



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 31, Issue 8

February 20, 2022

## "Love Your Enemies!"

### ENEMIES

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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

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

To love our enemies does not mean that we suddenly become their friends. If it is our enemies we are to love, they must remain enemies. Unless you have enemies, you cannot love them. And if you have no enemies, I wonder if you have any friends. The moment you choose your friends, their enemies become your own enemies. By having convictions, we make ourselves the enemies of those who oppose these convictions. But let's be sure we agree on what we mean by terms like Friend, Enemy, Hatred, or Love.

The mutual intimacy we share with our best friends is one of the greatest gifts of life, but it is not always given when we call someone a friend. Friendship need not even be mutual. How about organizations like Friends of Our Local Library? Friends of Elephants and of other endangered species? Friendship allows for many degrees of closeness and takes many different forms. What it always implies is active support of those whom we befriend, engagement to help them reach their goals.

With enemies it is the exact opposite. After all, the very word "enemy" comes from the Latin "inimicus", and means simply "not a friend". Of course, not everyone who is not a friend is therefore an enemy. Enemies are opponents – not opponents for play, as in sports or games, but in mutual opposition with us in matters of deep concern. Their goals are opposed to our own highest aspirations. Thus, out of conviction we must actively try to prevent them from reaching their goals. We can do this lovingly, or not – and thus we find ourselves head-on confronted with the possibility to love of enemies.

Love makes us first of all think of romantic attraction, affection and desire – a whirlwind of emotions, yes, but that is only one of countless forms in which we experience love. In so many different contexts do we speak of love that one may actually wonder what they have in common, if anything: Love between teacher and pupil, love of parents for children, of children for parents; love of your dog or your cats, your country, your grandparents. Again, how different our love for a grandmother is from that for a grandfather and both of them from love for a pet geranium among our potted plants, let alone love for a sweetheart. Is there a common denominator for all these varieties of love? Yes, indeed, there is. Loving our enemies is an ideal for human beings of any spiritual tradition.

Love in every one of its forms is a lived "yes" to belonging. I call it a "lived yes", because the very way loving people live and act says loudly and clearly: "Yes, I affirm and respect you and I wish you well. As members of the cosmic family we belong together, and this belonging goes far deeper than anything that can ever divide us." In an upside-down way, a "Yes" to belonging is even present in hatred. While love says this yes joyfully and with fondness, hatred says it grudgingly with animosity, gall. Still, even one who hates acknowledges mutual belonging. Have there not been moments in your life when you couldn't say whether you loved or hated someone close to your heart? This shows that hatred is not the opposite of love. The opposite of love (and of hatred) is indifference.

Show your enemies the genuine respect that every human being deserves. Learn to think of them with compassion.

In cultivating compassion, it may help to visualize your enemies as the children they once were (and somehow remain).

Do not dispense compassion from above, but meet your enemies in your imagination always at eye-level.

Make every effort to come to know and understand them better – their hopes, their fears, concerns, and aspirations.

(Continued on page 8)

# This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>20</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship-COMM	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00 am PUSH	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	<b>26</b>

## February Celebrations

## Stewardship Snapshot



**Feb 22** Bob Weber  
**Feb 23** Russ Tinich  
**Feb 28** Catie Lyons  
**Feb 29** Michelle Boehm



**Feb 28** Petra Wasilkoff

### February 13th

**17** Worshipped  
**2** Watched DVD's  
**18** Watched Online  
**37** Total

Financial Support  
 1,390.00 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.

## Stewardship Updates

**COMMUNION PRACTICES** Starting today, we will now have grape juice available in the center cup for anyone wishing to select that option for communion at the altar. Also, Pastor John and Neal have arranged to visit with several of our shut-ins last week and gave them communion. All were very appreciative of this gesture and the time that was spent with them, they plan to start doing this on a more frequent basis. Thank you Pastor John and Neal for taking the time and effort doing this for our members. For anyone who would like to receive communion at their house occasionally, please feel free to contact me here at church, (708) 403-9673. I will then give your contact information to Neal and they will make arrangements with you to visit and give you communion.

**ATTENDANCE TRACKING** Going forward starting with this year, we are trying to keep count of all those who watch the service online. If you could please either sign in with Facebook or very briefly comment at the time that you are watching, and if any are watching with you, we would greatly appreciate it. Also, if you happen to watch it during the week at a more convenient time, please just email us back saying that you had watched, and how many others had watched with you.

This way you can get the credit for participating in the service and we can grow our attendance totals in order to reach our endowment fund goals. Thank you for helping us with this effort, again we greatly appreciate any help you can give.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT** During these very trying and difficult times, like all of us, the offerings for the church have also been suffering and are below the projected budget. Please help us and come to worship so that we can have better attendance totals and that we can reconnect with each other as we worship together. In doing so, we will be able to reach our goals for the endowment fund. Thank you as always for keeping us moving forward in these times.

## Contacts

### Church Contacts

*intouchlwc@yahoo.com*

**Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel**  
*dianamotel@yahoo.com 708-287-4939*

**Leadership Team**

<b>Neal Hartz</b> - President	847-344-2410
<b>Jim McKinney</b> - Vice President	708-359-8527
<b>Bill Merchantz</b> - Treasurer	708-539-6027
<b>Diana Motel</b> - Secretary	708-287-4939

**Members at Large**

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

# Mission of the Month

**FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH** is David's Harp Foundation. Please see the information below for their outreach program and mission. This can also be found on our website and the bulletin board.



David's Harp is an outgrowth of the work and development of St. Paul's Music Conservatory in Council Bluffs, IA. In 2009, St. Paul's Lutheran Church established a formal music conservatory in order to raise up church musicians and proclaim the Gospel through music. This manner of music education was well received by the congregation and community alike. Over-time, this conservatory not only grew but has become a center of music education within the Council Bluffs community and has developed resources specifically for use in the parish based music conservatory. Having positive reception from across the synod, the leadership of SPMC has entertained interested ministry leaders from all across the country seeking to establish similar forms of outreach in their own context. Seeing that the work of the local conservatory, resource development, and collaboration with leaders from across the country would be too much for one parish to effectively handle, the leadership of SPMC called for help and created a new organization called David's Harp. The mission of this entity is simple: Produce music resources and produce centers of musical development around the world.

**David's Harp, through its resource development and centers of music education care deeply about the following:**

- MISSIONS** Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.
- OUTREACH** Reaching into communities and neighborhoods that surround our churches, schools and mission sites all over the world with the message of Christ.
- EDUCATION** Catechizing all ages in the faith through the rich hymns of the Lutheran Church.
- YOUTH** Teaching even the youngest among us in every community as we bring them up in the faith.
- MUSIC** Using the enormous power of music as the vehicle for all of this.

David's Harp believes that the Lutheran church is well-positioned for intentional outreach through music. Through strategic planning and collaboration in the areas of resource generation and the establishment of centers of music, David's Harp will support the Synod's churches, schools and missions in spreading the Gospel. Music centers in the foreign mission field are indeed realistic! In fact, music is often one of the most effective ways of connecting people who find themselves specifically in the mission field. In a foreign mission context, the church often competes with the influence of different strains of Christianity and different forms of paganism. Music helps lead a community into a culture that is not only Christian, but truly Lutheran! The best and most practical summary of that Lutheran culture is found in our liturgy and hymns. Having that music preserved in a hymnal which is used and taught regularly further facilitates faithful worship and a rich sacramental life. Music in a foreign context also carries the culture of the Church to places where pastors are denied access. A music studio or conservatory, for example, may be permitted when a church is not. A music teacher may be able to travel where a pastor or missionary cannot. And sacred music itself, especially recorded music, may find its way through the Internet or on the air-waves to places no missionary can enter. All of these are ways music centers can benefit the mission field.

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR THE GIFT OF  
**GREYSIN EVERETT**



Born 12.24.21    18.5" long 6 lbs. 11 oz.    Baptized 2.6.22

"Having Greysin is one of my greatest accomplishments and so rewarding. I love waking up and caring for him every day. Honestly, if it wasn't for Redeeming Life, I don't know what I would have done. This ministry gave me the support I needed to give him the time and attention he needs from me. I'm really excited about his Baptism, too! I got Baptized during my pregnancy because I wanted to give myself to God. This is the way I want Greysin to start his spiritual life in Christ."

- Akasha, Greysin's mom

 Pastor & Elaine, please rejoice with us! We truly appreciate your prayers.

**ANOTHER PRECIOUS RESIDENT** at the Redeeming Life Outreach Ministry home. We just received another post card from RLOM, meet Greysin and his mom. It is so rewarding to see the benefits of our donations to these missions every month. The postcard is on the bulletin board next to the office. One more of God's children that will grow up learning about Jesus. Welcome to the family Greysin and Akasha. We're so happy for you both.

## Important Information

**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 their 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 from 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. There is nothing like fellowship time among some of your closest friends that share the same beliefs as you do!

**UPDATED MASK MANDATES** Following Governor Pritzker's decision to lift the mask mandates on February 28th, starting with our Ash Wednesday service, we will go mask optional. If you prefer to keep your mask on during service, please feel free to do so, however masks will not be required starting in March.

**2021 OFFERING STATEMENTS** are now available and in the box on the desk located next to the office. Please review carefully and notify us of any discrepancies that you may encounter.

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

## Zoom Bible Study

**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 February 20th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85055527346?pwd=cHV4Um9nSWMrclpFbDVnaIM1eFJFdz09>

Meeting ID: 850 5552 7346    Passcode: 406092

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85055527346#,,,,\*406092# US (Chicago)

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

**POW (People of the Word) Bible Study** went back to their study on the Parables last 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. Their next study will be a Lenten study starting in March. If you would like to join them, please call Donna or the church, so you can get a book sent out to you. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the Bible study on February 25th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82899598390?pwd=V3pjSkNBbFBaEaHMxQWttbUVoNIFLdz09>

Meeting ID: 828 9959 8390    Passcode: 058288

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82899598390#,,,,\*058288# US (Chicago)

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

## "Living Word Preschool"

**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 upon us. 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. We already have one student enrolled and a family just visited us this week.

### LIVING WORD LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

## Registration is open!

Offering both a 5 day program  
with a 3 day option.

Click on our preschool tab to  
register or for more information

Call us with any questions or to  
schedule a tour at 708-403-9673



**Incarnate  
Community**

A Bible Study from the LCMS Northern Illinois District

### Taking it live! Incarnate Community Bible Study Discussions

Join Incarnate Community's author Rev. Kris Whitby and his guests as they take a deep dive into what it means in a pandemic age to be an in person community centered on Jesus!

Thursdays in February 2022, there will be live discussions hosted by Rev. Whitby and special guests fielding questions from our viewers on each of the four Bible study sessions. We'll discuss perspectives on aspects of the study, what churches are currently facing as communities who have not fully come back to in person activity, and what our hope is for the Church, both for in person and online ministry moving forward.

The live discussions will be broadcast on our Facebook and YouTube pages each Thursday in February (February 3, 10, 17, and 24) from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. - John 3:5-6 (NLT)*

If our faith is based more on trusting in how well we can obey God, we are doomed to failure. Being born of water and the spirit involves letting God create spiritual life in us, and trusting in God to be faithful to His promise to live in us now and give us life for all eternity.

## 2-20-22 Message Outline

### “Renewed”

Psalm 103 says: “[The Lord] satisfies your desires with good things ...so that your youth is renewed...”

#### 1) I am renewed through Christ’s RECONCILIATION.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you...<sup>14</sup> Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him. Genesis 45:3-5, 14-15

#### 2) I am renewed through Christ’s RESURRECTION.

<sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 1 Corinthians 15:21

#### 3) I am renewed through Christ’s REWARD.

<sup>27</sup> “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:27-37

## VBS 2022

Living Word Lutheran Church

VBS 2022

July 25th-29th 9 to Noon

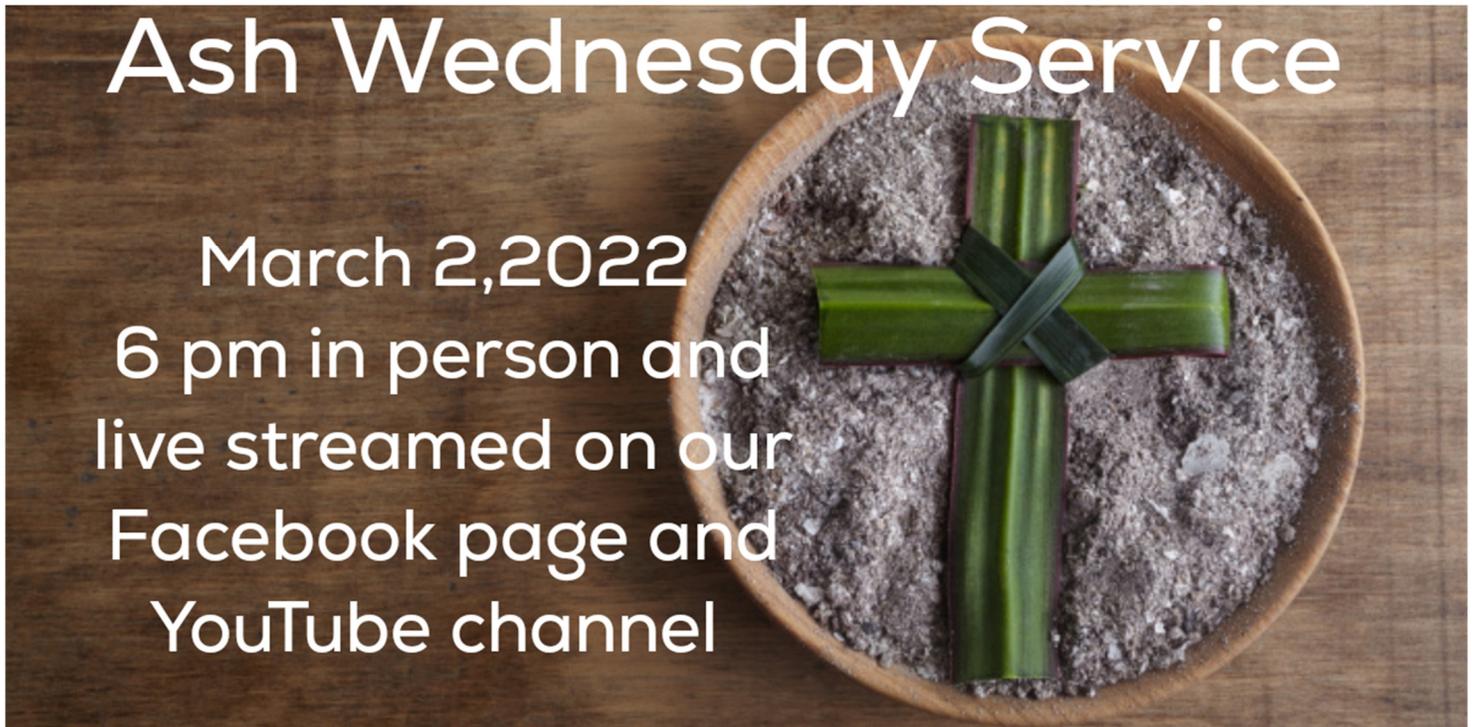
Closing Ceremony July 31st at 10am

Ages 3-11

**MONUMENTAL**  
CELEBRATING GOD'S GREATNESS

**VBS 2022—CELEBRATING GOD'S GREATNESS** Diana has theme for VBS picked out and has already ordered the basic supplies and when it gets closer, and warmer especially, she will have her list of items that she will need for snacks and craft time. Everyone had so much fun here last year, that we already have three kids signed up. Thank you Diana for all of the hard work you put into this program for us and the children of our community. If you can help out a day or two during that week, please see Diana for more information. Even though its only February, we already have 14 kids signed up for it already.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** will be March 2nd at 6:00 pm in person and via livestream on our Facebook and YouTube. The worship link will also be emailed out to everyone who can not make it, as always please feel free to share the link with family and friends, don't forget to comment how many had watched for our attendance goals.

A graphic for Ash Wednesday Service. It features a wooden bowl filled with grey ash, with a green palm frond cross resting in the center. The background is a dark wood grain.

# Ash Wednesday Service

March 2, 2022  
6 pm in person and  
live streamed on our  
Facebook page and  
YouTube channel

**LIVING WORD EASTER EGG HUNT RETURNS.** The Easter Egg Hunt was such a huge success, Diana already has been planning the activity for this year. Hopefully since Easter is a little later this year, the weather will be just a little warmer and a little less windy, lol. Diana will be checking what supplies we have left from last year and will replenish them. We are hopeful to have more little hunters this year. If you are able to volunteer that morning please see Diana for details. Based on last year, if you can help out signing everyone in or spreading out all the eggs, would be greatly appreciated.

A graphic for an Easter Egg Hunt. It features a white wooden plank background. The words 'EGG' and 'HUNT' are written in large, colorful, block letters. 'EGG' is purple and 'HUNT' is green. To the right, the event details are listed in black text. At the bottom, a row of colorful Easter eggs is shown on a patch of green grass.

## Living Word Lutheran Church

### Egg Hunt

Easter Egg Hunt  
Sunday, April 3rd  
11:30 am  
Ages 1 to 13  
Registration is open!

## "Love Your Enemies!"

### Continued from page 1

Search for common goals, spell them out, and try to explore together ways of reaching these goals.

Don't cling to your own convictions. Examine them in light of your enemies' convictions with all the sincerity you can muster.

Invite your enemies to focus on issues. While focusing on the issues at hand, suspend your convictions.

Do not judge persons, but look closely at the effect of their actions. Are they building up or endangering the common good?

Take a sober look at your enemies' goals and evaluate them with fairness. If necessary, block them decisively.

In order to counteract your enemies effectively on a given issue, join the greatest possible variety of likeminded people.

Wherever possible, show your enemies kindness. Do them as much good you can. At least, sincerely wish them well.

For the rest, entrust yourself and your enemies to the great Mystery of life that has assigned us such different – and often opposing – roles, and that will see us through if we play or part with love.

Loving our enemies is an ideal for human beings of any spiritual tradition. Mahatma Gandhi practiced it no less inspiringly than St. Francis. But it calls to mind the saying of Jesus: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Mt. 3:43f) And this, in turn, calls to mind what G. K. Chesterton said: "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried."— Difficult, yes, but eminently worth trying, especially in our world torn by enmity. In the mess we are in, we don't have much to lose by trying anything. Who knows? To love our enemies may be our only way out.



Thankfully we know better, with the grace of Jesus showing us the way to better understanding of others!

## Miscellaneous Information

**COUNCIL TEAM** met last Tuesday evening and went over quite a few topics. Diana and Neal are looking into placing ads in The Lutheran Journal and the Orland Focus for our preschool enrollment for this fall. Hopefully we will be able to have more students enrolled by the summer. Diana has the ad created for each publication, please look for her creative art work in the upcoming editions of each. They will be looking into replacing our weather beaten preschool sign in the weeks to come, Diana already has the graphic created for that as well. As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, we really need to work on our outreach for our attendance and offerings goals. The council also agreed upon lifting our current mask mandate in accordance to the state's mandate.

**UPDATING THE DIRECTORY** This is your chance to see me or Diana to get your pictures in our photo directory, we are updating some items in the current directory and if you haven't had the chance for us to take your photo the last time around, your pretty pictures can still be included in the next directory. Also, please let me know if you would prefer to keep your information such as address, email or phone numbers private, now is the time to make these changes.