

REJOICE  
*always*  
PRAY  
*constantly*  
*in everything*  
GIVE  
THANKS

Inside this issue:

"Rejoice, Pray, and Give Thanks"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Celebrations, Contacts, Stewardship	2
10-17-21 Message Outline	3
Mission of the Month	3
Church News	4
Zoom Bible Study	4
Earning Opportunities	5
Important Information	5
The Back Page	6

**IN TOUCH**  
with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 41

October 17, 2021

"Rejoice, Pray, and Give Thanks"

**REJOICE ALWAYS.**

Each child of God should rejoice in all that He has provided us for it is the Lord who is the Author of every perfect gift from above. I often stand in awe in what my Redeemer has given me. Yes, I have suffered adversity through the years, but He has never failed me—and in that I rejoice! Ultimately, we should rejoice in God for it is in Him that our joy will be full. No matter what life encounters we experience we can still rejoice in our Redeemer who never changes and never forsakes us. We may have sorrowful moments, yet we rejoice always; we may lack, yet through our rejoicing we are made rich— we may even have nothing, yet in rejoicing—we possess everything! The life of a Christian is a contented life for it is a life of constant joy no matter the circumstances.

**PRAY ALWAYS.**

"Some prayer, some power; more prayer, more power; much prayer, much power!" And prayer yields the same results for joy— "Some prayer, some joy; more prayer, more joy; much prayer, much joy!" Children of God should pray a prayer of thanksgiving the moment we awake and pray through the day until our prayers culminate in praise by days end. Prayer is a wise use of our time for it will help accomplish every good work that God has set before us. The way to rejoice forevermore is to pray without ceasing—we will rejoice more if we pray more.

**GIVE THANKS ALWAYS.**

Prayer is the gateway to the Father and thanksgiving is the key that opens the door. If we pray without ceasing then we should give thanks in everything. We should be thankful in every condition—in adversity as well as in prosperity. We should rejoice in the life we have been afforded—giving thanks for the years past, righteously living each day as if it were our last and planning as if we had a hundred years more. We have all prayed the Lord's Prayer and recited the phrase, "Thy will be done..." I ask, "Who among us doesn't want to please our Father in Heaven?" Therefore, in obedience to His will, I encourage you to offer a sacrifice of praise to the Lord with a voice of thanksgiving in His Holy Name for He is good and His mercy endures forever.

Joy is a rare gift, but when it is experienced, it moves us for a few brilliant moments into the realm of the divine, the porches of heaven. It is the greatest "hint" of eternity that our reason and our hearts can know. This is why it is so rare. Joy more than simple happiness. Happiness is an end that all human beings seek. We seek it because we perceive it is an end worthy of being pursued. Therein lies the difference between happiness and joy. While we may pursue happiness, joy is a pure gift, it can not be pursued. It is a pure gift from God alone. I may be able to explain why I am happy, or why I am pursuing happiness, but joy is beyond the capacity of mere words to explain. It is a transcendent experience, not rooted in the material or finite reality of our mortal lives. It is experienced only at the level of the eternal within us, that is, our souls. Indeed, it is more real than the momentary and transient feelings of worldly happiness. What, then, is the role of joy in our lives? It has no "role" to play in the usual sense of the word. Rather, it comes as a gratuitous gift to those who have willingly and faithfully picked up their crosses to follow Christ in all that they say and do. The reality is that we are, all of us, caught in the mess of our own sinfulness. We (and the world) suffer because of our many choices to seek countless temporary and selfish pleasures that "appear" to lead us to the happiness we desire, but which, in reality, lay waste to those that we use on the way to our perceived end of happiness.

Continued on page 6

**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
<b>17</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship-COMM	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00 am PUSH  7:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  6:00 pm Transition Team Meeting	<b>22</b>  9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Congregational Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10:00 am PUSH	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	<b>30</b>

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** is scheduled for next Sunday immediately following the service. Donna will be livestreamed on the screen with us with updates from the transition team and we will also be receiving information from the council for ideas on increasing our attendance and offerings and looking how to reach more people and past members. Please plan on attending this very informative and important meeting.

## October Celebrations



**October 21** Carolyn Wagenaar  
**October 21** Hank Kalis



**Oct 19** Luke Sefcik  
**Oct 23** Tommy DiGrazia

## Stewardship Snapshot

**October 10th**

**23** Worshipped  
**2** Watched DVD's  
**12** Watched Online  
**37** Total

**Financial Support**  
 2,415.00 General Fund

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

## 10-17-21 Message Outline

### “Rejoicing in Our Riches”

Psalm 119 says: “I rejoice in following your statutes [testimonies] as one rejoices in great riches.” Today we rejoice in our riches...

#### 1) We rejoice in our true **RICHES**.

<sup>10</sup> Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless. <sup>11</sup> As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them? <sup>12</sup> The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep.  
Ecclesiastes 5:10-12

#### 2) We rejoice in our Sabbath **REST**.

<sup>9</sup> There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; <sup>10</sup> for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.  
Hebrews 4:9-10

#### 3) We rejoice in our Christian **RELATIONSHIPS**.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” <sup>24</sup> The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is! to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>26</sup> The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” <sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” <sup>28</sup> Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!” <sup>29</sup> “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Mark 10:23-31

My cup overflows. Surely goodness and loving kindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.  
Psalm 23:5

“I came that [you] may have life, and have it abundantly.”

John 10:10

## Mission of the Month

**MISSION OF THE MONTH - For October**, we are collecting yarn, fleece and material for Vitas Healthcare and Hospice. They are a local health-care 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, prayer shawls and other miscellaneous items for their patients. There are boxes 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 buy yarn from the Dollar Tree or Walmart or the fabric remnants from Joann Fabrics and Hobby Lobby. Who doesn’t like to go shopping anyway, LOL. They are also looking for volunteers to knit, sew or crochet these



**VITAS**<sup>®</sup>  
Healthcare

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 for only one or two items, they would be very grateful. They truly have been excited about Diana contacting them and they’re looking forward to anything that we can do for them. They are available for their patients 24/7/365. Thank you so much for all of the yarn from Joan Tinich, and the monetary support that we have already collected, they are going to be so happy!

## Church News

**FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM!** The transition team met this past Tuesday and will be meeting again this coming Thursday to discuss what their next steps are, and what options they have available to them. They will have more information at the congregational meeting next week.

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Ephesians 2:8 (NLT)*

It is essential that we always remember that the difference between the Church and the World is totally due to the grace of God, and not to anything we do on our own. We can't have fellowship with God or with each other without the grace of God. But God's grace also allows us to deal with outsiders graciously as well. Our grace-based faith is unique.

**GOD'S GRACE AND COMFORT** for the Regan and Wagner families. Lisa's and Pam's mom, Ida Stevens had passed away two weeks ago after the antibiotics for her infection hadn't worked like they had hoped. Her funeral service was here last 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 last Sunday and this morning.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** will be meeting on Tuesday, the 19th. They will be updating the constitution and by laws and discussing how we can grow our church more.

## Zoom Bible Class

**POW (People of the Word) Bible Study** met on Friday, October 15th at 9:30am starting the study on the Parables. 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 22nd.**

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

Password is Church@1990!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81985492272pwd=MS9wRkllWmFKQnQvdKx5ZjhxSkZodz09>

Meeting ID: 819 8549 2272 Passcode: 985490

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81985492272#,,,,\*985490# 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. Samples of the flyers are located on the next page.

**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.

# Donation Opportunities

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More than 50,000 organizations have used gift cards to turn everyday shopping into earnings—our organization is one of them. Pay with gift cards and offset costs for our organization.



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Earn a rebate up to 20%



Use gift cards for everyday shopping

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"It's super convenient. All I need to go shopping is my phone—I don't even need credit cards or my purse. I'm going to pay for these things anyway, I love being able to use gift cards so we get something in return."

Jen H., earns for hockey



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### 3. Get and use your gift cards

- eGift cards are delivered to the app within minutes—view them in your Wallet.
- Physical gift cards are mailed to your coordinator. Many are reloadable so you can keep earning with the ones you have.
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## 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 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.



## The Back Page

**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.

### "Rejoice, Pray, and Give Thanks"

Continued from page 1

We are often too filled up with these finite and false "things" to be able to receive anything so great as joy. On the other hand, those who have sold all that they own (especially their egos) and given freely of themselves to the poor and who then willingly follow Christ in all things, are those who have emptied themselves enough to receive God's magnanimous gift of joy. Hence the truth about joy: We must empty ourselves in order to be filled. Our souls are made for joy. It is their proper condition. But we must become poor in spirit, we must empty ourselves of all that is false, we must turn away from all within us that seeks anything less than a relationship with God, in order to be ready for such a gift. For joy is God's gift to those who follow him, who love as he loved, who have become generous with mercy, forgiveness and compassion toward all, especially those who count themselves our enemies. Joy, then, always comes to us as a matter of holy surprise. It may come to us while we are in the midst of some terrible suffering we have entered into with and on behalf of others. Or it may come to us while we are deep in solitary and silent prayer with God. God knows when we are ready for it. We can not seek it. Yet, when joy is received, it reveals to us the proper state of our eternal souls. For this reason, we can only respond to it with inarticulate shouts or sighs, a spontaneous clap of hands, or by falling on our knees. It is always beyond the speaking of it.

