

give thanks
to the LORD.
FOR HE IS GOOD;
HIS
LOVE endures
forever.

PSALM 107:1

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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 TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 33, Issue 10

"Longing for God"

March 10, 2024

Now, Psalm 107:1 is a common refrain, a common phrase in the Psalms, "The steadfast love of God endures forever."

Psalm 107:1 Reminds Us God's Love Is Forever

In a world of fleeting love and heartbreak, we can rest assured that God's love for us is steadfast and endures forever. We live in a world where people let us down in ways that are so hurtful, in ways that have affects on our lives for a long time, maybe the rest of our lives. And so to open up the Bible and to hear these words about God, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever." Doesn't that reality just boom from the pages of the Bible? Across a world where love in so many ways, in so many relationships doesn't last, the steadfast love of the one who matters most lasts forever. And there's an exclamation point on the end of Psalm 107:1, and I think there's a good reason for it there because this is good news. God is good and His steadfast love for you endures forever. For all who trusts in Him, for all who lean on Him, for all who look to Him, the steadfast love of God endures forever. For all who have turned from sin and self, trusted in Jesus, what He has done.

Psalm 107:1 Reminds Us God Saved Us

Out of the Father's love, God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will never perish, but have eternal life. For all who trust in Jesus, you enter into relationship with God that will last forever. For all of eternity, you have life that can depend on the love of God. So no matter who lets you down and no matter how much it hurts, you can always look up and know that the one who matters most, His steadfast love for you, unfailing love for you will never ever, ever end.

This Verse Leads Us to Praise God

All glory be to Your name, Oh God for Your love, for Your steadfast love that lasts forever. For your steadfast love that lasts forever. God, thank You. Thank You that no matter what happens tomorrow...I have no idea what's going to happen to my life tomorrow, or the next day, or the next day. None of us do, but we do know this, no matter what happens tomorrow or the next day or the next day, You will love us with us steadfast love that will never, ever, ever end. 10 billion years from now, You will still love us with a steadfast love. We bank our lives on this God, we trust and this and we praise You for this. We say with the Psalmist, "Yes, You are good and we thank You for Your steadfast love endures forever. God, I pray. I pray particularly for those who may be fresh off of hurt and pain. For those who are experiencing right now, hurt and pain from someone who has loved them for a little while and is no longer there. So, I just pray that especially right now, as they lift their eyes to You, they would know You are love for them and they would know that love will last forever as they trust in Jesus, as they look to You. In His name, we pray. In Jesus name, we pray, amen.

For he satisfies the longing soul and the hungry soul fills with good things. – Psalm 107:9

Oh, as you hear that verse, I just want to encourage you to ask the question, do you have a soul that longs for God? Like truly does your soul long for God? Is it evident in your life?

Psalm 107:9 Invites Us to Feast on God's Goodness

There's a longing for God, the hungry soul, God fills with good things. Is your soul hungry? Do you hunger for more of God? Do you desire crave more of God? According to Psalm 107:9, this is the key to satisfaction in your soul. This is the key to your soul, your heart, your mind, your life being filled with good things. God satisfies the longing soul. God builds with good things, the hungry soul. And I just want to encourage you today to cultivate this kind of soul, this kind of heart before God. It's hungry for him. You say, well, how do I, how do I make my heart hungry for him? And the answer to that question is by feasting on him.

Psalm 107:9 Invites Us to Find Our Soul's Contentment Only in God

It's not to say just feast on God, even if it doesn't taste good and your taste buds will change. But it's saying, if we spend our lives feasting on the things of this world, if we spend our idle time just scrolling through the phone and looking at all kinds of stuff in this world and filling our minds with Netflix and video games or sports or a million other things that might vie for our mind's attention, our heart's affection of this world, when we eat from the table of this world, we shouldn't be surprised that our stomachs are full. We don't have hunger for God. So how do you transform that? Get alone with God. Put aside the things of this world. Get into his word. And what will happen is your soul will begin to realize this is what you were made for. God is the one for whom you were made. And your soul will find a satisfaction in him that nothing in this world can compare with your soul, will find good things in God that will leave you craving for more and more and more of him. Oh God, create this kind of longing in all of our souls, this kind of hunger in all of our souls. Wean us off our constant nibbling at tasting a feasting on the things of this world that do not satisfy our souls. And teach us to feast on you to find our satisfaction in you, knowing that according to your word, you satisfy the longing soul. You fill with good things, the hungry soul. So may our souls hunger and long for you over and above everything in this world.

Praying for the Jirel People

And God, even as we pray that in our lives, we pray for the Jirel people of Nepal who've never tasted, have never seen the satisfaction you bring in Jesus because they've never even heard the gospel of Jesus God. For the sake of their satisfaction, for the sake of their souls being filled with good things. We pray for the spread of your grace in the gospel to the Jirel people of Nepal, that they might have their longing souls satisfied in Jesus, that they might have their hungry, starving souls filled with the good things that flow from your grace. God, we pray this over the Jirel people of Nepal, even as we pray this over our own lives, according to your word in Psalm 107:9, in Jesus name, amen.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service Daylight Savings Time Begins	11	12 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	13 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting	14 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	15	16

March Celebrations

	
March 14 Diana Motel	Mar 10 Gary Meier Mar 14 Matt Meier Mar 15 Anita Meier

Stewardship Snapshot

March 3rd
 16 Worshipped, 16 Communed
 5 Watched Live
12 Watched Later
 33 Total
Financial Support
 Offering was not counted last week

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 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 March 12th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86945804972?pwd=aHVYTnVib2lpTmcranVHYkRjWkE5QT09>

Meeting ID: 869 4580 4972 Passcode: 545106

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86945804972#,,,,*545106# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,86945804972#,,,,*545106# 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

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness. - 1 John 2:11 (NLT)*

Our battle is not against flesh and blood. When we recognize that our true enemies are the forces of darkness, it frees us to love

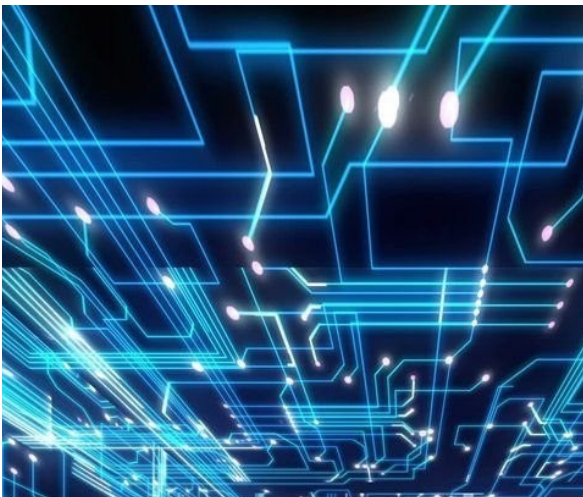
PRAYER REQUEST OF THANKSGIVING for Pastor John as he was in the long-term care facility of the Victorian Village. He is still weak and a fall risk, but as they had re-evaluated his condition and moved him to the regular assisted living building. He is now able to join in the meals in the dining area 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. 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 improved condition. If you would like to send cards and/or well wishes 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.

March Mission of the Month

March Mission of the Month

Technology Fund

For the month of March, we will be collecting donations to update some of our technology. We will be installing a new security camera system and also updating some of our computers. Bev's computer needs to be replaced. As we love to help other organizations and our community we also need to do some updating around the church. You can bring your donation to church, mail it, or use our giving page and select Mission of the Month. Thank you for all your continued support.



Living Word Endowment Fund

LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 2/29/2024)

The current value of the fund is \$173,514.61 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$33,884.38. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$54,649.50. Of this, \$27,324.75 will return to Living Word for growth initiatives.

THIS REPRESENTS A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

To Date:	Total contributions	\$84,980.73
	Market value over cost	33,884.38
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>54,649.50</u>
	Total market value	\$173,514.61



HOW THE ENDOWMENT FUND WORKS

Contributions treated as donation for tax purposes. Funds invested by Thrivent Financial. 50% of interest and dividends available for church growth. Interested in estate planning? Call Tim Regan/Thrivent (708-326-4750). If any questions, call Bob Grossart

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 115 kids signed up for the event. This is our largest Egg Hunt yet. Depending on the weather of course, we usually only 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. We may need people to help direct the cars as to where they can park. 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 other shoes so that if they get wet or muddy, you can change into your regular shoes so your feet will still be dry, lol. She has already received her first order of Easter eggs, and she has placed a second order seeing how many have registered for it. Diana has now closed registration in order for everyone to be able to park safely and drive thru the parking lot safely.



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

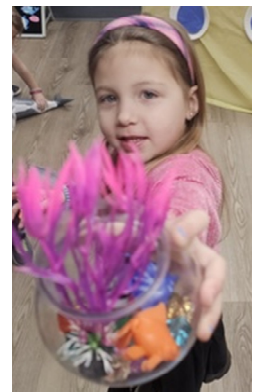
Living Word News

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.

2023 CONTRIBUTION TAX STATEMENTS have been printed out and available on the desk in the fellowship hall. If you have not already picked them up or notified me that you will pick them up this week, I will mail them out next Friday. 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.



OUR PRESCHOOL IS GETTING BIGGER AGAIN!!! Mrs. Diana had the 7th student had start last month. Her 8th student started last week, she just turned 3 last week. A family came in for a tour on Tuesday morning inquiring for next fall already. She had another tour last Saturday, they have their 3 year old daughter registered for next fall. Also, the family that just registered Margot last month, registered their son now, who has just turned 5, he will come Tuesdays and Thursdays, as he goes to the park district the other 3 days, so he can be prepared for kindergarten next year. He started this week, who is the 9th student. A mom and her daughter came for tour, and the 10th student will now start on Tuesday. Plus she now knows that 3 or 4 of her students will be returning for sure next year. This is now her biggest class yet since the fall of 2019. 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 crafts they have made this month. She has changed everything out last weekend, as it is a new month, so it's a new theme for her students. The theme is underwater and under the seas. Make sure you check out her "aquarium" in the Dramatic Arts Play Room. The kids will love learning all about sea life and all the mammals and animals that live under the sea. They are also learning about submarines, and what they do. And they found out that they can make their own little aquarium.

NEED A CHRISTMAS TREE? Please contact me in the office if you're in need of a different Christmas Tree for next year. With all of the truly generous Christmas donations within the past couple of years, we are looking to pass the generosity forward to anyone who is need of a tree. It is never too early to think about Christmas and decorating for the festive holiday, lol.



COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for next Wednesday, the 13th. Among the topics that will be discussed is the Preschool Program, financial updates, items that are needed, along with other topics.

"Give Thanks!"

Psalms 107 says: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." This Lent, we again give thanks for God's love...

1) Give thanks for the Lord's PATIENCE.

⁴ They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" ⁶ Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived. Numbers 21:4-9

2) Give thanks for Christ's OBEDIENCE.

² As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:1-10

3) Give thanks for the Son's LIGHT.

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. John 3:14-21

SO, WE'RE
CREATED FOR A
LIFE OF GOOD
WORKS **BEFORE**
WE DO THEM?

YES, THAT'S
WHAT IT
SAYS.

I THINK OF THEM AS
GIFTS WE RECEIVE.

SO SAY "THANK YOU"
EVEN IF YOU THINK
IT'S THE WRONG
SIZE AND COLOR?

EXACTLY.