

## GENERAL INFORMATION

If you are a Christian, we invite you to join us in receiving the Lord's Supper. When the bread and juice are passed to you, partake at that time and then pass the trays.

### **Baptism and Membership**

Each week we invite people to meet the pastor and other leaders after the service for prayer or more information about baptism and membership. This takes place in the middle aisle, between the upper & lower sections of the auditorium.

### **Cell phones**

Please help us by silencing your cell phones. This will allow you to focus fully on your worship experience and allow others to do the same.

### **Sunday Mornings**

8:15 AM - Living Creek Café open  
8:30 & 10:00 AM - Worship Service  
8:30 & 10:00 AM - Bible Classes (nursery through 3 years)  
in the Dance Studio, to the left of the Auditorium stage  
10:00 AM - Bible Classes (4 years-Pre-K) in room B111  
10:00 AM - Children's Worship (grades K-4) in room B109  
10:00 AM - Pre-teen Worship (grades 5-6) in room B106

For more information stop by the Welcome Center.

### **Offices**

Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
4820 W Court Street, Monee, IL 60449  
708.672.6515 Website: livingcreek.org

**The Well** is located at 4840 W Court Street in Monee.

(Note: this is not a mailing address.)

### **Personal Daily Worship**

We have Bible Reading Guides and offer personal sessions on how to develop a prayer life. We want to help you develop a personal worship and prayer time. **2019 Bible Reading Guides** are available at the Welcome Center.

### **Small Groups**

Small Groups meet in homes during the week for fellowship, care and spiritual growth. They provide a great opportunity to connect. **Want more information? Let us know on your Communication Card.**

## **Today's Message: Randy Roberts**

### **Illuminating Christmas**

#### **The Truth about Suffering**

**Matthew 1:18-25, Matthew 2:13-15**  
(page 657 & 658 in the Auditorium Bible)

**God had a plan for His Son's pain and has a plan for yours also.**

**Why did God allow His Son to experience sorrow? Or you to experience sorrow?**

#### **It is a Fact of Life**

Born into a family with a threatened reputation, marriage, and no place to call home

Jesus *"made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."* (Philippians 2:7).

Are you able to take the good with the bad?

#### **It Makes us Stronger**

*"Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil"* (Matthew 4:1).

*"The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock"* (Matthew 7:25).

How is God helping you grow stronger through sorrow?

#### **It has a Purpose**

*"He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain"* (Isaiah 53:3).

*"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me"* (Luke 9:23).

The cross of Christ saves everyone. Our crosses save us also, not by earning it, but by trusting in His power to save.

#### **It can be Overcome**

*"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33).

It is impossible to overcome our sorrow on our own. Immanuel means *"God with us."*



*Our mission is to help people follow Jesus.*

### **Welcome to Living Creek!**

If this is your first time with us, please visit the Welcome Center to receive a gift and general information.

Please fill out the enclosed Communication Card to share any contact information, praises or prayer requests, and place it in the offering bag during the service.

## **Message Series:**



## **The Truth about Suffering**

**December 16, 2018**

## TODAY

**Congratulations** to our new Elders, Joshua Grove and Charlie Thompson, for the term January 2019 - December 2021.



We will be collecting **gift cards** for grocery stores, big box stores, and gas stations to bless families in our church this season. To participate, please bring your gift cards through **TODAY** and put in the offering bag or you may drop off at the Church Office by **Monday, December 17.**

**Giving Envelopes** are available at a table in the foyer.

**2019 Bible Reading Guides** are available at the Welcome Center.



There will be a **special video**, to share with your family at Christmas, that will be available online beginning **December 23.** If you prefer a DVD of the video, pick up a copy at the church office on **Friday, December 21** or before or after services on **Sunday, December 23.**

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



**Ushers** needed! If anyone is interested in serving as an usher (male or female), please contact Bob Rossi at 708.712.5586 or r481@aol.com.

**Open Access** has 3 opportunities to serve the community with clothing. **Living Creek** serves on the **2nd Saturday** at St. Irenaeus Parish, 78 Cherry ST, Park Forest. The Closets are open from **9-11 AM.** Please come earlier to set up. Contact Pat Dabis at patdabis@sbcglobal.net or at 708.205.8768 with questions or for information about where to serve on other Saturdays.

## GREATER THINGS



The Greater Things fund balance is \$29,763.

## PRAY FOR THE GRIEVING

Please pray for the family of Cristina Mueller (member & former custodian). Visitation is **TODAY**, from 2-4 PM, at Crete Church, 24755 S Country LN, Crete. A Memorial Service starts at 4 PM.

## LOOKING AHEAD

On **Sunday, December 23**, we will have **family services** at 8:30 & 10 AM. Children's Ministry is available for ages 3 & under in the Nursery.



The next **Prayer Night** is **Tuesday, January 8**, at **7 PM.** Join us for an evening of prayer at the Church Office. **Open to all.**



There will be a **Ladies' Movie Night** on **January 11, 2019**, at **7 PM** at The Well. Join us for an evening of fellowship, with a devotional by Jan Kiepura, and the movie *War Room*. Please bring a sweet or salty finger food to share, and wear comfy clothes. Drinks and paper products will be provided. Sign up on your Communication Card if you plan to attend.

## YOUTH

**The Well** will meet on **Monday, December 17** from **6:30 - 8:30 PM.** Then, in **2019**, The Well is moving to **every Sunday** from **6-8 PM** beginning **January 13.**



## CHILDREN



**The Wave** resumes on **January 9, 6:15-7:30 PM.** If you would like to find out more, contact Mickey at mgrubermann@livingcreek.org.

## GROUPS



If you are interested in attending, hosting or leading a **Small Group**, please indicate on your Communication Card.

Join us for a **Monday Morning "Eye Opener" Men's Group**, led by Ken Chastain and Dave Dell. We meet **every other Monday** at **6:30 AM** at the Church Office. Our next meeting is **TOMORROW, December 17.** We are walking through the life of Jesus in Mark. Please contact Ken (708.912.7564 or livingcreek@outlook.com) or Dave (708.516.0814 or davedell@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please save the top row of seats in the auditorium and the parking next to the building for those with physical limitations.

**Smart Phone & Tablet Users** - You can follow today's message and scriptures on the Bible app **YouVersion** (LifeChurch.tv). Click on More, then the Events button. Search for an event and look for Living Creek to follow along.

**Church Community Builder (CCB)** helps us communicate and stay connected. It allows you to connect with others, staff and leadership. You can only get something out of it if you sign up for an account. Visit [livingcreek.ccbchurch.com](http://livingcreek.ccbchurch.com) to get involved and stay in the know! Online giving is also available through CCB. Giving is accepted through checking account, debit/credit, one-time or repeating gifts. You can also access your own giving statement.

## GROUPS (continued)



**Brothers in Arms, Men Helping Men Follow Jesus**, is Living Creek's Men's Ministry. Men (18+) come to The Well, 4840 W Court ST, on **Saturday, January 12** from **8-10 AM.** Hot breakfast is ready at 8 AM and fellowship is provided.

**Cadets** is a group for boys in 4th-8th grade where male mentors help them grow spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally, and socially as they explore God's word and world. The group meets the **1st & 3rd Wednesday** from **September through May.** We are looking for **an adult male mentor** to serve with us in this ministry. Call Jeremy Parrish at 815.409.9298 or Keith Rauwolf at 708.897.1428 for more information or to volunteer.



**Mom Time** is a small group for moms. It will meet on the **2nd & 4th Wednesday** from **6:20-7:20 PM** at the Church Office, resuming on **January 9.** Please contact Kat Zimmerman with any questions at 989.513.2779 or [katzimmerman@gmail.com](mailto:katzimmerman@gmail.com).

Meditate on scripture as you move through stretching and strengthening exercises guided by a DVD. **Free early morning yoga stretching** with Bible principles on **Tuesday & Thursday** mornings from **6-6:45 AM** at the Church Office. Open to ladies ages 16 and up and all ability levels are welcome. If interested or have questions, call or text Becky Moses at 630.207.2866.

