

BUT LET JUSTICE
run Down
Like water, and
righteousness
Like a STREAM.
MIGHTY

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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**

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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**

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 29, Issue 23

November 8, 2020

"Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters"

All prophets in the [Hebrew](#) Bible exhibit moral outrage, but Amos seems to have been downright hopping mad. Amos lived in the eighth century B.C.E., and though he was from a southern [Judean](#) town called Tekoa, he preached his message of judgment and reform to the prosperous populations in northern Israel, especially in Bethel and Samaria.

According to the book that bears his name, Amos did not really consider himself a prophet, instead claiming to be a humble agriculturalist who could not resist speaking the word of God ([Amos 7:14](#), [Amos 3:8](#)). Perhaps an astute reader of the signs of the times, he proclaimed a message of total disaster for Israel shortly in advance of the Assyrian destruction of the kingdom in 722 B.C.E. This may explain why his message was preserved and expanded in the decades and centuries to follow. The book of Amos records the sayings of the prophetic figure Amos and those who carried on his tradition.

Why was Amos angry, and why did he speak in oracles and metaphors?

Throughout the text, Amos voices prophetic rage against the injustices of the day. The entire book is given to denouncing the excesses of eighth-century B.C.E. [Israelite](#) life and reminding people of their true covenantal obligations. Those who are "at ease in Zion" and "feel secure on Mount Samaria," who "lie on beds of ivory" and "eat lambs from the flock," will "be the first to go into [exile](#)" ([Amos 6:1-7](#)) because they have forgotten the plight of the poor and mistaken religious observance and [piety](#) for moral responsibility. Amos' sayings are often in the form of judgment oracles (sometimes called "[woe](#) oracles") and messenger speeches ("Thus says the Lord ..."). Many of the oracles in [Amos 5-6](#) are likely original to the historical prophet even if they underwent some editorial modification in later centuries. [Amos 5-6](#) includes some of the most striking and poetic imagery in all of the Hebrew Bible. [Amos 5](#) begins as a dirge, a song of death, mourning in advance an Israel "fallen, no more to rise," and condemning the people who "turn justice to wormwood" ([Amos 5:1-2](#), [Amos 5:7](#)). This kind of poetic, symbolic language characterizes prophetic speech in the Hebrew Bible more generally, and yet in Amos it becomes an unrelenting expression of [divine](#) wrath. Amos converts comforting images of home and abundance into devastating instruments of judgment: "You have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine" ([Amos 5:11](#)). And these chapters employ themes from nature to convey what the "day of the Lord"—a future time of reckoning—will be like. Though people may expect it to be a good day, it will instead be like a fire that consumes everything in its path, like fleeing from a lion only to confront a bear or resting at home and being bitten by a snake ([Amos 5:6](#), [Amos 5:19](#)). Though other biblical texts depict the "day of the Lord" as a day when the Lord will destroy Israel's foes, Amos presents it as a day of judgment against Israel.

If Amos were alive today, what might he say?

Perhaps the most famous line from the book is Amos 5:24: "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream." The context of this powerful statement is a prophetic denunciation of the "sacrifices and meal offerings" of a people who have failed to keep the covenant, which is constituted by justice and fairness. Throughout [Amos 5-6](#), the prophet lashes out against those who have become rich at the expense of the poor and against public—but hollow—displays of piety. According to Amos, God says, "I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies" ([Amos 5:21](#)). Religious devotion is meaningless if it is accompanied by unfair taxes on the poor, backdoor bribes, and working against those in need ([Amos 5:11-12](#)).

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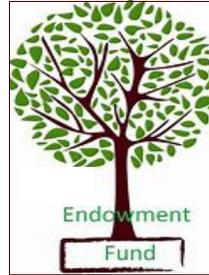
"Endowment Fund & Stewardship"

LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 10/31/2020)

The current value of the fund is \$146,180.15 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$23,588.55. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$37,610.87. Of this, \$18,805.44 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	23,588.55
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>37,610.87</u>
	Total market value	\$146,180.15



Stewardship Snapshot

November 1, 2020

26 W, 25C

8 Watched Online

2 Watched DVD's

36 Total

Financial Support

2,365.00 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.

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

Church Contacts

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Leadership Team

Rick Boehm - President

Bobbi Pote - Treasurer
Bucka

Members at Large

Jim McKinney

Pastor John

"Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters"

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Because of these sentiments, this passage has become an important source for some observers of contemporary American religious and political culture. I think Amos would disapprove of the concentration of wealth and the corresponding increase in poverty, and he would rage against the displays of self-importance and exceptionalism in some quarters of American life.

According to Amos, a nation is exceptional by the measure of how it cares for the lowest members of society; and a nation of religious hypocrisy and economic injustice is one that will perish. John Winthrop expressed the message of Amos in his famous work "A Modell of Christian Charity" (1630); he knew that for the Puritan legacy to be a "light unto the nations" and a "city upon a hill," the community would have to be based upon principles of justice, fairness, and regard for others, "that every man afford his help to another in every want or distress." More recently, Martin Luther King Jr. invoked the phrase "let justice roll down like water" in his famous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (1963), in which he addresses the moral laxity of his fellow Southern clergymen during the Civil Rights movement.

THANK YOU NOTES FROM BETHESDA were received this week. For the box of books and party goods, it reads: "Because of you...Your generosity allows us to provide people with loving homes, career and education resources, and opportunities to grow in their faith so they live full and empowered lives. Thank you for your generosity and partnership. Thank you for being a part of the Bethesda family, God's Blessings!" Signed Mary, one of the residents. For the monetary donation that was sent to them, it reads: "Dear Living Word Lutheran Church, ...Your gift in the amount of \$160.00 given on October 22, 2020, is helping Bethesda bring needed Thanksgiving blessings to those we serve with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thank you! Because of your generous giving spirit, Bethesda can offer supportive programs that enhance the quality of life to the people we support, we can help them establish independence, be a part of a family, have a safe home and seek future opportunities. Your partnership remains critical for Bethesda's success to continue to serve individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Only together, do we make the world a better place of inclusion, independence, and empowerment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. On behalf of the of the entire family at Bethesda this Thanksgiving season, thank you for your life-changing generosity, we give you thanks for you and wish your heartsand home be filled with abundant thankfulness and peace." Signed Together in service, Lorene King, Vice president of Philanthropy, Bethesda Lutheran Communities. Both entire letters and cards are posted on the wall above the table in the fellowship hall, next to the office.

"11-8-2020 Message Outline"

Oil for Your Lamp

Today in our parable reading Jesus poses an implied question: "Do you have oil for your lamp?" He provides what we need...

1) **Jesus gives me the oil of HEALING.**

"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

Acts 10:38 (NASB)

2) **Jesus gives me the oil of HOPE.**

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

3) **Jesus gives me the oil of the HOLY SPIRIT.**

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'"

⁷ "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' ⁹ "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' ¹² "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' ¹³ "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

Matthew 25:1-13

"Letter from Northern Illinois District"

Dear Friends in Christ,

Governor Pritzker has issued a new executive order (Executive Order 61) regarding COVID-19. These new orders were issued as a result of some counties reporting three consecutive days of a test positivity rate of 8% or higher. Effective October 23, 2020, public health restrictions and mitigation measures are being implemented.

How will this affect our churches in those areas? Our district staff has reviewed Gov. Pritzker's order and cross checked this order with the current guidelines on worship from the Illinois Dept. of Public Health. The order does not specifically address houses of worship. It is our understanding that churches in affected counties may continue to conduct services in conformity with the guidelines issued by the IDPH which has established the indoor worship service best practice to be 25% of the sanctuary's seating capacity or 100 people, whichever number is fewer, per service.

As always, we would encourage all congregational leaders to be in communication with their local health department on updates regarding best practices during this pandemic season and regularly check with the IDPH and CDC for guideline updates. May our Lord continue to gather us around His Word and Sacrament for our salvation while shielding us all with His almighty arm. We continue to commend our workers, congregations, schools and ministries to our Lord's care, protection and leading. We are grateful for your Christ-led dedication and commitment. Keep up the good and holy work.

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

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

For Your Information ...

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK The time in the upper room was like a retreat. It gave the disciples time to reflect on what Jesus had been teaching them the past 3 years, and allowed God to root out the last vestiges of their old ways of thinking, acting and planning. Until this was done, they weren't ready to move into the mission Christ had given them, to spread the gospel to the whole world. Many of you are not new in the faith; you too have been with Jesus, some for many years. How can you take a time of retreat this week and give God the time to prepare you for your next part in God's mission?

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. **Time Change to 10:00am starting next 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. We will start 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.

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.

TAX STATEMENTS for the 3rd quarter are now available and they are on the table next to the office.

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.



November 2020



Living Word Lutheran Church – 16301 S. Wolf Road, Orland Park, IL

www.livingwordorland.org intouchlwc@yahoo.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:00 am Worship	9 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	10 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Preschool 10:00 am PUSH 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	11 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Acad. Veterans Day	12 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Acad.	13 10:00 am POW Study (New Time)	14
15 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Worship-Comm	16 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	17 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Preschool 10:00 am PUSH 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	18 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Acad.	19 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Acad.	20 10:00 am POW Study (New Time)	21

"December Happenings"



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 philfriends.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, but prior to that they have reached out to us in case anyone wants to donate a few items from their flyer shown at the left to help them in their cause for Giving Tuesday, December 1st. They are looking to make care packages with the following items 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.



"November Mission of the Month"

HOLIDAY FOOD AND TOILETRIES DRIVE going on for all of November. We will be helping out the residents in our community through Together We Cope. Look for the bins on the table in the fellowship hall to drop off any of the following items. If you prefer to make monetary donations, we can always put that towards gift cards from local stores.

Items Most Needed for the Food Drive are:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| * Boxed Cereal (18 oz. or less) | Canned Vegetables | Rice |
| * Canned Beans | Jelly or Jam | Tomato Sauce |
| * Canned Fruits | Macaroni and cheese | Tuna |
| * Canned Meats (Chili, chicken, stew, etc.) | Oatmeal | |
| * Canned soup | Pasta | |
| * Canned spaghetti sauce | Peanut Butter | |



Items we need the most are:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Adult shampoo | Dental floss | Male & female deodorant |
| Baby & adult toothpaste | Diapers (especially sizes 4-6) | Mouthwash |
| Baby shampoo * | Feminine hygiene products | Q-tips, travel size |
| Baby wipes | Hand lotion | Razors |
| Bar soap | Incontinence products | Shaving cream |
| Body lotion * | Laundry detergent - small (liquid or powder) | Toothbrushes |
| Body wash * | | |
| Conditioner * | | |
| Condoms | | * not travel size |

To donate online click the 'Donate Now' button at togetherwecope.org

Together We Cope

17010 South Oak Park Avenue, Tinley Park, Illinois 60477

03-14-19