

# Living Faith Messenger

## Winter Edition

### From the Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Troy Billow

#### A Divine Appointment

December 2019

*"She will give birth to a Son and you are to give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins."*

*Mat. 1:21* Jesus had a divine appointment with human destiny in order to rescue this world and all its nations from a fate worse than death. At the dawn of time when the first couple fell away from God and therefore all humanity was put under a curse of death and separated from God - the earth and its generations of people were now on a collision course with God's wrath. **But God's Son Jesus Christ** was going to step into human history and be born as a child in a barn to a lowly couple and then at the prime age of adulthood sacrifice himself at the cross to provide a way for every man and woman to be restored back into a friendship with the Father and be reconciled for all eternity. **This is why Gods precious Son came to earth from his eternal throne and heavenly home to be born as a human child by divine conception** - this is why believers across the globe celebrate the human but divine birth of God's son Jesus Christ at Christmas time.

I was recently up at our local marketplace known as the Joliet mall and observed hundreds of parents and families having such a fun time eating in the food court, shopping for gifts, and lining up to see the latest holiday movie. The whole mall was filled and buzzing with people enjoying themselves at this holiday season – it was pleasant to watch. However, being a Christ follower who truly believes the story of God's redemptive plan in the Bible, **I couldn't help but wonder if many of them understood the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of God's Savior.** Oftentimes this epic, eternal, all important truth



gets lost in the lights and gift giving of Christmas morning. I wish I had the chance to say to each one of them "that's great, have a good time buying and giving gifts to one another, but please know and remember this year that God the Father loves you very much and has given you **the best gift ever – His very own Son Jesus** so you could enjoy **the greatest gift of all time – eternal life.** My limited effort to do this that day was to pass out 2 dozen Christmas tracts explaining this great news of Jesu's birth. Some took them eagerly and wanted to start reading them right away while others gave me

questionable looks – a small price to pay considering what Peter went through. Did you know that Christ still wants to have a divine appointment to this day with people around you, if you would be brave enough to share the story of the birth of Christ with someone?

I had one of these divine appointments that day as I passed by a little shop right in the middle of the mall where a Jewish man was selling beautiful nativity sets carved out of olive wood from Bethlehem. This young man at the booth recently came from the Holy Land, and I asked him if he believed in the Christ child of the nativity sets he was selling and what that meant to him and for the world. He said he believed in Christ and ask where our church was located. He had tears in his eyes as he told me that he and his friends had been looking for a new church since arriving in the states. He had me write down the address of our location, and I invited him to bring his friends to our **candlelight service on the 22<sup>nd</sup>** letting him know we would be reading from the scroll of Isaiah. He gave me a wooden cross made of olive wood from the Holy Lands as a gift of friendship and as I walked away I was the one who was now tearing up and filled with joy knowing that God had given me a **divine appointment** that day at the mall – to have the opportunity to share the story of Christ with one of His chosen people. From the scriptures we know that God the Father wants all of his children to give the Christmas gift of Christ all year round, but especially at Christmas – are **you** ready for a divine appointment?

## LFCC Children's Church



Our Children's Church and Youth Group have been growing! Thank you, Megan Bustamante and all who help keep this thriving ministry such an important part of our church. We are grateful to all who have become such a positive influence in the hearts of our little ones.



*"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."*



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## *Someone You Should Know*

*Virginia Beehn*



I was born the week before Christmas, on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1937, in the city of Chicago. I had one younger sister, Loretta, who passed away in 2011 after a long illness. My father worked as a tool and die maker for

International Harvester Co. My mother was a stay-at-home mother until my sister and I were 7 and 10 years old when she went to work in a factory where they built motors. We lived in an apartment across the hall from my aunt, and my aunt would watch out for us girls after school until mother came home from work.

I loved going to school, I did well, and was on the honor roll most of the time. The school double-promoted me, so I skipped the second half of third grade.

As a child I would get very upset if we ever had to miss Sunday School and Church. I thought it was OK for us to go to picnics or museums after church, but never without attending church first. When I was 7 years old, I walked down the aisle at Belden Avenue Church of God in response to the pastor's



call to ask Jesus into your heart. I knew I wanted to live for Jesus all my life.

When I was 15 a girlfriend from church introduced me to her boyfriend's buddy. He was tall, handsome, 19 years old, and from Tennessee. We fell in love and a year later we eloped to Mississippi to be married. I was 16 and he was 20. That marriage lasted 24 years and we had 5 children. We parted more or less amicably when our youngest daughter was 15. Divorce for a Christian is something you never consider until it happens to you. At that time, I had been attending a large church, but felt isolated and was unable to connect to anyone on a personal level. My youngest daughter had been dating a nice young man and she invited me to attend where they were going to youth group – Moraine Valley Community Church. She told me they were a smaller church, were friendly people, and they had good sermons. So, I visited a week or two later.

There, sitting in the front row of the church was a solitary, tall, slender man with his four kids sitting next to him. One of the kids was my daughter's boyfriend – Roy Beehn, Jr. After church I met the dad during hospitality time over a cup of coffee and some pastries. First it was coffee and conversation when dad picked up his son from visiting my daughter. Then it was an actual date.



Then the day came when we left the younger children in care of my older teenage children, and the two of us drove to the parking lot of the church. Roy, Sr. got down on one knee and asked me to marry him – right there in the darkened church parking lot. He said he wanted God to be the focus of our marriage. I said “yes”. Together we

finished raising our teenagers and his small children. Today we claim nine of our combined children and their spouses, 21 biological and step-grandchildren plus their various spouses, 22 great-

grandchildren, and soon to be four great-great-grandchildren.

Over the years I've held a variety of jobs. In high school my first job was at the local hospital making 65 cents an hour for filling food trays, and then washing the returned dishes. I worked as a waitress one summer. When my first bunch of kids were small, I wrote a newspaper column called “Palos Potpourri” for the Palos Citizen newspaper. Then I worked at Palos Hills City Hall doing typing and filing.



Next, I joined the Palos Hills Police Dept. as dispatcher/matron for a couple of years.

My next job was working for Brave Records in Harvey, IL where I learned to use a recording console. I met a lot of interesting people there from the music

business. Some of these included Marvin Rainwater (the only person I allowed to call me “Ginny”), Little Jimmy Dickens, Sammi Smith (one of the sweetest ladies I ever met), Christy Lane, Tanya Tucker, and the group TW4 who later changed their name to Styx. When the recording studio closed, I worked at Kmart in the cash cage and learned how to use an adding machine without looking at my fingers. Next was two years at Marina Towers in downtown Chicago making microfiche. Then it was a job working for the Commodities Exchange. After that I worked in Oak Brook for International Harvester, again making microfiche. They liked my work and hired me to be their first female Programmer's Assistant, checking computer reports and troubleshooting when overnight reports were not received from dealerships around the country. I was there 10 years. They laid me off when the company downsized and changed their name to Navistar. Next, I ran a computer for a janitorial service for a few years, and then worked for an Industrial Hygienist typing safety manuals and business proposals.

In 1986 I heard a new Christian radio station from Joliet, WJCH-91.9 FM, and went to their open house to see where the music was coming from. I volunteered three days a week to type, file, and answer phones. Little did I realize that I'd be put

to work recording one-minute spots. I was surprised to learn the recording console was the same model I'd learned to run years before while at Brave Records. Over time my responsibilities evolved to producing a "Weekend Calendar" program, then recording pastors for "The Pastor's Study" program heard each day at noon, first as Administrative Assistant, then Station Manager, next Regional Manager for eight stations in the Midwest, and finally full time public affairs host. Today I produce public affairs for 28 radio stations across the USA – still for Family Stations, Inc. Some of the odd-ball things I've done in life are to learn to ride a motorcycle when I was 62 years old. I became the "Most Adventurous Lady of Harley-



Davidson" for 2001 which earned me a \$100 gift card to Harley-Davidson and a ton of bragging rights. I put just under 45,000 miles on my motorcycle before I retired it in 2017.

Another oddball thing was when I had the chance to drive a cabover semi-truck and trailer for about

40 miles in Arizona and another time for about 40 miles in Oklahoma. No, I didn't hit anything.

When Roy was on the North Palos Fire Dept., they responded to a car vs. deer accident. The driver didn't want to keep the deer, so the police told the firemen they could have it. The firemen suspended the deer inside their hose-tower. No one knew how to dress the deer, so they called me. I borrowed firemen's boots from a female firefighter, and hunter's knives from a fireman. Everyone disappeared as soon as I started dressing the deer, and after that they nicknamed me the "Deer-slayer".

I sang for a few years with a Christian group named "Walking by Faith". We sang at several churches in the Midwest and performed once at Gospel fest in downtown Chicago. We even appeared once on Christian TV Channel 38 and recorded an album in Nashville. I have certainly not lived a perfect life. I've disobeyed the Bible on many occasions, but GOD is gracious. I've asked His forgiveness, and He has given it. You can be forgiven, too. Just ask. Life is so much better when you obey Jesus.



I love being part of Living Faith Community Church. Today I sing with the worship team "As One" and serve on the Council of Leaders. I cannot think of a happier place to be than in the house of GOD.

~Thank you for sharing your story with us!

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## ***Prayer List***

**Please be in prayer for the following:**

1. Continued growth.
2. Donation of property.
3. Continued blessings for our Sunday School and Youth Group.
4. Protection for our church and pastors.
5. A "full house" at our Christmas Candlelight Service December 22<sup>nd</sup>.
6. To all those who have lost loved ones this year.
7. Blessings in 2020.

Thank You, Father, for answered prayers and Your Presence in our lives!

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# **The church has left the building.**







**"God's Warriors"** is our new Young Adult Group (ages 18-40) meeting monthly to discuss life as Christians, facing different obstacles, getting to know one another and building lifelong friendships. On October 19<sup>th</sup> the group headed out to the Dollinger Family Farm in Channahon for the pumpkin patch, mazes, hayrides etc.





In November there was a "Friendsgiving" Dinner and a Christmas Party in December. If you would like more information call Katy Heinrich (513) 267-0074.

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### **A Very Busy Church**

Since the last Newsletter so many things have been happening!



*"Revive Our Hearts" Women's Conference at Living Hope Church*



*Living Alternatives Banquet*



### *October "Chili Cookoff"*



(If you've ever had her cooking, you'd know why Carol Billow won first place!)

*"The Storyteller" Ruth Singleton Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday  
(Not in January or February)*





*November 3<sup>rd</sup> "Dedication Sunday" Dinner*



*There were over 80 in attendance that day*

*First Baby Dedication in the new Living Faith Community Church*



*Cameron Adamitus with parents Dan & Lindsay*

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***Coming Soon...***

***Christmas Candlelight Service  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm***



*Christmas tree in Sanctuary decorated with  
homemade ornaments created by the children of  
LFCC*

***Please Pray***

God's presence and peace for our  
homebound members:

Sarah Delgado, Emmitt & Marion Hays,  
Leroy & Marilyn Crettol, & Helene White

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***Birthdays***

***January***

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Jackie Gehle</i>       | <i>Jan. 4</i>  |
| <i>Lisamarie Williams</i> | <i>Jan. 4</i>  |
| <i>Joanne Smith</i>       | <i>Jan. 14</i> |
| <i>Allyce Beechy</i>      | <i>Jan. 16</i> |
| <i>Tom Heinrich</i>       | <i>Jan. 21</i> |
| <i>Terry Zappa</i>        | <i>Jan. 30</i> |

***February***

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| <i>Rob Case</i>      | <i>Feb. 4</i>  |
| <i>Ron Robison</i>   | <i>Feb. 6</i>  |
| <i>Beverly Mattz</i> | <i>Feb. 9</i>  |
| <i>Vivian Wagner</i> | <i>Feb. 9</i>  |
| <i>Keith Jacobs</i>  | <i>Feb. 18</i> |
| <i>Paul Smith</i>    | <i>Feb. 20</i> |

***March***

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| <i>Bob Case</i>       | <i>Mar. 1</i>  |
| <i>Beth Heinrich</i>  | <i>Mar. 9</i>  |
| <i>Luke Healy</i>     | <i>Mar. 21</i> |
| <i>Diane Case</i>     | <i>Mar. 26</i> |
| <i>Trevor Robison</i> | <i>Mar. 30</i> |

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If there are any articles you would like to see or  
someone you would like to highlight please make  
sure I have that info by March 12<sup>th</sup>. Our next  
newsletter will be the spring edition. Please email  
me at [beth.heinrich62@gmail.com](mailto:beth.heinrich62@gmail.com) Thank you!

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*Bags of Hope, Elsie's Pantry & Morningstar Mission all shared the Thanksgiving Offering and each received \$305.94  
Thank You!*

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*-Mark Your Calendars-*

### **Upcoming Events**

Family Game Night Friday January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Bible Study resumes January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm with

"The Book of Signs" by Dr. David Jeremiah

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### **New Church Directory**

We would like to make a new Directory for Living Faith Community Church. Please email a picture of yourself to [office@livingfaithchurch.org](mailto:office@livingfaithchurch.org) or see Paul Smith any Sunday to take your picture.

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## **"Behind the Scenes"**

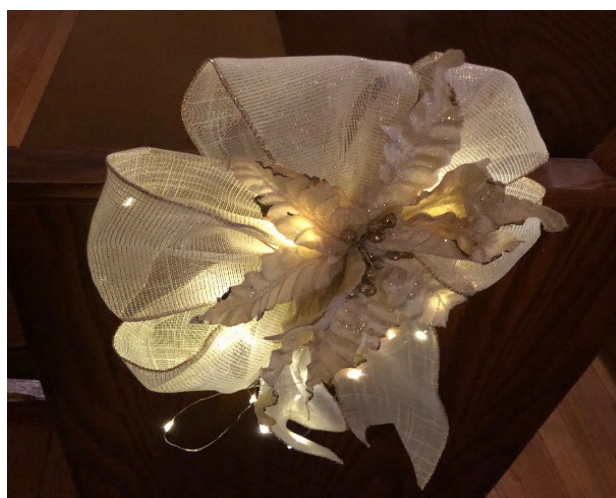
The beautiful new signs in the front of the church were finished in November. Ray Schuestel has worked for Van Bruggen Signs for quite a few years. His labor was all donated, 16 hours, and all the church had to pay for was the lettering for signs which came to \$482 to Van Bruggen and \$50 to Ray for the new sign beneath the larger sign.



*Ray hard at work adding the finishing touches*



*Art that adorns our church doors changed every season created by Carol Billow*



*Beautiful bows on the pews for Christmas created by Edith Thompson*





*Our beautiful lights in the Sanctuary*



### *A Special Thanks*

A special thanks to Gary Heinrich for rewiring and testing all the lights (his eight hours of labor was his gift to the church for Christmas) and to Tom Heinrich and fellow electrician Steve Kopec donating over 4 hours to install the lights and dimmer switches. The lights were purchased for \$99 each from sellers on Ebay and come from a church in North Carolina that is being renovated. They fit our little country church so perfectly. Thanks to René Blasier for finding these, and also to husband Darrell for supplying the ladders and cleanup. Darrell was also responsible for installing the new hand towel dispensers in both bathrooms. He and Larry Sandy saved the day when the church experienced septic issues during a very busy time.

### *From the Circle of Leaders*

It is official. All the paperwork has been done, and we celebrated our new merge as Living Faith Community Church on November 3<sup>rd</sup> with guest speaker Bryan Moak from Converge. Nearly 100 people attended our day of rejoicing. The service was followed by a true banquet of food. Many, many thanks to Deb Sandy and Renee Blasier for coordinating the wonderful meal. It has been so exciting to see the growth in our newly merged church. Growth – not only in the numbers of people attending, but growth in our individual lives.

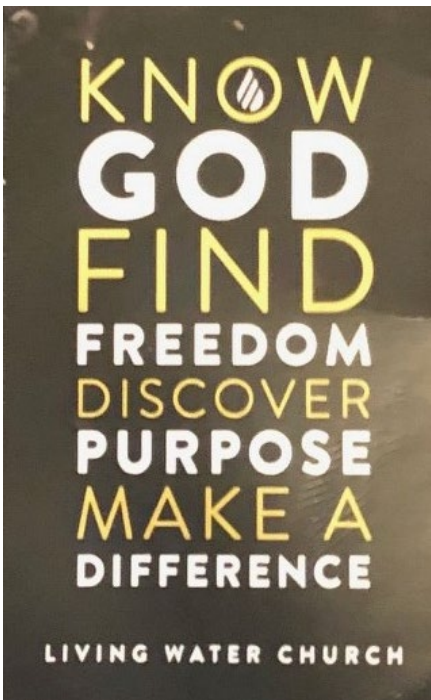
- We have been blessed to have many willing workers within the church congregation.
- Pastor Troy and Pastor John each bring thought provoking messages on Sunday.
- Thursday night Bible Study is growing, and the attendance is nearly that of a Sunday morning.
- A special Bible Study was led this Fall by the team of Rob Case and Pastor John Billow to identify our God-given Spiritual gifts. If you have not taken that short test, please see Pastor John or Rob for a copy.
- If you have already taken the test, and know where your gifts are, it is time to put them to use. See Pastor Troy or Pastor John for places to best use the gifts you have been given.
- There are two opportunities for community prayer each week - once on Sunday morning before worship service, the other on Thursday evening before Bible Study.
- Sunday School and Thursday Youth Group, under the leadership of Megan Bustamante and her team are reaching more children, and the children are learning about Jesus.
- A children's choir has been formed and they sing for Sunday morning service on occasion.
- Our music team, "As One", under the leadership of Rob Thompson, brings a wide variety of hymns, new music, and special music to all our various services.
- There is a recently formed Young Adults fellowship group named "God's Warriors" led by Tom and Katy Heinrich that meets each month.
- Band of Brothers and Circle of Sisters provides fellowship for our men and women.
- We have a new logo you can see on the bulletins and other paperwork, as well as on the lovely new sign in front of the church.

- The church motto “To Know Christ and Make Him Known” now greets you as you enter the church.
- Our new website has lots of information at [www.livingfaithchurch.org](http://www.livingfaithchurch.org)
- A team of volunteers led by Edith Thompson decorated the sanctuary beautifully for Christmas.
- New lighting has been installed in the sanctuary.
- The business part of caring for a church is handled responsibly by our Council of Leaders.

GOD has been so very good to our church. Let’s endeavor to grow closer to Him each day and continue to worship and praise Him in all we do and say. GOD is truly awesome!

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## Evangelism at Joliet Mall



Rob Thompson and Derek (who both share a birthday on December 14<sup>th</sup>) joined Pastor Troy and others handing out Christmas tracts at the Joliet Mall. Our youngest evangelist, Derek, was given this card to a nearby church in Bolingbrook. It is so refreshing to see our children being influenced by like-minded Christians in these tumultuous times. May we all strive to be Godly examples to them all.

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Thanks to John and Allyce Beechy who find inspirational quotes for our slides every Sunday.

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MY NEW YEARS RESOLUTION THIS YEAR IS  
TO DO THE THINGS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN  
DOING LAST YEAR



MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS OUR CHURCHES IN 2020



Living Faith Community Church  
380 High Road Lockport, IL  
60441

Dated Material  
Address Change Requested

Stamp

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# Living Faith Messenger

The Quarterly Newsletter Of  
Living Faith Community Church