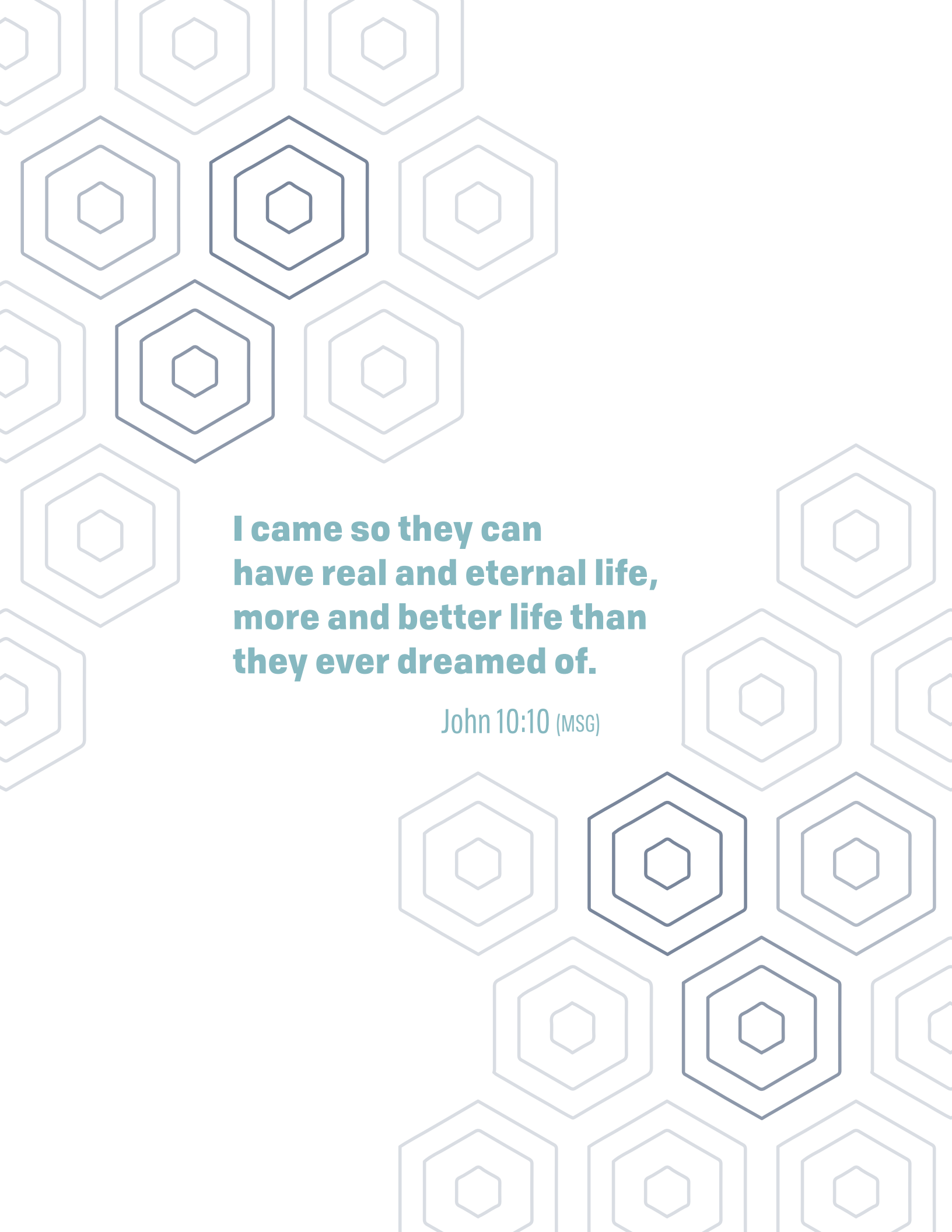




life_{at}
**LIVING
WORD**



**I came so they can
have real and eternal life,
more and better life than
they ever dreamed of.**

John 10:10 (MSG)

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A Story of Grace and Flourishing

God has been writing a story of grace and flourishing in the lives of the people of Living Word since 1978. We are a church that began in the basement of a home here in York with a great sense of joy and expectation for what God could do in and through our lives. We have that same joy and expectation in our hearts for this new era.

After outgrowing multiple locations, we built our present building and campus here on Cape Horn Road in the year 2000. Throughout the decades of our history, Living Word has become known as a grace-filled community where the messiness of life, the message of hope, and the beauty of Jesus converge. We believe that God has shown us favor and blessed us so that we might be a place and people of blessing to our community and world.

Having led our congregation well for 38 years, our founding senior pastor, Steve Almquist, retired in 2016. Brian Rice became our next lead pastor. That same year we launched a major building expansion project to accommodate our growing ministry to families, children, and students. We are deeply humbled by what God has done over the past 44 years and wholeheartedly believe that the best is yet to come.

But our story isn't yet complete... because you are meant to be a part of it.

Thank you for choosing to be a part of Life at Living Word. We pray that fully participating in our church will be life-giving to you and your family. We, the staff, are excited to serve and help you however we can.



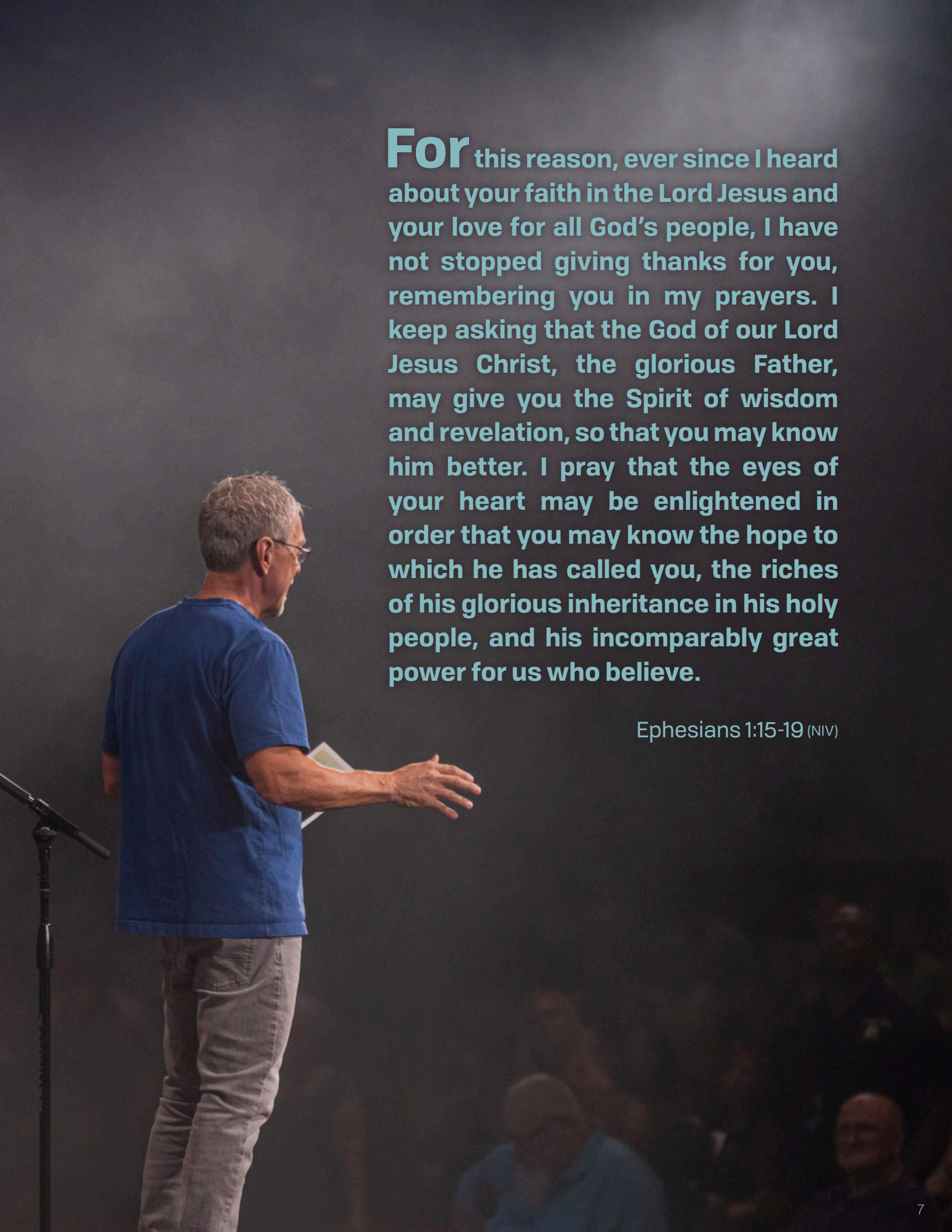


Our Prayers for You...

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV)



For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Ephesians 1:15-19 (NIV)

Worship

We love to worship Jesus. That is one of the first things that people notice and what they say attracted them to Living Word. Each Sunday, we come together for a high-quality music experience with energetic praise, grateful adoration, and moments of quiet worship. We want you to encounter God when you worship.

You will learn from a variety of teaching pastors. We have a teaching team, rather than one main person who speaks most weeks. We teach the Bible in practical ways, not just so you have more Bible information in your head, but so the truth of the Bible transforms your life.

Over the years we have set aside a handful of evenings to come together for extended times of worship as a congregation. During the pandemic, we also started outdoor nights of worship by the pavilion on our church campus. These have become very popular gatherings and it is common to see little children all the way up to our seasoned senior citizens worshipping with lots of joy.

During outdoor nights of worship, we have food trucks in our parking lot and set up bounce houses for families with young kids. It's a fun and sweet time of fellowship and a very nice way to invite guests to Living Word for their first time.





Living Word Distinctives

So, who are we? What is it that makes Living Word the church you experience right now?

Big Tent

We are what has been called a “Big Tent” church. This means Christians from many different backgrounds and experiences come together. We have people from all sorts of church backgrounds and, of course, from no church background. We are broadly evangelical in our belief. We are anchored in the ancient creeds of the Church, like the Apostles’ Creed, that summarize the core of the Bible’s teaching, especially about Jesus. *(Note: “Church” with a capital “C” denotes the universal Christian community.)*

Main Things

We focus on the Main Things of the Christian faith, knowing that on many secondary beliefs, Christians have a variety of opinions. We have our preferences and will teach them, but the main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing. And the main thing is the gospel, the good news of Jesus who died and rose again, accepting Jesus as Savior, and growing mature as we follow Christ over a lifetime. We want to be a church where we daily experience and encounter Jesus. After all, Christianity is all about being in a relationship with God.

Grace

We talk about Grace a lot at Living Word. Grace means that God’s love is generous and unconditional to you all the time. Every day you have a fresh start, a second chance, a new beginning. And for many people who have experienced life as messy and hard, and felt broken, the good news of the grace and love of God is so attractive. Accepted, free, forgiven, and still in process. Life is still messy, but grace and love are always there for the messiness of life.



Next Generation

We have always had a major commitment to the next generation. Our talented Next Gen staff and a large team of dedicated ministry partners work hard to provide a safe, spiritually solid, and fun experience for your children.

A People on Mission, Locally and Globally

Missions has been absolutely core to Living Word from the beginning. We have had hundreds of people go on short-term trips overseas and we have a global missions fund to support a great team of missionaries. As far as local mission, as a church we are committed to the flourishing of York. There is so much more that needs to be done in our city and county, and we want to see the people of our community blessed and thriving.

Annual Christmas Eve Offering

A unique distinctive of Living Word is our annual Christmas Eve Offering. Each year we take an offering for our global and local missional partners and 100% of it goes to those organizations. We don't keep a penny. People are so generous that over the years we have raised millions of dollars and given it all away. We think this is the heart of what Christmas is all about.

Connect • Grow • Serve • Reach

In April of 2021, we sensed God leading us into a fresh vision and strategic direction for the future. The words Connect, Grow, Serve, and Reach are the ways we articulate this new strategic approach to church life and ministry. We work hard to ensure that almost everything we do has these four dimensions present.

CONNECT



**We want you to
find connection,
make good
friends, and
enjoy a true
belonging at
Living Word.**

Friends

One of the most important relationships we can have in life is a friend. We live in such an epidemic of loneliness in our culture today and friendships are vital and life-sustaining. It is very important to be known and loved and accepted by a friend who you trust. We encourage you to develop strong friendships here.

Family

The church is family. We have a big God and we are a big family. The family of God is such a generative metaphor for the church. We are the household of God where we show up to love one another, comfort one another, carry each other's burdens, encourage one another, and spur one another on to good works.

Home

In the Old Testament, a physical temple was God's home. In the New Testament, God dwells in a building made up of people (Ephesians 2:21-22) with Jesus as the cornerstone. It is a place where people are loved, accepted, and welcomed home. At Living Word, many people have said that coming here for the first time felt like coming home.

What Pulls Us Together

What pulls us together and what keeps us together? There are two things. First, it is simply Jesus. Our desire is for Jesus to be the center of our world, and all other differences fade to insignificance in the light of Jesus Christ, who is Savior, Lord, and God. We will be a church of deep connections when we keep Jesus at the center.

Second, it is love. Unconditional love. In the New Testament, Paul describes a "most excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12:31) and, after talking about the divisive spiritual gifts that are tearing believers apart, Paul talks about the better way of unconditional love in 1 Corinthians 13.



THIS IS US

If you are new to Living Word, please join us for a casual, comfortable, walk-through experience. Enjoy light refreshments, meet staff, ask questions, and learn more about the four core words that shape us: Connect, Grow, Serve, Reach. Discover how you can join in the journey.



GROW

**We experience
growth as
we worship
together and are
developed as
disciples
of Jesus.**

At Living Word, we desire to be shaped and formed in the way of Jesus. So, we design our services, LifeGroups, mid-size communities, and resources to help you close the gap between the life you have and the life of faith you want to live. Everything we do is made to help you grow in faith, grow in maturity, and grow in knowledge of God and practical action as a disciple.

A puppy grows and becomes a dog. A sapling grows and becomes a tree. A flower seed grows and becomes, well, whatever it is. Here is the point: It is the nature of life and growth to become more of what it is.

What is the Church? Scripture says the Church is a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's special possession. We are chosen and we are God's special possession.

First and foremost, we belong to God. All other identities and commitments are secondary. We are a part of God's family. Our allegiance, loyalty, trust, forgiveness, energy, priorities, and values must be centered on God and what matters to God.

We are a royal priesthood. Peter combines two different themes that the Old Testament kept apart—rigorously so. Those themes are kingship and the priesthood. Because Jesus is both King of kings and the great high priest, and because we are in Christ, we are royalty, and we are priests. It is an amazing new reality. Kings lead so others may flourish and priests mediate forgiveness and blessing so others can connect with God.

Maybe you are still a sapling. One day you will be a mighty tree of flourishing for others. As you grow in your Christlike character and skills, you should constantly ask: How can I lead so others flourish at Living Word? How can I be a source of forgiveness and blessing?



Baptism

Several times each year, we gather at Living Word or away from our campus at a pool for a Baptism Celebration. It's a time to share testimonies of faith and celebrate the new life we have because of Jesus. Water baptism is an extremely important milestone in the Christian life because it is a public symbol of a person's commitment to follow Jesus.

Rooted

Rooted is an important step as you follow Jesus and it's the discipleship process that shapes the life of Living Word. Beyond a program, seminar, or LifeGroup, Rooted is a catalyst for life change. Rooted inspires questions, conversations, and beyond-what-is-comfortable group experiences that are designed to help you find yourself in God's story. We hope to see you at a 10-week Rooted Experience soon.

LifeGroups

Doing life together is vital to the well-being of the church. Jesus calls us to gather, engage with the church, and reach out to impact our world. LifeGroups are circles of friends who connect, grow, serve, and reach together. Members of LifeGroups celebrate milestones in each other's lives and pursue God together in the company of friends.

Thursday Mornings in the Word

Led by Pastor Gordon Carpenter, this group has a time of worship, fellowship, teaching, and small-group discussion on the main themes Living Word is learning each season.



Women

Merge - A Community of Women

Merge is a women's mid-size community Bible study including large group teaching, small-group discussion for deeper growth and closer relational connectedness, and prayer. All women ages 18+ are welcome.

M2M

We value uniquely created moms, one-of-a-kind kids, great food, gracious hospitality, and genuine community. There is no book to purchase, just real-live teaching (*and some videos*) on real-life issues (*e.g., challenging relationships, kids and technology, where do I go to fill up when I am on empty?*).





Men

Men's Life

Men's Life teaches men what authentic manhood looks like as modeled by Jesus. Our ministry vision is that every man moves forward each year on his spiritual journey. We live this out by helping the men involved in our programs set measurable goals and plans for their personal journeys in being authentic Christian men.





SERVE

**We love to see
people come to
know Jesus, find
their gifts and
calling, and then
discover the joys
of serving!**

We encourage all generations at Living Word to become part of our ministry partner teams that build up the church and care for the people who make up our church.

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16 (NIV)

You are needed. Do you realize how valuable you are? You are gifted. Do you know what your gifts and strengths are? You are empowered. You already have the ability to serve and make a difference. We will keep empowering you to serve and make a difference.

Have you found your place to serve? Ideally, we serve the people and in the places where our gifts and interests converge. But we also serve in areas where we are simply needed.

The church website and app have a menu called SERVE. We keep this updated with opportunities. From time to time, we spend several weeks recruiting new ministry partners to serve at Living Word.



WELCOME CH





REACH

**We are here
to equip you
to reach your
world with the
good news and
compassion
of Jesus.**

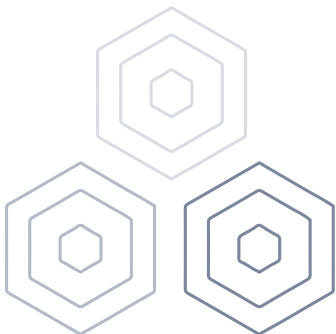
Evangelism and Discipleship

Evangelism is simply telling others about the good news of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Evangelism invites people to turn from their old ways, find forgiveness, and find freedom as they begin a saving relationship with Jesus.

Discipleship is the process of growing in Christlikeness once we have been saved by Jesus. Discipleship is the transformation process of becoming mature in Jesus.

Evangelism and discipleship are the responsibility of every Christian as we connect with the world outside the church. But it is hard. Most Christians have few good friendships with non-Christians. When we encourage everyone to be highly intentional about Just One person who needs Jesus, many of us don't even have Just One! This year, you want to have a Just One.

Who can you get to know as a friend? How will you do that? Who is around you that needs a friend? Are you learning how to have spiritual conversations with non-Christians? If you want to learn more, get a copy of *Mere Evangelism* by Randy Newman. Another avenue is to invite people to connect at Living Word. You will have a valuable role as a connector. Share invites to watch Living Word online. Share links on Facebook or Instagram.





Engaging with Our Community

Reach is among the highest priorities for Living Word. Our world has changed and our community has changed. We live in a secular (*non-religious*) culture. We live in an increasingly post-Christian culture. The beliefs, values, and systems of the Christian faith have greatly diminished in North America. The old ways no longer work. They haven't worked for some time. We need creative new ways of connecting with and reaching our community.

We desire to impact our local community of York for the Kingdom of God. This is where we live, work, play, have friends, have family (*hopefully*), and have the closest opportunity to make a difference. York is our corner of God's world. York is our home. York is Living Word's home. Here we are. Together, we want to make a difference.

Becoming Good Citizens

The first step in being a good citizen in our country is to have a growing understanding that our citizenship is ultimately in heaven with Jesus Christ. This eternal citizenship gives us the impetus to be good citizens here and now.

Our witness to the people around us is connected to being good citizens. 1 Peter 2:13-16 offers us a blueprint for citizenship:

- ⊗ Submit to governing authorities, for the Lord's sake.
- ⊗ Do good in the community.
- ⊗ Show respect to everyone.
- ⊗ Love people.
- ⊗ Fear God.
- ⊗ Honor governing authorities.

We live in highly polarized times where partisan division and anger is a daily occurrence. We who follow Christ are called to model a better way of citizenship. How good are you as a citizen of our nation? How are you treating others with whom you might disagree? How is God asking you to change and grow to better reflect his Kingdom in this earthly kingdom?

Good citizens do good in their community. We do good when we get involved in the organizations, groups, and systems that make for a strong and healthy community. Schools, non-profits, a variety of civic clubs and groups, local associations for special interests, the list goes on.

The people of Living Word desire to find a place to get involved. We want to build relationships and work together for good results. A local community flourishes when its people (*citizens*) work toward that end. Where can you get involved?

Taking Our Faith to Work

We believe God cares about what we do beyond Sunday. Most of us spend a good deal of our life working. We have places of employment. We earn a living through our work. Many people have meaningful work. Many even have a sense of calling and vocation.

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. One place where we learn to make a life is on the job. When your job becomes a vocation, your place of work becomes a location to do God's work.

What does it mean to do good work? At the least, it is work you do with excellence and work you do ethically. Good work honors God and blesses others. Our hope is that as a church, our faith empowers us to do good work and good deeds . . . beyond Sunday.

If you have a leadership role of any sort in your workplace, that is one of the most critical places you have for reaching our community. How can you be an agent of transformation that impacts not only the workplace, but also those who work there?

Living and Leading with Compassion and Justice

Why is justice and compassion such a hot potato for the Church today? Justice is mandated 130 times in the Bible. Not all social justice is biblical justice, but ALL biblical justice is for the sake of the society.

People are hurting. Life is not fair. The system is often biased against hurting and innocent people. It was true in Israel and Israel was chastised by God for their failures in this. If God judged his people Israel for these failures, then God's people the Church is in for the same.

Evangelicals through much of western history were on the side of justice. Evangelicals created hundreds of missional organizations for works of compassion and mercy that worked for justice for those who did not have it.

In Luke 4:18-19 Jesus proclaims his messianic mission as that of compassion and justice for those who need it. His entire ministry concentrated on those with the greatest need for both.

If the Church of Christ is to be a Church like Christ, then we must have his heart, his commitment, and his strategies that are full of compassion and result in justice. It will be hard. We will all be stretched. We have a lot of learning, praying, and activating ahead of us. But faithfulness to Jesus on this is essential. Our missional witness to our post-Christian culture will fail apart from it.

We love these words from Peter's first epistle in the New Testament:

... that you may declare the praises of him who called
you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

The Church, by its very life and existence, REACHES OUT with the good news and the praise of the God who does wonderful things. The Church is to be a witness (*1 Peter 2:11-12*). A light shining in the darkness. An example and model of what life with God is like. When the entire Church is a community of great love, we show to the world the new thing God is doing.

Generally, in the United States, this has been extra challenging over the last few years. The Church has regressed. The Church's reputation is damaged. The Church in the United States, and Living Word Community Church in York, PA, must do better if we are to fulfill the mission of Jesus.

Here are a few areas where we can and must be better:

Racial issues and relationships, unity, trust.

We want to be multiracial/ethnic, diverse, and inclusive. We need each other.

Women in roles of leadership and influence.

The conservative church of America has been remiss for too long. Living Word has an enormous pool of women who are deeply spiritual, professionally skilled, and outstanding leaders at work and in the community. We are making room for women to work as equal partners to make us a better church.

Political polarization.

The Kingdom of God is much bigger than any political party or agenda. Holiness, shalom, righteousness, and justice—that is the Kingdom of God. No political party gets it right, but God's Kingdom gets it right. The Church is an outpost of God's beautiful Kingdom that wants everyone to flourish.

Reach Global

Becoming World Christians

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

This is the most famous of Bible verses, and it is all about world missions. It is this verse that inspired David Livingstone, a famous, historic missional leader, to say: “God only had one Son, and he made him a missionary.”

Jesus made it so clear to his followers that they were to love, serve, reach, heal, and bless the world. It is IMPOSSIBLE to be a faithful follower of Jesus and NOT have his heart for the world. If you love Jesus, then you love what Jesus loves, serve what Jesus serves, and do what Jesus did. And that simply means to love this world that is lost, hurting, and broken without God.

We use the language of being a World Christian for this type of Christ follower. Living Word has been passionate about helping our people become World Christians. A World Christian is informed and up to date about what is going on in the world God loves.

At Living Word, we try to keep you up to date about the specific places in the world where we are working. We call those places HUBs. A HUB is where we have a concentration of people and ministries that we supply with needed resources.

Being Globally Minded

In 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9, Paul spends two entire chapters instructing the churches in Corinth to give generously to missions by the giving example of the Macedonian churches, who were amazing in their generosity. What are the qualities of a Christian who is globally minded?

- ⌘ We seek to be informed about world events and discerning of what God is doing in the world.
- ⌘ We pray for the world Jesus loves.
- ⌘ We endeavor to build relationships with those doing God's work around the world.
- ⌘ We serve on mission trips or help to send people on mission trips.
- ⌘ We join in financially supporting missions work around the world.

Living Word's missions budget was originally called "Faith Promise" because we would encourage people to make faith commitments to support our global work. In recent years, we have called it "Giving to Greater Things" because Jesus promised that, by faith, we would do greater things than he did (*John 14:12*). Living Word's growing commitment to global missions is a testimony to that promise!

Today we call our missions commitment REACH GLOBAL.

Our Reach Global budget is different than our general church budget, which supports the ministry at Living Word and in York. The Reach Global budget supports 24 people and organizations working around the world. We encourage you to be a part of giving to this budget. Pray about what God would have you give, then go to the website or church app and select Reach Global to make your donation.





Next Gen

KID::LIFE

kid::life is Living Word's children's ministry. Sunday morning programming is available for children birth through 4th grade.

Nursery *(Birth–2 years old)*

The nursery provides a safe and loving atmosphere where simple Bible truths are modeled and taught. Planting eternal seeds from the very beginning is important to us. We desire to partner with parents and help them feel confident in knowing we are on this journey with them.

Preschool *(3–5 years old)*

Our desire in preschool is to instill biblical concepts through age-specific learning. Classroom time is broken down by age and consists of activities and crafts that reinforce the biblical truths taught during large group. Children also engage in age-appropriate worship.

Kindergarten

Large-group time includes interactive worship, the teaching of God's truths, and exploring the influence these truths have on the children's choices and actions. Kindergartners use the small-group setting to put these truths into practice by participating in appropriate games and activities.

1st & 2nd Grades

Children participate in grade-level groups with instruction and activities conducted in large- and small-group settings. An emphasis is placed on children building relationships that will facilitate spiritual growth. Exciting worship, group games, and dynamic presentations characterize this weekly experience.



3rd & 4th Grades

Children participate in grade-level groups with instruction and activities conducted in large- and small-group settings. To build godly character, children participate in activities that help them learn to apply biblical truths to their everyday lives, as well as engage in dynamic praise and worship.

Base Camp

The Base Camp program is for children whose parents both serve on a Sunday morning, resulting in the child being at church for two services. This includes single parents and grandparents who bring their grandchildren to church. Base Camp is for children ages 3 (must be potty trained) to 6th grade. While in Base Camp, kids will enjoy lots of free play, a snack, and a drink. Our room offers a large play unit, video games, crafts, board games, toys, books, and more.

able::life

able::life is our special needs ministry serving children, teenagers, and young adults up to age 30. able::life provides safe and loving environments where individuals can experience God's love in their own unique way. Our service time is unique because of our high level of flexibility and one-on-one teaching of Bible stories. Our activities can be tailored to each individual's needs, abilities, and interests.

Child Dedication Services

The Child Dedication Service is also a parent commitment service. The service is viewed as a promise between you and the church to raise your child in a godly way. We dedicate children up to the age of 7. Dedications are held twice a year with a limited number of families per service.

Student Life

Transit *(5th & 6th grades)*

Transit is a weekly Sunday environment where 5th and 6th graders experience games, music, and teaching in a large-group setting before spending time processing what they learned in a small group. Groups are designed to create a safe space to share what's going on in their lives, as well as ask questions about faith and navigating their world. Our hope is to energize students to connect with their peers and God while in Transit.

Fusion Student Ministry *(7th – 12th grades)*

At Fusion, our mission is to make disciples by empowering students to love God and love others. We want to meet middle school and high school students where they are and provide opportunities to grow. Our programs are designed to help students:

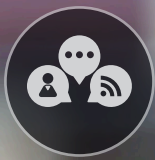
- ⬢ Engage and connect with their peers
- ⬢ Grow in their biblical knowledge
- ⬢ Deepen their relationship with God
- ⬢ Invest in the ministry of the church
- ⬢ Reach out to serve those in local and global community

Young Adults

The Table is a community of young adults pursuing God in a grace-filled environment where the messiness of life, the message of hope, and the beauty of Jesus converge. There's room for you at The Table to experience God's presence, participate in passionate worship, engage in local/global service, and cultivate relationships that encourage you to grow in your relationship with God.

Living Word Online

We are one church with two locations – one physical and one virtual.



lwcccyork.online.church



Sunday Service Times
8am, 9:30am, 11am

On-demand after the 11am service

Living Word Online is a growing community that worships with us on Sundays via livestream on the internet. Each Sunday we have a team committed to making the online experience feel as close to being physically present as we can.

If you are ever traveling or find yourself unable to attend our onsite services, just go to the Living Word website or our mobile app to join our online hosts in the chat. We love involving our online congregation and engaging with you as we worship together.

Many people discover Living Word for the first time through an invitation to “tune in” online.



My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
John 15:12

Resources

If we are going to Connect, Grow, Serve, and Reach together as a church we are going to need some tools and some equipping. We are committed to continuously developing timely and relevant resources to meet you where you live with the help you need.

Some of the resources we offer each week are sermon notes, devotional resources, and LifeGroup guides. Everything that we develop is available in print and electronically via the website and Living Word App. We hope the resources we are writing and producing help to bring you closer to Jesus.



Prayer



Prayer is the lifeblood of Living Word. Here are some ways to participate in or receive prayer.

The Prayer Room is available for personal prayer use any time our building is open. Please follow safe health practices. On Sunday mornings a Living Word prayer team member will be near the door if you would like to step into the room and pray with someone. We will wisely practice physical distancing while caring prayerfully for you.

The Prayer Wall in the main lobby has been uniquely created to capture the essence of the Lord's Prayer via the use of custom-carved metal, hand-cut stained glass, and proprietary lighting (*displaying the collaborative efforts of York-based artists from Salvaging Creativity and Rudy Art Glass*). Please stop by any time our building is open to write a prayer, roll it like a scroll, and gently insert it halfway into the small holes.

Healing Prayer

On fifth Sundays, we set aside a few moments of our Sunday services to anoint people with oil and pray for those who are seeking the Lord for healing.

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

James 5:13-15 (NIV)

Generosity and Giving

Every Sunday each of you make an offering and put it in safekeeping. Be as generous as you can. When I get there you'll have it ready, and I won't have to make a special appeal.

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (MSG)

At Living Word, we practice tithing for the support of Christ's body, the Church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the biblical standard for giving.

Giving is one of the central themes in the Bible. Jesus talked more about this subject than heaven, hell, or prayer. To understand what it means to be a Christ follower, we must also understand what it means to be a giver.

Tithe

A tithe means a tenth of our income/labor belongs to God. We find this principle all through God's Word. Tithing, giving God the first 10% of our income to the local church, is the primary, practical way we acknowledge that God is first in our lives (Proverbs 3:9-10).

Offerings

An offering is giving over and above the tithe. The Bible says that by giving generously, we are able to *"take hold of the life that is truly life."* You really aren't living unless you're freely giving (1 Timothy 6:18-19).

The Gift of Giving

The gift of giving is a spiritual gift that God gives to some people (Romans 12:8). It is a Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by giving of your material resources, far beyond the tithe, to further the work of God.



SPACIOUS

LIFE

WRESTLE AND HURRY FOR
GOODNESS OF LIMBS

EAT

EXIT

Why We Give

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21 (NIV)

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

We give so that God's Kingdom grows and expands, and his people flourish. This involves supporting the people who are doing the ministry of church and mission.

Every church depends on the faithful generosity of its people. The more generous the people are, the greater a church grows in its capacity to evangelize, make disciples, train the next generation, raise up leaders, and meet the needs of the hurting.

Giving generously is an act of worship that expresses our gratitude, faith, and love for God.

Begin with Prayer

- ⦿ Invite God to be part of your financial decisions.
- ⦿ Ask God to give you a plan for the stewardship of his money.
- ⦿ Open your heart and surrender your fears to God.

Step Forward in Obedience

- ⦿ Make God's Kingdom your first priority when you face financial decisions.
- ⦿ Be intentional and commit to giving a percentage of your income—whether a tithe (10%) or another figure.
- ⦿ Give fearlessly so you can experience joy in the act of giving.





Blessed to be a Blessing

God blesses the people of God (*Israel in the Old Testament; the Church in the New Testament*) so that all creation will be blessed. The concept of “blessing” through the scriptures is central. The Hebrew word is **baruch** and has the sense of bestowing well-being on a person or bringing God’s shalom to a person or community. Blessing is the grace and lavish generosity of God poured out on people.

God is the source of all blessing, and we are his instruments or channels for people to receive that blessing. This is a high honor and responsibility for Christians and for the Church. We bless people around us as a core part of who we are as followers of Jesus Christ.

Blessing others is never an extracurricular activity. The apostle Paul summed up “*blessed to be a blessing*” like this: “God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8). We “*abound in every good work*” so that others will receive God’s blessing, both now and into eternity.

Simple Ways to Give

🌀 **Give online** with our simple giving tool via the Living Word app or website.

🌀 **Use online bill pay** through your bank. Your bank will mail a check to us. Inquire with your bank to determine if this option is available to you.

🌀 **Place a check or cash** in the donation box located next to each door in the Main Auditorium and Life Center.

🌀 **Mail a check** payable to Living Word Community Church to:

ATTN: ACCOUNTING
2530 CAPE HORN RD.
RED LION, PA 17356

🌀 **Employer Matching Gifts**

Ask your employer if they have a program in place and how to participate.

🌀 **Qualified Charitable Distributions**

If you are 70½ or older with an individual retirement account, you can use a qualified charitable distribution to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution. Please consult with your tax or financial advisor to determine if this is an option for you.

🌀 **Asset-Based Gifts**

Our church partners with National Christian Foundation (*NCF*) to administer the receipt of asset-based gifts (*e.g., marketable securities, real estate, business interests*) and disburse the proceeds to Living Word. If you choose to give through NCF, you will receive your tax deduction receipt directly from NCF. For more information, please email giving@lwccyork.com or visit ncfgiving.com

Counseling

The Counseling Center at Living Word provides counseling and coaching services from a distinctly Christian worldview.

Whether you are encountering typical life stressors, facing serious life struggles, or desiring a personal development plan for your future, our professional counselors and coaches offer services that promote personal well-being, psychological and relational health, and spiritual growth as you address many of life's situations and challenges.

Counseling Services are designed to address the difficulties one encounters in life, both internally and externally. This process involves creating new strategies to overcome barriers to healing, wholeness, and well-being.

Coaching Services are designed to evaluate one's skills, habits, and rhythms as related to life transitions and calling. This process involves creating a personal and/or professional plan to develop one's life purpose, vision, and mission.

Both counseling and coaching involve pursuing the guidance of God's Word, seeking out God's Wisdom, and working in concert with God's Spirit. It is our desire for each person to find fresh starts, second chances, and new beginnings, through the grace and mercy of God.

LWCCyork.com/counseling

Statement of Faith

We hold to the historic teachings of Christianity as articulated in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.



We believe that:

- ⊞ The 66 canonical books of the Bible as originally written were inspired by God, thus free from error. They are the only infallible guide in Christian faith and practice.
- ⊞ There is one true God, Creator and Preserver of all things, existing eternally as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ⊞ That man, created in the image of God, through disobedience fell from his sinless state. This fall plunged man into a state of sin, spiritual death, and separation from God, bringing with it a sentence of eternal death upon the human race. From this condition man can be saved only by the grace of God, through faith in Jesus Christ.
- ⊞ Jesus Christ is God. He is the Living Word who became flesh. His divine and human nature were perfectly united in One Person. He was born of the Virgin Mary; he lived a sinless life in full obedience to the Father; he was crucified, as the substitute for sinful man, shedding his blood for the forgiveness of sins. He was bodily resurrected from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father, where he presently rules over his Kingdom as King of kings and where he intercedes as Mediator, for the saints. He will again return to earth, visibly and bodily to consummate history and God's eternal plan.
- ⊞ The Holy Spirit applies to man the saving work of Christ. He convicts and draws men to Christ, enabling them to have saving faith. He bears internal witness to the reality of the person of Jesus Christ to the believer. He imparts new life, indwells and empowers believers for service, and distributes gifts to the body. He affects growth and maturity for the believers, and seals them until the day of redemption. His fullness, power, and control are appropriated in the believer's life by faith.
- ⊞ Every born-again believer is called by God to live a godly life by crucifying the old nature, so as to not fulfill the desires of the flesh, and by living in the power and vitality of the Spirit, so as to bear fruit and glorify Jesus Christ.
- ⊞ Jesus Christ is Head of his body, the Church. All believers are members of his body by virtue of their regeneration. As a member of the body, each believer has been given at least one gift by the Holy Spirit to serve in the Kingdom of God.
- ⊞ As members of the local body of Christ, believers are responsible for one another, and are to gather together regularly for worship, teaching, community, and outreach.
- ⊞ The ordinance of baptism is the outward sign of God's Covenant of Faith with the believer. It is commanded of all who repent and believe in Christ. It signifies the believer's death to the old life and entrance into the new life. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper symbolizes the believer's sharing of the divine nature of Christ. It is a continual reminder of the forgiveness of sins which he offers the world, and it proclaims his death until his return.
- ⊞ At the end of the age, the dead will be resurrected, when there will be the separation of the righteous into heaven, and the unrighteous into eternal hell.
- ⊞ Until such time, believers are commanded to fulfill the Great Commission by proclaiming the gospel and making disciples of all men and nations. The fulfillment of the Great Commission requires that all worldly and personal ambitions be subordinated to a total commitment to Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords.



Membership at Living Word

We see membership as a key way of being faithful to the body of Christ that is Living Word. Membership is intensely practical, as it is the members who:

- ⌘ Are able to vote and affirm church business
- ⌘ Are eligible to serve as part of Living Word's governance body
- ⌘ Make up the committed core who faithfully model the way of showing up to Connect, Grow, Serve, and Reach

Expectations

To become a member of Living Word, you must:

- ⌘ Be a Christ follower. Part of our Membership Application includes a space for you to submit a brief written testimony of your relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ⌘ Be in regular attendance (*onsite or online*) for a minimum of 4 months.
- ⌘ Attend Life at Living Word.
- ⌘ Honor the Living Word Membership Covenant.
- ⌘ Indicate that you are in general agreement with Living Word's Statement of Faith.
- ⌘ Be committed to a lifestyle of generosity and good stewardship, sharing in the responsibility of funding the ministry of Living Word Community Church.

All applicants who have met membership requirements are received into the church at a Sunday worship service.

Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and agreeing with the values and ideas presented in Life at Living Word, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Living Word Community Church family. In doing so, I make the following commitment to God and my fellow church members:

1. I will protect the unity of Living Word by:

- ⊕ Acting in love toward other members
- ⊕ Refusing to gossip
- ⊕ Following the leaders

So let's agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other. Help others with encouraging words; don't drag them down by finding fault. Romans 14:19 (MSG)

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 1 Peter 1:22 (NIV)

Be responsive to your pastoral leaders. Listen to their counsel. They are alert to the condition of your lives and work under the strict supervision of God. Contribute to the joy of their leadership, not its drudgery. Why would you want to make things harder for them? Hebrews 13:17 (MSG)

2. I will share the responsibility of Living Word by:

- ⊕ Praying for its growth and health
- ⊕ Inviting the unchurched to attend
- ⊕ Warmly welcoming those who visit

To the church... of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2 (NIV)

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7 (NIV)

3. I will serve the ministry of Living Word by:

- ⦿ Showing up faithfully to connect and grow together
- ⦿ Using my God-given gifts to make a difference in the lives of others
- ⦿ Developing a lifestyle of serving and reaching

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. Philippians 2:4-7 (NIV)

4. I will support the testimony of Living Word by:

- ⦿ Attending church faithfully (onsite or online)
- ⦿ Living a godly life
- ⦿ Giving regularly

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 (NIV)

Let us not neglect our meeting together...but encourage one another. Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel. Philippians 1:27 (NIV)



Membership Application

If you are interested in becoming a member of Living Word, please fill out our online Membership Application or the form below.

Name (First, Last): _____

What name do you prefer to be called? _____

Email: _____

Phone (mobile or home): _____ **DOB:** ____/____/____

How long have you been attending Living Word?

Were you affiliated with another church previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, where? _____

My current involvement at Living Word:

I have attended **Life at Living Word** onsite/online (please enter class date):

I have read and will honor the Living Word membership covenant: ☐ Yes ☐ No

In your own words, briefly describe why you desire to become a member of Living Word:

***Please tear out this page and turn it in at the
Next Steps desk in the Main Lobby.***



My Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ

This is your story of coming to faith, of choosing to follow Christ, of asking Jesus to be the Lord and Savior and God over your life. We have found this model very helpful for many people to share their spiritual journey and testimony.

Before I became a Christian, my life was like this:

This is how I learned about Jesus and committed my life to him:

A few things I have experienced and a few ways I have changed since I began to follow Christ:

Name: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____



Thank you for choosing to be a part of Life at Living Word. We, the staff, are honored to connect, grow, serve, and reach with you!



Living Word

COMMUNITY CHURCH

CONTACT US: 2530 Cape Horn Road, Red Lion, PA 17356 • 717.755.0089

WEBSITE: LWCCYork.com • **EMAIL:** hello@lwccyork.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm • Friday, by appointment only

Join us onsite or online: LWCCYork.online.church

Sunday service times: 8:00 am • 9:30 am • 11:00 am



Download our app: Living Word Community Church

