

SPRING 2008

# THE MESSENGER

THE PONDERING PARSON

KEN HALL

## BECAUSE HE LIVES

The year was 1971 – a long time ago. A young musically talented couple put together a new Christian song that has remained popular for over 35 years. They titled their song *Because He Lives*. That young couple was Bill and Gloria Gaither. That song is one of my favorites. The first verse goes like this: “God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus, He came to love, heal, and forgive; He lived and died to buy my pardon, An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.” The refrain goes: “Because He lives I can face tomorrow, Because He lives all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives.”

This song has been running through my mind lately. I guess it might be due to the fact that the most important celebration on the Christian calendar is almost here. I’m not talking referring to the celebration focused on the death, Jesus Christ. Some people refer to it as Easter. It the greatest celebration on the Christian period from Friday to Sunday, including Christ’s sealed the deal of making the only acceptable to be canceled and opening the possibility of Father and eternal life to be experienced.

There are those who would argue that historical evidence for His death is one of the An examination of the historical record brings makes sense. The itinerant Jewish teacher who was executed by the brutal Roman method of going to happen to Him. He said to them, “The going to be delivered into the hands of men; and third day.” (Matthew 17:22-23)

There are probably more people who back to life on that first Resurrection Sunday, strong that it could be taken into a court of law life. I don’t have time to go into all the pieces of to the multitude of times He appeared to people saw Him were just hallucinating. But according to 1 Corinthians 15:6, Jesus appeared to over 500 people at the same time. When people hallucinate, they don’t all see the same things. Those people all saw Christ.

The resurrection of Christ is what gives us hope and courage. If Christ stayed in the grave His death was pointless and didn’t pay the price our sins demanded. Scripture says, “...and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep (died physically) in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.” (1 Corinthians 15:17-19)

But He didn’t stay in the grave. He was raised – just as He said He would be – and because He lives I can face tomorrow. I have hope that since I put my faith in Him that someday I too will live with Him. Because He lives all fear is gone. What do I need to be afraid of? Jesus paid the price and won the victory with His death, burial, and resurrection. He holds the future – my future – in His hands. I can trust Him with it because He has proven Himself to be faithful time after time. We can completely trust Him. Life is worth living because He lives. He takes the miserable messes we make and molds them into something beautiful when we come to Him. The good news is that He invites everyone to come to Him. When they do, He gives them what He has given me – a reason to live, a reason to hope, a reason share.

Friend, if you haven’t come to the Savior and received the life He is offering, today would be the best time to do that. He loves you. He died for you. The offer of hope is for you. Just tell Him you want what He provided for you through His death and resurrection. He is alive today and He is waiting for you to come to Him.



about Christmas, as important as that is. I’m burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, I prefer Resurrection Sunday. I consider calendar because the events of that three day crucifixion, His burial, and His resurrection way for a person’s humongous debt of sin a personal relationship with the Heavenly

Christ didn’t really die on the cross. The best attested to events of ancient history. the only conclusion that fits the facts and claimed to be the Messiah (and deity also) crucifixion. Jesus knew beforehand what was Son of Man (a title He used for Himself) is they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the

would argue that Christ didn’t physically come The recorded evidence in the Word is so and used to prove Christ was raised back to evidence today. Let me direct your attention after the Resurrection. Some say those who



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Ken Hall, Pastor





## MIDWEEK SERVICE

The MidWeek Prayer Service starts at 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday with a delightful meal and time of fellowship followed by a short devotional service and prayer time. The most powerful service of any church should be the prayer meeting. This time is not limited to members of Livermore Community Church. All are invited to join us in prayer.

## TWO REGULAR MEN'S MINISTRIES AT LCC

The Men's Bible Study continues to meet every Friday mornings at 6:30 - 7:30 a.m. If you want to taste some great country cooking by our own local chefs, do come join us. It starts early in hopes that all can join us before they head out to work. Following the meal is a Bible study and time of prayer.

**Men's Night Out — Guys Night Out** — provides an opportunity for the "guys" to get together and share good food and fellowship and put a Biblical perspective on some of the issues that men (young or not so young) face today; we have changed the name of our gathering to encourage the younger men in our family to attend and bless us with their participation. Our group also has occasional "outings" through the year; recently, we all went bowling and ate pizza afterwards and among the ideas for upcoming events are an afternoon at the driving range, a fishing trip and barbecue, a trap shoot and ... We meet the second Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and look forward to seeing you there.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M.

Beginning March 30, 2008, we will begin a 13 week course titled "Is Christ Really God?" This interactive group course by Josh McDowell addresses how our young people have adopted distorted beliefs about God, truth, and reality and what we as adults can do about it. Step-by-step we'll learn how to lead the youth around us to know "why we believe what we believe" and how that is truly relevant to their everyday lives. This series provides the perfect launch for us to build the true foundation of Christianity in the lives of the family, beginning with adults. Did you know

- † The majority of our church young people have a distorted belief about Christianity that is destructive to their lives.
- † There is overwhelming evidence to establish Christ is who He claimed to be, and therefore what He offers is real.
- † The truth about a relevant Christ transforming lives was meant to be shared within the context of relationships.
- † As we become living models of Christ's transforming power we can effectively pass on our faith to our families.

As we progress through this course we will learn to understand this crisis of beliefs among our young people and how we can lead our kids to believe that Christ, as the Son of God, is both objectively true and relationally relevant.



Erica and Adam

## THE COUPLE'S BIBLE STUDY

The Couple's Bible Study is growing and blessing those who attend each week. We are beginning to study Colossians with a study called, "New Community." Come join us on Tuesday nights from 6:30 - 8:00 for a time of study and fellowship without your kids. Baby-sitting is provided by our wonderful ministry team and the kids have a blast too! Our group is very lively and fun and we would love to have you join. Erica and Adam Thode



Mindy and Josh Auch

LIVERMORE COMMUNITY CHURCH NOW HAS A WEBSITE.  
FINDING OUT WHAT IS GOING ON AND WHEN IT'S HAPPENING IS NOW JUST A CLICK AWAY.  
SEE YOU AT [WWW.LIVERMORECC.ORG](http://WWW.LIVERMORECC.ORG)

## REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday Morning:	9:30	Sunday School for all ages	10:45	Worship Service; Children's Church
Tuesday Afternoon:	3:00	Kids Klub	6:30	Couple's Bible Study
Wednesday Evening	5:30	Midweek Prayer Time	6:00	Youth Group
Thursday Morning	10:00	Ladies' Bible Study	Evening	5:00 Praise Team Practice
Friday Morning	6:30	Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	8:00	Elders' Meeting
Third Sunday: Communion and Pot Faith Meal				

# YOUTH MINISTRY MEETS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 6:00 AT LCC:

God has really been on the move in the LCC Youth Program. Mike Graves is heading back to school and while he and his wife, Wendy, will still stay involved with the youth (and Mike and Wendy thanks for all you did and do), Jim Gleason will be working with the high schoolers and Tina and Scott Carter are leading the newly forming Junior High Group. The group is growing and we have room for lots more. If you have a youth who wants to have a great time of fellowship give us a call or just drop by any Wednesday evening at 6:00. Come at 5:30 if you'd like to eat.

A ski and snowboarding trip is planned for March 29, 2008 to Snowy Range. They had a blast snowboarding in February. We'd love to have more join us, so just give the church a call if you are interested 493-9081.

## KIDS' CORNER

In **Sunday School** at 9:30, as the adults study *Is Christ Really God* by Josh McDowell, the kids are doing a correlated study of the same title.



All the kids from **Children's Church** say HI! They'd love for you to join them every Sunday at 10:45. Praise, music, snacks, food and fellowship are part of the program centered on learning about God's



love. We even have our own sound system now and is that fun! And don't miss the celebration planned for Resurrection Sunday, March 23, 10:45. Come early for a great breakfast cooked and served by the men.



The Nursery is opened for all our little ones and what a great time they all have.

**Kid's Klub** has been very fun lately. We are in wind down mode at this point as summer is nearing, but kids and ministry team members alike are looking forward to our upcoming annual carnival.



And there is more fun in store for the kids. June 8 is **Old Fashioned Sunday** complete with buggy rides, old-fashioned games including a stick horse rodeo planned by our own cowboy Scott Carter, and a pig roast. Mark your calendars now. Then, the day after Old Fashioned Sunday, June 9 and 10 from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. is our **VBS** entitled, "God's Big Back Yard." Kids will learn about the many ways people in our community serve.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The following events are planned for the celebration of Holy Week.

† **Friday March 21: 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service.**

Included in this service is a special observance of the Lord's Supper.  
(This is not the traditional way of observing the Lord's Supper.)

† **Sunday March 23:  
9:30 a.m.**

**Resurrection SONday Brunch.**

This meal is prepared & served by the men of the church.

**10:45 a.m.**

**Resurrection Sunday Worship Time:**

Everyone is invited to attend any or all of these special events.

† **May 25: 6:00 p.m. A Special Evening Of Music With SONrise.**

Harlow & Jareen Rudolph present a wonderful program.  
There will be refreshments served following the program.  
Put this on your calendar & plan to join us for a great evening.





WANT TO EXPERIENCE THAT OL' FASHIONED SPIRIT?  
 THEN BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR LCC'S  
 OLD- FASHIONED WEEKEND JUNE 7 - 8, 2008



On June 7 from 4:00 -7:00 come join us for great fellowship as we enjoy

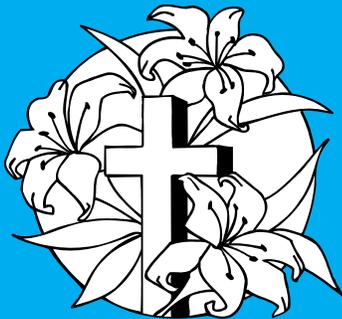
- ☛ **Storytellers from days-gone-by**
- ☛ **A real ol' fashioned Chuck Wagon Dinner**
- ☛ **Story tellin', preachin' and a-singin' on into the evening in the big tent**

On Sunday, June 8 the ol'fashioned spirit continues with

- ☛ **Buckboard between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. for an Ol'Fashioned ride from Livermore Elementary to LCC**
- ☛ **Good ol'fashioned preachin' by Rick Barton**
- ☛ **Music and sing along**
- ☛ **The best roast pig and fried turkeys with all the timmin'**
- ☛ **Games from days-gone-by for all ages**
- ☛ **At 3:00, you are sure to mosey on home feeling uplifted, full, and refreshed.**

Call for more information

Pastor Ken Hall at 970-493-9081 or Phil Garcia at 970-221-8563



EASTER WEEK SERVICES  
 LIVERMORE COMMUNITY CHURCH

MARCH 21, 7:00  
 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

MARCH 23  
 9:30 A.M. EASTER BRUNCH  
 10:45 A.M.

RESURRECTION SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

HE IS RISEN

WITH LOTS OF SPECIAL CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES  
 PLANNED FOR THE CHILDREN

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