

Dearest Brothers and Sisters of the Living Word Lutheran Church Family,

Today our dear brother in Christ and President of our congregation, Ken Bourlier, went home to be with his Lord and Savior. I know those of you who were following the news of his illness are still shocked and saddened by this news. Yet Ken would be the first to bring comfort to us with the Good News of Jesus and the comfort that He goes ahead of us, through life and death to prepare a place for us. I can assure you heaven just got a little livelier today! Ken was "larger than life" in so many ways – even physically, as he so often joked! He was one of those amazing examples of what God can do with a truly redeemed life. This was his life's witness and example, one he freely and often shared.

Cherie and I have stayed in contact and I can assure you she did a perfect job of managing all those difficult decisions associated with extended time in ICU and daily decisions as to what medical measures to take next. The decisions she made gave Ken the opportunity to fight for his life, but in the end, Ken had been clear that he never desired extended treatments. Please keep Cherie and family in your constant prayers. When I was able to be outside his room in ICU, the KRMC staff were super accommodating – hats off to the care they gave Ken and continue to give others.

Due to the Covid situation, it is the appropriate decision of the family to not expose more people to the Covid disease that took Ken's life and forego any funeral or memorial service at this time. Instead, we will plan a Celebration of Life for Ken on Sunday, April 25, his birthday. The family will also plan a time to be together and spread Ken's ashes at Lake Havasu, perhaps on that weekend. More details to come later.

Again, the wonderful and so appropriate scripture Donna sent out in the prayers:

Matthew 23:21 (ESV) ²¹ His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

May the Lord bless, keep, and comfort all of you.

Pastor Michael