

## Learning How To Lament

When we lament, we're turning to God with our sorrows instead of letting them turn us away from Him. It is more than a complaint. It is an exercise in trust.

### Inside this issue:

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| "Learning How to Lament"             | 1 |
| This Week at Living Word             | 2 |
| Stewardship/Contacts/Celebrations    | 2 |
| Devotional Time                      | 2 |
| Tot Time                             | 3 |
| VBS 2023                             | 3 |
| Preschool News                       | 4 |
| 3-19-2023 Message Outline            | 5 |
| Mission of the Month/Easter Egg Hunt | 5 |
| Living Word News                     | 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 12

March 19, 2023

## "Learning How to Lament"

We all know that feeling: That grip on our heart when we turn on the morning news to hear about a heartbreaking tragedy that has just taken place; or when we open our email and read about fellow believers losing their life for the sake of Christ; or when we see our culture dishonor God and his holy Word. In our fallen world, there is much for us to grieve. There are many things we hear and learn about on a daily basis that leave us bewildered, confused, saddened, crushed and even downright terrified. What is a believer to do? How do we wake up each day to devastating news, to wars and rumors of wars, to heartbreaking stories? The Psalms of lament

Between the time David was anointed by Samuel and when he finally became king of Israel, he spent a long time on the run from King Saul. Saul wanted him dead and was intent to make it happen. So David and his loyal followers moved from place to place and at times, lived in caves. On one such occasion, while on the run for his life, David penned Psalm 142, which begins, "With my voice I cry out to the Lord; with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord". Psalm 142 is a psalm of lament. Different than the psalms of thanksgiving or remembrance, the laments are those psalms where the writer cries out to God. Many of us read the laments and nod our heads because the psalmist gets it. He knows what the real world is like. He doesn't sugar coat things; he tells it like it is. The words of the laments are ones many believers turn to when they are frightened, hurt or saddened by the pains of this life. But the laments do more than just mirror what's going on in our hearts. They show us how we can live life in this fallen world. They show us what to do when we are grieved by what's happening around us. They show us how to respond when everything in this world is changing and the unknown future fills us with fear. Thankfully, the laments have a pattern we can follow so that we, too, can cry out to God in our distress.

### Learning to lament


- 1. Turn to God.** In Psalm 142, the psalmist cries out to God. For example, he says, "I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him". This is the first lesson of the laments. When we are uncertain, afraid, confused or saddened, we need to come before our Father in heaven. As adopted children, redeemed by the blood of Christ, we are free to come into God's presence with confidence and know that he will hear us. Not only that, but he delights that we come before him. More often than not though, turning to God with our emotions is not the first thing we do. Instead, we usually try to distract ourselves from painful emotions, pretend they don't exist or seek to find a temporary savior to our problems. But the laments remind us that God is King. He is our Savior, deliverer and refuge. He alone is our salvation.
- 2. Cry for help.** In Psalm 142, David then cried out to God for help, "Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!". This is another element of the laments—asking God for help. Whether it is help for ourselves, for other brothers and sisters in Christ, for our country or for our world, we need to cry out to God. Like David, we need to seek God's deliverance and mercy.
- 3. Speak the truth.** The next lesson we can learn from the laments is how the psalmist speaks the truth about who God is. He reminds himself of God's character and goodness. In verse three, David wrote, "When my spirit faints within me, you know my way!" He reminds himself that God knows all things. In verse five, he refers to God as his refuge, "I cry to you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.'" As we cry out to God in sorrow or fear about all that is happening around us, we too need to remember who God is and what he has done. He is good and faithful. We need to remember "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will". *Continued on Page 6*

# This Week at Living Word

Page 2

| Sunday  | Monday    | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday    | Saturday  |
|---|-----------|--|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| <b>19</b><br><b>9:15am</b><br><b>Adult Bible Study</b><br><b>10:00am</b><br><b>Worship – Comm</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br><b>9:00am—12:00pm</b><br><b>Preschool</b><br><br><b>10:00am</b><br><b>Push Prayer</b> | <b>22</b><br><br><b>9:00am—12:00pm</b><br><b>Preschool</b> | <b>23</b><br><b>9:00am—12:00pm</b><br><b>Preschool</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b> |

## March Celebrations



**March 19**     Bobbi Pote



**March 22**     David Merchantz

*Happy Anniversary*



**March 25**     Donna and Peter Wasilkoff

## Church Contacts

**Church Contacts**  
*intouchlwlc@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

## Stewardship Snapshot

**March 12th**

**17 Worshipped**  
**16 Watched Online**  
**33 Total**

**Financial Support**  
 Offering wasn't counted this week.

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.

## 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, "My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going." - John 12:35 (NLT)*

Every single day we live, we will either become more like Christ or less like Christ. We do this by listening and obeying Christ—"walking in the light." The more we listen, the more we can learn, understand and obey, while recognizing that we're not going to have full knowledge of reasons or results this side of heaven.

# Tot Time



**When -** Monday, March 20th  
**From -** 9:30 am - 11 am

**TOT TIME** is back after having last month off. As you can see it will be tomorrow, March 20th. Ms. Diana will have a lot of fun activities for her little astronauts. They usually start off reading a story and then they have play time in the Dramatic Arts Room and they finish the morning off with craft time. This is a great way to promote our church and show that we care about the community and its residents. If you know of anyone who is looking for a free activity for their youngster, let them know about this new event. We keep growing each month, as we have more children than the previous months. The kids have so much fun here.

## VBS 2023

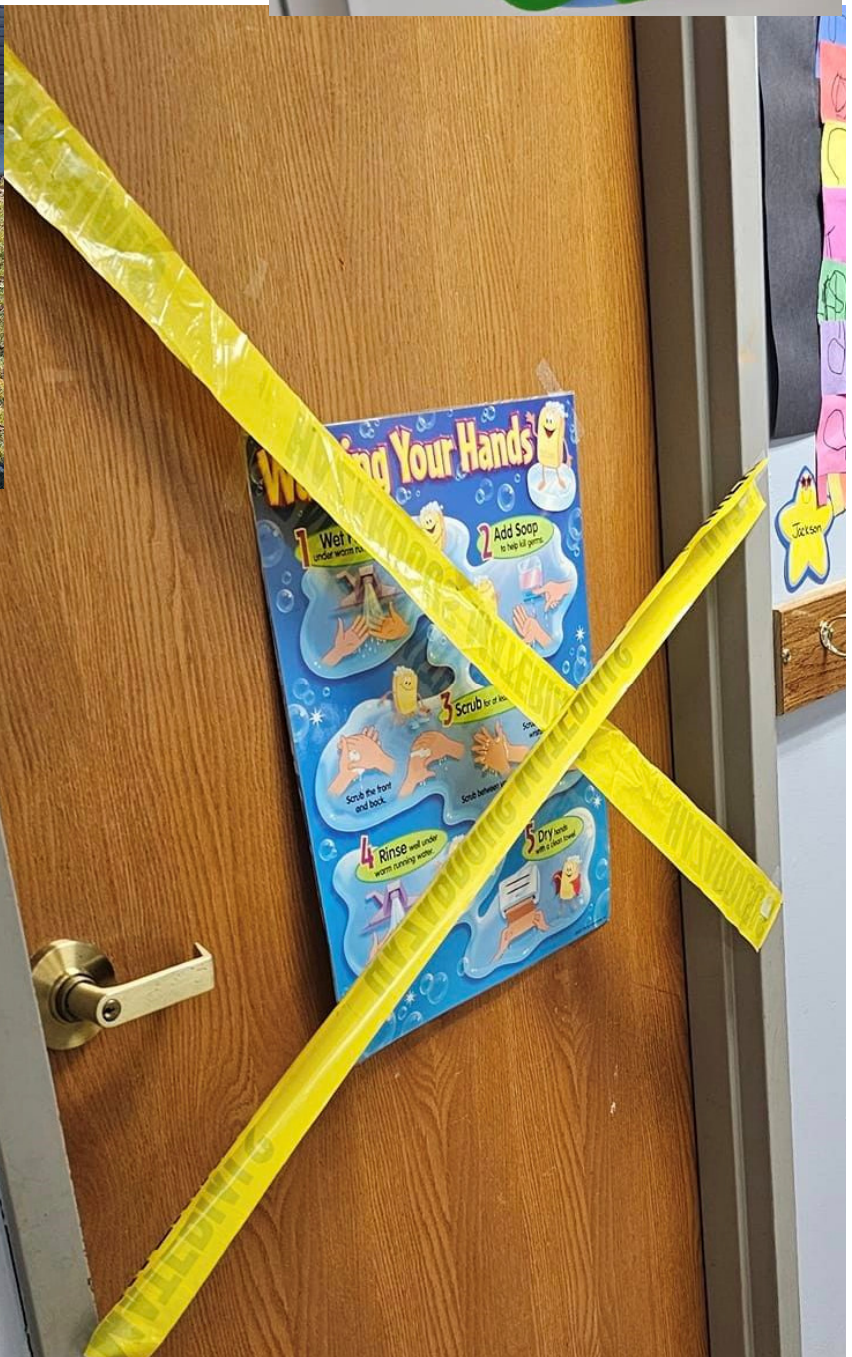


**VBS 2023** will be out of this world. She had only posted this flyer last week and we already have 14 kids signed up for it. She already placed her order for the different items that are needed, and they came in earlier this week. It will be a good month or two before we will get a supply list that is needed and we will have a more definite number of kids that will be registered by then. We will be passing out these flyers at the Easter Egg Hunt later this month, so I'm sure we will have a lot more registered after that event. We are also always on the lookout for volunteers for that week also, it doesn't have to be the whole week, but if you have a little time to spare on a given day, just let Diana know.



## Preschool News

**OUR PRESCHOOL STUDENTS** had an extremely busy week. They started it off on Tuesday celebrating Ms. Diana's birthday. Each student made cards and colored pictures for her, and she even got flowers and balloons that day too. They ended the week learning how silly and naughty leprechauns can be, as one stopped here the day before St. Patrick's Day to make a mess of the classroom and they left footprints all over the building on the floors, doors and even the walls. They even blocked the preschool door off. Those silly leprechauns, lol. And in the midst of all of these activities, they were working on their counting, identifying their upper and lower case letters and the sounds they make and made St. Patrick's Day crafts. Plus they were able to get outside for a little bit on Wednesday to shoot their rockets. You can see more space adventures on our Facebook page and website. Just one more week and they will be on spring break.





## **“Set Free!”**

Today we pray with Psalm 142: *“Set me free from my prison...”*

### **1) “Lord, set me free from idols—You, the true GOD.”**

<sup>16</sup> I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. <sup>17</sup> But those who trust in idols, who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’ will be turned back in utter shame.

Isaiah 42:16-17

### **2) “Lord, set me free from darkness—You, the true LIGHT.”**

<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all good-ness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup> It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup> This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Ephesians 5:8-14

### **3) “Lord, set me free from lies—You, the true TRUTH.”**

As [Jesus] went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. . .

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup> “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup> Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” <sup>38</sup> Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

John 9:1-7, 35-39

## **Mission of the Month**

**EASTER BASKET TIME** For the month of March we will be collecting items for the Easter baskets for the families in need in Orland Township. We have plenty of baskets for right now, but if you’re at the Dollar Tree store, any type of basket stuffers would be greatly appreciated. It could be coloring or activity books, crayons or markers, little toy cars or trucks or action figures and dolls. We will have some eggs leftover and will be filling them with little pieces of candy. She has been putting all of the baskets together the last couple of weeks and I will be dropping them off at the village on Thursday, March 30th. Thank you to all who have helped contribute to both the Easter baskets and the Easter Egg hunt, your donations have helped so much.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** will be next Sunday, immediately after service. Diana had only posted it a few weeks ago, and we already have 130 kids signed up for it. This will be one of our biggest Easter Egg Hunts yet, great work Diana. Hopefully some of those younger egg hunters will want to sign up for our preschool next year too! If you can help donate bags of candy or help with some funding, it would be greatly appreciated. Most of the families have been here for all 3 Easter Egg Hunts and a couple of families have also expressed that they will signing the children up for our preschool next fall. This is a great opportunity to try to grow the church and especially our preschool.



## Living Word News

**NEW ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER** for Jerry and Barb Erjavec. For those that would like to send letters or cards of well wishes and blessings to Barb and Jerry, here is their new address as of February 2nd. 303 E. Washington Street, Bensenville, IL 60106 Apartment #302. They also have a new phone number, 630-238-0320. They will be living closer to their son Gerald Erjavec now. Please feel free to send a card or a note. They would love to hear from everyone.

**NEW DAY FOR COUNCIL MEETING** will be the 3rd Thursday of every month. This month the council met on Thursday, March 16th at 7:00 pm. They went over the church's financials, Bob Grossart updated the council on the progress from his meeting with Pastor Johnson from last week. He was given another pastor's name that Pastor Johnson knows, Bob will be calling him next week and the team will go to the district to get his information. Paul and Neal talked about the issues we were having with the Blink cameras, Neal came on Friday to put in new batteries in the doorbell camera and to recharge the batteries in the camera for Wolf Road view. The council also discussed preschool tuition discounts for siblings of students. I will have the actual council meeting notes from Diana in next week's newsletter.

**CAROLYN SENT US A LETTER** this week. It reads: *"Dear Beverly, Hope all is going well with you and the family. I am doing good and keep myself busy. ... Please send me next Portals of Prayer booklet when it comes in. I would appreciate it very much. Give my hello's to all and know that I keep Living Word Church in my prayers every day. Thanks Bev for always sending me the In Touch and church folder."* It's signed, *Yours in Christ, Carolyn Wagenaar*. The entire letter can be found on the bulletin board next to the office.

**LIVING WORD WORSHIP SERVICES:** Just a friendly reminder that our worship services are always available on our website page, [livingwordorland.org/](http://livingwordorland.org/), on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/livingwordlutheranchurchorlandpark](https://www.facebook.com/livingwordlutheranchurchorlandpark), and on YouTube, [www.youtube.com/channel/UCtpdQI76DeH\\_NECISDEVjqA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtpdQI76DeH_NECISDEVjqA). Plus the worship links are emailed out after service each Sunday. You can watch them at anytime, if you are watching with family or friends, please just shoot us a quick email or give a quick little call on the phone to let us know how many had watched. However, we would still prefer to worship with everyone in person, it is great to reconnect with all of our friends. Don't forget, that its always nice to invite your friends and family to worship with you, this is the only way we can expand God's kingdom and mature God's people and live God's Word.

### "Learning How to Lament"

(Continued from Page 1)

4. **Trust in the Lord.** Lastly, the psalmist voices a response of trust in the Lord, "Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name! The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me" (vs. 7). This is the goal of the laments. They move forward from despair to joy, from fear to trust, from loneliness to hope. As the psalmist comes into God's presence and cries out to the Lord, he remembers who God is and what he has done, and his joy is rekindled. He knows that God rules and reigns over all things. He knows that God's redemptive hand is at work. He knows that God is good. And so he responds in praise and trust. He doesn't know when the Lord will deliver him, but he trusts and believes that he will.

The pattern of the laments is for us to follow as well. When our hearts are broken over tragedy, evil, and sin in the world, we need to lament. We need to bring our grief, sorrow and fear before the Lord. We need to cry out to him for help. We

Our friends Rick and Ted kept reading the next several verses following our Epistle reading.

