



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 32

August 15, 2021

## "Choose Whom You Will Serve"

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"Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Before this verse, Joshua has challenged the people of Israel to "fear the Lord". The very first commandment of God given in Deuteronomy 5:7 is "You shall have no other gods before me." Even though this command was given to Israel, we see here Joshua repeating it and commanding the people to throw away the gods of their ancestors.

What this shows is that some people of Israel were still worshipping idols despite the Lord's great miracles and victories. Ezekiel 20:7 says "And I said to them, Cast away the detestable things your eyes feast on, every one of you, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am the Lord your God."

Joshua was using this opportunity requesting the people to give their undivided loyalty to God, and this was the only way to experience His presence and blessing in the future. When Joshua said "choose" whom you will serve, his intention was not to encourage idolatry. Instead that it would cause such an abhorrence among them that they would take a stand against all such worship. Joshua goes on to proclaim what he and his household will be doing, and that is to serve Yahweh, the only one and true living God.

Likewise, friends do you have remnants of your sinful past that you are hiding and carrying with you? Like Joshua, you need to ask yourself this question. Choose today whom you will serve? You have been delivered from captivity to sin, yet you are hiding some idols that can impact your walk with the Lord.

So what are some forms of idolatry in our modern age? It could be materialism, pride, ego, self-indulgence, alcohol, drugs, food, the lust of the flesh, lust of the eye and the pride of life. If you love the Lord, then there will be no room in our hearts for such idolatry. In 1 Kings 18:21, Elijah approaches the people and says "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word." Are you in a similar predicament and limping between two opinions. Do you want to idolize part of the world and at the same time have some of Christ in you?

No matter the cost of doing so, if Jesus Christ is your treasure, then you must be willing to sacrifice everything, even your very life. We must have the same attitude as those in Daniel 3:18, declaring whatever the outcome yet, it will not cause them to not serve the true and living God. Daniel 3:18 says "But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Likewise, friends choose whom you will serve today, even if it means to suffer temporarily in this world. Just like it was said about Moses in Hebrews 11:25 "By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin."

In closing, I urge you to choose life and to choose whom you will serve. Choose the Lord Jesus Christ, rather than enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin, which is idolatry even if this means that you may be mistreated for it or to suffer in it. The outcome of doing so is having a relationship with Christ and receiving the crown of eternal life.

God bless.

### 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**

## This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>15</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship-COMM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 am PUSH	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	<b>21</b>

## Celebrations This Week

<div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Aug 17</b> Ida Stevens  <b>Aug 19</b> Sandy Boehm  <b>Aug 20</b> Clarissa Tarandy  <b>Aug 21</b> Larry Andorf</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Aug 15</b> Margie Sefcik  <b>Aug 16</b> Jerry Erjavec  <b>Aug 19</b> Kurt Meier</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Aug 11</b> Tiffani &amp; David West  <b>Aug 17</b> Jodi &amp; Bruce Kempke  <b>Aug 30</b> Joan &amp; Russ Tinich</p> </div>
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## Stewardship Snapshot

August 8th

**24 Worshipped**  
**2 Watched DVD's**  
**7 Watched Online**  
**33 Total**  
**Financial Support**  
 1,845.00 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

Pastor Steven Lee

*intouchlwc@yahoo.com*

**Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel**

*dianamotel@yahoo.com 708-287-4939*

#### Leadership Team

**Neal Hartz** - President 847-344-2410  
**Jim McKinney** - Vice President 708-359-8527  
**Bill Merchantz** - Treasurer 708-539-6027  
**Diana Motel** - Secretary 708-287-4939

#### Members at Large

**Pastor John Bucka** 815-931-2961  
**Bob Grossart** 708-870-0202  
**Paul Huang** 626-551-1446

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)*

Finally, it comes down to this: we know who we are and Whose we are, we know our end (life with Christ forever), and we have been equipped with the armor of God for our protection in the meantime. What's left is to remain faithful, to stay the course. The best way to do this is as part of a local fellowship, where we can encourage and build up one another with the love of Christ.



**LIVING WORD PRESCHOOL** is in peril. Currently we only have 2 students enrolled, 1 had just pulled her daughter out in fear that we will not be able to open, and we need to have 4 more students in order to keep the preschool opened. If we don't have any more enrolling by Monday the 16th, we will not be able to have preschool for fall. We will hopefully try to have it in January, but only time will tell. We didn't even close last year with COVID and only starting out with 3 students and we actually ended the school year with a total of 9. I know many of you have been helping out by passing out the pamphlets that we had, and we passed them out at VBS, but with the mask mandate and not having a certified teacher as of yet, it doesn't bode well for the Living Word Preschool to open for fall. We need to trust God and follow His lead. He knows that we are just waiting for the right teacher.



**LIVING WORD  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PRESCHOOL 2021-2022  
ENROLLMENT!  
NOW OFFERING A 3  
AND 5 DAY PROGRAM**

Click on our preschool tab  
to find registration forms  
and information about our  
program.

To schedule a tour or to  
answer any questions.  
Contact us at (708)-403-9673  
or [intouchlwlc@yahoo.com](mailto:intouchlwlc@yahoo.com)

## Living Word News

**AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH** is Grace Christian Academy in Chicago, Please see the below information for Grace. At Grace, most families struggle to provide for their daily needs, let alone have the ability to pay for a Christian education. It is only through the generous support of their donors and the scholarships they can provide that the kids can attend Grace.

**THANK YOU LETTER** was received from Redeeming Life Maternity Home this week. It reads: *“Dear Pastor & Elaine & Living Word Lutheran Church, Thank you for supporting Redeeming Life Maternity Home through the recent door offering at Living Word! We are excited to join you in Illinois to serve women at risk of homelessness, abuse and abortion. This project is only possible because of our great God and all that He is providing through wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ like you and your church family. ... Pastor and Elaine, because of your missional gift, these desperate women will learn who Christ is and the true meaning of love, forgiveness and acceptance. I cannot thank you enough for your support and everything we will do together to redeem lives in Jesus’ name in Illinois and beyond!”* It is signed With a grateful heart, Sheryl DeWitt, Executive Director. The entire letter can be found on the bulletin board next to the office.

**FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM!** The transition team has been very busy the past few weeks. They received a list of names from the district, Donna made all the phone calls to the pastors and had coordinated everyone’s schedule. They already had several interviews over the past few weeks and will have the last interview this Tuesday evening. Once they have finished their evaluation of these interviews, they will announce their findings. In the meantime, if you would like to watch any of their sermons on YouTube, here is the list of names and their current church locations: Steve Kass, at Family Faith in Glendale Heights, IL, Scott Roberts at Peace in Seymor, IN, Christopher LaBoube at St. Matthew in Mapleton, IA, Steve Deombeleg at Immanuel in Hillside, IL, Paul Tessaro at St. Paul in Clay Center, KS and Ted Cook at Zion in Pittsburg, KS.

## 8-15-21 Message Outline

### *“The Lord Will Rescue”*

Psalm 34 says: *“The Lord will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.”* God’s Word tell us how...

#### **1) The Lord rescues us by WISDOM & FAITHFULNESS.**

[Wisdom calls] <sup>4</sup> “Let all who are simple come to my house!” To those who have no sense she says... <sup>6</sup> “Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of insight...” <sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:4, 6, 10

<sup>2</sup> Joshua said to all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says...” <sup>14</sup> “Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness....” <sup>15</sup> But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:2, 14a, 15

#### **2) The Lord rescues us through LIGHT.**

<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them. <sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. Ephesians 5:6-11

#### **3) The Lord rescues us with BREAD.**

<sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” <sup>52</sup> Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” <sup>53</sup> Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. <sup>55</sup> For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink...” John 6:51-55