

May the
words of my mouth
 and the
meditation
of my heart
 be pleasing to you,



O LORD,
 my rock
 and my
 redeemer.

-Psalm 19:14

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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 9

"Wisdom"

March 3, 2024

Psalm 19 is a wisdom psalm, it invites us to see God's truth and apply it to our lives. This psalm does so by exploring the world of God, the word of God, and the way of God—or, in other words, the skies, the Scriptures, and the soul. Each section moves closer to the life of the believer.

The Skies (verses 1-6)

First, in verses 1-6, the psalmist explores the **world of God**. The passage begins: The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. One need only look into the starry sky on a clear night to see why the psalmist might say that the heavens, or skies, point to God. The "telling" that the skies do refers to God's *general revelation*, which He gives through His creation and is available to all people, in all places, at all times. God's general revelation, seen in His creation, is available to all people, in all places, at all times. What do the skies reveal? The very glory of God! And how do they do that? The psalmist gives one example: the sun. "Like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber," or like a "strong man rejoicing to run his course", the sun reflects the rejoicing of all creation in God's "eternal power and divine nature". What a glorious image of the One who declared Himself the Light of the World!

The Scriptures (verses 7-10)

Rejoicing in the general revelation of God, it goes on to delight in God's *special revelation*—the **word of God**. The law, testimony, precepts, commandment, fear, and judgments of God, the psalmist affirms, will revive your soul, make you wise, enlighten your eyes, and endure forever; they are true and altogether righteous. What is special about the revelation of God in Scripture? It reveals something that general revelation cannot: that the God who created the world is also the lover of your soul. God's special revelation (the Bible) reveals something general revelation cannot: that the God who created the world is also the lover of your soul. The *world* of God declares God's eternal power and divine nature, the *word* of God declares both, and God's holy and loving character. Such revelation is "more desirable than gold" and "sweeter than honey".


The Soul (verses 11-14)

The psalmist does not leave it there. In the final four verses of Psalm 19, he models the proper response to the world and word of God—in other words, he points to the **way of God**. Revelation requires a response. It's the means through which the Spirit convicts us. When the psalmist reflects that, by God's Word, His "servant is warned" (19:11), he suddenly becomes aware of how this radiance of revelation exposes his sinfulness and unworthiness before the living God. He cries out: Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. Keep your servant from presumptuous sins. Just as nothing is hidden from the heat of the sun, so nothing in our souls is hidden from the penetrating rays of God's word; His word is "living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart". The word of God is the moral mirror that exposes the true character of the soul. If you look into it and do not respond in repentance, you are like the person who "once he has looked at himself [in the mirror] and gone away, has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was". Conviction of sin and repentance should be the standard result when we look into the word of God. The psalmist ends with this prayer, which should be the desire of every one of us when we look at the holiness of God and the deceitfulness of sin in light of God's revelation to us: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart. Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer."

Here are two suggested steps for applying this psalm to your life:

1. Take time when you are outdoors not only to admire God's creation but to reflect on the glory of God—his eternal power and divine nature—revealed in that creation.
2. When you read the Bible, read not only to gain the knowledge it imparts, but also to be convicted of your own sin and led by the Spirit to repentance. Make the prayer in Psalm 19:14 your own on a regular basis.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service	4	5 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	6 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	7 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	8	9  SPRING AHEAD Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour

March Celebrations

 March 14 Diana Motel March 19 Bobbi Pote	 Mar 1 Pam Hostert Mar 4 Delores Urbank Mar 10 Gary Meier Mar 14 Matt Meier Mar 15 Anita Meier Mar 18 Ashley Meier Mar 22 David Merchantz
 March 25 Peter & Donna Wasilkoff	

Stewardship Snapshot

February 25th

21 Worshipped

4 Watched Live

11 Watched Later

36 Total

Financial Support

\$1,685.00 General Fund Deposit

\$165.00 Mission of the Month (Children's Fund)

\$250.00 Preschool Account

\$2,100.00 Total Deposit

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 5th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85889017897?pwd=dHZBVThhNVpvMFIRUFUxTlo5ZlNrZz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8901 7897 Passcode: 074348

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85889017897#,,,,*074348# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,85889017897#,,,,*074348# 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 *But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. - 1 John 2:5 (NLT)*

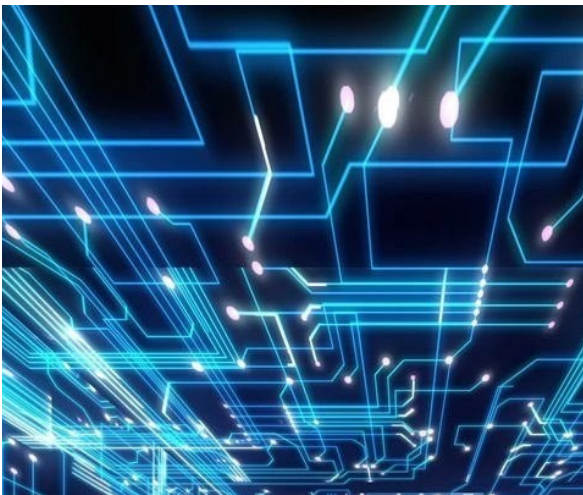
The only way to live in the truth is to come to the truth, to submit to, surrender to, open yourself up to God's truth. Both the desire and the power to do this come from God. Then we truly live in Him.

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

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.

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.

OUR PRESCHOOL IS GETTING BIGGER AGAIN!!! Mrs. Diana had the 7th student had start this month. Her 8th student started this 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 scheduled for Saturday. Also, the family that just registered Margot earlier this 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 is starting in March. So she will be ending the year with 9 students. Plus she already knows that 2 or 3 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 will be changing everything out this 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.

FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH supported our Children's Ministry, which includes supplying candy to fill the eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt, and the snacks and supplies for our VBS in July. In total we collected \$190.00 throughout the month. Thank you so much for all that you do in supporting such a meaningful cause for our church.

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.



3-3-2024 Message Outline

“Refreshing the Soul”

Psalms 19 says: “The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul...”

1) God’s statutes are trustworthy, making WISE the simple.

²⁰ And God spoke all these words: ² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” ³ “You shall have no other gods before me.” ⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.” ⁵ “You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.” ⁷ “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.” ⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.” ⁹ “Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns.” ¹¹ “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” ¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.” ¹³ “You shall not murder.” ¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.” ¹⁵ “You shall not steal.” ¹⁶ “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.” ¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” Exodus 20:1-17

2) The Lord’s precepts are right, giving JOY to the heart.

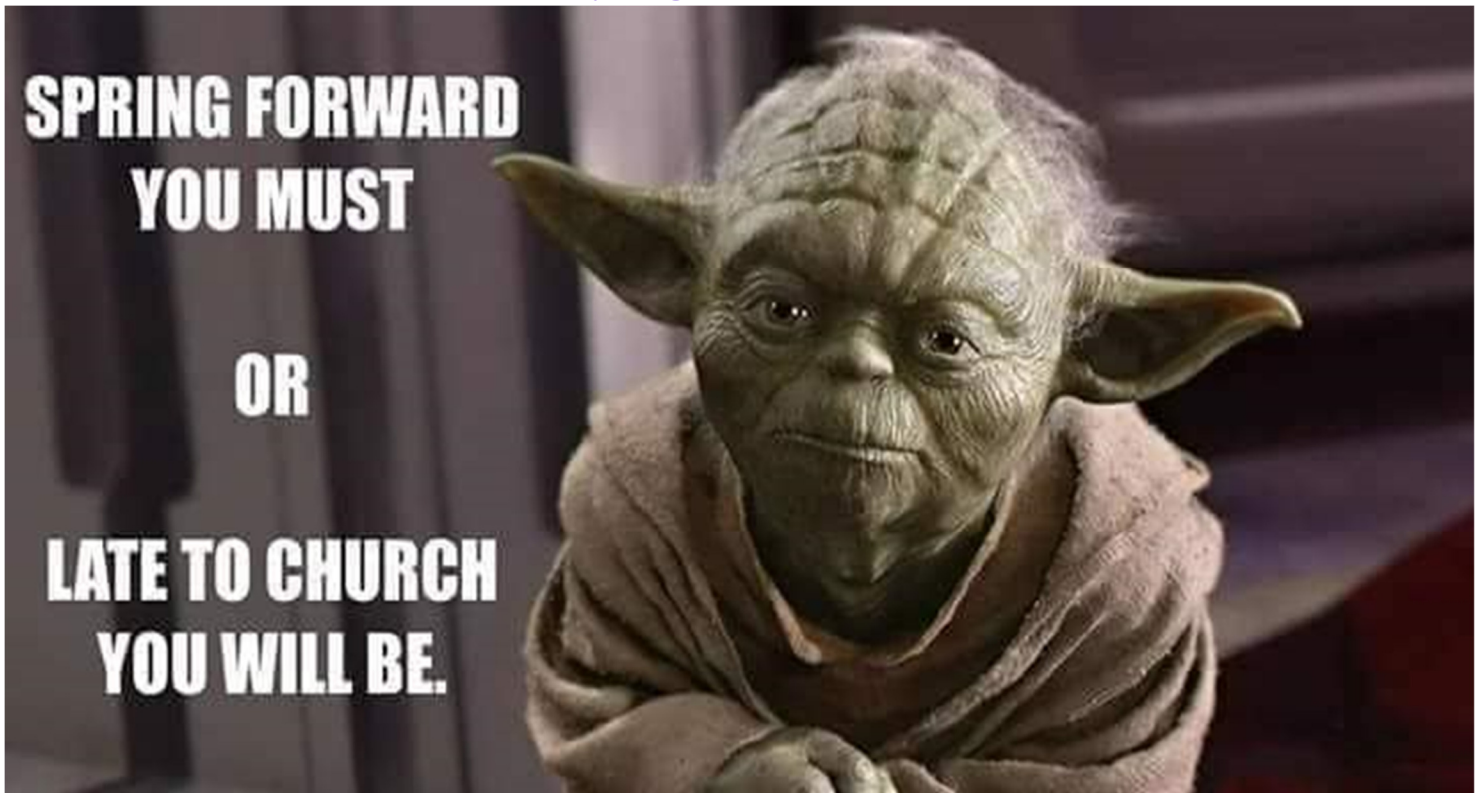
¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” ²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

3) God’s commands are radiant, giving LIGHT to the eyes.

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?” ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” ²⁰ They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. John 2:13-22



Springtime Reminders



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 over 80 kids signed up for the event. This should be our largest Egg Hunt yet. 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