



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 47

November 28, 2021

## "Celebrating the True Meaning of the Season"

Remember the peace and joy God gave the world through His Son. While we continue to navigate challenging and uncertain times around the world, the opportunity to celebrate Jesus' birth in the coming weeks helps us to actually remember these special feelings and gifts from God. Taking time to honor our Savior and the salvation He brings strengthens our faith and renews our hope.

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As we prepare to prayerfully be able to return to normal in-person gatherings with family and friends this Christmas, here are four ways to make this season even more meaningful in your heart and in your home.

### 1. Practical ways to share the love of Christ this Christmas.

Sometimes celebrating can take the form of intentional everyday gestures. Considering others or carving out time in your day to pray, you can share Christ's love in these thoughtful ways.

#### CARE

The needs all around us are immense. Consider how you can help serve people. Joining out-reach efforts. Buying a small gift or a card for someone in need.

#### HONOR

Too often those who sacrifice the most are rarely appreciated. Think of ways you can honor those who give so much: teachers, first responders, pastors healthcare workers and others.

#### REMEMBER

As you pray, ask and listen for the person God puts on your heart to pray for. Remembering to pray and spending time praying for others is one of the most generous gifts you can give.

#### INTRODUCE

The Christmas season is the perfect time to introduce others to Christ—the Chile who came to save the world from sin. Be intentional about sharing your faith with others so that even more receive the gift of eternal life and discover the joy of a relationship with Christ.

#### SUPPORT

The last two years have been incredibly difficult for many businesses, organizations, and people who carry out the work there. Make a point to support a struggling small business or organization in your community. An extra tip for a restaurant worker, donating to a nonprofit organization or doing good in the local communities.

#### TIME

Give the gift of time—your presence to that teenager, senior citizen, coworker or others who need advise, a listening ear, or just silence. Your physical presence will comfort them.

### 2. Sacred screen time.

Gather with loved ones, prepare snacks and watch holiday a television special about this joyous season, and get disconnected from the phones, laptops or computers.

### 3. Reflect on the biblical Christmas story.

Sometimes we hear the story of Jesus' birth so much, we forget the God-ordained details. Reflect and meditate on the full Christmas story found in Luke 1:5-2:20.

### 4. Throw a birthday party for Jesus.

Whether it's Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, the birthday boy is Jesus! Spend time planning a celebration, complete with a birthday cake and decorations. As you enjoy the party, everyone can share what Jesus means to them.

### 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>28</b> 9:00 am Adult Study (In-person & via Zoom) 10:00 am Worship Congregational Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00 am PUSH	<b>DEC 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

### November Celebrations

 <b>Nov 30</b> Jeff Regan	 <b>Nov 26</b> Lily Rozwalka <b>Dec 1</b> Joan Tinich	 <b>Nov 26</b> Jerry & Barb Erjavec
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### Stewardship Snapshot

**November 21st**

**21** Worshipped, **21** Communed  
**2** Watched DVD's  
**12** Watched Online  
**35** Total

**Financial Support**

1,855.00 General Fund  
 140.00 Honey Sunday (Dakota Ranch)  
**\$1,995.00** 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**  
*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 alter 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. We will vote at the meeting on Sunday whether to call him.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** is scheduled for this 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 was a separate link that I emailed to everyone, so they can watch the meeting and voting will be opened until Wednesday, December 1st at 5:00 pm.

**ORLAND PARK CHRISTMAS TREE** for Living Word is up outside the village Hall Complex and was decorated on Wednesday, November 24th. Diana and Kyle Motel and Pastor John was there and finished decorating the tree before 11:00 am to start decorating the tree. Even though it was very windy, they did have drier weather this year. Thank you so much for the great work Pastor John, Diana and Kyle.



**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 this 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. There are not many left. Diana had 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 a couple more angels to make happy, so if you weren't here last week, you can still choose one to buy for this week.

# 11-28-21 Message Outline

## “Trust the Lord”

Psalm 25 says, ‘In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.’ Trust the Lord...

### 1) Trust the Lord’s **PROMISE**.

<sup>14</sup> “The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. <sup>15</sup> “In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’ Jeremiah 33:14-16

### 2) Trust the Lord’s **PRESENCE**.

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. <sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. <sup>12</sup> May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. <sup>13</sup> May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

### 3) Trust the Lord’s **PROCLAMATION**.

<sup>29</sup> As [Jesus] approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup> “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” <sup>32</sup> Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup> They replied, “The Lord needs it.” <sup>35</sup> They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: <sup>38</sup> “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” <sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” <sup>40</sup> “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” Luke 19:29-40

## Mission of the Month

**HONEY SUNDAY** returned to Living Word this year. We held the Honey Sunday the last couple of weeks. For each bottle of honey, we will receive 30% of the proceeds. We have all of the order forms and money, and we filled out the master order form and mailed it to them, and you will receive your in the mail in the coming weeks.

### Promoting Living Word

**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

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will be making more of each in the weeks to come. She has them in both black and white lettering.



Orland Park



Orland Park

**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** *And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. Acts 2:44-45 (NLT)*

God will provide for all your needs. Can you trust Him for that, and not worry? Can you believe that God is the true owner of all you have, and act on that belief? That's good stewardship—managing God's resources that have been entrusted to you for His glory and for His people's needs, rather than wanting to keep everything for yourself. If that doesn't describe you yet, ask God today to change your attitude.

### 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=MS9wRklIWmFKQnQvdKx5ZjhxSkZodz09>

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 28th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88119515552pwd=UWZkS2VacZYzOEhqWnlTeC9zdDVuQT09>

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

**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. On Friday had started painting it. He has prepped and painted the walls this week, and also the ceiling over the altar. Even though it doesn't look like it right now, we will still have worship in the church tonight and on Sunday morning, as most all of his equipment will not be out of here and he will be done. And he did not paint it purple and lime green like Neal has been telling everyone. Really though, it will look so nice in there again once it is all done.