

# The SALTSHAKER

Living Springs Community Church LOVING GOD. COMING TOGETHER.  
making a difference.

April 2017

## Spring and *New Things* are Springing up at Living Springs! By Pastor Dave Izenbart

Could I have used the word *spring* more in my title? I'm not sure about that, but what I am sure is that you gotta love springtime! Everything feels fresh and new – fresh air, fresh flowers, fresh gardens, spring cleaning, and some even say love is in the air. I'm not sure about that either, but what I do know is that God is on the move at Living Springs, breathing fresh new life and new things! Again, I believe that the word of the Lord for 2017 is, *New Things!* These words come from Isaiah 43:19, “*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*” Let me just share 4 fresh new things I see God doing...

### 2 BIG Projects, 1 Big Splash



The sad fact is that 1000's die every day from simply not having clean drinking water. This is a solvable world problem and we have the privilege of making a big splash in this problem through 2 big Projects:

#### 1) During Lent, we are collecting coins to supply rainwater storage tanks in Kenya, in partnership with Matanya's Hope.



Our goal is to raise \$14,000 to provide 10 rainwater storage tanks in some of the most critical areas in the world.

Just think, with our spare change, we can impact 10 communities with clean water!

2)  **6K FOR WATER** In partnership with World Vision, we will be hosting a 6K run/walk for water. For every \$50 raised, one child is provided with clean water for life. So exciting! Check out all the cool benefits from this project.

- You will get in better shape! We are having training walks/runs every Saturday at 11 a.m. at church, to help get you ready for the big day.
- The whole family can be involved together to make a difference.

- We will be engaging and blessing our whole community through this project!
- The event itself is going to be a blast!
- A great cause will be supported!



### New Dementia Support Group

Many, perhaps most of us, are impacted in some way by the effects of dementia, either ourselves or someone we love. Good News: Hope and help are on the way. We have a new Dementia Support Group meeting the first Thursday of the month, beginning April 6, at 7-8:30 p.m. at Living Springs. Contact Christine Biegler ([christinebiegler73@gmail.com](mailto:christinebiegler73@gmail.com)) for more info.



### FUEL – For a more Passionate Spirit-Filled Life!

Are you bored? No, really, are you bored? Not living life to it's fullest? Are you bored with your life, your job, or your faith? I think this is why so many are binge-watching endless TV shows, spending countless hours living vicariously through others lives on social networks and staring for long hours at our hand-held devices. What if God had more for our lives? I could not be more excited about a new series we start April 23 (the Sunday after Easter). We will cover some pretty powerful stuff like prophecy, tongues, healing, and the power of God. We might even have some surprise guests! Should be a great new series!

### Living Springs App.



We are in the midst of developing a Living Springs app that would include messages, connection information, and lots of ways to help folks grow, gather, and go... right at your fingertips. Should be very cool! **This app should launch in May or June!**

Lots of exciting new things, Living Springs family! If God stirs any new things in your heart, please let me know, and let's fully enjoy this great new year!

# World Impact Sunday

By Elliot TenClay

World Impact Sunday will be on April 23. The Great Commission Team would like you to join us as we celebrate what God has been doing through the mission programs LSCC has supported throughout the past year.

We have supported the Mission Outreach in Kenya, financially and through mission trips. We have supported Michelle Zegarski, as she works with Young Life; having a profound impact on the lives of high school and junior high students through personal relationships. The Bergrens have been working with and training new missionaries and are now back in Cambodia spreading God's love through personal relationships. Michelle Stark, from our church, is working through Matanya's Hope in Kenya; showing God's love, educating children to give them a chance to become productive members of society and to one day provide for their families. We also sup

port and encourage our Sister Church in Honduras, financially and through mission trips. We would like to team up with the Garretts in their new mission

work in India; starting new churches and spreading God's word there.

This was the first year we have offered scholarships to people, in order to become involved personally in a mission trip. This has had a profound effect on the girl who went. We also gave one-time support gifts to people from our church, who are involved in short-term mission programs.

All of this has been made possible by the support of the people here at Living Springs. Our budget is determined by the pledges given by our members. We ask that you would prayerfully consider making a pledge to support this work for the coming year. We also would appreciate anyone, who would like to become part of the GCT, to join us in this work.

*For more information about The Great Commission Team, contact Elliot TenClay at [estenclay@yahoo.com](mailto:estenclay@yahoo.com).*

## Detoured But Not Derailed

By Laura Warfel

Taking a detour often takes you on an uncharted adventure; seeing new sights, encountering new people, finding a new road. And, when you take the detour, you trust the signs you are following to get you back on your original route.

But sometimes you end up on a different road. You consult the GPS, but get no definitive answer. Confusion sets in and it looks like you may have to stop and ask a human for directions.

You notice that the sun is going down. You're tired and getting crabby. You can't remember the last time you ate or drank water. The gas gauge is moving toward E.

Now, you have a choice to make. Will you keep going forward? Or will you pull over and stop? You begin to weigh your options and the consequences. And, the route you're on is leading you farther in the direction you think you don't want to go.

I made one choice that changed my life forever. I thought I was heading down the road of marriage, to at least our 25th wedding anniversary. I had resigned from my job, married Gene, relocated to a new city, become a mom by marriage to three teenagers, and ac-

cepted the assignment of pastor's wife. I knew I was definitely on the right road.

Diabetes had other plans for us, though. This disease is a thief; stealing from every part of a person's body. It began to steal from Gene.

Before we realized what was happening, our life was taking a long detour. And, the final destination was a shock. I stood with the kids at the cemetery, looking at a newly dug grave.

I arrived where I never wanted to be. I became a widow. That was 14 years, and many choices and decisions, ago.

Here's what I know; put your complete trust in God. His way is the only way and the best way. His word is your map. His grace is your fuel. He will never let you down.

*"You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever"* (Psalm 16:11).

*Are you a widow? Do you know a widow? Then, More Than A Widow is for you. Learn more at [LauraWarfel.com](http://LauraWarfel.com).*

# Men's Ministry Update

By Larry Aguirre

Last month, Men's Ministry wrapped up an awesome series titled, "Victory in Spiritual Warfare". It was an empowering series that touched the heart and soul of more than 40 men.

We were reminded the, "Belt of Truth" is the first piece of armor you put on; without it, everything else falls apart. You must know and believe the truth God reveals to us through his word. Once you know and believe the truth God shares with us, then you are in a position to continue preparing for the spiritual battles we all face day to day.

Secondly, we were reminded that the, "Breastplate of Righteousness" is designed to protect our heart. Have you ever lived an unrighteous life, or knowingly done things that were wrong? I bet you felt bad. I bet sometimes your heart even ached. On the other hand, when you've lived right, according to God's word, and made good decisions, I bet you felt spiritually strong, healthy, and at peace. Your heart was steady and your soul was at rest.

Thirdly, we put on the, "Shoes of the Gospel of Peace". But these aren't just any shoes. These shoes are just like the roman soldiers' shoes. They have spikes on them that allow for better footing and stability. We, as Christians, need this stability during the difficult times of spiritual battle. When we reflect on the gospel of peace and remember that Christ died for us to bring us new life, we can adjust our footing and be stable, when the enemy tries to knock us over.

Now that we are dressed and ready for spiritual battle, we must pick up the, "Shield of Faith". Keep in mind that Paul says we must PICK UP the shield of faith. We need to take the responsibility ourselves. When we pick up the shield of faith, we make a decision that we are not going to rely on our feelings and emotions to protect us from circumstances, but rather, we are going to allow our faith in God to protect us and provide us peace during the battle.

Now for the, "Helmet of Salvation". Our head, our mind, and our thoughts must be protected. A crucial blow to the head can kill us, spiritually. Putting on the helmet means to govern your mind. During the spiritual battle, the enemy attempts to defeat us by clouding our thoughts. It is imperative we keep our minds focused on God's gift of salvation. When we do that, we continue to have a purpose and a desire to live a fulfilling life for Christ.

The last piece of armor is the, "Sword of the Spirit". Notice that it's not our sword; it's the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. First, you read the Word, then you understand and believe the Word. It is at this point you are able to speak the Word as a means to fight off evil forces attacking. The more you read God's word, the more you'll be able to claim it in the time of need. For example; In today's world, it's easy to get frustrated with politics, politicians, government, and opinions from all political parties, to the point that the evil one is advancing on you with sadness, anger, frustration, confusion, and doubt. When you pick up the sword of the Spirit, you are able to strike the evil one down by declaring from the heart, "***Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is in the Lord. Jeremiah 17:7***" When you do this, you deliver a fatal blow to the enemy. You remind him, and yourself, that your hope is not in government or people, but in the Lord. In doing this, he is not able to defeat you with sadness, anger, frustration, confusion, and doubt. So, get into God's word and be ready for when the evil one attacks. Then, you too will have, "Victory in Spiritual Warfare"

So, men of Living Springs, where do we go from here? Well, God would not have provided us with, "Spiritual Armor" if there wasn't a spiritual battle to fight. Therefore, I encourage you to join us in our last Bible study before summer break. It's called, "Fight... Winning the Battles that Matter Most". We meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm in room 145. We hope to see you there.

## See Your Name in Print!

Do you have news you'd like to share with the Living Springs family? Let us know! The purpose of the Saltshaker is to keep our growing church family connected and informed. Send your ministry updates, story ideas, or questions to the office: [jennifer@livingspringscc.org](mailto:jennifer@livingspringscc.org). If you're not sure whether or not something is a good fit for the Saltshaker, call Jennifer Crick to get her input: (708) 709-0100. The deadline for submitting articles for the May Saltshaker is April 15.

# Coffee Break Update

By Connie Bultema



Random thoughts about high places: Did you ever think about how many “high places” are mentioned in Scripture? Jesus frequently goes up the mountain to pray, to spend quiet time with his Father, to understand more clearly his mission, to get his direction for the day. Can we learn from his example? Where do we go to meet God? High places feel closer to heaven and, therefore, to God. Do we have a favorite high place or special place that can represent that high place where we can spend quality time with God? Would we have a better sense of purpose if we did so?

Moses received the commandments on Mt. Sinai. God shows himself in a spectacular way to Peter, James, and John on Mt. Tabor, where he appears with Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the prophets). Here, the God of heaven confirms Jesus as his Son and calls his disciples to, “Listen to Him.” Here, the Messiah reveals himself as the completion of the Law and the prophets. When his overwhelmed disciples open their eyes, they see only Jesus, who warns them to keep their experience quiet until his mission is complete.

There are other mountains to visit between this mount of transfiguration and the mount of Jesus Christ’s ascension to heaven. You are invited to grow

in your understanding of who Christ is and who we are to become, by climbing each of the high places he visited in the last few days of his earthly life. Jesus enters Jerusalem and does some final teaching in the temple on Mount Zion. After his last supper with his friends, he spends the night on the Mount of Olives, in extremely painful dialog with his Father. It is here, when he determines to obediently complete his mission to reconcile sinful mankind (us) with his Father. Follow him up Calvary’s hill, carrying the heavy cross laden with our sins, to die in our place.

If you would like to reflect on some of these high place experiences of Jesus, in a non-threatening environment with like-minded truth searchers, feel free to join us on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in room 145. On April 5 and 12, we will be focusing on chapter 26 of Matthew’s gospel. Come and be better prepared to truly celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection on April 16. It is only the resurrection that reconciles all the mountain revelations into the reality of God’s love and our redemption.

*He is risen! He is risen indeed! Halleluiah!*

Call Connie if you have any questions: 708-755-7625.

## **Drought** A Water Project Story by Michelle Stark

*Home is so sunny; we are almost being melted by the equatorial sun. Hunger is the song here and in my country Kenya at large. Justice Wachira*

Those words were written by Matanya's Hope university student, Justice Wachira. When we first met Justice, he was just a boy child helping his father plow an arid field by hand...one swing of the heavy hoe after another. I will never forget the image of this father and son doing all they could to nurture the very crops they were depending on for food and money - crops that were barely above the soil. The leaves were *already* wilted and crisp from the heat of the sun. There was no water available anywhere to revive them. Still, they prayed - and they worked.

*Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:17*

Today, as Justice waits at home for his school to re-open, he can't help but feel the pangs of thirst and the looming threat of hunger and dehydration once again.

So much of Kenya is suffering from drought. Crops have dried up. Farmers have nothing to sell and little to feed their families. Cows are dying. People are going hungry.

Matanya's Hope is humbled to partner with you, Living Springs Community Church, on behalf of these innocent souls in Kenya. They are deeply in need of our prayers and our provisions. May we stand strong, together as a church and as a people of God. Let us get this safe, clean drinking water to those in need.

Lord, we thank you for your provisions. Where there is a lack in one place, there is total abundance in another. Each time we turn on our faucets Father, let us remember those afflicted by drought and thirst in Kenya. We know that you, oh, Lord, are using us to provide. We thank you Father, for this opportunity to serve your children. For everything that is your work, oh, God, is already written. You have already provided. In Jesus' mighty name, I do pray and believe. Amen

# The End of Hope

By Pastor Mark Prestridge

The look on my wife, Linda's face as she emerged from the doctor's office was almost indescribable: horror, fear, and fighting back sobs. She walked right past me, without a word. Catching up with her in the parking lot, I joined her in her anguish. The doctor had found a large mass in her; the size of a grapefruit! We both dreaded the C-word. It turned out to be polycystic disease and, upon surgery, we faced the end of hope; we would never be able to have natural children. This was a terrible blow. I had looked forward to having children...ever since I was a child! Ok. As a child, I also thought guys could have children, too. *Laugh it up.*

Maybe you've never thought too deeply about it, but the truth is, *hope does end.* This life is filled with anguishing, heartbreaking, and unanticipated events where hopes are dashed and even extinguished. Accidents leave permanent disabilities. Marriages, that start with dreams and high hopes, end terribly. Good jobs are lost and are never recovered. Diseases strike those who are young and end in deaths. People, who are addicted, never are healed and know freedom. And, far worse things than these happen, as well.

The Bible clearly wasn't written by a precursor to Walt Disney. No fairy tale lives with people *who live happily ever after.* I've spoken with thousands of older adults and I have not found one whose life went according to the life they dreamed of when they were 20. Instead, every one lived lives with unexpected and unanticipated twists and turns. Every one faced times when hope ended.

Now that Linda and I couldn't have children, what would happen to our hopes and dreams of having children? A large number of biblical characters faced the end of hope. But, we all know they paled in comparison with Jesus. With His arrival, with His amazing teachings, His incredible miracles and wonders, and His unblemished character, the hopes of Jews for a thousand years had finally arrived. The long-awaited Messiah had come at last. The Messiah would right all wrongs, establish His Kingdom with Israel at the pinnacle, and there would never be any more suffering, pain, or poverty. Hallelujah, indeed!!!

But, when the Jewish leaders conspired with the Romans, and Roman soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross, all hopes ended. The disciples fled into hiding. The crowds either turned against Him or dispersed. Demons cheered. The death of Jesus the Messiah was the greatest end of hope in the history of humanity. No person could ever really comprehend what it was like for Jesus' disciples and family that Passover. There has never been more hopelessness, despair, or depression

so severe in all the centuries before or after the cross.

Of course, we know that the resurrection some two days later would change everything. Hope would be reborn. A new hope would arise. Furthermore, Jesus would do far more than his disciples and the Jews of his day had dreamed. His Kingdom would be worldwide. He would usher in a salvation for Gentiles, as well as Jews. He would crush forever the forces of darkness. And, He would establish both a new heavens and a new earth! In summary, *Jesus would put an end to the end of hope.* From the resurrection on, no matter how dark, how terrible, or how hopeless life would appear to be, it would only be a passing shadow in God's great plan. From now on, whenever it seemed like it was the end of hope, a new hope would come. We might not live to see it, but it will come, nevertheless.

Six years after hope ended for Linda and I to have any children, we walked out of a hospital in Ft. Lauderdale with a two-day old adopted infant daughter. The whole family gathered and celebrated that night. Tears had given way to smiles. Groaning had given way to laughter. Hope was reborn, as it now always will be.

Most of you have faced an end to hope. Perhaps you're still living in the shadows of a terrible ordeal. Maybe it seems like life will never be hopeful or good again. But the resurrection guarantees that these appearances, these feelings, these outlooks are all a mirage. If we trust our resurrected Lord, we will find ourselves in a future full of smiles, laughter, and joy. True, you or I may not live in this world long enough to experience it, but our descendants will. And someday, every one of us who know and love Jesus will. We will all gather together in a brand new world—and everything terrible, unjust, diseased, or hopeless will never darken our lives again. There will only be a new hope; a hope that never ends. That's why the song is true; *"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow; because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know who holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives."* Don't just live for the moment. Don't just live for the day. Live in and for the future, for eternal hope now belongs to you and me...

# A Note From Living Springs Staff

It is well into 2017 and it has been challenging and exciting to make new changes this year. A new format allows for the Sunday bulletin to be in color, while using less costly paper. It also gives Living Springs a face-lift and a fresh, new look. The format requires the omission of some of the information given in the past. However, much of that information will be included, as we finish formatting the new directory for our members and regular attenders. You will find your directory in your church mailbox the moment it is completed. At that time, be sure to inform us of any changes or correction needed with your name, address, etc.

Change often requires adjustment, and we are thankful adjustments are being made by everyone. As we move on with new changes, it continues to excite us. Beginning next month, our Saltshaker will have a new look and new format. Instead of monthly editions filling the mailboxes up, we will have a double-sided page each month, with the upcoming events and new information. Then,

quarterly, a full Saltshaker will be ran and available for those interested in having a copy. Check your Sunday bulletin, our lobby screens, and our website for updates, as well.

As we evolve in 2017, remember to use the technology we have today. Our website will continue to be a great source of information concerning our ministries and church activities. We strive to keep the congregation up-to-date, through the website and the items published. Along with pictures and contact information, the directory will have basic information added, that will be updated as needed. A lot of information now located in one place for easier usage by everyone.

In our world, change is non-ending. We can rejoice in our God, who never changes. We pray Living Springs honors God in every way and through all the changes throughout the years.



**Palm  
Sunday**  
April 9  
9:00 a.m. & 10:30 p.m.



**Maundy  
Thursday**  
April 13  
7:00 p.m.



**Easter  
Sunday**

**April 16  
9:00 a.m. & 10:30**

# Lent Encouragement

By Pastor Wanzette Ann Bilbrew

At the end of a laborious journey through the wilderness, the people of Israel were at a moment of decision-making that would ultimately determine their destiny.

Joshua, who had led the people following the death of Moses, spoke important words to the people that day, regarding a critical decision that they needed to make before going forward. Reflect on Joshua's words:

*“So now: Fear God. Worship him in total commitment. Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshiped on the far side of The River (the Euphrates) and in Egypt. You, worship God. If you decide that it’s a bad thing to worship God, then choose a god you’d rather serve—and do it today. Choose one of the gods your ancestors worshiped from the country beyond The River, or one of the gods of the Amorites, on whose land you’re now living. As for me and my family, we’ll worship God.”*

*The people answered, “We’d never forsake God! Never! We’d never leave God to worship other gods.*

*“God is our God! He brought up our ancestors from Egypt and from slave conditions. He did all those great signs while we watched. He has kept his eye on us all along the roads we’ve traveled and among the nations we’ve passed through. Just for us he drove out all the nations, Amorites and all, who lived in the land.*

*“Count us in: We too are going to worship God. He’s our God.”*

*Then Joshua told the people: “You can’t do it; you’re not able to worship God. He is a holy God. He is a jealous God. He won’t put up with your fooling around and sinning. When you leave God and take up the worship of foreign gods, he’ll*

*turn right around and come down on you hard. He’ll put an end to you—and after all the good he has done for you!”*

*But the people told Joshua: “No! No! We worship God!”*

*And so Joshua addressed the people: “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen God for yourselves—to worship him.”*

*And they said, “We are witnesses.”*

*Joshua said, “Now get rid of all the foreign gods you have with you. Say an unqualified Yes to God, the God of Israel.”*

*The people answered Joshua, “We will worship God. What he says, we’ll do.”*

Joshua 24:14-24, The Message Translation

Although the people made a public vow that they would serve only the LORD, it is clear that they were still holding on to some of the foreign gods they had acquired along the way.

As we continue our journey through the season of Lent, inquire of the LORD whether there is anything you have carried along with you on your journey with Christ that in any way compromises your relationship with him.

It has been my experience that God will answer such a prayer with speed, because God's desire is for the relationship you have with him to be uncluttered and transparent. God's deep and passionate love for you requires that there are no competitors to your affection or attention.

Shalom

**Irlean Collins and the entire family of Julius Collins give a heartfelt, “thank you” to everyone at Living Springs who made the commemoration of Julius’ life a wonderful celebration. Thank you for your compassion, encouragement, Christian love, and continued prayers.**

*We appreciate how you blessed the family of Julius in a powerful way.*

**-Irlean Collins  
12240 Fairway Circle Unit C  
Blue Island, IL 60406**

# April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Almes Alexander Jessica Ratchford
<b>2</b> Jakson-Paul Alexander Kamille King	<b>3</b> Deb Broertjes <i>Dave &amp; Barb Cianchetti</i>	<b>4</b> Benjamin Verver	<b>5</b> Kyle Brown Betsy King	<b>6</b> <i>Stanley &amp; Mary Marsh</i>	<b>7</b> <i>Lawrence &amp; Malinda Majoch</i>	<b>8</b> Larry Benson Will Neibert Myah Reder
<b>9</b> Yemi Arotile Mikayla Dunn Karen Griggs	<b>10</b> Priscilla Cordero <i>Ken &amp; Sandy Epley</i>	<b>11</b> Kendall King Minnie Stewart <i>Terry &amp; Jackie Keilman</i>	<b>12</b> Grace Plutz	<b>13</b> Delanie Grevengoed Joel Mikell Tabitha Werner <i>Jim &amp; Claudia Barnick</i>	<b>14</b> Nicole Brookens Joshua Crick Barbara Dixon Victoria Fields Jean Muyskens	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Kazie Hope Jr. Daniel Lawal	<b>17</b> Brad Kostelyk Bennett Zehnder <i>Cornelious &amp; Nicole Brookens Joate &amp; Lydia Mutua</i>	<b>18</b> <i>Randy &amp; Susan Visser</i>	<b>19</b> Javulile Ebeywa	<b>20</b> Julie Jann Hadassah Waita Christopher Weinum	<b>21</b> Keanna Brown Joy Goff Nancy Voll <i>Ron &amp; Paula Matthews</i>	<b>22</b> Heaven Allen Scott Kostelyk Jalen Smith Greg Voll
<b>23</b> Carol Lindstrom Christine MacCormack <i>Scott &amp; Claudia Kostelyk</i>	<b>24</b> Mark Anderson Sherry Bult Barbara Randy	<b>25</b> <i>Jay &amp; Polly Thrall</i>	<b>26</b> Anna DeBruin Ryan Dowell	<b>27</b> Ellery Hanna	<b>28</b> Marilyn Koonce	<b>29</b> <i>Danny &amp; Minerva Fernandes</i>
<b>30</b> Beth Toeset						

## Other Family News

### First Communion

April 2 - Kasey Andrea Balbuena, Kiara Lynn Balbuena, Matthew Greene Scanland, Megan Ann Scanland

### Sympathy

We extend our Christian sympathy & encouragement to the Collins family in the passing of Julius Collins.



## Notes & Quotes from the Church Mouse

*"You can accomplish more in one hour with God, than one lifetime without Him... With God, all things are possible."*

Matthew 19-26b

