

LORD,

My heart is crying out to you. I know you hear my cry and capture every one of my tears in your hands. May you bless this situation and turn it around for your glory. I am completely dependent on you. I know you will make a way ~ you always do!

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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 3

January 15, 2023

"To Cry Out To The Lord"

We may be assured that God is neither callous nor indifferent toward His people during times of distress. He sees our tears, shares in our grief, understands our sorrows, and hears our cries of anguish and suffering. Our God is not deaf. He does not turn away from those who cry out to Him seeking comfort and relief.

To cry out is to speak loudly, often in an excited or anguished voice. Scripture speaks of the object of our crying out: we cry out to the Lord. That is, we lift our voices to Him in an appeal for help. When Peter was sinking in the waves, he cried out for Jesus to save him, and Jesus did. Our cries to the Lord do not always have to be verbal. Hannah prayed in "deep anguish . . . but her voice was not heard" because she was "praying in her heart". God hears our silent cries as well.

To cry out to the Lord is to reveal our absolute dependence upon Him. In our tearful pleas, we acknowledge our human frailties, weaknesses, and shortcomings—our inability to overcome the mounting problems before us. Our cries show that our trust is in Him to act on our behalf. We freely surrender self-will to His perfect, sovereign will.

"Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me".

God lends His ear to the cries of individuals in their times of sorrow, but God also hears and responds to the corporate pleadings of His people. As the Hebrew people multiplied in Egypt, so did their suffering under the iron-fisted rule of Pharaoh. Hearing the mournful cries of His chosen people, God delivered the Israelites from Egyptian bondage and led them to the Promised Land. Nehemiah, who supervised the rebuilding of Jerusalem, wrote, "And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea, and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted arrogantly against our fathers. And you made a name for yourself, as it is to this day. And you divided the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on dry land, and you cast their pursuers into the depths, as a stone into mighty waters".

God also hears the cries of repentant sinners seeking forgiveness and deliverance. In Jesus' parable of two men in prayer, one man is well pleased with himself; the other has a contrite heart. Hear what our Savior has to say about these two men:

"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted".

The corrupt tax collector, a Jewish traitor steeped in guilt and sin, approached God with a broken heart and begged for forgiveness. The Pharisee, an esteemed religious leader, saw himself as a shining example of godliness. Of these two men, God only heard the voice of the tax collector. Both men prayed, but only the tax collector truly cried out to the Lord.

Scripture does not teach that we are to lift ourselves by our own bootstraps; rather, we are to go to Him in times of trouble. God cares. He loves us. He stands with us and for us. He delights in coming to our rescue. We may rightly conclude that self-sufficiency is not an attribute of an obedient believer. In times of trouble, we are to cry out to the Lord.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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

Stewardship Snapshot

January 8th

31 Worshipped
1 DVD
13 Watched Online
35 Total

Financial Support
 \$3,890.00 General Fund Offering Deposit

Church Contacts

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

January Celebrations



Birthdays
of the Month

Jan 16 Bev Hodo
Jan 19 Dave Holloway

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 *Jesus replied, "There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light." - John 11:9-10 (NLT)*

Light encourages accountability. This is true in the ordinary physical world, but it is also true in our spiritual walk. When we are walking in the light of Christ, we tend to recognize our accountability to God. If we let ourselves drift away into spiritual darkness, it becomes easier to rationalize sinful desires and actions. This is why staying connected to Christ is so important.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT During these very trying and difficult times, like all of us, the offerings for the church have also been suffering and are below the projected budget. Please help us and come to worship so that we can have better attendance totals and that we can reconnect with each other as we worship together. In doing so, we will be able to reach our goals for the endowment fund. Thank you as always for keeping us moving forward in these times.

January Mission of the Month



Phil's Friends provides Christ-centered practical, emotional, and spiritual support and hope to people affected by cancer. This is done through the distribution of hand-assembled care packages that are shipped to people's homes and personally delivered to people in hospitals they are partnered with throughout the Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana area.

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. Our preschool will once again color cards and the boxes for the care packages. Please help us once again to supply them extra sets of hands to make up their care packages that they send to cancer patients. If you have additional throw blankets or any other items that would bring a smile to their recipients' faces, or just your normal generosity is all Phil's Friends really need to help spread the Word about hope and prayer to people who need it most right now.

UPDATE FROM RLOM was received once again, please see below for their email and how things are going in East Dundee Maternity Home.

Dear Friend in Christ,

Greetings to you from Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries in soon-to-be in East Dundee, IL! We pray this email finds you healthy and busy serving our Lord with enough time to rest and be filled up again. We write to you today to provide you with information about our life-affirming maternity home ministry that you can share with those who serve in your locations in northern Illinois. As you are able, please share this information.

Updates: Our IL home is in the process of permitting for the remodeling to begin; we are excited to open in 2023 and already hear from pregnancy centers that they have potential residents for us to serve! God has blessed us with a larger staff than ever as we now have two called deaconesses plus a person to work on marketing and development, bringing our count to 8.

RLOM Supporting Your Efforts: In celebration of Life Sunday, we want to share resources with our community, whether they serve in a congregation, school or Christian family, that affirm God's gift of life. With the help of some of our supporters, we have written and gathered a collection of Celebrate LIFE! materials which include a sermon, devotion, children's lesson and activities, all free to any ministry or individual who can use them. Because we serve by providing housing and assistance to pregnant moms and their babies, we find many people are drawn into life affirming work and are willing to share it with others, extending the reach and sharing redemptive love of our Savior in a non-political way. Please use and share these resources as you see a need.

These resources are available on our website at www.rlom.org/celebrate-life.

Your Supporting RLOM's Efforts: The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's generous Million Dollar Life Match Grant program has been such a blessing to us and we ask you to share information about this opportunity with others as a powerful way they can support life and get involved personally. There are two deadlines coming up: January 22 and April 1 so there is time for congregations to write a grant proposal. We can help! We welcome new partnerships with congregations and schools and are happy to walk with leaders through planning and online application processes whether the project benefits RLOM or another life affirming mission. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can assist you. We pray God's continued blessings on your corner of God's Kingdom and on the synod's amazing efforts to bring the issues of the gift of life into every person's heart and mind.

In His Service, Sheryl DeWitt, Executive Director (sheryl@rlom.org)

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. We already have 6 tots signed up for this month. Please let everyone you know that has tots to sign up for this great event. 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. There will not be a Tot Time in February, but it will come back for March.

As you can see all of the preschoolers were so amazed when they first saw the igloo, they sure like to have story time in there everyday. They have been learning all about penguins, how they sound and how they waddle. The kids made penguins and they loved showing off the igloo to their families when they came to pick them up.



WINTER SEMESTER started back this past Tuesday, the 10th. Our new student Ryan had started on Wednesday and will be coming here 2 days a week. He says his new favorite thing is school now. Diana had two tours scheduled for this past Thursday, one at least seems real promising for her to start this month sometime. All but two of the students are three and four years old, it will be so wonderful to see them return next fall and we just received a call a few weeks ago from one of Diana's friends, she will be registering her little girl for next year. So hopefully we might be able to get one or two more students before too long. Diana opened up registration within this week to the current students' families, and then enrollment will be opened up to the rest of the community by the end of this month or in February. 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. Also I want give Ms. Diana and her students a very special thank you for the lovely flowers and the balloon and all the cards they made for my birthday, plus we got to enjoy having cupcakes for a snack on Thursday.

Living Word News

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING was held last Sunday, the 8th. Thank you to all that had taken the time to come to church last week and to let their vote be heard. Online voting had closed on Wednesday evening and the vote was 31-1 to call Pastor Dubensky and hope that Christ Lutheran will be able to partner with us going forward. The call documents have been prepared and will need to be signed, and once we have heard from the district, the letters and call documents will be sent out. As you can see by the letter below, outlining the next steps by the Call Committee. As we have heard on Sunday, Donna will be on a leave of absence until mid July and Cathy Baidis has volunteered to join the Call Committee. Bob Grossart is now the Acting Chairman. Thank you both Cathy and Bob for stepping up to guide us through this transition.

Living Word Lutheran Church

Status of Call-Pastor Matthew Dubensky

1/13/23

Members of Living Word,

On Sunday, January 8, 2023, we had a congregational meeting to vote on the following resolution from the Call Committee:

It is the unanimous recommendation of the Living Word Call Committee to immediately extend a call to Pastor Matthew Dubensky under a defined compensation package.

As defined in the Constitution and By-Laws, to call a Pastor, you need a majority of voter's present and a 2/3 majority of those to be in favor of the resolution. We met that requirement as we had a total of 32 votes on the resolution and achieved overwhelming support in favor of the resolution.

We are prepared to move forward with the Call Documents which will be sent to Pastor Matthew Dubensky in the near future. We will keep you notified on the progress of the call process. As most of you know, Donna Wasilkoff will be on an extended vacation and will be back on 7/13/23. She has been active in the leadership of the Call Committee. I have volunteered to be Acting Call Committee Chairman until Donna returns from vacation. If you have any questions about the Call process, please feel free to call me or any other Call Committee members.

Current Call Committee members:

Donna Wasilkoff (Chairperson, Leave of absence)

Bob Grossart (Acting chairman until 7/13/23)

Diana Motel

John Bucka

Cathy Baidis

Bob Grossart

Acting Chairman

Call Committee

01-15-2023 Message Outline

“He Heard My Cry”

Psalm 40:1 says: “I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry...”

1) God heard our cry & so He called His PROPHETS.

Hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother’s womb he has spoken my name...⁵ And now the Lord says—he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength—⁶ he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.” Isaiah 49:1, 5-6

2) God heard our cry & so He called us to be His PEOPLE.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...² To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours.

1 Corinthians 1:1-2

3) God heard our cry & so our PASSOVER Lamb came.

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”³² Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.”³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.

³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”³⁹ “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

John 1:29-42a

ISAIAH SEEMS REALLY DOWN IN THE DUMPS. “I HAVE SPENT MY STRENGTH FOR NOTHING?”



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

HE WAS DOING HIS BEST WORK AND SEEING NOTHING IN RESULT!



THIS CAN TEMPT US TO DESPAIR AS WELL - WE DO WHAT WE CAN TO SHARE JESUS AND YET HAVE NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT.



ARE YOU KIDDING? HAVE YOU SEEN OUR “LIKES”?



ISAIAH 49:1-7

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