



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 31, Issue 46

November 20, 2022

"God Is Our Refuge"

Inside this issue:

"God Is Our Refuge"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Stewardship/Contacts/Celebrations	2
Devotional Time	2
Living Word & Preschool News	3
Mission of the Month	4
11-13-2022 Message Outline	5
Zoom Bible Studies	5
Back Page	6

Our God is a loving Father to us, His children. He takes care of every need we may have in life. One way God shows His love to us is by being our refuge. In Psalm 46 we see this truth very clearly. *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

This is a powerful promise to all of God's people! God is our refuge. We make God our refuge today by being born again, by turning to Him with our prayers and cares, and by claiming His promises to us. The verb form of the Hebrew noun translated "refuge" in Psalms 46:1 means to seek refuge, to flee for protection, and thus figuratively, to put trust in, to confide, to hope in. God, as our refuge, provides shelter, protection, aid, and comfort. These are wonderful benefits of making God our refuge, and in this definition we see believing actions we can take to make God our refuge—we trust and confide in Him. Three ways we can make God our refuge today, in the Grace Administration, are by being born again, by turning to Him with our prayers and cares, and by claiming His promises.

In the Grace Administration, in which we live today, we make God our refuge by being saved, or born again. According to Romans 10:9, when we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, at that point we are saved. How does this give us refuge? When we get born again, we are rescued from the power of darkness and given heavenly citizenship. In God's eyes, we are already seated in the heavenlies. We need to be rescued. Once we got born again of God's spirit, our deliverance became a reality and gave us heavenly citizenship by the accomplished works of Jesus Christ. God has already placed us in the heavenlies. From His eternal perspective, we are already there. Now that's a place of refuge! This gives us confidence to know that God hears us and that we can come to Him with anything on our hearts. With God as our refuge, we have access to Him for any situation with our cares and prayers.

No matter the situations that arise, we can cast our care upon God because He cares for us. We lift the burdens off of our shoulders and put them onto God's. If we have anxiety about anything, we make our requests known unto God. "...the peace of God...shall keep [guard] your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." By having access to God and turning to Him with our requests, we have peace. Isn't this something you would want in a place of refuge?

Another way we make God our refuge is by claiming His promises. If we want the things that pertain to life and godliness, we have to go to God's Word. As we read and study God's Word, we will find the answers needed to live a godly life. The wisdom and knowledge in God's Word will give us stability in our times. If we have a question or concern about life and how to live a godly way, we go to His Word and find the answer that gives us the stability we need to prevail, and thus make God our refuge from the confusion of the world. We can be confident that we know God's will and are doing the will of God in our lives.

Our heavenly Father has shown His great love to us by being our refuge in times of trouble and making it available to be born again, by giving us access to Him, and by giving us promises to claim. Once we get born again, we receive the ultimate refuge by being delivered out of the power of darkness and being given citizenship in heaven. In God's eyes we are seated in the heavenlies. As our refuge, God wants us to turn to Him knowing we have access to Him any-time. Having this access, we cast our cares upon Him, and we pray to Him with our requests whenever we have any anxiety. God's Word has promises that we can hold on to and utilize as a refuge. One way we receive these promises is by studying the Scriptures. We certainly have seen that God loves us by being our refuge and giving us powerful ways we can have access to His refuge. Let's make this a day-by-day reality as we claim all God has made available to us to give us a place of shelter, protection, aid, and comfort.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship— COMM	21	22 10:00am Push Prayer	23 5:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	24 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed <div style="text-align: center; background-color: #8B4513; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;"> Have a blessed THANKSGIVING </div>	25 Office Closed	26

This Week's Celebrations

 Nov 20 Joan Tinich	 Nov 26 Lily Rozwalka	 Nov 26 Jerry & Barb Erjavec
--	--	---

Stewardship Snapshot

November 13th

20 Worshipped

2 DVD

12 Watched Online

34 Total

Financial Support for November 6th

3,395.00 General Offering Deposit

Financial Support for November 13th

1,380.00 General Offering

115.00 Mission of the Month (Working on Wellness)

1,495.00 Total 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

Devotional Time

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *"If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty," Jesus replied. "But you remain guilty because you claim you can see." - John 9:41 (NLT)*

Every day we need to wrestle with the idea that we might be blinded to our sin by the world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh. We must constantly re-calibrate our lives to God's pattern by seeking Him in scripture, in prayer, and in the counsel of other godly Christians. Do not fall into the trap of thinking "Finally! I've got it all figured out. I don't have to change anything else."

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



Living Word News

DON'T FORGET TO remember when doing gift card shopping this upcoming holiday season to use the app and/or website that Diana had set up for us last year to help raise money for our church just by doing our Christmas shopping, birthday shopping or buying gift cards for other happy occasions. With a mobile app, RaiseRight or the website ShopWithScrip, you can purchase gift cards for your friends, family, and even yourself and they will donate 3% of the sales to our church. If you need help setting this up, just let Diana know and she can help you set it up, and she will also have all of this up on our website and Facebook page, and once the account gets set up, our unique code to use in order for the 3% is **YL5M6W4APYDX**. This is the most safe and secure way to buy gift cards these days, Still be as generous as you always are, just be aware to do it safely and securely, and help raise extra cash for us. So as you are starting some of your Christmas shopping this year, stay nice and warm at home and do it from your phone or laptop and have the gift card company donate the 3% back to Living Word.

AMAZON SMILE will also donate some of the proceeds to our church when using that feature on their website. All you have to do is put Living Word into their search field or click on the link from our website and you can start doing your shopping. We all know how much we spend with Amazon, lol. Every little bit can go a long way for our church and our future. Happy shopping with both of these opportunities.

TRANSITION TEAM met this past Monday afternoon to discuss their options and review their thoughts of the 4 pastors that Pastor Johnson knows of and whom would want to receive a call. One pastor however has already accepted a call elsewhere, and one of the pastors is local. They are working with Pastor Johnson as to finding out their salaries and expectations of benefits and insurance. They had updated the council of all of this information.

COUNCIL MEETING was this past Tuesday evening. They had the update from the transition team, discussed our financial status along with different maintenance items that need attention around church, Jim and Neal will be taking care of most of the issues themselves. For more detailed information, the notes from their meeting can be found on the last page. We will be having a congregational voter's meeting after service on December 4th, to vote on how to proceed with the list of pastors.

Preschool News

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. They can be from certain orange juices, fruit punches, water, apple cider or milk. The boxes are set up outside of the sanctuary once again since election day is over. So you can still drop them off anytime you are here. She has over 200 already, most of them from The Well Coffee Shop in Manteo. If you ever happen to be in that area, please stop by and tell them thank you from Living Word and let them know that we are trying to support them for all of their help that they are offering to Diana and her class. She is hoping to have about 400 or better by the beginning of January, so help her fill up those boxes and bags with these bottles. As always thank you for all of your help and donations for preschool as they build the arctic, lol.

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM is returning to our worship service again. It is scheduled for Sunday, December 11th. So save the date and come enjoy watching the children sing the songs that they have learned this year. They will be performing 4 songs for us. It will be a perfect time to connect with the preschool families as they are so amazed with our preschool, hopefully they can see what a wonderful church and fellowship our congregation is.



NOVEMBER 23rd is Thanksgiving Eve, and as usual we will come and worship to give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, our Lord. Service is at 5:30pm. We want to wish everyone here at Living Word and your families a very blessed Thanksgiving! We all need to remember our loved ones and all that we have to be thankful for.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

November 23rd, 2022

5:30 pm Service

'Come join us to give thanks and praise!'

Mission of the Month



Gideons International was our Mission of the Month part 1. We will had a guest speakers here last Sunday, and he gave us a brief presentation about Gideons and also announced that he would like to join our church. We will be welcoming him as a new member of our congregation on Sunday, January 15th. We were able to collect a total of \$115.00 for Gideons International between the first two Sunadys of this month.

OLAND PARK FOOD PANTRY and the Village of Orland Park will be the Mission of the Month part 2. As usual, we will put up an angel tree in the fellowship hall with stockings and angels with ideas of what is needed. Please see the list below for more ideas, you don't have to get everything that will be on the "ornaments". As always, thank you for your support and donations.

A THANK YOU LETTER was received by Lutheran Special Education Ministries. It reads: "Dear Living Word Lutheran Church, Greetings from LSEM! It has been an incredible 150 years of bringing hope to children with learning needs and we are thankful for the support of Living Word Lutheran Church. Your generous gift of \$211.00 from your Mission of the Month will help to sustain that hope for many more years to come. We believe that our vision to reach, serve and support children with learning needs in Christian communities takes partnership. Your partnership is having an impact on the children, their families, schools, churches like yours and the communities we serve in. Thank you for partnering with us in our mission and making a difference in the live of children with learning needs. May God bless you richly as you reach out and bring hope to children and their families!" It is signed "Your partner in Jesus, Stacy McGhee, President /CEO" The letter is posted on the bulletin board.

2nd half of November Mission of the Month. Angel Tree for Orland Township.

Suggested Food List:

- Broth
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Canned Cranberries
- Potatoes/Dehydrated Potatoes
- Dry Stuffing Mix
- Canned Olives/Pickles
- Jell-O/Pudding
- Cake/Frosting Mix
- Pie Filling/Crust Mix
- Food Certificates for Meat, Poultry & Perishables

Other Staples

- Canned Stew/Chili Dinners
- Pasta Sauces
- Pasta/Noodles/Rice
- Boxed Pasta Noodle Dinners
- Dry/Hot Cereals
- Apple Sauce
- Juice Drinks
- Peanut Butter/Jelly
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Tuna
- Candy Canes
- Marshmallows
- Baby Food

Gift items for boys and girls ages 0-11:

- Action Figures
- Barbies & Barbie Accessories
- Blocks/Building Sets
- Board Games
- Coloring/Arts & Craft Sets
- Dolls & Doll Accessories
- Infant/Toddler Toys
- Learning/Interactive Toys
- LEGOS
- Miniature Car Sets
- Play Food
- Play-Doh
- Science Kits
- Sports Equipment
- Stuffed Animals
- Trucks/Trains/Boats

Gift items for boys and girls ages 12-17:

- Arts & Craft/Science Kits
- Beauty Supplies
- Board Games
- Books
- Candles
- Coloring Books (Stress Relieving)
- Hair Supplies
- Hats/Winter Apparel
- Headphones
- Hygiene Products
- Jewelry
- Shaving Supplies
- Slippers
- Socks
- Sports/Exercise Equipment
- Sports Team Apparel
- Sports Water Bottles
- Throw Blankets



OR be creative!

Also don't forget about our furry four-legged friends this Christmas either. Orland Park has Crashy's Closet, which is their Pet Food Pantry. They accept dry or canned pet food, pet care products, pet treats and snacks, and pet toys.



“Our Refuge”

Psalm 46 says: “*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*” Is God *YOUR* refuge...?

1) God is my refuge of RIGHTEOUSNESS.

¹⁴“You said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty?’ ¹⁵But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly evildoers prosper, and even when they put God to the test, they get away with it.” ¹⁶Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name. ¹⁷“On the day when I act,” says the Lord Almighty, “they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.
Malachi 3:14-18

2) God is my refuge of REDEMPTION.

¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins... ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.
Colossians 1:13-14, 19-20

3) God is my refuge of REMEMBRANCE.

³²Two men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁵The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” ³⁶The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” ³⁸There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the Jews. ³⁹One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
Luke 23:32-43

“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. 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 November 20th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81137388502?pwd=N0I6N1dReFFuNGhqSS9IMktVdIA0dz09>

Meeting ID: 811 3738 8502 Passcode: 447827

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81137388502#,,,,*447827# US (Chicago)

Please see below for the Zoom info for the Bible study on November 27th.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82899530770?pwd=SnR3dJJoUGtwTjVxMytVaXdvTmZMdz09>

Meeting ID: 828 9953 0770 Passcode: 318248

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile +13126266799,,82899530770#,,,,*318248# US (Chicago)

“Friday Zoom Bible Study Classes”

POW (People of the Word) Acts Bible Study started their Advent study, “It’s a Wonderful Life” last Friday. Please let me know if you would like to join, we have an extra book, plus we can order more books for you as they start the 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 December 2nd. They will be taking Thanksgiving weekend off.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82718088684?pwd=bzFFRURyaDM1T0ZHUy9qaDdIMzZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 827 1808 8684 Passcode: 000302

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82718088684#,,,,*000302# US (Chicago)

Living Word Lutheran Church Council Notes

Tuesday, November 15, 2022, @ 7 pm

Attendees- Bob G, Neal H, Pastor John, Bill M, Paul H, Jim M, and Diana M. Donna W joined the start of the meeting to give the council an update from the transition team.

Neal opened the meeting at 7:02 pm with prayer.

The meeting was then turned over to Donna to give the council an update. She let them know that Christ Lutheran is meeting and working through some things on their side, and it could take 3 to 6 months before they know if they can come on board with a partnership. Their council and congregation seem to still want a partnership, but they have some things they need to deal with currently. Pastor Johnson did give us the names of four pastors that could possibly want to take a call and even do a partnership with Christ Lutheran in the future. One has already now taken a call, so we have 3 left. Pastor Johnson is working on getting us information on what these pastors may be making now to see if we could afford to pay for a pastor on our own for a year or so. The transition team would like to have a congregation voter meeting on Sunday, December 4th to present some numbers to the congregation and some possible options to pay for a pastor if we can't partner with Christ right away or at all. The transition team has not interviewed any of these pastors yet because they want the blessing from the congregation to move forward and understand we may need to do something to be able to pay for a pastor on our own. Donna then left the meeting.

Bob then went over the financials we still need to transfer \$3,000 from a \$15,000 donation into preschool. That \$3,000 would then basically need to be transferred back out to pay for payroll costs for paying the preschool teacher. We also discussed getting a hold of people who have donated to special designated funds to see what they would like the church to do with that money and if we could add it to the general fund to help pay for a pastor.

The council then agreed that Bev should be getting paid for cleaning for preschool it was budgeted for but with low enrollment it was questioned before. She will be getting paid and was agreed to up her cleaning pay for preschool from \$11 to \$15.

Neal will get a contract written up from the guy who did snow removal for us last year so that we are ready for the season.

We then talked about some maintenance we need around the building including putting weather stripping around the doors to stop mice from coming in. Jim even said he can get some mouse traps you put outside to stop them from even getting in. Plus, we need a few electrical plates and a new kitchen faucet. Neal will have Kristi give Bev the information to get a free weather-stripping kit from Nicor. Neal will also work to get the faucet and electrical plates done soon.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm with a prayer from Pastor John.

Miscellaneous Items

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!

KITCHEN ITEMS NEEDED: The coffee shop, lol, kitchen is in need of a few things. We are running low on regular size coffee cups, so when you are doing your grocery shopping if you could pick up either these items, it would be greatly appreciated. As always, thank you for all your generous donations.

CHURCH DECORATING We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, November 27th, following the worship service and fellowship time. Any help you can lend will make this event go quick, we always appreciate any help that is given. Thank you in advance for time and effort.