



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 19

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## "When Delight Overcomes Distraction"

Psalm 1 presents two (and only two) ways to live: the way of the world or the way of the Word. Those who "walk in the way of the wicked, stand in the way of sinners, and sit in the seat of scoffers" are simply people oriented around the world's values. This is the wide and easy gate leading to destruction (Matthew 7:13).

### Inside this issue:

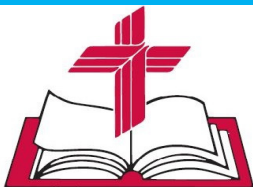
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### PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

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

### Be the Tree, Not the Chaff

"The wicked" of Psalm 1 are those who seek *independence* from God, those who have only a human or earthly perspective on life, those who live according to the world's standards and not God's. At times this way of life appears to be the way of success, acceptance, and prosperity (see Psalm 73). However, Psalm 1 helps us see things in ultimate perspective: the prosperity of the wicked is fleeting, for they are like chaff blown away by the wind.

The alternative is a life of *dependent delight in divine instruction*. The "righteous" recognize the poverty of the world's wisdom and values and so orient their lives around God's revealed Word. This is the life of faith (see Jeremiah 17:7-8) that leads to blessing, fruitfulness, and fellowship with God now and forever. Think a beautiful, sturdy, well-watered, fruitful tree (v. 3). *Be the tree, not the chaff.*

### Sustained Thought and Heartful Response

Verse 2 is the key verse: "but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night." Notice the progression: delight, then meditation. *Delight* is a response of the heart to the beauty and value of something or someone—in this case, to God's Word. But *meditation* involves careful sustained thought—it takes *work* and involves the *will*.

Meditation done well should serve, strengthen, and sustain delight. Meditation allows the Word to penetrate our minds, hearts, and wills more deeply. Through meditation, we are "transformed by the renewal of our mind" (Romans 12:2). Meditation sends our roots down deep, taking in more and more of the life-giving water of the Word.

### Cultivating Meditation

Our lives are unbelievably distracted. We are experts at multi-tasking, surfing, and skimming, but it is harder than ever to meditate. Therefore, it is imperative to intentionally cultivate meditation on God's Word.

But how?

If possible, find a consistent time, place, and plan. Then read slowly and carefully. Re-read and reread. Read out loud (which is implied in the Hebrew word for meditation in Psalm 1:2). Read prayerfully. Read with a pen in hand. Memorize texts that you read. Read with other people and talk about what you see. Study a book of the Bible with a good commentary. Pray about a plan for Bible meditation this year, and talk about your plan with a Christian friend.

May you lay hold of the blessing of Psalm 1 as you delight in the beauty and value of God's revealed Word and seek to sustain and strengthen that delight through intentional meditation.

## This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>16</b> <b>9:00 am Adult Study</b> <b>10:00 am Worship-COMM</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00-3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>18</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00-3:00 Nature Exploration Academy <b>10:00 am PUSH</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00-3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>20</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool <b>10:00am Preschool Graduation</b> <b>Last Day of School</b> 9:00-3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>21</b> <b>9:30am POW Bible Study</b>	<b>22</b>

### May Celebrations



**May 20** Anne Lyons  
**May 28** Brian Michael  
**May 30** Deanna Meier  
**May 30** Joshua Regan



**May 9** Tracy Cygan  
**May 9** Shawn Regan  
**May 11** Ethel Hamill  
**May 12** Diana Motel  
**May 13** Paxton Hostert



**May 18** Darlene & Phil Cygan  
**May 19** Karen & Pastor Lange

### Stewardship Snapshot

**May 9th**

**Attendance**

**21 Worshipped**  
**15 Watched Online**  
**2 Watched DVD's**  
**38 Total**

### Church Contacts

**Church Contacts**  
**Pastor Steven Lee**  
*intouchlwc@yahoo.com*

**Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel**  
*dianamotel@yahoo.com*

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

### Living Word News

**POW (People of the Word) Bible Study** started meeting again last month, Friday. They will continue to meet every Friday at 9:30 am. With word pictures to spark your imagination, the preeminent prophet Isaiah paints pictures of the holy and composes symphonies of hope. Witness the double-edged dynamic of God's holiness, both burning away sin in the furnaces of His judgment and refining the humble so they are fit for His presence. God the looming judge also sends the Suffering Servant, who takes our sorrows upon Himself. Watch Isaiah bring these seeming contradictions to dramatic resolution in his magnificent masterwork.

**ADULT SUNDAY FORUM** meets 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.

**NATURE EXPLORATION ACADEMY** with Pastor Lee will be hosting a end of the year program called "Nature's God", a presentation on their class together from this past school year learning how nature's laws and God's laws are related to each other. The program will be on Wednesday, May 26th at 6:30 pm. If you would like to attend and watch the connection transpire, please RSVP to Bev by phone, email or in person.

**ALUMINUM CANS** will not be collected any longer going forward, if you have been collecting the cans, you can always drop them off by the recycling center at the Orland Park Highway Department Facility on Wolf Rd.

**“Walking God’s Way”**

Psalm 1 says, *“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord.”* How do we delight in the law of the Lord? How do we walk God’s way…?

**1) We walk the way of God’s WITNESS.**

<sup>21</sup> [Peter said] “Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup> So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” <sup>26</sup> Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles. Acts 1:21-26

**2) We walk the way of God’s WILL.**

<sup>13</sup> I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup> This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5:13-15

**3) We walk the way of God’s ONENESS and WORD.**

Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. John 17:11-17

**Mission of the Month**

**REDEEMING LIFE OUTREACH MINISTRIES** is the Mission of the Month for May. CALLED TO PRESERVE LIFE God is leading Redeeming Life to expand in Illinois! Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and serves single, pregnant women and their unborn children. These women are often at-risk of homelessness, domestic violence, or choosing abortion. We are opening a new Christ-centered maternity home in Carpentersville in the Northern Illinois District (NID) as early as 2021. The Maternity Home Steering Committee and LCEF are partnering with us to preserve life and share the love of Christ with vulnerable young women. Immanuel Lutheran in East Dundee led by Pastor Bill Yonker will be the official host congregation for this new location. This new maternity home will provide a safe, comfortable fully furnished home for the residents to live and thrive in and will be supervised by one full-time, live-in Manager. The residents will engage in self-directed learning and one on-one training with the help of a full-time Program Director. The expectant moms will learn necessary life skills including saving and budgeting, parenting, cooking, cleaning, connecting with others, and most importantly, connecting with God. Prayer, Bible study and worship are important components of the maternity home program. As a pro-life ministry, we walk alongside our mothers on their journey whether they plan to parent or lovingly place their baby for adoption. Every woman who calls Redeeming Life home will find help, love, and support. Please help make this new maternity home in Illinois a reality! No one can do everything, but every individual and congregation can do something! This type of project is very important as the lives of women and unborn children needs help and protection. Single pregnant women who lack safe, stable housing feel that abortion is their only option. Redeeming Life is a positive, pro-life maternity home that provides just-in-time resources to redeem the lives of women and babies.