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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 43

November 3, 2024

"Conformed or Transformed?"

'We like to imagine ourselves a race of rugged individuals – the Patrick Henrys, Davy Crockett, and Lone Rangers. The truth is, we hate to appear different lest we be ostracized, branded fanatics, and rejected. So, we conform. You'll see it in the child eager to please; the adolescent aligning with peer pressure; the adult breaking their back to keep up with the Joneses.'

Just being different for its own sake is likely to be worthless, even counterproductive. What God wants from us is our willingness to be radically transformed. *'Therefore, I urge you...to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind'* (vv. 1-2). Here are two important observations to help you reach that goal.

1) Transformation belongs to believers. The unbeliever can't break the world's control over them without Christ, but believers are promised: *'the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world'* (1 John 4:4). God's indwelling Spirit enables you to resist the world's pressure to conform you to its ways.

2) God's appeal is urgent. *'I urge you.'* Words like beg, plead, beseech are used in some translations because the appeal isn't secondary or optional. It's vital, a divine imperative! God is seeking for surrendered vessels that are ready to be transformed for His use. Are you willing to say, 'Yes, Lord, use me'?

Transformation:

1) Requires personal sacrifice. It's not easy, natural, or automatic. It calls for becoming a *'living sacrifice'*. The problem with *'living'* sacrifices is their tendency to keep escaping the altar, having to be led back repeatedly to be sacrificed again and again. Salvation is an instant, once-for-all experience, but there can be no instant, once-for-all *'living sacrifice'*. It's a day-by-day, moment-by-moment recommitment which means bringing our stubborn nature back to the altar, surrendering it to God as often as necessary. Don't wait for your old nature to improve or to agree to die before concluding your sacrifice is truly genuine. And don't let it discourage you in your battle for victory; your old nature and your regenerated spirit are mutual enemies, *'constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions'*. Your job isn't to obliterate the flesh, but to crucify it each time it wants to take over, refusing to let it curtail or weaken your commitment to spiritual growth.

2) Is a two-sided issue. *'Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God'* (Romans 12:1). That involves a resolute decision of mind and will, because our bodies don't surrender themselves. Until you deliberately choose to *'offer your [body]...to God,'* your flesh will act unrestrained. *'In the past you offered the parts of your body to be slaves to sin and evil...In the same way now you must give yourselves to be slaves of goodness. Then you will live only for God'* (Romans 6:19). When you surrender to your lower impulses, you reap sin. When you surrender to God, you reap His blessing.

What does it mean to give yourself fully to God?

1) It's an act of worship. *'Offer your bodies...this is your true and proper worship'*. Worship isn't just attending a church service, singing praises, and saying prayers. *'This people...honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me'*. It calls for surrendering your heart to God twenty-four hours of every day; whether you're alone or in a crowd, at work, enjoying recreation, spending family time, at school, on a date or just walking the dog. If your heart isn't moving you, your behavior will only be an act of reluctant compliance rather than one of joyful commitment. Surrendering to God isn't a part-time thing done for your own benefit; it's a full-time act of worship done for God's benefit.

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This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service All Saints' Day Observed	4	5 Election Day No School 10:00am Push Prayer	6 9am-Noon Preschool	7 9am-Noon Preschool	8	9

November Celebrations



Happy Baptism Birthday!

Nov 6 Barb Erjavec
Nov 9 Jill Goebel

Happy Anniversary



Nov 5 Jim & Sandy Boehm

Stewardship Snapshot

October 27th

23 Worshipped
4 Watched Live
18 Watched Later
45 Total

Financial Support for October 27th

85.00 Preschool Account
1,550.00 General Fund Donation
\$1,635.00 Total Deposit

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 ¹³For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I 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 *As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God." - Romans 3:10-11 (NIV)*

The biggest deception of all is that there's no evil one, and there's no evil in me. In actuality, there's a trail of death following our lives when we're living in the flesh. Only when we listen to God's word and agree with his evaluation of our words, actions, and motives can we repent and allow His Spirit to make us new again. And we need to do that every day.

ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCES

LIVING WORD'S FAMILY

Richard Demski – January 12, 2024

Larry Andorf – March 17, 2024

Isabella Huang – April 19, 2024

Joan Weissenstein – June 2024

Brad Kempke – October 6, 2024

LIVING WORD RELATIVES

Keith Marks – November 22, 2023 (*Ken Marks Brother*)

Joan Hebron – February 2024 (*Married Bill and Abby Merchantz*)

Naomi Larson – April 2024 (*Hostert Friend*)

Fran Child – April 2024 (*Hodo Neighbor*)

Anita McKinney – June 11, 2024 (*Jim McKinney Sister*)

Sue Westall – July 6, 2024 (*Motel Aunt*)

Jennifer – August 2024 (*Jim McKinney Friend*)

Kurtbick's Son – August 2024 (*Galik Friend*)

Joan Hauser – September 2024 (*Sandy Boehm Aunt*)

Joan Pelecki – September 14, 2023 (*Bev Hodo Aunt*)

James O'Connor – October 2024 (*Merchantz Friend*)

Prayer for All Saints Day

Dear God, thank you for the example of the Saints.

I desire to join in their company,

worshiping you forever in Heaven.

Please help me follow their footsteps,

and yours, Jesus Christ.

Please help me to conform myself to Your image,

seeking Your will in all things, as the Saints did.

Please help me to devote myself, and all that I do,
to Your glory, and to the service of my neighbours.

Amen.

Living Word News

PRAYER REQUEST OF THANKSGIVING for Pastor John as he is in the regular assisted living building. He was reevaluated again last week. 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.

THANKS TO ELDER "MONK" BILL for filling in for Pastor Lee last Sunday. Bill also was the one who had suggested that we have a pot luck meal that day. I really like Bill's ideas, lol.

THANK YOU TO ALL that contributed all the great food items, it was all wonderful. Eleanor Galik even called me up earlier in the week to ask me to put a very special thank you in the newsletter this week for all of the delicious food that everyone brought and for the wonderful fellowship time that was enjoyed by all as well. You are so right Eleanor, it was great seeing everyone and getting a chance to relax and catch up with one another. It we all definitely enjoyed the great food too.

PLEASE LET US KNOW if you will be able to make it for Thanksgiving Eve service. Pastor Lee and Elaine will be traveling, but Pastor Lee does want to make sure to be here to lead us in worship on Wednesday. They have been invited to his nephew's house in Columbus, OH for Thanksgiving dinner, they plan on leaving at 5 in the morning on Thursday and will return late Saturday evening to lead us in worship on Sunday morning. We will keep you advised of the time and if we will have service depending on how many people will be here for our traditional Thanksgiving Eve service. If you can let us know as soon as you have all of your holiday plans made, we would greatly appreciate it.

"Conformed or Transformed?"

(Continued from Page 1)

2) It's a response to God's generosity. *'In view of God's mercy...offer your bodies'.* God doesn't say, 'If you don't surrender, I will punish you.' There's no arm twisting. You don't submit through clenched teeth because of fear; no, it's a response to a debt. Everything God asks is initiated by His giving. Your repentance is a response to His love. Your giving is a response to His blessing. Your obedience is a response to His promises. God's grace is never 'a deal', it's the 'free gift' of His love to the undeserving. Therefore *'in view of'* – as a rational response to – His mercy, *'offer your bodies as a living sacrifice.'* *It's your 'true and proper worship', and it will be 'pleasing to God'.*

Each time we offer our bodies as *'living sacrifices'* to God, our stubborn nature will rebel. But with Christ in control, we can break its grip. *'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind'.* We have the option: be conformed or transformed! Deciding 'I will not conform to the world' leads to a transformed lifestyle. Your old nature naturally conforms, enslaving you to worldly influences.

Conforming to the world's values, like sensuality, pride, control, etc., will rob you of the liberating power of Christ living in you, resulting in a recurring cycle of guilt, failure, and discouragement. Choosing not to conform to this world is what opens the door to your transformation, unlike conformity, which is externally initiated, your walk with God will become an outer expression of an inner change. The tadpole's life is transformed into the frog's life, and the caterpillar's into the butterfly's. You become transformed from the inside out. How does it happen? *'Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world'.*

Add to your decision not to conform, your commitment to *'the renewing of your mind'*, which in Greek text means you think God's thoughts instead of your old thoughts, then watch as a Holy Spirit-empowered transformation begins to take place in your daily life.

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 after 11:00 am. 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

Preschool Halloween Party

PRESCHOOL HALLOWEEN PARTY was a blast as always. We had a little fairy princess, and a vampire, a blue panther character and a skeleton. The Dramatic Arts room received a makeover this week, the kids were all excited for their Halloween party on Thursday. We had cool looking spider donuts and they all got their goodie bags and treats from Mrs. Diana and their friends. They had their parade in the sandtuary and performed two Halloween songs for their parents. And before all of that they were able to play the Halloween games that Diana had set up for them in the Dramatic Arts room. All they need now is some more friends to join them. Please don't forget to tell all of your neighbors and friends about how great Mrs. Diana is and what a wonderful program she has here. The kids learn how to write their names, they know all of their letters and numbers, and can count to a hundred, plus so much more. The kids are always so excited to come to school and never want to go home either, lol.



Preschool Halloween Party



CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE PUMPKINS

GOD PICKS YOU FROM THE PATCH
JOHN 15:16

HE WASHES THE DIRT OFF OF YOU
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

HE OPENS YOU UP AND REMOVES THE YUCKY STUFF
HE TAKES OUT THE SEEDS OF DOUBT, HATE AND GREED
ROMANS 6:6

HE CARVES OUT A SMILING FACE FOR YOU
PSALM 71:23

THEN HE PUTS HIS LIGHT INSIDE YOU
FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE
MATTHEW 5:16



11-3-2024 Message Outline

“Praise the Lord!”

Psalm 149 reminds us to “*Praise the Lord...!*”

1) Praise the Lord for your BAPTISM!

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” ¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!” ¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” ¹⁴ I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶ ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

Revelation 7:9-17

2) Praise the Lord for your BIRTHRIGHT!

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

1 John 3:1-3

3) Praise the Lord for your BLESSINGS!

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them. He said: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:1-12

