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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 7

February 18, 2024

## "It is Time to Pray"

Do you remember when most restaurants had opening and closing hours? It was their schedule, and not your appetite, that decided whether you ate or went hungry. Not anymore: now you can pop into many of your favorite eating places anytime your appetite hits. That's how God operates; He is available 24/7, 365. And although praying isn't limited to set times, there are certain times when it's vital that you talk to God. Here are two:

**1) When you have sinned.** Your emotions of guilt and shame, plus Satan 'the accuser', will tell you to avoid God. But turning to Him is the only solution to sin. Burdened by adultery, deception, and murder, David realized he needed to confess his sin to God. *'Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow... Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me'* (vv. 7, 10). John said God is *'faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness'* (1 John 1:9 NIV). Have you sinned? A fresh beginning is only a prayer away.

**2) When you're worried and afraid.** You don't have to look too far to find things to worry about; they're all around you. Financial, professional, health, and family concerns can make you stressed out and anxious. Where to turn? Prayer is God's answer to fear and anxiety. *'Don't worry over anything whatever; tell God every detail of your needs in...thankful prayer, and the peace of God which transcends human understanding, will keep constant guard over your hearts and minds'* (Philippians 4:6-7).

### PRAYER

**Heavenly Father, help me to stop and pray during my day as I need to be reminded of Your constant presence and availability. In Jesus' Name, Amen**

Here are two important prayer principles:

**1) Talk to God when troubles surround you.** If you're like most people, good times can make you trust in yourself instead of God. It's the troubled times that drive you to your knees – a bad medical report, a child hooked on drugs, a lost job, or a troubled marriage. That's God's intention in allowing troubled times! He allows trouble to afflict us – not to make us miserable, but to bring us to Himself. Hosea, the prophet, said, *'In their misery they will earnestly seek [God]'* (Hosea 5:15). God's fatherly heart wants above all that we abide and confide in Him. And if it takes trouble to do it, He loves us enough to permit it. But when we turn to Him in our troubles, we discover that He is *'our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble'* (Psalm 46:1).

**2) Talk to God at all times.** In his widely-read classic, *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Brother Lawrence speaks of prayer as a continual conversation with God – a practice for all times, places, and circumstances. While cooking and washing dishes, he found conversing with God as satisfying as in his allotted prayer times. He counsels us: *'That we may accustom ourselves to a continual conversation with Him...in simplicity. That we need only to recognize God intimately present with us, and to address ourselves to Him every moment.'* That sounds like Paul's instructions on the subject: *'Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests...always keep on praying for all the Lord's people'* (Ephesians 6:18).

### PRAYER


**Heavenly Father, help me keep you in my mind throughout the day and into the night. In Jesus' Name, Amen**

## This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>18</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Blended Worship Service - Communion</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b> <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>21</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>22</b> <b>9:00am—12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</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><b>Leadership Team</b></p> <p>Neal Hartz - President  Ken Marks—Vice President  Bill Merchantz - Treasurer  Diana Motel - Secretary</p> <p><b>Members at Large</b>  Paul Huang</p>	 <b>Feb 12</b> Gary Meier	<p><b>February 11th</b></p> <p><b>16 Worshipped</b>  <b>1 Watched Live</b>  <b>7 Watched Later</b>  <b>24 Total</b></p> <p><b>Financial Support</b>  <b>\$1,370.00 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 20th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81041239005?pwd=d3BxLBWbTlZRVpuSGhgTXc2dGRldz09>

Meeting ID: 810 4123 9005    Passcode: 678430

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81041239005#,,,,\*678430# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,81041239005#,,,,\*678430# 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 one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. - 1 John 1:2a (NLT)*

Jesus is our one and only Savior. Jesus is life itself; in Him we live and move and have our being. Because of His sinless life and unjust suffering and death, we can have eternal life in Him as well. As we study the first epistle of John over the following weeks, allow the Holy Spirit to increase your fellowship with the Father and the Son, and with His followers.



## Preschool News

**OUR PRESCHOOL IS GETTING BIGGER!!!** Mrs. Diana had the 7th student had start last 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, 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 last week, as it was a new month, so it's a new theme for her students. The theme of course, is love and all the ways we show how we care for people. She brought in special snacks for them for their Valentine's Day party. I think you will agree that they look very yummy, and then they love to do dance and yoga with the different videos that she shows.



## Living Word News

**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 late last year, and we have made several meals and bought snacks and frozen meals to John and Jay Gabrielson at the end of the year 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.

**THE CHURCH COUNCIL** had their monthly meeting on Thursday, February 15th. Among the topics that were discussed was the congregation to vote on our worship services, financials, preschool, security cameras, call committee updates and our constitution. The notes from the meeting will be in next week's newsletter and the more important items will be in the announcements on Sunday morning after service.

**A NEED FOR YOU AND A NEED FOR OUR CHURCH** As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient (who doesn't love not getting ready in the morning or leaving their home?!), especially in the winter, lol, it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together from your sofa. Christians aren't consumers either. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We do life together. The church needs you. More importantly, our church needs you. And you need our church. Wherever you are, find a local church where you and your family can be part of community and use your talents to advance the kingdom and reach others. To come alongside one another physically, not just through a screen. While I'm grateful for technology to keep people connected that can't physically come to a facility or need to be away, it's absolutely not like being in the building. Never will be. Yes, church on the sofa is nice. But it'll never be the same as church in the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing everyone in church. There is nothing like fellowship time among some of your closest friends that share the same beliefs as you do! We all need to keep our church growing, please help nurture Living Word and your church family.



## 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.

### 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 bottom of this 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

## "Teach Me Your Paths"

On our Lenten journey we pray Psalm 25: "Teach me Your paths..."

### 1) "In testings, teach me to TRUST You."

<sup>22</sup> Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. <sup>2</sup> Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." <sup>3</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." <sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, <sup>7</sup> Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. <sup>9</sup> When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. <sup>12</sup> "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." <sup>13</sup> Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." <sup>15</sup> The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup> and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore... <sup>18</sup> and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Genesis 22:1-18

### 2) "In trials, teach me Your TRUTH."

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup> When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup> but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. <sup>16</sup> Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. <sup>18</sup> He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

James 1:12-18

### 3) "In temptations, teach me to TURN to You."

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. <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!"

Mark 1:9-15

