



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 29, Issue 28

December 13, 2020

## "Rejoice, Pray and Give Thanks"

### Inside this issue:

"Rejoice, Pray and Give Thanks"	1
December Calendar	2
December Celebrations	2
Stewardship and Contacts	2
12-06-2020 Message Outline	3
December Happenings	3
Groups, Classes and Information	4

### 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**

**"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)**

The presents are opened, the Christmas decorations are put away and the New Year's resolutions have been made. Let's now sit back and take in the beauty of our lives as we welcome in the New Year.

The scripture that has been chosen for the sermon and this newsletter is for the purpose of encouragement to you and is comprised of three short verses containing a total of 18 words yet their impact is profound! They are standalone calls to action, which are connected together, have a dependence upon one another and are of great importance to every believer. These three exhortations provide direction and encouragement as we walk the path God has charted for our lives.

#### REJOICE ALWAYS.

Each child of God should rejoice in all that He has provided us for it is the Lord who is the Author of every perfect gift from above. We often need to stand in awe in what our Redeemer has given us. Yes, we all have suffered adversity and tough times through the years, but He has never failed us—and in that we should rejoice!

Ultimately, we should rejoice in God for it is in Him that our joy will be full. No matter what life encounters we experience we can still rejoice in our Redeemer who never changes and never forsakes us. We may have sorrowful moments, yet we rejoice always; we may lack, yet through our rejoicing we are made rich— we may even have nothing, yet in rejoicing—we possess everything! (2 Corinthians 6:10) The life of a Christian is a contented life for it is a life of constant joy no matter the circumstances.

#### PRAY ALWAYS.

People of Christ need to declare this truth, "Some prayer, some power; more prayer, more power; much prayer, much power!" And prayer yields the same results for joy— "Some prayer, some joy; more prayer, more joy; much prayer, much joy!"

Children of God should pray a prayer of thanksgiving the moment we awake and pray through the day until our prayers culminate in praise by day's end. Prayer is a wise use of our time for it will help accomplish every good work that God has set before us. The way to rejoice forevermore is to pray without ceasing—we will rejoice more if we pray more.

#### GIVE THANKS ALWAYS.

Prayer is the gateway to the Father and thanksgiving is the key that opens the door. If we pray without ceasing then we should give thanks in everything. We should be thankful in every condition—in adversity as well as in prosperity. We should rejoice in the life we have been afforded—giving thanks for the years past, righteously living each day as if it were our last and planning as if we had a hundred years more.

We have all prayed the Lord's Prayer and recited the phrase, "Thy will be done..." I ask, "Who among us doesn't want to please our Father in Heaven?" Therefore, in obedience to His will, we are encouraged to offer a sacrifice of praise to the Lord with a voice of thanksgiving and glorify His Holy Name for He is good and His mercy endures forever.

I will end this newsletter article to you with the blessing the Apostle Paul gave to the people of Thessalonica. He declares these words over my life and yours for this very trying year of 2020, and in hopes that we all will have a safer and a more blessed year in 2021.

**"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through, that is, separate you from profane and vulgar things, make you pure and whole and undamaged—consecrated to Him— set apart for His purpose; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete and be found blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful and absolutely trustworthy is He who is calling you to Himself for your salvation, and He will do it, He will fulfill His call by making you holy, guarding you, watching over you, and protecting you as His own." (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)**

God desires that His children live the abundant life of the believer— He wants us to rejoice always, pray always and give thanks always—it is pleasing to Him.



# December 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>13</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	<b>14</b> 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<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> 10:00 am POW Bible Study	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship—COMM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00 am PUSH	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 5:00 pm LIVE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 	<b>26</b>

## This Week's Celebrations



**December 17** Eleanor Galik  
**December 17** Jennifer Lange



Happy Baptism Birthday!

**December 14** Karen Lange  
**December 16** Pat Johnson  
**December 16** Bruce Kempke  
**December 18** Carolyn Wagenaar  
**December 20** Hank Kalis

## 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 December 6th

16 Worshipped, 16 Communed

14 Watched Online

3 Watched DVD's

33 Total

## 12/13/2020 Message Outline

### "Rejoice!"

Psalm 126 says: "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy." In Christ we are restored and rejoice...!

#### 1) I rejoice in God the Father's HEALING!

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

Isaiah 61:1-3a

#### 2) I rejoice in God the Son's HELP!

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil. <sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

#### 3) I rejoice in God the Holy Spirit's HOPE!

<sup>19</sup> Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup> He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup> They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup> Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" <sup>24</sup> Now the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup> questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup> "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup> He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

John 1:19-27

### "December Happenings"

**WE WILL HAVE A CHRISTMAS EVE LIVE/IN PERSON SERVICE** and it will be at 5:00 pm on December 24th. As always, the service will live streamed and available on our website, Facebook and YouTube pages.

**PHIL'S FRIENDS** will be our Mission of the Month for December. They are looking to make care packages with certain items that are most needed to serve an additional 200 Friend's. Please see the Mission of the Month table in the fellowship hall for more details and the box and basket to drop things off. There will also be a door offering during the month as well. The offering plate is outside the sanctuary door. Please see Diana Motel for more information.



**TREE DECORATING** time again. We have another Christmas tree on display given to us by the village of Orland Park and its located in front of the Village Hall. There are ornaments and decorations from last year for our tree, plus the kids from preschool and the Nature Academy made their own as well. Diana and Kyle Motel and Paul and Isabella Huang were out in the rain decorating our tree for us.





## 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

## 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 Time Change to 10:00am.** 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 are finishing their study on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and will be starting one or two small Advent studies for the first couple of weeks in December. If you have any questions, contact Donna at 708-949-9340.

**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.

**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.

**POINTSETTIA ORDER FORMS** are in the worship folder and also on the table in the fellowship hall, cost for each is still \$7.50 and the order forms are due by Sunday, December 13th.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** We would like to invite everyone to join us on Sunday, December 20th for a congregation meeting following worship. The majority of the meeting will be introducing you to the 8 potential Pastors the transition team has been reviewing. If you will not be able to attend this meeting in person we will be live streaming it on YouTube. You will need to click on this link <https://youtu.be/WXp3Mnhnylnl> as this will not be a public live stream. We plan to be live by 11:05. Please give us a little grace as this will be our 1st time live streaming a meeting. You should be able to comment during the live if you have any questions or concerns. This link will be available even after the meeting to watch at your convenience. We do ask that you let us know only issues you may have with a potential Pastors and want taken off the list by the 23rd. The Transition Team can then move forward in scheduling interviews. Diana is working on links if any of these Pastors have live stream worship that you could check out. These would be presented on the 20th.