



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 31, Issue 44

November 6, 2022

## "Christ The Victor"

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*Colossians 2:13-15 (NIV) "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."*

The death and resurrection of Christ means freedom for all of humanity. Having been buried with Him in His baptism into death, we have been raised up with Him through faith in the working of God (Colossians 2:12). We are now seated spiritually with Him in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6) and have access to the flow of blessings from this realm (Ephesians 1:3). Understanding Christ's victory is key for moving and living in spiritual freedom. As the atoning sacrifice for the sin of humanity, we have been washed clean by His blood. This cleansing allows us to live free from sin consciousness in our minds, connected to the Spirit of the living God (Hebrews 9:14).

In Colossians, Paul writes that Christ's victory "disarmed the principalities and powers." He is referring to the invisible spiritual forces that influence humanity from the heavenly realms. Prior to Christ, these "elemental spiritual forces" (Colossians 2:20; Galatians 4:3) held sway over humanity, enticing us to sin. Paul writes in his letters that these elemental spiritual forces derived their power from the Law (a relationship with God based on rules and regulations) because the Law provokes sin (Romans 7:5). The distance that once existed between man and God no longer exists. As such, there is no inhabitable spiritual space for these spirits. We are hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).

The lingering influence of these elemental spiritual forces can be recognized in our own experience as feelings of shame, guilt, self-condemnation, and the lustful promptings of the flesh (the pre-Christ nature). Our new nature in Christ makes it possible to live entirely free from these spiritual influences. Our feelings of inability to do so only means we lack revelation in the understanding of our divine sonship. Freedom is not a matter of *doing*, but *being*. It is more simple than we would like to admit. The spiritual principle is this: We believe first, then freedom comes.

The sons of God now live in union with Christ and are led entirely by His Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:17; Romans 8:14). We are under no compulsion to follow merely human rules and regulations. Our conscious is now enlightened and empowered by the Spirit of God Himself. There is no longer any buffer or commandment that separates us from God - no inhabitable space for oppressive spirits. Our ability to intuitively experience His presence and hear His voice is not conditional. We do not need to act a certain way, worship a certain way, or strive to attain holiness. We need to believe the reality that His grace has already accomplished everything we need. When we do, we become free from sin consciousness and alive to the reality of His presence.

*Galatians 4:3-7 (NIV) "So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts...therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."*

### 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 8*

# This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>6</b> 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship-COMM All Saints' Day Observed	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Election Day No Pre-school 10:00am Push Prayer	<b>9</b> 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	<b>10</b> 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	<b>11</b> 9:30am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word Veterans' Day 	<b>12</b>

## This Week's Celebrations

<div style="text-align: center;"> <p><i>Happy Baptism Birthday!</i></p> </div> <p><b>Nov 6</b> Barb Erjavec  <b>Nov 9</b> Jill Goebel</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p><i>Happy Anniversary</i></p> </div> <p><b>Nov 5</b> Jim &amp; Sandy Boehm  <b>Nov 12</b> Mike &amp; Nikki Miklos</p>
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<b>Church Contacts</b>	
<i>intouchlwc@yahoo.com</i>	
<b>Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel</b>	
<i>dianamotel@yahoo.com 708-287-4939</i>	
<b>Leadership Team</b>	
<b>Neal Hartz</b> - President	847-344-2410
<b>Jim McKinney</b> - Vice President	708-359-8527
<b>Bill Merchantz</b> - Treasurer	708-539-6027
<b>Diana Motel</b> - Secretary	708-287-4939
<b>Members at Large</b>	
Pastor John Bucka	815-931-2961
Bob Grossart	708-870-0202
Paul Huang	626-551-1446

## Stewardship Snapshot

<p><b>October 30th</b>                  25 Worshipped, 23 Communed                  2 DVD  <u>10 Watched Online</u>                  37 Total</p> <p><b>Financial Support</b>                  Offering was not counted on Sunday</p> <p>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.</p>
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## LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 10/31/2022)

The current value of the fund is \$149,998.45 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$15,971.49. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$49,046.23. Of this, \$24,523.12 will return to Living Word for growth initiatives.

### THIS REPRESENTS A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

To Date:	Total contributions	\$84,980.73
	Market value over cost	15,971.49
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>49,046.23</u>
	<b>Total market value</b>	<b>\$149,998.45</b>

### HOW THE ENDOWMENT FUND WORKS

Contributions treated as donation for tax purposes. Funds invested by Thrivent Financial. 50% of interest and dividends available for church growth. Interested in estate planning? Call Tim Regan/Thrivent (708-326-4750). If any questions, call Bob Grossart



# Living Word News

**LIVING WORD OCTOBERFEST MEAL** was last Sunday, the 30th, immediately following our traditional Hymnal Reformation Sunday worship service. A huge thank you to everyone! Special thanks for all the food and main courses Neal and Kristi made and the Rubeen Bake that Barb Olszowka made. And of course the side dishes that all the others had made capped off the meal perfectly. All of the desserts as you can see were delicious, thank you to all that bought them. Neal and Kristi and Bill made sure we all had beverages to drink with all that food too. Also, thanks to all who helped set up and especially cleaned up, lol. Everybody contributed to this special fellowship time, it truly was an entire group effort of friends working together and enjoying good food and companionship. I'm sure nobody needed to eat dinner that day, lol.



# Germanfest





Gideons International is our Mission of the Month part 1. We will have two guest speakers here next Sunday giving us a short presentation on their work. Gideons International is an Evangelical Christian association for men and their wives founded in 1899 in Janesville, Wisconsin. The Gideons' primary activity, along with their wives in the Auxiliary, is "encouraging each other to do the work of the Lord, focusing on who they are before God, and strengthening the power of their personal testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ".

They are most recognized for distributing copies of Scripture free of charge, paid for by freewill offerings from local churches and from members themselves. This Bible distribution is a worldwide enterprise taking place in around 200 countries, territories and possessions. The association's members focus on distributing complete Bibles, New Testaments, or portions thereof. These copies are printed in over 108 languages. The association is most widely renowned for its Bibles placed in lodging rooms. The Gideons also distribute to hospitals and other medical offices, schools and colleges, military bases, as well as jails and prisons. The association was named after the Biblical figure Gideon depicted in Judges 6.

## 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.



## 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 that were set up outside of the sanctuary are currently in the Nursery since we needed room for the voting machines for election day on Tuesday. So you can still drop them off anytime you are here. She has over 100 already, most of them from The Well Coffee Shop in Manteno. 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.

## Updates

**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 Tuesday evening with Pastor Johnson from Christ. They were given a list of pastor names from Pastor Johnson who he feels would be a good fit for both our church and Christ Lutheran. He also informed the team that their council and board of elders will keep meeting each week as well to work things out on their end. Diana has found some videos on 3 of the pastors. One of the pastors will be filling in for Pastor Johnson at Christ next Saturday evening. As soon as the team has more information they will pass it along to us. As always, our hands are in Christ, who is our victor.

## Devotional Time

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *"I don't know whether he [Jesus] is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!" - John 9:25 (NLT)*

When God works in our lives, we are not called to explain or justify it; our only duty is to testify to the power and goodness of God. Then we can also let God open our eyes to His word and His guidance as He shapes and changes our lives going forward.

## 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



**“Victory!”**

Psalm 149 says: *“The Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.”* “Christ the Victor” wins us the victory...!

**1) Christ wins the victory over my TEARS.**

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb...”  
<sup>17</sup> ...and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Revelation 7:9-10, 17b

**2) Christ wins the victory over my TRANSGRESSIONS.**

<sup>3</sup> See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! ...<sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 1 John 3:1a, 2-3

**3) Christ wins the victory over my TRIBULATIONS.**

<sup>5</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them. He said: <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:1-12

*“Thanks be to God,  
who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”*  
1 Corinthians 15:57

**“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 November 6th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83172254776?pwd=R3cvc3JUV1R3RFpTNXVvdzZWUVZvdz09>

Meeting ID: 831 7225 4776 Passcode: 552179

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83172254776#,,,,\*552179# US (Chicago)

**“Friday Zoom Bible Study Classes”**

**POW (People of the Word) Acts Bible Study** wrapped up their study on Acts this past Friday and they will start their Advent study, “It’s a Wonderful Life” in two weeks from now. 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 November 11th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83771597955?pwd=SUp2akt1RTNpMjdSTIVLUih5aUJWUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 7159 7955 Passcode: 892933

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83771597955#,,,,\*892933# US (Chicago)



**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!



**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!'***

OCTOBER'S TOT TIME

Was a huge success, the families that had attended already have registered for November's Tot Time. They were all impressed how Diana ran the event and how she truly wanted to be able to give back to the community where her home church is. All the kids had a great time, and the families seen how much time, effort and expense she had put into this new program. They all felt that they should be able to do something in return, such as bring snacks. They all helped clean up, and they said that they would help collect the gallon jugs for her for preschool. We are hoping that one of the families will be registering their twin girls for preschool next fall.



# Living Word Lutheran Church Tot Time

**When -** Monday, November 14th  
**From -** 9:30 am - 11 am

### "Christ The Victor" (Continued from Page 1)

*Romans 7:6 (NIV) "But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter."*

The specter of the Law hangs over modern Christianity. We still use human rules and regulations and a legalistic understanding of the Bible in our attempts to spiritually connect with the Father. The result is that sin consciousness has been given a seat at the table in the corporate Body. Christ's solution to this issue is the sending of a fresh wind of the Spirit to enlighten us to our true position as sons of the most high God. There is an awakening in our understanding of the Word of God. We are beginning to see more clearly how He sees us. Paul writes that even Creation longs to see us fully awake to our true purpose and identity in Christ:

*Romans 8:19-22 (NASB) "For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God."*

On the cross, Christ won the victory over the forces of darkness, destroying the enemy's ability to use the Law against us. In Jesus' wilderness temptation, there is a foreshadow of this reality. The enemy uses Scripture against Jesus, but the Lord stands firm in the confident reality of His sonship, turning the tables on Satan. If we feel accused or lack confidence in our relationship with the Lord, we must fall back on the reality of our sonship and union with God. There is no longer any condemnation for those who are in Christ (Romans 8:1). On the cross, the power of the enemy was disarmed once and for all. We must renew our minds to this reality.

