

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 33, Issue 23

"Refuse to Live in Fear"

June 16, 2024

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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

'Fear! People are afraid of losing their health, their wealth, and their loved ones. People are afraid of life itself.' If you allow it to, fear will control you. 'Fear involves torment', and until the power of fear is broken, it will keep tormenting you. When fear rules your life, you cannot enjoy anything you do. And you certainly can't enjoy God's blessings.

Fear triggers 'more than 1,400 known physical and chemical responses and activates more than thirty different hormones and neurotransmitters.' It's at the root of all our stress. When fear causes a chronic stress reaction in us, it actually 'marinates' our body in chemicals that can be harmful in large amounts. This is terribly unhealthy and threatening to our physical well-being.

The fear of not being accepted by others can make you develop a phony personality, stifling your true self and hiding who God made you to be. The fear of failure will prevent you from trying new things or stretching yourself to do more than you feel comfortable doing. The fear of the future can cause you not to enjoy your life today.

Fear is a spirit, and it doesn't come from God. 'For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind'. Reject the spirit of fear. Draw on God's power, believe He loves you unconditionally, and begin to exercise the 'sound mind' He has given you. Today, refuse to live in fear.

God has created you for a life of growth, adventure, and acceleration. But you must take bold steps of faith. And you can't do that if you're perfectly satisfied to live in 'the safe zone'. Even when you *feel* afraid, don't let it stop you! Feel the fear and do it anyway! You say, 'Will I ever stop being afraid?' Yes, when you get to heaven. Feeling fear is part of being alive. You will experience fear when you try something for the first time, or when the obstacles in your path seem insurmountable, or when you feel like your resources are not equal to the challenge. None of this means you're a coward; it just means you're human. You are only cowardly when you let your fears control your actions and decisions. Feeling fear is merely the temptation to flee from what you should confront.

Feeling fear is not the same as *being* afraid because being afraid means allowing fearful feelings to take control of you. But you don't have to. You can feel anger yet choose not to act on it, and instead respond with forgiveness and love. In the same way, you can feel fear and not let it make your decisions. 'He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"'. Note those two phrases: 'He...has said' and 'we may boldly say'. So, stand on God's Word today and declare, 'I will not live in fear.'

When God says, 'Fear not,' He is basically telling you, 'You're going to have to deal with fear, but you can conquer it. You can act in spite of it.' The Bible says, 'Perfect love casts out fear.' We mistakenly think that Scripture means if we love God perfectly enough, we won't be afraid. No, the only perfect love is God's love for you. And it's unconditional.


Knowing that He always loves you, walks with you, defends you, supports you, and has promised to bless you in all that you do is what casts out your fear. And it does one more thing: it strengthens your faith. 'Without faith it is impossible to please God'. When you know that God is pleased with you, you begin to rise above your fears. When fear knocks on your door and finds you full of faith, it cannot enter. That's why you need to meditate continually on God's Word and let your conversation be filled with faith.

If you're used to allowing your mind to go everywhere it pleases, meditating on God's Word will require making a new habit. Don't become discouraged if you discover you have good intentions but many failures. The Bible says, 'We walk by faith'. How did you learn to walk? By getting up one more time than you fell down, until you finally did it. When you set your mind to speaking fear-defying words of faith, the Holy Spirit will come to your aid and strengthen you. 'Courage is not the absence of fear, it is progress in its presence.' So just keep progressing, and you will get there!

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service Father's Day	17	18 10:00am Push Prayer	19	20 7:00pm Council Meeting First day of Summer	21	22

June Celebrations



June 18 Eileen R.



June 17 Karen G.
June 20 Paige H.

Happy Anniversary



June 17 Nicki & Bob Gabrysiak

Church Contacts
intouchlwc@yahoo.com

Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel
dianamotel@yahoo.com

Leadership Team

Neal Hartz - President
Ken Marks—Vice President
Bill Merchantz - Treasurer
Diana Motel - Secretary

Members at Large
Paul Huang

Stewardship Snapshot

June 9th
 23 Worshipped
 3 Watched Live
 10 Watched Later
 36 Total
Financial Support

Offering was not counted this 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.

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 usually meets every Sunday morning in the conference room from 9:30 to 9:55. Please join Pastor Lee and the others every Sunday as they learn about the Word of God.

VERSE OF THE MONTH -⁹ *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.* Joshua 1:9

PRAYER REQUEST OF THANKSGIVING for Pastor John as he is in 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.

PRESCHOOL is now closed for the summer months. She has 4 students enrolled for next fall already. Please keep spreading the word about what a wonderful teacher Mrs. Diana is and what a wonderful program that she has at the preschool. The kids had a wonderful year learning about farm animals, and under the sea, what they think they would like to be when they grow up. They met a lot of new friends and learned their letters, new songs, shapes and numbers. Mrs. Diana has had a very busy year with them. Let's keep her and our preschool in our prayers for another successful year of school.

MOWING OPPORTUNITIES are still available if you are interested and able to help our mow crew. We currently have about 3 or 4 people who have volunteered to help us out each week. This is a huge help for us to save money.

CONGREGATION VOTERS' MEETING was last Sunday, June 9th. The transition team presented the three pastors whom we have been talking with. We recommended Pastor Massey from Florida. After voting closed on Tuesday, June 11th, the count was 25-2 in favor of Pastor Massey. Pastor Schauer called him that evening to make sure he would still be available and interested in receiving the call papers which he was on both questions. Diana is working on the documents and they will be printed and signed this week. Please join me in keeping Pastor Massey and his son in your prayers as they pray about this Call.

CHURCH SURVEYS need to be completed online by June 20th. These surveys are completely anonymous. This survey comes from the Synod and is used for helping the churches grow in different directions and help your voice being heard how you would like to see our church grow. Other churches in our area have already taken this survey. We have a total of 4 computers and/or laptops available if you would prefer to do the survey here at church on Sunday after worship. I did my survey, and it roughly took about 20 minutes or less. I will also have hard copies of the survey available on Sunday, if you prefer you can take one, fill it out and drop it in the basket that is on the desk in the fellowship hall. I will enter the information in on the survey during the course of the week. Thank you in advance for helping us try to improve and grow in the correct direction.

CHURCH SURVEY

Watch your email! If you prefer a hard copy please see Bev.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! A very happy and blessed Father's Day to all the Dads within the Living Word Family. We thank you for always being there for us. We thank God everyday for being our heavenly Father, for watching out for us, protecting us and leading us to Him. For God so loved us, that He gave us His only Son. God's truly perfect and unconditional love for all His children. Please enjoy this day with your family and take time to be thankful for all the truly wonderful things in life.

COUNCIL MEETING is this coming Thursday, June 20th at 7:00pm. If you would like the board to address any issues or concerns, please see Neal, Ken, Diana, Paul or our elders, Bill and Phil. They will bring those issues up during the council meeting. Among the topics that will be discussed are the financials as always, the Call process, plus anything else that might come up by then. The meeting notes will be in next week's newsletter and will also be shared during the announcements after the worship service next Sunday.



Lutheran Church Charities June 2024 Mission of the Month

Lutheran Church Charities works throughout the United States and Internationally in bringing the Mercy, Compassion, Presence, and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those suffering and in need.

They offer different ministrys including K-9 Comfort Dogs, Kare 9 Military Ministry, K- 9 Police Ministry, Disaster Response, Human Care Ministry, and Hearts of Mercy & Compassion

LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry was launched in August of 2008, and it is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ. They serve everyday in the community in which they are places in times of disaster and crisis to bring comfort to all those affected, including first responders and the volunteers who serve them.

LCC Kare 9 Military Ministry is a ministry by veterans for veterans. They strive to serve our military veterans and their families. The Kare-9 Military Ministry dogs and their trained veteran handlers visit many places including VFWs, VA hospitals, Traumatic Brain Injury Care Centers, homes of veterans that are home bound, Expos, Vet Clinics and various other activities to help spread the mercy and compassion.

LCC K-9 Police Ministry handlers are law enforcement officers (current and former) who understand the unique challenges facing the law enforcement community. They bring the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who protect and serve, as well as their families. Crisis Response serves the law enforcement and family members in their time of need, by providing comfort following injuries, deaths or major incidents. Ongoing Support is the K-9 visits (headquarters, substations and dispatch centers), provides assistance with department missions such as Christmas shopping with children, summer camps and public events, comforting crime victims prior to interviews, counseling or courtroom testimonies, and general support for department members and their families.

LCC Disaster Response Ministries coordinates deployment of trained volunteers for Disaster Response. When disasters strike; lives, homes, businesses, churches and more are affected. LCC L.E.R.T. volunteers respond quickly to serve people affected by a disaster. LCC teams are trained to work through local churches to serve their communities. LCC Disaster Response provides on-site and online (L.E.R.T.) basic training. Additional training includes expertise in the area of chainsaw, heavy equipment, debris removal, flood recovery, and emotional and spiritual care.

Hearts of Mercy and Compassion (HMC), Crosses for Losses provides a physical and spiritual symbol through the giving of hearts and crosses to families and friends who have suffered a loss or are experiencing the illness of a loved one. An HMC can also be given to celebrate a victory, honor service, as an expression of love, or to be an encouragement in the face of adversity. Given as a gift, each HMC provides the love and hope of Jesus through presence and prayer. Upon request, LCC, working though churches, can provide an HMC at no charge.

“Like a Tree”

Psalm 1 says: “Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither — whatever they do prospers.”

1) God plants me like a CEDAR.”

²²“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. ²⁴All the trees of the forest will know that I the Lord bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. “I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it.”
Ezekiel 17:22-24

2) God clothes me with a HEAVENLY HOME.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ²Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, ³because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. ⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷For we live by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.
2 Corinthians 5:1-10

3) God grows me like a MUSTARD SEED.

²⁶He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.” ³⁰Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³²Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.” ³³With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.
Mark 4:26-34



CARE MEALS HAVE RETURNED! We have started up our Care Meal Teams again. We have one team 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. Thank you in advance for your service and support towards this ministry.

A VERY NICE THANK YOU LETTER was received this week from Paula at PASS. It reads. *"Dear Living Word Church: On behalf of everyone at PASS Network for Life, I cannot thank you enough for welcoming me at Living Word and your generosity. We are so grateful for your monetary donations, as well as the numerous items that will truly bless our clients. Additionally, I have been personally blessed and felt very welcome when I visited Living Word on Mother's Day, as well as when I viewed the movie "A Letter to the American Church". It is evident that God is using your church in numerous ways and it is a joy to relay that to you all. I am reminded of Paul's words in the book of Philippians 4:15 which says, "As you know, the Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this." You have helped PASS financially and welcomed me to an event that otherwise I would not have known about, so I thank you all. PASS seeks to not only come alongside those who find themselves in a pregnancy situation, but we also teach 17,000+ students annually the abstinence before and the faithfulness in marriage message. We also offer classes through our Abundant Life Program and am currently planning another session of Hope & Healing for post-abortive women. Your gifts enable us to keep our ministry going, even after 40 years, in the towns of Tinley Park, North Aurora, South Holland, Lansing, and the Englewood neighborhood in Chicago. Thank you for helping make a difference in our communities. Together we are making a difference."* It is signed, *"In His Grace, Paula, Paula R. Pasqua, Director of Donor Relations."* The entire letter is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. I was very touched by the lovely letter, as we still need to send her a check for the remaining balance which is \$290.00.

VBS 2024

VBS is fast approaching. It is scheduled for July 22nd—July 26th. Diana already has over 50 kids signed up with a couple of volunteers. She will have a list of supplies available in the coming weeks for snacks and crafts. Please let her know if you can help out in the mornings that week, especially on Monday, even if it is only for an hour or two. Thank you in advance for everything you do for our church.

