



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 33, Issue 11

March 17, 2024

"Steps to Forgiveness"

The misery of living with unforgiveness in your heart always lasts longer than the pain of the offense. Always! When you hold on to resentment, you open the door to depression and physical illness. Forgiving brings healing to your wounds and restores your joy. Here are two steps to help you forgive:

1) Remember that you have been unconditionally forgiven. Recall God's grace towards you, and the price paid for your forgiveness. By refusing to show mercy, you're like the man Jesus said was forgiven an enormous debt, yet was unwilling to forgive another man's measly indebtedness to him (see *Matthew 18:23-34*). The grace God has extended to you leaves you no grounds whatsoever to refuse the same grace to the one who hurt you.

2) Release the offender from the debt they owe you. You may be totally justified in saying, 'They owe me for what they did!' Your friends may agree. The law may agree, and you may be thinking that the only way your offender will 'learn to do what's right' is if they're made to pay for the wrong they did. But as long as you're holding on to your 'rights', you're chained to the past. It has you in its grip, and your future is being held hostage to the past's control over you. Your offender's sin against you was paid for by the same sacrificial love that canceled your sin debt, so they have the same need and right to forgiveness that you have. And there is more; forgiveness is not just for their benefit, but for yours: 'Forgive, and you will be forgiven' (*Luke 6:37*).

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help me to forgive so I can be released. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Here are three more steps to forgiveness:

1) Accept people as they are and don't try to change them. You say, 'I'll only forgive them if they change.' That just keeps you tied to them, obsessing over what they did and demanding they act in ways that you approve of. Nothing makes people less willing to change than when you try to control them and demand that they meet your requirements. Changing people isn't your job – it's God's job! Your job is to *choose* to forgive and leave the outcome in God's hands. The formula for healing is simple: forgive, let go, and let God.

2) See your offender as God's tool for your growth. It's easier to forgive someone when you stop seeing them as Satan's agent sent to destroy you, and begin seeing them as God's instrument to develop you. The life of Joseph speaks to this principle. The path that led him from the pit to the palace was paved by injustice, disappointment, and betrayal. But God used each painful circumstance to get him to his destiny. And God can do that for you.

3) Try reconciling with your offender. Reconciliation is God's nature. 'When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son' (*Romans 5:10*). And what God did for you, He wants you to do for whoever you are at odds with. Jesus made reconciliation a top priority by saying, 'Leave your gift there before the altar...First be reconciled...then come and offer your gift' (*Matthew 5:24*). Yes, it will take selflessness and humility on your part, but the return is worth the investment!

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help me to reach out, forgive another, and be reconciled – no matter if they accept it or not. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Inside this issue:

"Steps to Forgiveness"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Stewardship Snapshot/Celebrations	2
Devotional Time	2
March Mission of the March	3
Living Word News	4
Council Meeting Notes	5
3-17-2024 Message Outline	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

Page 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	18	19 Election Day No Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	20 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	21 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	22	23

March Celebrations

Stewardship Snapshot

 March 19 Bobbi Pote	 Mar 18 Ashley Meier Mar 22 David Merchantz	March 10th 17 Worshipped 3 Watched Live <u>10 Watched Later</u> 30 Total <u>Financial Support</u> 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 19th.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88959156081?pwd=eFQ4a3hkMW83RW5pa1FYRS9jWUhZUT09>

Meeting ID: 889 5915 6081 Passcode: 788337

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,88959156081#,,,,*788337# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,88959156081#,,,,*788337# 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 *I am writing to you who are God's children because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus. - 1 John 2:12 (NLT)* One of the things that helps us through the Christian life is remembering who we are in Christ. We are God's forgiven children. We are getting to know Christ more and more each day. Even though the battle continues, Jesus has already won the battle for us, and our victory is sure. Be encouraged today by these reminders of God's faithfulness to us.

VERSE OF THE MONTH *Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those that love Him. James 1:12*

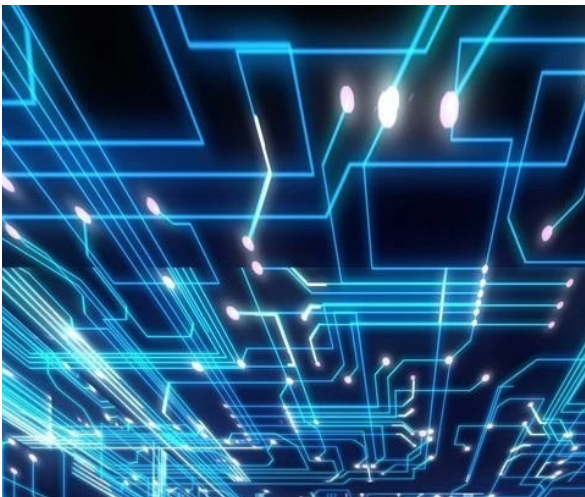
PRAYER REQUEST OF THANKSGIVING for Pastor John as he was in the long-term care facility of the Victorian Village. He is still weak and a fall risk, but as they had re-evaluated his condition and moved him to the regular assisted living building. He is now able to join in the meals in the dining area and/or any activities that he can 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 or well wishes or to call him, here is the complete address: John Bucka, C/O Victorian Village, **Rm #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 News

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!!! 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 she will be the 10th student that started on Wednesday. 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 was this Wednesday, the 13th. Among the topics that will be discussed is the Preschool Program, financial updates, items that are needed, along with other topics. Council meeting notes can be found on the following page.



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 120 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.

Council Meeting Notes

Living Word Lutheran Church Council Meeting Notes
Wednesday, March 13, 2024 @ 7 p.m.

Attendees: Ken M, Bill M, Phil H, Paul H, Neal H, Diana M, and Pastor Schauer (for part of it)

Phil opened the meeting with prayer at 7:07 pm.

We started the meeting with Pastor Schauer speaking with us about a new survey that Synod has to help churches see the needs of their church. This survey also has training modules to help churches. Some churches have used this to work on their mission, core values, and purpose statements. There is even training to help reach the inactive members. This survey would be sent out with a special link that members would fill out anonymously. The survey takes about 25 minutes to complete and has 95 questions. We could also print these for members, and they can turn them in anonymously. It was even suggested by Pastor Schauer to use constant contact or Diana mentioned mail chimp to send this link out to see how many members are even opening the email. We will do this survey after Easter and give the congregation 2 weeks to fill it out.

The next topic was a possible movie night that we would invite other churches to come to. Neal would like to show the movie Letter to the American Churches. Diana showed the trailer to the council. Diana did bring up some concerns she had. Other members have said they understand the message behind it and churches do need to speak up. Neal was asking about this movie and if the district would be ok with us showing it. Pastor Schauer said that Neal would need to reach out to the district. We will table the movie until we hear from the district.

We then went into our financials. We were able to give Gideon \$133 for the January Mission of the Month. We did get a nice donation of \$400 for the Children's ministry this past week. Preschool has all of March's tuition turned in with an additional \$200 for 2 registration fees, one for the student that just started and one that will start in the fall. Diana did buy all the items the children need for graduation and Bill was able to reimburse her. Diana made a motion to put all of the Children's ministry donations into the Sunday school fund for now and will reimburse the general fund for all the Easter egg supplies that were bought. Neal seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Neal is still waiting from Proven IT to give us a quote for a copier machine. DNI Electronics would charge us \$33 a month to give 24/7 365 security for our alarm system and new security system. We could also have access to an app to monitor the cameras as well. The council all agreed they were fine with the monthly fee. Lastly, Diana spoke about the ant problem we are having again. Neal was going to get a quote from the place that Cornerstone uses. Diana was also going to get a quote from the company we used in 2022. Paul will be buying Bev's new computer this week at Costco as they have a special promotion deal right now. Once it is bought, we can send in our tax-exempt form and receipt to Costco and they will reimburse us for the tax.

We then talked about Preschool. Diana has had a few people thinking about a 5-day program. Diana does have some concerns about this only because from January to May she will need to student teach 2 days a week. She would like to know if we have someone to teach 2 days before committing to having a 5 day a week program. As of right now, we have 4 students for next year. Those 4 students are ok with 3 days a week and possibly one will only be doing 2 days a week. Diana had researched different preschools in the area on what programs they offer and what their tuition prices are. We discussed if we had a 5-day program tuition would be \$350, a 3-day program would be \$250 and a 2-day program would be \$225. Ken said that we could mention the possibility of having a 5-day program but that we still would need to hire someone, and we would also need to guarantee that 4 children would be attending 5 days a week. Diana will mention this at her open house and go from there.

Bill then mentioned that our Church Mutual insurance went up last year it was \$5,454 and this year it is \$6,918. Bill said we could pay for this in different ways but if we pay it in full, we do save a little bit of money. It was agreed to just pay it in full.

Bill also said he spoke with Pastor Lee a while back and Pastor Lee would like to take the whole month of July off. Bill also mentioned having communion more often like every Sunday instead of just twice a month. Pastor was ok with that so we will start doing it every Sunday starting on Easter Sunday. Neal is looking into seeing if we can get a Pastor for the 1st Sunday in July so we can at least have one communion Sunday in July while Pastor Lee is gone. Bill said he was free most of July and could help lead the services. If Bill leads any of the services Pastor Lee will only be paid ½ his pay as he is still helping Bill with the sermon. If we have another Pastor lead service Pastor Lee will not be paid at all.

In April we will be doing the Law Enforcement Bibles as our Mission of the Month. If members would like to get this donation put on their tax statement, they could write a check and put Mission of the Month on the memo line. Then Living Word will just write one big check to the Mission at the end of the month. Two other churches in North Dakota are also collecting donations for this Mission as well.

Lastly, Neal mentioned that he hopes the lot will be surveyed soon so we know exactly where our property lines are.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm with a prayer from Phil.

"Stay On The Path"

Today, Psalm 119:9 asks and answers: *"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word..."*

1) Stay on the COVENANT path.

³¹ "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."
Jeremiah 31:31-34

2) Stay on the CHRIST path.

⁵ Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weak-ness. ³ This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. ⁴ And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." ⁶ And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." ⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him ¹⁰ and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.
Hebrews 5:1-10

3) Stay on the CUP path.

³² They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³ "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise." ³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." ³⁶ "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. ³⁷ They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." ³⁸ "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" ³⁹ "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." ⁴¹ When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. ⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
Mark 10:32-45

"HE BECAME THE
SOURCE OF
ETERNAL SALVATION
FOR ALL WHO
OBEY HIM..."



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YES.



THAT'S
A LOT.



IT'S THE OBEDIENCE
OF FAITH, WHICH IS
TRUST IN WHAT
JESUS HAS DONE
FOR YOU.



WELL, IF YOU CAN'T
TRUST JESUS, WHO
CAN YOU TRUST!?



HEBREWS 5:5-10

GWETZSTEIN 2024-03-13