

Let us come before His presence  
with thanksgiving. (Psalm 95:2)



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 29, Issue 25

November 22, 2020

## "Created and Redeemed"

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Psalm 95:3-6 - For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

The gods and goddesses of many religions make their claims on the world. Many people believe that the stars and planets control human destiny, a false claim that gives a god-like status to the created heavenly bodies. Even the earth itself is sometimes described as a goddess, personified as "Mother Nature" or "Mother Earth." Those who believe these false ideas have "exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator" (Romans 1:25a).

These other "gods" have no true claim on the earth or any part of creation. The Triune God alone is God. As Scripture reminds us, "The gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens" (1 Chronicles 16:26). We are not to worship creation, but to acknowledge its Creator and worship Him alone. From the deepest valleys and ocean depths to the highest mountains, the earth belongs to the Lord because He created it all. At His command, "the mountains rose, the valleys sank down" (Psalm 104:8a). God gave the care of His creation to the human beings He created, telling them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:28b).

The people into whose care God first placed His creation willfully plunged themselves and the world into the darkness of sin and death. Yet our great God and King still loved the world He created and sent His Son to be its Savior. Jesus took onto Himself the burden of this world's sin and suffered the penalty of death for our rebellion against our Creator. No other "god" has done that! Jesus rose in triumph over death on the first Easter morning. By God's grace, through faith in Jesus, our sins are swept away in the Savior's blood. Jesus, through whom and for whom all things were created, now reigns in exalted glory. He shares no dominion with idols; all authority in heaven and on earth have been given to Him. On a great day still to come, Jesus our Lord will return in glory as King and Judge. This present earth will pass away, and God will create a new heaven and a new earth, making all things new.

Our Creator and Savior holds in His hand the deepest places of the earth and the highest mountains. He holds *us* in His hand! By the power of the Holy Spirit, there is only one response that we can make: "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!"

### PRAYER CHAIN

#### REQUESTS

Please call

Eleanor Galik

708-302-1686

for immediate prayers



Living in the Word...that the  
Word may live in others.

### 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

## This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>22</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Worship	<b>23</b> 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>24</b> 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Preschool 10:00 am PUSH 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>25</b> 7:00 am Recorded Thanksgiving Service available online	<b>26</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

## This Week's Celebrations



**November 20** Joan Tinich  
**November 23** Hank Kalis, Jr.  
**November 30** Jeff Regan



**November 26** Lily Rozwalka

Anniversary



**Nov 26** Barb & Jerry Erjavec

## Church Contacts and Stewardship

### Church Contacts

Pastor Steven Lee

[intouchlwlc@yahoo.com](mailto:intouchlwlc@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

### Stewardship Snapshot for November 15th

**20** Worshipped, **19** Communed

**11** Watched Online

**2** Watched DVD's

**33** Total

### Financial Support

1,560.00 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.

## Membership Directory Update

**PLEASE SEND** in any new contact information such as change of address and/or phone numbers via email or phone call. The new directory is about a third completed and just so you know, it will be a photo directory, so if you haven't done so yet please send me a recent photo. I will send particular requests to those that I still need something from. Thank you to all that have given me the information that was requested.

## 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 or conference room**, 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

**DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK** Prayer is a key part of waiting on God. One of the prayers that God delights in is a prayer of humbling our hearts before God. As we consider and reflect on the fact that God is good, wise, holy, just and yet merciful, we become more receptive to what He has to say to us and more willing to follow His direction. So check your pride as you go to your knees, and come to God in humility and trust.

## 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. Friday was chosen due to the fact that no school children will be in the building and we can observe social distancing better. **The Time Change to 10:00am started last week.** Please consider joining us to reconnect with others in this fellowship and most importantly in God's word, which is so needed in this time of our history. They started 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. Or if you have any questions, contact Donna at 708-949-9340.

**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.

**PAINTERS NEEDED!** Jim McKinney and a couple of people will be painting the bathrooms over Christmas break. If you are willing to help out as needed and have a little extra time to spare during that period of time, please see Jim McKinney for details and information.

**ALUMINUM CANS** are being collected again. Randy Hodo will be taking over this project and will be crushing and recycling the cans to help raise a little bit more cash for the church.

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE** will be recorded the Saturday before Thanksgiving and will be posted online and to our Facebook page on Wednesday, November 25th. We will not have an in person service that day.

## *"Letter from Northern Illinois District"*

### **A Statement on Tier 3 Mitigation Measures**

Dear Pastors and Congregational Chairs,

Last week, I issued a statement, assuring you that your NID staff would continue to monitor state agencies for updates on mitigation measures that are being set in place by Governor Pritzker in an attempt to keep the public safe in the midst of this pandemic. On November 17, in response to the record-high Covid-19 positivity rates currently being experienced in Illinois, Governor Pritzker issued new mitigations, moving the entire state to the more-restrictive, Tier 3 measures. These measures are to take effect on Friday, November 20.

So that you may be informed as to what is going on in your communities as a result of these new measures, you are encouraged to go to the state of Illinois' website and read the Tier 3 orders as well as the Illinois Department of Public Health's six-page report on houses of worship: [www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/places-worship-guidance](http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/places-worship-guidance). As our NID staff has reviewed these documents the following may be most significant to your congregation:

1. The State is highly encouraging churches to follow the Tier 3 mitigation measures for occupancy restrictions and social gatherings wherever possible.
2. For Word and Sacrament worship services, these mitigation measures are recommendations, not mandates. Please keep up good and holy work as you provide God's Word and sacrament to congregations. Thank you also for not forgetting your faithful witness to your community.
3. Other activities that take place outside of worship services [such as potlucks, group Bible studies, board meetings, etc.] should follow the Tier 3 mitigation measures.
4. The state has specifically cited weddings and funerals as falling under the Tier 3 mitigation measures. Please check with your local health department officials for specific questions related to this.
5. Where in-person worship does take place, churches are always encouraged to follow the physical and social distancing guidelines as set forth by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

We are heartened to hear how pastors and laity are working together to bring Christ-like care to all in the midst of this crisis. If there's any way we at the NID office may be of service to you, please reach out to us.

We continually lift you up in prayer at the NID office, giving thanks to our Lord for your faithful service, and asking Him to continue to shield you from harm as you bring the gift of His compassionate mercy and the hope of salvation in Christ to the communities you serve. May we be blessed by and reflective of our Lord's encouragement in I Corinthians 15:58. "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

We will continue to stay up to date on any new measures our state may take to combat this pandemic, and we will continue to keep you informed. We are in this together, and the Almighty Lord is with us all!

Thank you for your faithful service to our Lord and His people.

Rev. Dr. Allan R. Buss

President, LCMS Northern Illinois District



**Northern Illinois District**  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

**LIVING WORD CHURCH COUNCIL RESPONSE:** Seeing that we are a small congregation and wear our masks and keep to social distancing guidelines, we are confident to continue worshipping in person, however we are asking you that you keep your own safety and health in mind and do what is best for you. We will continue to stream the services on our website and Facebook page as well as YouTube. Please do not hesitate to ask for a DVD of our worship service in lieu of watching it via the computer. Originally Pastor Lee and Elaine said they would continue to lead worship and Bible study each week, however they will be self isolating themselves for the next week or two as a couple of their family members had tested positive for COVID. Please join me in keeping the entire Lee family in our prayers for their continued health.

*Continued on page 5*



Pastor Lee would like for me to let everyone know that they appreciate all of your prayers and concerns, and they want you to know they are both fine and have no symptoms, they are just erring on the side of caution to keep everyone else safe. They want to make sure that they are following all appropriate protocols and procedures. I will be in contact with them frequently and will advise Pastor Lee of any concerns you may have. At the same time Pastor Lee will be giving me updates for both him and Elaine as well as their family, which I will pass on to everyone in the congregation. Also, Pastor Lee wanted me to share the updates with his time with the Nature Exploration Academy class, please see the letter below that he had written to the parents.

### A Letter from Pastor Lee

Dear Nature Exploration Academy Parents,

As you may already know, I have begun visiting with your students on a weekly basis to present what I call, ***“The Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God.”*** This presentation combines the educational philosophy of the Nature Academy—including broad Christian principles—with natural law and civil government, here articulated by our nation’s founders in the stirring words of our precious Declaration of Independence:

*“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which **the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God** entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”*

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...”*

As current vacancy pastor of Living Word Lutheran Church, my role is to provide transitional leadership moving ahead to our next developmental step. As part of this process, we are exploring initiatives that provide service to our community. I believe there is no better opportunity for doing so than partnership with our preschool and the Nature Academy, in part because we already host these two ministries on our campus. But even more importantly we must do everything in our power to educate and equip our precious children to strengthen them for success in their “pursuit of happiness.” I am sure you agree that a solid grounding in classic Christianity and American civic principle is essential.

Please let me know if we are on target with this initiative. Feel free to contact me anytime with questions or comments... your feedback is appreciated.

Blessings!

Pastor Steve Lee

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LANGE FAMILY!!** Pastor and Karen Lange have 2 new grandchildren. On Friday, November 13th, Jennifer gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Aleia and on Monday, November 16th, Jaime Brinkmann gave birth to their 4th son, Gideon James, weighing in at 10 pounds and 15 ounces and 22 inches long. All are doing well and are already at home. How cute are the newest members of the extended Living Word Family!!



Introducing Gideon  
10 pounds and 15 ounces  
22 inches long  
Born 11-16-2020



Introducing Aleia  
7 pounds and 12 ounces  
Born 11-13-2020

## "November Mission of the Month"

**HOLIDAY FOOD AND TOILETRIES DRIVE** will end today, Sunday, November 22nd. Together We Cope will be picking up the filled up bins early this week to help with the holiday meals for the families in our communities. Thank you all for your very generous donations.

## "December Happenings"

**CHURCH DECORATING** we will be decorating our church for the upcoming Advent season. We are looking for volunteers who can help with getting the tree and decorations down from the attic and to help us decorate. Look for more information to come shortly for dates and times.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE SURVEY FORMS** are located on the table, please make sure you fill out your desired service preference for wither a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service and if you will be bringing guests. This way we can be prepared for social distancing and trying to keep everyone safe and still worship during this blessed season.



GivingTuesday™ is **Tuesday, December 1st.** Join us on this global day of giving so that more care packages get in the hands of those battling cancer! Help us collect

**2,000**

of our most needed care package items and reach our goal in serving

**200**

more Friends in the Fight with a year of support through our programs!

Visit [philsfriends.org/in-kind-goods](https://philsfriends.org/in-kind-goods)

for more information on our most needed care package items.



**PHIL'S FRIENDS** will be our Mission of the Month for December, in place of giving to the door offering they will also be having a Giving Tree for Giving Tuesday, December 1st. They are looking to make care packages with the items hanging on the tree below that are most needed, they hope to serve an additional 200 Friend's. These items will need to be collected by December 1st. Please see Diana Motel for more information.

**TREE DECORATING** time again. We will have another Christmas tree on display given to us by the village of Orland Park. We have ornaments and decorations for our tree, plus the kids from preschool and the Nature Academy will be making their own as well. Look for more information to follow as to the date we will be decorating. Hopefully it will not be as windy or cold as it was last year. Please see Bev or Diana if you are interested in volunteering.



I FEEL LIKE I NEED TO **STEP UP MY GAME.**



THAT MAY BE TRUE...



BUT YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS COMES FROM JESUS, NOT YOUR SERVICE. AND YOUR SERVICE COMES FROM YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.



AND JESUS SEES IT ALL.

THAT'S WHY I FEEL LIKE I NEED TO **STEP UP MY GAME!**

