

Exodus 13:2 KJV
Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.

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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 51

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"Christ For You"

First, God's claim on the firstborn of Israel. It is a surprising development for the Israelites that is rarely taught about or preached on. The second part of the chapter deals with a remembrance of their deliverance from slavery. Finally, the third part is the beginning of their travels through the desert to the Promised Land. The Feast of Unleavened Bread and the consecration of the firstborn where signposts that God put in their midst to remind the people of His saving acts. This was done so future generations might know God and His mighty acts to save His people. So, before they pass through the waters, God's people are set apart and given a commemoration of the Feast of Unleavened Bread to draw them back and anchor their identity, security, and meaning in His mighty acts of salvation. You can imagine how it must have been quite a scene. God delivers His people after having done ten mighty signs and wonders over Egypt. The final sign is when God took the firstborn of Egypt. This leaves a lasting impression on the Israelites, who are now freed and head down to the waters of the Red Sea, and eventually to Sinai, and all seems so good. Well, it did until God decides to settle up with Israel for the balancing of the scale of the firstborn owed to Him in Egypt. Wait what? God asks for His firstborn from Israel? Yes, and that must have shocked Moses to His core? If you want to know the math on just how many firstborn it would be, you could look about two years after Egypt. There we have the census which was taken of all who would be eligible for this cut. It is quite a bit of people. Is God really going to go through with this?

Eventually, God settles for a tribe, just one tribe out of all of Israel. He picks the tribe that would not return to worshipping the gods of Egypt at the golden calf incident some chapters after our reading. Only Levi would remain faithful. Well, all except for one, Aaron the idol maker. God takes all the firstborn here in the text and eventually only the tribe of Levi as His first born. Yikes! Will they die now like those others who fell in Egypt? No. God decides to take their "life/living" as a sacrifice. Instead of killing them, He makes their whole life and living a sacrifice to Himself. As they wander through the desert, He will take only Levi as a living sacrifice. That one tribe will have no inheritance but the Lord. They would not make their living off of themselves. They are tied to the Lord and their whole life will be dependent on the Lord. Their whole life is an act of worship, and their service will be a living reminder to everyone of what God did in Egypt when He took the firstborn and delivered them. He takes their life and lets them live. Or rather, some other firstborn dies and now they get to live.

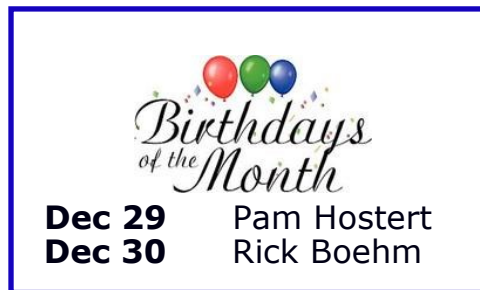
This brings a whole new meaning to Romans 12:1: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." Typically, people think this verse has to do with the "praise and worship" that "I" bring to God as "my" sacrifice to Him. In light of that interpretation just will not do. The Christian does not bring anything to God. Instead, it is by His mercy alone that we live. He has made us a priesthood of all believers. Everything is about His mighty acts to save us, and it has nothing to do with my mighty songs I sang. God has done this mighty saving, and our life stands as a witness to what He has done for us. We are thoroughly and completely dependent upon Him for our life and our living and now we live by His great mercy. He could have settled up for our life. He could have taken it away. But there was another firstborn son who was taken in our place. We see that firstborn Son taken into the Temple. Mary and Joseph could not afford a lamb for the sacrifice; pigeons would have to do.

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This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	30	31 New Year's Eve Christmas Break—No Preschool				

Celebrations



Stewardship Snapshot

December 22nd

25 Worshipped, 22 Communed

2 Watched Live

7 Watched Later

34 Total

Financial Support

2,295.00 General Fund Deposit

December 24th

10 Worshipped

2 Watched Live

9 Watched Later

21 Total

December 25th

9 Worshipped

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 31st.**

<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 *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. - Romans 6:22 (NIV)*

Having been purchased by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are now His slaves. And Christ is a good master. So as we willingly submit to His authority, and His leading for our lives, we walk the path toward holiness now, and eternal life in the future.

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)*

January 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3	4
Christmas Break—No Preschool						
5 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service Epiphany Observed	6 Epiphany 	7 9am–Noon Preschool Resumes 10:00am Push Prayer	8 9am–Noon Preschool	9 9am–Noon Preschool	10	11
12 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service Baptism of Our Lord	13	14 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	15 9am–Noon Preschool	16 9am–Noon Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting	17	18
19 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	20	21 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	22 9am–Noon Preschool	23 9am–Noon Preschool	24	25
26 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	27	28 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	29 9am–Noon Preschool	30 9am–Noon Preschool		

January Celebrations



Jan 16 Beverly Hodo
Jan 19 Dave Holloway



*Happy Baptism
Birthday!*

Jan 4 Eleanor Galik
Jan 8 John Paul Lange

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 last 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. Likewise Pastor John, we send you our very best and you are always in our prayers and thoughts. Have a very blessed Christmas Pastor John!

PRAYER REQUEST of thanksgiving for Eleanor Galik. She accidentally tripped early 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 played hooky last Tuesday for prayer group. It wasn't because she was celebrating her birthday too much, her right leg was still bothering her a lot. She went to the hospital and doctor that week and they gave her shot and muscle relaxant and she is starting to feel better. She had a blood test this past Monday just to make sure everything else is fine. You are doing great Eleanor, keep up the hard work, just don't overdo it too much. We love you. As always, she sends her love and her wishes to us and keeps us and our church in her prayers everyday. 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.

"Christ For You"

Continued from Page 1

But in the wonderful irony of God, they were carrying the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world, Jesus the Christ. Soon, He would be in Egypt and then out of Egypt He would call His Son. Jesus would be presented as a sacrifice for our freedom at Calvary, and He would rise again to remain alive forever and in Him, the Lamb who was slain and now reigns, gives us His life to live even now in worship and praise to God. In light of those mighty acts of God for our salvation, our lives are now a living sacrifice, a living witness of His resurrection life in us eternally. He has brought you through the water of Baptism. He has sustained you in His supper with unleavened bread and a little sip of wine. Now, you are a living reminder to the world of what the saving acts of God in Jesus looks like. God has the power to deliver His will, and He has done this for us in the grand exchange of a firstborn son on our behalf. One dies so many can live. That same One rises again, and we have eternal life from Him. That is the surprising story of your salvation.

Mission of the Month

DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH is The Orland Township Food Pantry. This Sunday will be the last day of that we will be for this very worthwhile organization, who helps provide groceries to the low income families of Orland Park and Orland Hills who need immediate assistance, not only during the holidays for the Thanksgiving and the Christmas meals they distribute to the families in need, but throughout the entire year. 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.

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH is Faith Comes By Hearing. We will be collecting all of January for this very worthwhile organization, who helps provide God's Word to the veterans and the service members, not only the ones who are out in the field, but to those also suffering from emotional and psychological disorders from all they have sacrificed for our freedom and for our nation. At the end of January 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.

January 2025 Mission of the Month



Faith Comes By Hearing

God's Word in audio provides our service members and veterans with hope during dark times. From field recordings to Oral Bible Translation, we record God's Word in the languages of the world.

12-29-2024 Message Outline

“Consecrated By Christ’s Covenant”

Psalm 111 says: *“He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever.”* We are consecrated by Christ’s covenant...

1) COMMEMORATE Christ’s covenant.

The LORD said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.” ³ Then Moses said to the people, “Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand. ... ¹¹“After the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your ancestors, ¹² you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD. ¹³ Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons. ¹⁴“In days to come, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ say to him, ‘With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵ When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.’”

Exodus 13:1-3a,11-15

2) CLOTHE yourself with Christ’s covenant.

¹² Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:12-17

3) CONSECRATE yourself to Christ’s covenant.

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.” ³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Luke 2:22-40