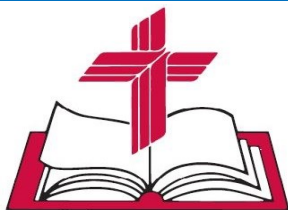


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PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

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

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 33, Issue 47

December 1, 2024

"Thinking Outside the Religious Box"

Author Nicole Unice says the suspicions people have about Christians include, 'They judge me. They are better than I am. They won't approve of me. I won't fit in with their religion. They are all serious and no fun.' Jesus hung around enough parties for the Pharisees to accuse Him of being a drunkard. He befriended forbidden women. He interacted with people so He could introduce them to His Father. He broke through stereotypes and communicated God as He is – approachable, merciful, and graceful. The people who were most upset...were the ones who preferred...the rules of the religion...The concept of a free and joyful life with Jesus may seem basic for you. But is that what your neighbors think? It feels as comfortable as sweatpants to hang out with people who believe and feel as we do. Fellowship among believers is a wonderful gift. But if we are truly to follow Jesus' example, we need to look for opportunities to engage those around us.'

Jesus goes a step further: 'Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick?...I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders.' How can you share the gospel if all your friends are Christians? Some of us have become so isolated and disconnected that we have no meaningful interaction whatsoever with nonbelievers. And the more time passes, the more insulated and comfortable we become, until eventually we lose touch with the very people Jesus came to save. Paul says, 'Find common ground with [nonbelievers]...tell [them] about Christ...let Christ save [them]' (1 Corinthians 9:22). It's called thinking outside 'the religious box'.

There is a difference between loving nonbelievers and loving their ways. Paul says, 'Find common ground with everyone, doing everything [you] can to save some' (1 Corinthians 9:22).

So:

1) Be courteous. 'The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down' (Colossians 4:6).

2) Be genuine. 'Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it' (Romans 12:9).

Because Jesus found common ground with the woman at the well, she made peace with God, then brought her friends and family to meet Jesus (see John 4). You have to spend time around nonbelievers to introduce them to Christ. When Levi invited Jesus and His disciples as dinner guests with tax collectors and other disreputable sinners, the Pharisees asked, "Why does he eat with such scum?"...Jesus...told them..."I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners" (Mark 2:16-17).

Author Mark Roberts observes: 'Table fellowship signified deep intimacy. To eat with someone was to share in their life and to allow them into yours...The Pharisees, who were committed to the highest standards of ritual purity...expected Jesus to do as they did, keeping plenty of distance between themselves and questionable types who might compromise Jesus' holiness.'

Jesus didn't see people as 'scum', and wasn't concerned about maintaining a religious facade. He ate with sinners because they needed His help and were open to receive it. How about you? Are you willing to get your hands dirty? Are you more concerned with what people think about you than you are about those who need Christ?

December 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Ser- vice	2	3 9am-Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	4 9am-Noon Preschool	5 9am-Noon Preschool	6	7
8 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	9	10 9am-Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	11 9am-Noon Preschool	12 9am-Noon Preschool	13	14
15 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service  Preschool Christmas	16	17 9am-Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	18 9am-Noon Preschool	19 9am-Noon Preschool Preschool Christmas Party 	20	21 First Day of Winter 
22 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	23	24 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service  Christmas Break—No Preschool	25 10:00am Christmas Day Service	26	27	28
29 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	30	31 10:00am Push Prayer New Year's Eve No Preschool 				

December Celebrations



Dec 17 Eleanor Galik
Dec 17 Jennifer Lange
Dec 29 Pam Hostert
Dec 30 Rick Boehm



*Happy Baptism
 Birthday!*

Dec 18 Carolyn Wagenaar

Stewardship Snapshot

November 24th

25 Worshipped
 2 Watched Live
6 Watched Later
 33 Total

Financial Support for November 24th

1,150.00 General Fund Deposit)

Church Contacts

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 your requests, or join us for 30-40 minutes each week. You can also join on Zoom.

PUSH PRAYER will be available on Zoom now for any of our out-of-towners and/or shut-ins to join us., I will email the link on Monday afternoons or Tuesday mornings, so it would be easier for you to find the email in your inbox. Just click on the link and it will connect you to the group. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the PUSH PRAYER on December 3rd.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84076099900?pwd=d3BxLlBwblZlRVpuSGhgTXc2dGRldz09>

Meeting ID: 840 7609 9900 Passcode: 427470

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84076099900#,,,,*427470# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,84076099900#,,,,*427470# US

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

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *[W]e also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. - Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)*

Through faith in Christ's death and resurrection, we are justified and have peace with God. As we live by faith, the evil one dials up his attacks, bringing all manner of distraction, persecution and opposition into our lives. But as we continue to trust Christ to strengthen us as we follow Him, we grow in character. Character is who we are becoming, and seeing how we are becoming more Christlike gives us hope. And the surety of our hope gives us joy.

VERSE OF THE MONTH ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."- *Joshua 1:9 (NIV)*

Living Word News

PRAYER REQUEST OF THANKSGIVING for Pastor John as he is in the regular assisted living building. He was reevaluated again last month. He has expressed that he is up to having some 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. 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.

PRAYER REQUEST for Eleanor Galik. She accidentally tripped a few weeks ago and has a broken left hip. Please keep her in your prayers as she recovers and that she has a speedy and successful recovery from this fall. She is a very strong person and we know God will see her through this. She seen her primary doctor and her cardiologist last week. Her blood pressure is normal once again, and she traveled to Florida with Marilouise. Even though it was a long day for her, she handled like only Eleanor can. She was in our prayer meeting on Tuesday via Zoom, and she looked great. We love you Eleanor.

THANK YOU to Chloe Hostert, Kristi Hartz and Anita Meier for helping me last Sunday in starting to decorate our sanctuary and building for the upcoming Christmas season. All that is left to do is the Christmas trees and the manger, plus maybe a few little things. It looks so nice!

THANK YOU AGAIN to head elder Bill Merchantz. He led us in worship for our Thanksgiving Eve service. This had allowed Pastor Lee and Elaine to travel to their nephew's house in Columbus, OH for Thanksgiving dinner. They plan on returning late Saturday evening to lead us in worship on Sunday morning. Plus, Pastor was also able to travel to Florida for his chaplaincy work and hand out another box of his Peace Officer's Bibles.

COUNCIL MEETING was last Sunday, November 24th, after the service and before our meeting with President Buss.

FREE CHILD'S CIRCUS TICKETS available on the desk in the Fellowship Hall. We received 2 envelopes of tickets to the circus this week. Please feel free to help yourself. The tickets are for 1 free child's admission with a paid adult ticket.



www.spectacularcircus.com

Buy Tickets at:
spectacularcircus.com
or Hammond Civic
Center Box Office
Monday thru Friday
8am - 4pm.

HAMMOND CIVIC CENTER	
5825 SOHL AVE., HAMMOND, IN 46320	
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29 TH , 2024	2:00PM & 7:00PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 TH , 2024	11:00AM, 3:00PM & 7:00PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 ST , 2024	1:30PM & 5:30PM

PROCEEDS ARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ORAK SHRINERS. PAYMENTS ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.

**Come 1 hour
before show times
for family fun.
Ride the animals
and meet the
circus stars!**

TRANSITION TEAM and the church council had met with President Buss from NID and Pastor Schauer last Sunday. We discussed the availability of seminary students graduating in the spring and the possibility of shared ministry with other churches. We also discussed some other options that have been brought to our attention last year from Pastor Price from Trinity Lutheran in Lisle. The particular highlights will be announced after the service on Sunday. Please keep all of us and the meeting in your prayers for God's will to be done for our church.



JAZZ BAND CONCERT EVENT If you are looking to enjoy great jazz music, the Tinley Concert Band will be playing on Saturday, December 7th at the Tinley Park Holiday Market (Oak Park Avenue Train Station) at 6700 South Street in Tinley Park at 2:00pm. The concert will be approximately 40 minutes. They will also be playing at Art Beckmann Performing Arts Center (Central Middle School) located at 18146 Oak Park Avenue in Tinley Park on Sunday, December 8th at 3:00pm. You can enter the building at Door #3. There will be two more performances in the spring, one in March and another in May. I will have more information on those concerts as that time gets a little closer. If you would like any other information, please see Jim McKinney.

Mission of the Month

DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH is The Orland Township Food Pantry. We will be collecting all of December for this very worthwhile organization, who helps provide groceries to the low income families of Orland Park and Orland Hills who need immediate assistance. At the end of December we will have all of your donations deposited into the General Fund and Bill will write a check to them and it will then get mailed to the Village Office.



The Orland Township Food Pantry supplies food to low-income residents who need immediate assistance. We will be collecting monetary donations all month to help them stock their shelves for our community.

Preschool News



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH AT 10 AM

Living Word Preschool

Christmas Program



12-1-2024 Message Outline

“Remember”

Psalms 25:6-7 says: *“Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.”* The Lord remembers, and so should we...

1) This Advent, remember God remembered His PROMISE.

¹⁴“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. ¹⁵“In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.”

Jeremiah 33:14-16

2) This Advent, remember to PRAY.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹²May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

3) This Advent, remember to PRAISE.

²⁸After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰“Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³²Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴They replied, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: ³⁸“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” ⁴⁰“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Luke 19:28-40

4) This Advent, remember God FORGETS — so should we!

I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Isaiah 43:25

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

