

Turn us again, O God,
and cause your face to
shine; and we shall be
saved.

—Psalm 80:3

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 32, Issue 48

December 3, 2023

"Jesus in Psalm 80"

When we think of great passages in the Psalms which find their climax and fulfillment in Jesus Christ, Psalm 80 deserves its place as one of the great messianic psalms in the Old Testament, even though you may never have preached on it. If you need a sermon to have in your back pocket for one of those weeks when you have two funerals and a wedding, then this article is ready to jump into your back pocket!

There are four key images which are used in this Psalm to describe God's redemptive provision for his people: Shepherd, Vine, Son of Man at your Right Hand, and the "Face" of God. The Psalm opens with the beautiful picture of God as the "shepherd of Israel" who leads His people "like a flock." This is an amazing image which is unusual since much of the imagery of God in the Old Testament pictures God enthroned or His voice thundering over Mount Sinai. Here, we see a tenderness and intimacy which finds its greatest fulfillment in Jesus Christ who declares, "I am the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep". There is no greater sign of God as shepherd than Jesus laying down his life for us and leading us from the barrenness of our sinful wilderness to the green pastures of new life in Him.

Psalm 80 also invokes the imagery of the vine. In the Psalm, the vine represents Israel which has been nourished by God. He brought the vine out of Egypt, and he planted it in a land where it could grow and flourish. Yet, the vine has been cut down and ravaged and burned through Israel's disobedience. The Old Testament first embraces the idea that although Israel has sinned, there was a remnant who followed the Lord. However, gradually, the remnant became smaller until no one was left. There was none who were found faithful. It is another picture of the predicament we are in apart from God's intervention. Finally, Jesus came into the world. He fully embodied Israel. He alone is the true and only Israelite who kept the covenant and loved God with all His heart and mind. It is as the true Israelite that He declares, "I am the true vine". There is no hope for fruitfulness unless we, the branches, abide in Him. He alone is the source of our nourishment and life.

Psalm 80 goes on to hint at this great messianic hope when it declares that in the face of Israel's tragic, lamentable state, their hope is that God would "rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself". Even the great kings of Israel who represented God's "right hand" in the world, failed. It would be great David's greater Son, Jesus Christ, who would stand as God's man at his right hand, the "son of man" who would represent all of humanity in the incarnation. He becomes God's great victor who exercises God's kingly rule in the world.

Finally, Psalm 80 has a beautiful, reoccurring refrain which comes with slight variations in verses 3 and 7. The one common thread in these refrains is the phrase "make your face to shine upon us." You will recall that this is drawn from that prayer of blessing found in Numbers 6:24-26: "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." The incarnation is that great knot which ties heaven and earth together. It is in Jesus Christ, the Incarnate One, that we truly and definitively see the "face of God" shining upon us.

Psalm 80 is filled with images which roll upon the reader, one after the other. Each one is rich in imagery and symbolism. Each one draws on dozens of texts in the Old Testament which would have been familiar to those early singers of this Psalm. But, we know that they could only see in part, what has now been made fully known in Jesus Christ. He is our Good Shepherd. He is the True Vine. He is the Son of Man who sits at the Father's right hand. He is the Face of God which turns to us in the gospel and gives us the light of the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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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**




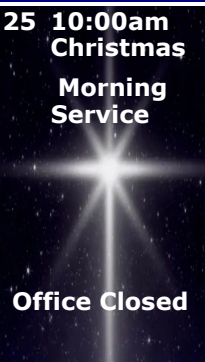

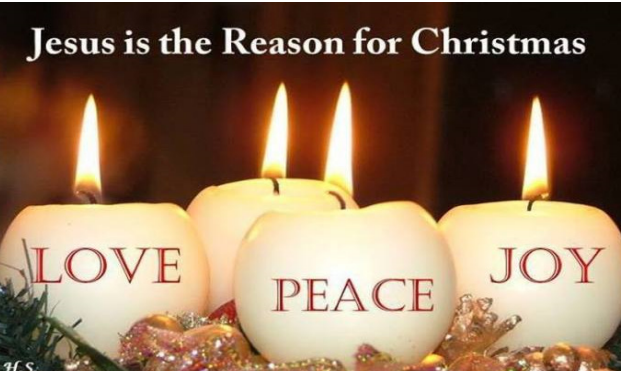
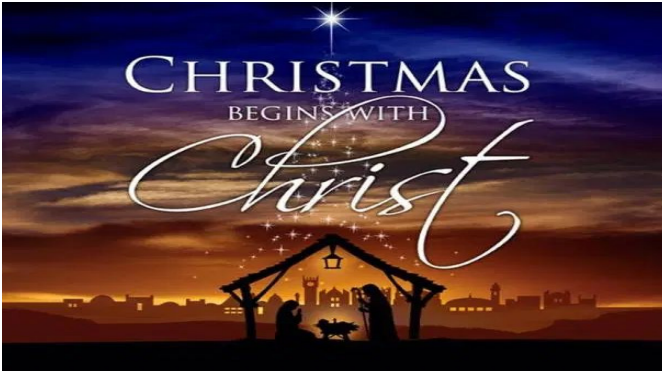
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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:15 am Adult study

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Tra- ditional Com- munion Hymnal Ser- vice	4	5 9:00am— 12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	6 9:00am— 12:00pm Preschool 6:00pm Town- home Meeting	7 9:00am— 12:00pm Preschool	8	9
10 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Ser- vice	11	12 9:00am— 12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	13 9:00am— 12:00pm Preschool	14 9:00am— 12:00pm Preschool	15	16
17 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Praise Wor- ship Service Preschool Christmas Program 	18  6:00pm Gretel Hansen Christmas Mu- sic Recital	19 9:00am— 12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	20 9:00am— 12:00pm Preschool	21 9:00am— 12:00pm Preschool Christmas Party  7:00pm Council Meeting	22	23
24 9:15am Adult Bi- ble Study 10:00am Worship In- formal Out- reach Com- munion Ser- vice 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25 10:00am Christmas Morning Service  Office Closed	26 10:00am Push Prayer	27	28	29	30 1:00pm— 6:00pm Private Event
31 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Ser- vice  New Year's Eve	<div></div>					

Christmas Break—No Preschool

December Celebrations



Dec 17 Eleanor Galik
Dec 17 Jennifer Lange
Dec 29 Pam Hostert
Dec 30 Rick Boehm



Dec 1 Joan Tinich
Dec 18 Carolyn Wagenaar

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

November 22nd (Thanksgiving Eve)

9 Worshipped

10 Watched Later

19 Total

November 26th

19 Worshipped

6 Watched Live

12 Watched Later

37 Total

Financial Support

Offerings were not counted for either service times

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 5th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83280496375?pwd=Wkh6V2tTWmp5S0x3SDBEb3hEUFRDQT09>

Meeting ID: 832 8049 6375 Passcode: 739127

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83280496375#,,,,*739127# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,83280496375#,,,,*739127# 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.

Mission of the Month

Mission of the Month
End of November- Early
December

ANGEL TREE

BLESS SOMEONE IN NEED

**Collecting items for Orland
Township Families**



MISSIONS OF THE MONTH From the 19th to the week of December 3rd will be our Angel Tree again. Diana and I have the tree up 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 this Tuesday, December 5th, so Diana can fill up her sleigh and deliver them to the Village of Orland Park. Santa's helpers already have been hard at work as they have went shopping and bought a lot of presents to be put under our tree.

Christmas Services

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. 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 had a meeting with Pastor Ziemann a few weeks ago. We met with Pastor Prohl from Northern Illinois District 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 church council and the call committee met with the Senior Pastor from Trinity Lutheran of Lisle to start discussing the possibility of a partnership with their church last Tuesday, November 21st at 7:00pm. He had a lot of good ideas to share with us and will be interested in helping us with these ideas, we are hoping maybe they will have some members willing to volunteer for certain outreach activities and events.

COUNCIL MEETING was last Sunday after our worship service and the Hanging of the Greens. They discussed financials and when they would be able to work on a new budget, they were also updated on all of the meetings that the call committee and the council had this past month and lastly Diana discussed the preschool Christmas Program with the council. The complete council meeting notes can be found on the last page of this newsletter and Diana will announce the highlights of the meeting during the announcements after the service on Sunday morning.

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

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.

More News

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. I will also have a sign up sheet on the desk in the fellowship hall as well. 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 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.

THANK YOU LETTER was received from Working on Wellness, which was our Mission of the Month for October. The letter reads: *"Dear Living Word Lutheran Church of Orland, Thank you for your generous donation in support of Working on Wellness Foundation. Your \$295.00 gift enables the Foundation to provide free online seated exercise sessions, live via Zoom or on YouTube, created by our experienced and certified instructors. All are designed for people whose mobility issues may limit their ability to safely participate in more standard exercises. All classes can be done while remaining seated although more challenging options are often demonstrated. Our classes include yoga, cardio, upper body, lower body, core balance, power, coordination and hand exercises. And all of our live Zoom sessions begin with 15 minutes of social chat time, because the ability to socialize is also a challenge for many of our participants. Your generosity helps change lives! We are genuinely grateful to you for sharing our commitment to further our mission."* It is signed, *"Warm regards, Mary Ellen Smolinski, Founder and President"* The actual letter can found on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. - John 20:11 (NLT)*

God knows where each of us is on our path to belief and surrender. He is willing to give us the additional time and experience we need to come to faith. If you are facing a spiritual struggle, don't give up. Stay longer, contemplating what God has done in your past and persistently looking for Him to show up.

Congregational Meeting



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, December 10, following our worship services. Please plan on attending this meeting as it has been a while since we had one, and there will be a lot of information to share with everyone. The Call Committee will have information from our meetings this past month and the Church Council will be sharing information regarding the budget, finances and other important details on various items. If you are unable to attend, please check your email that will be sent to you containing the private link to connect them to the Livestream feature.

12-3-23 Message Outline

“Come and Save Us!”

As Advent begins, we pray with Psalm 80: *“Come and save us!”*

1) “Come DOWN and save us!”

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! ² As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! ³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. ⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? ⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. ⁷ No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. ⁸ Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people. Isaiah 64:1-9

2) “Come IN and save us!”

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3) “Come SOON and save us!”

²⁴ “But in those days, following that distress, ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ ²⁶ “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. ²⁸ “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. ³⁵ “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’” Mark 13:24-37

Hanging of the Greens

THANK YOU to everyone who helped us with the Hanging of the Greens activity last Sunday. The church looks beautiful, and it was done quickly. Also thank you to all who helped clean up too, that meant a lot too.



Council Meeting Notes

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Living Word Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Notes

Sunday, November 26, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.

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

Call committee members Bev H and Donna W

The meeting opened with prayer by Phil at 11:57 a.m.

The 1st topic was our financials and Neal stated he and Ken will be getting together to work on a budget. This will also help with knowing how much we can really afford to call a pastor. There were not many out-of-the-ordinary payments, but we did pay the \$2,000 to the tax accountant to get our refund checks from the federal government. We also had to pay Forest Alarm \$219.00 to replace our battery. Our electricity went down. Neal did inform the council Bev's health insurance did go up by \$75 and the council was ok with paying that increase. Neal did say that he and Ken would work on 2 budgets one that would be if we still have Pastor Lee and one if we were to call a new pastor. Neal made a motion to approve all the bills for October and Diana 2nd it was unanimous. Bill also asked that there be a motion to move \$3,000 from a special donation to preschool and \$3,000 to the new pastor fund which was specified by the person who donated the money. Diana 2nd and it was unanimous.

We then talked about the call process with Pastor Ziemann. The call committee feels confident in placing a call to him and would like to know what the council would like to offer him as a salary. This is what Neal and Ken will be working on. It was mentioned that Pastor Ziemann has the Concordia package and that we know he will need a family plan. The cost is starting to be around \$28,000 and we would pay 80% he would need to pay 20%. Donna is going to look into the specific plans to share with the council to see coverage. We also talked about our meeting with Pastor Price from Trinity Lisle. We really liked a lot of his ideas and would pray he could help us with volunteers to do some of the family projects we would like to have in the future. We agreed we don't want to do a replant which would include having to close the church for a while. We feel that the core people would most likely leave the church and when the church opened again it would be a totally different church.

We will be having a congregation meeting on Sunday, December 10th to present Pastor Ziemann to the congregation and also talk about the budget. Donna is going to reach out to Pastor Ziemann to let him know what we are doing and make sure he is still open to the call process with us. The following Sunday the 17th members will vote by just putting a ballot in the box if they feel comfortable in the call committee sending call papers to Pastor Ziemann.

Diana did mention that either one of the elders or Neal would need to ask that Pastor Lee take off December 17th as the preschool would be performing and some of the families would prefer him not be here.

Diana would also be reaching out to the district to ask for a mission insight report something that Pastor Price mentioned to us that helps see the needs of the community around us.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Phil at 1:09 p.m.

Preschool News



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

