



Volume 2021 Issue 3

Living Word Lutheran Church
Worship address: 2570 Northern Avenue
Mailing address 3880 Stockton Hill Rd. 103-300
Kingman, Arizona

March Devotion-

Getting Ready for Easter!!

We all have different ways we prepare for different things. How should we prepare for Easter? Maybe you haven't given that much thought.

We do a GREAT job of preparing for Christmas! There are signs everywhere that something special is going to happen. We hang wreaths, trim the tree, wrap gifts, and bake cookies! But Easter? What do you do? If you're a real fanatic, you dye a few eggs and buy a new outfit and BAM! You're done!

For Christians, Easter is the most important day of the year. . . or it should be. It's the day we celebrate the central event of history, the day Jesus rose from the dead in order to make eternal life possible for us.

Of course, for centuries, Christians have prepared for Easter by observing Lent, a period that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes with Easter. Traditionally, many people prepare for Easter by making this a period of repentance, denying themselves a particular pleasure or taking on a new task of service during this time. At Living Word, we bury the "Alleluias" and we have special mid-week devotions.

This year Pastor Michael is challenging us

to REFOCUS our lives on Jesus!

Here are 3 ways to help us meet that challenge:

1. Do what Jesus says

(Luke 19:29-40) Look at the first part of the Palm Sunday story. The Bible doesn't tell us which two disciples went to get the colt. Peter and Andrew? James and John? Or what they talked about on the way. "Do you really think we should just untie the colt and take it?" They simply did what Jesus said to do. And look at the result. Their simple obedience brought glory to God.

2. Feel what Jesus feels

(Luke 19:41-44) Look at the next part of the Palm Sunday story: Something happened on the ride into Jerusalem that many of us miss. Matthew didn't record it. Mark didn't mention it. Luke is the only Gospel writer who records this event. As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it (Luke 19:43). Not for himself; not for the cross that awaited him. But for the fate that would come upon that city. Prepare for Resurrection Sunday by letting yourself feel what Jesus feels, by letting your heart be broken for those who are hurting,

those who are searching. Someone who hasn't yet experienced the forgiveness, the peace and freedom that comes when you experience new life through faith in Jesus Christ.

3. Tell who Jesus is

(Matthew 21:10-11) Look at the conclusion of the Palm Sunday story; When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee" (Matthew 21:10-11). Is there someone around you who is sincerely wondering "Who is this?" Surveys indicate many people who don't attend church give the same reason when they're asked why. "No one ever asked." Find that person . . . and invite him or her to be your guest to come with you to midweek devotions; to Lenten Sunday worship in person or on our Facebook page; to special Holy Week services or to a joyous Easter morning worship!

***adapted and modified from an internet article by Upon this Rock Ministries*



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Special points of interest:

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March Scriptures

3/7 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, Psalm 19, John 2:13-22

3/14 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, John 3:14-21

3/21 Hebrews 5: 5-10, Psalm 51:1-12, John 12: 20-33

3/28 PALM SUNDAY

Philippians 2:5-11, Psalm 31: 9-16, Mark 14:1-15

Prayer Requests

For continuing comfort and healing

Carolyn Krick, Lelanie Exbom, Pat Bingham, Vern Parsons, Char and Dale Matheny, Carol Wostal, Nick Nichols, Cherie Bourlier, Karen Shaffer, Andrew Johnson, Mary Geihlsler

If you know of someone who should be included in the monthly ongoing prayer list, or you yourself would like to be included, please contact Pastor Michael (509-710-3283).



Lenten Challenge-a-Week Series

Lent presents us with so many opportunities to grow our faith through “above and beyond” efforts. We’re not looking for “good works” here, we looking to REFOCUS our lives on HIM! Join us each Wednesday during Lent as we share devotional time together!

2-24-21: Read John 2: 1-11

3-3-21: Read John 4: 7-30

3-10-21: Read John 5: 1-15

3-17-21: Read John 9: 1-34



Pray! Pray! Pray!

One of our members, Pat Toth, recently circulated a prayer newsletter from Prayer Intercessors for America. One of the articles noted that the courts have begun, in some instances, to order some mayors and governors to reverse their decisions to limit church gatherings. Continue to pray that our government will “get it together” and begin supporting, not suppressing, our churches. The article went on to suggest that Easter Sunday might be the occasion for the churches across America to have a giant Easter Home Coming!

I mentioned this today at our Kingman Evangelical Ministerial Association meeting and everyone agreed that that would be a worthy goal to pray for and an amazing thing to look forward to! So, join me in asking the Lord to bring our country, at least our little corner of it in Kingman, to the point of being able to gather for a Celebration of the Resurrection – not just of Jesus our Savior, but the His Church as well! As you pray, begin now, to pray for whom the Lord might lead you to bring with you to this special day.

Pray! Pray! Pray!

Pastor Michael



LIVING WORD IN ACTION!



Living Word Women's group WOW as well as other small group meetings have been on hold during the first months of 2021 as precautionary measure during the COVID pandemic. However, the Men's group has cautiously resumed meeting at the church on Saturday mornings. Council will be discussing the possibility of encouraging resumption of small group meetings when they meet on March 1. Contact your small group leader for updated information!



March Celebrations

Mar. 4 Kate Masterson

Mar. 11 Madelyn Melchior

Mar. 13 Sonja LaSoya

Mar. 21 Jan Davis

Mar. 30 MaryAnn Mallory



Mar. 1 Hal and Pam Nooman

Fellow members of Living Word,

As permitted by article 9.2 of the Living Word Constitution, I will be calling a special congregational meeting to be held immediately after worship on March 7, 2021. As you know, when a special meeting is called, the only items open for discussion are specifically listed on the agenda.

The agenda will be:

1. Constitutional Amendment for clarification:

2.3 LWLC may choose to affiliate with one or more associations by a vote of 60% of the voting membership majority vote of those voting members present and voting or maintain an independent status.

2. Acceptance of affiliation with Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC)

3. Acceptance of gift of Donna Kowalske's home

As specified in article 6.3.6 of Living Word Constitution and Bylaws, the congregation may "Acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means." Pastor Michael and I visited Donna Kowalske's home with Kari Hill. Kari, as executor of Donna's estate, is anticipating donating the home to Living Word as a gift from Donna. It is a fully furnished 2 bedroom, 2 bath home located at 976 Shadow Crest Way. Acceptance of this gift would be an asset to our congregation.

Please plan to attend this important meeting immediately after worship on 3/7/2021

Counting our Blessings,
Bob Pressler, Council President



Living Word Council Minutes-Meeting Summary 1/11/2021

Pastor Michael Birnbaum, President Bob Pressler, Pastor Assistant Eileen Pressler, Mission Coordinator Rosie Freeman & Secretary Sharon Peterson

Pastor opened with prayer.
December Minutes approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Michael Birnbaum (full report attached)
Will be out of town Feb 1-12, Brandon will be covering on Sunday Feb 7. Brandon has offered to meet with media team on Sat Feb 6. Recommend that council invite Brandon to a Pastoral Position interview, upon congregational approval. Eileen and Sharon will get an email ready to send to him. Recommending a year of transition, adding to the congregational meeting of his preference to retire this year. Would like to recommend establishing a Memorial Fund in honor of members recently lost. Council Approved. Ash Wednesday is Feb 17. If the decision is made to have mid-week Lenten services, there will be a need to have someone lead March 10 & 17. Requesting to have March 14 off. Discussion on 1099's. Motion approved to have local CPA prepare the 1099's this year, to help relieve Cherie at this time

Pastor Assistant: Eileen Pressler (full report attached)

Pastor's compensated Sundays off in 2021: 1/3/21 & 2/7/21 Dan Storvick covered on 1/3 and Brandon is confirmed to cover on 2/7. Due to Covid concerns, we are going back to pre-filled communion cups. Review was done of the voting members list. Numbered offering envelopes began 1/3/2021. Will be working on 2020 statements of giving. Contacted Donna Ferguson on doing audit for 2020. Pat Toth will be updating Living Word Membership Directory.

Vice President-Financial Report: Bob Pressler (full report attached)
Council reviewed all reports. New Budget for 2021 is currently being worked on, review was made of the status. Council approved.

Mission Coordinator: Rosie Freeman
10 Christmas Food Baskets were prepared and delivered. Everything else has been canceled due to Covid concerns. Review was done of her yearly report. She has spoken to Sandy at Root. They are currently closed. Motion approved to discon-

tinue funding them until further notice. This will be re-evaluated at each council meeting.

Old Business: Media Team – we will be meeting with Brandon while he is here Feb 6th. Pastor Contract Renewal was reviewed and signed by Pastor & Bob Pressler and Pastor Michael,

New Business: Council positions open for election: Vice-President & Mission Coordinator Review was made of the Constitution and changes that should be presented at the congregational meeting. Council discussed and approved starting the processing to apply for AFLC affiliation. Next meeting February 15, 2021 at 6:00 pm Meeting was closed with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Peterson, Secretary



MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER!

March 1 Council meets at church 5 PM

March 3, 10, 17, 24 Midweek devotions at church 6:30 PM, see pg.2 for details

March 7 3rd Sunday of Lent, **SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING FOLLOWING WORSIP**

March 14 4th Sunday of Lent, Pastor Dan Storvick worships with us

March 21 5th Sunday of Lent, **HOUSE BLESSING @ NOON**

March 28 PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK BEGINS!

APRIL 2 KEMA COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP, PASTOR MICHAEL PARTICIPATING, COLLEGE PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH, TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED!



*You're
Invited!*

to the Blessing of Shelley Cleve's house and home:
Sunday, March 21 at noon
2765 Luna Vista (Kingman)

Officiated by Pastor Michael Birnbaum
of Living Word Lutheran Church

No gifts please –
main meal course provided,
If you wish, bring a small salad or dessert to share

Please RSVP to Shelley at : (425) 297 0686

Living Word Lutheran Church



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We're on the web!

www.livingwordkingman.com

Facebook Living Word

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a welcoming, scripturally based community intentionally serving Christ through missions.

Mission Statement

Living and growing in faith together as a spirit filled church with the

Word of God as our foundation and reaching out through missions showing the

Love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to

Create a hunger in others to embrace the Word of God, salvation through Jesus Christ and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Palm Sunday March 28, 2021

Worship with us at 10 AM!



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is like a glimpse of Easter.

**It's a little bit joyful after being
somber during Lent.**

