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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 45

November 17, 2024

"Christ Is The Answer"

The author begins verse 5 with the word "therefore," meaning "because of what I have just said." Here, we might paraphrase it like this: "Because the old covenant could not bring forgiveness, Christ came into the world and said..." "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am — it is written about me in the scroll — I have come to do your will, my God.'" This is one of several Old Testament passages that foreshadow the end of the sacrificial system. Our author rephrases the psalm to emphasize his point, and he begins by giving the label "first" to a point that he will come back to shortly: "First he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them.'"

To make another point, he adds a comment: "though they were offered in accordance with the law." He is making a contrast between what the law required, and what God ultimately wanted. God gave the law not as a permanent ideal, but as a temporary system that would prepare the way for Christ, who brought the reality that the old rituals pictured. The old covenant law was not the final word on what God wanted.

What did he want? "Here I am, I have come to do your will." God wanted the people to obey him — but only Christ did it perfectly. The early church understood this psalm as a messianic psalm because Jesus fulfilled its words in a way that no psalm-writer could.

Then comes an important conclusion: "He sets aside the first to establish the second." What is the "first"? In the immediate context, it is sacrifices and offerings, but our writer has also used the word "first" five times to refer to the old covenant. The covenant with its sacrifices and rituals has been set aside.

What has been established? The doing of God's will. The word "establish" was also used for covenants, and the word "second" was also used for the new covenant (8:7). Our author is making a literary parallel here, using Psalm 40 as a miniature picture of the change in covenants. Because the old covenant could not bring forgiveness, Christ said, Out with the old, and in with the new! The new covenant been established by the obedience of Jesus Christ. He is the answer to the deficiency of the old covenant.

Verse 10 begins, "And by that will..." Whose will is this talking about — God's will, or Christ's willingness to obey it? It is not clear; perhaps our author left it ambiguous because both meanings are true. Since Christ conformed his will to God's, they had the same will. It is by God's choice, and by Christ's obedience, that "we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." We have been made holy — this is another way of describing the results of the new covenant. Our sins are removed, our conscience is cleared, and we are made holy, so we can approach God to worship. How is it done? Through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ — a sacrifice that involved both his will and his body, both his mind and his flesh. Further, we do God's will when we accept this as our means of sanctification. Jesus bridges the gap between heaven and earth, between spirit and matter, in a way that nothing else could. Only he could make an offering on earth that was acceptable in heaven. The flesh and blood of his body was no different than the flesh and blood of any other crucified man, but it was effective for our sanctification and our forgiveness because Jesus was perfectly obedient, willingly obedient. Humans are both physical and spiritual, and we sin in the flesh and in the mind. The salvation that we have in Christ redeems our bodies and our minds, sanctifying both for true worship of God. We are not saved by a purely physical sacrifice, nor by a purely spiritual one. A physical body had to be willingly given, because the spiritual sacrifice had to be expressed in the physical world. In Christ, we have been completely redeemed. His will and his body were given for us, and it was fully effective, once for all time.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blend ed Communion Worship Service	18	19 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	20 9am–Noon Preschool	21 9am–Noon Preschool	22	23

Stewardship Snapshot

November 10th

22 Worshipped
 2 Watched Live
7 Watched Later
 31 Total

Financial Support for November 3rd

46.00 Preschool Account
 500.00 Police Bibles Fund
910.00 General Fund Donation

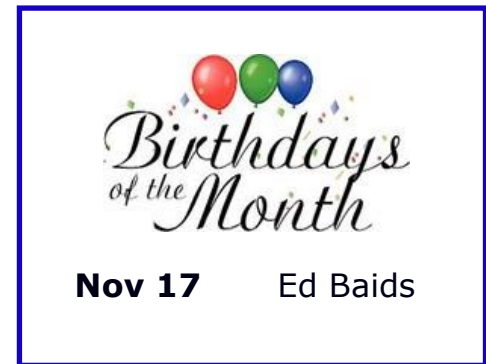
\$1,456.00 Total Deposit

Financial Support for November 10th

600.00 Pastor's Compensation
 400.00 Police Bibles Fund
1,325.00 General Fund Donation

\$2,325.00 Total Deposit

Celebrations



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 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)*

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *We have been saying that Abraham’s faith was credited to him as righteousness. Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! - Romans 4:9b-10 (NIV)*

Before he did anything for God, Abraham believed God’s promises, and God counted that faith as righteousness for Abraham. And so it is for us—only by believing God, by trusting in who God is, and in what He does for us, in us, and through us, will we be used as God used Abraham—to bless the whole world.

PRAYER REQUEST for Eleanor Galik. She accidentally tripped a couple of weeks ago in her back yard and has a broken left hip. She was at Palos (Northwestern) Hospital until they were able to find an assisted living/rehab facility that has a physical therapy program and that her insurance would approve. Currently she is at Elevate Care located at 12550 So. Ridgeland in Palos Heights. So please keep her in your prayers as she recovers and that she has a speedy and successful recovery from this fall. I will keep everyone advised as to her whereabouts and her condition, she is a very strong person and we know God will see her through this. As of right now, she needs to see her regular primary doctor and her cardiologist next week. Her blood pressure is too high for her to travel to Florida, so her trip has been postponed for now.

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.

TRANSITION TEAM and the church council will be meeting with President Buss from NID and Pastor Schauer on Sunday, November 24th after our worship service. 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. Please keep all of us and the meeting in your prayers for God's will to be done for our church.

THANK YOU AGAIN to head elder Bill Merchantz. He has volunteered to lead us in worship for our Thanksgiving Eve service. This will allow Pastor Lee and Elaine to travel to his nephew's house in Columbus, OH for Thanksgiving dinner. They were willing to plan on leaving at 5 in the morning on Thursday and return late Saturday evening to lead us in worship for both Thanksgiving Eve service and on Sunday morning. This way, Pastor and Elaine can leave a couple of days earlier and take their time to drive to Columbus ensuring more of a safe trip for them. Please be advised though that the time has changed just slightly, we will be having Thanksgiving Eve service at 6:30 pm so that all who work that day will be able to have enough time to get home and attend service that night.

COUNCIL MEETING has now been scheduled for Sunday, November 24th, after the service and before our meeting with President Buss. If there is an item that you would to have addressed at the meeting, please let Diana, Bill or Neal know.

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. The dates are Friday, November 29th at 2pm and 7pm, Saturday, November 30th at 11am, 3pm and 7pm, and Sunday, December 1st at 1:30pm and 5:30 pm. Please see the poster that is on the bulletin board for more information.

Mission of the Month

November 11-15 is Pregnancy Help Appreciation Week!

Worldwide charity network Heartbeat International has designated these days to honor the kind souls who work in pregnancy help organizations. Also known as pregnancy resource centers, pregnancy care centers, pregnancy help centers, or crisis pregnancy centers, these Gospel-motivated communities accompany and assist neighbors during and after both typical and difficult pregnancies. Their volunteers, directors, receptionists, nurses, and counselors provide pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, emotional support, parenting education, clothing, and nutrition--and often far more at no cost.

More than 3,000 pregnancy resource centers operate across the country (and many internationally as well). They support over two million individuals annually with goods and services in excess of \$250 million. Many offer free STD testing and treatment, post-abortion recovery, abortion pill reversal, mobile locations, and consultation with licensed medical professionals.

Some public officials (in New York, Maryland, Illinois, and California, for example) have slandered PRCs as deceptive or manipulative. Courts have found these accusations to be entirely baseless and repeatedly dismissed attempts to obstruct PRCs. Dozens of states formally affirm their PRCs, actively referring patients there through health departments and directing government grants to them. Nevertheless, 80% of PRCs receive no public monies, and 90% of all PRC funding comes from the private contributions of life-minded citizens.

Lutherans For Life celebrates the many blessings that pregnancy resource centers deliver. We enthusiastically encourage every Lutheran congregation and individual to connect with their closest PRC. Donate, volunteer, and share life with any who labor there and all who benefit from it. And we deeply appreciate the courage and compassion of everyone already putting God's truth and Christ's love into practice for the sanctity of every human life at pregnancy resource centers!

Mission of the Month

NOVEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH will be Lutherans for Life. We will be collecting the rest of November for this very worthwhile organization. At the end of November 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 their headquarters.



Pregnancy Help

APPRECIATION WEEK

November 11-15, 2024





LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Here We Stand

“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.” (Ephesians 6:13)

Here We Stand to declare and defend the precious value of every human being.

Here We Stand to celebrate the many blessings of abundant and everlasting life.

Here We Stand for every human life, at each stage, in any state—no matter what she’s done, no matter what he can’t do.

Here We Stand from the invisible miracle of conception to the moment of natural death—because of God’s purpose, not our own plans.

Here We Stand behind Jesus Christ’s passion, not our own pride.

Here We Stand bearing His Holy Spirit’s presence, not our own capacities.

Here We Stand against sin and selfishness, death and the devil, not against one another.

Here We Stand speaking truth and sharing love—in joy and not out of anger, in hope and not out of fear.

Here We Stand for forgiveness and not comparison, for salvation and not competition; to relieve and release, not to accuse; to listen, assist, accompany, embrace, and befriend—not to attack.

Here We Stand with millions of His children around the world and multitudes across the centuries.

Here We Stand with you and for you, wherever you are, wherever you’ve been, wherever you’re going.

Preschool News

PLEASE KEEP OUR PRESCHOOL in your prayers and thoughts. We still currently have 4 children enrolled for this year, and would love to be able to have a few more 3 or 4 year olds to join our school. Diana is working very hard, she will be graduating in May from ISU and will be receiving her bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education in the summer. She already has a student signed up for next fall, and she is hoping to have one or two of her current students returning as they will not be age-eligible for kindergarten yet. She knows that there should be a couple of younger siblings that would be joining the class as well. This is such a wonderful ministry for our church but especially for our community, so please keep passing the word about what a wonderful program that she has here. She turned in the master order form for Nothing Bundt Cakes, so our goodies will be here before you know it. Thank you so much for generous donations throughout the month and for all the orders. We had given her an order total of 37 bundtlets. We should be getting a check from them for just under \$60.00 for preschool. She will be picking up the cakes on Monday, the 18th and they will be available for you pick them up any time after 11:00 am that Monday. We will store them in the refrigerator for everybody.

11-17-2024 Message Outline

“Therefore Rejoice, Because...”

Psalm 16 says: *“Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me...”*

1) Therefore rejoice, because we shine God’s Holy LIGHT.

¹² “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. Daniel 12:1-3

2) Therefore rejoice, because we enter God’s Holy PLACE.

¹¹ Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. ¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: ¹⁶ “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” ¹⁷ Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” ¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary. ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:11-25

3) Therefore rejoice, because we have God’s Holy SPIRIT.

¹³ As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!” ² “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” ³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?” ⁵ Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶ Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹ “You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. ¹⁰ And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. ¹¹ Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. ¹² “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ¹³ Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. Mark 13:1-13

