



Acts of

GENEROSITY

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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
intouchlwlcc@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 14

April 7, 2024

"Christian Generosity and Unity"

There is always outward evidence when God works in the hearts of believers and Acts 4:32-37 is a good example. The Holy Spirit began to bring the early believers together as a corporate body. The Jerusalem believers had a very mature view of material possessions: what they possessed was not their own-it belonged to God. The people of the Jerusalem church lived with open hands. From their open hands, other could take what they needed, and into their open hands, God could put more resources to share. Believers realize that all they have belongs to God. When a Christian brother or sister has a need those who can meet it have a moral obligation to do so. A closed hand misses two blessings in life: it can neither enjoy the blessing of giving to others nor receive blessings from a loving God. What unites both the early Christians and us is that we are all heart. All that we have and all that we are belongs to God. We, like the early Christians, must have all things in common and we must be of one mind. To be of one mind is to have the mind of Christ in common-not our ideas about Him, or even our theology, but our heart and soul-our inner selves. We can only support and love each other if we know what's going on inside each other.

Christians are dependent on each other. We are called to be Christ's people. We are called to be in communion with Him and with each other. Together we are called to be the divine agent for Jesus' continuing ministry today. A good example is Barnabas. He helped, encouraged, uplifted, and united to get the best out of people. He paved the way for the apostle Paul to be accepted by the other apostles. He was Paul's missionary companion. He believed in the apostle Mark when Mark left during one of Paul's missionary trips. We are called to stand with our Christian brothers and sisters. We are called to help each other during life's trials and joys. Encouragement, such as that which Barnabas gave, is love in action. Christ tells us how to love people and encourage them. Churches that are infectiously alive have strategies for members being together in small, informal gatherings where the Scriptures can be studied, needs and gratitude shared, and prayer for one another offered. All of us need a handful of people who are loyal to us and to whom we are loyal because of Christ's loyalty to us. He will never leave us or forsake us, and we must never leave or forsake our Christian brothers and sisters.

Giving is part of loving. It is a lifestyle that is at the heart of Christianity. It redirects us away from ourselves to the needs of others and the glory of God. What we have belongs to God, and He calls on us to share what He has given us with the less fortunate. When we allow God to fill our hearts with His boundless love, it shows on the outside. This outer beauty is a gift from God. It is timeless. It literally pours out of us and alters our appearance in a most appealing way.

Giving can be inconvenient. There is never a "right" time when people need help. There are other priorities in our lives. There are other claims on our time. To be a source of help and hope, we must be willing to do what is necessary when it is necessary, regardless of the financial and personal costs.

Giving is contrary to today's culture, which emphasizes individuality, autonomy, and personal conversion. Many people start out being faithful to God and serving Him. He blesses their success, but before long they remove themselves from the presence of God's people. They become more concerned with making money instead of doing God's work.

The key to what happened to the early believers, and the key to what happens to believers today, is unity. The early believers were united in their spirit of generosity, and modern believers are encouraged to be united in generosity as well. Believers give in order to advance the Gospel and meet the needs of other people. That generosity and unity is the result of God's grace at work within a believer's heart to cause him or her to become a giver. Unity is the key to evangelism, and it must have precedence in our prayers. Unity matters to God, and it should matter to us. Unity is a priority in heaven, so it should be a priority on earth.

April 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service	8	9 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	10 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	11 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	12	13 11:00am—12:30pm Preschool Open House 

April Celebrations

Stewardship Snapshot



Apr 7 Donna Wasilkoff

March 29th (Good Friday)

15 Worshipped
 2 Watched Live
15 Watched Later
 32 Total

March 31st (Easter)

33 Worshipped
 2 Watched Live
10 Watched Later
 45 Total

Financial Support for March 24th
 \$710.00 General Fund Deposit
\$2,161.00 Tech Fund (Designated)
 \$2,871.00 Total Deposit

Financial Support for March 29th
 \$645.00 General Fund Deposit

Financial Support for March 31st
 \$4,950.00 General Fund Deposit
\$2,500.00 Tech Fund (Designated)
 \$7,450.00 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 April 9th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87657194497?pwd=Y0R2ZVBmY0N2MVhIZEhoSINUUV0JSZz09>

Meeting ID: 876 5719 4497 Passcode: 178654

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87657194497#,,,,*178654# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,87657194497#,,,,*178654# 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 *So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father. - 1 John 2:24 (NLT)*

The opportunity and challenge for each one of us is to remain in fellowship with God and with God's people. What is interfering with your fellowship with God? Know that whatever it is, the solution is to re-surrender, to re-submit to God and His Truth. Call upon His forgiveness and His strength every single day.

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*

Living Word Endowment Fund

LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 3/31/2024)

The current value of the fund is \$176,275.38 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$36,525.18. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$54,769.47. Of this, \$27,384.74 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	36,525.18
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>54,769.47</u>
	Total market value	\$176,275.38

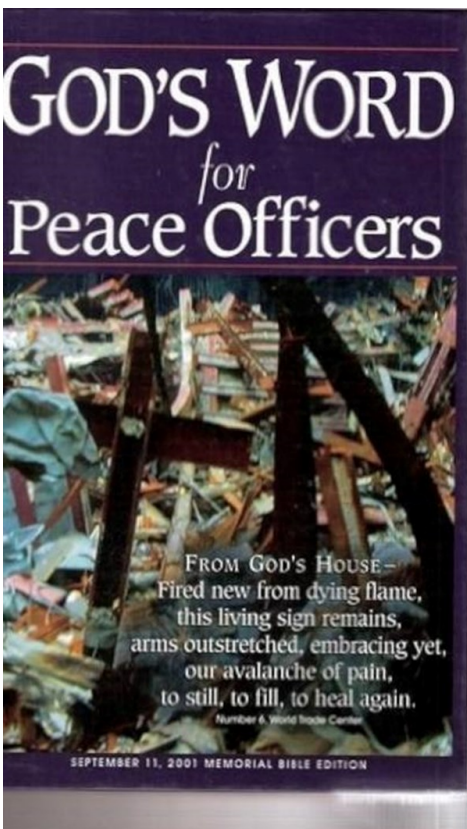


HOW THE ENDOWMENT FUND WORKS

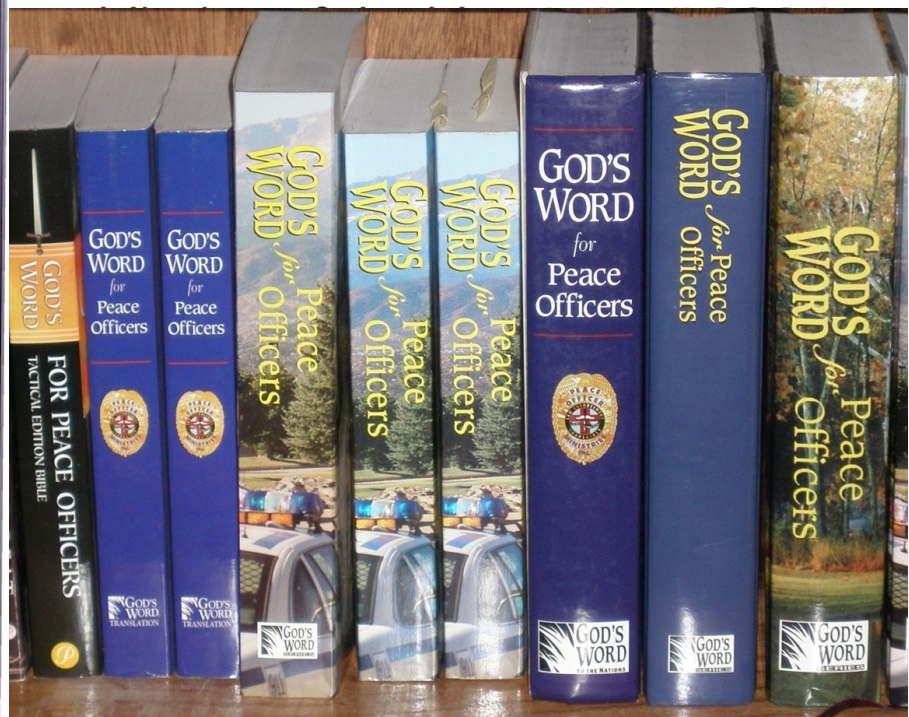
Contributions treated as donation for tax purposes. Funds invested by Thrivent Financial. 50% of interest and dividends available for church growth. Interested in estate planning? Call Tim Regan/Thrivent (708-326-4750). If any questions, call Bob Grossart

April Mission of the Month

“The Mission of GOD’S WORD for Peace Officers Law Enforcement Bible Project is to publish and place into the officers’ hand our special edition Bibles with a 96-page forward, written by former local and federal law enforcement officer and Chaplain Steve Lee, explaining how God’s Word provides them spiritual backup in their life and work.”



GOD'S WORD for Peace Officers



Previous Missions of the Month

TECH FUND was the Mission of the Month for March. Thank you everyone who gave so generously to this productive fund. Overall we collected \$4,661.00. I am loving my new computer, it so much faster and quieter than the old computer. Also, thanks to Paul Huang for his expertise in buying the right computer and transferring everything from the old computer and also setting up the new computer. All of you guys are the best. The new security cameras will be installed later this month. They will be here on Friday, April 26th and Monday, April 29th installing new cameras and the wiring they need. We will now be able to monitor if anyone who is dumping items into our dumpster, and making sure the shed and the church are safe. As always, thank you again for your overwhelming generosity. It has helped out our church tremendously.

REDEEMING LIFE OUTREACH MINISTRY has been our Mission of Month for May the past couple of years. They will be the Mission of the Month for this coming May as well. They are kind enough to keep us posted either with email or mailing us a post card with the new babies arriving at their homes. Below is the post card that we received earlier last week, announcing the birth of Inez Elizabeth. We have also received an email updating us on their Easter activities and another one of the new babies being born. The email reads: *"Blessed Holy Week to you! As we at Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries prepare for Easter, our thoughts turn to new life. Beyond the baby chicks and bunnies, the flowers and fresh green grass, we think of the new life in Jesus that is ours through His resurrection on Easter Sunday. We, who once were all destined for death, live a new life through Jesus, both here on earth and eternally. Praise God!*

Women who come to Redeeming Life are often fleeing abuse, toxic relationships, and patterns of behavior that keep them stuck in dangerous situations. Because they are pregnant, they carry the additional responsibility to secure a better life for their unborn babies. Simply put, they need a new life and they can find it here!

Our residents find caring Christian staffers who help them set personal goals and find the means to achieve those ambitious goals. We live in a family-like community where learning new skills and new behaviors is encouraged and expected. We strive to show our residents a new way to do things that will help them create a strong and independent life.

Best of all, our residents meet Jesus here. Whether they are new to faith or have fallen away, the women are welcomed with open arms into a family of faith. We worship, pray and study God's word together regularly, as we grow in faith and understanding. The new life found only in Jesus' grace often amazes residents who felt so stuck in their old lives! Together, we experience God's grace and love, and live a new life as His children!

Because Christ is Risen,

Sheryl"

Sheryl DeWitt

Executive Director



Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries welcomes with joy...

Inez Elizabeth

Born:
December 23,
2023
7 lbs. 1 Oz.

Baptized:
January 14,
2024

Inez's Mom, **Angel**, was confirmed into faith on her daughter's baptismal day!

Redeeming Life
Outreach Ministries Inc.

WHAT A BLESSING! That there is a safe place for these women and their babies to live while they find God and cherish what is the most important blessings in their lives.

Living Word News

TRANSITION TEAM will be meeting with Pastor Schauer on April 17th to go over the list of pastor's names that he received from the district. The list has 3 names for us to consider to talk with for the Call process. Afterwards, Ken Marks will call these pastors to see if they are still possibly interested in accepting a call.

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.

PRESCHOOL IS AT CAPACITY This is now her biggest class yet since the fall of 2019. She now has 10 students. 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 changed everything out last weekend, as it is a new month coming up, so it's a new theme for her students. The theme will be Down on the Farm. Make sure you check out her farm in the Dramatic Arts Play Room. The kids will love learning all farm animals. They even got to plant a garden on Thursday. Don't be too surprised if you see baby chicks and caterpillars in our preschool room.

Preschool Open House Saturday, April 13th From 11-12:30



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.



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.

GREETINGS FROM GEORGIA Carolyn Wagenaar has sent us another letter earlier last week. It reads: "*Dear Bev, Greetings to all of Living Word Lutheran Church. Enclosed find checks for the Children's Ministry for the Mission of the Month and also for church. Blessings of the day!*" It is signed, "*Sincerely, Carolyn Wagenaar*" Her note can be found on the bulletin board next to the office.

IF YOU NEED TOILET PAPER, we have changed over to a different brand of toilet paper this past week as our older toilet and sewer system needs a touch more of tender loving care. Please feel free to help yourself to the toilet paper that will be on the counter in the fellowship hall.

“A Horn of Salvation”

Psalm 148 says: *[The Lord] has raised up for his people a horn...*

1) The Lord has raised up for us a horn of COMMUNITY.

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared (*κοινά*) all they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. Acts 4:32-35

2) The Lord has raised up for us a horn of CONFESSION.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ²The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴We write this to make our joy complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess (*homologéō*) our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. **2** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 1:1-2:2

3) The Lord has raised up for us a horn of COURAGE.

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear (*phobon*) of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” ²⁴Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” ²⁸Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:19-31

