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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

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 34

August 29, 2021

## "The Armor of God—What It Is and How to Use It"

We may forget at times but one thing is true - this world is a battlefield. Day by day, hour by hour, we face a spiritual war and an enemy who's real. He wants nothing more than to bring defeat, for his main aim is to steal, kill, and destroy. The forces of darkness don't wait for us to be ready for their attack. They're ruthless, determined, and cunning. The devil could care less if we "feel" prepared, or prayed up for our day. In fact, he prefers we're not. God has given us his Word and Spirit, powerful and true, so we'll have the wisdom and protection to stand against the enemy. As I read these verses this morning, the reality struck me again that Paul wrote them while in chains, in prison. But Truth says - this enemy we face, no matter how cruel and vicious his schemes, can never chain our spirits that have been set free by Christ. Paul was not silenced by the attacks from dark forces. Neither should we be.

### What is the Full Armor of God?

#### The Belt Of Truth

The Believer's Integrity - A soldier in Paul's day had a leather girdle or belt that he tightened about his waist to protect his loins and carry his weapons of warfare, such as a dagger or sword. The belt also held his tunic together so it wouldn't be snagged. In Christian armor, it is the integrity that holds everything else together. If you do not have integrity in the big and small things of your life, you are going to lose the battle. Would people say that you are a woman or man of integrity? If not, then you cannot win the battle.

#### The Breastplate Of Righteousness

The Believer's Purity - The breastplate of a soldier was sometimes made of woven chain and used to cover the soldier's vital organs. For the Christian, the breastplate is righteousness. The enemy wants to attack you not only with lies, but also with impurity. He wants you to read filthy magazines, watch immoral movies, and engage in all temptations of the flesh. The bottom line is that Satan wants to get into your heart and mind. He's looking for a crack in your armor. And don't be fooled. Satan knows where that crack is. Is your heart pure before God? If not, then you cannot win the battle.

#### The Shoes Of Peace

The Believer's Tranquility - A Roman soldier's would have hobnails on the sole, very much like football cleats because when they were fighting they needed solid footing from which to move. Unless you have a solid footing of peace, you can never make war. Sounds like a contradiction, doesn't it? When Satan comes against your tranquility, he throws out stones and briars of doubts and discouragement to cause you to stumble. Do you have peace right now? If not, then you cannot win the battle.

#### The Shield Of Faith

The Believer's Certainty - The Roman soldier's shield measured approximately two by four feet and was made of wood covered with leather. In that day, soldiers dipped arrows in oil, then lit them and shot them at the enemy. These shields were vital to protect the soldier from getting burned. Satan is going to fire flaming arrows of doubt at you. He wants to place subtle doubts in your mind about God and His Truth. He knows a spark can ignite a big fire. You will need to feed your faith and starve your doubts. Are there any seeds of doubt in your mind today? If there are, then you cannot win the battle.

Continued on the bottom of page 4

## This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>29</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 am PUSH	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	<b>4</b>

## Celebrations This Week

 <b>Aug 28</b> Renate DiGrazia <b>Aug 28</b> Thomas Boehm <b>Aug 31</b> Randy Hodo	 <b>Aug 25</b> Lara Wasilkoff <b>Aug 29</b> Anthony Bonnar <b>Aug 29</b> Katie Ozark <b>Aug 30</b> Addison Przybylo <b>Aug 31</b> Sandy Boehm	 <b>Aug 11</b> Tiffani & David West <b>Aug 17</b> Jodi & Bruce Kempke <b>Aug 30</b> Joan & Russ Tinich
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## Stewardship Snapshot

August 22nd

**17 Worshipped**  
**2 Watched DVD's**  
**13 Watched Online**  
**32 Total**

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

intouchlwlc@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

## Friday Zoom Bible Study Class

**POW (People of the Word) Bible Study** the class will be wrapping up their study on the book of Isaiah within the next few weeks, and for those who wish to continue to meet here, can do so, but we have also added the Zoom link feature since Donna has moved to Nevada and anyone wishing to participate via Zoom from home can do so. The starting time will still be the same as always, 9:30am. **Please See Below For Zoom Info for the September 3rd bible study:**

The zoom email is [LWLCmedia@yahoo.com](mailto:LWLCmedia@yahoo.com)

Password is Church@1990!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81187687633?pwd=NzBWNWMweIvVWmhmdjVEEd3JwMkFQQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 8768 7633 Passcode: 299993

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81187687633#,,,299993# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

# SEPTEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	4
5 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship— COMM	6  LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	7 10:00 am PUSH	8	9	10 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	11 10:00 am 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony Village of Orland Park
12 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship Congregational Meeting Grandparents' Day	13	14 10:00 am PUSH	15	16	17 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	18
19 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship— COMM	20	21 10:00 am PUSH  7:00pm Council Meeting	22 First Day of Fall 	23	24	25
26 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	27	28 10:00 am PUSH	29	30		

## September Celebrations

					
<b>Sept 5</b>	Noah Hostert	<b>Sept 1</b>	Jodi Kempke	<b>Sept 4</b>	Delores & Joe Urbank
<b>Sept 5</b>	Dwight Hostert	<b>Sept 12</b>	Jeff Regan	<b>Sept 6</b>	Pam & George Hostert
<b>Sept 8</b>	James Boehm	<b>Sept 14</b>	Jennifer Lange	<b>Sept 12</b>	Tami & Dan Folgers
<b>Sept 8</b>	Pastor Lange	<b>Sept 18</b>	Jennifer Vanderver	<b>Sept 19</b>	Diana & Paul Motel
<b>Sept 10</b>	Dayna Hann	<b>Sept 23</b>	Jesse Meier	<b>Sept 19</b>	Lisa & Jeff Regan
<b>Sept 17</b>	David Merchantz	<b>Sept 28</b>	Henry Kalis	<b>Sept 19</b>	Lisa & Jeff Regan
<b>Sept 24</b>	Tom DiGrazia	<b>Sept 30</b>	Pastor Lange	<b>Sept 29</b>	Alexis & Mitchell Gawlik
		<b>Sept 30</b>	Dwight Hostert		

## Church News

**A NEED FOR YOU AND A NEED FOR CHURCH** As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient (who doesn't love not getting ready in the morning or leaving the home?!), it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa. Christians aren't consumers either. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We do life together. The church needs you. And you need the church. Wherever you are, find a local church where you and your family can be part of community and use your talents to advance the kingdom and reach others. To come alongside one another physically, not just through a screen. While I'm grateful for technology to keep people connected that can't physically come to a facility or need to be away, it's absolutely not like being in the building. Never will be. Yes, church on the sofa is nice. But it'll never be the same as church in the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing everyone in church.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** is scheduled for Sunday, September 12 immediately following service. As before, there will be a separate link that will be emailed to you prior to the meeting. The transition team will be coming forward with their suggestion and evaluations for the next pastor to be called.

*"The Armor of God—What It Is and How to Use It" Continued from page 1*

### The Helmet Of Salvation

The Believer's Sanity - A soldier used a helmet to protect his head because if his head was wounded, he wouldn't be able to think. Every believer needs to have the mind of Christ under the control of Almighty God. When a person is saved, for the first time he has his right mind. A person without the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ has a form of insanity. They do not operate with the mind that God made them to have. The most important thing for you to have at all times is an assurance of your salvation. Do you know that you are saved? If you aren't, then you cannot win the battle.

### Sword of the Spirit

The Word of God - When we are tempted, the most effective weapon that God has given to us as believers is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Jesus modeled this so beautifully during His temptation in the wilderness. When the devil tried temptation after temptation against Him, Jesus used the sword of the Spirit. Jesus spoke the Word of God to Satan. In Luke 4:1-13, Jesus responded, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord God only. Him only you shall serve.'" and again brought the Scripture back into context, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" The sword of the Spirit works. Memorize Scripture and use the Word of God to defeat Satan's lies and attacks. God has a plan for our lives. The enemy has a plan for us too. We just have to decide which voice we're going to listen to, and who we're going to choose to follow each day. And chances are, if we don't make a determined choice to follow God, we may eventually fall into the evil one's trap. God gives specific instructions in his Word, he gives us all we need to stand strong in this life. Yet all too often we race through busy, full days, ill-equipped, unprepared, or simply not aware of what we're up against, or who the real enemy even is. If you're a believer living like salt and light in this dark world, you won't go for long without encountering obstacles and attacks he'll hurl straight your direction. This battle is real, it's intense. Focusing here today, putting on His armor, staying alert, and praying, that God will equip believers everywhere to "stand strong."

## Village of Orland Park 9/11 Ceremony

**VILLAGE OF ORLAND PARK** will be hosting a 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony honoring the 20th anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center. They are asking all local churches to simultaneously ring their bells at the time of each plane crash. The event is open to all, the details are on the flyer below. There are additional copies of the flyer for you on the desk next to the office.



**NEVER FORGET**

**9.11**  
Commemoration Ceremony

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 ★ 10AM**  
**ORLAND PARK ARA PACÉ MEMORIAL**

VILLAGE GREEN ★ 14700 SOUTH RAVINIA AVENUE ★ 708.403.5000

Honoring the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11

ORLAND PARK VETERANS COUNCIL

## Northern Illinois District Response to Mandates

**RESPONSE FROM NORTHERN ILLINOIS** was received this week regarding the latest in the mask mandates from Governor Pritzker. Please read this page and the next for the in depth responses from LCMS and NID. Extra copies will also be available on the desk next to the office.



**Northern Illinois District**  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

August 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

On August 4, 2021, Governor Pritzker, in response to the rising case numbers of COVID-19 stemming from the spread of the Delta variant, issued a mask mandate requiring the wearing of masks for all schools, public and private. This mandate covers every person in schools, children and adults, whether vaccinated or not.

Some, dissatisfied with the governor's actions, wish to voice their objections. Each citizen certainly should engage in the democratic process which is a part of the structure of God's ordering of His left-hand kingdom in our nation. It is my understanding there are legal challenges. With many of you, I am concerned about several issues that seem to be the over-reach of government into the Church's realm as well as governmental authorities assuming duties and responsibilities God has given to parents, but they are broader than just this particular issue unfortunately. (See Luther's Explanation of the 4th Commandment in the Small and Large Catechisms.)

The issuance of a mask mandate is not forbidden in the Holy Scriptures and hence is not inherently sinful. When considering how schools will deal with this mandate from the state, I encourage everyone to consider how to be wise and Christ-like in caring for the safety and health needs of our communities. Our decisions and our tone bear witness to how we approach each other even if we disagree. There are matters of conscience involved and on those we may disagree, but, we can do that with a disposition that honors the Lord we serve. Our desired goal is ultimately that every day our students and families are engaged with the Word of God and our Savior, Jesus.

Those who make these decisions and have these discussions are reminded to be prayerful, thoughtful, and humble as we listen and act. May our Lord Jesus have mercy on us all, especially on our schools, administrators, boards and committees, teachers, and parents and students! We are confessing the truth of the Word in "such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). We serve and lead by example.

It seems prudent to remind schools to consult their insurance carrier as decisions are made. Lois Stewart has been a great resource in these matters this past year. And for preschools, if your preschool is DCFS licensed, please have your director contact their DCFS representative. We have also been in contact with the other Illinois Districts of the LCMS as we work together on these matters.

We shall cling to the promise that our Lord is leading, protecting, and guiding us. **A word of thanks for all who are doing their best, putting in long hours and keeping our focus on God's promises in Christ.** The Lord is providing opportunities even in these circumstances! And please remember, "We do not fight for Victory, we fight from Victory!" Christ is Risen! He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Our Labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, President  
LCMS Northern Illinois District



## Northern Illinois District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

### **“We Are One in The Spirit”**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and Christ Jesus our Lord. We continue to hold you in prayer as we all are currently navigating through “unchartered territory” as another academic year begins. We thank you for your service and dedication to the mission and ministry of sharing God’s great love with so many; students and families, throughout this difficult pandemic.

St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians in chapter 4:1-7, “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” The very first thing Paul mentions is Christian unity, we are all saints in the Lord united together by our Christian faith.

As we have been united with God, we are also aligned with each other. This unity is the single most significant marker of our life in Christ. As we relate this to the current circumstance, a mask mandate, some for and some against, we must realize that people are not the enemy, but COVID is. We can have our differences and still be one in Christ. The power of the devil is constantly pulling and tugging at us trying to divide and conquer. We cannot allow the devil to get a foothold. He certainly uses anger and division to lead people to other sins.

The Holy Spirit gives faith in order to produce unity among believers. The faith that believers have as members of the Holy Christian church is vitally important and powerful. Faith dwells in the hearts of believers. This means God dwells in the hearts of believers. Faith unites us as believers to live united lives for the benefit of the world. We are united by God’s word to live God’s word. God’s word reveals to others and us His great love for all sinners.

As we go forth into this academic year, we all are concerned about the health and safety of the students, and not just their physical health and safety but their Spiritual health as well. We want the children at the feet of the teachers hearing and learning the Gospel message of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ along with all of the academic learning and extra curriculars. Academic learning must be in person instead of remote for this to take place. The most important issue is that the Word of God is shared with students and families and nothing should get in the way of allowing that to happen.

We are monitoring Religious Liberty Issues with our Districts. We have been in consultation with religious liberty advocates as has the leadership of the LCMS. The Roman Catholic Diocese in Illinois have “mandated masks” in their schools and we understand that we do not have that authority, but want you to be aware. Our Districts will be monitoring ongoing development in this matter and others! You have our encouragement and support in this important work.

Thank you again for your dedicated service and unity to our Lord. We keep you in fervent prayer as we are in this together and the Lord will see us through. God’s grace, mercy, and peace be with you now and always.

In Christian love,

Rev. Dr. Allan Buss  
President  
LCMS Northern Illinois District

Rev. Timothy Scharr  
President  
LCMS Southern Illinois District

Rev. Mark Miller  
President  
LCMS Central Illinois District

Lois Stewart  
Mission Facilitator for Schools  
LCMS Northern Illinois District

Jeffrey Fick  
Schools and General Executive  
LCMS Southern Illinois District

Trip Rodgers  
Education and Congregational Life  
LCMS Central Illinois District

## 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.

**PARKING LOT** will be repaved and restriped sometime next month. It will not effect being able to attend church service as the work will be done on a Friday and only needs 24 hours to set. More information as to when this will happen will be announced once the project gets scheduled. We will be able to see where we are supposed to be parking. LOL.

**PRESCHOOL AND NEA** unfortunately will not open this fall in our church. For preschool it is due to such a low enrollment of students. Hopefully things can turn around and we will be able to have preschool once again in January. We need to keep them in our prayers until then. For NEA, it is because of the mask mandates, loss of 4 students not returning and 3 new ones deciding to go elsewhere and cost effectiveness for Audra, she is also hoping this is only temporary.

**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 their last interview was Tuesday evening. Since they 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. They even were able to schedule one last interview with Pastor Zimmerman from Addison, IL this past Tuesday.

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *"And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" Acts 2:11b (NLT)*

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are called to be different, and to let that difference reveal God to others. In this new series we will look at how we are to live after God has called us out of the world to be His ambassadors, to tell everyone about the wonderful things God has done.

## 8-29-21 Message Outline

### "Wonderful"

Psalm 119 says: *"Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them. The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."* Come bask in the light of three wonderful God-given gifts...

#### 1) God's **LAW** is wonderful.

Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you.

Deuteronomy 4:1

#### 2) God's **ARMOR** is wonderful.

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:10-18

#### 3) God's **COUNSELOR** is wonderful.

<sup>15</sup> [Jesus said] "Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them." <sup>21</sup> For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

Mark 7:15, 21-23

*For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6