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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 32, Issue 1

January 1, 2023

"Why New Year's Resolutions Don't Work?"

Willpower Is Weak

If you're considering making some New Year's resolutions this year, consider this: like other exercises of raw willpower, most New Year's resolutions fail miserably.

According to research, 80 percent of those who make resolutions on January 1 have given up by Valentine's Day. Nutrition experts say that two-thirds of dieters regain any weight lost within a year. Most of us think that we can change our lives if we just summon the willpower and try even harder this time around. It's exceptionally hard to make life changes, and our efforts are usually doomed to failure when we try to do it on our own. As we think about New Year's resolutions, it's important to realize something about human nature: people do what they want to do. What the heart loves, the will chooses, and the mind justifies. The mind doesn't direct the will. The mind is actually captive to what the will wants, and the will itself, in turn, is captive to what the heart wants. So making a resolution and summoning up all your willpower does little good if, ultimately, your heart isn't in it. Does this mean you should abandon any hope of change? Not at all. If you're going to make a New Year's resolution, here are a few things to keep in mind.

1. Is It A Good Resolution?

Try to determine if the resolution is actually good. Are you planning on working out more? If so, is it because you want to be a good steward of the body God gave you or is it vanity? In reality, it is probably some of both. But what is the driving desire? Is it a good one?

2. Just Do It

If your resolution is actually a good one, just do it. Go ahead and work out more, smoke or drink less, read your Bible more, pay down your debt and save more for retirement, focus on your marriage, spend more time with your children. Every once in a while, people start a New Year's resolution and it sticks. But most don't. That's because (1) you are sinner and (2) your heart is an idol factory.

3. Grace Actually Works

The reality is that your resolution is likely needed because, like everyone else except for Jesus, you are not loving God with your entire being and not loving your neighbor as yourself. These two failures lead to havoc, discord, pain, and destruction. Jesus gave us the basic requirement: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets". That basic failure is why we need the gospel: Jesus' life, death, and resurrection deal with the guilt and the stain of sin. It's also why we so often fail at our attempts to improve ourselves. But Jesus also gave us the Holy Spirit, who can change our desires and empower us to love God and neighbor. As Paul tells us, "it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure". With us and our willpower, Jesus says, change is impossible, "but with God all things are possible".

God Gives Grace to Change

As Cranmer realized, our wills are captive to what our hearts love, and we are powerless to change ourselves without the work of God's Spirit changing our desires. When you think through New Year's resolutions, here's a prayer from the Book of Common Prayer as you ask God to work on your heart: Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship-COMM	2 Christmas Vacation—No Preschool	3 10:00am Push Prayer	4	5	6 Epiphany 	7
8 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Congregational Meeting	9	10 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	11 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	12 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	13	14
15 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship-COMM	16	17 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer 7:00pm Council Meeting	18 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	19 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	20	21
22 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship	23 Tot Time 9:30am-11:00am 	24 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10am Push Prayer	25 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	26 9:00—12:00 Preschool	27	28
29 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship	30	31 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10am Push Prayer				



Jan 8 Brad Kempke
Jan 12 Joan Fraser
Jan 16 Beverly Hodo
Jan 19 Dave Holloway



Jan 4 Eleanor Galik
Jan 8 John Paul Lange

Happy Anniversary



Jan 27 John & Joan Gabrielson

Stewardship Snapshot

December 24th

21 Worshipped
8 Watched Online
29 Total

Financial Support
 Offering wasn't counted

December 25th

11 Worshipped
 2 DVD
6 Watched Online
19 Total

Financial Support
 Offering wasn't counted

Church Contacts

Church Contacts

intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

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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

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 *"Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."* - John 10:37-38 (NLT)

The evidence of Jesus' divinity was that He did the work of God, fulfilling the prophecies about the Messiah. The proof of the Holy Spirit residing in us is that we do the work of God (though we don't actually do the work, but the Holy Spirit working through us) and point people to Jesus. Let's make that our goal for 2023.

FRIENDLY REMINDER for the Friday morning Adult Bible class, they wrapped up their Advent study and will not be meeting again until some time in the summer. I will have more updates from time to time regarding different study topics and as to when the group will resume meeting on Fridays again.

Preschool News

TOT TIME for January will be on Monday, January 23rd. This outreach program has been very successful. Two of the families have been here for all 3 Tot Times now, plus we keep getting some new ones too every month. One of the families have shown interest in our preschool as well. You can pretty much guess what will be the star attraction at Tot Time this coming month. The spare storage room was full of milk jugs that was all glued together and all of our little “Eskimos” will have a giant igloo to play in, lol. Come check out the Arctic, Diana worked all day on Monday and then her little Eskimo helper was here with her on Tuesday building their igloo.



FALL SEMESTER came to a bit of a quicker end for our preschool due to the very inclement weather that we had. Winter semester will be starting on January 10th, and we will have a new student starting the next day. Ryan will be coming here 2 days a week. All but two of the students are three and four, it will be so wonderful to see them return next fall and we just received a call from one of Diana's friends, she will be registering her little girl for next year. Plus Diana has messaged a couple of families that have been here for VBS and the Easter Egg Hunt that have younger children that has turned three this year, so hopefully we might be able to get one or two more students before too long. Diana will be opening up registration within the next month or two, it will be opened to families from preschool and Tot Time, and then to the rest of the community. Please help us spread the word about our wonderful program that Diana has been working so hard on all year, it would be great to have even more students next year.

Living Word News

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be Sunday, January 8th. The below flyer will be mailed out to all voting members and I will be emailing out reminders in the upcoming weeks. There will be updates and announcements at the end of the service on Sunday. The meeting will basically be to vote on if we should extend the call to Pastor Dubensky and hope that Christ Lutheran will be able to partner with us going forward. We need everyone's participation, input and vote for the future of our church. Once again, there will be a separate link that I will email out to everyone that you will need to click on once the service is over. Voting will be open till the following Wednesday.

Special **VOTERS' MEETING**



Sunday
January 8, 2023 at 11:00am

“With All My Heart”

Psalm 111 says: “I will extol the Lord with all my heart...”

1) *With all my heart I will extol the Lord’s KINDNESSES.*

I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us.
Isaiah 63:7a

2) *With all my heart I will extol the Lord’s KINSHIP.*

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.
Galatians 4:4-7

3) *With all my heart I will extol the Lord’s KINGSHIP.*

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” ¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” ¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.
Matthew 2:13-23

Mission of the Month



JANUARY MISSION OF MONTH is Phil's Friends, it was founded by Phil Zielke who was diagnosed with cancer twice and found hope in Christ, since then he has been helping others with cancer find hope and encouragement. We have made cards and boxes for them in the past. Please help us once again to supply them extra sets of hands to make up their care packages that they send to cancer patients. We will have more information in the coming weeks as to the specific needs, but just your normal generosity is all Phil's Friends really need to help spread the Word about hope and prayer.

“Sunday Zoom Bible Study Class”

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 January 1st.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81826810304?pwd=TGdIR2FoWGU3dDAwQ1h3ZWpIWW1zUT09>

Meeting ID: 818 2681 0304 Passcode: 259169

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81826810304#,,,,*259169# US (Chicago)