



LET GOD'S WORD  
AND THE HOLY  
SPIRIT GUIDE YOU

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 31, Issue 42

October 23, 2022

**Inside this issue:**

"Lord, Teach Me to Pray"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Stewardship/Contacts/Celebrations	2
Devotions	2
Mission of the Month/Living Word News	3
Living Word News	4
10-23-2022 Message Outline	5
Zoom Bible Studies	5
Back Page	6

## "Lord, Teach Me to Pray"

If you: a) are not sure God is really listening when you talk to Him; b) don't understand why some prayers seem to go unanswered; c) wonder if you are praying 'right' or generally feel frustrated in prayer; d) are eager to know what to do to feel more connected with God and gain confidence that your prayers really do make a difference, say, 'Lord, teach me to pray.' Although there are principles of prayer that apply to everyone, God will lead each of us individually. He wants to take you just the way you are, and help you discover your own rhythm of prayer; to develop a style of prayer that maximizes your relationship with Him. He wants prayer to be an easy, natural, life-giving way of communicating as you share your heart with Him and allow Him to share His heart with you. Prayer is so simple; it's nothing more than talking to God and taking time to listen to what He has to say to you. God has a personalized prayer plan for you, a way for you to communicate most effectively with Him. So begin by saying, 'Lord, teach me to pray.'

Jesus arose before dawn and spent hours in prayer. He even prayed all night. And it showed. His incredible success flowed out of the rich relationship He had with His Father. He made deposits every morning so that He could make withdrawals all day long. One Bible teacher writes: *'I have gone from laboring and striving to pray for five minutes every few days to enjoying – and actually personally needing and wanting – beginning my day with prayer, then to praying throughout the day as things come to my heart, and finally ending my day communicating with the Lord as I fall asleep. I have moved from a sporadic, irregular prayer life to regular times of prayer that are disciplined without being legalistic. Where I once thought I was fulfilling an obligation to God by praying, I now realize that I absolutely cannot survive a day and be satisfied...if I do not pray. I realize that prayer is a great privilege, not a duty. I no longer approach God in fear, wondering if He will really hear me and send an answer to my prayers. I now approach Him boldly, as His Word teaches me to do, and with great expectation.'*

God is far too creative to insist that every person interacts with Him in exactly the same way. He designed each of us differently. There are prayer principles that apply to all of us, but God leads each of us as individuals. We are all at different places in our walk with Him, we are all at different levels of spiritual maturity, we all have different types of experiences in prayer. Yes, we need to learn the fundamentals of prayer. But then we need to move beyond intellectual knowledge about how to pray, and take those principles to the Lord and say: 'Teach me to apply this to my life, in my situation, to my heart. Show me how this idea is supposed to work for me. God, I'm depending on You to teach me to pray, to make me effective in prayer, to make my relationship with You through prayer the richest, most rewarding aspect of my life.' When you say, **'Lord, teach me to pray,'** you're asking Him to teach you to pray in a distinctly personal way, and to enable your prayers to be easy, natural expressions of who you are. You need to go before God just the way you are, and give Him the pleasure of enjoying the company of the 'original' that He made you to be. You need to approach Him with your own strengths, weaknesses, uniqueness and everything else that so wonderfully distinguishes you from everyone else. God enjoys meeting you where you are, developing a personal relationship with you, and helping you grow to become everything He wants you to be.

**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

Continued on the bottom of Page 6

# This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>23</b> 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00am— 12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	<b>26</b> 9:00am— 12:00pm Preschool	<b>27</b> 9:00am— 12:00pm Preschool Halloween Party and Parade	<b>28</b> 9:30am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	<b>29</b>

## This Week's Celebrations



**October 25** Pastor Steve Lee  
**October 25** Ashley Meier



**Oct 24** Noah Hostert  
**Oct 26** Renate DiGrazia

## Stewardship Snapshot

**October 16th**  
 23 Worshipped, 22 Communed  
 2 DVD  
10 Watched Online  
 35 Total

**Financial Support for October 16th**  
 2,025.00 General Fund Deposit  
 100.00 Preschool Account Donation  
**2,125.00 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**  
 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** *He told them, "The man they call Jesus made mud and spread it over my eyes and told me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash yourself.' So I went and washed, and now I can see!" - John 9:11 (NLT)*

When God works great changes in our lives, other people notice. And they want explanations for themselves, sometimes just to clarify what happened, sometimes to see if they can get the same change, and sometimes to see if there's a way to discredit what happened. Many times, our answer will be "I don't know exactly how. What I know is that God did it." Whether or not that's enough for others, may it always be enough for us.

**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

**TOT TIME!** Our very first Tot Time this month was this past Monday and was a huge success. 5 out of the 8 that had registered came and had a blast. One family that has twin 2 1/2 year old girls asked about preschool and church services. One little boy was unable to make it as he wasn't feeling well, but his

mom and him are looking forward to Tot Time next month. Diana already has activities planned for next month's Tot Time. Hopefully these families will become more connected with our church through this program. Both learning opportunities for the children are also a great outreach to the community for our church and to help our preschool grow.



**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** was this past Tuesday, the 17th. Diana will have a summary of the items that were discussed in her announcements, and they council meeting notes can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

# 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 couple of boxes 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.

**“From East of Eden”**

Psalms 5 says: *“With you [God], evil people are not welcome...But I, by your great love, can come into your house.”* Christ brings us home from east of Eden...

**1) Christ brings me home from SIN.**

<sup>3</sup>In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup>If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.” <sup>8</sup>Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. <sup>9</sup>Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” <sup>10</sup>The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. <sup>11</sup>Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup>When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.” <sup>13</sup>Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear. <sup>14</sup>Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” <sup>15</sup>But the LORD said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. <sup>16</sup>So Cain went out from the Lord’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Genesis 4:1-16

**2) Christ brings me home from SUFFERING.**

<sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 2 Timothy 4:18

**3) Christ brings me home from SORROW.**

<sup>9</sup>To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ <sup>13</sup>“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ <sup>14</sup>“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” <sup>15</sup>People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>17</sup>Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” Luke 18:9-17

**“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 23rd.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85132039290?pwd=dytKM0xhcFkwRUpCSXA5UIJ4U0IyUT09>

Meeting ID: 851 3203 9290 Passcode: 002918

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85132039290#,,,,\*002918# 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 28th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89038732081?pwd=aWZYVYVcwWjBCZ05kVv1kQVBHUIjQyZz09>

Meeting ID: 890 3873 2081 Passcode: 628726

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89038732081#,,,,\*628726# US (Chicago)

Living Word Lutheran Church

Church Council Notes

Tuesday, October 18, 2022, @7 pm

Attendees: Pastor John, Neal H, Bill M, Paul H, Diana M, and Bob G

Meeting opened with a prayer from Pastor John at 7:05 pm.

Bob went over the financials with the group. We graciously got a donation of \$15,000 last month. \$3,000 was to go to preschool and \$12,000 to the general fund. There does need to be a transfer from preschool to the general fund for the fees ADP charges for preschool payroll. All other finances look good for this month.

Next was our security system. Paul has bought the cameras there are 4 outdoor and one indoor and the doorbell has a camera as well. He will work with Neal on where they should be placed outside. He will look into a cloud service so that all recordings are saved.

We also discussed not having our server anymore. We are going to look into a cloud service so that all files are backed up.

Diana said the 1<sup>st</sup> Tot time was a success. 5 out of the 8 children showed up. The next one is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>. Diana would also like to talk with Pastor Lee about having a small Christmas program with the preschool on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> during service.

Bob let the council know that Pastor Johnson is working with his council on some concerns they have about moving forward. They will have meetings each week until they know what direction they are heading. Neal will talk with Pastor Lee about his timeline. We want to give the transition team enough time to find another vacancy pastor if we need to.

Neal will call Jim to find out the different quotes we were given for Reliable. Hopefully by next month that can be taken care of.

Diana made mention that Community Consolidated 146 would like to partner together to help grow each other's programs. They would refer families who don't qualify for financial help for preschool to our preschool. We in return would do the same for families in their district.

The townhome association next door will be using the fellowship area for a meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

The lady who used to be with music connection would provide a donation to use our sanctuary for a Christmas program on either Dec 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 with a prayer from Pastor John.

## *"Lord, Teach Me to Pray"*

### *Continued from Page 1*

Your prayer style should be consistent with the way God designed you. Yes, you can learn from people who are more experienced in prayer than you are, but you need to be careful not to make them your standard, or become a 'clone'. It's wrong to force yourself to do what others do, if you are not comfortable with it in your spirit. Don't try to keep up with someone else, or copy their prayer style. And don't feel compelled to work every prayer principle you have ever learned, every time you pray. Most of us are afraid not to be like everyone else. We are more comfortable following specified rules than daring to follow the leading of God's Spirit. When we follow man-made rules, we please people. But when we step out in faith and follow God's Spirit, we please Him. You don't need to feel pressured to pray a certain way, or for a certain length of time, or to focus on specific things because other people are doing so. 'Untie the boat from the dock,' so to speak, and let the tide of God's Spirit take you wherever He wills. When you are in control, you know what will happen next. But when you let God's Spirit take the lead, you are in for a lot of surprises in life. Wonderful surprises! You need to be determined to be yourself, and refuse to spend your life feeling guilty because you're not like somebody else. The Bible says, ***'He fashions their hearts individually.'*** So when it comes to prayer, the word for today is, 'Be yourself'.