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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**

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Orland Park, IL 60467

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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 37

September 11, 2022

"God's Lost and Found"

Jesus loved to show people what His Father is like. He knew better than anyone that God is a wonderful, loving, faithful, merciful God. But as He traveled and taught, Jesus saw that many people didn't understand God. Their wrong ideas about God came from the Pharisees and the rule makers and the teachers of the law. Often, it seemed like these religious men didn't want ordinary people to see God as a Father who loved them and took care of them. The Pharisees and rule makers wanted people to think that knowing God required a lot of effort and education. It was almost like the Pharisees had their own exclusive little club—a club that allowed only the most important, educated, obedient people to be members! That's why the Pharisees got so angry when Jesus hung out with tax collectors and other people considered to be the worst sinners. They didn't want Jesus to teach these people about God. They didn't want these "sinners" to think they were important to God. They didn't want sinners to believe that God could save them. But from the very beginning, Jesus said that He came to earth to hang out with sinners, the people who most needed to hear that God loves them. He told them as often as possible to turn away from their sin and follow Him. Jesus taught sinners about the kingdom of God and how they could be part of it. He gave them everything they needed to understand His Father's heart. That's why Jesus used so many parables. Remember, a parable is a simple story that contains big truths about the kingdom of God. Everyone who wanted to know about God could understand His parables—children, adults, shepherds, teachers, people with an education, people who never went to school, Jews, gentiles, EVERYONE! And in the two parables we're going to look at today, God's wonderful, loving heart is revealed in a big way. We will see that God loves sinners and delights in saving them.




The central idea of the Parables of the Lost Sheep & the Lost Coin is that God actively seeks those whose sin has taken them far away from His presence. We see God pursuing His rebellious people throughout scripture. God searched for Adam and Eve, calling out to them, "Where are you?" He didn't wait for His fallen children to come to Him, but actively pursued their companionship. God pursued Moses from the day of his birth, finally meeting with him in the burning bush and changing Moses' heart. God pursued the fugitive Jonah right into the ocean. Jesus moved toward His disciples when they were caught in a terrible storm on the Sea of Galilee, rising above storm and hardship to pursue them and command their storm. When Lazarus died, God pursued him even beyond death to awaken him with His voice of life. And, in the greatest pursuit of all, God sent His only Son, Jesus, into the world so we could receive life through Him. God loves us, seeks us, pursues us, longs to bring us into His kingdom. And when we choose to be found, to turn from sin and enter into His loving embrace, He welcomes us into His kingdom and fellowship with great celebration. Here is the central truth of God's pursuit of us: *We love because He first loved us.* This passage highlights the differences between the way common people heard Jesus and the way the Pharisees heard Jesus. Why was there such a disparity? Jesus detailed all the ways in which the Pharisees were hypocrites. The word He used over and over to describe them was "blind." These men, who "love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues" would be subject to great woe because they "...shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces". The common people heard in Jesus' words an open invitation into the kingdom. The spiritually blind Pharisees, meanwhile, heard a threat to their elite religion, which had been tailor-made to keep out the riff raff. These ideas were so different from what the Pharisees had always taught the people. Maybe that's why the Pharisees grumbled at the same words that made ordinary people celebrate. Maybe that's why the crowds followed Jesus everywhere while the Pharisees and rule makers stood off to the side, talking to each other about how many headaches Jesus was giving them.

This Week at Living Word

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11 9:15 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	12	13 10:00 am PUSH	14 9:00 am—Noon Preschool	15 9:00 am—Noon Preschool	16 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	17

September Celebrations

 Sep 17 David Merchantz	 Sep 14 Jennifer Lange	 Sep 12 Tami & Dan Folgers
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Stewardship Snapshot

September 4th

22 Worshipped, 21 Communed

2 DVD

10 Watched Online

34 Total

Financial Support

2,185.00 General Fund Deposit
 427.00 Preschool Account Fund (Mission of the Month)
 124.42 Designated Fund Deposit (VBS Supplies Refund)
 2,736.42 Total 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

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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

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!

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"*

"No, Lord," she said.

And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more." - John 8:10-11 (NLT)

Once again the amazing grace of God is on full display. When the Pharisees come to Jesus looking for judgment (of someone else), Jesus silences them, and offers the opportunity for redemption instead. Law and gospel work together to both convict of sin and empower righteousness. We dare not ignore either one.

Living Word News

TRANSITION TEAM met with Pastor Johnson this past Wednesday, the 7th at 4:00pm. We will receive the updates and outcome from that meeting during the announcements on Sunday.

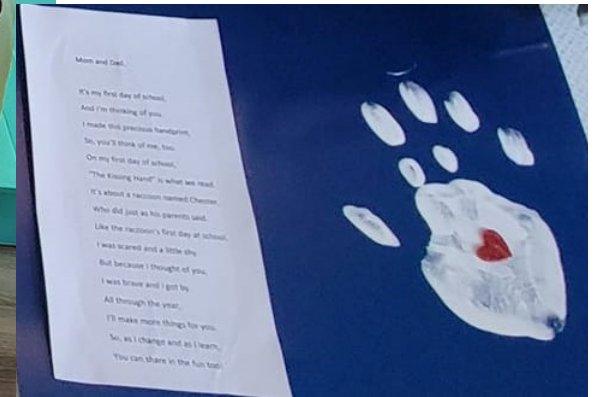
IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME for our preschool. Mrs. Diana was so excited to have preschool starting on Wednesday morning. The families were here on Tuesday evening for Back To School night. They dropped off their school supplies and had a chance to connect with Diana and meet their new classmates. They also brought their favorite stuffed animals here, so they could get to have all sorts of fun here at preschool overnight, the stuffed animals had played in the play lot, and had chapel time and played with the toys in the preschool room, had story time and watched a movie, they even camped out on the couch overnight. On Wednesday, Mrs. Diana showed the kids the video she took of their stuffed animals having so much fun, the kids thought it was totally great. She also greeted the kids on Wednesday with several yard signs leading up to the church. Checkout our Facebook page and share all of her postings, her creativeness is great advertising for the school and church. Also help spread the word about her preschool and her new program Tot Time, she already has a couple of little ones registered for this fun new activity for the younger children, both of these learning opportunities for the children are also a great outreach to the community for our church.



Preschool 2022



FIRST WEEK OF PRESCHOOL was amazing. Mrs. Diana has them saying The Pledge of Allegiance each morning and they have craft time and playtime. They all clean up after themselves. They each have a specific job they do each week. They have totally enjoyed being here, they don't want to go home when its 12:00. They loved watching the video of their stuffed animals having a sleepover here at church on The Back to School Night. They will learn so much this year.



"Like a Lost Sheep"

Psalm 119 says: *"I have strayed like a lost sheep; seek your servant."*

Today we ask...

1) Are you a straying sheep lost in CIRCUMSTANCE?

¹¹ "For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness... ²³ I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken.

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 23-24

2) Are you a straying sheep lost in SIN?

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. ¹³ Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:12- 16

3) Are you a straying sheep lost in SKEPTICISM?

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Luke 15:1-7

"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 September 11th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87861947355?pwd=bWM2WVILb3Z6NVJGZkMvT0gveVZGZz09>

Meeting ID: 87861947355 Passcode: 604902

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87861947355#,,,,*604902# 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 will be wrapping up their studies on the Parables within the next two weeks. Their next study will be on the book of Acts and then plan on another Advent study. 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. 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 below for the Zoom info for the Bible study on September 16th.**

The Friday morning Bible Study will NOT meet on Friday, September 30th.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82267437594?pwd=NzJJOGpxdDRrNHRRaWhWdG5NVTJpQT09>

Meeting ID: 82267437594 Passcode: 392707

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82267437594#,,,,*392707# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,82267437594#,,,,*392707# US

Mission of the Month

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is our September Mission of the Month. We will be collecting donations all month long. You can either drop off your donation while at church, send a check in the mail, or use our giving page and select Mission of the Month.

Our mission as a Christian ministry is to serve schools, churches, and families in order to advance the success of children who have learning needs. Our vision as a ministry is to reach out to provide the opportunity for every child to receive specialized learning services.

As we look to the future, we know that there is great potential for growth. Studies show that one student in five has a learning challenge. The law guarantees these children a public education. For families that choose a Christian education, Lutheran Special Education Ministries is eager to partner with them and with churches to help meet their needs.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries provides resource room services, professional development, and educational support to churches and schools across the country. Our ministry's vision is to provide children the opportunity to grow academically and spiritually regardless of the challenges they may face. We're constantly looking at ways to grow our ministry by serving and supporting as many children, families and Christian communities as possible.

Here's how our combined gift this month can impact these children across the country:

\$25 allows LSEM to provide consultation service for students at schools that do not have an LSEM program but need expert advice and resources.

\$50 helps an LSEM teacher screen students for literacy and math difficulties in their classrooms.

\$100 provides online instructional support in reading and/or math for students experiencing difficulty with basic skills.

\$500 equips an LSEM teacher with reading and math intervention curriculum for the school year for their classroom.

