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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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708-403-9673
livingwordorland.org
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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**

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 35

September 5, 2021

"Don't Engage in Favoritism"

Favoritism in the context of this scripture is showing special treatment to a particular person or persons based on their social standing. In short, treating people with lesser financial means in a lesser way.

Does this Matter?

- 1 You might be wondering, *why does James make such a big deal about this? Isn't this just the way that the world is?* We know that all throughout history, people in society have been treated differently based on the amount of money and status they have.
- 2 In our modern day, we want to impress people with money because we know that they often hold a great deal of power and influence. People in business will try their hardest to get people who are wealthy and influential to invest in their efforts. Colleges will often try and befriend wealthy alumni to donate money to their operations and funds or to set up a scholarship program to help those who meet their standards.

1. Favoritism Discourages Others

- 6 James paints us a small picture of a person who walks in with much gold and fine clothes and another person who comes in in rags. The rich person is given the seat and place of honor while the poor is asked to sit on the floor.

Churches in those days did not have much seating, often there were only a few benches, and the rest of the congregation sat on the floor. Pharisees were often the people who demanded to be sat on the benches and places of honor.

Placing rich people in the best places created a cast system within the worship service, as those sitting in the best places were the religious, educated, and wealthy and those sitting on the floor were the poor sinners, the ones that were not on the same level as those sitting in the good seats. John McArthur points out in his commentary that James feared that people in the church were beginning to treat the poor as society treated them: as people who were to be shamed and looked down upon. James makes this point that if you contribute to and support this system in the church you are no better than society and your thoughts and intentions are not of God but are evil and vicious.

2. Favoritism Imitates the Wrong Thing


James keenly points out that all the pampering to the rich in the church was ironic since it was those same people who were exploiting the poor and vulnerable. There are many references all throughout the Old Testament where God commands the rich and those in a position of power not to take advantage of the poor and to come to their aid (Ezekiel 22:29 Proverbs 21:13 Isaiah 58:10).

James 2:7 points out that they are the ones dragging you to court and not only taking your money but running your reputation down. James wants them to see that this is not behavior you should be pampering or lifting up. Rather, this should be rebuked and addressed. Not only is this something we should be conscious of in our church but in our lives as well. How often do we cater to people in our lives and treat them with special treatment simply because of their wealth?

Christian, don't treat your church like the rat race the world is running but focus on something of greater value and that is the eternal welfare of people.

Continued on the bottom of Page 6

This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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 Pastor Lee to Speak

Celebrations This Week

 Sept 5 Noah Hostert Sept 5 Dwight Hostert Sept 8 James Boehm Sept 8 Pastor Lange Sept 10 Dayna Hann	 Sept 1 Jodi Kempke Sept 12 Jeff Regan Sept 14 Jennifer Lange	 Sept 4 Delores & Joe Urbank Sept 6 Pam & George Hostert Sept 12 Tami & Dan Folgers
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Stewardship Snapshot

August 29th

24 Worshipped

2 Watched DVD's

12 Watched Online

38 Total

Financial Support

3,495.00 General Fund

196.00 Grace Academy Mission of the Month

\$3,691.00 Total General Fund Deposit

August 22nd

Financial Support

1,275.00 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

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



Living Word Endowment Fund

LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 8/31/2021)

The current value of the fund is \$172,182.87 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$46,207.39. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$40,994.75. Of this, \$20,497.38 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	46,207.39
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>40,994.75</u>
	Total market value	\$172,182.87



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

Important Information

UPDATED MASKS REQUIREMENTS: we will have to require masks now. We would still like to offer communion at the altar 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 your 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 term, but your safety and health will always be our main concern.



Mission of the Month

MISSION OF THE MONTH for August was Grace Christian Academy in Chicago. Your very generous donations had raised \$196.00. As we can relate how hard it is to maintain a Christian school, that money will be very helpful to be able to obtain educational materials and help their families give the children a Christian education.



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 a little bit 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

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.

FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM! The transition team has been very busy the past couple of months. 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 month or so and their last interview was last week. 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 last week.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 12 immediately following the service, depending if we can have a representative from the district present for the vote on the next pastor. Otherwise, the meeting will be planned and scheduled for the following Sunday, September 19th when Pastor Schauer will be here. 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.

TODAY, SEPTEMBER 5th Donna will be presenting their choice for the next pastor. Her and Diana along with the rest of the transition team will be showing a short video of a sample worship service of Pastor Zimmerman.

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Acts 2:21 (NLT)*

For 2000 years we've been in the Last Days, when the Spirit is poured out on all followers of Jesus, men and women, great and small. Life in the Spirit is spontaneous and empowered, as we recognize spiritual needs in our surroundings, and step into those situations prompted by the Spirit. In these interactions the Spirit uses us to bring comfort, truth, deliverance, and healing as we proclaim the gospel.

Zoom Bible Class

POW (People of the Word) Bible Study the class will be wrapping up their study on the book of Isaiah within the next week or two, and for those who wish to continue to meet here, can do so, but we also have 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. For those who would like to start off with a new study, they will be starting the study on Proverbs in October. **Please See Below For Zoom Info for the September 10th bible study:**

The zoom email is LWLCmedia@yahoo.com

Password is Church@1990!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83125214321?pwd=bEdtSzdkcTR1ZHNLVllK0JsRVUvUT09>

Meeting ID: 831 2521 4321 Passcode: 648117

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83125214321#,,, *648117# US (Chicago)

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

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. Pastor Lee has been asked to speak at the ceremony as well since he has first hand experience being at Ground Zero in the days and weeks following the attacks. 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.



The flyer features a night-time photograph of the New York City skyline with the Statue of Liberty in the foreground. Overlaid on the top left is a graphic with the words "NEVER FORGET" in white, a stylized white silhouette of the Twin Towers, and a red and white American flag. Below this is the text "9.11 Commemoration Ceremony". At the bottom, the event details are listed in large white text: "SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 ★ 10AM" and "ORLAND PARK ARA PACÉ MEMORIAL". Below this is the address "VILLAGE GREEN ★ 14700 SOUTH RAVINIA AVENUE ★ 708.403.5000". At the very bottom, it says "Honoring the 20th Anniversary of 9/11" followed by three logos: the Village of Orland Park logo, the Veterans Affairs logo, and the Orland Park Chamber of Commerce logo.

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 20th Anniversary of 9/11

ORLAND PARK VETERANS AFFAIRS ORLAND PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Living Word News

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.

9-5-21 Message Outline

"Whom Do You Trust"

Psalm 146 says: *"Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save...Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God."* Today we ask, *"Whom do you trust...?"*

1) Whom do you FEAR?

⁴ Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." ⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
Isaiah 35:4-7a

2) Whom do you FAVOR?

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?
James 2:1-5

3) Whom do you FOLLOW?

³² ...Some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. ³³ After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, *"Ephphatha!"* (which means "Be opened!"). ³⁵ At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. ³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."
Mark 7:32-37

Don't Engage in Favoritism

Continued from Page 1

3. Favoritism Is Antagonistic to God's Rule

God has blessed every Christian with a certain degree of wealth and resources. However, the amount of wealth one possesses will not affect their salvation. When all believers enter heaven, there will not be people who will be more blessed than others. There will be no VIP room where some can enjoy Jesus more. The fact is that those who enter the kingdom of God have done so because God judged them on whether their names have been written in the book of life (Revelation 20:12).

God judges not based on wealth, but rather whether we put our faith in Jesus Christ. When we are loving those people in our churches, their financial status should not play a role in how we treat them. After all, if Christ loves and embraces the poor just as He does the rich, shouldn't we? Are we better kings than the King? What are ways in your life where favoritism hurts your relationships with family, fellow church members, or people with whom you work?