specific opportunities for our membership to be engaged in hands-on mission with the ministry and their clients. Second, the team was not interested in funding “bricks and mortar” requests unless they directly impacted client services. (For instance, Living Word helped to purchase a freezer for a food pantry and air-conditioning upgrades for a residential facility for the homeless.) While there are several other criteria outlined in the Grant Request Application, these two were significant in the conversation at the Mission Team meetings.

In May of 2019, the Leadership Board approved a policy regarding the governance of the Mission Team and the Signature Mission program. This policy also governs how Living Word interacts with missions which have not been chosen as Signature Missions. For those of you involved in those other mission organizations, here’s an excerpt from our Missions Policy so you can understand how you can bring opportunities to the rest of Living Word.

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (OTHER MISSION PARTNERS)

Living Word encourages congregation participation in other mission programs that attract their attention, passion, and imagination.

**Volunteer Recruitment:** Church members who engage in missions outside the Signature Mission Partners are welcome to promote volunteer openings through our publications.

**Collection of Items:** Collecting items needed for these ministries is welcome through word of mouth. As necessary, a collection point may be made available depending on scheduling around Signature and other Mission requests.

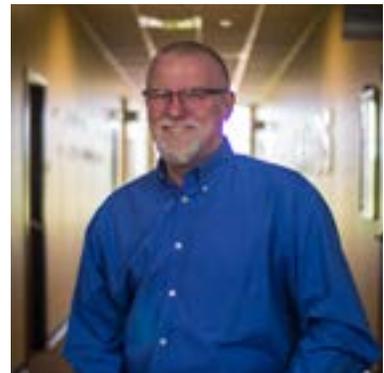
**Fundraising:** (The policy points to another section of the policy that outlines that fundraising is reserved to only Signature Mission Partners.)

I hope this brings some clarity to how we are serving the hopes and hurts of The Least, The Last, and The Lost in our world. In the coming months, you'll be hearing a lot more about mission opportunities, both Signature Missions as well as others. I hope you'll find a way to get involved in bringing relief to others as you serve Christ in the world.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Dave

[disrael@livingwordumc.org](mailto:disrael@livingwordumc.org)



# MISSIONS

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## **Volunteer Opportunity at Epworth Children and Family Services**

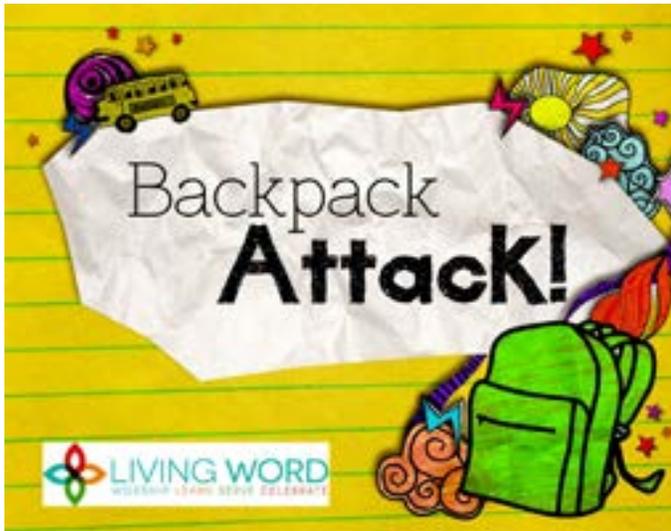
Epworth Children and Family Services is requesting volunteer help from our congregation! Former Living Word member, Brittany McIntyre, spearheads a food bank at Epworth's Normandy campus every Tuesday morning. A group of volunteers from Living Word works at the pantry from 9:30 am - noon on the **SECOND TUESDAY** of each month. It's known as Living Word Day. We usually enjoy lunch together afterwards. Our next work day is August 10.

Many hands make light work! If you would like to join us, please contact Doreen Norris at [dlnorris58@gmail.com](mailto:dlnorris58@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer. For more information on Epworth Children and Family Services, visit [epworth.org](http://epworth.org).



# MISSIONS

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## Backpack Attack

Backpack Attack for Rockwood and Meramec students is in full swing!! Our building will be open to students and their families on Saturday, August 14th. Our goal is to provide every student at Meramec Elementary School and students from seven Rockwood Elementary Schools in need with new backpacks filled with essential supplies.

This event will need your help! Visit [livingwordumc.org/news](http://livingwordumc.org/news) for volunteer opportunities or to make a donation. You can also mail a check to Living Word with "Backpack Attack" in the memo. Thank you in advance for your generosity! If you have any questions, please contact Doreen Norris at [dlnorris58@gmail.com](mailto:dlnorris58@gmail.com).



Before



After



Before



After

## Volunteers Work at Meramec Elementary

On Sunday, July 25, Marcy Watson, Johnny Willis, Clyde & Joyce Lowrey, and Dion Stimmel, along with Principal Strong, cleaned and organized the Meramec Elementary teacher's lounge. For more information on volunteering at Meramec Elementary, contact Robbin Willis at [robbinawillis@gmail.com](mailto:robbinawillis@gmail.com).

## Volunteer Opportunities at Living Word

Many volunteer opportunities are available at Living Word! Contact Samantha Yoder at [syoder@livingwordumc.org](mailto:syoder@livingwordumc.org) to volunteer in Children's Ministries. Contact Greg Finrock at [gfinrock@livingwordumc.org](mailto:gfinrock@livingwordumc.org) to volunteer in Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Contact Beth Balzaine at [bbalzaine@livingwordumc.org](mailto:bbalzaine@livingwordumc.org) to volunteer in the ministries of hospitality, communion, ushering, or refreshments.



# MESSAGE FROM THE HEART —

## *Ignite Mobile Camp at Living Word*

Almost 50 campers gathered in the Worship Center on Monday, July 26, to sing “Oh happy day, happy day, I’ll never be the same,” while energetic counselors kicked off camp week! Living Word hosted the Ignite Mobile Camp with Next Gen Ministries and the Missouri Conference. It is my hope that each camper who entered our building is forever changed with the message of the gospel. In the middle of a pandemic it was great to wake up the halls of Living Word with laughter, singing, and fun from kids for five days straight. As I popped into rooms, the energy each day grew as campers talked about God in Bible study.

Campers could choose from three activities, technology, sports, and creativity to focus on at camp. In between their themed activities, they made new friends from the community, played games, enjoyed the camp water slide, and simply savored the summer fun. This was definitely a week they will cherish as summer draws to a close. It is my prayer that each camper remembers that they were created for a unique purpose, God loves them very much, and that we all have a special job to tell as many people as we can about Jesus.

It was neat to see our church come together to serve the community through this new experience. The goal was to go “all-out” after missing a year of summer kids ministry in 2020. Thanks to the Next Gen camp team and many volunteers. If we are counting by energy and smiles after a week of camp, we exceeded our goal.

Samantha Yoder  
Director of Children's Ministries  
[syoder@livingwordumc.org](mailto:syoder@livingwordumc.org)



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION



## Launch Sunday Celebration

This fall, Living Word is excited to offer, once again, a full slate of children's, youth, and adult programming! It all begins with Living Word's Launch Sunday Celebration! On Sunday, August 22, we will have one worship celebration at 10 am, followed by food, fun, and fellowship! Watch for more details in the coming weeks!

## Senior Adult Bible Study

Join the new Senior Adult Bible Study! The current study is The Epic of Eden, a twelve-week study of the Old Testament on Tuesdays at 10:30 am led by Pastor Greg. This class is meeting in Room 205/207. Feel free to bring your friend, neighbor, or anyone to join us. If you have any questions, please email Pastor Greg Finfrock at [gfinfrock@livingwordumc.org](mailto:gfinfrock@livingwordumc.org) or contact the church office at 636-821-2800.

## August Senior Social Luncheon - Bingo Bash August 10th, Noon - 2:00 pm

Lazy days of summer are here! Beat the heat and pass the time by joining us for the August Senior Social Luncheon. We will have soup and sandwiches and then play a few rounds of Bingo. And, of course, there will be lots of fun prizes. No need to RSVP. Just grab your best friend or neighbor and show up. If you have any questions, please contact Val Novatny at [vnovatny@livingwordumc.org](mailto:vnovatny@livingwordumc.org) or at 636-821-2823.

## Save the Date

- August 10 - Senior Adult Luncheon
  - August 14 - Backpack Attack
  - August 18 - Worship Choir Dinner & Rehearsal
  - August 22 - Launch Sunday Celebration
  - September 13 - GriefShare Begins
  - September 19 - Living Word Golf Tournament
  - September 25 - Celebrate Wildwood
  - October 9 - Circle of Concern/Living Word 5k
  - October 24 - Aspire Women's Event at Living Word
- More information to follow on upcoming events!

## Living Word Employment Opportunity

Living Word is now accepting applications for a new Administrative Assistant. The full-time position provides administrative support for the Lead Pastor, Director of Communications, and Director of Congregational Care. For more information or to apply please visit [livingwordumc.org/employment](http://livingwordumc.org/employment).

## Living Word Giving

There are many ways to give to Living Word! Visit [livingwordumc.org/giving](http://livingwordumc.org/giving), login to the ShelbyNEXT app, text 636-306-4111 or point your smartphone at the QR code below! Contact the church office if you need assistance at 636-821-2800.



## Worship Attendance

- July 4 : in-person - 197, online - 249
- July 11: in-person - 245, online - 181
- July 18: in-person - 220, online - 161
- July 25: in-person - 207, online - 210

# PRAYER REQUESTS

Please hold the following individuals in your personal prayers. To add a prayer to the list below or to stay on the prayer list for more than two weeks, please complete the online form at [livingwordumc.org/mylw](http://livingwordumc.org/mylw), or email Val Novatny, Director of Congregational Care, at [vnovatny@livingwordumc.org](mailto:vnovatny@livingwordumc.org). For pre-surgery prayer, please contact Val Novatny at [vnovatny@livingwordumc.org](mailto:vnovatny@livingwordumc.org) or 636-821-2823. Emergency Congregational Care 24/7 On-Call Phone: 636-821-2888.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Mitch Mitchell	Josh Luter
Grossenheider Family	Charlotte Ottley
Fowler Family	Delaney Digman
Young Family	Bill Reichter
Thibault Family	Bob Vincent
Russ	Sophia Miller
Karen Patton	Judy Hoffman
Patty Porter	Nini Schneider

FOR MORE PRAYER INFORMATION:  
[livingwordumc.org/care](http://livingwordumc.org/care)  
 TO HAVE CARDS SENT:  
[livingwordumc.org/care](http://livingwordumc.org/care)  
 TO ADD A PERSON TO THE PRAYER LIST:  
[livingwordumc.org/mylw](http://livingwordumc.org/mylw)

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

### GriefShare Begins September 13

GriefShare, a special seminar and support group for people grieving the loss of someone close, will meet September 13 - December 6 on Mondays from 6:30-8:30 pm. To register for this 13-week course, please contact Val Novatny at [vnovatny@livingwordumc.org](mailto:vnovatny@livingwordumc.org) or 636-821-2823. There is a \$15 cost for the participant workbook.

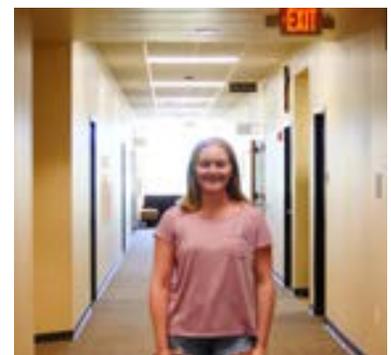
# MEN'S CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

### Men's Club Announces Five Scholarship Winners!

Living Word Men's Club announced five scholarship winners. Greg Howard from the Men's Club presented scholarships to Cassidy Barger, Sarah Locke, Liz Portscheller, and Tanner Wahl. In addition, Kathryn Wenger was awarded the Ken Mann Memorial Scholarship. The scholarships were funded by the Men's Club Golf Tournament and donations. Congratulations to all of the scholarship winners!



Cassidy Barger



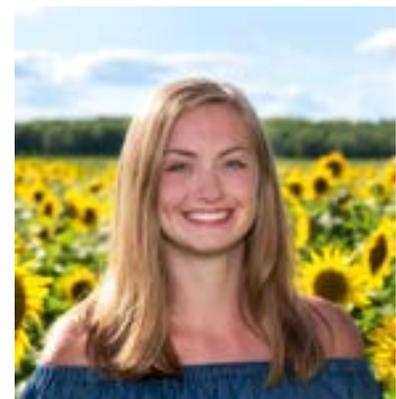
Sarah Locke



Liz Portscheller



Tanner Wahl



Kathryn Wenger

# WORSHIP ARTS

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## Contemporary Worship Band

Love to sing or play an instrument? The Contemporary Worship Band is seeking vocalists and instrumentalists! If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of our Worship Band please consider joining us for our fall auditions.

All instruments and vocal parts needed and welcomed!! Auditions will be held for the band on four different dates to allow options for people to choose from. Here are the selected dates for auditions:

Thursday, Sept. 2nd 6:00-7:30 pm  
Sunday, Sept. 5th 12:00- 1:00 pm  
Thursday, Sept. 9th 6:00-7:30 pm  
Sunday, Sept. 12th 12:00-1:00 pm

\*\*Save the Date for a Band Worship Workshop to be held Saturday, October 9th, from 10:00 am—2:00 pm. Lunch will be provided!

\*\*LW Youth Band ideas are also being discussed and will be decided at a further date. Stay tuned!

All who are interested please contact Alyssa Kellhofer, Director of Contemporary Worship, at [akellhofer@livingwordumc.org](mailto:akellhofer@livingwordumc.org) or 314-604-0060.



## Worship Choir Kickoff

The Worship Choir will kick off their new choir year on Wednesday, August 18th. We will begin with dinner and fellowship at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, followed by rehearsal in the Music Rehearsal Room. Worship Choir is open to all adults and high school youth. If you enjoy fellowship and love to sing, the Worship Choir is for you! For more information please contact Donna Baker at [dbaker@livingwordumc.org](mailto:dbaker@livingwordumc.org). We look forward to welcoming new members as we all begin the new year together!

## Kids and Youth Choirs Begin September 12

Beginning Sunday, September 12, LW Kids Choir, FBI Choir and Great Awakening Choir begin rehearsals!

LW Kids Choir (age 5 - 5th grade) will hold rehearsals at 10:00 am in Room 205/207. Contact Maggie Olson at [maggie522@hotmail.com](mailto:maggie522@hotmail.com) for information.

FBI Choir (grades 6 - 8) will hold rehearsals at 2:00 pm in the Music Rehearsal Room. Contact Donna Baker at [dbaker@livingwordumc.org](mailto:dbaker@livingwordumc.org) for information.

Great Awakening Choir (grades 9 - 12) will hold rehearsals at 2:00 pm in the Worship Center. Contact Mark Turner at [mturner@livingwordumc.org](mailto:mturner@livingwordumc.org) for information.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER—

## Discovery Time Openings

The Living Word Early Childhood Center (ECC) currently has openings in Discovery Time - Creative Minds, a new afternoon class being offered on Wednesdays starting in the fall for Senior 3 and Pre-K students. This program will allow families to extend their preschool day while providing their children with activities that will further pique their interest in STEM subjects:



### Wednesdays – CREATIVE MINDS

Wednesday afternoons will be STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) based. This class will focus on science experiments, robotics, and Lego building challenges. All STEM activities will be inquiry-based, meaning they are designed to answer a question the children might have. This encourages problem-solving, logical thinking, and creativity. The Creative Minds Club motto: Experiment, Fail, Learn, Repeat.

### 2021-2022 Early Childhood Center (ECC) Registration

ECC registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now open for children ages 15 months to 6 years of age. We strive to provide a safe and nurturing environment where children are provided with developmentally appropriate experiences to help them learn and grow together. Check out ECC at [livingwordumc.org/ecc.org](http://livingwordumc.org/ecc.org). Contact Becky Miller, ECC Director, at [bmiller@livingwordumc.org](mailto:bmiller@livingwordumc.org) or 636-821-2861 for more information on enrollment.

# BACK TO CHURCH FALL 2021—

This fall, Living Word is excited to offer, once again, a full slate of children's, youth, and adult programming! Watch the Living the Word Weekly emails over the coming month for more detailed information including sign-ups and curriculum offerings! Save the dates!

Sunday, August 15 Preview Sunday for LW Kids (birth - 5th grade) and LW Youth (6th - 12th grade) (9:00 a.m.)

Sunday, August 15 Adult Sunday School Continues (7:45 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, August 17 Senior Adult Bible Study Continues (10:30 a.m.)

Wednesday, August 18 Worship Choir Kickoff Dinner and First Rehearsal (6:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, August 18 Pastor David's Men's Bible Study Continues (6:00 a.m.)

Sunday, August 22 Launch Sunday for LW Kids (birth - 5th grade) and LW Youth (6th - 12th grade) (9:30 a.m.)

Tuesday, August 24 Disciple 1 Begins (6:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, August 24 Ann Lindemann Women's Study Begins (12:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, August 25 Disciple 4 Begins (6:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, August 25 Worship Choir Weekly Rehearsals Begin (7:00 p.m.)

Sunday, September 5 Family Worship Sunday (9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.)

Tuesday, September 7 ECC First Day of School

Sunday, September 12 LW Kids (3rd - 5th Grade) BAM: Bible And Me (2:00 p.m.)

Sunday, September 12 LW Kids Choir (age 5 - 5th grade) Begins (10:00 a.m.)

Sunday, September 12 FBI (6th - 8th grade) and Great Awakening (9th - 12th grade) Choirs Begin (2:00 p.m.)

Sunday, September 12 Sunday Afternoon Youth (6th - 12th grade) Begins (3:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, September 14 Connie Davidson Women's Study Begins (7:30 a.m.)

# JULY AT LIVING WORD



Parents' Night Out at Living Word on July 9, was fun for the kids and volunteers alike! The kids enjoyed making slime, playing on the Living Word playground and learning about the Fruits of the Spirit.

Watermelons, a Daily Devotional for families, and fun surprises were delivered to 80 families. We were able to check in, chat, and share the love of Jesus.

