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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

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 49

December 12, 2021

"God's Character & Care for His Saints"

"Steadfast love and faithfulness meet. Righteousness and peace kiss each other." (Psalm 85:10)

Oh, what a beautiful verse. Now, I mentioned on yesterday's Pray the Word episode that during this time of this coronavirus and just global pandemic that I wanted to lead us to pray specifically for each other and to let God's word instruct us on how to pray for each other.

There is so much that's applicable here, but why I chose verse 10 to pray according to is this picture of God's character. "In God and all of his perfections, steadfast love and faithfulness meet". Just think about those words, steadfast love. Not just love but steadfast love. Love you can always count on in a way that a job can't be counted on, in a way that even health can't be counted on, but God's love is always steadfast.

Faithfulness. He is always faithful when so much is failing around us God never fails those who trust in him. Steadfast love and faithfulness meet in God. Righteousness, his character, his goodness, his justice, his reliability to all of his promises. Righteousness and peace. This picture of just calm in the middle of the storm. Righteousness and peace. They kiss each other. What a picture of God's affection for his people and how beautifully his righteousness and peace go together.

I love even what verse eight says before this, "Let me hear what the Lord will speak. For He will speak peace to His people, to His saints." God speaks peace to His people. To his saints. God, I just pray all of this specifically right now over Dave, over Sandy, over Justin and his brothers, for their family. God, I pray they would know your steadfast love and your faithfulness in these days. That you would draw him into a deeper knowledge and trust in your steadfast love and faith. That they would see your righteousness and peace and affectionate harmony on their behalf. God, that you would speak peace to Dave. That you speak peace to Sandy.

Just in their hearts. Even right now, if they're listening to this and speak peace into Justin and his brothers as they want to care for their parents and not knowing how best to do that in these days. God, I just pray for your steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness and peace to overwhelm them. Wrap them in it. And God, not just for them, for others right now who have lost jobs, others right now who are comforting, trying to figure out how best to encourage support, serve, care for those in families or friends, neighbors who've lost jobs amidst all of the economic challenges that we find ourselves in.

God, I pray. I pray that you would speak peace to all your people right now. Speak peace to your saints, to those who trust in you. May they look up to you even right now and see in a fresh way steadfast love and faithfulness meeting on their behalf, your steadfast love for them, your faithfulness for them. Righteousness and peace, kissing each other with affection. May they see your righteousness and your peace working for them, filling them. We praise you. The God of steadfast love and faithfulness, of righteousness and peace. In Jesus' name we pray who makes all this possible. Jesus, we praise you. In your name we pray. Amen.

This Week at Living Word

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|
| 12 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship | 13 | 14 10:00 am PUSH | 15 | 16 | 17 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word | 18 |

December Celebrations



December 11 Bryan Boehm
December 17 Eleanor Galik
December 17 Jennifer Lange



Happy Baptism Birthday!

December 14 Karen Lange
December 16 Pat Johnson
December 16 Bruce Kempke
December 18 Carolyn Wagenaar

Stewardship Snapshot

December 5th

20 Worshipped, **20** Communed
2 Watched DVD's
12 Watched Online
34 Total

Financial Support

3,180.00 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

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.

PRAYERS FOR THE LEE FAMILY Please keep Pastor Lee, Elaine and Katherine in your prayers this week. After his symptoms had worsen, Pastor went for a COVID test which had came back positive. Pastor says that he still isn't suffering too much from the symptoms, but is quarantining this week to keep everyone else safe and on Wednesday had gone for a monoclonal antibodies infusions and had tolerated it fairly well so far. Elaine so far is asymptomatic, but Katherine has had some symptoms that could be related to a cold or flu, both have scheduled COVID tests as well. Prayers for negative test results for Elaine and Katherine and prayers for a quick recovery for Pastor Lee.

Church Holiday Events



Come celebrate with us.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Friday, December 24th at 5:30 pm

Christmas Morning Service
Saturday, December 25th at 10 am

In-person and live-streamed on our
Facebook page and YouTube channel

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT AND CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICES Please plan on joining us in this blessed season for worship. Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be at 5:30 pm and Christmas Morning service will be at 10:00 am. What better way to celebrate the holiday season with family and friends than to worship together.

Donations for Living Word

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. So as you are wrapping up some of your Christmas shopping, stay nice and warm at home and do it from your phone or laptop and have the gift card company donate the 3% back to Living Word.

AMAZON SMILE will also donate some of the proceeds to our church when using that feature. Every little bit can go a long way for our church and our future.

Promoting Living Word

Living Word **Living Word**
Lutheran Church **Lutheran Church**



Orland Park



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 and love of Jesus. She has both designs here on Sundays, and will be making more of each in the weeks to come. She has them in both black and white lettering. Please feel free to take as many as you need. If you are watching our service online, and still would like a car decal, please feel free to call me to let me know which ones you would like, and I can mail them to you. Thank you in advance for helping to spread the

Mission of the Month



DECEMBER MISSION OF MONTH is LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH! After helping so many other organizations and communities, we are going to help ourselves for the last month of the year. We would like to build up the designated funds for a new pastor this month, so whatever you normally are able to give to all of the missions every month, our mission is to be able help pay for a new pastor considering in the process of calling Pastor Lesemann. Thank you for all that you do for our church!

OUR ANGEL TREE GIFTS were dropped off by Santa's helper, Diana, LOL. All of the gifts, toys and miscellaneous items could barely fit into her car. Orland Park was so overwhelmed by the generosity of our members, they are going to have us on their Facebook page for acknowledgement of the kindness and love that our church has shown to the community. Go to Orland Park's Facebook page to see the special thank you they posted expressing their gratitude for Living Word Church.

FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM! The paperwork for the Call Documents have been filled out last week and signed on Sunday and were mailed out on Monday afternoon. Let's keep Pastor Lesemann and his family in our prayers in hopes that God will guide him to accept our call.

12-12-21 Message Outline

"Divine Encounter"

Psalms 85:10 says: *"Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other."* Jesus comes to us in a divine encounter...

1) In Jesus I encounter divine RESTORATION.

¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you but will rejoice over you with singing..." ²⁰ At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the Lord.

Zephaniah 3:14-17, 20

2) In Jesus I encounter divine REJOICING.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

3) In Jesus I encounter divine REPLY.

¹⁸ John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, ¹⁹ he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" ²⁰ When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'" ²¹ At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. ²² So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ²³ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

Luke 7:18-23

Church News



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.

GREETINGS FROM WARMER STATES Carolyn Wagenaar sent us a letter the other day. The letter reads: *"Dear Bev, Wishing you Blessings of the season and to all at Living Word. I am doing well at present and pray it continues. The Lord is so good and has been with me every step of the way. Praise the Lord! Blessings to all as we come to the manger at this time of year to celebrate our Lord coming to earth to be our Lord and Savior."* Signed Blessings to all, Carolyn Wagenaar. The letter will be on the bulletin board next to the office.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES are ready and available for you to pick up on Sunday. They are located on the desk next to the office.

POINTSETTIA ORDER FORMS are in the bulletins this week. So sorry for such a delay, I swore it was still the beginning of December still, LOL. The price did increase a bit, each one will be \$8.50. Order forms are due in by next Sunday, December 19th, and the plants be available over the Christmas Holiday weekend. If you are unable to be here on the 19th, you can call me at church anytime and place your order over the phone.

FRIDAY Zoom Bible Class

POW (People of the Word) Bible Study just started the study on Advent “*Our Hope Has Come*”. We are going back to individual links every Friday for the Zoom portion of the class. I will email the following link to everyone on Thursdays, so it would be very easy for you to find the email with the link in your inbox. 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 17th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87497433255?pwd=ZVRNeVovUnRqYWRZSGFISDJPQjE1UT09>

Meeting ID: 874 9743 3255 Passcode: 763213

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87497433255#,,,,*763213# 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 and/or Pastor John will doing the 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 December 12th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85052765485?pwd=SlhIMkcvV2VyszZlAxOWZRR3VLdz09>

Meeting ID: 850 5276 5485 Passcode: 461119

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85052765485#,,,,*461119# US (Chicago)

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

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *Then Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, . . . How could you do a thing like this? You weren’t lying to us but to God!” Acts 5:3a, 4b (NLT)*

As Christians we should take what we say and do among the community of believers very seriously, because God does. The church should be a place where we can live honestly and transparently, rather than putting up a false front to gain respect or acclaim from others. Sin grows when hidden but dies in the light, so come to the Light that your sins may be revealed, forgiven, and put behind you.

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.

A NEED FOR OUR PRESCHOOL AGAIN Please try to help us pass the word about our preschool throughout our community. January and the winter semester is just right around the corner. We need to fill our church with the little ones and teach them the love and knowledge of Jesus and prepare them for kindergarten and grade school. Let all your friends and family know that enrollment is open online.