



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 33, Issue 3

January 21, 2024

## "A Model for Prayer"

In Psalm 62:8, David writes, "Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us" (Psalm 62:8). In this short verse David instructs God's people on prayer with an undivided heart, the kind of prayer God rewards.

First, this kind of prayer begins with a call to total trust in God, a trust which is "at all times." The emphasis is not upon the *level* of trust, but rather the constancy of trust and the worthiness of the Person trusted in. A trust which is able to endure at all times can only be a trust focused and founded on the God of salvation. This is why in the verse before David exclaims that "He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God." God's solidity leads to David's constancy in trust. David trusts the reliable God and constantly rests on his strength.

And this leads to the second point about godly prayer. It is not only constant, it is also honest. That is, it is a prayer offered in integrity of heart. David instructs God's people in verse 8 to, "pour out your heart before him". The consequence of fixing your heart to trust in God is to *pour out* your heart in prayer. For David, trusting in God *is* praying to God. And it is not just any old kind of prayer but a prayer which comes from deep within the heart. This is why we can say that God looks at the *sincerity* and *heartiness* of prayer. Who can read Psalm 34 and not hear the sincerity of David's heart when he says that he "cried and the Lord heard him... Oh taste and see that the Lord is good!" Or in Psalm 16 when he opens his heart before the Lord and proclaims "that my heart is glad, and *my whole being rejoices!*" For David, true prayer requires the whole heart to be engaged.

Not only does he instruct the godly to *constantly* pour out their *whole* heart in prayer, but specifically, to do so "before him". This is a prayer that is firmly trusting in God, pouring out the heart to God, and aware of being in God's presence. This brings to mind the scene in Isaiah 6. Isaiah is brought before the LORD in his temple and throne-room. And the effect of this drives Isaiah, in humility, to be focused completely upon God. The thrice holy, majestic, and terrifying Lord demands complete attention. And it is this kind of focus to which David points his readers. Godly prayer is a constant and honest opening of the heart before God himself. Or that we have "a humbled and contrite heart and undivided in its focus."

But David doesn't end there. He shows us lastly that his prayer before God recognizes God as a refuge. God is a saving God. David goes from the terrifying presence of God to the comforting mercy and grace of God; a God who loves to save and sustain in protective refuge. Earlier in the Psalm David wrote that God "is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken." And he returns to this comforting truth. It is finally in the awareness of God's tender mercy and sovereign protection that true prayer begins to fly. As a young son flies to his Father in the midst of hurt or fear, so too do the sons of God fly to a Sovereign Father who promises to work out all things for those who love Him.

Psalm 62:8 gives believers a beautiful picture of prayer. It is prayer which stems from continual trust in a trustworthy God. It is prayer which pours out the whole heart before God. And it is prayer which knows God as Savior, and which rests in the refuge of his mercies.

### Inside this issue:

"A Model for Prayer"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Stewardship Snapshot/Contacts	2
Devotionals	2
Mission of the Month	3
Call Committee Updates	3
Living Word News	4
1-18-2024 Council Meeting Notes	5
1-21-2024 Message Outline	6
Ash Wednesday	6

### 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

## This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>21</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Worship Blended Communion Service</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>25</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b> <b>Preschool Visit with Lois Stewart from NID</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>

### Church Contacts

#### 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

### Stewardship Snapshot

#### January 7th

**11 Worshipped**

**4 Watched Live**

**8 Watched Later**

**23 Total**

#### Financial Support

**\$1,120.00 General Fund**

### 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 23rd.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85741969068?pwd=Qk9IMGZjTHk3M3o0V2RZVjY3cWRYdz09>

**Meeting ID: 857 4196 9068    Passcode: 533456**

**Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile**

**+13126266799,,85741969068#,,,,\*533456# US (Chicago)**

**+13092053325,,85741969068#,,,,\*533456# 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** *A third time [Jesus] asked [Peter], “Simon son of John, do you love me?”*

*Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”*

*Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.” - John 21:17 (NLT)*

Before Good Friday, Peter had denied even knowing Jesus. Now Jesus confronts Peter about where his true loyalties lie. It's no doubt difficult for Peter, but in the end, his restoration is complete.

**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. We will also be hosting a potluck on the 28th. Please see the sign up sheet to let us know what you can bring.



**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, if they already have been put away, please see me, they are in the office then.

**2023 CONTRIBUTION TAX STATEMENTS** have been printed out and available on the desk in the fellowship hall. If you find any discrepancies in the statements, please give me a call or see me in the office.

**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.

**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.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** had met on Thursday, January 18th, they discussed financials, the worship surveys, VBS plans and scheduling, our annual Easter Egg hunt. Diana updated them on the Call process for Pastor Ziemann and the preschool. The complete council meeting notes are on the following page.

**GOD'S GRACE AND COMFORT** to the Demski, Kempke and Boehm families. Richard Demski, father, grandfather and great-grandfather had passed away last Friday night. Richard (Dick) was fortunate enough to be able to celebrate his 100th birthday in November. Visitation will be held on Sunday, January 21st from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Modell Funeral Home located at 7710 So. Cass Ave. in Darien, IL. The funeral will be Monday, January 22nd at 10:30 am at Modell with interment at Resurrection Cemetery. Please keep all of his immediate and extended family and loved ones in your prayers.



## Council Meeting Notes

Living Word Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 7 pm

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

The meeting was opened with prayer by Phil at 7:12 pm.

The first topic was financials for December and January. Thanks to Christmas we had a good increase in offerings. As of right now, we have \$91,554.96 in general funds, \$63,446.20 in designated funds, and \$6,387.10 in the preschool fund. Neal will look into when our contract is up for our copier because he has seen refurbished ones a lot cheaper than what we pay a month for ours. He would talk with Bev to see what features we need and use currently. Diana mentioned that our technology fund doesn't have much left in it, so the general fund will need to take over those costs. Right now, we have been paying for Zoom, Microsoft Office, Stream yard, and Our Church.com out of the technology fund but these are things we need to continue. Also, Bev's computer is starting to make strange noises and run very slowly so we may need to look into upgrading that soon. Paul was going to look at that as well as the projector in the preschool room that is not working. We also talked about how Pastor Lee should be getting a check for \$205 a month to pay for his health insurance instead of that being included in his pay with ADP as he should not be getting taxed on that. Our water bill is now back to what we normally were paying. Bill mentioned that the general fund did pay for VBS supplies for an invoice that was never paid for. Diana motioned that \$390.11 should be transferred from the VBS fund to the general fund. Phil 2<sup>nd</sup> and it was voted unanimously. Neal also mentioned that since we had more in our general fund than last year we should move some money over to the growth fund which could help pay for a full-time pastor. We discussed as a council that moving some money would be ok and can monitor donations and move more over later if things are still going well. Ken motioned that we move \$11,000 to the growth-designated fund from the general fund. Diana 2<sup>nd</sup> and the council voted unanimously. We also got a \$50 donation on December 17<sup>th</sup> that should go to preschool, so Ken made a motion to move the \$50 from general to preschool Neal 2<sup>nd</sup> and the council voted unanimously. That concluded the financial portion.

Diana mentioned that we have a tour for preschool next Thursday and talking with another family. We do need to think about an open house as schools are already starting to register for the 2024/2025 school year. Diana did mention that if we wanted to look into a 5-day-a-week school year, we would need to hire someone for 2 out of the 5 days as in the spring of 2025 Diana will have to do student teaching and will not be available. We would also have to look into the DCFS part of upping our license to more hours of operating. Ken did mention talking with Trinity Lisle about having someone help us with that. Diana said she could also talk to Lois from the District who is coming to visit on Thursday as well.

Diana then talked about having an Easter egg hunt and VBS again. She already had two families ask when our VBS would be, and she let them know she would know towards the end of February depending on if Pastor Ziemann accepts our call. Neal had also mentioned how he liked the evening once-a-week VBS that Trinity Lisle has done and would like to try that. Diana mentioned that we should probably still do our normal VBS but then offer the family evening VBS after. She feels most of her families who attend now are looking for our 3 hours a day for one-week VBS for their child. The council seemed to agree on that. Neal will talk with Pastor Price about finding out more about the family evening VBS. Diana asked that we have February be Children's Ministry for Mission of the Month to help pay for Easter eggs and any leftover money goes to VBS after.

We then talked about Pastor Ziemann coming and also to talk with him about his health insurance policy and the one that we can offer him. We did agree that we could pay his health insurance 100% since we aren't offering other benefits like car and housing allowances.

We briefly talked about the surveys about the worship styles that we tried out. It seems that no one really liked the informal service and is ok with the blended or traditional worship services. We are thinking that the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday will be a traditional service and the rest blended. This could also be changed if Pastor Ziemann were to accept our call and how he would prefer to lead worship. We all agreed that this would be something the congregation and Pastor Ziemann would have to talk about and work through.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer from Phil at 8:30 pm.

## 1-14-2024 Message Outline

### ***"From Him"***

Psalm 62 says: *"Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him."* From him comes all we need to do all he asks...

#### **1) We share the proclamation from God: "GO."**

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup>"Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." <sup>3</sup>Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." <sup>5</sup>The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. ... <sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. Jonah 3:1-5 & 10

#### **2) We honor our priorities from God: "TIME IS SHORT."**

<sup>29</sup>What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; <sup>30</sup>those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; <sup>31</sup>those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

#### **3) We welcome Jesus' presence from God: "COME."**

<sup>14</sup>After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup>"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" <sup>16</sup>As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." <sup>18</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup>Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. Mark 1:14-20

### Ash Wednesday



# Ash Wednesday

*Following the Way of Love  
through Lent*

*Ash Wednesday Service*

*February 14, 2024 at 6:00pm*

