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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
9:15 am Adult study
10:00 am Worship

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 31, Issue 26

June 26, 2022

"By Grace We Are Free in Christ"

In John 8:34 Jesus underlined the bondage in which we are held by nature. On the other hand, He spoke about the freedom into which He brings sinners by grace: "If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

How could the Son set them free?

Because of who He was. He was the Son who has been sent into the world by the Father. He knew the Father's plan. He had the most intimate relationship with the Father. He had heard everything the Father had said, and He came with this message of good news: "The Father has sent Me in order to set you free" (see John 8:28).

How, then, does Christ set us free?

John had answered that question earlier, in the most famous verse in his Gospel. This God, this Father, so loved the world, this world in its sinfulness and bondage, that He sent His only Son into it. He had only one Son, but He sent Him to die on a cross in order to save everyone who believes in Him (John 3:16).

The Son would be "lifted up"—lifted up on a cross, exposed in public shame, hanging between heaven and earth, under the judgment of God against our sins—so that those who believed in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 12:32; 3:16).

Jesus Christ is able to set us free because He has dealt with the sin that enslaves us. We can never atone for our own sin. We can never break its power. We can never come to God and say, "God, surely what I have done is enough to compensate for my sins." Nothing we can do can possibly compensate. But God sent His own Son—think of it, His own Son—who stood in for us, in our place. He lived a perfect life. Since He had no sins of His own to atone for, He was qualified to make a sacrifice for our sins. No sacrifice we could make could ever be adequate to atone for sin. But He was able and willing to do it. Because of that, we can be set free from guilt and from the bondage it creates.

Christ also sets us free in another way: through the truth about God—and about ourselves—that He reveals. If we believe in Him, we will come to know the truth, and the truth will set us free (John 8:32). That is His promise.

I have met some exceptionally intelligent people who cannot understand the Christian gospel. They hear its message as if it were a lecture on morality. Yet the gospel is not difficult to understand. The problem lies within us—in our spiritual blindness. If there is resistance in the heart to loving God, there will be resistance in the mind to knowing God—and therefore to listening to and seeking God. Only the truth can set us free.

Later on in John's Gospel, Jesus spoke about sending the Holy Spirit to His disciples. He would be like a great spotlight shining into their minds, illumining them so that they could begin to see and understand Jesus and what He had done. The Spirit would remove spiritual deception, transform the spiritually dead, and glorify Christ.

So Jesus is able to set us free because of who He is and because of what He shows us. As a result, we now may dare to call God "Father."

This is the most obvious difference between a "religious" person and a Christian. A religious person is likely to address God—especially in a crisis—as "O God," not as "O Father." There is a simple reason for this. Unless you know God as your Father, you never cry out to Him in your need as "Abba, Father" (Rom. 8:15-16).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:15 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	27	28 10:00 am PUSH Election Day	29	30		

June Celebrations

<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>June 26 Joan Gabrielson June 29 Kristi Hartz June 30 Jessica Lyons July 2 Gary Pote</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>June 29 George Hostert June 30 Sarah Bonnar</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>June 26 Anita & Gary Meier June 30 Deanna & Kurt Meier July 1 Karen & Bob Grossart</p>
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Stewardship Snapshot

June 19th
19 Worshipped, 19 Communed 2 DVD 13 Watched Online 34 Total
Financial Support 1,335.00 General Fund Offering
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 <i>intouchlwc@yahoo.com</i>
Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel <i>dianamotel@yahoo.com 708-287-4939</i>
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

"Sunday Zoom Bible Study Classes"

SUNDAY MORNING Bible Study will be on Zoom. We will have a dedicated link every Sunday for the Zoom portion of the class. 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 June 26th.**

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86996049557?pwd=pd_Ch616_TXlyRy3j-HgfyjDfW4EJxe.1

Meeting ID: 869 9604 9557 Passcode: 415209

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86996049557#,,,,*415209# US (Chicago)

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

"New Updates on Living Word Preschool"

A NEED FOR OUR PRESCHOOL AGAIN Please pass the word about our preschool throughout our community. Now that its summer, we need to fill our church with the little ones and teach them the love and knowledge of Jesus and prepare them for kindergarten. Our Open House was yesterday, the 25th, the kids checked out the classrooms and met Mrs. Diana. We already have a few more interested and saying that they want to come back and we receive calls about once or twice a month inquiring about our program. Diana has created a new flyer and registration form on our website. We are offering 2 or 3 day program for preschool. 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 visit the church and classrooms.

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Registration is open!

Offering a 3 or 2-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

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. 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. Now that its a month away, we have over 40 kids signed up for it already, and we have 7 student volunteers.



Living Word News

CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS' MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, July 10th, immediately after the service. They will be presenting the budget for us to vote on and catch us up-to-date on the latest news from the transition team. Please plan on attending to make your vote count.

COUNCIL MEETING was this past Tuesday, the 21st. They mainly worked on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and a preliminary projected budget for the next 5 years. They briefly discussed the preschool and other issues and concerns. Bob and Diana shared updates from the transition team. Please see the following page for a complete summary of the minutes from that meeting. Going forward Diana's notes will be in the newsletter the following Sunday after the Council meeting.

LIVING WORD SOFTBALL TEAM played on Thursday and won their game T.I.S.P. Co-op. They won't have any games this coming week, except if they have any makeup games that will be scheduled, playoff games will be scheduled the third week of July. Good luck Living Word!

ORLAND PARK FOOD PANTRY will be the Mission of the Month for July. We will be collecting non-perishable food items and any monetary donations. As always, thank you for all your generosity for our community.



DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK [Jesus said] *"For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."* - John 6:40 (NLT)

Jesus makes radical claims—about Himself, and on our lives as His followers. Some people are drawn to the idea of God blessing them here and now, while others understand, through the Holy Spirit, that the real blessings of God are the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. So how do you see Jesus—as a cosmic vending machine, or as your only hope of salvation and eternal life?

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 created an ad on Facebook for our preschool, if at all possible, please start sharing the updated information for the two different week day options for preschool and for the two different weeks that she is offering for the preschool summer primer. The same day she had created the ad on Facebook, she had already received comments and questions about the preschool, this should be a great way to reach more people.

WORSHIP LINKS are emailed out every Sunday after service. If you are unable to come join us in person for service, we totally understand, but if you have the capability of watching the service online, please do so. You can watch the livestream from YouTube or our Facebook page, or just click on the link that is emailed to you. Not only will it keep you connected to your church family, but it will also help us grow our attendance totals, which is very important, if we grow our church's attendance, either in person or virtually by 10% we will meet the requirement for the endowment fund to receive approximately \$20,000 or better. We are all struggling in these difficult times, but if we all work together, we will all prosper. Please feel free to share the links or watch with family and friends, kindly let us know how many had watched. Thank you for all your help!

Something to Consider—Church!

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 pray by laying hands on the hurting. 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!

Living Word Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Notes
6/21/22 at 7pm

*Attendees: Paul H, Neal H, Jim M, Bill M, Pastor John, Bob G, Diana M, and Pastor Schauer

*Meeting opened in prayer from Pastor Schauer at 7:09 pm

*This meeting focused on the budget for next year and a 5-year prediction if we were to call a full-time pastor. Bob went through the budget he had drafted up. This budget will be presented to the congregation to vote on Sunday July 10th after worship. Bob has increased giving by \$3,000 next year. He has increased the pastor health care to meet the new prices given by district. This is still to reflect the pastor will pay 20% of their health care and the church will pay 80%. We would keep the pastor salary at \$58,000. Diana, Anita, and Bev's wages would not increase for this coming year. It is projected to not increase for the next 5 years but that is based off not having new members. We have decreased the grounds care to \$4,500 from \$9,000 due to members cutting the grass now. We know that we have the \$20,000 from the endowment fund that we will use next year. We also know that with inflation utilities are increasing and the budget needed to reflect that. It was also suggested that we designated the last \$24,844 from the Ruth Grebik fund to cover expenses in the year 2024 and not to be touched for anything else. Based off the 5-year predicted budget we would only be able to pay a pastor for 2 years if we were to not have any growth at the church.

*7:51pm Bob motioned that the budget be accepted and to be presented to the congregation on July 10th. Diana 2nd the motion and the council voted unanimously I.

*Diana and Bob informed the council that the transition team has had a meeting with Pastor Johnson of Christ Lutheran Church in Orland. He has proposed the idea of doing a partnership with our church to help us grow and his church grow as well as the kingdom of God. They are not looking to take over our bills or property. This is both churches working together for the greater good. The transition team will talk to Pastor Johnson again on August 15th to ask more questions. This will be presented at the congregation meeting on July 10th to see the overall feeling from the congregation. Christ Lutheran would help us find a pastor and would pay 2/3 of the salary and Living Word would pay 1/3. The new pastor would help them with shut in visits and other items they may need but also be here for our church on Sundays and during the week for certain things. Then biggest thing would be not having a pastor sit in an office all day but instead out in the community.

*It was also discussed that the transition team is now an even number and should be an odd number for voting reasons.

*It was also suggested that Diana provided the congregation with links to Pastor Croone's worship services so that the congregation can see his preaching style and ask any questions at the congregation meeting on July 10th. We will not be voting for him or the Christ Lutheran option at this meeting just discussing more what the congregation feels is best. Once the budget is approved, we need to then inform Pastor Croone of our finances to see if this is something he could even afford to do.

*It was also asked that going forward all meeting minutes be published in the newsletter for all to see.

*Diana then asked if Paul could look to see if the computer that is in the closet with the video surveillance be brought into Bev's office or a way for her to see the video on her computer and even in the preschool room. He looked at it and thinks we could gain access to it using an app. He will look more into it.

*The last topic was about Fire Science. They gave us a quote for \$500 as we have some fire extinguishers that are expired. Pastor Schauer is going to give Neal the company they use to see if the cost could be less. We do understand they need to be replaced.

*The meeting was open to any other questions or concerns and with no other topics to discuss the meeting adjourned with prayer from Pastor John at 8:33pm.

Did You Know...?

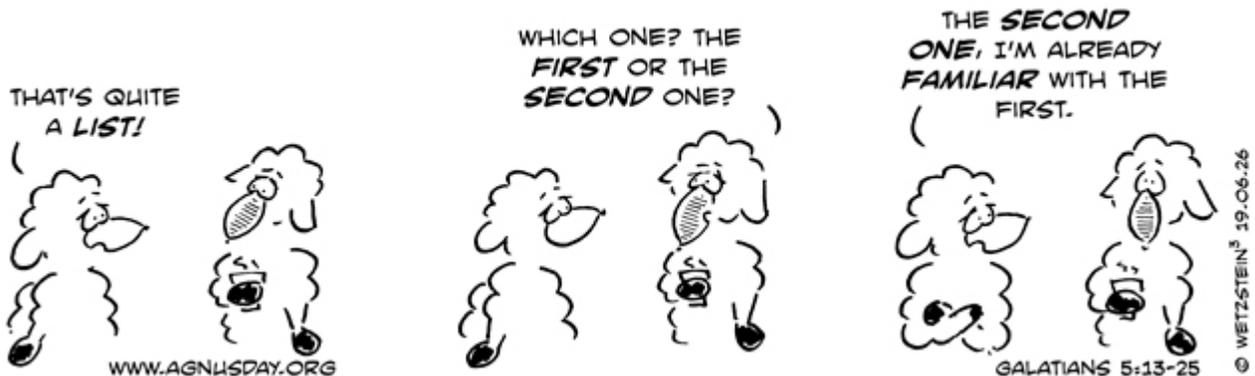
As we are approaching the celebrated birthday of our country, here are some little known facts about the important role Lutherans played in the founding and early history of the United States:

- 1) Lutherans were in America seven years before the Pilgrims.
- 2) The first book translated into any American Indian language was Luther's *Small Catechism*.
- 3) The first "Stars and Stripes" was made by Sara Austin and the Ladies Aid Society of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. It was presented to John Paul Jones and received the first salute granted to the Star Spangled Banner in Europe. It is now in the National Museum in Washington, D.C.
- 4) Our Statue of Liberty was made by a French Lutheran, Frederic Auguste Bartholdi.
- 5) Washington's army at the Battle of Trenton was composed largely of Lutherans.
- 6) It was a Lutheran boy who called a Lutheran sexton to ring the Liberty Bell.
- 7) The Liberty Bell was hauled from Philadelphia to Allentown, PA by a Lutheran, Fredrick Leiser in 1777. The bell was then hidden under the floor of Zion Lutheran Church.
- 8) The second oldest military unit in America was formed by 137 men from St. John's Lutheran Church, Charlestown, S.C. in 1775.
- 9) The first president of the Continental Congress was a Lutheran, John Harrison. He served until Washington was inaugurated.
- 10) A Lutheran, Michael Hillegas, became the first treasurer of the United States, serving until Alexander Hamilton took office.
- 11) It was illegal to hold Lutheran services in New York until 1664.
- 12) A Lutheran pastor, Fredrick A. C. Muhlenberg was the first speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. With John Adams, he signed the first ten amendments to the Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights.
- 13) Another Lutheran pastor, Peter Muhlenberg was largely responsible for the Virginia Legislature's passage of a bill establishing religious freedom in 1786. Soon other states followed. The First Amendment was the result.
- 14) General Von Steuben, a Lutheran saved the U.S. Treasury \$600,000. His "Rules of Discipline", created our national army and still form the basis of our military tactics.



This was adopted from St. Paul Lutheran Church Bulletin, North Hollywood, California.

I wonder if any of these founding Lutheran Fathers of our country had the same feeling about our Epistle Reading from this week sometimes, lol.



Mission of the Month

LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARITIES will be our mission of the month for June. They provide several different ministries all around the country, below are the many amazing features of this wonderful organization. Their mission is to share the mercy, compassion presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need. They were headquartered in Addison, IL and now currently in Northbrook. LCC was founded in 1947 as a nonprofit ministry to help support Christian human care ministries of the Church. They work throughout the United States and internationally. Every dollar given for a cause goes directly to that cause or need. Their ministries are listed below and on our website:

LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry was launched in August of 2008, and it is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ. They serve everyday in the community in which they are places in times of disaster and crisis to bring comfort to all those affected, including first responders and the volunteers who serve them.



LCC Kare 9 Military Ministry is a ministry by veterans for veterans. They strive to serve our military veterans and their families. The Kare-9 Military Ministry dogs and their trained veteran handlers visit many places including VFWs, VA hospitals, Traumatic Brain Injury Care Centers, homes of veterans that are home bound, Expos, Vet Clinics and various other activities to help spread the mercy and compassion.

LCC K-9 Police Ministry handlers are law enforcement officers (current and former) who understand the unique challenges facing the law enforcement community. They bring the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who protect and serve, as well as their families. Crisis Response serves the law enforcement and family members in their time of need, by providing comfort following injuries, deaths or major incidents. Ongoing Support is the K-9 visits (headquarters, substations and dispatch centers), provides assistance with department missions such as Christmas shopping with children, summer camps and public events, comforting crime victims prior to interviews, counseling or courtroom testimonies, and general support for department members and their families.



LCC Disaster Response Ministries coordinates deployment of trained volunteers for Disaster Response. When disasters strike; lives, homes, businesses, churches and more are affected. LCC L.E.R.T. volunteers respond quickly to serve people affected by a disaster. LCC teams are trained to work through local churches to serve their communities. LCC Disaster Response provides on-site and online Lutheran Early Response Team (L.E.R.T.) basic training. Additional training includes expertise in the area of chainsaw, heavy equipment, debris removal, flood recovery, and emotional and spiritual care.

LCC Human Care Ministries work with pastors and congregations to pass through donor financial assistance, in-kind donations, volunteer people resources, emotional or or spiritual support.

Hearts of Mercy and Compassion (HMC), Crosses for Losses provides a physical and spiritual symbol through the giving of hearts and crosses to families and friends who have suffered a loss or are experiencing the illness of a loved one. An HMC can also be given to celebrate a victory, honor service, as an expression of love, or to be an encouragement in the face of adversity. Given as a gift, each HMC provides the love and hope of Jesus through presence and prayer. Upon request, LCC, working through churches, can provide an HMC at no charge.



Other LCC ministries include international and domestic ministries, church worker support, WORD Bible Studies, Congregational Preparedness, and support for passion though needs and causes.

Your support in these very worthy causes is much appreciated, as we always say here, we might be small, but we sure are mighty. We are definitely "The Little Church that Cares"



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, August 2nd -Thursday, August 4th.
From 9:00am-Noon

Where- Living Word Lutheran Church
16301 Wolf Road Orland Park
Cost- \$40 a day

