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LIVING BRANCH NEWS

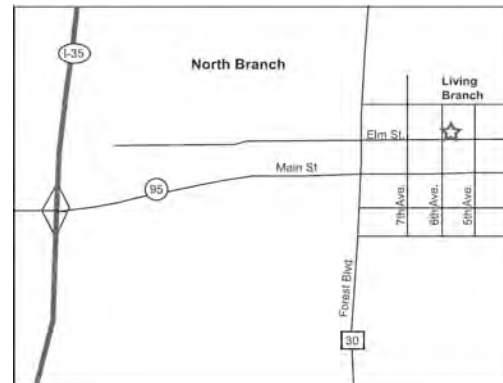
Return Service Requested

E-Mail - Directions



From I-35, take the North Branch exit. Go east on Highway 95.
Go to County Road 30 (Forest Blvd.)
Turn north, and go one block.
Turn right on Elm Street.
Go two blocks to 6th Street.

Website: www.LivingBranch.org
E-Mail: pastorsteve@livingbranch.org
Office phone: (651) 674-5576
Address: 6486 Elm Street, North Branch, MN 55056



Life Goes On

Is there life after Easter at Living Branch? Of course! Yes, Holy Week and Easter Sunday were very special at our dear church. Julie Kolodji prepared a fantastic Seder Meal celebration on Maundy Thursday, April 1st. Nearly seventy people enjoyed the food, fellowship and the atmosphere of worship. On Good Friday we paused for a solemn, holy moment to consider the suffering and death of our Lord for the forgiveness of our sins. Then came the Easter blast – *Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!* Our Lord lives, and because He lives, we too shall live!

Yes, Easter was a high point, but life goes on at Living Branch. On Sunday, May 16th, Emily James will confirm her faith in Christ at 10:30 a.m. worship service. She has completed a two year Bible and Catechism study, and is ready to publicly declare that there will be life after confirmation for her – a life committed to following her Savior.

Yes, Easter is a hard act to follow, but on May 23rd we will be blessed by the presence of Pastor Dave Horn (that's him in the picture). Dave is a pastor, musician, and songwriter who travels the country proclaiming, in his own words, "the cross and the empty tomb." He will preach,



sing, and teach the Gospel at both the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. He will also give a family concert between services during the Sunday School hour. Pastor Dave blessed our congregation a couple years ago. Prepare to be blessed once again!

Life goes on at Living Branch in the classroom too. Many new Bible studies begun after Easter continue during the month of May. You are welcome to jump in even if you didn't begin the class with everybody else. Loren Yerks is teaching *Heroes Of The Faith*; Brian Abler is leading the *Faith On The Edge* series; I am leading the parenting class titled *Making Children Mind Without Losing your Own*. On Wednesday Nights, Deb Thompson leads the *Twelve Extraordinary Women* Bible study, while Pastor Steve and the men of Living Branch will go on location to Israel in a video series called *Faith Lessons*.

Life goes on as we cast our eyes into the future. The annual Leadership Team planning meeting will take place Saturday May 15th. We will discuss, pray, and then prepare a 12-month calendar of future activities for Living Branch.

Life goes on as we take steps to renovate our blessed 120-year-old building by firming up the walls and installing new siding and new windows. It is a large, ambitious, necessary project that will challenge us financially but will bless our ministry for years to come. Thank you for giving generously to this project.

Life goes on! Jesus lives! The victory's won! Now we live lives of significance as we use our gifts to serve our living Lord. Enjoy the Lord this beautiful spring and serve Him with all your heart.

God's peace,

Pastor Steve

May 2010

Youth Group News

Thanks to all the youth that were able to help serve at the Seder Meal and the Easter breakfast. We earned \$348.10 which will go towards our mission trip this summer. I am still working on plans for that trip; I will try and keep you informed when I receive new information. We will plan to visit the Villages one more time in May. Vacation Bible School is planned for June 13th through June 17th. If you have taken the child safety class and would like to teach or help work at VBS this year, please talk with Julie K. I have recently put together a photo album of the youth group at work and play so if you have a chance, take a look. Our last meeting will be Wednesday May 26th. Huge thanks to all the youth group leaders and members. We had an awesome year, they are a wonderful group of kids and we look forward to seeing them all return in the fall along with our new 6th graders.



Easter Breakfast at Living Branch



WINGS

It is hard to believe but this years Wednesday night programs will be coming to an end on May 26th. We will be celebrating our success with our annual "Family fun night", BBQ / potluck. All family members with children registered in WINGS / Youth Group are invited to attend and bring a dish to pass. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided by WINGS and Youth Group; however, the rest will need to be provided by you. There will be a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall. Please let us know what you will be bringing and how many will be attending by May 19th so we know how much food to purchase.

We will have our opening ceremony at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary with awards for our WINGS 5th graders who will be graduating to Youth Group next fall.

We have enjoyed working with your children this year and look forward to seeing you on the 26th.

Sunday School News

We have been having a great year. Learning and growing in the Lord. We have had two goals for our offering this year. Our first goal, from September to December, was to raise money to purchase sports equipment for over seas mission and a local mission. We were able to raise \$100.00 and sent \$50.00 to purchase equipment for Angola through Child Fund International and spent \$50.00 on equipment for a local organization. Our students posed with the equipment to be donated locally. Our current goal, from January to May, will be to purchase food for the food shelf. Our students will go and purchase the food at Nelson's at the end of May. Sunday School is open to preschool to 6th grade and meets every Sunday at 9:15 am. Come and join the fun!!



I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5