



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 29, Issue 22

October 18, 2020

"Sing a New Song"

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We all love old music. Whether it's centuries old or even just a few months, the tunes we enjoy most are unavoidably the ones we already know. And there's no getting around it. Music has a strange power to capture thoughts and feelings from the past, recent or long ago, and send them streaming into our present at the sound of just a few bars.

It's a common experience to find yourself moved by some old song that you've sung for years. And if it's a Christian hymn or worship chorus, you might feel freshly connected to God's amazing faithfulness, not just through the ages, but in your particular life.

What we don't yet know is the new songs. And it takes some energy to write them and learn them. So the Scriptures need to remind us again and again to "sing a new song."

Sing Something New

Three Psalms start with precisely these words — Psalms 96, 98, and 149 — "sing to the Lord a new song." As does [Isaiah 42:10](#) ("sing to the Lord a new song") and [Psalm 33:3](#) ("sing to him a new song"). And [Psalm 144:9](#) adds its voice to the chorus, "I will sing a new song to you, O God."

Why is this the case? Psalm 40 gives us a clue.

The psalmist has "waited patiently for the Lord" for some deliverance. God hears him, and rescues him, and one of the things he does for him in the deliverance is "he put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God" ([Psalm 40:3](#)).

New songs of praise are appropriate for new rescues and fresh manifestations of grace. As long as God is gracious toward us, as long as he keeps showing us his power, and wowing us with his works, it is fitting that we not just sing old songs inspired by his past grace, but also that we sing new songs about his ever-streaming, never-ceasing grace.

New Mercies, New Music

And this isn't just true in this age, but for eternity. God will never cease to inspire awe in us about the breadth and depth and height of who he is and his mindboggling love for us in Christ, and we get the joy of continuing to create and sing new songs of praise to him for it.

If we take our cues from the worship of heaven in the book of Revelation, and get a little foretaste now of the feast of worship to come, it seems God would have us blend in new songs with the old as we prepare to "sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever" ([Psalm 89:1](#)).

In [Revelation 15:3](#), we're told that "those who had conquered the beast" sing "the song of Moses" — which is an old song, from Exodus 15 or Deuteronomy 32 — but they also sing "the song of the Lamb," a new song. So also the worshipers of heaven are said to be "singing a new song" in [Revelation 14:3](#). And in [Revelation 5:9](#), the four living creatures and 24 elders "sang a new song."

Forever God will continue to "show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" ([Ephesians 2:7](#)), and as he does — for his glory and for our joy — we will keep singing new songs.

It's a beautiful thing when we get a start on that now.

PRAYER CHAIN

REQUESTS

Please call

Eleanor Galik

708-302-1686

for immediate prayers



Living Word Lutheran Church

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Orland Park, IL 60467

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**

"New Website Features"

PRAYER REQUESTS?? There is a brand new feature on our website. Diana Motel has added a link under the welcome tab 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 began 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 started with a study on the 23rd 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® 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.

LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 9/30/2020)

The current value of the fund is \$147,810.99 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$25,467.32. 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	25,467.32
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>37,362.94</u>
	Total market value	\$147,810.99



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

Stewardship Snapshot

October 11, 2020

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Financial Support

2,915.00	General Fund
615.00	Rent from Nature Academy
<u>2,345.25</u>	<u>Preschool Mission Account</u>
\$5,875.25	Total Deposit

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.

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 ...

PASTOR LEE'S OFFICE HOURS Pastor Lee will be in his office most weeks on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm for anyone wishing or needing to see him or visit with him for pastoral needs 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.

TECH BOOTH HELPERS! We will be needing people to volunteer to run the tech booth during service. If you are not currently serving and would be willing to serve as you worship please let me know. Diana Motel will show you how to operate the equipment, and will sit with you during service, while you run the show, she is a very good teacher. 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.

COFFEE TIME In an effort to return to some type of regular fellowship after service, we will start having coffee available as of today for anyone who is interested in having a cup of joe and conversation with one another, while still practicing safe social distancing.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK *[Jesus said] "But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."* John 4:23-24 (NLT)

Bearing fruit becomes effortless when we pursue connection with our source. Pursuing that connection is true worship, worshipping God in spirit and in truth. True worship is embracing our dependence upon God. I need to surrender my heart, my spirit, my mind, my soul to whatever the Bible reveals. Then I need to do whatever it takes to maintain that connection, and take time to let God work on my inner being. What is the biggest thing that is keeping you from a fuller walk with God? Ask God to empower you to give up whatever is keeping you from surrender to His Spirit.

"October Mission of the Month"

LIVING WORD PRESCHOOL IS OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH In October, the mission of the month is 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 few weeks of preschool only had 3 students attending, this past week the 4th student started on October 1st. There will be another one starting later in October on the 27th, and we have started to receive calls regarding our preschool. 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 25 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 as you can see by the pictures, this past month they have been learning about apples. We are hoping they might even be having a little show for us during service one Sunday in October. There will be a door offering scheduled for October 11th, but you can donate towards our preschool all month long. Let's get more children involved in our preschool, so they can start learning about God and be able to make new friends.

"Merchantz Wedding"

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HAPPY COUPLE Bill and Abby Merchantz were married last Saturday in Michigan. The weather was perfect and the fall colors were vibrant and radiant and a lovely time was had by all. They were kind enough to send us a few pictures of their big day. God's richest blessings to you both. We are very happy for you!

