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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
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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 11

March 13, 2022

"Characteristics of a Good and Faithful Servant"

No doubt, people want to be identified as good and faithful servants. What exactly does that mean as it is recorded in Matthew 25:23? What did Jesus have in mind when He spoke those words? **"Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."**

1 Notice Jesus did not say "good and popular servant" or "good and successful servant"? Jesus' words were "good and faithful servant." That tells us a lot about the type of servant Jesus was talking about. All Christians should long to hear those words addressed to them. The relevant question is: "What are you doing to hear those words from the Master?"

1. Be Saved

3 In order to hear those words, one must belong to the Master. Therefore, the very first way to hear those important words is to be saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9) "to do good works" (Ephesians 2:10). Jesus becomes your Savior once you confess with your mouth that He died and God raised Him from the dead, according to Romans 10:9-10. Then you must be faithful by allowing Him to become your Lord. It is important to know that in order to hear what the master told his servants, you must be a servant. Unbelievers will never hear those words. Unfaithful believers will never hear those words.

2. Be Faithful

8 Notice that the master in the parable used the expression "faithful servant" twice to indicate its importance. Being faithful is doing what God commands you to do and refraining from doing what He commands you not to do. Our faithfulness depends on even the little that we do for the kingdom of God.

3. Be Available

A faithful servant is also an available servant. Our appointment books are usually full with something going on every waking hour of the day and part of the night with very little time left to focus on God and the things of God. A faithful servant spends quality time with God.

We should be available to go where God sends us. We should say like Isaiah, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8) and not go in the opposite direction like Jonah did when God sent him to Nineveh.

God wants availability more than ability. That's because when you are available, He will equip you along the way. When Jesus called the fishermen, they knew nothing about Him or what He expected until they had spent time with Him.

4. Be a Witness

When we get saved, we should share the gospel with others so they will know the saving power of Jesus Christ, His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. The Bible tells us to make disciples and teach others about God and all things relating to God (Matthew 28:18-20).


We should not keep what we know about God to ourselves. We should become good witnesses before we can become good and faithful servants.

5. Practice Forgiveness

When Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive others, Jesus told him to forgive seventy times seven. Surely, Jesus did not mean to literally forgive 490 times and stop forgiving when that number has been reached. Instead, Jesus was indicating that Peter and the rest of us should practice forgiveness and keep on forgiving as long as we live. According to 1 Peter 2:2, "When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to [the Father] who judges justly." Jesus Himself practiced forgiveness. On the cross, His first statement was "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34).

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This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13 9:15 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	14	15 10:00 am PUSH 7:00 pm Council Meeting	16	17 	18 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	19

March Celebrations

 March 14 Diana Motel March 19 Bobbi Pote	 March 14 Matt Meier March 15 Anita Meier March 18 Ashley Meier	 March 25 Donna & Peter Wasilkoff March 28 Pat & Dale Johnson
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Stewardship Snapshot

March 2nd (Ash Wednesday)

11 Worshipped, 11 Communed
 2 Watched DVD's
16 Watched Online
 39 Total

Financial Support

210.00 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.

March 6th

22 Worshipped, 22 Communed
 2 Watched DVD's
15 Watched Online
 39 Total

Financial Support

4,005.00 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.

"Characteristics of a Good and Faithful Servant"

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6. Show Humility

Showing humility is the opposite of being filled with pride. A person who does not demonstrate humility is one who takes credit for everything that happens to him instead of giving God all the glory. Unless a person is humble, he will not be called a good and faithful servant. That is because he usurps all the glory that belongs to God and gives it to himself.

7. Help Others

In order to be a good and faithful servant, we must help others. First John 3:17 says, "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" We should be Christlike and "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, we will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Every saved person has been given spiritual gifts to be used to help others as a way to demonstrate being a good and faithful servant.

8. Participate in Spiritual Disciplines

A good and faithful servant knows he should always participate in spiritual disciplines that include praying, studying the Bible, attending church, singing, praising God, meditating, journaling and enjoying God's presence.

DON'T BE LATE! We spring our clocks up 1 hour this weekend. Even though it might not feel like spring yet, we will be ready for it when it does. Lol. Daylight Savings Time starts this weekend, can't you just feel how nice it will be.

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 outside of the sanctuary 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, 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. We already have 45 kids signed up for this event.

Living Word Lutheran Church

EGG

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 3rd

11:30 am

HUNT

Ages 1 to 13

Registration is open!



EASTER LILY ORDER FORMS are in the worship folders starting today. They are due by Sunday, March 27th. 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 once to help with shipping, please let us know by March 27th if you would like to order them.

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 at the present time.

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 March 13th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86090523394?pwd=cjVtOWpaeFU1b3lCck85K1laNjZPQT09>

Meeting ID: 860 9052 3394 Passcode: 925892

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86090523394#,,,,*925892# 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 March 18th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88537769102?pwd=eWs4SXYzUjJPSXZEVnFXTU9TY1pCdZ09>

Meeting ID: 885 3776 9102 Passcode: 488215

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,88537769102#,,,,*488215# 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.

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *[Jesus] testifies about what he has seen and heard, but how few believe what he tells them!*
John 3:32 (NLT)

Each of us has a worldview, a set of attitudes and beliefs that guide our choices in life. We naturally (because of sin) want to go our own way, to figure life out for ourselves, but there is another way. Jesus is the Author of Life, He knows how life is supposed to work, and His guidance is intended to bless us in this life as well as the next. So this Lenten season, give thought again to the question "Whom am I going to trust?" and believe what God has and is telling you.

3-13-22 Message Outline

"His Faithful Servant"

Psalm 4 says: "How long will you people turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods? Know that the Lord has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him." Are you a faithful servant...?

1) A faithful servant PROPHESES TRUTH.

⁸ But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the Lord had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, "You must die! ⁹ Why do you prophesy in the Lord's name that this house will be like Shiloh and this city will be desolate and deserted?"
Jeremiah 26:8-9

2) A faithful servant STANDS FIRM.

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. **4** Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!
Philippians 3:17-4:1

3) A faithful servant PRESSES ON.

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." ³² He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' ³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem! ³⁴ "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"
Luke 13:31-35

VBS 2022



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 over 20 kids signed up for it.

Ways to Help Ukraine



HELPING UKRAINE We have received several different emails this past week as to being able to help Ukraine. I felt that I should share them in our newsletter this month. The emails came from the Northern Illinois District and the Lutheran Church Charities respectively.

From the Northern Illinois District:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The violence in Ukraine continues. Those in Ukraine and those fleeing to neighboring countries face great need.

Our Office of International Mission — especially through our Eurasia region and the Rev. James Krikava, the Synod's associate executive director of Eurasia and Asia Operations — is working with partner churches, missionaries and others in Europe to help care for those fleeing Ukraine. Krikava has been working with Bishop Serge Maschewski of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine (ELCU) to assist the people of the ELCU who remain in Ukraine, including pastors who continue to care for people.

Please encourage your congregations to pray for Ukraine. You can also [share with them the following story](#), which includes opportunities for giving to this necessary work.

As we repent and join together in meditation about our Savior's precious death and resurrection, we also pray for and care for all those for whom Christ died and rose.

Here's the email below from Lutheran Church Charities along with the pictures on the following page.

Urgent financial assistance is needed for women, children, and the elderly as able men stay to defend the Ukrainian homeland. Lutheran Church Charities IS WORKING WITH the **Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC)** and the **Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA)** to support those staying in Ukraine as well as those fleeing to other countries during these desperate and challenging times. LCC will BE WORKING with Christian Ukrainian families here in the United States that have families in Ukraine or who are displaced in Poland.

The Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC) and its 18 national pastors spiritually lead and serve 2,500 members, 24 established congregations, and 12 mission congregations in Ukraine by sharing the hope of the gospel with others around them who do not know Christ. They are committed to remaining in Ukraine to help their fellow Ukrainians who choose to stay in their homeland survive during these horrific conditions.

The Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA) connect with outreach-minded congregations to welcome and support refugees fleeing to the United States. With the current Ukrainian crisis, they are prepared to support an increased need to help these individuals and families who come to the United States, often with little or no possessions, establish a new life.



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.**