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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

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 33, Issue 6

"Recognize God's Voice"

February 11, 2024

Remember the childhood game Pin the Tail on the Donkey? Winning in that game was a 'stab-in-the-dark'. For many Christians, determining His will and purpose for their lives amounts to a similar method. But it doesn't have to. Here are scriptural steps that take the guesswork out of it.

**1) Commit yourself to obeying God's will.** Understanding God's will is impossible until you commit yourself unreservedly to doing it. Any desire to retain your own will blinds you to His. You don't need a detailed map; it's a journey of faith. Be confident that God loves you and wants only the best for you, and that when you submit yourself to Him, *'You will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect.'*

**2) Listen for the Shepherd's voice and trust it.** Jesus doesn't leave you alone to figure out His will for your life. He is our Good Shepherd, and His *'sheep recognize his voice...He leads them ...and they follow him because they know his voice'*. Note the words, *'recognize his voice'*. With time and experience, you will learn to know when God is speaking to you. Like Abraham, who submitted to God's will without knowing where he would be led, you're called to surrender your will without knowing where He will lead you. God promises wisdom, insight, and understanding – not to the spiritually smart, but to any person who lacks wisdom. So His wisdom is yours! Always do these two things:

**1) Recognize God's Word as the final authority for deciding God's will.** The Bible speaks clearly on life's important issues. Every other source of guidance must agree with it. And you don't need a theological degree; just let God speak to you through His Word before seeking anybody else's opinion. For example, to tell a lie is unacceptable because God insists, *'You shall not...lie'*. End of discussion. No other opinion is needed when God's Word is clear. But a word of caution: the Bible is a book of principles, not a multiple-choice do-it-yourself manual. Picking isolated Scriptures leads to confusion, not clarity. For instance, *'all things are yours'* isn't permission to choose whatever you want! Principles are established as Scripture is supported by Scripture. But what if you search the Bible without finding principles that settle your issue? Consider the following step.

**2) Recognize the inner impressions of the Holy Spirit.** How can you know your impressions are from the Holy Spirit? By knowing you have fully submitted your will in the matter to God. Your *impressions* must not contradict other biblical principles. Here is the Holy Spirit's assignment: *'When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth...he will shew you things to come'* (John 16:13). Don't be in a hurry. If it's from God's Spirit, it will become stronger and clearer with time and prayer. If not, it will dissipate. So wait prayerfully!

Here are two more ways to know God's will for your life:

**1) Providential circumstances.** When God is leading, the way will open for you. When He sends you, He goes before you. His Word says, *'When I open a door, no one can close it. And when I close a door, no one can open it.'* Who opens the right doors? God. Who closes the wrong doors? God. The right doors lead to blessing, but the wrong doors lead to pain and loss. Nothing but unbelief can keep a door closed once God commands it to open. The only help God needs from you is: *'Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you'*.


**2) Inner 'traffic lights'.** The old-timers in the faith would say, 'I watch for the "checks" in my spirit!' You're a new creature with a new spiritual nature that's 'alive unto God', equipped to sense God moving within you. And while the counsel of wise and mature Christians can help, the last word must be spoken in your own heart. *'It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose'*. If your will is surrendered to God, He is at work in you, directing your will and behaviors. Believe it because He declares it! He will give you the 'red light' when He wants you to stop, and the 'green light' when He wants you to go. Don't go on red! Don't stop on green!

## This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>11</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Worship Service</b> <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b> <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b> <b>6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service</b>	<b>15</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b> <b>7:00pm Council Meeting</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>

### February Celebrations

### Stewardship Snapshot

<p><b>Church Contacts</b>  <i>intouchlwlc@yahoo.com</i>  <b>Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel</b>  <i>dianamotel@yahoo.com</i></p> <p><u><b>Leadership Team</b></u>  <b>Neal Hartz</b> - President  <b>Ken Marks</b>—Vice President  <b>Bill Merchantz</b> - Treasurer  <b>Diana Motel</b> - Secretary</p> <p><u><b>Members at Large</b></u>  <b>Paul Huang</b></p>	 <b>Feb 12</b> Gary Meier	<p><b>February 4th</b></p> <p><b>18 Worshipped, 18 Communed</b>  <b>3 Watched Live</b>  <b>7 Watched Later</b>  <b>28 Total</b></p> <p><u><b>Financial Support</b></u>  <b>\$1,531.00 General Fund</b>  <b>25.00 Mission of the Month</b>  <b>\$1,556.00 Total General Fund Deposit</b></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 shut-ins to join us. Diana will email the link out to before leaving church on Sunday with the worship link, so it would be easier for you to find the email 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 February 13th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85759791628?pwd=dDB1YUROZERac08xRnNHQkdyeU2dz09>

Meeting ID: 857 5979 1628    Passcode: 287055

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85759791628#,,,,\*287055# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,85759791628#,,,,\*287055# 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** *This disciple [John] is the one who testifies to these events and has recorded them here. And we know that his account of these things is accurate. - John 21:24 (NLT)*

In the Bible we have what we need to be saved. This year I encourage you to keep studying the Scriptures, keep believing the testimony of both the Old and New Testament writers, so that you might better know the Living God, and be better prepared to meet Him face to face.

## Preschool News

**OUR PRESCHOOL IS GETTING BIGGER!!!** Mrs. Diana had the 7th student had start this week. Her 8th student will be starting February 27th, right after she turns 3. She has another tour scheduled for next week. Also, the family that just registered Margot to start on Tuesday, is hoping to register their son, who has just turned 5, but they would like for him to come on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so he can be prepared for kindergarten next year. Plus she already knows that 2 or 3 of her students will be returning for sure next year. This may end up being her biggest class yet. Please keep spreading the word about what a wonderful teacher Mrs. Diana is and what a wonderful program that she has at the preschool. Check out all of the transportation crafts that they have made so far this month. There is another transportation craft on her bulletin board, she has changed everything out this week, as it's a new month, so it will be a new theme for her students.

## Easter Egg Hunt

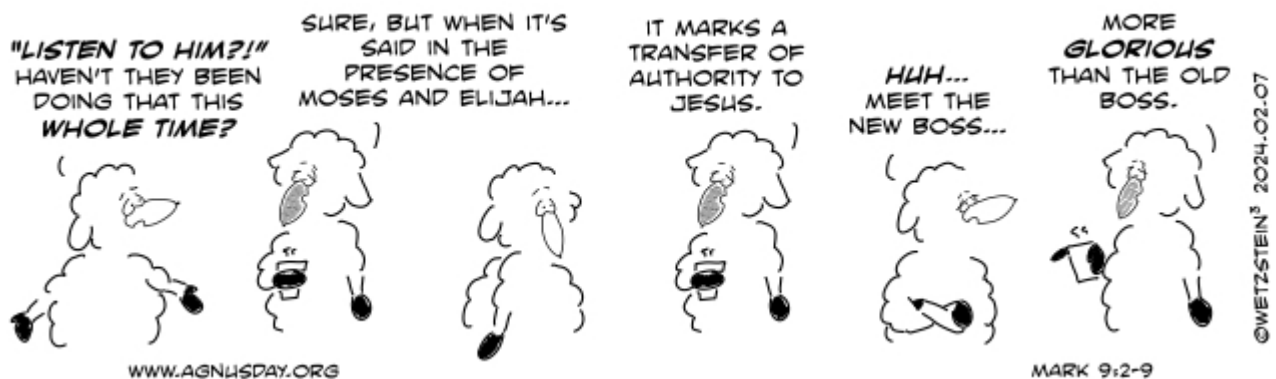
**OUR ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT** will be on Palm Sunday, March 24th, shortly after our service. Diana has sent out the emails to all of our past Easter Egg Hunts and to the families who have participated in our VBS programs each year. So far, she already has 25 kids signed up for the event. You can see on the following page, she is dedicating the month of February for our Children's Ministry as the Mission of the Month. Donations that will be collected will go towards supplies that she needs for the both the Easter Egg Hunt and VBS. Depending on the weather of course, we usually have anywhere from 60—80 kids that sign up for the event, so if you are able to stay after service that day to help check in the families and direct them to the designated areas according to the children's ages, it would be very much appreciated. Also, if you happen to be able to come a bit earlier prior to service, she will be distributing the eggs in each of the areas. You might want to wear boots or shoes that if they get wet or muddy, your feet will still be dry, lol.



**Easter Egg Hunt**  
**Sunday, March 24th @ 11:30 a.m.**

**Ages 1-13**

**Registration is required please see our children's activities tab on our website**





## Mission of the Month



### February Mission of the Month 2024

We will be collecting donations all month long to help fund special projects for our children's ministry. This includes supplies for our Easter Egg Hunt and VBS.

**JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH** was Gideons Bible Ministry. We had collected \$133.00 plus Phil had some people drop off additional cash in his collection box that he had here on the table. Thank you so very much for the generous donations that you had given throughout last month including what was given to Phil on the 28th after his presentation.

**RLOM** (Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries) has sent us another update about one of their newest residents, Angelina Julieth.

*Redeeming Life joyfully welcomes*

## Angelina Julieth

**NOVEMBER 3RD,  
2023**

**4 POUNDS 15.5 OZ.**

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I  
HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES  
THE LORD, "PLANS TO  
PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO  
HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE  
YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.

JER. 29:11



The actual post card is on our bulletin board next to the office.

Join us in celebrating  
the safe arrival of this  
precious baby!

Please keep baby  
Angelina and her mom  
Yeiseny in your prayers.  
We thank you for your  
support for the RLOM  
ministry as *together* we  
support moms and  
babies, providing a  
home, help and hope!

## Greetings

**LETTERS WERE RECEIVED** late last month and this week. The first one was from Carolyn Wagenaar. It reads: "Dear Bev, Belated birthday greetings to you and I wanted to thank you for sending me the Portals of Prayer devotional booklet. I appreciate it very much. I am doing well and keep myself busy. Enclosed find a check for Living Word and I keep them in my prayers everyday. Yours in Christ, Carolyn Wagenaar." The second one was from our other snow bunny, Eleanor Galik. It reads: "Hi, have a wonderful day. \$25 is for the mission of the Month. Stay Warm." With a smiley face. Both letters can be found on the bulletin board adjacent to the office. It's so nice to hear from the both of them. Glad you're both doing well.

**CHANGE IN SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:** Even though we are now in the month of February, and the council has reviewed everyone's worship survey feedback forms, they have decided to drop the informal service every month, but will continue the traditional hymnal service since that was what most people had indicated on the forms, they did not like the informal service every month but did enjoy the traditional service once a month. For the remainder of the Sundays, we will continue with our regular blended service.

**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.

**TRANSITION TEAM** will be hard at work once again, since Pastor Ziemann has declined our call. He did not want to disrupt his family more than they have already been through over the past several years. If you would like to step up and volunteer to be on the committee, please just let Diana know. She has emailed President Buss and his assistant and Pastor Schauer with our request for another list of names of pastors that we can talk to.

**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 for Victorian Village is 708-578-7091, so just ask for Pastor John Bucka when they answer.



## **“God Shines Forth”**

Psalm 50: *“From [Mount] Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth.”*

### **1) God shines forth from Mount SINAI.**

<sup>29</sup> When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord... Exodus 34:29

### **2) God shines forth from MARS Hill.**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.... <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2 Corinthians 3:12, 4:6

<sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” <sup>20</sup> You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” <sup>21</sup> (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) <sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ <sup>29</sup> “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. <sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” <sup>32</sup> When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” <sup>33</sup> At that, Paul left the Council. <sup>34</sup> Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Acts 17:16-34

### **3) God shines forth from the Mount of TRANSFIGURATION.**

<sup>2</sup> After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. <sup>3</sup> His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup> (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” <sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. <sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Mark 9:2-9