



One thing I ask of the LORD,  
this is what I seek: that I may  
dwell in the house of the  
LORD all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the  
LORD and to seek him in his temple.

Psalm 27:4

### Inside this issue:

"The Joy of Trusting in God"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Stewardship/Celebrations/Devotionals	2
Living Word News	3
Mission of the Month	3
Council Meeting Notes	4
9-24-2023 Message Outline	5
Back Page	6

### 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 39

September 24, 2023

## "The Joy of Trusting in God"

As much as we feel life is stressful for us, stress is not unique to our lifetime. People in the past also had to deal with wars, diseases and epidemics, the death of children, constant dental and medical problems, and a host of other hardships. It's like the poster of the classic painting of Daniel in the Lion's Den with the caption, "*Contrary to conventional wisdom, stress is not a 21st century phenomenon.*" The psalms reflect a variety of difficult and stressful life situations that are threatening and disturbing and even cause people to question God or their faith.

Psalm 27 is a prayer and song about The Joy of Trusting in God. It begins with words of faith and confidence. One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I **seek** after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my **life**, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! "Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. **Do not** give me up to the will of my **adversaries**, for false witnesses have **risen** against me, and they are breathing out violence. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the **living**.

**Wait for the Lord**; be strong, & let your **heart** take courage; **wait for the Lord!**"

Psalm 27 is a favorite of mine and of many people because it eloquently and poignantly expresses a central focus of biblical faith, **the joy of trusting in God in all circumstances**.

Psalm 27:1-6 is very similar to Psalm 23 and expresses fearless trust in God which enables David to the face the present and future calmly regardless of many threats. These words are spoken by someone who has faced a lot of hardships and received the Lord's help. All of us face situations and circumstances in life that might cause us to be fearful or afraid. You know what they are for you right now. Psalm 27 describes how God blesses those who put their hope and trust in the Lord. God is our light, salvation, and stronghold, the source of our confidence, the one who lifts us up and protects us and never leaves us. For David trusting God and remaining confident in the face of enemies, adversaries, and foes was truly a matter of life and death. One thing that stands out to me about Psalm 27 is that it pleads with God 5 times DO NOT. Because David's relationship with God is so important to him all of the things David does not want to happen are related to changing his relationship with the Lord for the worse.

**DO NOT hide your face from me.** To "hide the face" is to turn it away with displeasure. Even today when folks are mad at someone, sometimes we might look away or turn our back and "hide our face." This is a contrast to someone smiling at us in a friendly way. The favor or blessing of God is described in the Bible perhaps most famously in the blessing of Aaron, "*May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, and may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*"

**DO NOT turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.** Can you imagine being in the midst of something difficult and going to God about it and feeling like God turned you away? That hurts. It would be like going to the church on Sunday morning for worship and finding the building locked and a "closed" sign on the door. Again, people can act this way, someone may want to talk to us or us to them and the overture is rejected out of anger which only makes the damage to the relationship worse. In days that are past God has been his **help**. This is the reason why he prays and trusts that God will come to his aid once again. As Christians, we call the Lord our light and salvation and the stronghold of our life because of the deliverance from sin and death given in Jesus. I pray that God will help us all each and every day to trust the Lord in the midst of our troubles, tests, trials, and temptations.

## This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>24</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Worship—Blended Service</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>27</b>  <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

### September Celebrations



**Sept 30** Dwight Hostert

### Stewardship Snapshot

#### September 17th

**19 Worshipped, 17 Communed**

**7 Watched Live**

**19 Watched Later**

**45 Total**

#### Financial Support

775.00 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** *Simon Peter followed Jesus, as did another of the disciples....*

*The woman asked Peter, "You're not one of that man's disciples, are you?"*

*"No," he said, "I am not." - John 18: 15a, 17 (NLT)*

Following where Jesus is going can take us into uncomfortable places. We may find ourselves in hostile environments, like Peter; we may pass or fail the resulting test. When we pass, we have another example of God's faithfulness to look back on when the next test comes. When we fail, we can throw ourselves on God's mercy and forgiveness. Either way, this can be a teachable moment for us, as we learn how to trust God instead of ourselves.

THIS PARABLE BUGS ME.  
THE FIRST GUYS GET  
TOTALLY RIPPED OFF!



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU  
THINK ABOUT ALL THE  
PEOPLE JESUS CALLED,  
YOU AND I HAVE COME  
LATE IN THE DAY.



I LOVE  
THIS PARABLE!



MATTHEW 20:1-16

© WETZSTEIN 11.09.13

## 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, short hellos and only short visits are recommended. 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.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES** has seen a bit of a change starting last 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.

**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 met Wednesday evening with Pastor Schauer, our Visiting Circuit Pastor from Trinity Lutheran as he now has another list of potential pastors. This seems to be a much more interesting list this time. There were a total of 6 pastors on that list. 2 are not interested in accepting a call at this time, we are waiting to hear from a couple more that Donna has called.

**PRESCHOOL** started this month. She has 4 students now, one girl will start next month in October after she turns three years old, and one student's little sister will be joining the class next month for a trial basis on Tuesdays. Please help spread the word about our preschool, we have to make sure the preschool keeps growing, Diana will accept students throughout the school year, as soon as the child is three. The first week of school was amazing and filled with fun for the kids. This week they have been working on writing their name and practicing writing upper case letters and numbers.

**COUNCIL MEETING** was at 7:00pm this past Thursday night. They discussed the financials, preschool and updates from the transition team, amongst other subjects. The complete council meeting notes can be found on the following page of this newsletter. Highlights from the meeting will also be announced on Sunday morning during the announcements.

## Mission of the Month



**HONEY SUNDAY** is returning to Living Word this year. We are holding the Honey Sunday on September 24th. For each bottle of honey, there is a \$10.00 fee, 30% of the proceeds will be returned to Living Word, and 70% will be donated to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. This is our Mission of the month for September. If you need additional time, just let us know. Please call me with any orders that you would like to place because if you place the order online, we will not receive the 30%. Please see the bulletin inserts inside of your worship folders for the order forms this Sunday and next week also. Once we have all of the order forms and money, we will fill out the master order form and mail it to them, and you will receive your in the mail. If you prefer, and need to have your honey mailed here, please let us know, and we will just put the church's address on the form. We also have extra forms on the desk located next to the office if you need any.

## Council Meeting Notes

Living Word Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Notes  
Thursday, September 21, 2023 @ 7 PM

Attendees: Bill M, Ken M, Phil H, and Diana M

The meeting was opened with prayer at 7:14 p.m. by Phil. We then began with our financial portion of the meeting. Bill was able to get us a new supplier for our electricity to cut the cost down to .8 cents a kilowatt. We were also able to get a refund of \$1,500 from our previous supplier as well. He is going to look into a few options to help us save on our natural gas as well. We did have an alarming water bill. Normally our water bills are around \$70 to \$80 and our last one was a little over \$500. Bill called Orland Park and was able to get a more detailed graph that shows that during the Memorial Day weekend and the last week in June, we were going through tons of water. We discussed this could have been around the time of our pipe issue in the bathroom. He is going to make sure that all water mains for the outside are turned off just in case someone is using our outside water. Diana did mention that one day someone who rides around on a hoverboard came to the church, plugged their board in to charge, and left. He came back but we didn't get to see his license plate. Diana did state she would really like to get a few more cameras. We may need a booster, but we need one by the garage to really be able to catch license plates and could use one in front of the church and even on the other side by the church kitchen. Sometimes one camera doesn't pick things up so would be nice to have a few to better our chances of not missing anything. Bill said he would be in favor of getting more cameras. Bill also mentioned that Neal knows a tax accountant who did some accounting work for St. Matthews and was able to get some Covid relief funds for their church. Bill gave the accountant the information he needed to look into that for our church as well. Diana asked Bill if he would still need monthly Excel spreadsheets for pre-school tuition. He said not really but to let him know if we got a special donation so he could make note of that. For the month of September, we got tuition for 4 students and a donation check of \$1,000. Everyone was then fine with the rest of the finances, so we moved to the next topic.

The next topic was preschool. Diana did say she will need to buy snacks next month but other than that didn't see any extra expenses. She mentioned that one family, their daughter already attends, and their second daughter will turn 3 at the end of February and will join. The family had expressed interest in whether it was allowed to send their daughter early or even just on Tuesdays while we only have 2 students right now. Unfortunately, due to our licensing under Trinity allowing a child under 3 would be considered more daycare and not able to do it. Diana did mention that one little girl asked why she didn't get to come all 3 days and so Diana did speak with her parents, and they are going to look into seeing if their schedule would allow them to let her come all 3 days. We will have our 5<sup>th</sup> student start the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October. That concluded our discussion on preschool.

Diana then informed everyone about the call committee. We were given 6 names from the district. Donna called all 6 and 3 were not interested in a call at this time. One pastor from IA said he wasn't really looking for a call but was also always open to hearing where God may be calling them. The call committee is working to get some dates available to talk with him. We have another pastor from GA who has not returned Donna's two calls yet. The 3<sup>rd</sup> one is from IL and praying on some things right now and would like Donna to call him back next week. He is also an SMP. Diana did reach out to the district to say that the list we got may not in fact bring us our future pastor and that can they work on another list for us. She also asked about seminary students how many are graduating and what our chances would be to get one if the congregation wanted to go that route. She also asked about pastors who may be looking for a dual parish or partnering as the partnership with Christ is at a standstill. Michelle from the district said she would be meeting with President Buss on Wednesday and get back to her. Diana will follow up with her on Tuesday if she has not heard back from them. Ken did say he would be willing to help if he could with the call committee. Diana said she would keep him up to date and let him know if we get any dates scheduled with pastors so that he could attend those meetings.

Diana then asked if there were any other topics and Bill said he would not be able to attend next month's meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>, so the council agreed to meet on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> instead. We briefly spoke about Pastor Lee and as of right now, he should still be around, but things can change day by day. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm with prayer from Bill.

## ***“Whom Shall I Fear?”***

Psalm 27: *‘The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?’*

### ***I AM NOT AFRAID BECAUSE...***

#### ***1) ...the Lord is both NEAR & FAR.***

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. <sup>8</sup> “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. <sup>9</sup> “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”  
Isaiah 55:6-9

#### ***2) ...God preserves me in both LIFE & DEATH.***

<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. ...<sup>19</sup> For I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup> I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup> I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup> but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. <sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup> so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me. <sup>27</sup> Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. <sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, <sup>30</sup> since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.  
Philippians 1:12-14 & 19-30

#### ***3) ...the kingdom of heaven is for both FIRST & LAST.***

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup> He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup> So they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup> About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ <sup>7</sup> ““Because no one has hired us,” they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup> “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup> ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ <sup>13</sup> “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup> “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”  
Matthew 20:1-16

*“Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger people! Do not pray for tasks equal to your power; pray for power equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.”*

**Blessing:** “Comforted and inspired beyond all fear. Not faltering at God’s command, Learning and increasing from our sorrow God’s light illuminating our darkness. Let us boldly face the future, come what may.”

## Back Page

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

#### **Craft and Vendor Fair 2023:**

Please join us for the annual Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, October 21 from 9 to 3. This is a fundraiser for the youth of our congregation. There will be more than 30 participants. Come enjoy a vast array of crafts and products being sold just in time for the holidays. In addition, there will be a bake sale.

**If you have questions, please email Jan T. @ [trinitycraftshow@gmail.com](mailto:trinitycraftshow@gmail.com)" (or call the church office at 815-485-6973)**

**If interested, please fill out the form online if you would like to be a Crafter or Vendor at our fair.**

"Trinity Lutheran Church invites you to our annual Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, October 21, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Admission is free! This is a fundraiser for the youth of the congregation. Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 508 N. Cedar Road in New Lenox. They are on the east side of the road, three blocks north of the Metra train station at Cedar Road and US 30. If you are interested in being a crafter or vendor at their Fair, visit their website at [www.trinitynewlenox.org/craft-fair-2023.html](http://www.trinitynewlenox.org/craft-fair-2023.html)"



**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](mailto:mmccarthy@crisisctr.org)**