



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 40 "God's Work, Our Work" October 10, 2021

Inside this issue:

"God's Work, Our Work"

This Week at Living Word

Celebrations, Contacts, Stewardship

Living Word Endowment Fund

10-10-21 Message Outline

Important Information

Mission of the Month

Church News

Zoom Bible Study

Earning Opportunities

1
2
2
2
3
3
3
4
4
4

The basic idea here, service to benefit our neighbor and awareness that it is God's work that we're doing with that, is undoubtedly good. Reflections about this should make us realize a couple of things. The first is that there's something that we need to watch out for. The second is that we have an opportunity here for a teaching moment in which some important ideas that play a role in theology-science discussions can be conveyed. That thing to watch out for is our ever-present tendency, as sinful human beings, to think that we need to be able to claim some merit for the good works that we've done. It would be especially meritorious if we could do more than is really required. (I remember from college teaching days students asking what they could do for "extra credit" near the end of a term.) That kind of thinking about earning merits was one of the things that brought about the Reformation. We need to remember Jesus' sobering words to his disciples in Luke 17:10. "So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done.'" "Work" is a noun, and "God's work" can mean the work that God wants to be done, kind of like a To-Do list for us. Then it's up to us to have "our hands" do the tasks on that list. And when the work is done and we're the ones who have done it, surely we ought to get some credit for that. But God is never inactive — "Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light" we sing in one hymn.² That's why I chose the title "God working with our hands" for this article. It's not as snappy as "God's work. Our hands" but it conveys unambiguously the idea of God's activity in the work of service that's being done. God is active in everything that takes place in the world. Of course "our hands," and really all of our bodies and minds, are also working. The work won't get done if we don't get busy. But nothing would get done if God weren't working. In fact, we wouldn't even be alive if God weren't working to keep our bodies functioning. God and humans cooperate — they literally "work together."

God's action in the world

That's just one example of what is referred to in discussions of science and theology as the subject of "divine action." Careful study of phenomena show that processes in the physical world fall into definite patterns that scientists try to describe with what they call "scientific laws" — conservation of energy, the laws describing the basic natural forces, and so on. Christian faith says also that God is doing things in the world — providing our "daily bread" and other necessities of life. So how are we to understand that work of "providence" or "continuing creation" together with the activities of bodies and fields and forces that science studies? A number of different ways of thinking about this have been suggested. One traditional approach goes back to Thomas Aquinas. He saw God as the First Cause who was active in the world through second causes associated with things in the world. In other words, God's action in the world is mediated through creatures. (On the other hand, God's initial creation of things *ex nihilo* was unmediated, there having been nothing for it to be mediated by.) Similar ideas were developed by both Lutheran and Reformed theologians in the period after the Reformation. "What else is all our work to God — whether in the fields, in the garden, in the city, in the house, in war, or in government — but just such a child's performance by which he wants to give us his gifts in the fields, at home, and everywhere else? These are the masks of God, behind which He wants to remain concealed and do all things." Martin Luther, "Psalm 147" in Luther's Work. And that reference to "our work" can remind us that we are also instruments that God uses. That's exactly the idea behind the "God's work. Our hands" — or "God working with our hands" — theme. But unlike screwdrivers or calculators, we can refuse to cooperate with God's work, or perform it in a lazy and half-hearted way. In things of this world we have a certain amount of free will and can be, as Luther puts it, "rusty tools." If we wonder why God doesn't do something about an obvious problem in the world, it may be that God is doing as well as possible, like a carpenter trying to do the best job with a rusty saw and bent nails.

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

This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	11	12 10:00 am PUSH	13	14	15 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	16

October Celebrations

 October 11 Jill Goebel	 Oct 19 Luke Sefcik Oct 23 Tommy DiGrazia	 Oct 10 Abby & Bill Merchantz
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Stewardship Snapshot

October 3rd

19 Worshipped, 19 Communed

2 Watched DVD's

10 Watched Online

31 Total

Financial Support

1,730.00 General Fund

10,000.00 Special Donation (General Fund)

11,730.00 Total 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 (as of 9/30/2021)

The current value of the fund is \$168,604.97 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$42,629.49. 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	42,629.49
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>40,994.75</u>
	Total market value	\$168,604.97

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



10-10-21 Message Outline

“Establish the Work of Our Hands”

Psalm 90 says: *“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom... May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us: establish the work of our hands for us.”* How do we work with God?

1) Keep FIGHTING for justice.

¹⁰ There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court and detest the one who tells the truth... ¹²... There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts. ¹³ Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times, for the times are evil. ¹⁴ Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. ¹⁵ Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.
Amos 5:10, 12b-15

2) Hold FIRM in conviction.

¹² See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. Hebrews 3:12-14

3) Come FOLLOW our Shepherd.

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.” ²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” ²² At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Mark 10:17-22

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 termed, but your safety and health will always be our main concern.



Mission of the Month

MISSION OF THE MONTH - For October, we will be collecting skeins of yarn, fleece and material for Vitas Healthcare and Hospice. They are a local healthcare facility for seniors and pediatric patients located in Tinley Park and they are looking to collect these items for volunteers to make robes, blankets, draw string bags, for their patients. There will be a box

VITAS[®]
Healthcare

on the table for those who wish to drop of any yarn that they may have or if you would like you can always make monetary donations and we can either send that to them or go and purchase yarn from the Dollar Tree or Walmart. They are also looking for volunteers to knit, sew or crochet these items for their patients as well, so if you have any spare time, I know not many of us do, but even if it is only one or two items, they would be very grateful. They are available for their patients 24/7/365.

Church News

FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM! The transition team will be meeting sometime this week to discuss what their next steps are, and what options they have available to them. They will be planning a congregational meeting for later this month to inform us of their findings.

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

It is always tempting to want to lead a Christian life alone, not in community with other Christians. It is more comfortable not to be called to account by others when sin bears its fruit in our lives. Yet the recurring "one another's" of the New Testament point us in a different direction, toward trusting God working in others to bring us closer to Him. Who can you connect with this week who will strengthen your fellowship with other Christians?

GOD'S GRACE AND COMFORT for the Regan and Wagner families. Lisa's and Pam's mom, Ida Stevens had passed away last Saturday night after the antibiotics for her infection hadn't worked like they had hoped. Her funeral service was here on Friday, please join me as we keep them in our prayers.

ALTAR FLOWERS were donated by the family of Ida Stevens for our worship service today.

Zoom Bible Class

POW (People of the Word) Bible Study has extended their break by another week, they will meet on Friday, October 15th at 9:30am starting the study on the Parables. 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*". Please see me or call the office if you would like to join, that way we can order books for you. Not only will you gain some insight with these bible study classes, but you will have fun doing so at the same time. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the Bible study on October 15th.**

The zoom email is LWLCmedia@yahoo.com

Password is Church@1990!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81494277652pwd=Qms0WkFzcWt0bldFa2hZdUhDTG1ydz09>

Meeting ID: 814 9427 7652 Passcode: 668781

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81494277652#,,,,*668781# US (Chicago)

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

Donation Opportunities

NEW EARNING OPPORTUNITIES Diana will have more ways for us to help raise money for our church just by doing our Christmas shopping, birthday shopping or buying gift cards for other happy occasions. With a mobile app, RaiseRight or the website ShopWithScrip, you can purchase gift cards for your friends, family, and even yourself and they will donate 3% of the sales to our church, I have screenshots from Diana below just to give you an idea of what it will look like, but she will also have all of this up on our website and Facebook page, and once the account gets set up, our unique code to use in order for the 3% is **YL5M6W4APYDX**. This is the most safe and secure way to buy gift cards these days, trust me, I was a victim of the money on a gift card being used by criminals. Even though I had the card in my possession, a day after it was given to me, the money was already gone, and it took me several calls and emails and a bunch of paperwork, and about 6 months later I was able to receive a replacement gift card with my name on it and for me to set up a pin on the card. Still be as generous as you always are, just be aware to do it safely and securely. Diana has copies of the images below with the special code to use on the desk next the office.

AMAZON SMILE ACCOUNT is also another earning opportunity for us, the link for that is on our website, and all you have to do is click on the link on our Facebook page and it will take you right into Amazon and link it to our account. Another easy and safe way to shop during these unprecedented times. Have fun shopping and help us continue to earn money all at the same time. So don't delay, get a head start on your Christmas shopping this year with these two great opportunities. So have fun shopping this holiday season while staying warm and dry and also safe inside and helping us earn money.