



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 9

March 7, 2021

"The World and The Word"

The 19th psalm is one of the most magnificent writings in the Bible and in all literature. As in all the psalms, the structure is poetic as it extols the majesty of creation in its first six verses, followed by the far greater glory of the Scriptures in the final eight. It displays remarkable scientific insight as well as profound spiritual truth.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork" (Psalm 19:1). The "firmament" (Hebrew, reqia, meaning "expanse") was indicated as the space between the primeval "waters above the firmament" and those below, so it seems to have essentially the same meaning as our modern scientific concept of "space."

Then, verse 2 tells us that the marvels displayed by God in "space" are also being shown through "time." *"Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge."* These remarkable verses are speaking of the space-time universe in which are shown forth all the multitudinous workings of God and all the beautiful and intricate designs in His creations.

In fact, they are all "declaring the glory of God." We know from the New Testament that, in the deepest sense, this can only mean the Lord Jesus Christ who is the very *"brightness of His glory"*, for we ultimately have *"the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"*. In one way or another the gospel is being *"preached [in every creation] which is under heaven"*.

That is, for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, *"the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,"* so that those who will not see and hear the witness of God in creation are *"without excuse"*. The heavens declare the glory of God, but sadly, *"all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"*.

This testimony of the created world has "no speech nor language" (note that "where" in verse 3 is not in the original Hebrew of this verse). Nevertheless, *"their line gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world" (v.4)*. This verse is quoted in the great missionary passage of Romans 10 as saying *"their sound went into all the earth"* and as proving that *all men have had access to the evidence of God's power and love. Jesus Christ is "the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (John 1:9)*.

The problem is that *"men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil,"* so would not come to the light. The "line" of Psalm 19:4 is a reference to the measuring line of the surveyor, indicating that God's measurement of human response to His revealed glory in creation somehow conditions any further revelation He might give to men and women.

In the structures and processes of "nature," there is abundant witness to His *"eternal power and Godhead,"* leaving men and women *"without excuse"* when they have *"changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things"*, attempting to replace the God of creation with an atheistic or pantheistic evolutionary pseudo-creation. God's measuring line thus finds them far *"short of the glory of God."*

The most magnificent of God's structures is the sun, which provides the energy for maintaining practically all earth's natural processes. *"In them [that is, in space and time] hath He set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race" (Psalm 19:4,5)*. At first, the metaphors of bridegroom and runner seem strange figures to apply to the glorious light of the sun, which — physically speaking — is nothing less than the *"light of the world,"* sustaining its very life. But that actually makes it a beautiful type of the world's Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ. He indeed is the heavenly Bridegroom, coming forth to choose and claim His Bride, the Church, and the heavenly Runner, encouraging us who are in His Church to *"run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author, finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross"*.

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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
intouchlwlc@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

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 Daylight Savings Time will begin 

Celebrations



Birthdays of the Month

March 7	Pat Johnson
March 14	Diana Motel
March 19	Bobbi Pote



Happy Baptism Birthday!

March 1	Pam Hostert
March 1	Russ Tinich
March 4	Delores Urbank
March 10	Gary Meier
March 14	Matt Meier

Stewardship Snapshot

February 28th

18 Worshipped
21 Watched Online
2 Watched DVD's
41 Total

Financial Support

4,405.00 General Fund
 5.00 In-Kind Cash Donation (Used for Cellophane)
4,405.00 Total 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

<u>Leadership Team</u>	<u>Members at Large</u>
Rick Boehm - President	Jim McKinney
Bobbi Pote - Treasurer	Pastor John Bucka
Diana Motel - Secretary	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.

THANK YOU LETTER was received this week from the "Military BibleStick" ministry. It reads: "We want to express our gratitude for you and your congregation's selfless gift of \$218.00 towards Faith Comes By Hearing and Vision 2033. Thanks to your sacrificial giving, service members like this Army Specialist can experience hope and comfort through God's Word and presence. 'This past year, the BibleStick encouraged me to stay in the Word and depend on the Lord, not man.' It is an honor to partner with you..We are blessed to have you as part of our Faith Comes By Hearing family." Signed Your Servant in Christ, Morgan Jackson, Senior Vice President

Living Word Endowment Fund

LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 2/28/2021)

The current value of the fund is \$160,397.08 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$34,807.05. 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	34,807.05
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>40,609.30</u>
	Total market value	\$160,397.08

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



LIVING WORD
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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.

“Perfect”

Psalm 19 praises God’s law: *“The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.”* Come be refreshed by God’s perfection...

1) Come be refreshed by God’s perfect PRECEPTS.

And God spoke all these words: ²“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ³“You shall have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:1-3

2) Come be refreshed by God’s perfect POWER.

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-25

3) Come be refreshed by God’s perfect PERSON.

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?” ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” ²⁰ They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. ²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. ²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. ²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

John 2:13-25

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.



February Mission of the Month Update

EASTER BASKETS! The mission of the month for February was the Village of Orland Park Easter Basket Drive. Specifically making and putting together the baskets for the children of the under privilege and low income families of the 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 and books for the baskets already, and we printed out the Jelly Bean prayer cards, for a more meaningful connection to Easter, and also to let everyone know that we are here, we included our Welcome Cards as well in their baskets. Thank you so very much for all generosity and donations. Joan was so happy when she picked up the baskets on Tuesday, and the village will have a separate table just for our baskets and we will be in their monthly village newspapers as a contributing sponsor. We ended up donating a total of 20 baskets. Great job everyone! Just look at all of those Easter baskets.



A HUGE THANKS TO THE TRANSITION TEAM! Our transition team has been very busy these past few months. After receiving the list of potential candidates from the district, there were 13 in all, they analyzed all of their information and tried to narrow that number down. At that point they had resolved to concentrate on 8 of those pastors, unfortunately a few had decided not to want to accept a call at this time. Then there was the group 5 potential pastors that they were very interested in. They interviewed all five pastors, they were Pastor Erb, Pastor Foley, Pastor Allman, Pastor Jackson and Pastor Schulz. Each of the interviews lasted for more than an hour and a half. They asked each pastor all the same questions, about 22 in all and none of them were one or two word answers. They all agreed that all 5 pastors had a lot to give and all were very qualified. After prayerfully considering each one, the transition team met (over Zoom) and had chosen their top 2 choices. Pastor Nathan Erb and Pastor Mark Schulz. They compiled all of their information from the packages they received and from all of their interviews and put together a very in-depth Power Point presentation for us. The entire transition team worked together, they all watched the videos from all of the pastors that they had to choose from and shared the links of all the pastor's devotionals and/or sermons and the information that they had with us. It was not easy trying to coordinate with everyone's schedule and also to adhere to the district's guidelines. We all had a hard choice to make and we all appreciate the hard work they all put into this endeavor. 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. Let's not forget to also thank Pastor Rick Schauer for all of his input and guidance he had given our hard working team. We had 2 congregational meetings this month and we were given time to prayerfully consider each of the 2 pastors and we made our vote and Pastor Erb had won the overwhelming majority of the vote. The next step will be to extend the call to him and let's pray that he will be gracious enough to accept the call and come to our church and help us grow towards a more fruitful and enlightening congregation and be able help spread God's Word and follow our mission statement and purpose. The Call documents were filled out by Donna with help and input from tireless team, and the documents with a cover letter was sent out to him along with a letter to his congregation on Monday. All that is left to do is to pray that he will choose us for his next calling in life. Unfortunately when Donna had called him to let him know we were extending the call to him, he had informed Donna that he received another call package from a second church, but he was really happy to hear from Donna and had said that he would wait till he received our package in the mail, which hopefully he has by now. God bless Pastor Erb and his family at this time in their decision and let's pray that God leads him to our family.

"The World and The Word"

Continued from page 1

"His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof" (Psalm 19:6). This verse is often derided by skeptics as teaching that the sun goes around the earth, instead of the earth rotating on its axis. But the writer was more scientific than his critics. There is no fixed point of zero motion in the universe, so far as astronomers know. The sun indeed is moving in a gigantic orbit in the Milky Way galaxy, and the galaxy itself is moving among the other galaxies. So the circuit of the sun is, indeed, from one end of the heavens to the other.

However, the psalmist was really using the scientifically correct terminology of "relative motion." No one knows scientifically where a fixed point of zero motion may be, so all motion must be referenced to some *assumed* fixed point. For practically all measurements by surveyors, navigators, and astronomers, the most useful (therefore, the most scientific) zero point is the earth's surface at the location of the observer. That is exactly what the psalmist has assumed.

And note the significance of the statement that *"there is nothing hid from the heat thereof."* This refers mainly to the sun's effect on the earth, and scientists now know that the heat energy transmitted to the earth by solar radiation empowers all activity on earth, either directly (e.g., winds, rains) or indirectly (plant life through photosynthesis, and therefore also animal and human life). Through "fossil fuels" derived from buried organisms, it even drives our machinery. It is significant that the science which deals with all these energy transfers is called thermodynamics (meaning "heat power") and its two basic laws are the best-proved and most universally applicable laws of science.

These two laws testify plainly to the existence and power of God. The Second Law (the law of decreasing available energy, as the universe heads downward toward an eventual "heat death," with the sun and stars all burned out) tells us that there must have been a primeval creation, or else the universe would already be "dead"! The First Law (law of energy conservation) tells us that no energy is now being created, so the universe could not have created itself. The only scientific conclusion is that *"in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1).

When this verse speaks of the sun's *"going forth,"* however, it is not referring only to its transit across the sky, but to the *"outgoing"* of its radiant heat energy. It is the same Hebrew word as in Deuteronomy 8:3 which reminds us that man cannot live by bread alone, but *"by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD."* It is also used in the remarkable prophecy of the coming birth of Christ in Bethlehem, where we are told that His *"goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting"* (Micah 5:2).

Here also, the sun is a beautiful type of Christ, picturing both the Living Word and the Written Word of God. He is the eternally begotten Son of God, everlastingly proceeding from the Father and declaring Him, while the Holy Scriptures *"for ever settled in heaven"* (Psalm 119:89), can continually sustain our spiritual lives, just as the sun does our physical lives.

As marvelous as God's witness in the creation may be, it can never bring lost men to salvation. The sun may sustain their lives, but it can never save their souls.

Testimony of the Word of God

But God's Word can! *"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul"* (Psalm 19:7). We are saved by grace through faith, but *"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Romans 10:17). Therefore the apostle exhorts us to *"receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls"* (James 1:21). We can only know the One who is the Living Word through His revelation in the written Word, *"the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus"* (II Timothy 3:15).

That is why we, like the psalmist, must read, believe and love the Holy Scriptures. The psalmist (David) only had a relatively small portion of the Scriptures available in his day, yet he could say: *"More to be desired are they than gold . . . sweeter also than honey . . . in keeping of them there is great reward"* (vv. 10,11).

Note David's further convictions. *"The testimony of the LORD is sure. . . . The statutes of the LORD are right . . . the commandment of the LORD is pure . . . the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether"* (vv.7,8,9). And Paul echoes with similar conviction: *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"* (II Timothy 3:16). Combining the witness of David and Paul, we are assured that *"the law of the LORD is perfect . . . that the man of God may be perfect"* (Psalm 19:7; II Timothy 3:17).

The psalm ends with a prayer, asking God for cleansing through the Word. *"Cleanse thou me from secret faults"* (or sins of ignorance — v.12). *"Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins"* (or willful acts of disobedience — v.13). Otherwise, long-continued deliberate rejection of God's Word may become *"the great transgression"* (v.13) from which there is no deliverance. Then he prays, and so should we: *"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD my strength, and my redeemer"* (v.14).