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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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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 41

October 16, 2022

"The Lord, My Helper"

Psalm 121 is probably a well-known psalm and a much-loved psalm. Its frequent statement that the LORD watches over us is very comforting. But the very fact which makes this Psalm much-loved also leads to questions. Sometimes terrible things happen, and we ask: "Was the LORD not watching over me?"

This psalm is a song of ascents. It was sung as the Israelites travelled up to Jerusalem on special occasions. That trip was fraught with danger – wild animals, bandits, rough terrain, and intense heat. The travelers must have wondered whether they would make it to Jerusalem.

As the psalmist approached Jerusalem, he saw the hills surrounding Jerusalem rise up before him in the distance. Those hills signified the dwelling-place of the LORD and reminded the psalmist of covenant fellowship with the LORD. There the blood of the sacrifices flowed, pointing to the blood of Christ. Then the psalmist asked himself, "Where does my help come from?" (v. 1). And he told himself as a statement of faith, "My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth" (v. 2).

The use of the covenant Name of God – LORD (Yahweh) – indicates that the LORD is a present help because his Name means "I am who I am." The LORD'S Name points to his faithfulness toward his people and that they can count on him. As such, he who watches over us neither slumbers nor sleeps (vv. 3, 4) and he watches over our coming and going both now and forevermore (v. 8).

God is with us. We know that this is possible only because God sent his Son into the world to reconcile us to himself. Christ is the Immanuel – God with us! Shortly before his ascension, our Savior said, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt 28:20).

Therefore, the LORD preserves us. No less than six times the psalmist uses a word which means "watch over," "keep," or "preserve" (vv. 3, 4, 5, 7, 8). To drive the point home the psalmist uses the common biblical imagery of shade, which points to protection and safety:

But does this mean that we are guaranteed no harm? We should not read this psalm in isolation from other parts of Scripture. The Bible tells us that God has his purpose for trials and difficulties in the lives of believers (e.g., Job). Psalm 121 teaches us that nothing happens to us by chance or accident. Our foot does not slip by accident because the LORD is inattentive; the LORD watches over us (v. 3). No one and nothing can take our lives without the LORD'S will (v. 7).

As we confess in the Heidelberg Catechism, "...leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come to us not by chance but by (God's) fatherly hand" (Lord's Day 10, Q&A 27). Nothing just "happens" to us!

Let's also remember that the preservation of our lives is more than that we are still alive and well. Our lives have a direction and goal: this life is the beginning of eternal life. We are pilgrims on the way to the new earth! God preserves his children for arrival at that destination. We confess this in the fifth chapter of the Canons of Dort, which deals with the preservation of the saints. A believer need never doubt whether he or she will survive the spiritual journey of life. The LORD will keep you from all harm that would prevent you from reaching the destination. That destination is the New Jerusalem, the place where "the sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat" (Rev 7:16).

This Week at Living Word

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 16 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship-COMM | 17 Tot Time 9:30am-11:00am  | 18 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer 7:00pm Council Meeting | 19 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool | 20 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool | 21 9:30am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word | 22 |

This Week's Celebrations



October 21 Carolyn Wagenaar

Happy Anniversary



October 16 Gabe & Ashley Culp

Stewardship Snapshot

October 9th
 22 Worshipped
 2 DVD
10 Watched Online
 34 Total

Financial Support for October 2nd
 2,865.00 General Fund Deposit
Financial Support for October 9th
 3,785.00 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.

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

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



DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *"It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him." - John 9:3 (NLT)*

It is wonderful when we see God's blessing in our lives. But what about the times it seems He has forgotten us, or is ignoring us? In this incident Jesus reminds His disciples that all aspects of our lives, the good and the bad, fit into God's plan to bring glory to Himself and draw people to salvation. So especially in your tough times, allow God to get you miracle-ready.

OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH is Working on Wellness Foundation, which helps with mobility exercises among other benefits for patients with MS, Parkinson's, among other conditions. They will be providing us with weekly links for their exercise classes and promoting our church in those links as well. I watched their video and even though you can do them standing up or sitting down, it is a pretty good workout and is somewhat easy to do. Please see the flyers on the table next to the office for full details and let us know if you are joining in with the videos. This is a win-win for both them and us, and we just might get into better shape and health while we are helping out someone right in our community. We would like to thank George Hostert for his help in connecting our church with their foundation. The Working On Wellness Foundation provides online, seated exercise sessions, created and conducted by our experienced and certified instructors. Join them on YouTube: Each week, their channel will highlight a week of yoga, strength training, big movement, and general exercise sessions. You can do all while remaining seated. They include cardio, upper body, lower body, core, balance, coordination, and hand exercises. Working On Wellness Foundation focuses on providing exercise for those with conditions that require it just to keep moving. They provide online seated/chair exercise opportunities for anyone with mobility issues.



October Mission of the Month Working On Wellness Foundation

Working On Wellness Foundation wants to make it a little easier people with Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, and other conditions by providing chair-based exercise sessions lead by certified instructors. Now these sessions can be accessed through Zoom or via YouTube.

Living Word News

LWLC EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM were very excited to have their newest friend and classmate join them last week. They learned about static electricity, lol, and how tall things are. Please continue to share the pictures and updates that Diana posts, we still get a few calls regarding our preschool occasionally. We would love to have more new friends for our

young students learning about the love of Jesus. Also, don't forget about Tot Time, she already has 10 little ones registered for this fun new activity for the younger children. Most of them are all 2 or 2 1/2 years old and will be looking for a preschool next fall which will be great for Diana. She has already planned activities for next month's Tot Time. Hopefully these families will become more connected with our church through this program. Both of these learning opportunities for the children are also a great outreach to the community for our church and to help our preschool grow.



TOT TIME



OCTOBERFEST MEAL is being planned for October 30th, immediately following our traditional Hymnal Reformation Sunday worship service. Please see the sign up sheet on the desk in the fellowship hall to let us know what kind of yummy food you can bring, I'm hungry already, lol.

COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for this Tuesday, the 17th at 7:00 pm. Most of the council meets here at church and there is Zoom availability for anyone wishing to participate in the meeting.



Germanfest



PLASTIC GALLON JUGS are needed for our preschool. Mrs. Diana will be creating the arctic in her Dramatic Arts Play Area in January, and she is asking for all your empty plastic gallon jugs. We have a box set up outside of the sanctuary that you can drop them off anytime you are here. As always thank you for all of your help and donations for preschool as they build the arctic, lol.

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.

ATTENTION 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 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, and it has been a joy having 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. 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 does help.

“He Will Watch Over Your Life”

Psalm 121 says: *“The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life...”*

1) God watches over the WRESTLER.

²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” ²⁷ The man asked him, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. ²⁸ Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”
Genesis 32:24-28

2) God watches over the WISE.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:14-17

3) God watches over the WIDOW.

¹⁸ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought.

³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ ⁴ “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”
Luke 18:1-8

“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 October 16th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85825594198?pwd=QVJGMIZaHFXdTl3RFZlZlFhQW1Hdz09>

Meeting ID: 858 2559 4198 Passcode: 727402

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85825594198#,,,,*727402# US (Chicago)

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

“Friday Zoom Bible Study Classes”

POW (People of the Word) Acts Bible Study have continued their study on Acts this past Friday and they plan on an Advent study, “It’s a Wonderful Life”. Please let me know 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. 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 October 21st.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83740391206?pwd=T0dGR1owdnprb1UrYUhmcm9zZE9NZz09>

Meeting ID: 837 4039 1206 Passcode: 400515

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

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