

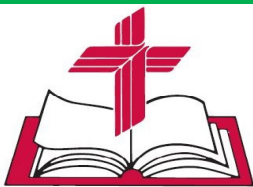


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PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

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 29

July 10, 2022 & July 17, 2022

"How The Good Samaritan Parable Relates to Life Today"

The term "Good Samaritan" today refers to a person who helps others in a random act of kindness. It originated from the Parable of the Good Samaritan, a story that is very familiar to Christians.

In the story, a Jew was robbed and left to die by his assailants. Two highly respected men passed by him but decided to walk away. Then a Samaritan came along. Unlike the other two, he tended to the man's wounds and brought him to an inn. Then he gave money to the innkeeper saying, "Look after him and when I return, I will reimburse you for any expense you may have".

What makes this story very compelling is that Jews and Samaritans are historical enemies. Jews don't talk to Samaritans as they consider them renegades. And this enmity is returned by the Samaritans.

But what has a thousand-year-old story to do with us? Like any parable, Jesus used this story to teach us lessons about life and about God. Here are some of the most valuable lessons from the Good Samaritan parable that relates so much to life today:

Help When Someone Needs Help

Having the intent to help is good but acting on that intent is much better. The Samaritan's intent didn't save the wounded man from death. It's his actions that ultimately saved the man's life. He didn't walk away just like the two men before him. He decided to do something.

In our time, that half-dead man's photos would end up in social media before he even gets to the hospital. Everybody would take pictures but very few would actually dare to help. We'll feel sorry for that person but not enough to get involved. Now, are we the good Samaritan or are we the men who walked away?

Race Should Never Matter

Xenophobia and racial prejudice have always been a great divider among nations. Since the ancient times to the present, we tend to distrust others who don't look like us or sound like us.

But the Samaritan didn't care about race. He showed us that racism has no place in charity. And that we should help others regardless of where they came from or what they believe in. After all, we are all created equal: no one race is superior nor inferior from the other. And at the end of the day, we all belong to the same race: humanity.

Be Kind Even To Your Haters

Have you ever wished ill of your enemy? Admit it or not, at some point in our lives we've all done that. Sometimes, the temptation to take revenge on our enemies is just so strong and difficult to resist. In the story, the injured traveler most probably hated the Samaritan. And he knew that the dying man may still hate him after he recovers. Yet, he helped him. (The civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. famously said:


"On the parable of the Good Samaritan: 'I imagine that the first question the priest and Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But by the very nature of his concern, the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'" Consider putting yourself in the Samaritan's shoes. What would you have thought of first? The fact that he's from a different race or that he is dying and needs help?

Help Without Expecting Something in Return




Be honest with yourself, would you help someone if you know they will never be able to return the favor? If you answered yes, then good for you. But most of us wouldn't.

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July 2022 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17 10:00 am Worship-COMM 11:00 am Congregational Voter's Meeting	18 Softball Game Make-up game for Living Word vs. Good Shepherd 	19 10:00 am PUSH 7:00 pm Council Meeting	20	21	22	23

July Celebrations

 July 17 Jim McKinney July 23 John Gabrielson July 27 Kurt Meier	 July 16 Mark Cygan July 24 Bill Bonnar July 29 Josh Regan July 30 Ashley Regan	 July 10 Jessica & John Lyons
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Stewardship Snapshot

July 3rd 20 Worshipped, 20 Communed 2 DVD 13 Watched Online 35 Total <u>Financial Support</u> 2,390.00 General Fund Offering 20.00 In-Kind Cash Donation For VBS Supplies 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 intouchlwlc@yahoo.com Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel dianamotel@yahoo.com 708-287-4939 <u>Leadership Team</u> 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 <u>Members at Large</u> Pastor John Bucka 815-931-2961 Bob Grossart 708-870-0202 Paul Huang 626-551-1446
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July 10th Service Was Cancelled

LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 6/30/2022)

The current value of the fund is \$150,450.73 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$17,178.65. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$48,291.35. Of this, \$24,145.68 will return to Living Word for growth initiatives.

THIS REPRESENTS A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

To Date:	Total contributions	\$84,980.73
	Market value over cost	17,178.65
	Dividends and interest	48,291.35
	Total market value	\$150,450.73

HOW THE ENDOWMENT FUND WORKS

Contributions treated as donation for tax purposes
 Funds invested by Thrivent Financial
 50% of interest and dividends available for church growth

Interested in estate planning? Call Tim Regan/Thrivent (708-326-4750)
 If any questions, call Bob Grossart



"Regard for the Weak"

Psalm 41 says: "Blessed are those who have regard for the weak." God's Word is clear; we are to help the needy and vulnerable...

1) Be courageous; have regard for providing PROTECTION.

Do not pervert justice...Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life...Love your neighbor as yourself. Leviticus 19:15, 16, 18

2) Be considerate; have regard for loving PEOPLE.

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people. Colossians 1:3-4

3) Be compassionate; have regard for showing PITY.

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" ²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." ²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' ³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:25-37

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK [Jesus said] "The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life." - John 6:63 (NLT)

Some of Jesus' teachings are hard. At some point, we need to recognize that rather than continuing to expend our energy attempting to understand, we must shift to directing our efforts toward obedience, trusting that we will understand when it becomes necessary. Obedience often changes our hearts, which allows the Spirit to further work His will in our lives and lead us to greater faith and greater understanding.



"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 July 24th. SUNDAY, JULY 17th BIBLE STUDY IS CANCELLED.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8455939615645?pwd=SUyYdDJLb3ZWVlkrQ25iQVZHM2F4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 859 3961 5645 Passcode: 020791

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85939615645#,,,,*020791# US (Chicago)

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. We have 3 students enrolled 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

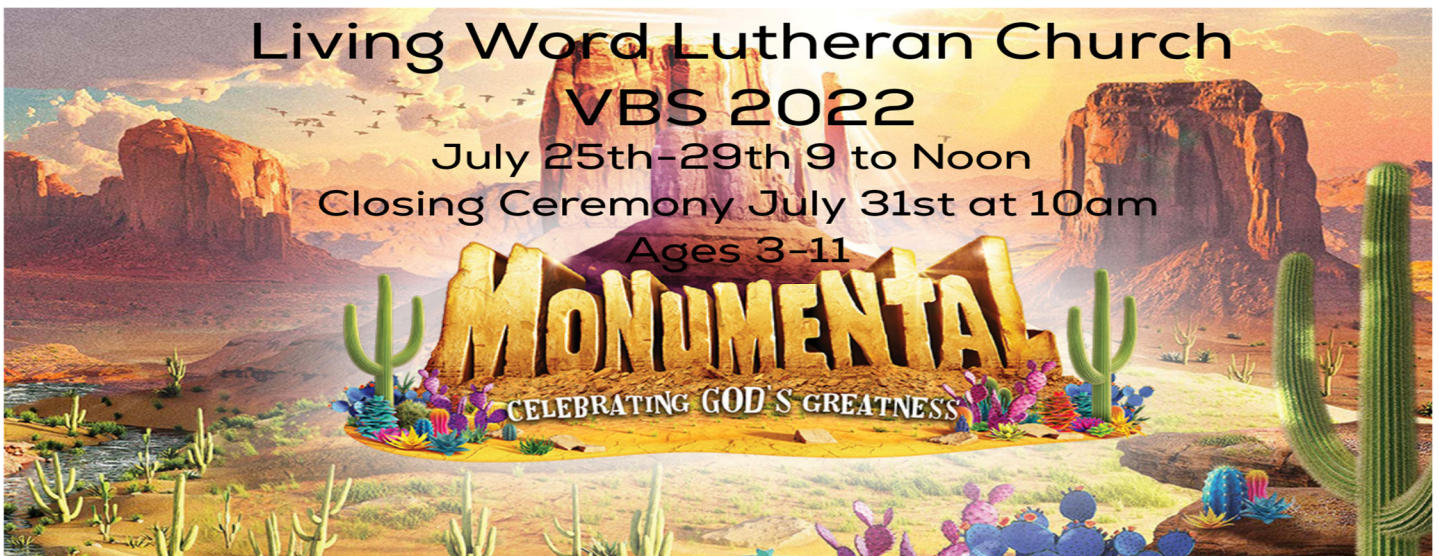
Registration is open!

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 64 kids signed up for it, and about 10 or 12 student volunteers. This is definitely our biggest turnout in quite a few years. We definitely need more volunteers to help with snack time and crafts or signing people in on that Monday morning, please see Diana if you can help out a couple of days that week. We now have our supply list, please see the list from Diana on the following page, and the printout to sign up for it is on the desk in the fellowship hall.



VBS SUPPLY LIST

Need by: Sunday July 24th

(4 bags) Cutie Oranges	(4 bags) Chocolate chips
(2) Goldfish Big Box	(4 bags) Small Tootsie Rolls
(4 bags) Gummy Worms	(4 bags) Starburst Candy
(6) Tennis Balls	(6) Beach Balls (small)
(500) Sticker Gems total	(4 bags) Small Craft Feathers

Living Word News

CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS' MEETING has been re-scheduled for today, immediately after the service. They will be presenting the budget for next year and the projected budget for the following 5 years for us to vote on and catch us up-to-date on the latest news from the transition team, and we will be voting on how to proceed with conversations regarding calling a pastor. Please plan on attending to make your vote count and voice any concerns or suggestions.

LIVING WORD SOFTBALL TEAM played on Monday and Thursday nights this week, and Monday was their first loss of the season. They will play a make-up game on Monday, the 18th, that will be their last regular season game before playoffs begin, good luck Living Word, go get that second championship!

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. Diana will have a fun little food groups contest from VBS to help with our mission. As always, thank you for all your generosity for our community.

WOLF ROAD BRIDGE over I-80 will be closed from 183rd Street to 187th Street starting Monday, July 25th till December 2022. They will have detours clearly posted, to avoid the area completely, LaGrange Rd. may be a good alternative route.

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 and 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!

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 or from your bed. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together from your sofa or from under the covers. 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, besides WE are your church family.

Continued from page 1

Most of us help because we are expecting a reward of some sort. We return a lost wallet and expect the owner to reward us. We help our friends because we assume that they'll also help us when we are in need. But, in doing so, we create a world where we only help "our kind" and those who are "one of us". There is not much incentive to help strangers if we know we can get nothing from them.

The Samaritan knew that the wounded man may never help him in return. Yet, he pressed on because he knew it's the right thing to do. Being a Good Samaritan in its modern-day context is hard. Most of the time, we are so wrapped up in our own lives that we forget about our less fortunate brethren. But you can still fix that.

Start with little **acts of kindness** and practice more empathy. Think less about what others can do for you and more on what you can do for them. That, in itself, is already being a good Samaritan.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS We will need more volunteers for our VBS this year, please show any of your neighbors or friends this page of the newsletter if they have any high school students looking for community service hours. We now have 64 kids for VBS this year, and we need as many helpers and Good Samaritans that we can get. Thank you in advance for all your support, donations and generosity! This will be an amazing VBS for us this year.



Does your child need community service hours for school? I am looking for volunteers to help out with our VBS program. They will get at least 20 hours if they help the whole week.

When- Monday, July 25th- Friday, July 29th

Time 8:40 am-12:15 ish

Email intouchlwlc@gmail.com

to sign up

Living Word Lutheran Church

16301 Wolf Road,

Orland Park