

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 31, Issue 34

August 21, 2022

"Three Ways God Delivers You"

Inside this issue:

"Three Ways God Delivers You?"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Celebrations, Stewardship, Contacts	2
Devotionals	2
Tot Time	2
Simple Need/Living Word News	3
8-21-22 Message/Zoom Bible Studies	4
Mission of the Month	5
Council Meeting Notes	6

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

God promises He will deliver us. So... how is that promise working out for you? Have you asked God to deliver you, but still find yourself sick or sad or scared or stuck? If He is our Deliverer, why isn't He delivering on His promise? **He is.**

Sometimes the way God keeps His promises is painful for us. And sometimes we don't even realize He is delivering us because we don't recognize the way He does it. If you are sick or sad or scared or stuck, I want to show you the ways God delivers you.

3 Ways God Delivers

1. God Delivers FROM

Thousands of years ago, God delivered King Hezekiah *from* his sickbed (Isaiah 38). The king was wasting away and near death. He cried out to God. God healed. Hezekiah was delivered *from* his illness.

Sometimes that is what God does. He delivers us *from* something hard by removing it or preventing it in the first place. This is our favorite kind of deliverance, right? When God delivers this way, we clap and praise and brag on Him!

But, this isn't the only way God delivers. Sometimes He doesn't prevent the suffering and He doesn't remove it, but that doesn't mean He isn't our Deliverer.

2. God Delivers THROUGH

Thousands of years ago, God delivered three Hebrew young men *through* a fire (Daniel 3:16-28). They refused to bow down and worship King Nebuchadnezzar. They were thrown into the furnace as their punishment and not only were they not burned, they walked right out of that fire and didn't even smell like smoke. They were delivered *through* the fire.

God promises when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, He is with us. That means if He is allowing us to go through it, He goes through it with us

3. God Delivers OUT OF

Thousands of years ago, God delivered Stephen *out of* his stoning and *into* heaven (Acts 7:54 - 60).

Stephen was falsely accused of heresy by the religious leaders, and ultimately dragged outside the city and stoned. As he was dying, Stephen asked Christ to receive his spirit. God took him *out of* that terror and *into* His presence.

If he had survived broken and bruised, we could say that God delivered him through that awful event. But, he didn't go through it, he went out of it to heaven. It became the portal through which Stephen was ushered into a better — the best — place.

Maybe this side of heaven, we don't see it that way. But, within a nanosecond of her arrival there, I bet she wouldn't have had it any other way.

When you think about the different ways God keeps His promise to deliver us, can you see His deliverance in your life? Has He delivered you *from* something? Has He delivered you *through* something? Do you see how He may deliver you *out of* it and *into* a better place? Oh my friend, maybe you have endured — or are enduring — something so awful that you are weeping right now just thinking about it, wondering why God let it happen. Why didn't He deliver you from it?


Maybe the fact you're reading this right now is an indication that God is still in the process of delivering you. He is delivering you *through* it for a purpose higher than you can even imagine. He is delivering you *through* it because He cares deeply for you. I wish I knew all the answers.

This Week at Living Word


Page 2

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
21 9:15 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship-COMM	22	23 10:00 am PUSH	24	25	26 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	27

This Week's Celebrations



Aug 20 Clarissa Tarandy
Aug 21 Larry Andorf



Aug 25 Lara Wasilkoff

Church Contacts
intouchlwlc@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

Stewardship Snapshot

August 14th

21 Worshipped

2 DVD

15 Watched Online

38 Total

Financial Support

1,305.00 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.

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *While Jesus was teaching in the Temple, he called out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I come from. But I'm not here on my own. The one who sent me is true, and you don't know him." - John 7:28 (NLT)*

Growing up, Jesus seemed like an ordinary Jewish boy (except for being sinless, of course), and certainly didn't do the spectacular miracles of his ministry after his baptism. So some people held this against him, since it didn't fit their expectations of the Messiah. They used it as an argument against his teaching. Likewise, people today may use our past or our lack of worldly success or recognition as an argument against the truth of what we say about God and his salvation plan for all of us. That should not deter us; we can acknowledge whatever shortcomings there may be in our lives while still proclaiming God's truth.

TOT TIME



TOT TIME is our new program where moms and their tots can come here once a month for playtime in the Dramatic Arts Area, make crafts and listen to a story. The first one is scheduled for Monday, October 17th from 9:30 to 11:00. Depending on the interest, Diana will decide to increase it to twice a month. Each month will be a different theme, based on the season, weather and holidays. This is going to help our preschool grow, please let anyone you know that might be interested in this program. It is opened up for 2 to 4 year olds, registration is required and will close 72 hours prior to the event.

A Simple Need

ATTENTION CURRENT AND FORMER MEMBERS We know that the past few years have been a struggle for our church. And of course, COVID happening in the midst of all of that hadn't helped greatly either. We ask that you pray for us, as you have been, but also we are asking that you are patient and if there is something that you are not happy with, and feel that your issues and concerns are not being handled in a timely fashion, please just take time to call one of us and we can sit down and try to address everyone's concerns. We know it would be very easy to just start worshipping at a different church, but that really doesn't help our long range goals. We all would love to see this church survive the setbacks that we have faced, and hopefully grow stronger from it as well, but it really does take all of us working together and believing in our faith that God is watching over us and He will not let us fail. He had His reasons why we had to wait a whole year to be able to reopen preschool again. He had to help Diana be able to receive her certificate for Early Childhood Education. And we all know how well that is turning out, with just a little help and the preschool being our Mission of the Month for August, there will be little ones learning about Jesus and preparing for kindergarten and having fun while learning new and exciting things. We just need to keep that type of faith for our church. We know that "We Are the Church That Cares" but it is time to start caring about our church and all that we had accomplished here over the years. The transition team has jumped over major hurdles and overcame many obstacles, and for the most part, they are all still willing to stick with it to see us through these rough and hard times. None of us really want to see this church close, but if we steadily keep losing members and especially attendance numbers, eventually and very unfortunately it will. We not only need God's help but we need your help as well. Thank you for everything that you have endured these past few years, we are closer to a better and brighter future than we have been, just a little longer is all we need. Just imagine the celebration we can have once we reach our goals for this church, our church, the church that cares. Thank to everyone who comes here every week, not only for worship, but to help out and take care of our property and volunteering their time. Not only does it save us money, but the property has never looked this great! As I said before, it will take all of us to keep this church going, we can only do so much alone, but together we can achieve almost anything. And if you can't make here in person on Sundays, we understand, that's why we livestream and send out the worship link every week. Please try to take time to watch online, and let us know how many had watched, it really helps.

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!

Living Word News

TRANSITION TEAM met with Pastor Johnson from Christ Lutheran Church this past Monday, to discuss his interest in forming a combined relationship with our congregation and church. The team had prepared an outline for their meeting with Pastor Johnson to know what questions and concerns they wanted to discuss with Pastor Johnson. The team felt that they had received some positive feedback from Pastor Johnson, Donna shared with the council, please see the notes on the back page. Diana will also go over different items briefly during her announcements on Sunday. They have another meeting scheduled for August 31st.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING was held on Tuesday. They will be discussed 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 on Sunday, and the notes from the council meeting are on the back page of this newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO THE MERCHANTZ FAMILY this Sunday, the 21st, Bill and Abby will have their newborn son, Freddy baptized at The Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Portage, MI, its 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 important 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 family in our prayers and thoughts in the coming weeks.

"I Will Deliver You!"

In Psalm 50 the Lord tells us: *"Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me...!"*

1) God delivers the nations through His DESCENDENTS.

²² "As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the LORD, "so will your name and descendants endure. ²³ From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the LORD. Isaiah 66:22-23

2) God delivers me through His DISCIPLINE.

⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son." ⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:4-11

3) God delivers us through His DOOR.

²² Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. ²³ Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, ²⁴ "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to..." ³⁰ Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last." Luke 13:22-24, 30

"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 21st.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84857835081?pwd=REs2YXBCcVE1U3IKM3dyTkx3MWgwUT09>

Meeting ID: 848 5783 5081 Passcode: 365120

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84857835081#,,,,*365120# 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 have resumed their studies on the Parables every Friday. Everybody is 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 26th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85006590675?pwd=bFBYaVhkelpIL1FiNEtSc2NWZENTZz09>

Meeting ID: 850 0659 0675 Passcode: 322848

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85006590675#,,,,*322848# US (Chicago)

Mission of the Month

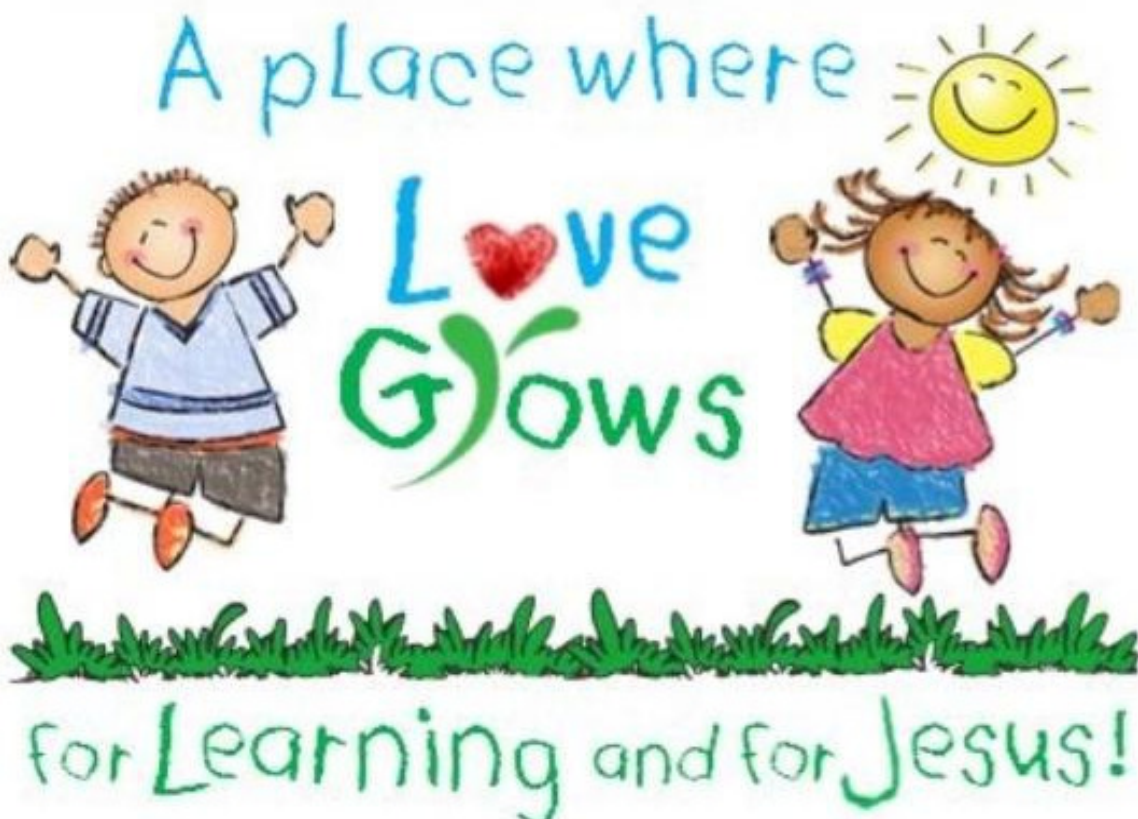
Preschool Starts Next Month



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 in this newsletter 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



Living Word Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 7pm

Attendees: Pastor John, Bob G, Diana M, Bill M, Jim M, Neal H, and Donna W (for Transition Team update)

Pastor John opened in prayer at 7:05pm

Meeting was turned over to Donna to inform the council about the meeting the transition team had with Pastor Johnson from Christ Lutheran on Monday, August 15th. The meeting was positive and Christ Lutheran's boards have been informed about the possible partnership and were excited about it. Pastor Johnson did ask that we provide them with a 5-year projected budget with what we would be able to afford for a pastor. They would also like to see our constitution and see our church insurance and security. They are still willing to pay 2/3 for a pastor and we would pay 1/3rd. He also made sure that his church and ours understands we are still Living Word this is just a partnership to help grow God's kingdom. Also, we wouldn't worry about hours it is more this pastor would help both churches with their needs. Pastor Johnson knows of a handful of pastors that could be interested in this arrangement. He needs to be able to know what we can pay a pastor before calling them to know if we will be in some of their price ranges. Christ Lutheran would like to be able to vote on the pastor as well after we have interviewed them just to make sure both churches are happy with the pastor and that all needs will be met. He also asks that we at Living Word form an elder's board. Elders help keep the checks and balances in the church. He did say we could look for a vacancy pastor in case we don't have a pastor before Pastor Lee leaves. Donna did also speak with Pastor Croone. She explained this possible partnership and shared with him our financials. He is ok with waiting longer until we get everything figured out. It should be noted that Pastor Croone would not be someone Christ Lutheran would want. Donna then exited the meeting.

We then talked about the preschool budget. It is budgeted for 8 students hoping that we could meet that midyear. We have 5 students 4 starting in September and the 5th on October 1st when she turns 3. Bob made a motion to accept the budget, Jim 2nd and the council voted unanimously to accept it.

Diana made mention that she was able to get the comcast bill lowered to \$169 a month with a higher speed and their modem. She will call back again next year to see what promotions.

Our ComEd bill was significantly higher for July by over \$400.

Our offering was close to what we was budgeted but we did miss a Sunday due to being closed.

Neal motioned that all the bills for July be approved. Jim 2nd and the council voted unanimously.

Bill will get Diana set up in ADP to start getting paid as the preschool teacher starting August 31st.

Jim has called Affiliated for the fire extinguishers, and they are cheaper than Fire Science. He will continue to work on getting everything set up so our fire extinguishers can be replaced.

The copier is giving us problems again. Someone is coming in

Jim would also like to get some different quotes to get our sprinklers fixed next year.

Bill got something in the mail for Concordia plan for disability plan and survivor plan. He will contact to find who we are covering on this plan.

Northern IL pastor conference letter \$345.72 to send a pastor to these conferences. Pastor John would consider going but 1st payment is due September 15th. We will table this for now due to not having a pastor.

Next council meeting is Tuesday, September 20th

Closing of meeting with prayer at 8:10pm by Bill.