

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 46

November 21, 2021

## "The Lord Reigns"

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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

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**

"The Lord reigns." There should be a period after these three words. Better yet, there should be an exclamation point. This is the ultimate truth unbelievers should recognize, and believers should remember: God is King! God's kingly rule is exclusive. Steve Lawson wrote: "God reigns. Not Satan, not man, not other gods. Not world rulers, nor foreign powers, not circumstances, nor random fate, but God."

"Reigns" is a present-tense term used to express a perfect-tense truth. It speaks in real-time. Whenever you encounter this announcement, the Lord reigns. God's rule is not nominal, theological, or ceremonial. The Lord's reign is majestic, sovereign, and eternal.

**The Lord is majestic.** Verse 1 says, "The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed; he has put on strength as his belt." This is a twofold statement of divine majesty.

**God's robe.** Psalm 93 states its theme upfront: "The Lord reigns." The remainder of the sample affirms and amplifies this glorious truth. The psalmist employs dramatic imagery to assert divine rule. The first pictures God in royal garments: "He is robed in majesty."


In Hans Christian Anderson's "The Emperor's New Clothes," con artists posing as weavers offer to make a vain empower a set of clothes the ignorant and incompetent cannot see. When complete, the emperor paraded around in his new clothes. Not wanting to seem foolish, citizens pretended to be in awe. A child finally stated the obvious, "The empower has no clothes." The Lord is not an empower with no clothes. He is robed in majesty. Majesty is a divine attribute that is hard to define. God is robed in majesty. His nature, character, and works are all majestic.

**God's belt.** Verse 1 says, "The Lord is robed; he has put on strength as his belt." To emphasize the all-encompassing glory of God, the psalmist repeats, "The Lord is robed." The Lord who wears a robe also wears a belt. The robe declares God reigns in times of peace. The belt declares God reigns in times of war. A robe is what a king wore as he sat in majesty. A belt is what a king wore as he stood in strength. This is military language. As a king prepared for war, he tucked his robe in his belt to give him freedom of action. This divine belt envisions God as armed for battle. God's belt is "strength," power to subdue. No outside force makes God strong. No outside force can hinder his strength. The Lord has put on strength as his belt.




### The Lord is sovereign.

The word is not a cosmic accident. The world is not the product of a Big Bang. The world is not the result of evolution. The world is established. Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. If you do not believe the Bible's first verse, you do not believe the rest of it. In scripture, divine creation is the basis of divine authority. It is what proves God is God. God is the monarch over all things because God is the maker of all things. Psalm 24:1-2 says, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and establishes it upon the rivers." What does it mean the world is established? According to verse 1, it means "it shall never be moved." Medieval scholars interpreted this verse to mean the plan was stationary, and the sun orbited around the earth. That is not what the text says or means. This is not a statement of physics. It is a statement of theology. To say the world shall never be moved means God's established order will not be overthrown by the sinfulness of man, the elements of nature, or the fluctuation of history. It is fixed. This is not just true of God's natural law. It is also true of God's moral law. Galatians 6:7-9 says, "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever a one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life." W. Graham Scroggie wrote: "He is calm who believes that God is sovereign."

## This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>21</b> 9:00 am Adult Study (In-person & via Zoom) 10:00 am Worship-COMM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00 am PUSH	<b>24</b> 5:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	<b>25</b> Thanksgiving Day 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>

## November Celebrations

 <b>Nov 30</b> Jeff Regan	 <b>Nov 26</b> Lily Rozwalka	 <b>Nov 26</b> Jerry & Barb Erjavec
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## Stewardship Snapshot

### November 14th

**22** Worshipped, **18** Communed  
**2** Watched DVD's  
**10** Watched Online  
**34** Total

#### Financial Support

1,700.00 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

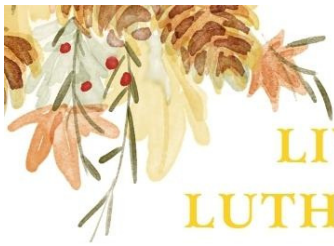
**Pastor John Bucka** 815-931-2961  
**Bob Grossart** 708-870-0202  
**Paul Huang** 626-551-1446

## 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.

**FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM!** The transition team met several times over the past few weeks. They had two conversations with Pastor Lesemann and met separately by themselves a couple of times. Diana will have quite a bit of information for us during the announcements today.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** is scheduled for next Sunday, the 28th immediately after service. This is a meeting that we will be voting on the options for calling a new pastor. We will also receive updates from both the council and transition team. Please plan on attending this very important meeting. If you are unable to attend, there will be a separate link that I will email to everyone, so they can watch the meeting and voting will be opened until Wednesday, December 1st at 5:00 pm.



## LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Thanksgiving Service



Join us for service  
Wednesday, November 24th  
at 5:30 pm  
in person or streamed live  
on our Facebook page and  
YouTube Channel



**THANKSGIVING SERVICE** has been scheduled. The time that was most voted for was 5:30pm on Wednesday the 24th. We will have it in person and it will also be livestreamed on You Tube and our Facebook page. Please feel free to share this information with your family and friends. We look forward to being able to worship together for this blessed holiday this year. However, if you will not be able to join us or watch during service, the link will be emailed to you shortly afterwards.

**ORLAND PARK CHRISTMAS TREE** for Living Word will be up outside the village Hall Complex and will be available to decorate on Wednesday, November 24th. Diana will be there at 11:00 am to start decorating the tree. Please see Diana if you are able to help her and would be able to donate any decorations. We are hoping our little elves will have much better and drier weather this year.



**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** That time of year is fast approaching. We received a second hand tree and some light sets from our members and their friends last year. We also received 8 light sets and a 10' tree from Larry Andorf. Thank you so much Larry, that really helped. We are looking to decorate the church after our meeting on next Sunday, November 28th, which happens to be the first Sunday of Advent. Please plan on staying for a short while after everything to help us with decorating. The more people we have, the less time it will take to make our church festive looking for the blessed season. Plus I'm sure we will have some extra goodies and refreshments for everybody's hard work, we know how much decorating can really work up an appetite, lol, so you will not go hungry.



**OUR ANGEL TREE** is up and the angels are on the tree for the underprivileged families and children of Orland Park. Diana has a couple dozen angels for us to help make a merrier Christmas for these families. The gifts need to be here at church by Sunday, December 5th. They will be collecting these presents by Tuesday December 7th. You can bring them with you any Sunday between now and December 5th, or if need be, you can always drop them off here at church, I am here every weekday from 9:00am to 2:00 pm. If you know that you do not have time to shop, you can as always make a monetary donation and we will have our elves do the shopping for the items that are still left to get. As you can see, there have been a lot of donations already brought in. We still have several more angels to make happy, so if you weren't here last week, you can still choose one to buy for.



## 11-21-21 Message Outline

### "The Lord Reigns"

Psalm 93 says: "The Lord reigns." Because God is on His throne, we have confidence, peace and purpose, knowing the Lord reigns...!

#### 1) The Lord reigns, keep the FAITH.

<sup>9</sup> "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. <sup>10</sup> A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. ... <sup>13</sup> "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup> He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

#### 2) The Lord reigns, keep in God's LOVE.

<sup>20</sup> But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Jude 20-21

#### 3) The Lord reigns, keep WATCH.

<sup>33</sup> Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup> It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. <sup>35</sup> "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" Mark 13:33-37

## Mission of the Month

**MISSION OF THE MONTH** The boxes of yarn and material were dropped off at Vitas Healthcare this past week. Along with the two boxes we had also collected a total of \$105.00 in monetary donations, which included two checks, one from the Living Word account from your donations for \$80.00 and a separate check made out to them from another donor for \$25.00.

**HONEY SUNDAY** returned to Living Word this year. We held the Honey Sunday, last week. For each bottle of honey, there is a \$10.00 fee, 30% of the proceeds will be returned to Living Word, and 70% will be donated to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Please call me with any orders that you would like to place because if you place the order online, we will not receive the 30%. Once we have all of the order forms and money, we will fill out the master order form and mail it to them, and you will receive your in the mail.

## Promoting Living Word

Living Word  
Lutheran Church



Orland Park

Living Word  
Lutheran Church



Orland Park

**CAR DECAL CLINGS** Help promote our church to the community and everywhere you go. Diana has made a couple of different car decal clings so that we can spread the knowledge of love of Jesus. She will have both designs here on Sunday, and will be making more of each in the weeks to come.

**GREAT JOB DIANA!** Thank you so very much for all you do for our church Diana. Since she had updated our website page again, we have had a lot more people view our photos and other information that she posts on our page. Just another reason why we voted top website.

Your **19 photos** got **3684 total** views in the last month

This was your most popular photo in that period:



## Bible Studies and Ministries

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. Matthew 6:21 (NLT)* God wants us to desire Him, not His gifts or His provision. His promise is that when we desire Him first, our needs will be provided. We are free to invest in relationships rather than the accumulation of "stuff." Then we are truly storing up treasure in heaven, because only people will go to heaven with us. What treasure will you store up in heaven this week?

### FRIDAY Zoom Bible Class

**POW (People of the Word) Bible Study** just finished up their study on the Parables. They will not be meeting again until December 3rd. We are using the same link every Friday for the Zoom portion of the class. Going forward, I will still email this link to everyone on Thursdays, so it would be very easy for you to find the email with the link. For their 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 December 3rd.**

<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)

### SUNDAY Zoom Bible Class

**SUNDAY MORNING Bible Study** will be heading into the technology era, hoping that the technology lets them that is. Pastor Lee will do his Bible study on Sunday mornings via Zoom and in person. Starting today, you can also join via Zoom, and hopefully there will not be any issues. Study begins at 9:15 am and ends at 9:55 am. We will be using the same link every Sunday for the Zoom portion of the class. Going forward, I will email this link to everyone on Fridays, so it would be very easy for you to find the email with the link. Please see me or Pastor Lee or call the office if you would like to join, we can give you the information that you will need for Zoom. 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 November 21st.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88119515552pwd=UWZkS2VacZyOEhqWnlTeC9zdDVuQT09>

Meeting ID: 881 1951 5552 Passcode: 429629

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,88119515552#,,,,\*429629# US (Chicago)

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



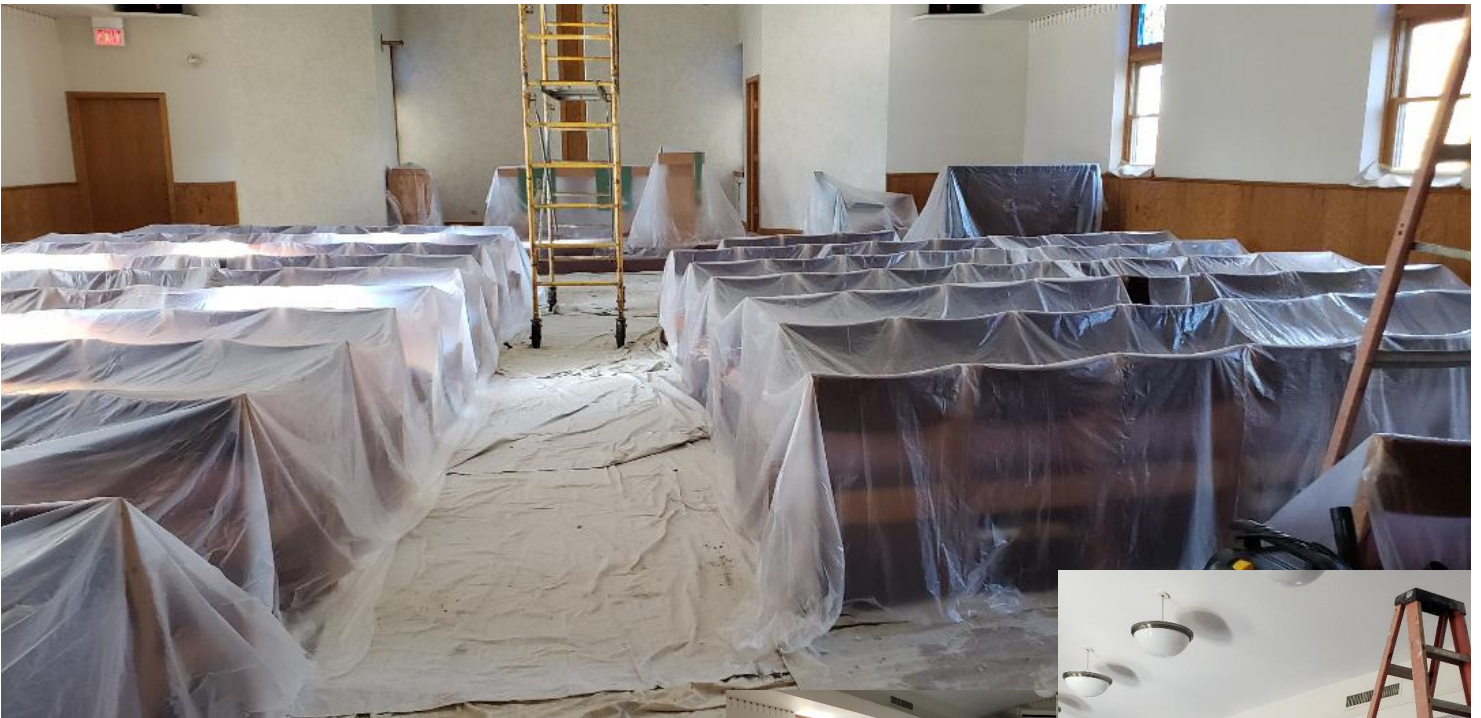
**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** will always be available and ready to go if we have any children in attendance at church. Ms. Diana will always have a short lesson planned and as many of you know, she is always here and ready to go, and will hold class Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 9:45. Please let anyone you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

### Miscellaneous Information

**ANYONE LOOKING FOR A PIANO?** Please see Cathy Baidis. She has an upright piano that she is looking to give to somebody that would like to have one, or would like to learn how to play the piano.

**KITCHEN DONATIONS NEEDED!** In the upcoming weeks when you are doing your grocery shopping, we will be needing to replenish our kitchen. Items needed will be some coffee, cookies, sugar or dry creamer and other goodies. We don't need much, but what donations we have gotten, have been consumed. So it will be time to restock soon. Thank you!





**MORE RENOVATIONS** The sanctuary is getting painted this week. Phil, the painter that Neal knows has been working in the church since Wednesday morning. As you can see, everything has been covered up and he has been working on repairing the ceiling and on Friday had started painting it. Even though it doesn't look like it right now, we will still have worship in the church on Sunday morning, as most all of his equipment will not be in the way. Let's just hope they will not paint it purple and lime green like Neal has been telling everyone. LOL! Really though, it will look so nice in there again once it is all done.

