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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

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 31, Issue 13

March 27, 2022

"What Does It Mean to Be Blessed by God?"

We've all heard someone say, "I've been blessed by God," usually in relation to success, health, family, wealth, or a job. We've even heard athletes say this after winning a big game. We all want to be under God's blessing. The common understanding of what it means to be blessed by God is that He gives us good things. In this respect, we can say that God's blessing is on everyone, believers and unbelievers alike. Matthew 5:45 says that the Father who is in the heavens causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and unjust. But does God's blessing pertain *only* to material things? Though these are included, thinking of God's blessing as mainly material things severely limits our understanding of what is in God's heart for us as *believers*. So what is the fuller meaning of being blessed by God?

The blessing of Abraham

Let's begin with the blessing of Abraham by God in Genesis 12:3: "And in you all the families of the earth will be **blessed**." We might think being blessed here means something outward, like having a good life. But in Galatians 3:13 and 14, the apostle Paul specifically explained what *blessed* in Genesis 12:3 means: "Christ has redeemed us out of the curse of the law, having become a curse on our behalf; because it is written, 'Cursed is every one hanging on a tree'; in order that the **blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus**, that we might **receive the promise of the Spirit through faith**." These verses explain both *how* we can be blessed and *what* the blessing of God is.

How can we be blessed?

As fallen sinners, we deserve nothing but judgment and curse, certainly not blessing. And our good works or behavior can never make us "blessable." But Jesus became a curse on our behalf. On the cross, He bore the curse that was upon all humanity and died in our place. Because of the redemptive work of Christ on the cross for us, we cursed sinners can now receive the blessing of God through faith in Christ.

What is the blessing of God?

Galatians 3:14 makes clear that the blessing in Christ Jesus that God wants us to receive isn't material things, but something far greater—the promise of the Spirit. Note 2 on this verse in the New Testament Recovery Version helps us understand what this blessing is: "In the gospel we have received not only the blessing of forgiveness, washing, and cleansing; even more, we have received **the greatest blessing, which is the Triune God—the Father, Son, and Spirit—as the processed, all-inclusive life-giving Spirit dwelling in us in a most subjective way for our enjoyment**. Oh, what a blessing that we can enjoy such an all-inclusive One as our daily portion!" But in this verse what, or who, is "the Spirit" that we receive? The next note on verse 14 says this: "This verse indicates that the Spirit is the blessing that God promised to Abraham for all the nations and that has been received by the believers through faith in Christ. The Spirit is the compound Spirit, as mentioned in note 5², and actually is God Himself processed in His Trinity through incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and descension that we may receive Him as our life and our everything. This is the focus of the gospel of God. The physical aspect of the blessing that God promised to Abraham was the good land (Gen. 12:7; 13:15; 17:8; 26:3-4), which was a type of the all-inclusive Christ (see Col. 1:12 and note 2). Since Christ is eventually realized as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 3:17), the blessing of the promised Spirit corresponds with the blessing of the land promised to Abraham. Actually, the Spirit as the realization of Christ in our experience is the good land as the source of God's bountiful supply for us to enjoy."

This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9:15 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	28	29 10:00 am PUSH	30	31	1 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	2

March Celebrations

 March 14 Diana Motel March 19 Bobbi Pote	 <i>Happy Baptism Birthday!</i> March 14 Matt Meier March 15 Anita Meier March 18 Ashley Meier March 22 David Merchantz	<i>Anniversary</i>  March 25 Donna & Peter Wasilkoff March 28 Pat & Dale Johnson
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Stewardship Snapshot

March 20th

19 Worshipped, 19 Communed
2 Watched DVD's
15 Watched Online
36 Total

Financial Support

2,345.00 General Fund Deposit
 25.00 Easter Basket Items
 2,370.00 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.

Contacts

Church Contacts

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



EASTER LILY ORDER FORMS are in the worship folders starting today. They are due today. Unfortunately though with the price of delivery charges going up due to increasing gas prices, the price for each lily will be \$10.50. If you need to order them just a little bit later than that, you can always see me or call me at the office, I was just trying to eliminate any extra chaos and confusion with the Easter Egg Hunt the following week.

HE IS RISEN! Crosses are available online at EASTERCROSS.ORG. Be a witness to the Risen Christ and stand firm with the community of Christians. Jim McKinney had anonymously ordered some for us last year and we have the info available on the bulletin board, and I will include them as worship folder inserts as well this month. I have looked up the website and the crosses are \$4.00 and we will bulk order them at one time to help with shipping, please let us know today if you would like to order them, we will need the money by the end of the month when it will be deposited in time to place the order.

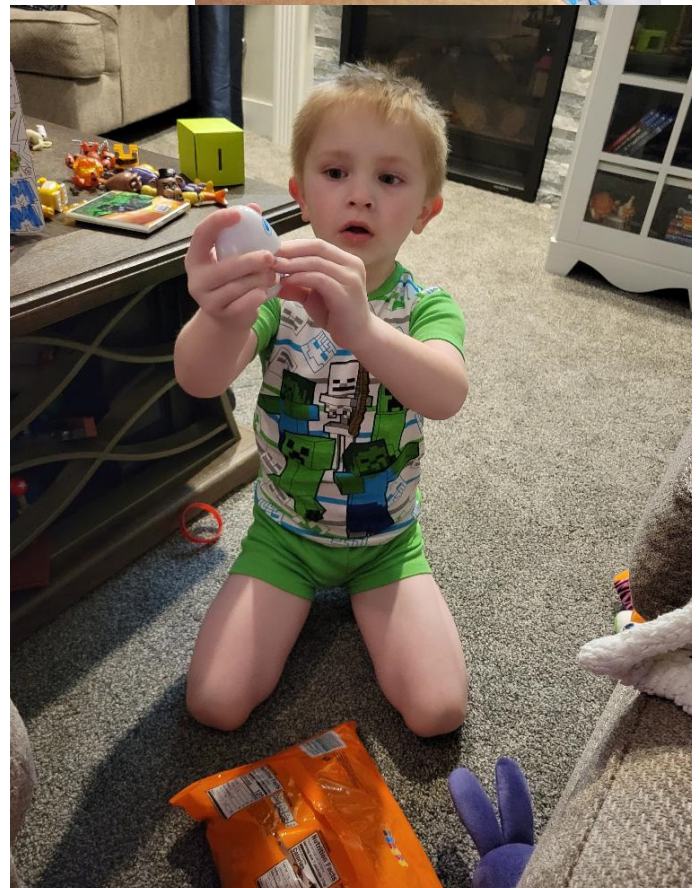
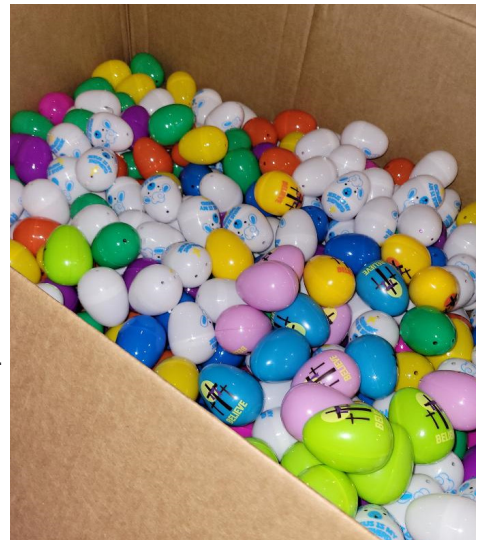


Mission of the Month

EASTER BASKET TIME! Now that its March, the mission of the month is the Village of Orland Park. Specifically making and putting together Easter baskets for the children of the under privileged families of the Orland Park township. So when you are out shopping at the Dollar stores and see coloring books, play dough, crayons, stickers, bubbles, sidewalk chalk or anything like that, pick up a couple of items so we can make Easter baskets for the boys and girls of Orland Park Township. Joan Fraser and her daughter have been doing these for the community for several years now, and we thought it would be a terrific and cute group effort once again for this year. As always, if its just easier donating a couple of bucks towards the baskets, our Easter bunnies don't mind doing the shopping. Lol. Diana has made up a basket and it is on the table in the fellowship hall as an example. The village was so happy and surprised at the 20 baskets that we donated last year.

Easter 2022

LIVING WORD EASTER EGG HUNT RETURNS. The Easter Egg Hunt was such a huge success last year, Diana 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. We already have 40 or 50 kids signed up for this event, and she has 1,100 eggs filled for everyone. As you can see below, she had a great helper this year! Thank you Kyle and Diana!



Sharing Information

SHARE OUR POSTS!! Please share our posts with all of your Facebook groups, it's a very small and easy thing to do and the results are so great. Diana has shared her posts on the Easter Basket mission just recently, and we already had 2 people drop off several items and a couple of filled Easter buckets. More importantly, the lady that dropped off the 2 Easter buckets, works at the Evergreen Assisted Living center and had expressed interest in our preschool, plus she seemed very excited in working with us in the future and to help us grow. Diana emailed her back thanking her for the donations and to let her know about the preschool primer that will be the first week of June. Diana also said that she will follow up with her next Friday letting her know about our Ukraine Collection Event. This seems to be a very good growth opportunity for us, simply by sharing the posts of the events that we have planned.

CONGRATULATIONS DIANA!! Once again, Diana has outdone herself, our website has won first place in the OurChurch.com's Top Websites Challenges for last month. We will receive a \$50 credit on our bill due to her hard work. And we are still working on the credit towards our bill from all the other times we have won as well. Thanks Diana for always keeping us on the top.

GOOD FRIDAY TENNEBRAE SERVICE is scheduled at 6:00 pm on April 15th. We will be worshipping in person and it will be livestreamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

KITCHEN ITEMS will need to be replenished in the next few weeks, most needed item will be coffee. As always if you would like to donate any goodies, we are always willing to help you eat them, lol.

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 March 27th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82733414437?pwd=aXFKLzA4bGlmMW4rUT09>

Meeting ID: 827 3341 4437 Passcode: 164337

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82733414437#,,,,*164337# US (Chicago)

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

POW (People of the Word) Bible Study has wrapped up their study on the Parables for Lent. 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. They have begun their next study for Lent. "*Surrounded By Grace*" study last Friday. 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 April 1st.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84560205067?pwd=MzMzNTZ1MG5FRHkzRzFTbGt1MjNrQT09>

Meeting ID: 845 6020 5067 Passcode: 364044

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84560205067#,,,,*364044# US (Chicago)

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

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

"Living Word Preschool"

A NEED FOR OUR PRESCHOOL AGAIN Please try to help us pass the word about our preschool throughout our community. Now that we are past January and the winter semester, 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 last month. Diana has created fliers and registration forms on our website and has sent them out to past VBS and Easter Egg Hunt families. I know most of us don't have any little ones at home, but if you happen to know of anyone who does, please let them know about our website and that they can come and check out the church and classrooms at anytime.

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

"Stewardship Updates"

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 in the attendance achievements for the endowment fund. Thank you as always for keeping us moving forward in these times.

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 early March, we already have almost 30 kids signed up for it.

"Living Word Early Education Program Summer Primer"

SUMMER PRIMER is back and better than ever. Looking for a preschool, here's a chance to visit our Early Education Program see how much fun your child will have while learning about new and exciting things.



LIVING WORD EARLY EDUCATION SUMMER PROGRAM

Is your child registered for preschool yet?

We still have some spots available for our early education program this coming school year. If you are still looking for a program for your child come check out Living Word's Early Childhood Education Program. Children will see just how much fun they will have in preschool this fall. Space is limited so register at <https://livingwordorland.org/preschool> For questions email us at lwlcmedia@yahoo.com or call 708-403-9673

**When - Tuesday, May 31st - Thursday, June 2nd
From 9:00am-Noon**

**Where- Living Word Lutheran Church
16301 Wolf Road Orland Park**

Cost- \$40 a day



3-27-22 Message Outline

"Blessed is the One"

Psalms 32 says: *"Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered."* In Christ, we are indeed the ones blessed...

1) I am "the one" blessed by "THAT DAY."

In that day you will say: "I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me." ² Surely God is my salvation. Isaiah 12:1-2a

2) I am "the one" blessed by A NEW VIEWPOINT.

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 6:16-17

3) I am "the one" blessed by JESUS' LOST & FOUND.

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'

²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

Luke 15:11-24

Ways to Help Ukraine

Ukrainian Refugees need your help! Join us in collecting donations.

**Living Word Lutheran Church
16301 Wolf Road Orland Park**

Drop off donations Monday - Friday 9:30 am-1:00pm

Sunday's 9:30 am-11:30am

Stop by on Saturday, April 9th from 9 am-5pm with donations and enjoy some light refreshments.

The little church that cares

Items needed or monetary donations

- Backpacks 10 x 19 x 14 (approximately size)
- Bandage Strips, 1"x3"
- Big Cinch Abdominal Bandage
- Burn Aid - water gel burn dressing 4x16
- Burn Aid - water gel burn dressing 4x4
- Eye Wash, 4oz
- Medical Adhesive tape rolls (2 - 3" inches)
- Multi Trauma Dressings, 12"x30"
- Pain Relievers - Ibuprofen or Acetaminophen, or both
- Pair of Tweezers
- Safety Pins
- Abdominal pad (sometimes "ab pad"), 5" x 9" (2x)
- Acetaminophen / Tylenol
- Adhesive bandages (Band-Aids) in several sizes
- Adhesive tape
- Antiseptic wipes
- Aspirin / Bayer
- Butterfly bandages, 0.5" x 2.75" (16x)
- Caffeine pills
- Gloves
- Pepto-Bismol pills
- Plastic cling wrap, 2" wide roll
- White petroleum jelly / Vaseline in small container

PARTNERING WITH ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL We will be collecting the items that are needed for the Ukrainian Refugees and drop everything off at their church. We are also going to invite our local community and neighborhood to help us and we will be serving light refreshments for those who will be visiting our church. If you can help out to serve refreshments or help pack up the items or bring the boxes of these items to St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Palos Park, please see Diana Motel, Jim McKinney or Bob Grossart. The list of items can be found to the left and on page 8.



ST. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH sent out a posting this week, they are collecting the following items at their church located at 8410 W. 131st Street in Palos Park. You can drop the items off anytime outside their doors. The list includes:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| • First aid kits | Antiseptics | Face Masks | Socks |
| • Over the counter pain relievers | Antibiotics ointments | Eye Protection | Hygiene Items |
| • Kids fever reducer | Bandages | Cold Medicines | Razors |
| • Band aids | Refillable water bottles | Latex Gloves | Female Products |
| • Sleeping bags | Walkie-talkies | Diapers | Gloves |
| • Thermal underwear | Backpacks | Gauze | Flashlights (no batteries) |

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN, Christian based organization has sent this email, if you would like more info, visit FMSC.org.

“The bullets and bombs in Ukraine could **take the global food crisis to levels beyond anything we’ve ever seen before.**”

FMSC is coordinating efforts with our network of partners in Eastern Europe. Already, **1.5 million MannaPack® meals are on their way to Ukraine, as well as Poland, Romania and Moldova.** More than 2 million additional meals have been requested — and the need is growing. FMSC is ready to produce these meals, but we need you to **help fund them.**

It’s easy to feel helpless in the face of humanitarian catastrophe, **but you can take action today.** Here are two things you can do right now to help the people of Ukraine and other crises around the world:

1. Pray: The word “crisis” is an understatement; the attacks in Ukraine will have far-reaching consequences across the globe for years to come. **But Jesus calls us to bring all our burdens before Him — and we know nothing is too big.** Please join us as we pray: For peace and an end to the attacks; For protection for the vulnerable; For open corridors for food and other humanitarian aid

2. Fund meals: Ukrainian refugees are hungry. Critical food shortages are expected to increase in already-vulnerable regions, including the Horn of Africa, Yemen, Afghanistan and Haiti. **Your gifts matter. And because each meal costs just 24 cents each, every dollar counts.**