



**Inside this issue:**

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| "God Loves You"                     | 1 |
| This Week at Living Word            | 2 |
| Celebrations, Contacts, Stewardship | 2 |
| Community Events                    | 2 |
| 9-12-21 Message Outline             | 3 |
| Important Information               | 3 |
| Mission of the Month                | 3 |
| Church News                         | 4 |
| Living Word News                    | 4 |
| "God Loves You"                     | 4 |

**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 37

September 19, 2021

## "God Loves You"

Ever wonder if God loves you?

After all, the one Bible verse everyone knows is John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." But here's the thing: it's one thing to have head knowledge about God's love. It's something else altogether to believe it so deeply and strongly that it utterly transforms every aspect of my life.

### Experiencing God's Love

The first type of knowledge – head knowledge – is never lacking on my part. I know my theology pretty well.

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. If you were to ask me if God loves me, I'd say, "Yes, of course!" But when it comes to actually *experiencing* the reality that God loves me – that's sorely lacking on my part. And while I'm not a believer in elevating feelings and experiences over the rock-solid truth of God's word, I do think it's important that I both believe that God loves in my head and actually experience God's love in my heart. Just like I want my children to both know and experience my love, I believe that God wants me to know and experience the staggering, glorious, life-giving reality that God loves me. So how can I grow in this experiential knowledge of God's love? I don't think it's complicated. Scripture makes it abundantly, overwhelmingly clear just how crazy God is about me. I simply need to take hold of these truths to the point where they move me from knowing that God is love to the point where I feel and believe that God is love. Here are five different ways that Scripture tells me that God loves me.

#### 1. God Loves Me and Chose Me To Be Saved

Scripture makes it very clear that in eternity past, God chose me to be saved. Before I had done anything good or bad, God decided that he was going to forgive my sins and adopt me in Jesus Christ. Why did he choose me? Because he loved me with a deep, profound, inexplicable love. As Ephesians 1 puts it, "In love he predestined us..." Though the doctrine of predestination may seem mysterious or confusing, one thing is NOT confusing: the reason God predestined me to be saved was that he really, truly loved me. He wouldn't have chosen me to be saved if he didn't possess an extravagant love for me. When I really think about it, it takes my breath away. God loves me and chose to save me.

#### 2. God Loves Me and Gave His Son For Me

There is no greater, more unassailable proof that God loves me than the fact that he gave his Son to die for my sins. God wanted to be in a relationship with me *so much* that he was willing to sacrifice his only Son to make that happen. Though my many sins against God deserve the furious wrath of God, he poured that wrath out on Jesus instead. *For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* Is there any greater proof that God loves me? This is love that I simply can't fathom. Christ died for me even though I had ZERO righteousness of my own. He didn't die for a good person, he died for me, a wicked sinner who wanted nothing to do with him. Is there any greater, more convincing proof that God loves me than the cross? If I want to truly know and experience the love of God, the starting place is the cross. It's there that I see the breathtaking heights of God's love and the bewildering lengths he was willing to go to save me. God loves me, and the cross is proof of it.

Continued on the bottom of page 4

## This Week at Living Word

| Sun   | Mon       | Tue   | Wed                            | Thu       | Fri       | Sat       |
|---|-----------|---|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>19</b><br>9:00 am Adult Study<br>10:00 am Worship-COMM | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br>10:00 am PUSH<br>7:00 pm Council Meeting | <b>22</b><br>First Day of Fall | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b> |

## Celebrations This Week

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <br><b>Sept 17</b> David Merchantz<br><b>Sept 24</b> Tom DiGrazia | <br><b>Sept 18</b> Jennifer Vanderver<br><b>Sept 23</b> Jesse Meier | <br><b>Sept 19</b> Diana & Paul Motel<br><b>Sept 19</b> Lisa & Jeff Regan |
|--|--|--|

## Stewardship Snapshot

### September 12th

**19** Worshipped  
**2** Watched DVD's  
**15** Watched Online  
**36** Total

**Financial Support**  
 2,580.00 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

[intouchlwlc@yahoo.com](mailto:intouchlwlc@yahoo.com)

**Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel**

[dianamotel@yahoo.com](mailto: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

## Community Events

**CHICAGOLAND SPEEDWAY IN JOLIET** to host the start of the Franklin Graham God Love You Tour. Franklin is the son of the great Billy Graham. This tour will start in Joliet today, Sunday, September 19th at 4:00pm and is free to the public. This will be the first of 8 cities Franklin plans to speak and travel to. For more information, there's pamphlets and a schedule on the desk next to the office. Hopefully this will be a huge success for Franklin Graham, as we all need to hear the message of how much God loves us.



**FRANKLIN GRAHAM**  
**GOD LOVES YOU**  
*Tour*

## 9-19-21 Message Outline

### "Our Freewill Offering"

Psalm 54 says: "I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you." How will WE sacrifice? What is OUR freewill offering ...?

#### 1) I will commit to the Lord's CAUSE.

<sup>18</sup> Because the LORD revealed their plot to me, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing. <sup>19</sup> I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying, "Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more." <sup>20</sup> But you, LORD Almighty, who judge righteously and test the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Jeremiah 11:18-20

#### 2) I will keep God's COMMANDS.

<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4:7-10

#### 3) I will carry Christ's CROSS.

<sup>30</sup> They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, <sup>31</sup> because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it. <sup>33</sup> They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" <sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Mark 9:30-35

## Important Information

**UPDATED MASKS REQUIREMENTS:** we will have to require masks now. We would still like to offer communion at the alter and pre-portioned communion for those who wish to stay at their seat. If you go up for communion you can pull your mask down to receive the sacraments. Diana has this posted on Facebook and our website. I have posted the new signs at the door and it will also be in the newsletter. As always for you safety, we still have extra masks and hand sanitizer available in the fellowship as you enter, in case you don't bring one from home. Hopefully, this will be short termed, but your safety and health will always be our main concern.



## Mission of the Month

**MISSION OF THE MONTH** for September, the Mission of the Month will be African Radio Ministries, we will see a short video for their outreach and organization, and I have included some information from their website here.



In January, 2005 African Radio Ministries (ARM) began broadcasting weekly Lutheran worship programs in Africa. We are currently aimed at two regions: In **Liberia**, programs are produced and broadcasted from four different counties in four languages: Kissi, Kpelle, Krahn and Loma. In **Ethiopia**, programs are produced in the Addis Ababa office then broadcast from South Africa. They are offered in two languages, Amharic and Oromifa . In 2016, there were 51 church plants recorded through ARM listener groups. Listeners may contact the ARM staff at these offices to learn more about what it means to follow Christ.

## Church News

**FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM!** The transition team met this past Tuesday evening in response to the call that Donna had received from Pastor Zimmerman about the recent diagnosis of his mother-in-law's health and the ongoing health issues of his father-in-law. He will not be able to accept our call and has asked us to keep him and his family in our prayers. Donna has reached out to three other pastors that they interviewed to discuss if they are interested in accepting a call at this time, Pastor Kass and Pastor LaBoube are still open to revisit with us, they have a Zoom meeting with Pastor LaBoube scheduled for Monday evening and once Pastor Kass returns from his vacation, they will schedule a meeting with him.

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching - Acts 2:42a (NLT)*

*No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. - Matthew 5:15-16 (NLT)*

The apostles' teaching was the same as Jesus' teaching, so the believers acted on what they believed, and the Holy Spirit changed their world. In the same way, when we today act on what we believe, our world will also be changed by the Holy Spirit. This may include leading people to the truth of Jesus' love and forgiveness, or ministry to people's physical needs, or encouragement of believers who are going through a period of trial. Whatever it may be for you today, let your light shine to the glory of your heavenly Father.

## Zoom Bible Class

**POW (People of the Word) Bible Study** has wrapped up their study on the book of Isaiah this week. They will be taking a two week break and will continue meeting on Friday, October 8th at 9:30am. For those who want to start fresh with their new study on the 8th can meet here with the group or you can join the class on Zoom. Each Thursday, I will email the link for that Friday's class so all you need to do is to click on the link to join. The parables study will last till the Advent season, and then for an Advent study they chose to read "Our Hope Has Come".

## Living Word News

**PARKING LOT** was reseal-coated and restriped on Wednesday and Thursday this week. It looks really good, it is a big improvement to our property. At least now we can see where we are supposed to be parking too. LOL.

**GOD'S GRACE AND COMFORT** to the Sharon Nelson family. Sharon was a former worshipper of Living Word. She had passed away in the early morning hours of Saturday, August 21 surrounded by her family. Her memorial service was here yesterday, the 18th. She had only found out that she was suffering from cancer just a few months ago. She is survived by her 4 daughters, 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

## "God Loves You"

Continued from page 1

### 3. God Loves Me and Adopted Me

Simply forgiving my sins would be proof enough that God loves me, but he doesn't stop there. He piles proof upon proof of his love. In addition to forgiving all my sins, God adopted me as his son. It wasn't enough for him to just forgive me. God deeply wanted me to be part of his family – to share in the overflowing joy of the Trinity. This is a glorious, praise-inducing truth. I have been given the full rights of a son of God, including an inheritance from God himself. I have unique access to God that is only available to his family members. Even though he is the Holy One, the one who causes prophets to cry out, "Woe is me!" I can call him, "Abba, Father." I am adopted by God and I have the King of Kings as my Father. God loves me, and my adoption as his son is proof of that.

### 4. God Loves Me and Loves To Bless Me

God's love for me is infinitely greater than my love for my kids, and he proves that he loves me by pouring out blessing after blessing on me. God blesses me in so many ways, whether it's healing me from an illness, providing for me financially, speaking to me through my Bible reading, or answering prayers in very specific ways. When I try to count all the ways God has blessed me, I find myself saying, "Bless the Lord, O my soul!" God loves me and proves that by blessing me in a thousand different ways.

### Why Does God Love Us So Much?

Ultimately, the reason God loves us so much is because that's who He is. I believe that God loves me because 1 John 4:8 tells us that God is love. God's love for us flows out of His very nature. Our relationship with God is not founded on what we do. Rather, God loves us simply because He is love and He delights in us.