



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 32, Issue 50

December 17, 2023

## "Faithfulness"

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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

A new employee once asked a co-worker, 'How long have you been working for the company?' He replied, 'Ever since the boss threatened to fire me!' Seriously, employers scramble to find workers who are faithful and dependable. Citizens long for politicians who will faithfully carry out all of their campaign promises. In the marriage ceremony, newlyweds are asked to be faithful to the vows they make to each other. The truth is, without faithfulness, your influence will be restricted – or wiped out. Without faithfulness, the sum total of all your other wonderful talents is diluted. Faithfulness turns the mundane into the miraculous and transforms ordinary individuals into dependable achievers.

Wise King Solomon asked this soul-searching question: *'Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?'* The world wants people who are faithful. There are more than 300 geysers in Yellowstone National Park (approximately half the known geysers in the world). But one stands above the others. It's not the largest, and its waters don't reach the greatest height, but it's by far the most popular. And its popularity is due solely to one thing – its dependability. People stand in long lines under the hot sun to see it, because according to a precise schedule, it shoots a stream of boiling water more than 120 feet into the air. You can nearly set your watch by it. That's why it's called Old Faithful. People are attracted to our faithfulness. God is glorified by our faithfulness. So in all you do this day, practice faithfulness.

Faithfulness requires making 100 percent of your effort 100 percent of the time. American magazine Insight once published an article by Gary Sheer called 'Strive for Perfection...or Else!' It contained some alarming facts! The article said if 99.9 percent was good enough, 103,260 income tax returns would be processed incorrectly that year...22,000 checks would be deducted from the wrong bank accounts within that next sixty minutes...12 babies would be given to the wrong parents each day...2 plane landings daily at O'Hare International Airport would be unsafe...18,322 pieces of mail would be mishandled within that next hour...291 pacemaker operations would be performed incorrectly that year...880,000 credit cards in circulation would turn out to have incorrect cardholder information on their magnetic strips...20,000 incorrect medicine prescriptions would be written within that next twelve months...and 107 incorrect medical procedures would be performed by the end of that day.

Those are pretty sobering statistics – especially if you are one of the people whose life is affected! Here is the bottom line: only your best should be good enough in any situation. Anything less than that will never be good enough because it reflects your failure to be totally faithful and completely dependable. That's why the Bible says, *'It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.'* With God, faithfulness isn't merely a concept or a suggestion; it's a requirement of all who serve Him – and that includes you! What really counts in life is faithfulness in little things; it's how dependability begins, grows, and matures.

Longfellow wrote, 'Most people would succeed in small things if they weren't troubled with great ambition.' Sometimes we think we're too big for small things; we would rather get on with what we perceive as bigger, more important matters. But here is how Jesus sees it: *'Anyone who can be trusted in little matters can also be trusted in important matters. But anyone who is dishonest in little matters will be dishonest in important matters. If you cannot be trusted with this wicked wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? And if you cannot be trusted with what belongs to someone else, who will give you something that will be your own?'* (vv. 10-12).



(Continued on Page 3)

## This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>17</b> <b>9:15am</b> <b>Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Praise Worship Service</b> <b>Preschool Program</b> 	<b>18</b> <b>6:00pm Gretel Hansen Christmas Music Recital</b> 	<b>19</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>20</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>21</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool Christmas Party</b> 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>

### Celebrations

### Stewardship Snapshot

  <b>Dec 17</b> Eleanor Galik <b>Dec 17</b> Jennifer Lange		  <b>Dec 18</b> Carolyn Wagenaar	<b>December 10th</b> 22 Worshipped 5 Watched Live <u>9 Watched Later</u> 36 Total  <u>Financial Support</u> \$2,260.00 General Fund <u>200.00</u> Building Use (Springcreek) \$2,460.00 Total General Fund Deposit
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### 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.

**PUSH PRAYER** will be available on Zoom now for any of our out-of-towners to join us. I will email the link out to before leaving church on Monday afternoon, so it would be very easy for you to find the email with the link in your inbox. All you have to do is click on the link and it will connect you to the group. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the PUSH PRAYER study on December 19th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89914934012?pwd=MktpdGtNMGZqWlpwa29oVHAra011Zz09>

Meeting ID: 899 1493 4012 Passcode: 103497

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

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+13092053325,,89914934012#,,,,\*103497# US

#### 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.

## Prayers and Devotionals

**PRAYER REQUEST OF THANKSGIVING** for Pastor John as he has been in the long-term care facility of the Victorian Village. He is still weak and a fall risk, but as I let everyone know via email, his daughter Lisa had called me earlier this week and said that they had re-evaluated his condition and moved him to the regular assisted living building. He is now able to join in the meals in the dining area and/or any activities that he wants to participate in, just as long as he has someone with him. His new room number is at the bottom of this page. Pastor Lee and Elaine visit him on Sundays, he still tires easily, and is still weak. He has expressed that he is up to having visitors again. Just plan on short visits with him so he doesn't try to overdo it. My apologies if the directives I had been given previously had kept you from visiting him all this while. 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, **Room #108**, 12600 Renaissance Circle, Homer Glen, IL 60491. Phone number is 708-578-7091.

**PASTOR LEE UPDATE** Pastor Lee was released from the hospital on Sunday afternoon, and is glad to be back home. He seen his primary care physician on Monday afternoon, and has been given a clean bill of health. He is on medicine to help monitor his blood pressure, which is normal again. Elaine and him are very grateful for all of the prayers and well wishes. He will be back on the pulpit for our Christmas Eve services.

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. - John 20:19 (NLT)*  
What is it that has you locked up? What are you afraid of? What has you anxious or worried? Shalom, God's peace be with you. God wants you to know "I've got you. I have strategies and plans if you'll just come to Me. Pray, and seek divine solutions to the problems of our world. I'm sending you into your community to bring good news."

### "Faithfulness"

(Continued from Page 1)

If you want to succeed on the job, come to work on time; stick with the job until it's finished; when you see something that needs to be done, do it – even if it's not in your job description. Give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay; take your designated lunch break, not a three-hour paid holiday; report your expenses truthfully; support the team; and uphold the company's reputation (however, if there is a genuine problem in this area, you should consider speaking out).

In other words, be faithful on the job: *'Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might'* (Ecclesiastes 9:10). That's the kind of faithfulness God honors.

We were not all born with equal talents; some of us are more gifted in certain areas than others. But every one of us was born with an equal responsibility to utilize his or her abilities at full capacity. That's the most any of us can do – and it's what God, who gave us our talents, expects us to do.

Two hundred years ago when the U.S. Marine Corps was first formed, officials gave considerable time to contemplating a fitting motto. They finally chose the Latin phrase *semper fidelis*, a phrase now engraved on the mind of every Marine. What does it mean? 'Always faithful'! Both are important words, but the most important is the first one: *always*. Why? Because a Marine can't afford to be faithful only when it's comfortable or convenient, or when they feel like it, or when it will make them happy. *Semper fidelis* means you must always be faithful – regardless of the cost.

God wants to be able to say the same thing about you as is said about Him: 'Great is thy faithfulness.' So whether you're a boss, an employee, a father or mother, a husband or wife, a friend, teammate, or a Marine, the word for today is – always be faithful - *semper fidelis*.





# Christmas Eve

Join us for our candle light Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 pm on December 24th.  
Our service will also be live streamed on our Facebook and YouTube Channel.



**REJOICE! THE BIRTH OF CHRIST IS HERE.**



## Living Word Lutheran Church

Join us for our Christmas Morning Service

Monday, December 25th at 10am

Our service will be live streamed on our Facebook  
Page and YouTube Channel as well.

## Living Word News

**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 usually be an informal outreach or praise service and the remaining Sundays will usually be the blended service that we currently have. This will be a trial basis for a 6 month period, which will end at the end of January, 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. If you could give your feedback in the coming weeks on your opinions and likes and dislikes, it would be greatly appreciated. The council will be addressing these surveys in the January council meeting. As always we appreciate your participation and value your input. My apologies for misleading anyone in thinking that we were actually voting on the type of service you prefer.

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available and on the desk in the fellowship hall.

**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 HAVE RETURNED!** We have started 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. We currently have 4 volunteers, and we will always accept more people to step up to give a helping hand. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me or Diana know. I will also have a sign up sheet on the desk in the fellowship hall as well. We have already made a meal for Ken Marks' mom last week, and just this week we have made several meals and bought snacks and frozen meals to John and Jay Gabrielson, John is back home now, but he was very appreciative of the care and thought that was shown to them. Thank you in advance for your service and support towards this ministry.

**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 have worked 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. They have graciously reduced the delivery fee and will be delivering the multi-plant 8" poinsettias for the same reduced price of the 6" single plants. If you are looking for beautiful hostess gift this season, or just want something colorful and fresh, please visit them, they are opened to the public and they are located at 20143 So. 88th Avenue, Mokena, IL and their phone number is 815-469-1481. They are a small and new business, and they have been more than helpful and kind to us. Let's try to show that same kindness back to them and help them grow their business.

**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.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** was last Sunday, December 10, after our worship services. We appreciate who came to the meeting, we would have loved to see more of our members however. The Call Committee had information from our meetings this past month and the Church Council had shared information regarding the budget, finances and other important details on various items. If you were unable to attend, please check your email that Diana had sent out on Sunday afternoon containing the Livestream link for you to watch the meeting.

**BALLOTS** have been emailed out to all of our members to pray about their vote to call Pastor Ziemann. Donna has had a couple of follow up calls with him, and he realizes that we are a small congregation and he will not make his decision to accept the call based on salary alone. He prayerfully believes that God provides sufficiently for him and his family at all times. He has also told Donna that he has been watching our worship services on YouTube. He will consider and pray on all facts upon making his decision. We need to have all ballots turned in by noon this Sunday, the 17th. I will have ballots printed out and on the welcome desk in the fellowship hall.

**LETTER RECEIVED** this week from Carolyn Wagenaar this past week, it reads: *"Dear Beverly, Blessings of the season and to all of living Word Lutheran Church and keeping all and the preschool in prayer everyday. Thank you for the weekly Intouch and prayer sheet each week."* It's signed; *"Yours in Christ, Carolyn Wagenaar."* The actual letter can be found on the bulletin board next to the office.

## Preschool News

**PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** is this Sunday, December 17th, during the worship service. Mrs. Diana and the kids have been practicing their songs everyday, trust me, you will definitely be entertained. We already have approximately 40 people saying they will be attending. It will be so nice to have a filled church here that day. Make sure you're here to be entertained and to greet the families. Diana will be having some light refreshments and a hot chocolate bar after the service.



# *Living Word Preschool Christmas Program*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH AT 10 AM

**This program will be held during our  
worship service. We will have light  
refreshments after.**

Living Word Lutheran Church  
16301 Wolf Road Orland Park, IL 60467

