

# TRUE FAITH

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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 33

August 14, 2022

## "What Is True Faith?"

Let's see what God's words say about what faith is: "What does this word, 'faith,' refer to? Faith is the genuine belief and the sincere heart that humans should possess when they cannot see or touch something, when God's work does not align with human notions, when it is beyond human reach. This is the faith that I speak of. People are in need of faith during times of hardship and refinement, and faith is something that is followed by refinement; refinement and faith cannot be separated. No matter how God works, and no matter your environment, you are able to pursue life and seek the truth, and seek knowledge of God's work, and have an understanding of His actions, and you are able to act according to the truth. Doing so is what it is to have true faith, and doing so shows that you have not lost faith in God. You can only have true faith in God if you are able to persist in pursuing the truth through refinement, if you are able to truly love God and do not develop doubts about Him, if no matter what He does you still practice the truth to satisfy Him, and if you are able to seek in the depths for His will and be considerate of His will."

"When you face suffering, you must be able to lay aside concern for the flesh and to not make complaints against God. When God hides Himself from you, you must be able to have the faith to follow Him, to maintain your previous love without allowing it to falter or dissipate. No matter what God does, you must submit to His design and be prepared to curse your own flesh rather than make complaints against Him. When you are faced with trials, you must satisfy God, though you may weep bitterly or feel reluctant to part with some beloved object. Only this is true love and faith."

As can be seen from God's words, true faith doesn't refer to being able to enthusiastically work and expend for God when we enjoy God's grace. Rather, it refers to being able to not complain to God, but to stand in the position of a created being, seek the truth with an obedient heart, achieve understanding of God's will, forsake the flesh, stay loyal to God, and gladly abandon our personal interests to practice the truth and satisfy God when we encounter situations at odds with our own notions—no matter whether they are hardships, refinements, disasters, setbacks or failures, and regardless of how great our fleshly suffering is. This is what true faith means.

Take Job for example. He was faced with Satan's temptations and attacks, losing his family's enormous wealth and all his children and being covered in boils. When Job experienced these extraordinary sufferings, his friends and his wife didn't understand him and instead judged and attacked him, but Job didn't utter one word of complaint. He had true faith in God and believed that all these things befalling him were permitted by God, so he bowed down before God and prayed to seek God's will. By seeking, he understood that everything he had was bestowed by God, that it was natural and right for God to take these things away, and that as a created being, he should obey God unconditionally. So in his extreme pain, Job was able to say: "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: Jehovah gave, and Jehovah has taken away; blessed be the name of Jehovah" (Job 1:21). "Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" (Job 2:10). From this, we see that when encountering hardships and refinements, Job didn't lose faith in God or speak sinfully, but could seek God's will and preferred to suffer in the flesh to maintain his faith in, devotion to and obedience to God. Thus, he humiliated Satan and bore resounding and beautiful witness for God. This is what true faith means.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>14</b> <b>9:15 am Adult Study</b> <b>10:00 am Worship</b>	<b>15</b>  Transition Team Meeting with Pastor Johnson	<b>16</b> <b>10:00 am PUSH</b>  7:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	<b>20</b>

## This Week's Celebrations

 <b>Aug 19</b> Sandy Boehm	 <b>Aug 16</b> Jerry Erjavec <b>Aug 19</b> Kurt Meier	 <b>Aug 17</b> Jodi & Bruce Kempke
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## Stewardship Snapshot

### August 7th

**18 Worshipped, 18 Communed**

**2 DVD**

**11 Watched Online**

**31 Total**

#### Financial Support

1,375.00   General Fund Deposit

100.00   Preschool Registration 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.

### 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

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *"For if the correct time for circumcising your son falls on the Sabbath, you go ahead and do it so as not to break the law of Moses. So why should you be angry with me for healing a man on the Sabbath? Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly."* - John 7:23-24 (NLT)

The Sabbath (setting aside one day a week to rest and deepen our relationship with God) was created by God to protect us, not to confine us. We can easily be tempted to work every day; remembering the Sabbath protects us from working ourselves to death. It also reminds us that God's working, not our working, is the ultimate source of all good things in our lives. We don't have to fear that taking a day to honor and relate to God will lead to our "not having enough". So honor the spirit of the Sabbath by using a day per week to draw nearer to God, and rest in His love.



## 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.

## Living Word News

**TRANSITION TEAM MEETING** is scheduled for Monday at 4:30pm with Pastor Johnson from Christ Lutheran Church to discuss his interest in forming a combined relationship with our congregation and church. The team will most likely meet prior to their meeting with Pastor Johnson earlier that day to discuss what questions and concerns they will bring up for discussion with Pastor Johnson. We will receive more information in the announcements from Diana next week.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** will be held on Tuesday, August 16th. They will be discussing the financials, the outcome of the transition team meeting and a few other issues that they are looking at with some of our providers that we use for church. We will hear what had been discussed and the decisions that were made during the announcements next Sunday, and the notes from the council meeting will be in next week's newsletter.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO THE MERCHANTZ FAMILY** next Sunday, August 21st, Bill and Abby will have their newborn son, Freddy baptized at The Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Portage, MI, the same church where Bill and Abby were married. Unfortunately Abby's cousin, Elizabeth "Lil" Walker, who we have been praying for in recent months has had a significant downturn in health and it is very that she be able to attend Freddy's baptism. The Walker family lives in Kalamazoo, just minutes from the church. They ask for prayers for safe travels, prayers of celebration for Freddy's baptism into the Lutheran Church and more importantly into God's Family, and for comfort for Abby's cousin as she and her family faces the end of life struggles and issues. We will keep you and your extended family in our prayers and thoughts in the coming weeks.

## Opportunities to Connect with God

**PUSH PRAYER** meets every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. to pray for our church, community and world. We welcome requests (call 708.403.9673) or visit our website to send in your prayer request, or join us for 30-40 minutes each week.

## RADIO & TV OPPORTUNITIES

- **Worship Anew** 8:00 a.m. Sunday - Comcast channel 184 (TLN) & 8 (SD) , WPWR channel 50  
AT&T U-verse channel 1008 (HD) & 8 (SD), Dish Network # 8495
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday - DIRECTV channel 377 (TCT)
- **The Lutheran Hour** 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays on 1230 AM; and 9:30 a.m. Sundays on 1580 AM



## "My Hope"

Psalms 119 says: *"My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word."*  
Where do *YOU* put your hope?

### 1) **Despite lies, I put my hope in God's TRUTH.**

<sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.

Jeremiah 23:16

### 2) **Despite weariness, I put my hope in God's PROMISES.**

<sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, <sup>18</sup> even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." <sup>19</sup> Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death...

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 11:17-19 & 12:1-3

### 3) **Despite division, I put my hope in God's FAMILY.**

<sup>49</sup> "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup> But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. <sup>52</sup> From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. <sup>53</sup> They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Luke 12:49-53

## "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 August 14th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83266073072?pwd=MnZHUmhscGJrcC9Zc29FWDN5UnpPQT09>

Meeting ID: 832 6607 3072 Passcode: 831530

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83266073072#,,,,\*831530# US (Chicago)

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

## "Friday Zoom Bible Study Classes"

**POW (People of the Word) Parables Bible Study** started classes again this past Friday. Everybody was glad to get back into their study of the Parables. 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. All you have to do is click on the link and it will connect you to the group. Please see me or call the office if you would like to join, that way we can order books for you as they start new studies. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the Bible study on August 19th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83260185131?pwd=Y2VDcDF2WTrZlZWlGV3NjdWhhWG5NUT09>

Meeting ID: 832 6018 5131 Passcode: 565594

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83260185131#,,,,\*565594# US (Chicago)



## Mission of the Month

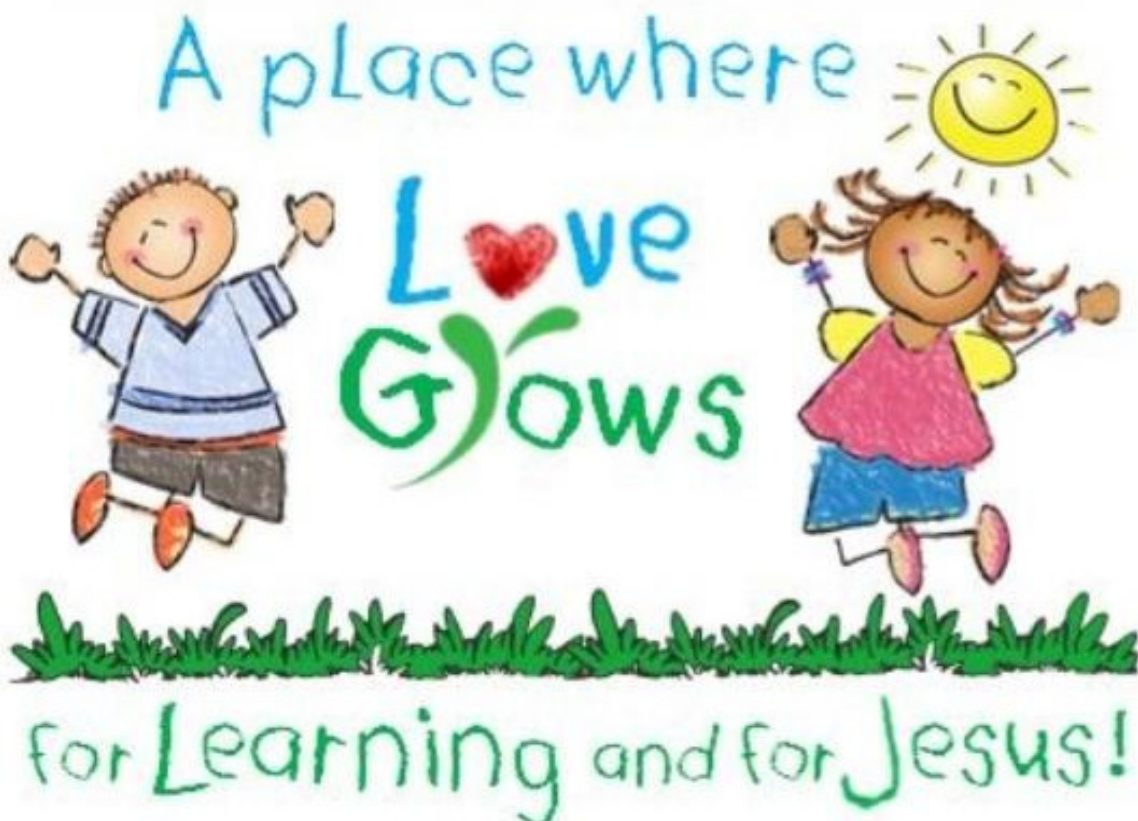
### *Preschool Starts Next Month*



**LIVING WORD EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM** is the Mission of the Month for August. We have 5 students enrolled, 4 will start in September and the 5th one will start at the beginning of October when she turns 3. A few more said that they will be registering by midyear or even sooner, some are still working on potty training and others feel that they may wait just a few extra months, and a couple of others won't be turning 3 until later in the year. We received a call from another family just this week who had moved to the Orland area and are looking for a preschool for their youngest son. Help keep us opened till we get a larger class. You have been so supportive in previous years, the children will have an excellent year, Mrs. Diana has been working so hard over the summer, both rooms will be put to great use this year. She has the Dramatic Arts Play area all ready to show them new and exciting adventures, they will start off the school year either camping in tents and fishing in the pond, plus they will also be apple picking in the fall. I can't wait to see what will be their adventures the rest of the year! Please join with me in keeping our Preschool in your prayers. We have already seen how He has seen to us being able to open, it was just barely a week or so ago, that Diana was afraid that she would have to make the heartbreaking decision to close once again. Thankfully, God knew that He just had to wait for her to be certified and be one of our best teachers yet. If you are unable to help financially, which is very understandable during these times, please see Diana as to what items you might be able to donate to her class. She is very creative and resourceful with her lessons and art projects, you never know what treasures you might have that she can put to good use. Also, I know this is way early to think about this, but she has already been thinking about scheduling the Christmas program again, I know that will be very special. Plus she has already posted her latest project, she will be having Tot Time with moms and their 2 year olds starting in October, see the ad on the following page that she posted on Facebook and our website. It has already been shared with many others and had received so many likes. Please make sure you log in and pass it to anyone you know that might have little tots at home.



## Living Word Early Education Program



# TOT TIME



## Living Word Lutheran Church Tot Time

**When -** Monday, October 17th

**From -** 9:30 am - 11 am

Calling all tots! Living Word Lutheran Church in Orland Park is excited to announce a fun once a month program for 2 to 4 year olds. Children will get to play in a special themed area, make a craft and hear a story. Registration is required and closes 72 hours before the event.