



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 29, Issue 19

September 20, 2020

"Go and Do Likewise"

Inside this issue:

Go and Do Likewise	1
Go and DO Likewise (cont.)	2
Contacts & Stewardship	2
Groups and Information	3
Preschool Advertisement/Opening	4

PRAYER CHAIN

REQUESTS

Please call

Eleanor Galik

708-302-1686

for immediate prayers



Living Word Lutheran Church

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

**** NEW SUNDAY
SCHEDULE**

9:00 am Adult study
10:00 am Worship

"Go and do likewise," Jesus directed after he finished the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:37 NIV). What is the likewise we're going and doing? Showing mercy.

The world today is in desperate need of mercy—in need of God's blessing, divine favor, and compassion. All we have to do is turn on the news to see the effects of offenders who terrorize others, spread prejudice, incite fear, and kill innocent children of God (Dallas, Orlando, France, Turkey, *ad infinitum*). And this can easily make us angry. We may feel the need for vengeance. We may want to punish or even destroy the perpetrators. But what example do we want to set for our children? What type of world do we want for them?

In no way, shape, or form am I suggesting that we skip out on justice or ignore terrorists of any kind. Indeed, we must stand up to them with moral courage and might so that we stop them. We must defend our right to peaceful existence. There are reasons for laws—safeguarding life, liberty, human dignity, harmony. What I'm addressing is how we respond as individuals in our own lives, homes, spheres of influence—how we can show mercy.

Mercy, as it applies to humanity, is "compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one's power ... compassionate treatment of those in distress" (Merriam-Webster). Another way of thinking of mercy is being kind to those whose actions aren't "deserving" of kindness, or giving people a second chance.

It would seem easy to treat those in distress with mercy, but not necessarily. Jesus' Samaritan was an outcast. The Jews were prejudiced against the Samaritans at that time, so why should a Samaritan show any compassion to the distressed Jew who had been beaten and left for dead? Why indeed? Because he was a fellow human. He was not a race, not a religion, not a political party, not even an enemy. The Samaritan saw this downtrodden man as a man, just like himself. A man in need of mercy.

It is this ability to show mercy, compassion, forbearance, tenderness, attentive care to those in distress, as well as to offenders, that Jesus tells us to emulate. Are we doing likewise? Are we following Jesus' example? What are our children seeing us do?

When children talk back, fight, throw tantrums, lie, rebel, or do any of the various things children may do, what is our response to their distress call?

Continued on page 2

"Go and Do Likewise"

Continued from page 1

Do we yell, lash out at them, try to teach them a lesson with forms of punishment? Isn't that saying that it's okay to yell, lash out, and punish others with anger? That doesn't mean we let them off the hook for what they've done. It's how we treat them that matters. The law/rule doesn't change, but how we enforce limits and laws makes all the difference in the world.

Punishment, angry outbursts, vitriolic words and actions just continue the cycle of violence. But mercy, empathy, compassion have the power to lift us out of the vicious cycle and enable us to start over on the basis of respect. Just think about what a compassionate, empathetic response might do for the one who injured us. It may be hard to show kindness to those who are unkind to us. But is there really any other Christian, Christ-like, alternative?

Jesus declared: "I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you" (Luke 6:27, 28 NLT). Jesus led by example. He didn't say one thing and do another. When he got nailed to the cross, he forgave: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34 NIV).

Are we doing likewise? Are we compassionate to our children who, when they act out in anger are acting out their pain and are in desperate need of mercy and love? Are we patient and calm, even silent, when someone attacks our integrity or identity with insults and lies? Are we taking responsibility for whatever is our part in the conflict and also helping the others heal whatever is making them angry by responding with respect, mercy, and love?

The very nature of our world and its existence depends upon our ability to "go and do likewise," to show mercy, to treat others with kindness even if they don't act kindly. Our children's future depends upon us making the merciful choice, and making it now.

"Stewardship, Contacts & More"

Stewardship Snapshot

September 13, 2020

26 W

Financial Support

1,780.00 General Fund
 615.00 Rent from Nature Academy
575.00 Law Enforcement Bibles
 \$2,970.00 Total Deposit

\$15.00 In-Kind Donation

Living Word's budget calls for weekly offerings averaging \$3654 to fund our ministry. Regular, intentional and meaningful contributions from what the Lord provides you helps carry this out.

Church Contacts

Pastor Steven Lee

intouchlwc@yahoo.com

Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel

dianamotel@yahoo.com

Leadership Team

Rick Boehm - President
Bobbi Pote - Treasurer
Diana Motel - Secretary

Members at Large

Jim McKinney
 Pastor John Bucka
 Donna Wasilkoff

PRAYER REQUESTS?? There is a brand new feature on our website. Diana Motel has added a link where you can add a prayer request during the week. The website will automatically forward that request to me so your prayer request will be added to our list for Sunday morning prayers. If any request comes in by Tuesday morning, I always have our prayer group include those requests in their prayers as well.

Classes & Groups

ADULT SUNDAY FORUM has resumed meeting again each Sunday with a new start time of **9:00 a.m.** Join us each week in our new location in the **south classroom**, even though it might be a smaller group than usual, we still want to maintain safe social distancing.

PUSH PRAYER meets **every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.** to pray for our church, community and world. We welcome requests (call 708.403.9673) or join us for 30-40 minutes each week.



RADIO & TV OPPORTUNITIES

- **Worship Anew** 8:00 a.m. Sunday - Comcast channel 184 (TLN) & 8 (SD) , WPWR channel 50 AT&T U-verse channel 1008 (HD) & 8 (SD), Dish Network # 8495 10:30 a.m. Sunday - DIRECTV channel 377 (TCT)
- **The Lutheran Hour** 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays on 1230 AM; and 9:30a.m. Sundays on 1580 AM

For Your Information ...

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be today at 9:00 am. We will be addressing a new budget and new church leadership. This is also an important meeting regarding a call for a new pastor. There will be significant information to be heard and your questions and concerns should be voiced. This is a key step for Living Word and everyone needs to be present to understand where we are, what we need to do and where we need to go. This is vital for our church and its future. The church council and the transition team urge you to take the time and join with fellow members for this valuable communication time. Most information will be presented at 9:00, but we will also remain after service for any follow up questions or concerns.

WE NEED MORE USHERS AND GREETERS! Now that we are getting back together again for worship we will be needing people to volunteer to be ushers or greeters. If you are not currently serving and would be willing to serve as you worship please inform the office or Bev at church. The monthly schedule usually only requires each person to serve once a month, maybe less if we can get enough people. Thank you in advance for your service, it is greatly appreciated.

ORLAND PARK POLICE would like to remind everyone to be safe and mindful of your surroundings. Always make sure you lock your car doors and never to leave your keys in the car. Criminals can access your garage door opener from your unlocked car and gain entry into your home that way. As always if you see something, say something and call 911. Never approach a dangerous situation. Any questions or other concerns regarding safety or the community can be directed to Acting Chief of Police, Joseph Mitchell 708-349-4111.

CELEBRATION DINNER Now that we have started to gather for worship on a more regular basis, we will want to start looking forward to fellowship events and summertime fun. The idea is already being kicked around slightly. Of course our main goal is everyone's safety, but we just thought that it would be really nice to have something to get excited about and to be able to have plenty of time to start planning. Of course we want to have a dedication ceremony for our brand new floor to honor Ruth Grebik for her very generous bequest, in addition to a plaque in her honor, it was suggested that we should also rename the fellowship hall to the Grebik hall in honor of Ed and Ruth. What a wonderful idea that was. In order to make it easy on everybody and to keep everyone safe, we most likely will have it catered. We will send more information out about what type of donations we should have or be able to accept, you know how hungry we all must be for not being able to have a grand spread all this while. LOL.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK [*Jesus said*] "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (ESV)

One aspect of the Spirit-led life is abiding in Christ. It is essential that we remember from Whom our strength comes. If Christ is going to bear much fruit through our lives, we need to tap into the source and stay in it. When I see my life not matching this goal, I need to repent and reconnect and re-surrender to God's will. In this way I get back on the "less of me, more of God" pathway.

NEW WEBSITE FEATURE There has been a new feature added to our website. You can now send in your offering using our giving page. You can make a one time offering or create an account to have offerings come out as often as you like. Thank you for your continued support.

"Preschool Open Enrollment"

Living Word Preschool

We still have a few openings
for this school year.

Please register on our website at
<https://livingwordorland.org/preschool/>
Any questions please contact us
at (708) 226-1160

Help us get more children involved in our preschool. Please let your family members and friends know about the available openings for this fall. We have several safety protocols in place and working on many more. Give this information to everyone you know that has a young toddler at home. We have openings for both 3 year olds and 4 year olds.

PRESCHOOL IS OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH In October, the mission of the month will be the Living Word Preschool. Amongst helping so many other well deserved missions and charities, we need to help ourselves. Our preschool has seen a drop in enrollment for this school year due to COVID 19, and we want to help them stay afloat financially for the whole year. Originally we had 7 students enrolled this year, but the first week of preschool only had 3 students attending. Please help us keep preschool opened this year. Tell everyone you know how great the program is, and if they have 3 or 4 year old children in their family, please refer us as their new preschool. We have never shutdown our preschool program in over



20 plus years, it would be a huge loss for these children if we had to resort to that determination. Please see me for more information on tuition and hours. Ms. Audra comes highly recommended and is looking forward to a new venture with our preschool. During the month of October we will be sharing pictures of the students that will be in the class, the different projects that they are working on, and hopefully they might even be having a little show for us during service one Sunday in October. Watch out for more information to come.