



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 42

October 24, 2021

"Bringing In The Sheaves"

Inside this issue:

"Bringing in The Sheaves"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Celebrations, Contacts, Stewardship	2
10-24-21 Message Outline	3
Mission of the Month	3
Church News	4
Zoom Bible Study	4
Earning Opportunities	4
Donation Opportunities	5
The Back 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

One day the Lord Jesus will return to the earth and gather up those who believed in Him, and then all who put their faith in Him throughout history will enter into eternity in Heaven. In the Bible, this event is referred to using the metaphor of a harvest at several points. Jesus used it during his ministry, and Paul referred to it during some of his writings. The Old Testament writers also made use of the metaphor of harvest, though the minor prophets like Micah and Amos used it in a different context.

A popular hymn from the 19th century called "Bringing in the Sheaves" made use of this imagery to encourage believers to share the Gospel. To bring in the sheaves refers to the idea that one day believers will come before the Lord, bringing others with them with whom they shared the Gospel.

What Does "Bringing in the Sheaves" Mean?

The metaphor of bringing in the sheaves has its roots in agricultural cycles and culture. Specifically, it comes from the process of the growing and harvesting of wheat, a staple of many cultures across the world.

Wheat is the foundation for making bread, a staple food. In order to make this common carbohydrate, the seed is planted and grows under the care of the landowner and his farmhands. Wheat from the previous year was sown to be used to facilitate the growth of the new round of planting. Long after the rainy season, the wheat should be ready to harvest. The workers would go out into the field and harvest the wheat, bundling the stalks. These bundles are sheaves, the plural of sheaf, "a bundle of grain stalks laid lengthwise and tied together after reaping." The farmhands brought the sheaves into the room where they would be threshed, a process of removing the grain from the wheat and barley by driving cows and oxen over the sheaves. Edible sections were separated from the inedible through winnowing. A winnowing staff or fork would scoop up what had been threshed and throw it into the wind; the heavy edible parts landed close by with a thud. The inedible, useless stalks and chaff were blown away.

In the hymn the sheaves do not refer to actual bundles of wheat, but rather, the sheaves are people. The field to be harvested is the whole world, full of people who need to hear and accept the Gospel. Christians are supposed to go out and fulfill the Great Commission; "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20a). By obeying this last instruction from the Lord Jesus, Christians are participating in a harvest.

The hymn has the lines, "Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master, though the loss sustained our spirit often grieves; when our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome, we shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves." In Jesus' parables, He is often portrayed as a bridegroom or a landowner for whom many wait, and one day He will arrive and embrace those who waited for Him. The hymn makes use of this imagery, as well as the picture of the harvest, to encourage believers to witness to others so they may bring others with them to wait, and then be welcomed, by God - called the Lord of the Harvest in Matthew 9.

Is the Phrase "Bringing in the Sheaves" in the Bible?

There are several verses in the Bible which refer to the harvesting of grain. Some of them are literal, some use the metaphor, and the symbolism is not always the same.

This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Informational Meeting	25	26 10:00 am PUSH	27	28	29 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	30

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.

October Celebrations



October 24 Russ Kalis
October 25 Ashley Meier
October 25 Pastor Lee



Oct 24 Noah Hostert
Oct 25 Benjamin Bonnar
Oct 26 Renate DiGrazia
Oct 31 Dale Johnson

Stewardship Snapshot

October 17th

22 Worshipped, 21 Communed
2 Watched DVD's
13 Watched Online
37 Total

Financial Support
 2,520.00 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

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

10-24-21 Message Outline

"Bringing In the Sheaves"

Psalm 126:6 says: *Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves ...*

1) The Lord sets us FREE.

⁷ This is what the LORD says: "Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, 'LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.' ⁸ See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Jeremiah 31:7-8a

2) Our High Priest meets our NEEDS.

²³ Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to inter-cede for them. ²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weak-ness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever. Hebrews 7:23-28

3) The Son of David helps us SEE.

⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaheus"), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." ⁵² "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. Mark 10:46-52

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.

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



VITAS[®]
Healthcare

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 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 last Tuesday and met again this past Thursday to discuss what their next steps are, and what options they have available to them. They will be asking the NID for some information on a pastor from Iowa that is looking to move back to the Chicagoland area.

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. Matthew 6:6 (NLT)*

Prayer is an important part of Christian community. We should be praying for one another, and even for those not in the fellowship as we are in a position to do so. But effective prayer comes from our own deep relationship with God, which develops as we regularly meet with God in private. So prepare yourself for today's challenges by beginning with a heartfelt talk with your Heavenly Father.

CHURCH COUNCIL meting on Tuesday, the 19th. They briefly went over the constitution and by laws and they discussed at length some of the ways we can grow our church more and to try to reach our attendance goals and our offering goals.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING today will be short and sweet, so not really a voting meeting. Donna will be livestreamed on the screen with us for a brief update regarding a new pastor, and we will be receiving information from the council on increasing our attendance and offerings.

Zoom Bible Class

POW (People of the Word) Bible Study started meeting again last Friday, 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 29th.**

The zoom email is 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 has 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.

TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING

Donation Opportunities



Support our organization while you shop

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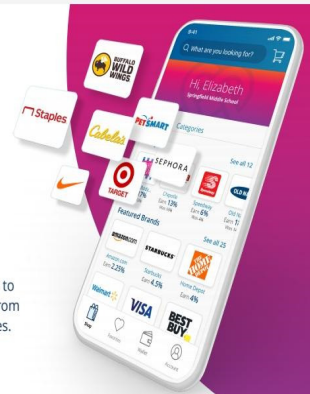
"It's super convenient. All I need to go shopping is my phone—I don't even need credit cards or my purse. I'm going to pay for these things anyway, I love being able to use gift cards so we get something in return."

Jen H., earns for hockey

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- The brand gives back to your organization the moment you buy a gift card—at no extra cost to you.

3. Get and use your gift cards

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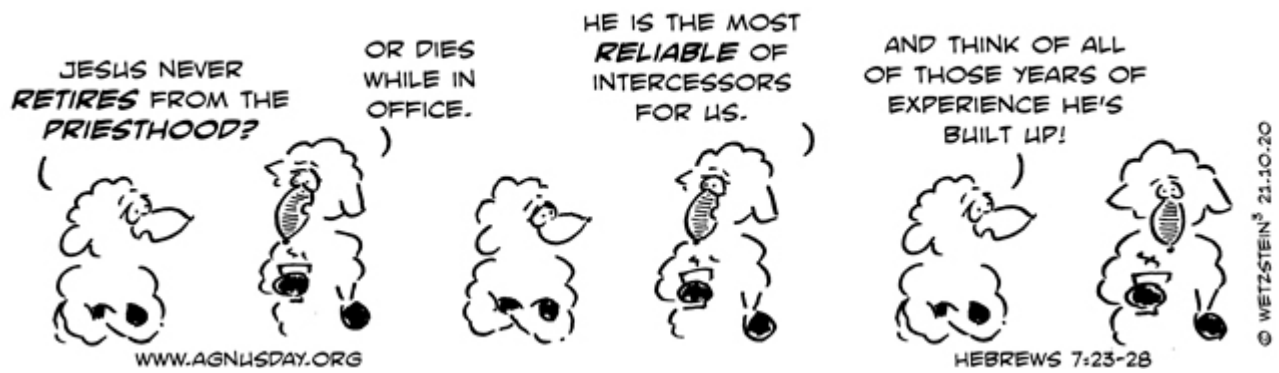
Community Events

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING We will have a Christmas tree again in Orland Park, the tree needs to be decorated by November 28th when the Village of Orland Park will hold their Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting Ceremony. The festivities will begin at 4:00 pm and there will also be a parade, which are invited to participate in if we would like to decorate a "float" and promote our church and preschool. From my past experiences, we can even use a pickup truck with or without a trailer on the back end and have it decorated and hopefully get Living Word some recognition and free publicity and advertisement. If you would like to participate in helping with decorating the tree and if we choose to participate in the parade, please let Diana or myself know so we can start coordinating and brainstorming some ideas for the float. Also, even though Diana had managed to save most of the decorations and lights from last year, please let us know if you can donate any ornaments and/or lights for the tree.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS That time of year is fast approaching, and just wanted to give everyone a heads up that we are still in need of lights for our Christmas tree again this year. We did receive several donations from our members and their friends even last year, but if you happen to have any to spare, we can still put them to use. We will probably be looking to decorate the church around the first or second week of December, so if by any chance you have any spare time, or there is a specific day that is better for you to donate a bit of your time, please let us know. The more help we can get, the less time it will take to make the church very pretty for the joyous season.

A cute perspective on one of the appointed scripture readings for this week.



Outreach and Growth

OUTREACH IDEAS We all need to try new and different ways to grow our church. If you happen to know of something different, and would like to bring it the church council's attention, they would love to hear your ideas. We all know that this is not something just one or two people can achieve, but if we all work together, we can reach new people and grow our family. We will be hearing from our council and the transition team this Sunday, and part of that will include a power point presentation regarding our attendance and how to increase the numbers. If we all work together, we will be able to achieve our goals and increase our attendance and be able to receive funds from the endowment fund for the growth of our church. Diana has created a new flyer for us, we have sent out almost 2 dozen mailings that included DVD's of the worship services, the Portals of Prayer books, and the new flyer to past members and some acquaintances that members said that would like to receive these packages. If you know of anyone who would like to receive a package as well, please let us know. We already have heard back from a couple of people, not only were they grateful for the DVD's and books, they were also happy to know that we haven't forgotten about them and still think of them. Thank you in advance for all that you do for Living Word.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY will always be available and ready to go if we have any children in attendance at church. Ms. Diana will always have a short lesson planned and as many of you know, she is always here and ready to go, and will hold class Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 9:45. Please let anyone you know that might be interested in having children have fun learning about Jesus.