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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

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Orland Park, IL 60467

708-403-9673

livingwordorland.org
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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 50

December 19, 2021

"The Fourth Sunday in Advent"

The fourth and final Sunday of Advent in 2021 will be on Sunday, December 19th. Advent is the season in which believers eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. Reading, prayer, and reflection are ways we can cultivate a sense of holy anticipation this Advent.

The fourth Sunday of Advent we meditate on the **peace** that Jesus brings our hearts and our world. Scripture is the place we can find the promises of God. Let us meditate on these truths and allow them to comfort our hearts this Advent season!

2 Thessalonians 3:16 says, "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."

This week we focus our hearts on the "Lord of peace" who came down from heaven in the form of a baby. God knows that we are in a constant battle against fear! Fear wants to cripple us, to push us to react rather than carefully respond, and fear steals our joy. God has given us the gift of peace so we can live joy-filled lives!

Over this Advent, would you pray that *God's unexplainable peace* would be evident in your heart and home. This year we all have faced so much chaos and uncertainty. God's peace is something we need to grab tightly onto *more than ever*. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time to joyfully await our King!

Fourth Sunday of Advent Meaning and Symbolism

The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." Advent in the 4th and 5th century was a time of preparation for the baptism of new Christians. Christians would spend 40 days in prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration that accompanied the baptism of new believers.

Over time, advent was connected to the coming of Christ. Originally, Christians used this term to reference Christ's second coming, but by the Middle Ages Advent was connected to Christ's first coming that we celebrate at Christmas. Today, we celebrate Advent over the four Sundays leading up to Christmas each year.

The Advent season is an invitation for us all to choose to set aside the fear and uncertainty that has defined 2020. It's a chance to be intentional about taking our focus off of the hustle of the Christmas season. We can also give to God the sadness that many may be feeling as many of us will need to observe the holiday season differently this year. This fourth Advent Sunday we are reminded that Jesus offers us peace in every season and nothing is impossible with him!

The fourth candle of Advent is called the "**Angel Candle**" and **symbolizes peace**. This name comes from the fact that the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace. This week we are reminded that Jesus came to bring peace to our hearts and to our world!

This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
19 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship-COMM	20	21 10:00 am PUSH	22	23 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	24 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 10:00 am Christmas Morning Service

December Celebrations



December 29 Pam Hostert
December 30 Rick Boehm



December 20 Hank Kalis

Stewardship Snapshot

December 12th

22 Worshipped
2 Watched DVD's
12 Watched Online
36 Total

Financial Support

1,797.00 General Fund Deposit
 1,020.00 Pastor Funds Designated Account
 2,817.00 Total 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

LEE FAMILY UPDATE Pastor Lee has been feeling much better and has been asymptomatic now for almost a week now. Elaine and Kathryn have both tested negative. Pastor and Elaine would like to thank all of us for all of our prayers for their family. Pastor Lee is now at the conference in Phoenix, he was able to fly out on Thursday. He would like to express his heartfelt gratitude not only for the prayers and thoughts for him and his family, but he would also like to thank Pastor John for doing such a great job filling in for him. What a blessing it is for us to have Pastor John as part of our family.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY DATE CHANGE Since the next two weeks are the holiday weeks, the Advent Bible study class days will change. They will meet this Thursday, December 23rd, at 9:30 am. The week after, they will meet on Wednesday, December 29th. Again the time will not change, only the day is changing. Both days will still be at 9:30 am.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS will be lead by Pastor John. The subject will be An Intro to Being A Witness. It will touch upon how do we approach people reminding them about our relationship with Jesus. If we don't have a relationship in and with Jesus, how can we expect others do the same. This is the perfect season for such responsibilities.

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.

12-19-21 Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading – Micah 5:2-5a

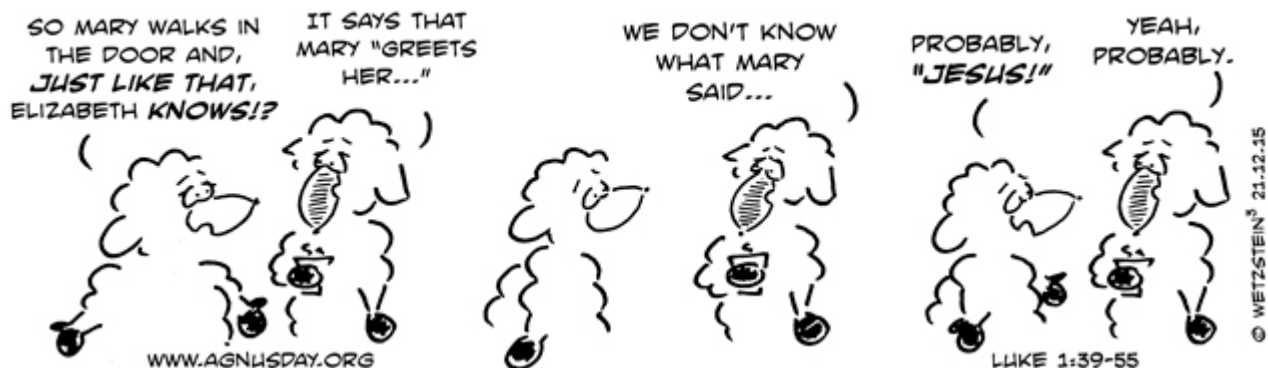
² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses. We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders, ...

Epistle Reading – Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.’” ⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Reading – Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”



Community Events

MARCHES FOR LIFE Join thousands of your brothers and sisters in Christ as we publicly confess the God-given value of all human life during Marches for Life around the United States in 2022. Mark your calendars and register to participate for free for the Chicago March on January 8th, 2022. Registration is required and they will be communicating with registrants to provide location details and important pandemic-related information.

Lost Items

LOST WATER BOTTLE There is a lonely water bottle on top of the filing cabinet in my office. If you are missing one of your water bottles, take a look in the office on Sunday to see if this one is yours.



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 Lutheran Church **Living Word 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. Pastor Lesemann has the Call documents that we sent him earlier this month. Thank you for all that you do for our church!

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 again. 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 today, Sunday, December 19th, and the plants be available over the Christmas Holiday weekend. If you are unable to be here, 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 have been reading 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 23rd.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83926176023?pwd=WCtGTfdZaURuTjdrNkNobDN6RmF3dz09>

Meeting ID: 839 2617 6023 Passcode: 354391

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83926176023#,,,,*354391# 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 19th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88038849157?pwd=L3kzMWNZbUpxR3ltRDhINE9rQ2o5QT09>

Meeting ID: 880 3884 9157 Passcode: 518896

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,88038849157#,,,,*518896# US (Chicago)

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

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *[The believers] worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God—Acts 2:46-47a (NLT)*

Worship is surrender, submission to God. Worship is the beginning of everything else that we do while representing God to our families, our friends, our community. Everything we do should give honor and glory to God, and help us remember that He is the source of everything, especially our salvation and our unity with our Christian brothers and sisters.

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.