

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 32, Issue 17

April 23, 2023

## "Response to God's Blessings"

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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

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

The psalmist, David, observed that when he was weak in faith or was out of God's will, his attitude caused him to not see God's hand in his life and things generally looked bad. However, when he was walking with God prayerfully and in peace, his attitude was positive and he saw God's hand in all that was around him. David asked that eternal question that every child of God (Christians) should ask every day: "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits?" What is our attitude on days that nothing seems to go right? What about the days when we seem to be walking on clouds and nothing can go wrong?

### I. JUST WHAT HAS GOD BLESSED US WITH?

#### A. God Has Given Us Our Very Existence

We have been born in the greatest time of all ages, surrounded with inventions, comforts, etc. We have been born in a country that is the grandest on earth, filled with opportunities, freedom, where everyone around the world wants to come and live. The family we have been born into could have been less fortunate, another nationality, different home/family conditions, a god-less family. God's Word is freely and openly preached without fear of any reprisal and it is being spread all over the world in person and via television, radio, and internet, never before in history has it been so possible to spread God's Word.

#### B. God's Care For Us

Millions through the centuries have died before ever reaching the age that we are today. Things could be so different in our personal lives, such as the comforts we enjoy, our house, our clothing, food, cars, education, vacations, hobbies, etc. We could be afflicted with over whelming trials and troubles of all sorts and descriptions. We could be mentally disabled, not knowing even our own family members.

#### C. God's Salvation

God's love for us, His gift of His Son. God's call to us, His Holy Spirit bringing us to Him. God's peace and joy that is beyond all understanding and description. The whole mystery of our being redeemed, the why's and how's.

### II. WHAT SHOULD OUR RESPONSE BE TO GOD'S BLESSINGS?

#### A. Overwhelming Gratitude To God

God's blessings and benefits to us should leave us speechless and on our faces in our total unworthiness. Every hymn sung with tears of joy, sincerity, love, admiration, humility and every prayer said with choked, quaking words.

#### B. Total Devotion

We should be determined to render to God all that we are capable of. We should utter words of praise but also accompanied with works and deeds. A complete surrender of Self, Soul and Spirit to God. Anything less is unreasonable for God gives us so much.

### III. HOW CAN WE ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S BLESSINGS AND BENEFITS?

#### A. The Jewish Way

The family made vows and kept them. They presented certain sacrifices at feasts and at the close of a feast, the father drank from a cup of wine, passed it on to each family member and then all sang a hymn together as a remembrance of God's blessings to them. Jesus chose this same manner to commemorate His death on the cross. Remember what we call the "Lord's Supper?"

#### B. The New Testament Way

For Jesus' sacrifice, we give praise and thanksgiving with our lips and our lives in service to God. By the cup as we take the Lord's Supper as a memorial of God's great love and Jesus' sacrifice for us - y our lives as we give total surrender to God's will in confession, magnification, and by adoration - thankful in all ways for being a child of God thorough His grace and our faith in Jesus.

# This Week at Living Word

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>23</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Worship</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am</b> <b>Push Prayer</b>	<b>26</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>27</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>




## Church Contacts

## Stewardship Snapshot

<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> <b>Pastor John Bucka</b> 815-931-2961 <b>Bob Grossart</b> 708-870-0202	
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<b>April 16th</b> <b>23 Worshipped, 22 Communed</b> <b>10 Watched Online</b> <b>33 Total</b>  <b>Financial Support</b> \$815.00 General Fund Deposit  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.
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## April Celebrations

  <b>Apr 25</b> Peter Wasilkoff <b>Apr 27</b> Karen Grossart <b>Apr 28</b> Lara Wasilkoff	 <b>Apr 28</b> Nicholas Bonnar <b>Apr 28</b> David Holloway <b>Apr 29</b> Tiffanie West	<b>Happy Anniversary</b>  <b>Apr 27</b> Ed & Cathy Baidis
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## 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** *When Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus told him, "Hurry and do what you're going to do."* - John 13:27 (NLT)

Jesus is troubled for Judas; he is still trying to reach Judas; But at some point, when Judas' mind is made up and he refuses to change, Jesus allows Satan to enter him. Jesus is always trying to reach us too, but we can push Him away to our own damnation. The only way to avoid this is to keep our trust in God rather than ourselves, and allow Him to continually put to death our sinful nature.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS** is every Sunday morning at 9:15am in the conference room. Join Pastor Lee, Pastor John and the others as they review the Word of the our Lord.



**OUR PRESCHOOL STUDENTS** were very busy this week. On Thursday, Dr. Sheri was here teaching the children how to take good care of their teeth. Then on her way out, she found a little baby turtle and came back in to show the kids. They were so interested in seeing it and naming it, so now Dr. Sheri has Myrtle the turtle in her pond, lol. They also were able to enjoy the beautiful weather this week too. They were able to go outside every day and play and on Thursday they also got to play with lots of

bubbles outside before the rains came. Their craft project for the week was to make a mouthful of teeth, you can see their art work on the bulletin board. The Preschool Open House went well last Sunday, one family that was at the Egg Hunt came and talked to Diana and will be registering their daughter for fall, she will be 3, they also have a younger child.





**THANK YOU LAURA** for sending us pictures and greetings. We truly appreciate you remembering us every year! It's not surprising to see what a wonderful and amazing family you and Kent have. Its great seeing how Caleb, Grace and Jordan have grown. It's been too long. We miss all of you very much.

Hi  
LWLC ♥  
FRIENDS!

## WETZEL FAMILY

★ ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23 ★

Home Sweet Home: 5857 Monet, Roanoke, VA 24018

### Coming in 2023-24

- Trips to our favorite places in Illinois
- Manley's Camp Fisher
- Jordan's HS Graduation
- Wetzel Cousin Reunion in VA-We Are Hosting
- Meeting Nephew Michael's Wife Angelica
- Trips to visit Grace in CA and Grace Coming Home
- Lauren Clark's Regatta

### Highlights for the Year

- ♦ Kent & Laura's Trip to MN for Wetzel Cousin Reunion
- ♦ Spring Break Trip to Jacksonville & Naples
- ♦ Hosting Weekly FCC Youth Group Bible Study- C.Re.W.
- ♦ Kent & Laura Trip to Puerta Plata w/Wetzel Siblings
- ♦ JoJo's College Vists to UVA, VA Tech & UT...More to Come
- ♦ July Family Vacation to Alaska with all 5 of our Crew
- ♦ Extended Christmas Time in Elmhurt, IL w/Siblings, Aunts & Uncles
- ♦ Laura joined the Team at Rhino Fin Consulting-Love working w/a best friend & with my son
- ♦ Hiking Mountains, Bowling, Euchre, Yahtzee and FaceTime w/Grace
- ♦ Celebrated Lynn Baringer's Miraculous story & new title of Author
- ♦ Guest appearances Enjoyed With:  
Niece & Nephew, Myles, Sara, Emma, Nathan & Lilly Coverstone and Niece Amber Niemes\*\* All are Welcome 😊



**Caleb 23**

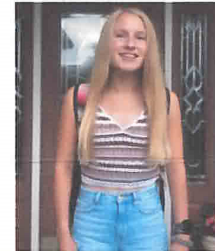
- ♦ Graduated Virginia Tech in December with degree in Sports Media & Analytics
- ♦ Waiter & Bartender at Avellinos Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria...Grandma Novak Maiorano would be proud!
- ♦ Beat Writer for VA Tech Women's Softball
- ♦ Trips to the Gym & Golf Course
- ♦ Learned how to waterski
- ♦ Trips to Raleigh, NC
- ♦ Implementation Analysis for Rhino Fin Consulting
- ♦ Intramural Softball
- ♦ Standing up in Harrison Chromy's wedding in Nov



**Grace 21**

- ♦ Life Group at Rhythm Church
- ♦ Continuing to Volunteer With the Kids at Church
- ♦ Reading Lots of Books
- ♦ Loves her time with the California Manley's (Kelli, Clay & Weston)
- ♦ Home for Camp Fisher & Time with Friends & Family
- ♦ Having Fun Traveling With the Marine Corp

LOVE &  
HUGS  
FROM THE  
WETZEL  
FAMILY



**Jordan 17**

- ♦ 11th Grade at Cave Spring HS
- ♦ Youth Group/Crew Bible Study
- ♦ CSHS Cross Country Team
- ♦ CSHS Varsity Soccer Team
- ♦ CSHS Indoor Track Team
- ♦ States for Cross Country & Indoor Track 4x8 Team
- ♦ Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- ♦ Key Club
- ♦ Math, English, History & Spanish Honor Society
- ♦ Summer Trip to Illinois w/ Siena
- ♦ Babysitting & Pet Care

**HE HAS RISEN!**

LOVE KENT, LAURA, CALEB, GRACE & JORDAN



## Mission of the Month

**LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARITIES** will be the mission of the month for April. I will have more information about LCC in the newsletter next week. Even though we are very familiar with all the work they do and how compassionately they use the Word to comfort and console others, LCC is always expanding their mercy and good work in many different ways, from helping clean up after natural disasters to comforting those who have suffered and endured tremendous losses.

**LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry** was launched in August of 2008, and it is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ. They serve everyday in the community in which they are places in times of disaster and crisis to bring comfort to all those affected, including first responders and the volunteers who serve them.



**LCC Kare 9 Military Ministry** is a ministry by veterans for veterans. They strive to serve our military veterans and their families. The Kare-9 Military Ministry dogs and their trained veteran handlers visit many places including VFWs, VA hospitals, Traumatic Brain Injury Care Centers, homes of veterans that are home bound, Expos, Vet Clinics and various other activities to help spread the mercy and compassion.

**LCC K-9 Police Ministry** handlers are law enforcement officers (current and former) who understand the unique challenges facing the law enforcement community. They bring the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who protect and serve, as well as their families. Crisis Response serves the law enforcement and family members in their time of need, by providing comfort following injuries, deaths or major incidents. Ongoing Support is the K-9 visits (headquarters, substations and dispatch centers), provides assistance with department missions such as Christmas shopping with children, summer camps and public events, comforting crime victims prior to interviews, counseling or courtroom testimonies, and general support for department members and their families.



**LCC Disaster Response Ministries** coordinates deployment of trained volunteers for Disaster Response. When disasters strike; lives, homes, businesses, churches and more are affected. LCC L.E.R.T. volunteers respond quickly to serve people affected by a disaster. LCC teams are trained to work through local churches to serve their communities. LCC Disaster Response provides on-site and online (L.E.R.T.) basic training. Additional training includes expertise in the area of chainsaw, heavy equipment, debris removal, flood recovery, and emotional and spiritual care.

**Hearts of Mercy and Compassion (HMC), Crosses for Losses** provides a physical and spiritual symbol through the giving of hearts and crosses to families and friends who have suffered a loss or are experiencing the illness of a loved one. An HMC can also be given to celebrate a victory, honor service, as an expression of love, or to be an encouragement in the face of adversity. Given as a gift, each HMC provides the love and hope of Jesus through presence and prayer. Upon request, LCC, working through churches, can provide an HMC at no charge.





**“Return to Your Rest”**

Psalm 116:7 says: “Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you.” God invites you to return to your rest. How do we do so...?

**1) REPENT in Jesus’ name; you will RECEIVE God’s Spirit.**

<sup>38</sup>“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

**2) REVERENCE the Lamb, our REDEEMER from emptiness.**

<sup>17</sup>Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup>For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life [Greek “mataios”] handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 1 Peter 1:17-19

**3) RECOGNIZE God’s “Logos”—His Word of REVELATION.**

<sup>13</sup>Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup>but they were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” <sup>19</sup>“What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup>but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup>In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup>but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.” <sup>25</sup>He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. <sup>28</sup>As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup>They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup>and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” <sup>35</sup>Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. Luke 24:13-35

**VBS 2023**

**VBS 2023** will be out of this world. She had only posted her flyer early last month and we already have over 30 kids signed up for it. She already placed her order for the different items that are needed, and they came in last 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 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.

**Living Word News**

**GOD’S COMFORT AND GRACE** to the Gabrielson Family. Early last Thursday morning, John’s wife Joan passed away, she had been in the hospital and rehab for several months. Arrangements will be delayed till the summer when the entire family can gather for the memorial. Once details have been finalized at that time, I will pass along the information. As always, we will keep John, Jay and the rest of her extended family in our prayers.

**COUNCIL MEETING** met this past Thursday. Among the topics that they discussed were the financial updates from Bob and Bill, updates from the Preschool Open House from Diana, and updates from the transition team and they also discussed what repairs are needed around the building. Diana will have more results from the council meeting during her announcements on Sunday and the complete Council meeting notes will be in the newsletter next week.