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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

16301 South Wolf Road  
Orland Park, IL 60467

708-403-9673

livingwordorland.org  
intouchlwlw@yahoo.com

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

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 10

March 14, 2021

## "For God So Loved The World"

About thirty-five years have passed since Jesus died in agony on a cross, then astonished his followers by rising from the dead and ascending into heaven before their eyes. His close disciple John is writing a memoir of the master whom he knew and loved. This is important because the gospel has radiated outward from Jerusalem to people in distant lands—to people who need to know the facts about Christ. Unless John writes down his memories, they will be lost.

John's "inside account" of Jesus and his entourage will appear to future ages to be quite independent of the gospels which preceded it because few of the events that appear in his account appeared in theirs. He writes in simple Greek, the Greek of everyday citizens throughout the Roman Empire. Nonetheless, with his limited vocabulary, he expresses some of the most profound thoughts of the Bible. Clearly, he has reflected deeply on the words and incidents of Jesus's life.

One of his recollections describes the night visit of a leader of the Jews—Nicodemus, a member of the strict, legalistic Pharisees. In their longing for salvation, Pharisees attempt to obey every law as interpreted and extended by their scribes. The six hundred or so commands of the Old Testament have grown to thousands. Keeping them all is impossible. Does Nicodemus feel this? Does he see a freedom in Christ's perfection which suggests a better way? Whatever his motive, he comes to Jesus one night.

Jesus immediately confronts him with an essential fact of Christianity—one that several other New Testament authors also emphasize: the Christian life requires a radical renewal from within, a re-creation, a new birth. "I tell you the truth, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God," declares Jesus. And what is this kingdom? It is obeying God totally from the heart—the very thing Nicodemus desires, as shown by him becoming one of his nation's few, elite Pharisees. While Nicodemus wrestles with the means by which this radical transformation can come about, Jesus shows him it must be by the Holy Spirit. Nicodemus asks how the Holy Spirit can do such a thing, but Jesus retorts with a question of his own: how can Nicodemus, a religious leader in Israel, not understand something so basic? After all, this new birth takes place on earth—not in heaven.

To Jesus, Nicodemus's question is driven by deliberate unbelief, and he challenges him and like-minded non-believers on the issue: "We speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" Jesus claims to speak about salvation and the Spirit from first-hand knowledge as the heavenly man.

John explains why Christ, the heavenly man, appeared on earth. In Moses's time, God punished an Israelite rebellion by sending a plague of serpents. When the rebels cried out for relief, God had Moses cast a bronze image of a snake and attach it to a pole. Anyone in the camp, who was bitten by the snakes, needed only turn and look at the snake on the pole to be healed.

In the same way, Jesus had to be lifted up (crucified) on a pole for all men to see. Just as the bronze serpent on its pole brought life, the Son of God on his pole brings eternal life.

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## This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>14</b> <b>9:00 am Adult Study</b> <b>10:00 am Worship</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00-3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>16</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm <b>Preschool</b> 9:00-3:00 Nature Exploration Academy <b>10:00 am PUSH</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm <b>Preschool</b>  9:00-3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>18</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm <b>Preschool</b>  9:00-3:00 Nature Exploration Academy  St. Pat's Day	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>

### Celebrations



**March 14** Diana Motel  
**March 19** Bobbi Pote



**March 14** Matt Meier  
**March 15** Anita Meier  
**March 18** Ashley Meier  
**March 22** David Merchantz

### Stewardship Snapshot

#### March 7th

**25 Worshipped, 22 Communed**  
**19 Watched Online**  
**2 Watched DVD's**  
**46 Total**

#### Financial Support

3,603.00 General Fund  
 615.00 Nature Exploration Academy (Building Use)  
**4,218.00 Total General Fund 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.

### Church Contacts

#### Church Contacts

Pastor Steven Lee

*intouchlwc@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

### Living Word News

**CHURCH COUNCIL BOARD** has openings and opportunities for you to join. Please see Diana, Jim or Rick if interested. We need your help to keep our church running smoothly and to have different input from time to time. Make your ideas heard and flourish with our church family.

**CALL COMMITTEE** has scheduled a meeting to take place here at church to meet Pastor Erb in person upon Pastor Erb's request. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23rd at 6:30 pm. We must keep praying for God's blessings and guidance for Pastor Erb and his family. It would truly be great if this was meant to be.

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### "For God So Loved The World"

Why? Because God the Father sent him, the Son, to rescue men: **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,** that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." Future generations will read this as the key text of the entire New Testament, a summary of the gospel. Many theological theories will attempt to explain how Christ's death avails for our salvation. Ultimately, the explanation is less important than the underlying truth: Christ did not come to condemn us, but to save us. He is the key to salvation.

## Nature Exploration Academy

**PASTOR LEE** in class on Wednesday mornings teaching the students from the Nature Exploration Academy the importance of God and His divine, naturally revealed law, as a basis for our own law. They are studying the basic legal foundation for America thru practical exercises. They're having fun creating and starting their own "country" with the 3 branches of government and the consequences when anyone violates those laws.



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ORLAND PARK, IL

### EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, March, 28th at 11:30 am.

Must register as space is limited at

<https://livingwordorland.org/welcome/easter-egg-hunt-march-282021/>

This event is broken down into 3 sections 1-5-year-olds, 6-9-year-olds, and 10-13-year-olds.

Please bring your own basket or bag  
Must wear a mask  
Stay socially distanced  
Event will be held rain or shine, please dress accordingly

**EASTER EGG HUNT** is returning to Living Word this year. Diana Motel came up with the idea of having it on Palm Sunday immediately after service. As you can see by the poster to the left, it will be broken up into 3 different age groups and will be taking place in three different areas outside. We already have 8 kids that have signed up for it, and we are looking for volunteers to help supervise the different age groups. Please see Bev or Diana if you are interested in signing up for the event or can help out in any way. Please let all of your family and friends know about this exciting event taking place once again. Must register in advance on our website, or in person, we will have extra copies of the registration printed out and available in the office or on the table in the fellowship hall. As you can see by the poster, it will be rain or shine, so maybe if you could say a little prayer for decent weather at least, would be very helpful.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** will be held at 6:00pm on Good Friday, April 2nd. We of course will be livestreaming the service, but after not having the ability to be in church last year for Good Friday or Easter, it will be such a blessing to return to some normalcy after the year we all had experienced.



**“Snakebit!”**

Psalm 107 says: “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.” Today, we who are redeemed by the cross of Christ tell “snakebit” stories...

**1) Like the Israelites, we were snakebit by SIN.**

<sup>4</sup> They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; <sup>5</sup> they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!” <sup>6</sup> Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived. Numbers 21:4-9

**2) Like Paul, we were snakebit by SELF.**

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:1-10

**3) Unlike us, Christ was snakebit to SAVE.**

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:14b-17

**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

**March Mission of the Month**

**VOICE OF CARE** is an organization of Lutherans supported and serviced by the Missouri Synod of the nurturing of the ministry for people with disabilities. Dennis Pieper who leads this ministry was our guest speaker a couple of years ago, and this ministry is our mission of the month for March. Their mission is to equip the local church to embrace, empower and engage people who experience disabilities and their families in their discipleship walk with Christ. Ministry by and with people with disabilities.



## Please Read: This Has Been Sent Out via email and letter

Greetings Fellow Members,

Please see the following excerpt from the pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Frankfort.

*"Brother pastors,*

*I'm sending out a couple of things that might be helpful.*

*First of all, be aware that thieves are targeting churches and non-profits robbing mailboxes and stealing checks. This has happened to Good Shepherd which I just found out last night. Thieves deposit checks into a fraudulent account. The police said this is such a successful scam because churches don't know they didn't receive a contribution and the sender of the check sees the check is cashed and assumes all is good.*

*We will no longer be using an unsecured mailbox at Good Shepherd. In addition, we are sending out a letter to let people know this has happened. With the letter we are sending a contribution statement so they can compare what we have received with what they have sent to spot any potentially missing checks. Individuals can follow up with their bank and get reimbursed within about 90 days.*

*The NID sent out an email back in February alerting churches to this very crime which has been reported across the district. The police detective said this is a nation-wide operation. I'm sharing this in case someone hadn't heard and for whom this information might prove helpful."*

We appreciate it when you do send a check into us, every bit helps tremendously, however, we would like to caution you that there have been burglaries that are taking place in the surrounding areas at other churches.

Just so you know, I do take the mail in everyday Monday thru Saturday, however we want to always be able to keep your information safe and not have your good intentions being used by those not intended.

**Until we have a secure locking mailbox purchased and installed, we would recommend a few options that you can consider:**

#1. Call me to notify me that you will be sending a check in, I will also call you back to let you know when I receive it. Some of you already are doing this, so thank you very much.

#2. You can always go on our website donate that way, you can do a one-time donation or a recurring one.

**Steps that I and the council have been discussing and will follow to ensure that this doesn't happen to us:**

#1. I will send out monthly statements to those that send in their checks to us, that way we both have a record of it.

#2. For those of you that have picked up their Year End Statements, please verify that it matches your records and that there are no discrepancies. For those that haven't received it as of yet, I will mail them out this week.

#3. I will send you an email when I do receive your check, that way you can have peace of mind knowing it was received by us.

#4. I will also be making phone calls to some of you, just in case you didn't receive this email.

#5. I will check the mailbox twice daily instead of just once a day.

#6. Purchase and install a secure locking mailbox.

On behalf of the council, and Living Word,

Thank you for all your donations that you send to us, you are so thoughtful and generous, and we will protect that thoughtfulness and generosity to the best of our ability.