



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 33, Issue 2

January 14, 2024

"Come and See"

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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

In chapter 1 verse 43 we read that the next day Jesus leaves for Galilee. Up to this point in chapter 1 Jesus has been relatively passive in the narrative as he received the disciples passed on to him by John.

Now Jesus acts. He finds Philip and calls to him, 'Follow me'. Jesus hasn't said a lot in the narrative so far. But what he has said has been telling:

What do you want?

Come and See.

Follow me!

We hear an initial probing question, followed by an invitation to investigate, and then finally a demand to discipleship. Let's respond to the voice of Jesus and invite others to do the same. Philip responds in verse 45 by finding Nathanael and announcing to him the one Moses and the Prophets wrote about has been found. Once again, we are reminded of the deep Old Testament roots behind Jesus and the expectations of the people Jesus came to. Philip's response mirrors the response of Andrew the previous day.

We see that good news is for sharing. As soon as he had met and understood something of Jesus' identity Philip immediately went and shared it with someone he knew. John is showing us that the appropriate response to meeting and knowing Jesus is to share him with others. Nathanael is initially skeptical about what he hears about Jesus, especially in the light of Jesus' human origins. 'Nazareth, can anything good come from there?' Philip simply echoes Jesus's words. He urges Nathanael to put aside his reservations and simply 'Come and see'. The encounter between Nathanael and Jesus brings to an end the sequence of days through chapter 1.

In verse 47, Jesus recognizes Nathanael as a true Israelite, someone truly devoted to God, without pretense, in whom there is no hint of Jacob, whose name meant the Deceiver. When Nathanael asks how Jesus knows him, he is told that Jesus saw him, before Philip called him, sitting under a fig tree. This is both physical and spiritual. Nathanael was under a fig tree but we are also reminded of the faithful Israelite, seated under his fig tree, as seen in 1 Kings 4:25 and Zechariah 3:10.


Nathanael is convinced and in verse 49, acclaims Jesus as Rabbi, Son of God, the promised Messiah, and King of Israel. As full as this confession seems to be Jesus says there is more to come. Jesus says here are greater things to see. Using the plural 'you', 'you all', Jesus says that Nathanael, the disciples, even the readers of this Gospel will see heaven open and the angels descending and ascending upon the Son of Man. While they may think they have found the Messiah, they will need to understand that Jesus is bigger. He is a Son of Man kind of Messiah. This will be expanded on through the Gospel.

The reference to seeing heaven opened, and angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man allude to Jacob's dream at Bethel in Genesis 28:12. There Jacob saw a ladder between heaven and earth and angels ascending and descending upon that ladder. Jesus is saying that the link between heaven and earth is not Jacob's ladder but rather the Son of Man. Jesus, as the Son of Man is now the link between heaven and earth. Jesus is the super information highway who communicates God and his character, plans and purposes to us. This an invitation to come and see, to go deeper, to read on in the Gospel; to see greater things in Jesus' ministry and ultimately in his death on the cross and resurrection. An invitation to see and believe.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Blended Service	15	16 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	17 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	18 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting	19	21

January Celebrations Stewardship Snapshot

<p>Church Contacts intouchlwlc@yahoo.com</p> <p>Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel dianamotel@yahoo.com</p> <p>Leadership Team</p> <p>Neal Hartz - President Ken Marks—Vice President Bill Merchantz - Treasurer Diana Motel - Secretary</p> <p>Members at Large Paul Huang</p>	 Jan 16 Bev Hodo Jan 19 Dave Holloway	<p>January 7th</p> <p>21 Worshipped, 20 Communed 3 Watched Live 17 Watched Later 41 Total</p> <p>Financial Support \$1,311.00 General Fund 150.00 Tech Fund \$1,461.00 Total Deposit</p>
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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 easier for you to find the email with the link in your inbox. Just click on the link and it will connect you to the group. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the PUSH PRAYER on January 16th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87160610724?pwd=c1dnOVVJSTZCY2dLZ0dMQk9Edz09>

Meeting ID: 871 6061 0724 Passcode: 239139

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87160610724#,,,,*628952# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,87160610724#,,,,*628952# 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.

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. - John 21:13 (NLT)*

Jesus continues to provide for the disciples, continues to equip them for their mission. And the disciples knew it was Jesus. Do you recognize God in your midst? Do you recognize His provision and appreciate it? As you find yourself in these situations, use them as an opportunity to recalibrate your life around deep faith.

Mission of the Month
Gideon Bible Translators
January 2024 Mission of the Month



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”... Matthew 28:19

The Gideons International provides Bibles and New Testaments to people all over the World. They work with hotels and also distribute Scriptures in strategic locations so they are available to those who want them, as well as to those who may not know they need them. They are a body of believers dedicated to making the Word of God available to everyone and, together with the local church, reaching souls for Christ.

Call Committee Updates

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 28TH!! for greeting and meeting Pastor Kurt Ziemann. Donna has been in contact with Pastor Ziemann since the holidays, she has told him that we will be extending the Call to him as our Pastor. He is interested in coming to see our church and meet our members and join us in worship service on Sunday, January 28th. The leadership team and the Call committee are very excited to welcome him to our church and we would like to let everyone know so you can plan on attending the service that day.



Pastor Ziemann will be visiting us on
Sunday, January 28th

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 was a trial basis for 6 months, which will end this month, 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 5 volunteers, and we will always accept more people to step up to give a helping hand. We don't need you to have to cook anything, one will donate money when need be. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me or Diana know. There is a sign up sheet on the desk in the fellowship hall as well. We have already made a meal for Ken Marks' mom last month, and we have made several meals and bought snacks and frozen meals to John and Jay Gabrielson last month also. Thank you in advance for your service and support towards this ministry.

POINSETTIAS CAN BE TAKEN HOME! 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! 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. Please visit them, they are opened to the public and 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. If you would like to take one home with you, please do so.

PRAYER REQUEST OF THANKSGIVING for Pastor John as he was 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 a couple of months ago 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 from time to time, 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 and won't get too overwhelmed. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they are very concerned about Pastor John, but are very thankful for his incredibly improved condition. 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, please keep in mind, he really doesn't check his voice mails.

BALLOTS have been counted to call Pastor Ziemann. The vote was unanimous. We had 28 total votes. Thank you to everyone who voted. Donna has been working on the call documents and we will be sending them to Pastor Ziemann, his church in Painesville, OH and to the district. Please continue to pray for Pastor Ziemann as he contemplates his decision to accept the call or not. Also, please keep our church in your prayers during this time.

A THANK YOU CARD was received from Lutheran Bible Translators. It reads; *'Your gift to Lutheran Bible Translators supports partnerships with language communities to equip and empower them with the light of Scripture. Thank you!'* It is signed, *"Yours in Christ, Cindy"*. The card can be found on our bulletin board next to the office.

CHURCH COUNCIL will be meeting on January 18th, they will be discussing financials, the worship surveys, so please make sure you fill those survey forms out. I have extra copies in the rack next to the office door if you need one. Diana will update them on the Call process and the preschool as well.

Preschool News

PRESCHOOL started back from their winter break, this past Tuesday, January 9th. They welcomed a new friend to their class. Cooper joined Mrs. Diana's class, he is the younger brother of one of her students from last year. They also celebrated his birthday on Wednesday, as he had turned 3 in November. Not only is it a new year and new month, but it's also new theme. Mrs. Diana is teaching them all about transportation and all of the different types of vehicles. The Dramatic Arts Play Area is all set up with drive-ins and all sorts of cars and trucks. As you can see from the pictures below, they will also be taking off in their very own airplane, lol. I am sure she will be telling them how early they have to leave for the airport in order to check in with TSA and to make sure they have something to eat before getting on the airplane.



1-14-2024 Message Outline

"You Know Me"

Psalm 139 says: "You have searched me, Lord, and you know me..."

1) Because the Lord knows me, I can know His PURPOSE.

³ The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. ² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. ⁶ Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:1-10

2) Because the Lord knows me, I can know His POWER.

¹² "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷ But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

3) Because the Lord knows me, I can know His PERSON.

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." ⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." ⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." ⁵¹ He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man." John 1:43-51

Because the Lord also knows how we all need inspiration with our resolutions, lol.

I REALLY APPRECIATE HEARING THIS FROM PAUL. IT ENCOURAGES ME TO KEEP MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS.

YES!

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TO LIVES OF SERVICE. EVEN OUR IMPERFECT ACTIONS CAN BE EPIPHANIES OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION FOR OTHERS.

I'M JUST HOPING TO LOSE A FEW POUNDS. I DON'T THINK THAT'S ANYONE ELSE'S BUSINESS.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG



1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

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