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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 41

October 8, 2023

## "Having The Right Mindset"

What's your biggest challenge right now? Breaking a bad habit, or putting a new one in place? Launching a new business, or turning an old one around? Recovering from a bad marriage, or making a good one better? Getting out of depression, or keeping yourself from falling into it? Paul gives us two powerful keys: 1) Set your mind in the right direction. 2) Keep your mind set in the right direction. Setting your mind is the easy part, keeping it set calls for a daily commitment. Anybody can make a start, but you need the heart of a finisher. *'Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.'* The word 'souls' could be translated *'feelings and emotions'*. That's where you're susceptible to *'become weary and discouraged'*. A sober driver will get you safely to your destination, but a drunk one won't! What's driving your life? Your feelings? Your impulses? Your moods? Here are two life-changing Scriptures: a) *'We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.'* *'Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. ...And the God of peace will be with you.'* How would you describe yourself? Are you naturally positive, or negative? Are your decisions driven by faith in God, or by the fear of failure, rejection, or lack? Do you feel good about yourself, or do you put yourself down and feel like a loser? Whatever your answer may be, this much is certain: the patterns and attitudes that rule your life were not formed overnight – so don't expect an overnight cure. But you can make a start by obeying this Scripture: *'Set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things).'* The Bible refers to the Christian life as a *'walk'*. *'Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.'* *'We walk by faith, not by sight.'* *'Let us also walk in the Spirit.'* *'Walk in love.'* Walking is the slowest mode of transportation there is! God doesn't invite you to fly with Him but to walk with Him. Just put one foot in front of the other and keep walking day by day.

When are we most apt to slip and fall? 1) When we are learning to walk. 2) When we are in circumstances we didn't create and over which we have no control, such as ice and snow. 3) When we feel drained, tired, and weak. 4) When we get careless and don't keep our eyes open "and stay focused. Your challenge is twofold: *adopting* the right mindset and *maintaining* it. And if you seek God faithfully, He will help you to do both these things successfully.

Every family has generational 'issues' they struggle with. These are things our parents and grandparents passed to us like addiction, abuse, anger, anxiety, lust, fear, etc. Often we say, 'It just runs in my family, I can't do anything about it.' Yes, you can! You may not be able to do anything about your family's past, but by God's grace, you can change the future for yourself and your children. The Bible says, *'If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.'* Note the words *'in Christ'*. By yourself you can't change your family's dysfunction, but *'in Christ'* you receive the power needed to go in a new direction. If your computer can be reprogrammed, your mind can too. *'Be transformed by the renewing of your mind'*. You say, 'How do I renew my mind?' By saturating it in the Scriptures! Just like soaking your body in water removes sweat and grime, soaking your mind in the Scriptures cleanses and corrects your thinking. The old saying goes: 'Watch your thoughts for they become your words. Watch your words for they become your deeds. Watch your deeds because they become your habits. Watch your habits because they become your character. Watch your character because it becomes your destiny.' God told Gideon, *'Tear down the [old] altar of Baal that your father has'*. In its place Gideon built a new altar to the Lord, and the lives of he and his family were changed forever. And by programming your mind with God's Word, you can do the same!


## This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>8</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Blended Worship Service</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>11</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>12</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>

## October Celebrations



**Oct 11**     Jill Goebel



**Oct 8**     Dave Holloway  
**Oct 9**     Joe Urbank



**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

**October 1st**  
**19 Worshipped, 19 Communed**  
**5 Watched Live**  
**11 Watched Later**  
**35 Total**

**Financial Support**  
 Offering wasn't counted this week.

## Living Word Endowment Fund

### LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 9/30/2023)

The current value of the fund is \$157,830.36 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$20,622.92. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$52,226.71. Of this, \$26,113.36 will return to Living Word for growth initiatives.

#### THIS REPRESENTS A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

To Date:	Total contributions	\$84,980.73
	Market value over cost	20,622.92
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>52,226.71</u>
	<b>Total market value</b>	<b>\$157,830.36</b>

#### HOW THE ENDOWMENT FUND WORKS

Contributions treated as donation for tax purposes. Funds invested by Thrivent Financial. 50% of interest and dividends available for church growth. Interested in estate planning? Call Tim Regan/Thrivent (708-326-4750). If any questions, call Bob Grossart



## 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. 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.

**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 next week, if you would still like to order honey, please do so anytime this coming week. You can email me with the quantity or give me a call. 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.**



**“Return, Revive & Restore”**

Today we pray the words of Psalm 80: *“Return to us, God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see! Watch over this vine, the root your right hand has planted, the son you have raised up for yourself. Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire; at your rebuke your people perish. Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself. Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name. Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved...”*

**1) “Return to us with Your RIGHTEOUSNESS.”**

<sup>5</sup> I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. <sup>2</sup> He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. <sup>3</sup> “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. <sup>4</sup> What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? <sup>5</sup> Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be tram-pled. <sup>6</sup> I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.” <sup>7</sup> The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress. Isaiah 5:1-7

**2) “Revive us with Your RESURRECTION.”**

<sup>4</sup> If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:4b-14

**3) “Restore us on Your ROCK.”**

<sup>33</sup> “Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. <sup>34</sup> When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. <sup>35</sup> “The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. <sup>36</sup> Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. <sup>37</sup> Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. <sup>38</sup> “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup> So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. <sup>40</sup> “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup> “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.” <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? <sup>43</sup> “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. <sup>44</sup> Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” <sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. <sup>46</sup> They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet. Matthew 21:33-46

***The Parable of the Vineyard (Matthew 21:33-46)***

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *Again Peter denied [knowing Jesus]. And immediately a rooster crowed. - John 18:27 (NLT)*

Pruning hurts, at least at first. Even though Jesus had predicted it to Peter, he still denied knowing Jesus three times. The crowing of the rooster brought Jesus’ words back to Peter, and he was devastated. But we will see later that he was moved not to despair, but to repentance. This is an example of how Law and Gospel are used together by God to strengthen our faith and prepare us for (more) service.



# **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.

## Back Page

### 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

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**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)**