



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

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## "The Drive" (article from LCC Daily Devotionals)

It was January 11th, 1987, when time was running out for the number two team trying to stay alive in the NFL playoffs against the number one team. It was the AFC Championship game between the first-place Cleveland Browns and the second-place Denver Broncos. Cleveland was favored to win by three. It was the fourth quarter and time was running out.

The Browns scored a touchdown and jumped to a 20-13 lead. Denver then mishandled the ensuing kickoff but recovered with the ball on their two-yard line with five minutes and 32 seconds to play. As a senior in high school at the time and a Bronco fan, I can tell you that there was a pit in my stomach at the reality of the Broncos having to go 98 yards to get a must-have touchdown, and nothing less.

But with that also came a strong hope. When I saw quarterback John Elway walk onto the field and standing in his own end zone. He was known as Mr. Comeback. Elway chalked up a record 47 fourth quarter come-from-behind comebacks during his pro career. Of those 47 last-minute heroics by Elway, the Broncos scored the winning points 21 times under two minutes, 13 times with less than one minute left in the game.

As the Broncos huddled up in their own end zone, Broncos offensive guard Keith Bishop, referring to the Browns, said to his teammates, "We got him right where we want him." And from there, John Elway led the drive and marched the Broncos 98 yards to send the game to overtime. They went on to win by a field goal in that overtime period.

You know the words of Daniel 12:1-3 have a lot in common with the drive. "At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued. Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever"

Daniel says that on this world's history clock, it's about to hit triple zero. What does it all mean? It means the clock is ticking down. Time is short. History is coming to an end. Daniel calls us back to look at that clock, and to be very aware that we are running out of time. And there's no doubt that for many of us, goodness and victory seem 98 yards downfield with near-impossible odds and a formidable opposing team against us.

This world is definitely an away stadium for Christians and the righteousness of God. Scripture consistently reminds us of the darkness in this world and the destructive effect of our sins. And our sin has backed us up against our own goal line, with the devil accusing and taunting our loss. But that's when on to the field walks our captain and leader, Jesus.

And when we turn our eyes upon Him and we remember His career, His life, hope returns like a light piercing the darkness. Jesus first walked onto this field at Christmas. God in the flesh, walking and living among us. He healed the lame, made the blind to see, the deaf to hear, and raised the dead to life. Talk about Mr. Comeback!

There is no one greater. Jesus performed the incredible drive toward the cross where on Good Friday the world declared, "Game over." Jesus declared, "Game won" in those words, "It is finished." Our failures, sins, brokenness, the devil, and all evil – death itself – defeated.

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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

## This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>15</b> <b>9:15am</b> <b>Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Blended Worship Service</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>9am–Noon</b> <b>Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am</b> Push Prayer	<b>18</b> <b>9am–Noon</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>19</b> <b>9am–Noon</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>

### Celebrations



### Stewardship Snapshot

#### December 8th

22 Worshipped  
 2 Watched Live  
 6 Watched Later  


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 30 Total

#### Financial Support

1,155.00 General Fund Deposit  
 754.00 Police Bibles Support Designated Funds  


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 \$1,909.00 Total Deposit

### 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 17th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84076099900?pwd=d3BxLBWbTlZRVpuSGhgTXc2dGRldz09>

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** *The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. - Romans 5:20-21 (NIV)*

The law was added so that we might understand our offense against God—and that offense is great. But the grace of God is greater. Thank God that Jesus's death and resurrection pays for all our offenses, and gives us eternal life. Knowing that, how is God's saving grace changing you today?

**VERSE OF THE MONTH** <sup>9</sup> 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)*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH AT 10 AM

*Living Word Preschool*

*Christmas Program*



## ***Christmas Worship***

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30 pm**

**Christmas Day Service 10 am**





## 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. Neal had visited with him this past Wednesday, and while Neal was still there, Diana and I had called Neal, so we were able to say hello to him, and of course Pastor John had told Neal to tell all of us that he sends his best to his Living Word family.

**PRAYER REQUEST** of thanksgiving for Eleanor Galik. She accidentally tripped last month and has a broken left hip. She is so grateful for all of the prayers that she receives from us all. She has a wonderful therapist in Florida, Marilouise, and she has been working very hard. She was in our prayer meeting on Tuesday via Zoom, even though her other leg is now bothering her a lot, she was able to stay with us for the entire time this week. You are doing great Eleanor, keep up the hard work, just don't overdo it too much. We love you. If you would like to send her a card or a little note while she is in Florida, come see me for her new address.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES** as you know are upcoming. If you have all of family plans made by now, please let us know if you will be attending the Christmas morning service this year that is scheduled for 10:00 am. Last year, there were only 8 of us, including Pastor, Elaine, Anita and Paul in the tech booth. We, of course, will be having our regular Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 5:30pm. Thank you for helping try to plan around everyone's busy holiday plans.

**LUTHERANS FOR LIFE** was our Mission of the Month for the month of November. We had collected \$120.00 for them. Bill will be writing the check by the end of this month and it will be sent to them. As always, we are grateful for your overwhelming generosity to give to our community.

**PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** is today. The kids are so excited for you to hear them sing. They have been practicing for the past couple of weeks, and Diana has all of her goodies taken care of for after their program. There will be 3 angels and a wise men to entertain us.

## 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.

## Community Events

# BINGO

## BONANZA

**SUNDAY,  
January 19, 2025**

Doors open at 2:30 p.m.  
Bingo begins at 3:00 p.m.

### Marian Village

15624 Marian Dr. • Homer Glen  
[www.marianvillage.org](http://www.marianvillage.org)

**Light lunch included.** American Legion Post 2011  
will offer water, pop, beer, and wine for purchase.

**RSVP by Friday, January 15th to Ailish Doherty  
at [adoherty@franciscancommunities.org](mailto:adoherty@franciscancommunities.org)  
or 708-226-3786**

*\*Event is for players 62 and up. A family member  
or friend may attend to assist the player.*

**Admission:  
\$5 per  
player**

**Memory Support COMING SOON**



**MARIAN VILLAGE**  
**FRANCISCAN COMMUNITIES**

Franciscan Ministries sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

 **LIVING** *joyfully*



15624 Marian Dr., Homer Glen, IL 60491 • 708.226.3780 • [www.marianvillage.org](http://www.marianvillage.org)





## Greetings

**GREETINGS FROM GEORGIA** this week. Our dear friend Carolyn has sent us a Christmas card this past week. It looks like she is doing real good and overall had a real good year. We hope you never have to experience another hurricane either Carolyn. We're glad you're safe, and as always you are in our prayers. Thanks for thinking of us, we love you.

Wonders  
2024  
OF HIS  
Love



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and  
Blessing in the New Year!  
Carolyn Wagenaar



Wow, I can't believe we're already approaching 2025! This year, I celebrated my 86th birthday with a wonderful surprise visit from my son Jonathan and his wife, Mary. It felt like the celebration lasted an entire week! I'm incredibly grateful for my health and my family this year.

Just before my birthday, I had a brief hospital stay for pneumonia but recovered quickly. I also experienced my first, and hopefully last, hurricane, Hurricane Helen. Although it wasn't expected to hit Augusta, it certainly made its presence known. My facility was without power for about a week. After three days, my daughter Janice came to pick me up, and we traveled to Crown Point, Indiana, to stay with Jonathan. What started as a challenging situation turned into a blessing in disguise, as I had the chance to visit with family including my newest great grandson (August Oak) before returning to Augusta. The area was heavily impacted, with thousands of historic trees uprooted, and many places remained without power for over a week. Despite the ups and downs, I've stayed active and involved. I continue to enjoy activities at my senior center, including daily exercise classes and walking laps around the parking lot. It's been a year to remember, full of challenges, surprises, and cherished moments. I wish you and yours a wonderful 2025 with health and happiness.