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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

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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 38

September 29, 2024

"Search and Restore"

Jesus has started to speak openly about his impending death. He is moving inexorably toward Jerusalem; he has urged those who want to follow him to pick up their crosses and get moving. Exacting, unswerving discipleship seems to be what is needed most urgently. There is a mounting sense of expectation and tension surrounding Jesus' next moves. Despite all of this, Jesus displays great generosity toward those at the fringes of his band of disciples, those who work powerfully in Jesus' name but have not yet adopted the standard ways of affiliating with him. He seems eager to include these people among his band and he expects his followers to do likewise.

If, to use one of Jesus' own analogies, the coming of the kingdom is like the start of a grand dinner party, then Jesus wants his followers to be like gracious hosts welcoming the guests. Of course, the best hosts draw their guests into a group and out of themselves, forming a sort of community. Jesus also has some fairly harsh warnings for those among his more established followers who set up roadblocks or checkpoints for "these little ones who believe in me."

Jesus neither needs nor wants bouncers guarding the door to the grand feast he is initiating. Nevertheless, Jesus is not blurring the lines between believers and unbelievers, he displays and commands a generous openness to those who believe in him and are doing powerful deeds in his name, yet for reasons undefined have not joined the main body of disciples. Perhaps Jesus is too hopeful, too optimistic about these outsiders to suit our temperament. For in our most public gestures and pronouncements Christians in this country rarely display this sort of generosity toward each other. The desires to exclude generally overwhelm the desire to draw in.

Such an observation is typically countered by the claim that rather than excluding and separating from their brothers and sisters, these believers are simply addressing the overt and insufficiently acknowledged sinfulness of the church. In the face of similar failings among his followers, Jesus himself is neither indifferent nor silent.

This seems to be a valid point. In the final words of his epistle James has something to say. Those who have read this far in James know that he is hardly soft on sin. James outlines both the sources and motives of strife among believers. He has unequivocally asserted the interconnection between Christian belief and practice. He reprimands the rich, the verbose, the hypocrites and the self-sufficient, who seek to conduct their affairs outside the scope of God's providential care. It is as if James prophetically anticipated the advent of the modern wealthy theology professor.

It is abundantly clear that James is hardly indifferent to believers' tendencies to wander into sin. It is important to recognize, though, that he is not eager to exclude believers when they do wander into sin. Rather, the final and most important task for believers is to bring back those who wander into sin. This is the perfect complement to the generosity displayed by Jesus in the reading from Mark. The aim of Jesus' generosity toward those on the margins of the group seems to be to draw them in closer. Once drawn by the generosity of Jesus inside the circle of disciples, believers must not allow each other to wander away.

James will not let believers write each other off. We cannot be indifferent to either our own sin or the sin of others. Further, James calls us to display a profound level of compassion for our sisters and brothers in Christ. Should believers wander into any of the sins James has incisively analyzed in the body of his letter, it falls to their sisters and brothers to seek them out and turn them around. Indeed, James suggests that absent our seeking them out, the salvation of the wandering brother or sister is at stake. The degree to which James imagines believers to be dependent upon each other is staggering. Nevertheless, success in this venture "will cover a multitude of sins."

October 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	1 9am–Noon Preschool	2 9am–Noon Preschool	3 9am–Noon Preschool	4	5
6 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Ser- vice	7	8 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	9 9am–Noon Preschool	10 9am–Noon Preschool	11	12
13 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	14	15 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	16 9am–Noon Preschool	17 9am–Noon Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting	18	19
20 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	21	22 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	23 9am–Noon Preschool	24 9am–Noon Preschool	25	26
27 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service Reformation Sunday Elder Bill Merchantz Pot Luck	28	29 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	30 9am–Noon Preschool	31 9am–Noon Preschool Hal- loween Party  Halloween		



September Celebrations



Sept 30 Dwight Hostert

October Celebrations



Oct 3 John Bucka
Oct 3 Petra Wasilkoff
Oct 5 Barbara Erjavec
Oct 11 Jill Goebel
Oct 21 Carolyn Wagenaar
Oct 25 Ashley Meier
Oct 25 Pastor Steve Lee



Oct 8 Dave Holloway
Oct 9 Joe Urbank
Oct 24 Noah Hostert
Oct 26 Renate DiGrazia

Happy Anniversary



Oct 10 Bill & Abby Merchantz

Stewardship Snapshot

September 22nd

20 Worshipped
 1 Watched Live
10 Watched Later
 31 Total

Financial Support
 1,030.00 General Fund Donation

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

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. ²Do 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 *They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. - Romans 1:25 (NIV)*

Since the Garden of Eden, humans have continued to be deceived, choosing to believe the lies of the evil one over the truth of God. We act as though what we can see is all that exists, and imagine God's creation, or some part of it, is God. We imagine God is like us—petty, selfish, lustful, proud, and greedy.

But God is not like us, and continually calls us back to himself. Listen to his call, give up the lies, and return to God's truth.

Preschool News/Mission of the Month

PRESCHOOL is opened now that summer is over. 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. This will also be our Mission of the Month for October. Please see the flyer below for the promotion. All orders will be due by 11/6 and they will 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. There will be order forms in the bulletins each week. Please make sure you share these with your family and friends also. They also make great little treats for yourself even if it's just an ordinary day and not for a holiday.



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 this Sunday, if you were going to order a bottle or two and are not here on 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 will be meeting and discussing several different options that we have available to us. Once we know for certain when we are meeting and the people that will be at the meeting, we will be announcing the details of that in the newsletter and during the announcements at the end of the service. We appreciate all of your patience and diligence during these difficult times, but the stronger we can stay, the stronger we will become.

COUNCIL MEETING was on Wednesday evening, among the topics that were discussed was preschool, financial updates and Call Committee updates. The notes from the meeting will be announced after service on Sunday.

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, We do have a couple of birthday cards for everyone to sign so we can send them to him.

Living Word News (Continued)

THANKS TO ELDER BILL for filling in for Pastor Lee. Bill Merchantz will be leading us in worship service this Sunday and on October 27th, which will be Reformation Sunday. Bill also would like to have a pot luck meal that day. I really like Bill's ideas, lol. There will be more information announced and sent out to everyone, remember to bring your appetites that day. You can tell Bill is looking forward to being able to lead us in worship that Sunday as well.

POT LUCK MEAL BEING PLANNED for the last Sunday of the month in October. As I stated above, Head elder, Bill Merchantz suggested we could have a pot luck after service on Reformation Sunday. I will have a sign up sheet so everyone can let us know how many will be coming and the goodies that they will be bringing.

Preschool Pics

