



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 29, Issue 17

September 6, 2020

## "Something to Shout About"

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### PRAYER CHAIN

#### REQUESTS

Please call

Eleanor Galik

708-302-1686

for immediate prayers



Living Word  
Lutheran Church

16301 South Wolf Road  
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708-403-9673

livingwordorland.org  
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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**

If someone asked you to describe forgiveness, how would you do it? Where would you begin? How long would it take? The writer of Psalm 32 would answer like this: "Forgiveness? Forgiveness is something to shout about!"

The manufacturers of Tide detergent once had a website for stain removal called "The Stain Detective". Users could identify the type of stain they are trying to remove, submit a request for advice, and receive information regarding the best way to get the stain out of the fabric. Of course, most of the solutions involved the use of a Tide product!

In Psalm 32, David is our spiritual "stain detective" as he counsels us how to remove the stain of sin in our lives. No matter what sin has marred your life, David directs us to the same solution. Forgiveness is found in God alone.

David is excited about forgiveness and wants everyone to shout about it!

I. Experiencing forgiveness (vv. 1-2)

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.

Forgiveness is a state of being that is exciting. It feels good! Notice David writes Blessed is he and Blessed is the man. Look at the meaning of the words used to describe what God does when He forgives a person:

**A. forgiven** - He lifts up the burden of guilt and carries it away.

**B. covered** - He covers the sin from view.

**C. does not count against** - God chooses not to think of the forgiven person as guilty anymore.

II. Needing forgiveness (vv. 3-4)

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah

Notice first what is not mentioned here. The actual sin is not identified. In this passage David fails to tell us what his sin was. He doesn't even give us a hint. Why? Because what he did is not the issue. The focus is on God's forgiveness. The seriousness of the sin doesn't affect the capacity of God to forgive.

After he sinned, David says, I kept silent. That's when his trouble began. We try to manage guilt. We try to cope with guilt. We try to rationalize guilt away. We try to blame someone else to minimize our guilt. Observe what happens:

**A. Physical deterioration.** He writes my bones wasted away. No one questions the delicate balance between mind and body anymore. Guilt ravages a person physically.

**B. Mental suffering.** David describes a relentless anguish in his soul. It does not stop. He is groaning all day long.

**C. Spiritual separation.** David feels distance between God and himself. It appeared that God was hostile towards him. Guilt warps our perception of who God is and His readiness to forgive us.

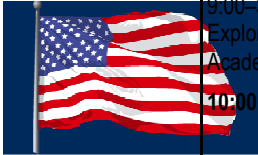
Ultimately all enjoyment of life is lost. Our strength (v. 4) and desire for life is transformed into an arid, dry landscape.



# September 2020



Living Word Lutheran Church – 16301 S. Wolf Road, Orland Park, IL [www.livingwordorland.org](http://www.livingwordorland.org) [intouchlwlc@yahoo.com](mailto:intouchlwlc@yahoo.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 11:00am Transition Team Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>  9:00 am Adult Study  10:00 am Worship-COMM	<b>7</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b>  	<b>8</b> 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 10:00 am PUSH	<b>9</b> 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>10</b> 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>11</b> 1:00pm Transition Team Meeting	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>  9:00 am Adult Study  10:00 am Worship  9/11 Memorial Event	<b>14</b>  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy  Preschool Open House	<b>15</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 10:00 am PUSH	<b>16</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>17</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:00 am Congregational Meeting 10:00 am Worship—COMM	<b>21</b> 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>22</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 10:00 am PUSH 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy  First Day of Fall	<b>23</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>24</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	<b>28</b> 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>29</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 10:00 am PUSH	<b>30</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy			

## "Department of Public Health Guidelines"

The following are guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health and we encourage all our members to be aware of the risks and follow recommendations.

Know the systems:

Symptoms Clinical features are fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illnesses. Symptoms may include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Human coronaviruses can sometimes cause lower-respiratory tract illnesses, such as pneumonia or bronchitis.

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, we ask that you stay home and enjoy our online worship opportunity.

The following can help prevent the spread of coronaviruses and protect yourself and your fellow members from becoming infected:

- wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
- avoid close contact with people who are sick.

In addition, we will avoid shaking hands as a social greeting

### **LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND** (as of 8/31/2020)

The current value of the fund is \$149,676.37 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$27,332.70. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$37,362.94. Of this, \$18,681.47 will return to Living Word for growth initiatives.

### **THIS REPRESENTS A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!**

To Date:	Total contributions	\$84,980.73
	Market value over cost	27,332.70
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>37,362.94</u>
	<b>Total market value</b>	<b>\$149,676.37</b>

### **HOW THE ENDOWMENT FUND WORKS**

Contributions treated as donation for tax purposes

Funds invested by Thrivent Financial

50% of interest and dividends available for church growth

Interested in estate planning? Call Tim Regan/Thrivent (708-326-4750)

If any questions, call Bob Grossart



## "More on Forgiveness"

I GET WHAT JESUS IS SAYING HERE, BUT I USUALLY JUST LET THINGS GO. IF SOMEBODY DOES SOMETHING TO ME, IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL!



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

BUT WHAT IF THEIR BEHAVIOR IS HURTING THEM AS WELL? DON'T YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR WELL BEING?



ARE YOU KIDDING ME? AFTER WHAT THEY DID? THEY'RE ON THEIR OWN!



MATTHEW 18:15-20



© WETZSTEIN 20-09-02

## 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 on September 20th 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 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] "You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!"* John 14:13-14 (NLT)

Looking at the state of our nation (and indeed the world) today, we need another Great Awakening, a revival. Historically, this has occurred when God's people humble themselves in a way that responds to His Spirit. As we allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, God will work through us in the same way Jesus worked during His earthly ministry. As our will is aligned with God's, we can ask anything in Jesus' name, and God will provide it. As we live in the Spirit, God will do all the work to accomplish His will, and change lives for eternity.

**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.



## September Mission of The Month and Special Service



### ***“God’s Grace at Ground Zero”*** **9/11 Memorial Event**

On Sunday, September 13, at our 10 a.m. service, 9/11 chaplain and Living Word Pastor Steve Lee will give a special 9/11 anniversary presentation, *“God’s Grace at Ground Zero.”* A former California sheriff’s sergeant and NCIS special agent, Pastor Lee served as Ground Zero Cross recovery crew chaplain (now preserved as part of the permanent 9/11 Memorial Museum). In addition to showing pictures of Ground Zero and the cross recovery, he will relate experiences working with first responders and recovery workers in the days following 9/11. As part of this “Mission of the Month” presentation, he will also share future publishing plans for a special law enforcement “officer survival” edition Bible.

In addition to serving in New York after 9/11, Pastor Lee has served as on-scene chaplain at major crises and disasters such as the Columbine High School shooting, Hurricane Katrina, the Haiti earthquake, and more recent events such as the Las Vegas Mandalay Bay Hotel shooting.

We want to recognize, honor, and support all our first responders—police, fire, and EMS—who risk so much to protect and serve us all. God bless you, and may God bless America!

*Due to COVID-19, attendance for this event is limited, and safety protocols will be in place. Visitors please contact our church office for free admission passes or register online.  
Priority will be given to first responders and their families.*

livingwordorland.org  
16301 Wolf Rd, Orland Park, IL 60467  
(708) 403-9673

*"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.

*"Walcamp Event"*

Walcamp will be hosting "A Ravinia Style Evening" for adults. Music of the 60's and 70's will be provided by Nostalgia Entertainment.

For more information, contact Walcamp Outdoor Ministries| 815-784-5141 |[siteops@WalCamp.org](mailto:siteops@WalCamp.org) |  
Walcamp Outdoor Ministry, 32653 Five Points Road, Kingston, IL 60145

**Save the Date!**  
**For an Evening Under the Stars**  
**A Ravinia Like Evening with**  
**Music, Food and Fellowship**  
**at WalCamp**  
**Saturday September 26th**  
**4:30-???**