

Living Faith Messenger

2023 Fall Edition

From the Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Troy Billow

Fall 2023

"Quick - I NEED A NEW BATTERY!"

Sometimes life and ministry can get the best of us and we can feel like a dead battery with no charge left on it, and we can't seem to find a new battery anywhere to replace it. This very thing happened to Derek and I on a recent Sunday morning when the wireless mic I use was dead and so we scrambled to find a new battery to insert before the service started. Sometimes in life we can feel this way and it seems like we've been looking for a new battery with no luck for weeks or maybe even months.

Jesus knows we tend to live such busy and demanding lives that we become drained of spiritual energy and joy. At the same time, people around us seem weary and stressed out and we wonder "I thought being a Christian meant something different than this?" We think - "Can God really help us find true rest for our souls here and now?" The reason we might feel this way is that we could be doubting if God is really concerned with the things we are currently facing, or are we on our own? We fall into a self-reliant pattern of no longer relying on him but only ourselves. Jesus answers this dilemma and lets us know that we can truly have his peace, presence, and power - and even joy in our lives - especially when we feel overwhelmed.



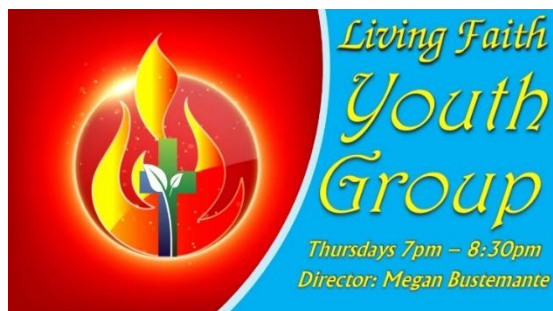
John the Baptist felt the same way when he was left in prison after so long a time and awaiting a probable gruesome end. John's disciples came to Jesus to communicate John's weariness and doubt. In **Matthew Chapter 11** people were gathered around Jesus and he made use of this teachable moment and turned to his disciples and the crowd and said: ***"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*** verse 28.

At this point you may be asking "what did Jesus mean when he said these things? How can I find a state of rest instead of stress?" In **verse 29** Jesus gives his answer and an important kingdom principle for this to actually be true in our life – ***"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*** Jesus' answer is to walk through life in the same manner as he did: in continued faith and trust in God the Father's presence and plan. It's when we lose hold of that and over-focus on the circumstances around us that we start to stress out and become weary, which often leads to anxiety. God never intended for us to live in that state of being. We become unfruitful to him when we do.

Notice he says ***"come to me"*** - that means we need to take it to Jesus – all our cares and concerns – let him carry them and let him sort them out. He also says ***"I am humble in heart"*** which means he's not worried and is at peace with his circumstances. He accepts things the way they are and simply loves those around him; in other

words, he doesn't feel the need to fix everybody or control everything. His heart is to serve his Father's will and trust his Father's plan. John the Baptist needed to remember this in his situation and so do we in ours, myself included. ***Let's rely on Jesus together and he will see us through each difficulty we face, one step at a time – with peace and strength in our souls.***

====//=====



Living Faith Youth Group

By: Megan Bustamante

There are many exciting things that have happened in the last few months with the children and youth ministries at Living Faith Community Church. It was hard for me to pick just one to write about this month. So instead I will briefly share about it all!

To kick off the summer the youth room received a full make over! The room went from a white space to a room full of color with a clear focus on the cross. There were so many people in the congregation that lent their talents, skills and supplies to this project and I am so thankful for each of them. The youth love the new space and it has already served us well as we use the room for many different programs and events. I want to invite everyone to come check out the new space and while down there say a prayer that lives will be transformed for Jesus there.

After our new space was complete we held our annual 5 day club! For Club we partner with Child Evangelism Fellowship to meet children with the love and forgiveness of Christ. This year Club looked a bit different due to poor air quality and weather but none the less Jesus was made known!



Over the summer, after 5 Day Club, we tried something new and ran craft camp for the first time. It was a huge success! Over the different weeks of the summer we had 14 different kids join us to make a variety of crafts. Together we made slime, painted tote bags, built bird houses and tie-dyed shirts. During these gatherings relationships were built and new students were welcomed into the youth group.





As we have been growing it became clear we needed something different for our middle school and high school students on Sunday. So they all officially graduated out of Sunday school and we started a Sunday Bible study just for this age group! This Bible study is focused on giving the youth a basic understanding of different parts of the Bible and helping them build the skills needed to study the Word of God on their own.

Youth Bible study meets on Sunday mornings from 10-10:30 and so far has been enjoyed by the students.



It always amazes me to stop and look at how God works. Not that long ago I was feeling stuck and not sure what was the next step for the next generation ministries, but God answered prayers and our youth ministry is currently the strongest it has ever been. If you are looking to get involved in this ministry there are many ways right now! We are currently looking for prayer partners, youth Bible study teachers, nursery workers, Sunday school teachers and assistants. If you are interested in learning more about any of these ways to get involved please let me know!

In the last few months we also had our first ever graduation service for Sunday school.



Kingdom Women

By Sharon Robison

This year has been a fun and productive one for Kingdom Women.

In late June, Mark Caruso conducted a self-defense class for the ladies at the church and we learned some important safety skills. We are grateful to him for lending us his time and expertise. We ended the class by meeting at Culver's for lunch and a great time of fellowship.

In August, the ladies joined together to serve at the Romeoville Community Pantry. We assisted about 30 to 35 families that day by helping them choose food for their grocery needs and then packing it up and bringing it to their cars for them. We made some new friends at the pantry that day as well. The volunteer staff prayed with us and invited us to come back and serve. There are so many in need and it was a humbling experience for us all.



In early September, the ladies met at the church for a *Stampin' Up* card-making activity. We were really happy to have some of the younger girls join us. The ladies and girls each created two beautiful cards that they decorated themselves. Everyone displayed great creativity! We served pizza and salad and had fellowship and fun.



Ladies and girls, please come out and join us for any future events. We would love to have you participate!



Kingdom Warriors

By John Beechy
"Kingdom Revitalization"
by Kingdom Warriors

The summer is coming to an end and we have had a busy unexpected summer as a ministry. After Night of Truth we laid the ground work for the Summer Outreach and we did not expect the direction the Lord would take us. Originally it was planned to just to go to Dellwood Park every other week but as we began to see the great response to the gospel as we would go out we ended up going every Thursday. Oh, if I could explain at times how great were the conversations we had, those we prayed for, answered questions for, the divine appointments with people like Ashley and Dominique, Hymea who prayed to receive Christ I would not do it justice. You really had to be there to feel the exhilaration of reaching the lost and needy, it really was unexplainable. That is why, as some explained, they couldn't sleep all night after the excitement of witnessing. They had a spiritual buzz afterwards, rejoicing like they were on a sports team winning the championship. The Outreach was such a blessing, and the Gospel was given out to so many (Atheists, liberals and conservatives, Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox, the doubting, the religious believers, those who recently moved here from Poland and the Ukraine, children and teenagers). It was awesome! Please be a part of this next year and be blessed. The Lord opened an unexpected door after we were rained out of the Lockport Community fest, someone from another Church gave us their table for the weekly Car Show. Going (sometimes) face to face can be quite a bold challenge and truly it is the best way, I believe. At the Car Show we had an open door to represent and let others come up to our table if they desired. We had about 3 weeks, but we reached over

a hundred people. We gave out free popcorn and water, free Bibles (English and Spanish) free Gospel tracts and invited them to our Church. One interesting story: we had these jumbo million dollar bills and the kids loved them. One lady took one and sent it her son in South Carolina.





Talking about South Carolina, we had to pick up my Mom who went on a trip to see her sister and we met them there. In the town there was a Bible bookstore, and I told the lady of our churches' efforts to reach the lost. They had this deal with mini gospels of John called Living Waters for sale. One of my boxes was short and I paid the full price which was still a great deal (\$5 for 100 Bibles). I called in to see if they had more and the lady heard they gave me less than what was in a full box so she ended up giving me a total of 3 free boxes which added up to 300 Bibles. Unbelievable! She went on to feel led to give me discounts on any Bibles I wanted. What a blessing this woman was, and the Holy Spirit was at work. Why? Well, first off, the Lord was being gracious towards us, but also because our Church is about the Father's business. I'm so pumped talking about this and so encouraged by the blessing that came with this ministry. Thank you to all who prayed and who helped out (Pastor Troy, Allyce Beechy, Liz Miller, Rob Case, Rob Thompson, Sharon and Ron Robison, Beth, Tom and Katy Heinrich, Chucho and Megan Bustamante, Mark and Linda (for you prayers also). Thank you all! God is real and on the move. Will you be a part of this faith walk and the powerful work of the Spirit through the Local Church? Please come to our last 4 events and be revitalized by God's Spirit in the fellowship of Believers. Sept 30th and October 27th our yearly bonfires, October 14th "Lifemark" movie night, and November 10th our "All Saints" movie night with our one of a

kind Thanksgiving Soup LOL. I have been told soup does not go with Thanksgiving, but we will prove you wrong that night. Please come and be blessed and remember, God is experienced at a greater level when the Christian is connected and using their gifts in the context of the Body of Christ. It is just true and it is for our benefit and for the Kingdom. Love you guys in the Lord!

====//====

Birthdays

October

Pat Pepe	Oct. 15
Scott Gehle	Oct. 25
Matt Birk	Oct. 28

November

Analina Williams	Nov. 22
Eliana Williams	Nov. 22
Marilyn Crettol	Nov. 24

December

Sarah Gehle	Dec. 3
David Skowronski	Dec. 8
Emilio Bustamante	Dec. 13
Robert Thompson	Dec. 14
Derek Thompson	Dec. 14
Virginia Beehn	Dec. 18
Joyce Skowronski	Dec. 25

(If you don't see your birthday listed, please let the Office know)





Leadership Meeting 2023

====//=====

"Church Family" Events

The Summer of 2023 will always be special. Memberships, Baptisms a Graduation and an All-Church Picnic in July and September!

Graduates of Living Faith Community Church, July 30, 2023



Graduates Alexa DeMauro, Ellie Williams, Annie Williams, and Derek Thompson.

(Not pictured: Devynn Kleinaitis)

New Members of Living Faith Community Church, July 30, 2023



Mark Caruso, Cheryl Novitske, Theresa Baker, Vicky Caruso and Toni Caruso.

(Not pictured: Scott Carevic)

Baptisms September 10, 2023



Beth Wachowski, Pastor Troy Billow, Scott Carevic, Bob Case and Lisa Williams

Annual Church Picnic at Dellwood Park, August 27, 2023



Find more pictures on the LFCC Facebook page!

www.Facebook.com/LivingFaithlockport/

Living Faith Community Church

380 High Road Lockport, IL 60441

Dated Material
Address Change Requested

Stamp

Living Faith Community Church Messenger

The Quarterly Newsletter Of
Living Faith Community Church

380 High Road, Lockport, IL 60441

815-838-6018