



### Inside this issue:

"New Year's History"	1
January 2022	2
Celebrations, Contacts	3
Important Information	3
Stewardship, Friday Bible Study	4
1-2-22 Message Outline	5
Sunday Bible Study & Events	5
Donation Opportunities	6
Promoting Living Word	6
Mission of the Month	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

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**  
**9:00 am Adult study**  
**10:00 am Worship**

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 31, Issue 1

January 2, 2022

## "New Year's History"

### January 1 Becomes New Year's Day

The early Roman calendar consisted of 10 months and 304 days, with each new year beginning at the vernal equinox; according to tradition, it was created by Romulus, the founder of Rome, in the eighth century B.C. A later king, Numa Pompilius, is credited with adding the months of Januarius and Februarius. Over the centuries, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun, and in 46 B.C. the emperor Julius Caesar decided to solve the problem by consulting with the most prominent astronomers and mathematicians of his time. He introduced the Julian calendar, which closely resembles the more modern Gregorian calendar that most countries around the world use today. As part of his reform, Caesar instituted January 1 as the first day of the year, partly to honor the month's namesake: Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. Romans celebrated by offering sacrifices to Janus, exchanging gifts with one another, decorating their homes with laurel branches and attending raucous parties. In medieval Europe, Christian leaders temporarily replaced January 1 as the first of the year with days carrying more religious significance, such as December 25 (the anniversary of Jesus' birth) and March 25 (the Feast of the Annunciation); Pope Gregory XIII reestablished January 1 as New Year's Day in 1582.

### New Year's Traditions and Celebrations Around the World

In many countries, New Year's celebrations begin on the evening of December 31—New Year's Eve—and continue into the early hours of January 1. Revelers often enjoy meals and snacks thought to bestow good luck for the coming year. In Spain and several other Spanish-speaking countries, people bolt down a dozen grapes—symbolizing their hopes for the months ahead—right before midnight. In many parts of the world, traditional New Year's dishes feature legumes, which are thought to resemble coins and herald future financial success; examples include lentils in Italy and black-eyed peas in the southern United States. Because pigs represent progress and prosperity in some cultures, pork appears on the New Year's Eve table in Cuba, Austria, Hungary, Portugal and other countries. Ring-shaped cakes and pastries, a sign that the year has come full circle, round out the feast in the Netherlands, Mexico, Greece and elsewhere. In Sweden and Norway, meanwhile, rice pudding with an almond hidden inside is served on New Year's Eve; it is said that whoever finds the nut can expect 12 months of good fortune. Other customs that are common worldwide include watching fireworks and singing songs to welcome the new year, including the ever-popular "Auld Lang Syne" in many English-speaking countries. The practice of making resolutions for the new year is thought to have first caught on among the ancient Babylonians, who made promises in order to earn the favor of the gods and start the year off on the right foot. (They would reportedly vow to pay off debts and return borrowed farm equipment.) In the United States, the most iconic New Year's tradition is the dropping of a giant ball in New York City's Times Square at the stroke of midnight. Millions of people around the world watch the event, which has taken place almost every year since 1907. Over time, the ball itself has ballooned from a 700-pound iron-and-wood orb to a brightly patterned sphere 12 feet in diameter and weighing in at nearly 12,000 pounds.

# January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					 New Year's Eve	 New Year's Day
2 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship—COMM	3	4 10:00 am PUSH	5	6  Epiphany	7 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	8
9 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship Church Undecorating	10	11 10:00 am PUSH	12	13	14 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	15
16 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship—COMM	17	18 10:00 am PUSH  7:00 pm Council Meeting	19  6:00 pm Townhome Board Meeting	20	21	22
23 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	24	25 10:00 am PUSH	26	27	28	29
30 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	31					

## January Celebrations



**January 8** Brad Kempke  
**January 12** Joan Fraser  
**January 16** Beverly Hodo  
**January 19** Dave Holloway



**January 4** Eleanor Galik  
**January 8** John Paul Lange

### Anniversary



**January 27** Joan & John Gabrielson

### Church Contacts

*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

**KITCHEN ITEMS NEEDED** just a heads up in the coming weeks when you are out grocery shopping, we are running low on coffee and we are out of regular non-dairy creamer. Either of these items would be greatly appreciated. Thank 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.

## Stewardship Snapshot

### December 19th

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

#### Financial Support

1,530.00 General Fund Deposit  
5,000.00 Pastor Funds Designated Account  
 6,530.00 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.

### December 24th

19 Worshipped  
 2 Watched DVD's  
24 Watched Online  
**45 Total**

#### Financial Support

5,740.00 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.

### December 25th

12 Worshipped  
 2 Watched DVD's  
14 Watched Online  
**28 Total**

#### Financial Support

795.00 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.

### December 26th

19 Worshipped  
 2 Watched DVD's  
8 Watched Online  
**29 Total**

#### Financial Support

1,595.00 General Fund Deposit  
35.00 Pastor Funds Designated Account  
 1,630.00 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.

## FRIDAY Zoom Bible Class

**POW (People of the Word) Bible Study** has finished reading the study on Advent "Our Hope Has Come". They will be finishing up their study on the Parables next Friday. 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 January 7th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87997014339?pwd=aGtnbGllRjEwRTZHOUszT2hFR1JJZz09>

Meeting ID: 879 9701 4339 Passcode: 729136

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87997014339#,,,,\*729136# US (Chicago)

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** John testified about [Jesus] when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'" John 1:15 (NLT)

John the Baptist was used in amazing ways by God, including pointing people to Jesus, the Messiah. But he never lost sight of the fact that he was just a messenger, that believing in Jesus, fully God and fully man, is our only hope of salvation. As we head into the new year, let's remember to honor God for all that He is, and give Him all the glory for our salvation.

## 1-2-22 Message Outline

### ***"Sweeter Than Honey"***

Psalms 119 says: *"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"* Taste the sweetness of God's Word...!

#### **1) God's Word gives me a "Solomon" HEART.**

<sup>7</sup> [Solomon prayed] "Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. <sup>9</sup> So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" <sup>10</sup> The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. 1 Kings 3:7, 9-10

#### **2) God's Word "messages" me His saving GOSPEL.**

<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13-14

#### **3) God's "Logos" answers my searching QUESTIONS.**

<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." <sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:41-52

## SUNDAY Zoom Bible Class

**SUNDAY MORNING Bible Study** will be on Zoom. We will have a dedicated 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 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 January 2nd.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81818774961?pwd=c091K256dlE5TEFGbTBNVXpjdm5adz09>

Meeting ID: 818 1877 4961 Passcode: 541062

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81818774961#,,,,\*541062# US (Chicago)

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

## 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.



## Donations for Living Word

**EARNING OPPORTUNITIES** Diana has more ways for us to help raise money for our church even if our Christmas shopping is done, there's still 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 find more ways to do some 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. 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 PLANTS** are here and they are looking for good home, lol. If you ordered them, you can pick them up any time you want, or if you know of anyone who would like to remember the blessings of the season, you give them one of the extra ones that we have at church here.