

I LOVE THE LORD, FOR HE  
HAS HEARD MY VOICE—MY  
APPEAL FOR MERCY.

- PSALM 116:1

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

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## "A Blessed Declaration"

**One of the benefits** of the fact that psalms are not tied to any obvious specific set of circumstances is that they can be applied to a wide variety of experiences whether or not those exactly match whatever any given psalmist was talking about. In the case of Psalm 116, one could surmise this was written following a time of acute illness that could have resulted in the death of the poet. But of course it could have also been any number of things including an accident, an attack by an enemy resulting in grave injuries, or perhaps something else.

**In any event**, the psalmist had suspected he might have died but cried out to God and was delivered from whatever the circumstance was. That, of course, is celebrated as a grand and gracious thing. It allows the psalmist to continue living, to continue in service and praise to the God whom he credits with his deliverance.

**God continues** to have favored regard for even those faithful folks who die eventually. The Old Testament does not generally convey what we get more fully in the New Testament, the idea that when we die we go to be with the Lord. In fact, the Old Testament view of post-mortem existence is fuzzy at best and a bit dim at worst. Sheol appears to be the destination for all people after they die and it is not typically presented as being pleasant. It is also not depicted as being a place of torment but rather seems to be perhaps some neutral holding cell for those awaiting final deliverance or final judgment.

**It is also a fine thing** when God intervenes and heals us, restores us to health, dries our tears and puts our feet back into good avenues in the land of the living. All of that is worthy of the upbeat celebratory tone in which Psalm 116 appears to have been composed.

**Principally what we** remember is that at any given moment in the life of any congregation, some will be in a situation where they can joyfully relate to Psalm 116's celebration of healing and others will be in a season when they are asking God why God did as a matter of fact *not* hearken to their cries for the healing of a loved one. Celebrating in our preaching answered prayers must always be done with the awareness that for some listening to the sermon, the happy sentiments in Psalm 116 will be like fingernails on a blackboard—it may make their skin crawl.

**Holding in tension** the gladness over healing/deliverance with the knowledge that those things do not always come and people do eventually die may provide the balance we need to let the whole congregation lean into the sermon and not only those whose prayers have recently been answered a la the prayers of the psalmist.

**But for all of us** in Christ's Church, Psalm 116 can serve as a reminder that God truly is with us across all the circumstances of our lives. Death is surely the last enemy as Scripture clearly teaches. But if this psalmist could be sure that the death of the saints is precious to God centuries before the revelation of Jesus and his conquering of death as that last enemy, then surely on the other side of Easter we can live with that firm assurance even more robustly.

**It is right, proper**, and only fitting to give God thanks when prayers appear to have been answered as we had hoped. But it is also only kind, pastoral, and also fitting to stand with those who cannot quite throw themselves into Psalm 116's celebration.

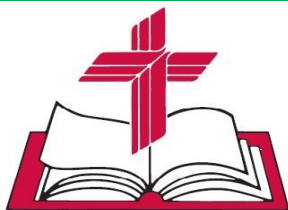
**Taken together**, this psalm's nineteen verses remind us that in all things, God is with us and he is full of kind compassion whatever our lot. And that is worth celebrating indeed.

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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  
intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
9:15 am Adult study

## This Weeek at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>15</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Blended Worship Communion Service</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>9am–Noon Preschool</b> <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>18</b> <b>9am–Noon Preschool</b>	<b>19</b> <b>9am–Noon Preschool</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>

## September Celebrations



## Stewardship Snapshot

### September 8th

17 Worshipped  
 3 Watched Live  
7 Watched Later  
 27 Total

### Financial Support for September 8th

Offering wasn't counted this week

### 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

## 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

**VERSE OF THE MONTH** <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! <sup>25</sup> Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? <sup>26</sup> Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

<sup>27</sup> "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. <sup>30</sup> For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. <sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - Luke 12:23-34

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." - Romans 1:17 (NIV)

Where are you in your faith, in your belief, in your trusting of what God has done for you and wants to do in and through you today? Ask God to fill you afresh each day so you might trust Him especially when you're being persecuted, when troubles or hard times come.



# Seeking Volunteer Groups for Bridge Teen Center

In celebration of November's Empowering Teens Month, we are seeking volunteer groups to assist in processing donations at [The Bridge Thrift Store](#) in October and November. Gather members from your congregation, small group, youth group, or individuals to volunteer together. All volunteers must be at least 10 years of age. Click below to learn more and schedule your service event. Thank you for your support!



## Empowering Teens Month Celebrates Teen Programs

The Bridge's mission is to provide FREE afterschool programs during unsupervised hours where students can develop holistically in a safe environment. Since 2010, The Bridge has **engaged, connected, and empowered** more than 13,000+ different students from 128 communities through our free programs and events. We are challenging young people to discover new things, navigate life, and explore who they were created to be. Your service will help us continue our mission!





## Preschool News

**PRESCHOOL** is opened now that summer is over, well at least for school that is. She has 4 students enrolled for this fall, she had a tour earlier this summer 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. Diana is hoping to have our preschool grow into a larger class again this year. In order to help our preschool out, she will be having a very yummy fundraiser. Nothing Bundt Cakes is partnering with us in an effort to help raise money for our preschool. Please see the flyer below for the promotion. All orders will be due by 11/6 and they be ready for pickup on November 18th. Remember you can always freeze them for an extra week to have them for dessert for your Thanksgiving dinner. It's very easy and yummy all at the same time, and there are many delicious varieties and flavors to choose from. It will only be their bundtlets that will be for the fundraiser, each bundtlet is \$6 and comes in their traditional flavors.



## The Sweetest Way to Support Living World Lutheran Church and Preschool

Fundraiser Cake Flavors Available:

Chocolate Chocolate Chip | Red Velvet | White Chocolate Raspberry

Lemon | Confetti | Classic Vanilla | Carrot

Snickerdoodle | Strawberries & Cream | Gluten-Free Chocolate Chip Cookie

**Individual Bundtlet Cost: \$6**

## Mission of the Month



# Honey

Sunday,  
September 29th

**Suggested Donation**  
**\$10 per bottle**

Thank you for your support of  
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.



**MOWING OPPORTUNITIES** are still available if you are interested and able to help our mow crew. We currently have about 5 guys who have volunteered to help us out each week. Neal was able to sell our standup mower and bought a new sit down riding mower with a steering wheel, so it is much easier to use, so hopefully we will be able to get a few more volunteers to make it easier for everybody. There is still about another month of mowing for the year, depending on the weather. This is a huge help for us to save money.

**TRANSITION TEAM** has the Call documents for Pastor Koschmann all signed, copied, sealed and mailed. He has now received them and is reviewing the documents, he has reached out to Diana to email him a copy of our constitution and bylaws. Diana will also send a letter notifying his church as to us extending a call to him. Please join me in keeping Pastor Koschmann and his family along with his church, Holy Cross in Los Gatos, CA in your prayers as he hopefully and prayerfully considers accepting our Call.

**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. Pastor Lee and Elaine had visited with him last Sunday and gave him communion and prayed with him. They said that he is in good spirits and alert throughout the day, he is still struggling with having dizziness and falling, but other than that he is doing well.

**VISIT BEING PLANNED** to see Pastor John for his birthday. His birthday is October 3rd, so we will either go to Victorian Village either the Sunday before or the Sunday after. Please see Diana and/or Beverly if you would like to go. We would like to give Victorian Village a heads up prior to bring a caravan of people there. Pastor John will be 88 this year.

**“He Heard My Voice”**

Psalm 116 says: *“I love the Lord, for he heard my voice...”*

**1) God sustains me with well-instructed WORDS.**

<sup>4</sup>The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. <sup>5</sup>The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. <sup>6</sup>I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mock-ing and spitting. <sup>7</sup>Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. <sup>8</sup>He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! <sup>9</sup>It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up. <sup>10</sup>Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let the one who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on their God.

Isaiah 50:4-10

**2) God tames me with a tempered TONGUE.**

<sup>3</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup>We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. <sup>3</sup>When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup>Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. <sup>5</sup>Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. <sup>6</sup>The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup>but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. <sup>10</sup>Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. <sup>11</sup>Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? <sup>12</sup>My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

James 3:1-12

**3) God claims me with his High Priest’s PRAYER.**

<sup>14</sup>When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. <sup>15</sup>As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. <sup>16</sup>“What are you arguing with them about?” he asked. <sup>17</sup>A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. <sup>18</sup>Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.” <sup>19</sup>“You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” <sup>20</sup>So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup>Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. <sup>22</sup>“It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” <sup>23</sup>“If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” <sup>24</sup>Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” <sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” <sup>26</sup>The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. <sup>28</sup>After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” <sup>29</sup>He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

Mark 9:14-29

