



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 33, Issue 27

July 14, 2024

"You Are an Ambassador for Jesus"

Your job in the kingdom of God is that of an 'ambassador'. What a privilege! And what a responsibility! Over the next few days, let's look at some of the qualities of an ambassador: *You must be a citizen of the country you represent. And 'our citizenship is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20). Exiled, John said, 'I...was on the island of Patmos...On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit' (Revelation 1:9-10). John knew it was not where he was but whose he was that counted the most as he represented his Lord.*

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Your life is the only Bible many people will ever read. From your lips they will receive the only gospel they ever hear. And your attitude may do more to win them than all your arguments.

Before He was crucified, Jesus prayed this prayer for His disciples: *'I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world' (John 17:15-18).*

Before an ambassador is appointed, he or she goes through the closest scrutiny imaginable. Their moral integrity, their financial interactions, their family life, their work record, their every word and action come under the microscope. Shouldn't it be more so for ambassadors of the King of kings? Never forget whose side you're on. Never forget what kingdom you belong to. Never forget who you represent. You are Christ's ambassador.

Heavenly Father, help me be a good Ambassador for you – no matter what mistakes I have made in the past. In Jesus' Name, Amen

A decade ago, our ideas about being an ambassador were radically altered when the U.S. ambassador to Libya was murdered by terrorists. It takes a special person to be an ambassador in a combat zone. And that's what you are in!

Paul writes: *'Let the mighty strength of the Lord make you strong. Put on all the armor that God gives, so you can defend yourself against the devil's tricks. We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world. So put on all the armor that God gives. Then when that evil day comes, you will be able to defend yourself. And when the battle is over, you will still be standing firm.*

'Be ready! Let the truth be like a belt around your waist and let God's justice protect you like armor. Your desire to tell the good news about peace should be like shoes on your feet. Let your faith be like a shield, and you will be able to stop all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Let God's saving power be like a helmet, and for a sword use God's message that comes from the Spirit. Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Spirit. Stay alert' (vv. 10-18).

As an ambassador of Christ, your first loyalty must be to Him in all your dealings; to be disloyal is treasonous. You say, 'That's a high standard!' Yes, it's a 'high calling' (see *Philippians 3:14*). It's also the most rewarding life you can live.

Heavenly Father, in a world that is very confused and hopeless, help me be your agent to bring Hope in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Let's recap. As an ambassador, you must have the following qualifications and characteristics:

- 1) *Be a citizen of the country you represent. 'Our citizenship is in heaven.'*
- 2) *Your character and conduct must reflect the highest values of your country. 'That our God may make you worthy of his calling' (2 Thessalonians 1:11).*

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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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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

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 10:00am Blended Worship Service Elder Bill Merchantz	15 11:00am Call Committee Meeting with Pastor Andrew Koschmann	16 10:00am Push Prayer	17	18	19	20

July Celebrations



Stewardship Snapshot

July 7th 19 Worshipped, 19 Communed 2 Watched Live 14 Watched Later 35 Total <u>Financial Support</u> \$1,596.00 Total General Offering \$200.00 Lutheran Church Charities <u>20.00</u> Cash for VBS Snack Supplies \$1,796.00 Total General Fund Deposit
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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 -¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. ¹³ From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; ¹⁴ from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—¹⁵ he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. Psalm 33:12-15.

PRAYER REQUEST OF THANKSGIVING for Pastor John as he is in the regular assisted living building. He was reevaluated this week. He has expressed that he is up to having visitors and phone calls again. He is walking around more, he is still very leery to want to go out as he doesn't want to take the risk of falling again. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they are very concerned about Pastor John, as we all are, and 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.

GOD'S GRACE AND COMFORT to Joan Weissenstein's family. Joan had passed away the middle of June. At the end of March Joan was diagnosed with a brain tumor, doctors had hoped radiation and chemo pills would have helped and hopefully allow Joan to do a few more things that she would have liked to do, but it was more serious than they first thought. Her family will be holding her memorial service on Saturday, August 3rd at Zion Lutheran Church at 17100 S. 69th Avenue in Tinley Park in their Gathering Room. Visitation will be from 9:00am to 10:00 am with the service to follow. Afterwards there will be luncheon at Barraco's Pizza at 15601 South Harlem. Joan was 85 and will be joining her husband Ken in eternal life with our Father in heaven. She is survived by her two sons and her two daughters-in-law.



Mission of the Month

GIDEON BIBLE INTERNATIONAL will be our Mission of the Month for July. Our elder Phil gave a presentation for Gideon's Bibles on last Sunday, July 7th. As always this will be our mission for the entire month.

JUNE'S MISSION OF THE MONTH was Lutheran Church Charities. We had collected \$143.00 which was just deposited into the General Fund Account last Monday, plus we received another donation for them this week for \$200 and that was deposited into that same account this past week. As always thank you so much for your overwhelming generosity.

Gideon Bible International July 2024 Mission of the Month



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”... Matthew 28:19

The Gideons International provides Bibles and New Testaments to people all over the World. They work with hotels and also distribute Scriptures in strategic locations so they are available to those who want them, as well as to those who may not know they need them. They are a body of believers dedicated to making the Word of God available to everyone and, together with the local church, reaching souls for Christ.

"You Are an Ambassador for Jesus"

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3) *You must be equipped for the job. 'There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit' (1 Corinthians 12:4).*

4) *You must be loyal to your country.* Now, let's look at two more qualifications:

5) *An ambassador must be an effective communicator.* The best ambassadors are bilingual; they speak and understand the language of those around them. Can you do that? In order to have the right answer, you must understand the question, the questioner, and where they're coming from. The Bible says, *'If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way' (1 Peter 3:15-16).* Note the words *'always be ready'*.

6) *An ambassador must be a good diplomat.* Ambassadors are most effective when they're winsome as they go about their work. You wouldn't want someone representing your country who was arrogant and abrasive in dealing with others. Jesus said, *'By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another' (John 13:35).*

Our message is the gospel, and our strategy is love! What's our message? *'We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God' (2 Corinthians 5:20).*

Heavenly Father, help me be always ready to be an Ambassador for You with those You place in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen

PRESCHOOL is now closed for the summer months. She has 4 students enrolled for next fall already, she had a tour last Friday morning with a new family that has registered their daughter for the fall semester of 2025/2026 school year. Please keep Mrs. Diana and our preschool in your prayers for additional growth and opportunity. Also please let everyone you know what a wonderful program she has, and how their children will flourish in our preschool.

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.

WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS Church Night will be Saturday, August 17th. It will be "Elvis Night" also. Tickets are \$7.00. Seats were in a great location last year. The game will start at 6:00pm. There is a sign up sheet on the desk in the fellowship hall. Ticket orders will need to be placed by Sunday, August 4th. We had 7 people attend the game last year, and we all had a great time. There will be a post game fireworks show as well.



Thank You

THANK YOU to Pastor Rick Schauer for filling in for Pastor Lee last Sunday. We thoroughly enjoyed worshipping with you Pastor Rick. We know that you are very busy and we appreciate you taking the time to lead us in worship and to serve us communion last Sunday morning. I would also like to thank our head elder Bill Merchantz for leading us in the Word for this Sunday and also on the 28th of this month.

THANK YOU also to all that had filled out the survey that we participated in for the Synod. All of your feedback is very important to our church and how we can grow together. I know that we had 28 who took the survey. The Synod usually needs to have 30 for optimal results, but given the size of our church and congregation, we came very close at least. I have been in contact with the lady who runs the reports, she ran ours last Monday, and they will be able to give us a quick turn around with the results. If at all possible I will be able to put the results into my newsletter by the end of the month, they will also be posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

AND THANK YOU to all that have signed up to buy supplies for VBS. The list is almost finished. All that is left to buy is the 9 tubs of vanilla frosting. VBS is only a little over two weeks away and Diana has already started working on the yellow submarine and some other decorations to transform our church into an Underwater Scuba Adventure. We are already up to 70 kids that have signed up this year. If you can help out for about an hour in the mornings, it would be greatly appreciated, Monday of course is the busiest day. Everyone is trying to sign in, pay the \$15 registration fee, plus this year we will be handing out shirts to each child.

VBS 2024

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

"God, let our church be a great influence in our community through our VBS. We want your perfect love to be at the foundation of our city, and we pray that we spread your love. Let our doors be open and our hearts be welcoming to all kids and their families. Let your goodness shine through us."

