

## Inside this issue:

"About God's Love and Character"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Stewardship/Contacts/Celebrations	2
Devotional Time	2
Mission of the Month	3
Preschool News	4
Living Word News	4
01-22-2023 Message Outline	5
Council Meeting Notes	6

## 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

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 32, Issue 4

January 22, 2023

## "About God's Love and Character"

### 1. We Can Always Have Confidence in the Lord

The first three verses stress the confidence that David had in the Lord. He begins in verse one with these words, "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?" In verse two, David is almost bragging about his enemies being defeated. David then ends verse three with the words "though war break out against me, even then will I be confident." David's words are powerful. We may not be fighting battles like David, but we are fighting battles. Each day we fight temptation, greed, and lust. We fight to keep ourselves set apart from this world. In those battles, we experience our enemies rise against us with hurtful words or deeds. But we can brag that even though the enemies come, our Lord will defeat them. We can be confident that our God will never leave us. Despite the heaviness of David's situation, he was confident that God had the perfect plan for him. We can be confident too. God has the perfect plan for our lives, and no enemy will stand in God's way. **Hebrews 4:16** states "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." David was approaching God's throne with confidence and so shall we.

### 2. God Desires for Us to Seek Him for Ourselves

In verses four through six, David is seeking the Lord. He is exclaiming his desire to commune with Him in the safety of his "sacred tent." David wants to sing, make music, and shout for joy in the presence of God. Ultimately, David is seeking joy that can only come from communing with the Lord.

**John Piper** wrote, "**Communion** with God is not merely *learning about* God but enjoying *fellowship with* God in the truth he reveals about himself." David expresses his desire to not only learn about God, but he wants to be with God in His temple and make music with the Lord. Today, God still wants His children to commune with Him. He wants us to read our Bibles and learn more about who He is. He wants to hear us praise him in word, song, and deed. When God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, He walked among them. God wanted to be with His creation and that includes you and I. God gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we could commune daily with Him.

### 3. God Will Never Forsake Us


David had spent many years fighting and running. Through it all, he never lost **faith** in God. He was confident that the God he served would never forsake him. Verses 9-10 of this psalm show David crying out for God to not turn His face from him. The last words David says in verse 10 are "the Lord will receive me." Our God will never leave nor forsake us. He has promised to never turn away from us. In **Philippians 1:6** we are told that the one that began a good work in us will carry it on to completion. No matter how bad our trials are or how hopeless we feel, God will not leave us. God is going to be present in your life, even when everyone else has turned their backs on you. David knew he was never alone on the battlefield or in the caves. We are never alone on our battlefields as well.

### 4. God Is Trustworthy

Inevitably, we will face trials on this Earth. We will feel like we cannot handle anything else. Our patience begins to run dry and life seems hopeless. It is in these moments we can trust our God. Verse 14 speaks of waiting for the Lord. When we wait for something or someone, we are expressing our trust in that person or action. God is the only thing we can trust in. He has proven over and over that he will keep his promises. He will show up at just the right moment to rescue us. We can take that to the bank. Each time David was in a precarious situation, he could trust God to take care of it. God has not changed from the time of David. We worship the same God David did, and we can trust that same God.

(Continued on Page 5)

# This Week at Living Word


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>22</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Worship</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Tot Time</b> <b>9:30am-11:00am</b> 	<b>24</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>26</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

## Stewardship Snapshot

<b>January 15th</b> <b>25 Worshipped, 24 Communed</b> <b>10 Watched Online</b> <b>35 Total</b>  <b>Financial Support</b> <b>\$1,285.00 General Fund Offering Deposit</b>
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## January Celebrations

*Happy Anniversary*



**Jan 27** John & Joan Gabrielson

## Church Contacts

<b>Church Contacts</b> <i>intouchlwlc@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

## 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** *Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me."* - John 11:41b-42 (NLT)

In our minds, if we think about it, we know Jesus is "The Resurrection and The Life". Yet often in our day-to-day hearts we think that that is for later, after we leave this earth, rather than for right now. This year, tune in to the resurrection power of God. Tune in to what God can do in and through us if we will only believe.

**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.

## Living Word News

**COUNCIL MEETING** was this past Tuesday, the 17th. Bob had dropped off the financial statements and Bill went over the figures. Diana had a letter from Bob giving the latest updates from the transition team. Even though we had a slight increase in offerings due to the Christmas services and everyone showing up for the congregational meeting, we are still below the projected amount from Bob's budget. We do realize that everyone is struggling, and the way prices keep going up for everything, this was bound to happen. Diana had informed the council that it looks like we will have two more students starting preschool by next month. The council will be looking into purchasing some new banners thanks to the designated fund from Carolyn Wagenaar and then Jim McKinney coming up with this idea and helping picking the ones that we should have. The detailed notes from the council meeting can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped out last Sunday taking down the tree and then lugging all of that stuff upstairs. Diana and I really appreciate all the help from Neal and Kristi Hartz, Bill Merchantz, Pastor John, Dave Holloway and Paul Huang. During last week, Diana and I were able to get everything but the big tree down, and last Friday Anita helped me with the Nativity, putting all of the figurines in the right spots and then boxing it up. As always thank you so much for all of the 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. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together from your sofa. Christians aren't consumers either. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. 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. There is nothing like fellowship time among some of your closest friends that share the same beliefs as you do!



## 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 9 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. Mrs. Diana has been very busy keeping the igloo up and together. It has suffered a couple of cave-ins and avalanches, and even though it underwent a few renovations, it is still the children's favorite place for story time. There will not be a Tot Time in February, but it will come back for March.

**SPRING SEMESTER** started back last week. Our new student Ryan had started last 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 last Thursday, they both are going to register this week or next week to start this month or next. We will have at least 8 students now and all 8 will be here on Thursdays. All but two of the students are three and four years old, almost every parent has told Diana that they will be returning next year 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. 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.



PRETTY HANDY THAT  
THEY WERE IN THE  
FISHING BUSINESS SO  
THAT JESUS COULD  
MAKE THAT **PLAY ON  
WORDS.**



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

I THINK IT TEACHES US  
THAT JESUS CALLS US TO  
WITNESS IN THE CONTEXT  
OF OUR VARIOUS  
VOCATIONS.



AND I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT  
THE LIVING WORD OF GOD  
ALWAYS HAS A FABULOUS  
TURN OF PHRASE AT THE  
READY.



MATTHEW 4:12-23

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## 01-22-2023 Message Outline

### **“Whom Shall I Fear?”**

Psalms 27: “The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid...?”

#### **1) I don’t fear darkness; the Lord is my SUNSHINE.**

There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress...

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. Isaiah 9:1a, 2

#### **2) I don’t fear death; the Lord is my SALVATION.**

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

#### **3) I don’t fear demons; the Lord is my STRONGHOLD.**

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum,

which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—<sup>14</sup> to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: <sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—<sup>16</sup> the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” <sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. <sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup> News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. <sup>25</sup> Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him. Matthew 4:12-25

### **“About God’s Love and Character”**

(Continued from Page 1)

#### **How Does Psalms 27 Encourage Us in Difficult Times Today?**

All one must do is look around to see the difficulties we are living in. We are dealing with a pandemic and the effects of restrictions and lockdowns. We have just been through a presidential campaign that was filled with harsh words. Our country has become divided because of racism, equality issues, and questions regarding the sanctity of human life.

We are living in difficult times on a global scale. It is now more than ever that we need to place the words of Psalms 27 in our hearts. This Psalm is one of courage, trust, and confidence. David’s words remind us that even in the difficult times we can persevere because our God has perfect timing and the perfect plan. There is no need to panic and develop our plans to fix the problem. We can have confidence that if we turn to God for strength, knowledge, and wisdom, we will know what our part in the solution is. We can be confident that our Lord will never turn his face from us.

In the hard times, we can focus on the joy that only comes from faith in our Lord. We can trust that He will keep us safe from our enemies. His children can commune with the Father and experience peace in chaos. David did not dwell in his problems; he continued to praise the Lord and show confidence in God. We can do this today. Even in the tough times, we can praise Him because we have the confidence that we will come out on the other side of the valley victorious.

Psalms 27 has beautiful lessons we can learn from. Through David’s words, we are encouraged. We can experience hope, security, and rest. Our God is great and is on the throne in heaven. He is our light and our salvation, the source of all things good.

## Council Meeting Notes

Living Word Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting Notes  
Tuesday, January 17, 2023 @ 7pm

Attendees: Neal H, Jim M, Pastor John, Diana M, and Bill M

Meeting opened with prayer at 7:18 pm from Pastor John

We then went over financials. Bob had provided the financial sheets and Bill went through them with the council. We had a starting balance of \$69,742.89 and ended with just a little under \$73,000. The holidays did bring in some more offerings. We are still not reaching our offering goal that we had for our budget. This also goes for attendance as well. Jim has spoken with Carolyn W about the \$500 that she has in a designated fund. They have talked about some new banners for the church. The council loved this idea and would like to make sure we had a way to then pay tribute to her for the banners. Bill is still working with Vanco to get the preschool payments that are made on our website to be direct deposited into our bank instead of Bill having to write a check from that account and the depositing it into the preschool account. Diana did share that we could have 2 more students starting preschool in the coming weeks giving us 8 students. She did order some supplies for Valentine's Day and got some more snacks for preschool. Other than that, she doesn't see any big expenses. She did mention she would look into cost of sashes for the children for preschool graduation.

Diana then shared with the council a letter from Bob G from the transition team. We are still waiting for Pastor Dubensky's paper work to come through so that we could then extend call papers to him. He did share in the letter that he also has spoken with Pastor Johnson and that he is still positive about a partnership in the future. He did say that President Buss and Pastor Dubensky were going to be talking this week. That Pastor Johnson has also been talking with President Buss.

Neal then presented to the council a proposal to pay for Bev's health insurance especially with the budget not giving her a raise for the next 3 years. Pastor John made a motion and Bill and Neal, both seconded it. The council voted unanimously I. This is something that would be a great benefit for Bev, and she works very hard for the church. We then also discussed how she has applied for Social Security. We may need to pay Randy for cleaning instead of Bev to make sure she doesn't go over her allowed earnings. We will look into this and do anything we can to help Bev.

The only other topic we talked about was that Pastor Schauer made mention to Diana of our projector and the quality of it. Diana has the name of a person at the district who does tech help. Diana is going to call him out and see what we could do. Pastor Schauer made mention of a laser projector. Diana will call Kevin and have him come out one afternoon and they can discuss options and she will present the quotes to the council.

Meeting was then adjourned with prayer from Pastor John at 8:36 pm

### Living Word News (Continued)

**CONGRATULATIONS DIANA!** Thanks to Diana, Living Word has won the best church website again. On Thursday afternoon, Diana updated and modified our website, and on Friday morning we received the award. Thank you Diana for all of your hardwork and diligence in getting our information noticed.