



### Inside this issue:

"Commit to the Relationship"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
September Celebrations	2
Stewardship Snapshot/Devotional Time	2
Community Support News	3
Preschool News	4
Mission of the Month	5
Living Word News	5
9-15-2024 Message Outline	6

### 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 37

September 22, 2024

## "Commit to the Relationship"

One of the greatest Scriptures on commitment in the Bible are the words of Ruth to Naomi: *'Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.'* Why are we afraid to commit to a relationship?

- 1) Fear of losing control: 'Why forgo my independence?'
- 2) Fear of lack: 'What if he or she ruins my finances?'
- 3) Fear of inadequacy: 'What if I can't meet his or her expectations?'
- 4) Fear of loneliness: 'What if he or she deserts me?'
- 5) Fear of pain: 'I've been hurt before, and I don't want to be hurt again.'

So, what do you do? Today the answer has become a 'common law marriage', but this isn't God's way. Living together without marriage is like renting a room versus buying a house. If a repair is necessary for the rented room, the renter is apt to abandon the room for another. If a repair is necessary for their home, the owners (who should have put much consideration and prayer into the decision to purchase) make the required commitment to protect their investment.

A study on cohabitation found that nearly 19 percent of couples who lived together before their engagement had suggested divorce during their marriage. In couples who did not live together first, the figure was just over 10 percent. Contrary to what you may think, those who play around and move from relationship to relationship don't experience lasting happiness. Whereas, those who commit themselves to God and to one another experience true and lasting happiness.

**PRAYER: Heavenly Father, in all of my relationships with others, help me be there for them and not be "fair weather" friends. In Jesus' Name, Amen**

The word *commit* means 'to bind, or obligate, or pledge'. And for some of us, it evokes pictures of servitude, restraints, and the loss of our freedom. In other words, it frightens us. Many people place a high value on their independence and self-sufficiency, and as a result, some of them can also become more reluctant to commit to a relationship that requires compromise and consideration of another person's views (see *Philippians 2:3-4*). It may lead to a desire to keep the relationship fluid and flexible, so they can stay or leave whenever they want. The partner desiring the commitment finds such a relationship frustrating and unfulfilling. So, what should you do if you're reluctant to commit to the relationship? Two things:

1) Be honest with yourself about your fears, feelings, and motivations. David said, *'You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom' (Psalm 51:6)*. Notice, wisdom comes from being honest about what is going on inside you. What are your memories of your parents' marriage and how it affected you? Have you observed similar patterns of behavior on your own part or that of your potential mate when it comes to dealing with relationships?

2) Admit the role you may have played, even as an enabler of poor behavior, in the collapse of a former relationship. Have you changed now? Are you willing to? If so, then here is God's promise to you of a better future: *'Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing' (Isaiah 43:18-19)*.

**PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help me to commit or recommit in my relationship so we can see things as one. In Jesus' Name, Amen**

## This Weeek at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>22</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Blended Worship Service</b> <b>First Day of Fall</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>9am–Noon Preschool</b> <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>25</b> <b>9am–Noon Preschool</b> <b>7:00pm Council Meeting</b>	<b>26</b> <b>9am–Noon Preschool</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

### September Celebrations



#### Church Contacts

*intouchlwlc@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

#### September 15th

19 Worshipped, 18 Communed

2 Watched Live

6 Watched Later

27 Total

#### Financial Support for September 8th

**\$835.00** General Fund Donation

#### Financial Support for September 15th

**1,635.00** General Fund Donation

### 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** Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup> Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. *Hebrews 13:1-2 (NIV)*

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. - Romans 1:20 (NIV)*

God has ordered the universe and humanity to reveal Himself to us. We are hard-wired to want the abundant life, but the evil one deceives us as to what that it. And when we allow ourselves to be thus deceived, our lives, human society and indeed the very earth we live on gets out of whack. We reap what we sow.

How can we avoid this? God has not left you without recourse. Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, there is hope. Allow God to conform your life to His will, to the way He designed you to live.



## 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



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



## Living Word News

**HONEY SUNDAY FORMS** are due next Sunday, if you were going to order a bottle or two and are not here next Sunday, just give me a call in the office and let me know how many bottles you want. Thank you as always for your generous support.

**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. We now have also sent a letter notifying his church as to us extending a call to him. Pastor Koschmann has been in contact with Diana as to few questions that he had, and to express that he is still prayerfully considering his options. 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 is still on the table, but only depending on how he is feeling. The prayer group had been wanting to visit him for our prayer session for the past month or so, and he said he is not up to it, he has been having frequent fainting spells lately, and until the doctors can diagnose and control what is going on, he prefers not to get overwhelmed or have the need to worry if it would happen during our visit. His birthday is October 3rd, we were hoping to go either go to Victorian Village either the Sunday before or the Sunday after, but we might have to put it off depending on his health. Pastor John will be 88 this year. He still needs to be in our prayers. We will keep you posted as to his health and any plans for a visit. Thank you both your patience and understanding in this matter,

## "Vindicate Me"

Psalms 54 says: "Save me, O God, by Your name; vindicate me by Your might..." When – if ever – should we pray for vindication...?

### 1) Pray for vindication in God's CAUSE, not yours.

<sup>18</sup> Because the LORD revealed their plot to me, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing. <sup>19</sup> I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying, "Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more."  
<sup>20</sup> But you, LORD Almighty, who judge righteously and test the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause.  
 Jeremiah 11:18-20

### 2) Pray for vindication in God's WISDOM, not yours.

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup> Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. **4** What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? <sup>2</sup> You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. <sup>3</sup> When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>4</sup> You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? <sup>6</sup> But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.  
 James 3:13-4:10

### 3) Pray for vindication in SERVING others, not yourself.

<sup>30</sup> They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, <sup>31</sup> because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it. <sup>33</sup> They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" <sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."  
<sup>36</sup> He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."  
 Mark 9:30-37

