



## GOD'S WORD for Peace Officers

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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

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 33, Issue 41

October 20, 2024

## "Excerpts from God's Word for Peace Officers"

### God's Word Lays Down God's Law

God's Word reveals His good and perfect law. God has also placed His law in the heart of every human being. We are all born with a sense of right and wrong, what is just and unjust. Although imperfectly understood and selectively practiced because of our flawed human condition, this natural law of the heart agrees with the perfect revealed law found in God's Word. This law of God, which He has placed in our hearts and reveals in His Word, is to be applied in three ways. First, God gives His law to guide society's laws and curb lawlessness. Second, God gives His precepts to guide our personal and professional principles. Third, and most important for us regarding our eternal destiny, God gives His law as a mirror to show us our sin and our need for a Savior (Romans 3:19-31). Let's look at each of these in turn...

### God's Law Guides Society's Laws

God's laws forms the foundations upon which society's laws must be built, and by which society must be governed if justice is to prevail. God's laws are fair, and when followed bring fairness to the people if the principle of *"blind justice"* - *"equal justice under the law"* - is honored. Here is a clear example of natural law that all major religions and philosophies support, even if despots don't (e.g. *"The only stable state is the one in which all men are equal before the law."* - Aristotle.) Throughout history, God's laws have been recognized as a sound basis for society's laws. For example, at least until more recent times in America, the people always recognized the rule of God and His laws. The courts spoke of *"a law beyond the law."* and *"the laws of nature and nature's God."* The people pledged allegiance to *"one nation, under God."* Many courtrooms and other government buildings still have the Ten Commandments on their walls. Even U.S. currency reminds Americans that *"In God We Trust."* In the Declaration of Independence, the founders of the United States held that God's law informs man's law and ultimately His authority is higher than government's authority. There fore, they boldly stated that all people are created equal and have God-given rights even a king must respect. They asserted the law of God transcends the law of kings. In that assertion is an implied admission that without God a king is not bound to a higher law, and a people who deny God and His laws open themselves to abuse by both king and criminal. To be clear, we do not have a theocracy by direct rule of God through a religious dictatorship, but we do have a representative constitutional republic founded on a theistic worldview. God's Word is compatible with our constitution and consistent with support for our historic and legal heritage, including our oath of office.

America's founders knew that freedom without responsibility before God can never last. John Adams, himself a framer of the U.S. Constitution, once wrote that the Constitution was written only for a moral and religious people. It is suitable for the governance of no property, not upon force of arms. This is the only way freedom can survive. The founders knew that rights and responsibilities are the two sides of the coin of liberty, and we must honor God and His law if peace, freedom and justice are to prevail (2 Chronicles 7:14). Americans hold these truths to be both self-evident and sacred.

There have always been those who ignored or defied God's law, abused their position or lost their integrity, but when scandals and injustice came to light there was public condemnation and common recognition that there must be accountability and we should aspire to a higher standard. Our national God-given conscience even prompted Americans to endure a civil war for the cause of freedom and justice. There was a moral and spiritual consensus that served as guard and compass for the nation. But a troubling ill wind is blowing the country from its proven course. Unprincipled and even illegal acts have been excused and defended in ways

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## This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>20</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Blended</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>Service</b> <b>Council</b> <b>Meeting</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>9am-Noon</b> <b>Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am Push</b> <b>Prayer</b>	<b>23</b> <b>9am-Noon</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>24</b> <b>9am-Noon</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>

## Stewardship Snapshot

### October 13th

**18 Worshipped**  
**2 Watched Live**  
**10 Watched Later**  
**30 Total**

### Financial Support for October 13th

170.00 Honey Sunday (Mission of the Month)  
 1,401.91 Peace Officer's Bible Project  
1,785.00 General Fund Donation  
**\$3,356.91 Total Deposit**

### 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>13</sup>For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. - *Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)*

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God. - Romans 2:28-29 (NIV)*

Christians are God's chosen people. Yet many today say they don't believe in Jesus because of the Christians they know. They are either very wayward, or proud of their own righteousness. Neither of those lifestyles glorifies the God we claim we serve.

If you have strayed in either of those ways, ask God to circumcise your heart again, showing you how to want him, desire him, worship Him. Only with new hearts can we trust in God by faith.



## Living Word News

**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.

**HONEY SUNDAY FORMS** were due the last Sunday of September, but since the money has not yet been deposited and counted for the orders, if you would still like to order a bottle or two of honey, please let me know, the order has not been sent in yet, so we can still accept requests for honey. Thank you as always for your generous support. This mission not only helps the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, but helps us out a little as well.

**TRANSITION TEAM** and the church council will be meeting with President Buss from NID and Pastor Schauer on Sunday, November 24th. We have asked President Buss to be able to meet with us so we can discuss the availability of seminary students graduating in the spring and the possibility of shared ministry with other churches. We will also be discussing some other options that have been brought to our attention last year from Pastor Price from Trinity Lutheran in Lisle. We will keep you informed as the meeting draws closer and of any further updates or developments that we get. If there is something you would like us to address with President Buss, please let any of the members of the council or Call Committee know.

**COUNCIL MEETING** is scheduled for this Sunday after the worship service. Please let any of the members of the council know if there is something you would like for them to discuss. Diana or Bill will announce the different topics that were discussed during the announcements after service next week.

**PHIL'S FRIENDS** has sent us a book written by their founder, Phil Zelke. The book is title "*Seeing The Good In It*". This was sent along with a personalized note inside the front cover thanking us for our donation for the month of August. The note reads, "*Living Word, Thanks for supporting cancer patients and their families with the love of Jesus. May you always 'see the good in it!'*" The note is signed, "*In Hope, Phil*"

**THANKS TO ELDER BILL** for filling in for Pastor Lee last Sunday on short notice. Pastor Lee went down to the Gulf Coast to provide comfort to those who have lost so very much during these last two hurricanes. Bill will also be leading our worship service 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.

**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 have a sign up sheet out on the desk now, so everyone can let us know how many will be coming and the goodies that they will be bringing. It seems like everyone wanted to bring in German food since it is Reformation Sunday and as it is still October. Even though the graphic I have on the sign up sheet says "Germanfest", it really isn't, even though most of the food will of German delicacies, lol. Yum, I know we will definitely enjoy all of the food and everyone's fellowship. Don't forget to let our extended church family members who have not been here for a while know about this delicious event, it would be so nice to see some of our not so forgotten about brothers and sisters in Christ.



**POLICE OFFICERS' BIBLES** are here now. They had arrived last Tuesday afternoon. There are a few copies on the desk in the fellowship hall. Please make sure you stop and check them out. If you know of any police officers that could benefit from these bibles, please feel free to give them one.



## Preschool News/Mission of the Month

**PRESCHOOL** is in full swing. 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**

## 10-20-2024 Message Outline

### **"I Rejoice"**

Psalm 119 says: *"I rejoice in following your statutes..."*

#### **1) I rejoice in God's RICHES.**

<sup>10</sup> Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless. <sup>11</sup> As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast their eyes on them? <sup>12</sup> The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep. <sup>13</sup> I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners, <sup>14</sup> or wealth lost through some misfortune, so that when they have children there is nothing left for them to inherit. <sup>15</sup> Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart. They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands. <sup>16</sup> This too is a grievous evil: As everyone comes, so they depart, and what do they gain, since they toil for the wind? <sup>17</sup> All their days they eat in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger. <sup>18</sup> This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. <sup>19</sup> Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. <sup>20</sup> They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

#### **2) I rejoice in God's REST.**

<sup>4</sup> Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. <sup>2</sup> For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed. <sup>3</sup> Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world. <sup>4</sup> For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "On the seventh day God rested from all his works." <sup>5</sup> And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest." <sup>6</sup> Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience, <sup>7</sup> God set a certain day, calling it "Today." This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." <sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. <sup>9</sup> There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; <sup>10</sup> for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. <sup>11</sup> Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience. <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. <sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:1-13

#### **3) I rejoice in God's RESURRECTION.**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup> The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup> The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" <sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." <sup>28</sup> Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!" <sup>29</sup> "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Mark 10:23-31

## *"Excerpts from God's Word for Peace Officers"*

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Not seen before and the nature of law itself has been redefined to accommodate our lower standards. America's courts have shifted away from a historic understanding that government is to be governed by God's unchanging laws. Many no longer recognize God-given law in our post-modern era, and so the rule of law is now in danger. The disturbing question for society is, *"When God no longer defines law and justice, who does?"* The historically proven and disturbing answer can only be, *"The strongest."*

### **God's Precepts Define Our Principles**

There's a vital relationship between good law enforcement and the Good Lawgiver. Law enforcement must be built upon proper authority. Proper authority must be built upon just laws. Just laws must be built upon sound principles. Sound principles must be built upon universal truths. Universal truths must be authored by a universal, authoritative, and good Source. That Source can only be God. He always stands ready, willing and able to guide us according to His eternal precepts (Psalm 119:89-94). Peace officers must stand on principle. Principles provide the foundation on which protection and service to society are built, and by which we find guidance and strength in our personal lives (Psalm 119). In remarking on a very basic principle, one officer described the thin blue line by saying, *"We are the shepherds who stand between the sheep and the wolves."* The role of an officer is to stand between violator and victim. That role comes from both God and the state (Romans 13:1-7). If necessary, an officer uses reasonable force to defend society, including deadly force if needed and lawful. In this tough duty he or she needs God's tempering truth, from which the steel of strong law and love is forged. To do otherwise is to also become a violator or victim. Principle, based upon God-given precepts, gives a shepherd strength in the stresses of life and duty (1 Samuel 17). We cannot govern principle. Principle—not power or party or person—must govern us. Lack of principle is what produces the wolf of dictatorship in a people or the worm of degeneracy in a person. If we deny God and His universal truths, we usurp His authority, author our own truth, and invent our own self-centered principles. We shepherds then turn into wolves ourselves and destroy one another in a Darwinian *"survival of the fittest"* fight to the death, and justice goes the way of both wolves and unprotected sheep—it dies too.

What do we do when we fail to live up to God's precepts and our own principles, as invariably happens? First, even though it is impossible for us to be perfect in this life, we should always strive to live honorably. The world needs more, not less, integrity. This requires practice. To illustrate, just because I will never learn to shoot perfectly does not mean I give up going to the range. Instead, this reality motivates me to as often as I can improve stance, sight picture, grip, trigger control, etc. to be as skillful as possible with imperfectible skills. Second, just because we stumble and fall does not mean we must remain in the mud. God forgives. We also need to forgive ourselves, and others, and get up and go on. Third, there are just and proper consequences for lapses, even if our sinful human condition makes those lapses unavoidable. These consequences take a variety of forms. They act to inhibit and restrain our bad behavior, and act as a future deterrent. They make us think twice... *"You can go the easy way, or you can go the hard way, but you gonna go."* Even King David himself, although repentant and forgiven by God, still had to face terrible but just consequences for his sin. Fourth, to find true healing and happiness in our lives, we must always be careful to be honest and humble before God, and admit and turn away from our sins.

### **God's Law Convicts Us**

God's law is good, perfect, and necessary for our guidance, but we cannot rely on our observance of it to justify ourselves before God. If we do, we wind up convicted rather than commended. Some believe that if our good deeds outweigh our bad deeds, we can work our way to heaven and God will accept us. But again, we can't rely on moral, civil, or even religious deeds to earn us a place in heaven, because none of us has kept God's law perfectly. God's standard is perfection because He is a perfect God. God's Word says, *"Because all people have sinned, they have fallen short of God's glory"* (Romans 3:23). Peace officers face two temptations regarding God's law. First, they may be tempted to think that they're on the fast track to heaven because they are God's instruments in enforcing the law. God's Word tells us that this is not so. We all fall short of God's glory, no matter what our role in life. If we take an honest look at ourselves in God's law mirror, we know this is true. Second, one of the biggest dangers officers face is temptation to live by the law in their personal as well as their professional lives. But what works on the street does not always work well in the heart or in the home, as spiritual, physical, emotional marital, and family breakdowns prove. God's law is good, but we cannot live without His love and forgiveness. If we do understand this in our lives, we become self-righteous hypocrites, denying, excusing, or minimizing our sin, and we crush ourselves and others under an unbearable load of legalism. The law of God is good, but we must understand its limits and its place. Because of our inability to abide by the law's righteous demands, it cannot ultimately give us a complete life in this world or lead us to eternal life in heaven. There must be another way.