



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 32, Issue 45

November 12, 2023

"Meditate—Percolate"

Meditating in Scripture is one of the great keys to spiritual growth. In Psalm 1, David writes, *'In His law he meditates day and night'*. But the word 'meditation' is not one that a text-and-Twitter generation relates to very well. We imagine sober-faced monks wearing hair shirts and chanting on bended knees as the sun comes up every morning. As a result, we want to run in the opposite direction. We admire such people, think God has to call us to such a thing, and conclude that He certainly hasn't called us to do it. Or we think meditation is a discipline that requires hours of uninterrupted time, and time is the one thing we don't have any more of.

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1 And the result? We live busy but spiritually barren lives. Some of us actually think meditation is
2 a fine thing, but we believe that there are too many other areas of spiritual growth and character
3 development we need to work on first. What's the problem? We don't understand what it means
4 to meditate, or the rich benefits it will give us. A spoon of instant coffee is okay if you just want
5 the basic taste of coffee. But if you want more – if you want to enjoy the flavors of the coffee in
6 all their richness – you have to let it percolate. So, we could paraphrase the Scripture this
way: *'In His law he percolates day and night.'* That is what Paul meant here: *'Let the
word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.'* Today, enjoy the aroma, taste the
flavor, and experience the strength.

Let's take this meditate-percolate idea a step further. (If you're a tea drinker, substitute the word
'brew'.) Maybe this will help you ease into meditation instead of feeling overwhelmed by the
thought that you don't have the time or discipline to do it. This is not an all-or-nothing challenge.
Take small steps. If you have only ten minutes, maximize each one of them. You don't have to
read ten chapters of your Bible. You're not doing a book report for school, and you're not going
to be graded on a test.

Read this verse and it will help you: *'But the word of the LORD was to them, "precept upon
precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little"'*. God's Word is so rich with
truth that you can take one phrase or one idea and let it percolate and brew in your
mind, whether you have ten minutes or two hours. Instead of watching TV or constantly
checking your phone for messages, just sit still, drink your coffee or tea, and let
God's indwelling Spirit interpret, enlarge, and enrich His Word as you roll it over in
your mind. Think about it during your drive time, or your lunch or coffee breaks.

Some days you will feel like you have hit the jackpot spiritually; other days you will just feel like
you have added a little more to your basic Bible knowledge. Consistency is the key. Do this for
one year, and you will have 365 scriptural insights to draw on. Can you see how this could
change your life for the better?

Bible meditation has fallen out of favor. Why? Because we live in an instantaneous society, and
a preoccupied society. We have so much stuff coming at us from TV, mobile phones, email,
texts, snail mail, satellite links, cable news feeds, and podcasts that we hardly have a moment
to react – much less reflect. Get real! You can't 'download' spiritual maturity by hitting a few
keys on a computer. That's why the Scriptures speak so often about meditation.

God, the author of the Bible, gave Joshua the formula for succeeding in your career and prospering
in whatever you put your hand to: *'This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth [speak the Scriptures every chance you get], but you shall meditate on it
[when?] day and night, so that you may be careful to do [not just know, but do!] according to all [you can't pick and choose] that is written in it; for then you will make
your way prosperous, and then you will achieve success'*. Note the words 'you will make'. To succeed in life, you must do something. Do what? Meditate in God's Word!
How often? *'Day and night.'*

(Continued on the Back Page)

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

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intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:15 am Adult study

This Week at Living Word

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------|--|--|---|-----------|-----------|
| 12 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion-Worship Service | 13 | 14 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer | 15 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool | 16 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting | 17 | 18 |

November Celebrations

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



Nov 16
Nov 17

John Lyons
Ed Baidis



Happy Baptism Birthday!

Nov 6

Barb Erjavec

Nov 9

Jill Goebel

Nov 17

Jessica Lyons

Nov 17

Emily Olund

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

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

DEVOTIONALS OF THE WEEK *Standing near the cross were Jesus' mother, and his mother's sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son." And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home. - John 19:25-27 (NLT)* - Our culture teaches "Look out for Number One." That is another challenge of the Christian walk — can we continue to trust God to look out for us, so that we can continue to live God's love as we care for others even though our own situation grows ever more challenging and stressful? Yes, with the help of God.

Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, "I am thirsty." A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. - John 19:28-30 (NLT) - Jesus knew his mission, his purpose in God's plan of salvation, and he continued to do it, in fulfillment of prophecy, right up to his final breath. As His followers, that's our job too—to seek and follow God's direction in our lives, in the power of the Holy Spirit, until we finally hear "Well done, good and faithful servant."

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 visit him on Sundays, 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.

Living Word Endowment Fund

LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 10/31/2023)

The current value of the fund is \$155,639.96 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$18,306.30. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$52,352.93. Of this, \$26,176.47 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 | 18,306.30 |
| | <u>Dividends and interest</u> | <u>52,352.93</u> |
| | Total market value | \$155,639.96 |

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



Mission of the Month

November 2023 Mission of the Month

MISSION

Lutheran Bible Translators makes God's Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language they understand best.

VISION

Vibrant Christian communities, deeply rooted in God's Word, engaging fully in God's mission, in this generation.

SCRIPTURE IS
MORE THAN
WORDS



LUTHERAN BIBLE
TRANSLATORS PARTNERS
WITH LOCAL LEADERS
AROUND THE WORLD TO
LAUNCH BIBLE
TRANSLATION MOVEMENTS.

MISSIONS OF THE MONTH for the first part of November will be Lutheran Bible Translators. Emily Wilson will be here at Living Word to make a brief presentation on LBT work here and overseas. The sermon that day has been prepared by a pastor from LBT and will be delivered by Bill Merchantz. The donations that had been collected up to the 19th will then be presented to her in the form of a check after the service for the work in Tanzania. Look for pictures and more details about Tiffanie's work abroad in our newsletter next week. It will be the Front Page article for the 19th. From the 19th to the week of December 3rd will be our Angel Tree again. Diana and I

Mission of the Month
End of November- Early
December

ANGEL TREE

BLESS SOMEONE IN NEED

**Collecting items for Orland
Township Families**

hope to have the tree up by then in the fellowship hall and the angels will have assorted gift ideas on their 'gowns'. Please do not think you have to get all of the items on the angels, we are only trying to provide ideas. The unwrapped gifts will need to be here at church prior to December 5th, so Diana can fill up her sleigh and deliver them to the Village of Orland Park.

OCTOBER'S MISSION OF THE MONTH update, a check for \$295.00 has been mailed to Working on Wellness earlier this week. Thank you so much for your support and generosity as always.

PRESCHOOL is growing. Yay! The fifth student started last month. 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. Plus another family has a tour scheduled with Diana later this month.

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 has another list of names of pastors from the district. Donna has talked with Pastor Schauer and she had called the four pastors to see when they are available to meet with us to discuss the possibility of receiving a call from us. They had a meeting with Pastor Ziemann last Friday. We also had a meeting last Saturday, November 4th with our council and call committee and the assistant to President Buss of the district. We will be meeting with Pastor Prohl from Northern Illinois District that day to go over our call process and other options we have. We received a lot of information, Pastor Prohl was a very good listener and tried to answer all of our questions regarding certain processes and timeline issues. The meeting that was scheduled for November 7th, with the Senior Pastor from Trinity Lutheran of Lisle to start discussing the possibility of a partnership with their church has been rescheduled for Tuesday, November 21st at 7:00pm.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE is Wednesday, November 22nd at 5:30pm. Please plan on joining us for worship and to give thanks to the Lord for the blessings in our lives.

NOVEMBER SERVICES will be slightly different. Sunday, November 19th is the 3rd Sunday of the month in November, we will have a special presentation from the Lutheran Bible Translators, Bill Merchantz will be leading our worship service and we will move communion that day to Sunday, November 12th. Then on Sunday, November 26th we will have our informal outreach service which will also include Hanging of the Greens celebration as we decorate the church for the upcoming Advent Season. Please plan on joining us for a special fellowship time as we celebrate the start of the Christmas season.



GOD'S GRACE AND COMFORT to the Gawlik and Windham families. Alexis Gawlik has been diagnosed with early stages of Alzheimer's and was moved into Lombard Place Assisted living and Memory Care located at 300 22nd Street, Lombard, IL 60148. She was placed in their facility on October 26th, and then on Monday, October 30th, her husband Mitchell Gawlik passed away unexpectedly. Please keep Alexis' two sons and their families and her sister Vicki Windham and her family in your prayers.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS! We have a request from Dianna Bonfield from Lutheran Church Charities for a driver to help a gentleman that is in Alden Estates Assisted Living located behind the Marcus Theaters in Orland Park to be able to come to worship. He is 40 years old, has suffered a stroke recently. He is in a wheel chair, but is able to get in and out of cars by himself. If you are interested in helping him, please let me know.

CARE MEALS WILL RETURN! I am looking to start up our care Meal Teams again. I am hoping to be able to organize a few teams of volunteers to help or assist with cooking or buying different dishes for meals for our families that are going through medical issues, hospital stays, treatments and those who might have lost loved ones recently. My goal is to organize this ministry and to begin officially at the start of 2024, if not sooner hopefully. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me or Diana know.

POINSETTIAS ARE BACK! Prior to last Christmas, the owner of Baas Greenhouse had retired, the nursery has been purchased and is now called 88th Ave Nursery. They are working with us to be able to purchase our poinsettias again, yay! The price will be \$9.50 each to cover their delivery fee, the order forms will be start showing up in your bulletins. The forms are due by Sunday, December 10th, in order to have them here for the Christmas services.

2023 DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE! If you don't have a directory of our church members, look for them on the desk in the fellowship hall.

“Maranatha!”

Psalm 70 says: “*Hasten, O God, to save me; come quickly, Lord, to help me!*” As the end of the church year approaches, we join in the ancient prayer of the church: “*Maranatha...Come, Lord Jesus!*” But while we eagerly await the Lord’s return at the end of time, we also ask ourselves three questions about our personal readiness...

1) *Am I letting roll a river of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**?*

¹⁸ Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light. ¹⁹ It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. ²⁰ Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light— pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness? ²¹ “I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. ²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. ²³ Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. ²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Amos 5:18-24

2) *Am I staying encouraged by informed **EXPECTATION**?*

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the arch-angel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

3) *Am I keeping watch for the Bridegroom’s **BANQUET**?*

²⁵ “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ ⁷ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹ “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ ¹² “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ ¹³ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. Matthew 25:1-13

Stewardship Snapshot

Attendance Totals

October 29th

30 Worshipped
4 Watched Live
7 Watched Later
41 Total

November 5th

25 Worshipped, 24 Communed
6 Watched Live
10 Watched Later
41 Total

Financial Support

Financial Support For October 22nd
\$1,763.00 Total General Fund Deposit

Financial Support For October 29th
235.00 Working On Wellness
1,660.00 General Fund Donation
\$1,895.00 Total General Fund Deposit

Financial Support For November 5th
\$1,275.00 Total General Fund Deposit

"Meditate—Percolate"

(Continued from Page 1)

So what portion of Scripture were you thinking about this morning as you started your day? Or while driving to and from work? For that matter, when was the last time you consciously reflected on *any* Bible truth or principle? If you can't remember, start making some changes right away. Paul told Timothy: *'Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all'*. And that's still the rule!

Bible meditation is different from meditation as we know it in our society. Meditation, as popularly taught by the Eastern philosophies, tells you to empty your mind. That's the exact opposite of what the Scriptures say! Bible meditation means filling your mind with the truth God has revealed. David was a king. Imagine the pressures and problems, demands and decisions he faced each day. Yet he said, *'Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.'*

Have you observed that we waste an awful lot of time doing mundane things such as being on hold on the phone, standing in line, driving to work? In big cities, people often spend an hour or more going to work, and the same coming home. That's ten hours a week. Forty hours a month. Four hundred and eighty hours a year. That's an extraordinary amount of time! The question is, what are you doing with your mind during this time? Just driving along with your mind in neutral? Or listening to the radio or a CD or music on your smartphone? Or getting angry at all the drivers around you? What a great time to get your mind in gear! What an opportunity to grow spiritually and mentally! What exercise does for your body, meditation does for your soul.

The Bible says, *'For as he thinks in his heart, so is he'*. A sign on someone's office wall read: 'You are not what you think you are. But what you think – you are!' If you want your life to be different, start thinking different thoughts, meditate on God's Word!

'The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes...More to be desired are they than gold...sweeter also than honey...by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.'

This prayer shows that the psalmist regarded meditation as an utter necessity to his spiritual life. And if that was true for him in his day, how much more vital is it for you today! You need to bathe your mind each day in the waters of God's Word so that your words and your thoughts are pleasing in His sight. Use your time – the start of the day, at coffee break, during your lunchtime, riding home from work, before falling asleep at night – to reflect upon the truth of God's Word. The greatest changes in your life will come through the process of meditating on the Scriptures – just letting the Word of God filter and percolate through your mind and into your life. First-class Bible reading calls not for snapshots but for timed exposures.

THERE'S A LOT
GOING ON HERE,
I DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHERE TO
BEGIN...



HOW ABOUT AT
THE **END**?



"WE WILL BE WITH
THE LORD
FOREVER!"



I'LL CONFESS. I GOT
STUCK AT "CAUGHT UP
IN THE CLOUDS," I'M
NOT EVEN GOOD
ON A LADDER!



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

For those of us who can relate to his fear of ladders, or just not like them, lol.