



You're Invited!

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 32, Issue 42

October 15, 2023

"The Parable of The Wedding Banquet"

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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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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

Jesus teaches the parable of the wedding feast as the third in a series of the rejection of the message of salvation by many Jews, the identity of Jesus Christ as the divine Son of God, and outreach to the Gentiles. It's noteworthy that He teaches these 3 parables after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where He eventually endures torture and suffers death on the cross. This raises the tension to a fever pitch as the chief priests & elders seek to arrest Jesus and end His ministry. Isaiah 25:6-9 augments Jesus' teaching as our Lord and conveys the parable of a king who prepares a wedding feast for his son. The king prepares a sumptuous feast of oxen and fat calves. By the prophet, God tells how He will serve up a "feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined". Both passages convey God's provision of rich salvation through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, the groom of the wedding. Reflect upon Jesus and the groom in the parable as Paul relates a husband's love to that of Christ, who gave Himself for the life of the Church, His bride. Where the parable and lesson from Isaiah present images of plentiful richness, Paul's words help us to understand the true nature of God's wedding feast. Paul writes, "I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need". Instead of food for the body, the wedding feast to which God invites us is forgiveness and eternal life. It is these blessings that sustain Paul in peace, even through want and trials.

Digging Out the Gems

Jesus speaks of "those who were invited" referring to the people of Israel, including the chief priests and elders present with Jesus. The Greek verb is in the perfect tense, a completed action of the past. Jesus stresses that He presented the Gospel to Israel all the way back in Genesis, specifically to Abraham, their father. The chief priests and elders should have recognized Jesus as the Savior and supported—rather than opposed—the Messiah. Later in the parable, the king approaches a man not wearing a wedding garment. Shortly, the king orders the servants to bind the man and cast him into the outer darkness. Interestingly, the king calls this condemned man *εταίρε*, or "friend." Why would the king call such a man his friend? Judas's actions in the Garden of Gethsemane clarify. Once Judas has identified Jesus to the soldiers with a kiss, our Lord says to him, "Friend, do what you came to do". There are two lessons here. 1, while Jesus grieves by Judas's actions, His love and desire for salvation continue for the disciple. 2, in the same way, Jesus exhorts the chief priests and elders, all the while continuing to extend grace.

Law and Gospel

Jesus' ministry in Palestine 2,000 years ago, the overarching application of the Law is against the Jewish leaders who had, and did reject Him. Jesus reached out to the people of Israel through the patriarchs, judges, and prophets. His chosen people ignored His call and turned the Gospel into salvation via obedience to the Law of Moses, in addition to many they created on their own. Sadly, many present-day Jews reject Jesus as well. Yet amid Jesus' rejection, as He teaches the parable of the wedding feast, we see rich Gospel. Although Jesus' parables are exhortation, they're also a final call to those who would eventually seek His death. More poignantly, Christ encounters His enemies in the very place where He will suffer and die for them. Rather than run from them toward safety, He walks lovingly into the lion's den. This Savior, who the people of Israel rejected throughout their history, now fulfills His promise to redeem. The world continues to reject Jesus today. Although many respect and emulate Jesus' teaching, they spurn Him as God's Son, our divine Savior. Regrettably, although Jesus died for their sins and desperately wants them in heaven, without salvation through faith in Christ, unbelievers will seek to enter the wedding feast without the Lamb's garment of righteousness and be cast into the outer darkness. For our world today, in addition to Jesus' sweet act of redemptive mercy on the cross, His Holy Spirit continues to work. He presents the Gospel to unbelievers so that they would be saved. For Christians, He convicts, forgives, and nurtures, so that we would spend eternity enjoying the King's sumptuous feast.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Informal Outreach Worship Service	16	17 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	18 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 7:00am Council Meeting	19 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	20	21

October Celebrations



Oct 21 Carolyn Wagenaar

Stewardship Snapshot

October 8th

19 Worshipped

5 Watched Live

15 Watched Later

39 Total

Financial Support

Offering wasn't counted this week.

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.

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

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 *Pilate said, "So you are a king?"*

Jesus responded, "You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true."

"What is truth?" Pilate asked. - John 18:37-38a (NLT)

The truth of God affects everyone. It guides those who believe, and convicts those who don't believe. Pilate is not a believer, but he knows that there is more going on here than meets the eye. And so it is in our lives. As we testify to and live out the truth of God, some will believe and some will not, but our conscience will be clear because we have witnessed to God's truth.

Living Word News

PRESCHOOL is growing. Yay! The fifth student started last week, and fitting in nicely. We just received another registration form from a family who's older son came here last year, and now their younger son will be starting in the winter semester for January and then in February, we will have the younger sister of one of our students start when she finally turns three. She already knows the "Good-Bye Song" that they sing everyday, lol. Keep spreading the word about how wonderful Mrs. Diana is with these little ones, all of the families can't stop saying what a great teacher she is.

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.

NEW ADDRESS for Ethel Hamill and her daughter Sharon Bridson. The ladies have moved again, but they are still in Tennessee. Here's their new address: 113 Eagles Nest Drive, Portland, TN 37148.

HONEY SUNDAY ORDERS will be sent in this week, if you would still like to order honey, please do so on Sunday. As of right now, we have 9 bottles to order, so we can always add a few more before sending in the money and the order form to them.

A NEED FOR YOU AND A NEED FOR CHURCH As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient (who doesn't love not getting ready in the morning or leaving their home?!), it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together from your sofa. Christians aren't consumers either. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We do life together. The church needs you. And you need the church. Wherever you are, find a local church where you and your family can be part of community and use your talents to advance the kingdom and reach others. To come alongside one another physically, not just through a screen. While I'm grateful for technology to keep people connected that can't physically come to a facility or need to be away, it's absolutely not like being in the building. Never will be. Yes, church on the sofa is nice. But it'll never be the same as church in the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing everyone in church. There is nothing like fellowship time among some of your closest friends that share the same beliefs as you do!

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.

"Through the Darkest Valley"

1) The Lord has led me up to the mountain of SALVATION.

⁶On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. ⁷On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. ⁹In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation." Isaiah 25:6-9

2) The Lord now leads me up to the mountain of JOY.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praise-worthy—think about such things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. ¹⁰I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:4-13

3) The Lord will lead me up into the mountain of HEAVEN.

²²Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. ⁴"Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵"But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' ¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless. ¹³"Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴"For many are invited, but few are chosen." Matthew 22:15-22

HAVE YOU EVER
NOTICED HOW JESUS
ALWAYS HAS THE
LAST WORD IN THESE
EXCHANGES?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

DO YOU EVER WONDER
IF THE GOSPELS JUST
DON'T INCLUDE THE
STORIES WHERE
HE DOESN'T?



ME EITHER.



MATTHEW 22:15-22



ARLINGTONS BARBERSHOP CHORUS

**AT: LUTHERAN HOME
ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL
800 W OAKTON
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60004**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15
3:00 P.M**

The concert is sponsored by the Lutheran Home Auxiliary
and refreshments donated by the Lutheran Life Community
Foundation.

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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