

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 32, Issue 40

October 1, 2023

"Make Us Humble"

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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

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:15 am Adult study

"He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way." – Psalm 25:9

God leads the humble to do what is right and teaches the humble His truths. In this context, being "humble" or "meek" does not mean being timid, weak, or shy. It refers to strength under control. C. S. Lewis quipped that "humble" people do not think less of themselves, rather they are people who think of themselves less. Self-will and pride mark unbelievers, but converted sinners realize they cannot journey through life without God's guidance. The journey presents too many dangers and uncertainties. Therefore, the humble rely on God for direction, and they are not disappointed. Psalm 32:8 counsels us to receive instruction, and the following verse advises us not to be like a horse or mule that lacks understanding and must be forced to submit to the owner's control. Echoing these sentiments, James 4:6 assures us that "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:10 promises, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you." Humility is not always held in high esteem in modern culture, but it is a virtue God honors and should characterize all who want to obtain a better knowledge of God and His way. Obviously, the key word repeated twice in this verse is humble. This picture of humility and the promise to those who have it. He leads the humble in what is right. Like who of us doesn't want to be led by God in what is right. He teaches the humble his way. The key to being led in what is right and being taught the way of God is humility. Who of us doesn't want to be taught the way of God so we can walk in it? So the key to being led in what is right and being taught the way of God is humility, which makes sense. Pride which is in a sense at the root of sin, a desire to do things our own way instead of God's way. Our desire to redefine what is right according to our standards instead of God's standards. So as a result, the proud are not led in what is right. And the proud are not taught God's way because we're rebelling against God's way and we're walking in what we may think is right but not what God has said is right.



Psalm 25:9 Helps Us Cultivate Humility in Our Lives

So Psalm 25 verse 9 just leads us then to pray for, seek out, and cultivate humility in our lives. This is something we all need more of. If you don't think you need more of it, that's probably a sure sign that you do because it sounds like you're pretty proud that you're apparently humble enough already. It makes no sense. We all need more humility, we all need to grow in humility. C.S. Lewis basically talked about it like the great unattainable. He talked about how you work and you work and you work to be humble, and then once you get there, you're proud of it and you have to start all over again. But it's not unattainable. It's possible in Christ, because we see this in him, Jesus was totally humble. He humbled himself, became obedient to death, even death on a cross. Philippians Chapter 2 says for all those who are in Christ, if Christ is in us, then humility is possible for us, but it must be sought, it must be cultivated.

This Verse Encourages Us to Live Life with Humility

So we pray, God, make us humble. And I pray for my life today. I pray that for people who are listening to this right now. Help us to be humble. God, we humble ourselves before you right now and we want to be led in what is right and we confess that we're prone to redefine what is right. We're prone to set new standards and to say, "No, this is right for me, or that is right for me, regardless of what your word says." So, God, we humble ourselves before you, please lead us in what you know is right. We trust in you, your word, what you have said, your spirit to lead us based on your word. Lord please, we humble ourselves before you, lead us what is right and teach us your way. God, I want to be taught your way. Lord, I want to know what you want me to do in my life. I want to be led by you, I want to be guided by you. I pray for this for others who are listening right now. Lord teach them your way. Cause humility to grow in them. Cause humility to grow in me.

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service	2 7:00pm Transition Team Meeting with Pastor Zellmer	3 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	4 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	5 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	6	7
8 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	9	10 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	11 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	12 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	13	14
15 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Informal Outreach Communion Service	16	17 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	18 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting	19 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	20	21
22 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	23	24 9:00am—12:00pm Pre-school 10:00am Push Prayer	25 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	26 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool Halloween Party 	27	28
29 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service Reformation Sunday	30	31 10:00am Push Prayer Halloween 				

October Celebrations



Oct 3 John Bucka
Oct 3 Petra Wasilkoff
Oct 5 Barbara Erjavec
Oct 11 Jill Goebel
Oct 21 Carolyn Wagenaar
Oct 25 Ashley Meier
Oct 25 Pastor Steve Lee



*Happy Baptism
 Birthday!*

Oct 8 Dave Holloway
Oct 9 Joe Urbank
Oct 24 Noah Hostert
Oct 26 Renate DiGrazia

Happy Anniversary



Oct 10 Bill & Abby Merchantz

Stewardship Snapshot

Church Contacts

intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel
dianamotel@yahoo.com

Leadership Team

Neal Hartz - President
Ken Marks—Vice President
Bill Merchantz - Treasurer
Diana Motel - Secretary

Members at Large

Paul Huang

September 24th

19 Worshipped
3 Watched Live
22 Watched Later
44 Total

Financial Support

\$1,915.00 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

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, "If I said anything wrong, you must prove it. But if I'm speaking the truth, why are you beating me?" - John 18:23 (NLT)*

The authority of Jesus comes through loud and clear. Annas has no answer, and sends Him to Caiaphas. The world has no real answer to the claims of Jesus, and often reacts with violence, even today. Pray that God would enable you also to stand firm in the word and authority of Jesus when you are confronted for your faith, and to even endure unjust consequences just as our Savior did.

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

Living Word News

GROWTH IN OUR ATTENDANCE this year. As many of you are aware we have been trying to grow our attendance for worship service, both in person and online. I know some of you think that we still only get about 20 people coming for service every week, but we actually have been doing much better this year. I ran some reports just to make sure I wasn't imaging it, and the numbers have increased substantially. So for the 10:00 am Sunday morning services, in 2022 from the beginning of January to the end of August our in person attendance total was 659 and we had 213 online viewers. This year till the end of August, the in person attendance total is 805 and there were 310 online viewers. That is a 22% increase for in person attendance and a 45% increase in online viewers. These numbers include only church members, including Pastor and Elaine, and they do not include any visitors or extended family members in these reports as we count them as guests. In other words, those totals are even higher. Thank you everyone for helping make this possible. Please keep up the excellent effort in this matter. We love seeing all of our church family and it's so rewarding to know that you haven't forgotten about us. As an added bonus, we also should be eligible for the growth initiative from the endowment fund which would help us tremendously. **Good work everyone!!**

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. Pastor Lee and Elaine visited him last Sunday, he still tires easily, they will keep us posted with weekly updates as to his condition. 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.

CHANGE IN SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES are in full swing as we are getting used to the different formats. 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.

CALL COMMITTEE is looking for anyone who would like to volunteer to join us in our ongoing process of calling a pastor. I have volunteered to join the committee going forward, but we would love to have more voices and input in this process. If you have ever thought that you might want your voice heard in this process, now is the time to act upon that desire. We are meeting with one of the pastors on Monday evening. There were a total of 6 pastors on the list from the district. 3 are not interested in accepting a call at this time, another one had just accepted a new call, and we are waiting to hear from the last pastor on that list that Donna has called.

Mission of the Month



October Mission of the Month Working On Wellness Foundation

Working On Wellness Foundation wants to make it a little easier people with Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, and other conditions by providing chair-based exercise sessions lead by certified instructors. Now these sessions can be accessed through Zoom or via YouTube.

"He Guides the Humble"

Today Psalm 25 teaches us: *"He guides the humble in what is right..."*

1) He guides the humble with a new NATURE.

¹⁸ The word of the LORD came to me: ² "What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: 'The parents eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'?" ³ "As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴ For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die. ... ²⁵ "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust?" ²⁶ If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. ²⁷ But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. ²⁸ Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²⁹ Yet the Israelites say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?" ³⁰ "Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. ³¹ Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel?" ³² For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

2) He guides the humble with a like-minded LOVE.

² Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ... ¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18

3) He guides the humble with an absolute AUTHORITY.

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵ John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?" They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

Matthew 21:23-27

He guides the humble with a like-minded LOVE.



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Craft and Vendor Fair Trinity Lutheran Church New Lenox, Illinois Saturday, October 21, 2023 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

“TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 9 AM – 3 PM – Come out to our annual Craft & Vendor Fair at Trinity Lutheran Church, 508 N. Cedar Road in New Lenox (3 blocks north of the Metra station). They have the most crafters and vendors we have ever had and the building will be full of 40+ crafters and vendors! They will also have crochet and knitted goods, jewelry, soaps, woodworking, candles, as well as Mary Kay, Tupperware, Usborne Books, Pampered Chef, and so much more! Come do some early Christmas shopping. There will also be a bake sale and prizes. Free admission! All proceeds support youth group programs.”



CRISIS CENTER FOR SOUTH SUBURBIA

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

NEAT REPEATS RESALE STORES ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO WORK IN THEIR STORES WITH A BOUTIQUE ATMOSPHERE. SHARE YOUR COMPASSION, TALENTS, AND TIME. GIVE FIVE HOURS A WEEK, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

All sales at Neat Repeats Resale benefit the clients served by the Crisis Center for South Suburbia, a non-profit domestic violence agency. For additional information, contact Michelle McCarthy (708-429-7233) option #5 or mmccarthy@crisisctr.org