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PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Eleanor Galik
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

livingwordorland.org
intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:15 am Adult study

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 32, Issue 35

August 27, 2023

"Who Do You Say That I Am?"

Matthew 16:13-20 - Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then He strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that He was the Christ.

It's an important question Jesus asks the disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" He starts with the easier question—what other people think—and gets the usual potpourri of answers. Of course people were speculating. And they were coming up with answers based on a combo of Jesus' miracles, wild rumors, and even prophecies they remembered from the Old Testament.

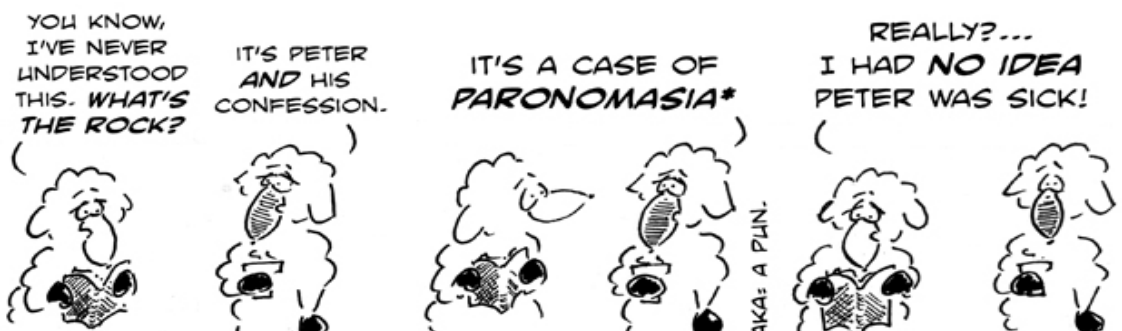
But the disciples stand in a better place to answer this question. After all, they've been living with Jesus for months, even years at this point. They have more to go on than just His public teaching and miracles. They've seen Him in daily life—how He reacts to annoyances, what happens when He's tired, what He does when someone the world considers worthless approaches Him for a favor. And so Jesus asks them, too: "But who do *you* say that I am?"

Peter, always the first to open his mouth, gives the answer: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus praises him! Not for being so smart or clued-in, however. No, He says to him that God the Father has given him this understanding and faith. Because no matter how well we think we know Jesus, it's going to take God's Spirit to give us the faith to truly grasp it: "Yes, this is our Messiah. Yes, this is the Son of God."

And Jesus faces us with this same question even today. "Who do *you* say that I am"—this ordinary hard-working Man, dusty from travelling, tired from teaching and healing, who speaks the words of God? This Man, beaten and humiliated, hanging naked on a cross? This Man, buried in a borrowed tomb? This Man, risen from the dead, never to die again—full of joy and promising everlasting life to everyone who trusts in Him?

And our lives answer Him: Yes, You are our Lord and our Savior, the One we count on in every time of trouble. You are the Son of God and the Son of Man, the One who rules the universe at God the Father's right hand. You are the One who is our hope and our joy even in the darkness, because You will never leave us and never forsake us. You are Jesus, and we are Yours.


WE PRAY: Dear Lord, thank You for making Yourself known to us. Amen.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service	4 Office Closed for Labor Day 	5 10:00am Push Prayer 5:00pm-6:00pm Back To School Night 	6 9:00am-12:00pm Preschool	7 9:00am-12:00pm Preschool	8	9
10 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	11	12 9:00am-12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	13 9:00am-12:00pm Preschool	14 9:00am-12:00pm Preschool	15	16
17 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Informal Outreach Communion Service	18 Tot Time 9:30am-11:00am 	19 9:00am-12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	20 9:00am-12:00pm Preschool	21 9:00am-12:00pm Preschool Council Meeting 7pm	22	23 First Day of Fall 
24 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	25	26 9:00am-12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	27 9:00am-12:00pm Preschool	28 9:00am-12:00pm Preschool	29	30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Blended Service	28	29 10:00am Push Prayer	30	31	1	2

August Celebrations



Aug 28 Renate DiGrazia
Aug 31 Randy Hodo



Aug 31 Sandy Boehm

Happy Anniversary



Aug 30 Joan & Russ Tinich

Stewardship Snapshot

August 20th
30 Worshipped, 28 Communed
15 Watched Online
37 Total

Financial Support
 \$1,480.00 Total 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.

Devotional Time

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *[Jesus prayed] "They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth." -John 17:16-17 (NLT)*

Having been called by Jesus, we no longer belong to this world. As the truth of God's Word changes us, we become more and more unlike this world, more and more ready for the next. And we cannot do this on our own; only the truth of God's Word can work this change in us.

Living Word News

PRAYER REQUEST for Pastor John as he has been in the long-term care facility of the Victorian Village. He is still having trouble with the blood clots. He still has a very strong heart and spirit. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they are very concerned about Pastor John. If you would like to send cards and/or well wishes within the next week or to call him, here is the complete address: John Bucka, C/O Victorian Village, Hope House, Room #17, 12600 Renaissance Circle, Homer Glen, IL 60491. Phone number is 708-578-7091. It is Pastor John's wishes though that you do not come and visit him, as he is very weak and tired, and his health has been declining. I will keep everyone posted as to any new updates.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES has seen a bit of a change starting this month. The first Sunday of every month will be a traditional hymnal worship service and the third Sunday of the month will be an informal outreach service and the remaining Sundays will be the blended service that we currently have. This will be a trial basis for a 6 month period, at which time you will have a chance to express your favorites, suggest minor changes to either service and choose if we do this going forward or use one or the other or go back to the same service styles each week. We will be announcing this on our sign and on our website and Facebook page to see if we can get any visitors or new members.

Tot Time
Ages 2-4 year olds
Monday, September 18th
9:30 am- 11am
Registration required



Tot Time

TOT TIME IS BACK! Diana will be having Tot Time again this school year. It looks like the first theme next month is Camping Fun, lol. If you have any friends or neighbors that have little ones at home yet, tell them about how much they can have at this fun event. Diana reads them a story, they will have some fun time to play in the Dramatic Arts Play Area and they will be working on their crafts before going home. The kids really do love it and a couple have already signed up for it. Hopefully, this will also help grow our preschool enrollment for the fall and winter.



Mission of the Month

AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH is our Living Word Lutheran Preschool. Even though we are starting off with 5 students in September with 1 more starting in February, enrollment is still down and we are looking for ways to help our preschool enrich the lives and faith of the children of the community. Mrs. Diana has been working very hard to keep the preschool open, she has been cleaning out the classroom and planning her themes for the school year. We have handed out pamphlets at our VBS, some of the parents seemed very interested, and we are hoping to hear back from them. As of right now, we have a few more spots available and would love to see a full classroom. Don't forget to spread the word about what a wonderful program we have, and how prepared the children will be for kindergarten. Parents can call anytime to schedule a tour with me or Mrs. Diana. All of the parents from last year had already said what a great program we offer and that they have recommended us to their friends and neighbors. Diana has been here working on getting the classroom cleaned out and ready for the new year. Her returning students won't recognize the classroom with all that she has done in there so far.

