

May 24,
2020

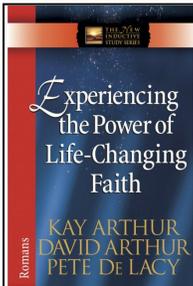
KOST CHURCH

An Evangelical Free Church



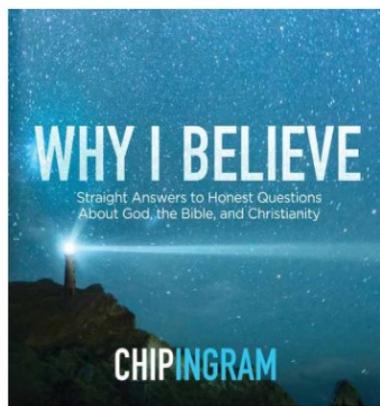
PRAYER PRAISE LIST

- For our church to THRIVE in these times, creatively stay connected and grow closer to Jesus, our communities and one another, reaching out when and how possible.
- For Teresa, Joan, Sue's knee, Alice, Darrell, Lori, Stephan, Charlie and others with health concerns and healing.
- **Pastor Josh (for the weight of all this on his mind and heart, allergies, strength, stamina, healing of his ongoing back pain and weariness in these days).**
 - Our elders (Lowell, Chris & Mike) & families -for protection, strength, wisdom as we look toward gathering again & health.
 - For those that are sick, concerned about others who are, everyone who is working the "front lines" and those who can't work, are frustrated, scared or worried.
- Salvation for the unsaved** and that we'd have answers when they ask. For revival in our country and world.
- Students, as they finish up their schooling. For children in bad home situations with abuse or lack of food & help. For childcare issues with parents going back to work.
- For marriages to be strengthened in this trying time. That couples would seek help.
- For those laid off - for God's provision.
- For our government and other officials in the decision-making to protect as many people as possible while still taking into consideration our economy and for the people of our country to follow the protocols to help their neighbors stay safe.
 - For Pastor Jairo, his wife Nataly, his family and the people of Iquitos, Peru**
- For those struggling with mental health issues, depression, anxiety, etc.
- For us to keep remembering that God is good, He's TOTALLY in control, He loves us and WE CAN TRUST HIM.



Men's Bible study books are in and in the entryway at the church! Come get 'em! :) Study is Wednesdays 7-8:30 am. *It's not too late to join either study!*

Ladies, our new Bible Study of 1st Peter started this Tuesdays at **3 pm & 7 pm!** Order your book today and let Jen Jensen know if you'd like to join and we'll get you a copy of the first chapter or two while your book is being delivered! It's going to be great! Contact Jen at 715-681-1209 or jenjensen95@gmail.com with questions. We'll keep you posted with zoom and/or meeting location options.



We have only **two more** Thursdays to wrap up our Study from Chip Ingram on "Why I Believe"

The information so far has been incredible, be sure to join us to finish out the study!

Thursdays at 7 pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5189716406>

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 518 971 6406

Password 1234



Today, Sunday, May 17th
11:15 am Zoom "fellowship" time!
(same info as Thursdays above)

Updates and Online giving at
www.kostchurch.org

New secure way to give via mail:
P.O. Box 313, North Branch, MN 55056

You are loved!

Please let us know what you need:
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Hello friends,

It's so strange how in some ways the time just seems to be flying and I can hardly believe another Sunday is almost upon us yet in other ways it feels like this quarantining thing has been going on for months. I've no doubt you've experienced the spectrum of emotions that I have. I am so thankful that to the best of my knowledge you've been safe and healthy. As of May 18, some of the restrictions were loosened, but not all of them. We still cannot meet in person as a congregation – not yet. Smaller gatherings of ten or less with social distancing will be allowed. Slowly but surely businesses will be allowed to open back up (particularly after June 1st). Eventually large gatherings (like worship services) will too. In the meantime, I hope you're being blessed by the worship services we're producing for online and DVD. I won't lie, it takes a lot of work, but it is the joy of my family, myself, and the worship team to serve you in this way during this time.

The elders and I met a week ago, Wednesday night. Let me reassure you that your best is at the heart of each and every one of your elders. They are anxious to return to normal worship just like you, but in the meantime, they are doing a great job shepherding our congregation and preparing for the future. Some things that were discussed and decided upon Wednesday night include the following items:

1. While we are anxious to get back to business-as-usual, the health and wellbeing of our congregation is very important to us. So is our witness in the community. Of utmost importance is honoring and obeying God. Those three priorities are the foundation of all decisions we are making at this time.
2. While drive-in worship services are technically allowed, we have decided not to pursue these at this time because of the logistics and work involved to make them happen. If the Safer-at-Home order extends significantly more into the summer, we can revisit this decision.
3. We decided to make some infrastructure improvements to our existing technology that will allow us to continue to livestream our worship services even after we return to regular worship. These improvements will also allow us to use overflow space in the church in the event we need to practice social distancing in our sanctuary. An added bonus is that these things will make producing our current worship services for online much more efficient.
4. We are thankful for God's provision for our church through your faithful giving. We are only slightly behind where we hoped to be at this point in the year.
5. We reviewed the responses that we have received so far from the surveys sent to you about expectations for returning to church. Thank you to those of you who participated (and it's not too late to fill out a survey if you haven't yet) – your answers were very helpful in beginning the process of thinking about how we will return to regular church once we are allowed.
6. We are actively discussing and planning for the reopening of our church building. This will be a significant undertaking that will need significant planning, coordination, volunteer support, and a lot of good, old fashioned elbow grease to make happen in a way that is in accordance with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. I will be convening our safety team and elders to form a task force that can work specifically on all of this. I would love to have 2-3 more of you involved on the taskforce as well (please contact me if you're interested).
7. Vacation Bible School as we traditionally understand it will not be happening this summer. It's possible some sort of modified program might happen if someone wants to step up to lead it in some out-of-the-box way.

It was a busy meeting! Hopefully this synopsis will give you some clarity on where things are at right now. While our church's "ministry" is constrained right now, God is not constrained nor will He ever be. We see how He's at work in all of this and anticipate more awesome things as the days and weeks go on.

Please know that you're in my thoughts and prayers. Feel free to reach out any time if you need to. I was just thinking how much the fruit of the Spirit (from Galatians 5) applies to how we are to live as Christ's disciples during this time. Let's be full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control because those are the things that Jesus is full of.

As always, YOU ARE LOVED!

Pastor Josh



Temper, Temper part 1

John 2:13-25 & various

- Jesus is our redeemer and our example in all things – and He is the one Who shows us how to be _____ but not _____. (Ephesians 4:26, Hebrews 4:15)
- We should get _____ about the things Jesus got _____ about.
 - Bad religious attitudes that get in the way of God’s _____
 - ◆ Treating God flippantly / not revering His holiness (John 2:12-25, Matthew 21:12-17) Ê Sin Ê Preventing people from coming to Himself (John 2:12-25, Mark 10:13-16, Matthew 26:6-13) Ê Cheating and dishonesty (John 2:12-25) Ê Lack of faith (John 11:1-44) Ê Hard-heartedness / indifference to the suffering of others (Mark 3:1-6) Ê Legalism and rulemaking/keeping (Matthew 23) Ê Self-righteous judgementalism (Matthew 23) Ê Hypocrisy (Matthew 23) Ê Greed (Matthew 23) Ê Superiority (Matthew 23) Ê Idolatry (Matthew 23) Ê Spiritual pride (Luke 18:9-14) Ê Injustice (John 8:1-12) Ê Causing someone else to sin (Matthew 18:6) Ê Unfruitfulness (Mark 11:12-14) Ê Luke-warmness about faith (Revelation 3:14-22)

Tim Harlow: Anything that gets in the way of God's love, especially if it's instigated by God's children, will make Jesus angry. It should make us angry, as well. And, we should stop doing it.

- We should _____ get angry about the things that Jesus _____ get angry about
 - Injustice / unfairness to Himself Ê Insults to Himself Ê Indignity to Himself Ê Violence / brutality to Himself
 - IMPORTANT CAVEAT: God has not called us to be doormats and enablers, particularly if the above things are being perpetrated by someone stronger upon someone weaker. Overall though, He has not called us to a life of self-preservation but rather a life of laying down our rights, our longings, our needs, our preferences, even our happiness
- We should _____ to our anger the way Jesus _____ to His anger.
 - Be slow to get angry Ê Feel the emotion Ê Call it out Ê Take action when appropriate
- We should have a good _____ of what’s going on inside of us so that when we get angry we can determine if it’s something we should be angry about and how we should or shouldn’t respond (v 24).
- We should _____ so as to not “lose it” the way Jesus _____ so as to not “lose it.”
 - Attentive to the Holy Spirit Ê Regular time with the Lord Ê Immersed in Scripture Ê Scripture committed to memory Ê Life paced well Ê Life arranged around “laying one’s life down”
- We should accept God’s _____ for when we do “lose it” and not take on an immersion of _____.