

HAPPY MOMENTS,  
*Praise God.*

DIFFICULT MOMENTS,  
*Seek God.*

QUIET MOMENTS,  
*Worship God.*

PAINFUL MOMENTS,  
*Trust God.*

EVERY MOMENT,  
*Thank God.*

**Inside this issue:**

Seeking God in the Hard Times	1
New Website Features	2
Growth & Opportunities	2
Contacts & Stewardship	2
Groups and Information	3
Preschool Advertisement/Opening	4

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 29, Issue 20

September 27, 2020

## "Seeking God in the Hard Times"

Have you ever been in a difficult trial and you knew that you were in the trial because of your own sin? You knew that you should cry out to God for help, but you were afraid to do so because of your sin. Or, maybe your problems were not due to deliberate sin, but rather because of immaturity or stupid decisions. Sometimes even though I have prayed for guidance and wisdom, I still have done something that resulted in a heap of trouble. What should you do at such times?

[Psalm 25](#) teaches us to seek God in the hard times, no matter for what reason we are in those hard times. It seems to me that [James 1:5-6](#) is a succinct summary of [Psalm 25](#): "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind." The context of James' counsel is the need for wisdom in the midst of various trials ([James 1:2-3](#)). James tells us by faith to seek God and His wisdom in our trials. That's what David tells us in [Psalm 25](#): **No matter how difficult your trials or what their cause, seek the Lord for His wisdom and trust Him to work for His glory and your good.**

This psalm is an acrostic, where each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. (There are a few variations that are too technical to explain here.) The psalmists may have used this form to help people memorize the psalms. There is the dominant theme of learning or instruction, which fits with the alphabetical arrangement. David prays for the Lord to teach him His ways (25:4-5, 8-9). "So we could rightly say that the psalm is a school-book lesson on how to live so as to please God and be blessed by him." I would only add, "in the context of difficult trials."

Acrostic psalms are often difficult to outline, because the content is guided more by the alphabetic arrangement than by a logical outline. But rather than following such an outline, I want to treat it by dealing with some of the major themes: Trials; sin and guilt; seeking the Lord for wisdom in such situations; and, the Lord's capability of delivering us from these trials for His glory and our ultimate good.

**God's saints often find themselves in difficult, frightening circumstances.**

We can't be certain about David's circumstances in this psalm. In light of his repeated references to his sins, including the sins of his youth, he must have been older. Since his sin with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband led to the events of Absalom's revolt, it probably was written during that episode.

Note David's situation: He has treacherous enemies that are seeking to exult in his demise (vv. 2-3). These foes are many in number and they hate David with violence (v. 19). They have gained the advantage over David, because he describes his feet as already caught in their net (25:15). David feels lonely and afflicted, and his troubles are growing worse, not better (vv. 16-17). And, David's repeated requests for God to teach him (vv. 4-5, 8-9, 12, 14) imply that he is confused in the midst of this mess.

If David, who walked with God from his youth, was facing these kinds of trials as he was about my age (early 60's), then none of us are exempt. Sometimes I hear Christians bemoan, "I've been following the Lord and seeking to be obedient. Why am I experiencing all of these trials?" They think that if you obey God, He gives you a free pass from trials. But read your Bible! Many of the most godly men and women in the Bible went through difficult trials. Don't be surprised ([1 Pet. 4:12](#))!

**PRAYER CHAIN**

**REQUESTS**

Please call  
 Eleanor Galik  
 708-302-1686  
 for immediate prayers



**Living Word  
 Lutheran Church**

16301 South Wolf Road  
 Orland Park, IL 60467

708-403-9673  
 livingwordorland.org  
 intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
 Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

**\*\* NEW SUNDAY  
 SCHEDULE**

**9:00 am Adult study**  
**10:00 am Worship**

## "New Website Features"

**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.

**GIVING PAGE** 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.

### GROWTH & OPPORTUNITIES...

**HELP US GROW OUR CHURCH** In these unprecedented times it is important to get back to the basics. Remember how lively and full our church was back in the '90's, or just a few years ago even, we are trying to get back to that status. Please don't forget about us at this time. We miss seeing you here at church and we would like to be able to have more regular attendance at service every Sunday. We have been worshipping together since May 31st and haven't had any issues with COVID or any other illnesses. The church gets cleaned weekly, and now since both preschool and the Nature Exploration Academy has started up again, it gets cleaned two to three times a week, plus we have been going thru a lot more disinfectant spray and wipes. Your safety and health are still the utmost important aspect, but at the same time, the future of our church is starting to depend on your help. Your offerings, and helpful talents have been so appreciated in the past, and we look forward to receiving those benefits again. The transition team has been back in full swing working on the call process, please be on the lookout for more information to come in the coming weeks and months.

**POW (People of the Word) Bible Study** In an effort to get back to some normality and to God's word, we will be offering a weekday bible study again! It will begin on Oct 2 at 9:30am. Friday was chosen due to the fact that no school children will be in the building and we can observe social distancing better. Please consider joining to reconnect with others in this fellowship and most importantly in God's word, which is so needed in this time of our history. We will start with a study on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. We may feel like we are walking in darkness, but we are not alone. Psalm 23 pictures life as deeply secure and richly blessed--life lived with awareness of God's intimate love for us. It speaks to our deepest longings and fears, which may be why we return to this psalm so often. Yet frequent exposure to it may result in over familiarity. This nine session LifeGuide<sup>®</sup> Bible Study will help us discover its wisdom by pulling in other texts that show the same attributes of God--who guides us, protects us, feeds us and much more. Please let me know if you are interested and I will make sure you receive a book. Or if you have any questions, contact Donna at 708-949-9340.

## "Stewardship, Contacts & More"

### Stewardship Snapshot

September 20, 2020

31 W, 29 C

#### Financial Support

2,235.00 General Fund

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](mailto:intouchlwc@yahoo.com)

Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel

[dianamotel@yahoo.com](mailto:dianamotel@yahoo.com)

#### Leadership Team

**Rick Boehm** - President

**Bobbi Pote** - Treasurer

**Diana Motel** - Secretary

#### Members at Large

Jim McKinney

Pastor John Bucka

Donna Wasilkoff

## 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** was last Sunday prior to worship. The new church and preschool budget was approved and new church leadership was discussed and new nominees had been made for different council positions. There was also important information regarding the call process for a new pastor. There was significant information that was given and questions and concerns were voiced and hopefully addressed. This is a key step for Living Word and everyone needs 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 your fellow members for this important journey. We each need to prayerfully look to help grow this church once again. Also please don't forget to fill out the form that was included with the letter that was sent out a couple of weeks ago regarding your choice for the direction of the call process and your commitment to support the choices that we need to make.

**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** *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17 (NIV)*

Being filled with the Spirit is being filled with the thoughts of God. And those thoughts will turn our hearts back to God, giving Him praise and thanks for all that He has done to accomplish our salvation and sustain us day by day. This concentration on God, His goodness and His will, will allow God's peace to reign in our hearts. In this way everything we do will bring glory to God.

*"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.