



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 6

February 7, 2021

"Always Aware of God's Unfailing Love"

For I am always aware of your unfailing love, and I have lived according to your truth.

Psalms 26:3

In Psalm 26, David defends his integrity before God. It's likely that he composed this poem in response to an attack upon his character. Thus the opening verse, "Declare me innocent, O LORD, for I have acted with integrity," is not a claim never to have sinned. Rather, David wants God to stand in as a character witness, refuting the spurious accusations against him.

As a part of his defense, David states, "For I am always aware of your unfailing love" (v. 3). The Hebrew reads, more literally, "For your steadfast love [*chesed*] is before my eyes." This claim is not only part of David's case for his integrity. It is also an explanation for how he can live with integrity. What keeps David going in the face of opposition, what motivates him to honor God even when he himself fails, is his remembrance of God's faithful love and mercy.

So it is for us. We will not be able to live our lives with integrity because we have good intentions or because we expend great effort. Our sin will inevitably get the better of us, and we will fail. But what motivates us to continue to walk in the Lord's way is remembering his love for us. This love has been communicated to us in a variety of ways, but most of all through Jesus Christ and his death for us.

Every day, we have a special opportunity to keep God's unfailing love before our eyes. May this next week be a time for you to remember just how much God loves you and to live your life in response to his love.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

What helps you to keep God's love before your eyes? What distracts you from remembering God's love? How might you reflect upon God's love in this next week?

PRAYER:

O Lord, how I wish I could say, like David, that your steadfast love is always before my eyes. To be sure, there are times when I remember your love. But there are also times when I forget ... or at least I act as if I have forgotten.

The more I reflect upon your love for me, gracious God, the more I am drawn to offer my whole life to you freely. The more I consider your faithfulness, the more I want to be faithful to you. The more I receive your grace, the more I am empowered to glorify you in all that I do.

I ask, Lord, that this next "holy" week might indeed be set apart for you. May I keep your love before me as I remember the cross. *Amen.*

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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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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

** NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Adult study
10:00 am Worship
10:00 am Sunday School

This Week At Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship—COMM	8 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	9 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 10:00 am PUSH	10 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	11 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	12	13
14 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship Congregational Meeting Valentine's Day	15 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	16 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool Valentine's Day Party 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 10:00 am PUSH	17 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 5:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	18 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	19	20

Living Word Endowment Fund

LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 1/31/2021)

The current value of the fund is \$158,085.98 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$32,495.95. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$40,609.30. Of this, \$20,304.65 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	32,495.95
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>40,609.30</u>
	Total market value	\$158,085.98

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



This Week's Celebrations



February 12 Gary Meier

Anniversary



February 10 Margie & Kevin Sefcik

Stewardship Snapshot

Stewardship Snapshot for January 31st

Worship was cancelled due to all of the snow last weekend.



Church Contacts

Church Contacts
Pastor Steven Lee

intouchwlc@yahoo.com

Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel

dianamotel@yahoo.com

Leadership Team

Rick Boehm - President

Bobbi Pote - Treasurer

Diana Motel - Secretary

Members at Large

Jim McKinney

Pastor John Bucka

Donna Wasilkoff

PAUL SURE IS ABOUT ADAPTABILITY. ABSOLUTELY



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

SHARING THE GOSPEL WAS PARAMOUNT FOR HIM. HE STOPPED AT NOTHING.



I FEEL LIKE RICH PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS.



1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23



Mission of the Month Updates

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH was the Military Bible Sticks. We collected \$218.00 for them, they are so very thankful for your kindness and generosity during these difficult times.

EASTER BASKET TIME! Now that it is February, the mission of the month is the Village of Orland Park. Specifically making and putting together Easter baskets for the children of the under privilege and low income families of the Orland Park township. So when you are out shopping at the Dollar stores and see coloring books, play dough, crayons, stickers or anything like that, pickup a couple of items so we can make Easter baskets for the boys and girls of Orland Park Township. Joan Fraser and her daughter have been doing these for the community for several years now, and in talking with her one day, we thought it would be a terrific and cute group effort. Joan had dropped off about a dozen baskets, Kristi Hartz and her sister made and brought in so many cute stuffed rabbits and little toys for the baskets already, and we will be printing out the Jelly Bean prayer cards, for a more meaningful connection to Easter, and also to let everyone know that we are here, we will be including our Welcome Cards as well in their baskets. Please see the table for some of the baskets that Diana had already put together, as examples.



02-7-21 Message Outline

“His Unfailing Love”

Psalm 147 says: *“How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him! ...The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love...”*

1) I can soar because God’s STRENGTH never fails.

²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31

2) I can soar because God’s SON never fails.

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷ No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3

3) I can soar because God’s SUPPORT never fails.

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!” Mark 1:35-37

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 **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



Updates From the Transition Team

THE TRANSITION TEAM finished doing their interviews to call a new pastor for our church. They have interviewed all five pastors they were interested in, Pastor Erb, Pastor Foley and Pastor Allman, Pastor Jackson and Pastor Schulz. Thank you so much to Bob Grossart, Donna Wasilkoff, Lisa Regan, Diana Motel and Pastor John Bucka for all of their hard work and being able to find time in their busy schedules and standing diligent to their commitment of seeing us through this time. As I have highlighted on the next two week’s calendar on page 2, there will be a congregational meeting. On February 14th, after the service, the transition team will be presenting their results and their top picks to us and informing us more about the potential pastors, and then on February 21st, we will be able to vote on whom we will extend a call to.