



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 34, Issue 4

January 26, 2025

"God Can Cancel Your Past"

Jesus **'canceled'** the record of the charges against us...by nailing it to the cross.' The word 'cancel' means to remove, to neutralize, to offset something. Have you ever got most of the way through a project and wished you could start over? Suppose you were painting your room, and you stepped back and looked at the color on the sample chart. On the wall, however, it doesn't look the same. You wish you could redo it. Many of us feel that way about life, we've made so many mistakes. We wish we could just wipe them out and start over.' Failures, problems, bad decisions – we have all suffered from them. But some people can't let go of the past and, as a result, they let their past limit their present opportunities. They live in a constant state of regret, continually lamenting, 'If only I hadn't done that' or 'If only I had made these changes.' They repeatedly second-guess themselves. And they are tormented by painful memories. 'I blew it, and I'm going to be paying for it for the rest of my life.' You may choose to carry guilt, but you don't have to! The moment you put your trust in Jesus, He *'cancels the record'* of your past. You no longer have a past, you only have a future! You can lay down, once and for all, your heavy load of guilt, old hurts, and memories of mistakes. Jesus *'took it away by nailing it to the cross'*. God has promised to *'blot out your sins...and will never think of them again'*. You must too!

Have you ever watched children playing with an Etch A Sketch? If they make a mess of the picture, all they have to do is turn it over to erase it; then they can start all over again. This is how God handles the mistakes you have made; He wipes the slate clean. *'I will...remember their sins no more'*. This has to be one of the most wonderful statements in the Bible – that *'God forgets'*.

When we admit our sins and ask God to forgive us, He cancels our past. He *chooses* to forget our wrongs, errors, and failures. Even if we died tonight, stood before God in heaven, and asked Him about a sin we committed yesterday, He would say, *'What sin?'* When you deny your sin, you deny God the joy of forgiving you. When you try to excuse your sin, God permits the consequences to become so painful that you will want to turn from it. But when you confess your sin, *'he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness'*.

The Prodigal Son broke his father's heart, squandered his inheritance, and ended in a pigpen. But his is a comeback story! His turnaround began with these words: *'When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself... "I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned"'"* (Luke 15:17-18). And what his father did for him, God will do for you today.

One of Christ's last declarations from the cross was, 'It is finished.' That phrase comprises just one word in Greek, *tetelestai*, meaning 'paid in full' "Victory!" It was the word merchants wrote on a bill when it was canceled. It was also the word stamped on a document announcing that a prison sentence had been commuted. It was also the word that would be said by a runner who finished and won the race!! Jesus paid the price in full for every sin you have ever committed! *'There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus'* (Romans 8:1 NIV).

The question is, if God forgets your sin the second you confess it, don't you think you should forget it too? How long do you think about an invoice you have paid? You forget it the minute you have paid it. Similarly, since Christ has paid your bill in full, you don't need to remember it anymore. Paul, who once described himself as *'chief among sinners'*, wrote, *'Forgetting what is behind...I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards'*.

We can short-circuit God's power in our lives by not trusting that He has truly forgiven us or by deciding not to forgive ourselves. Why do we do that? Sometimes because of how we were raised. Our parents told us, 'I forgive you,' but they constantly brought it up. Good news: your heavenly Father is different from your earthly parents. When He forgives your sin, He expunges your record, cancels your past, can't remember it, doesn't talk about it, and will never bring it up again. So, today accept His forgiveness. And if you need to, forgive yourself and move on.

Inside this issue:

"God Can Cancel Your Past"

This Week at Living Word/Celebrations

Stewardship Snapshot/Devotional Time

February 2025 Calendar

Living Word News

Mission of the Month

1-26-2025 Message Outline

Community Event

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
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	31	February 1

Celebrations



Feb 1 Beverly Hodo

Stewardship Snapshot

January 19th

16 Worshipped, 15 Communed

9 Watched Online

25 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

1,100.00 General Fund 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 January 28th.

<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

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. *1 John 4:9-12 (NLT)*

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

VERSE OF THE MONTH **53** Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. ⁹He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. ¹¹After he has suffered, he will see the light of life[☺] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.— *Isaiah 53 (NIV)*

February 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service Presentation of Our Lord	3	4 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	5 9am–Noon Preschool	6 9am–Noon Preschool	7	8
9 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	10	11 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	12 9am–Noon Preschool	13 9am–Noon Preschool Valentine's Party 	14 Valentine's Day 	15
16 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	17 Presidents' Day	18 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	19 9am–Noon Preschool	20 9am–Noon Preschool 7:00pm Coun- cil Meeting	21	22
23 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	24	25 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	26 9am–Noon Preschool	27 9am–Noon Preschool	28	

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 #128**, 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 very well. Keep up the good work Pastor John, we miss you!

PRAYER REQUEST of thanksgiving for Eleanor Galik. Her pelvis is now healing nicely. 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 is also feeling much better after the pneumonia. Please keep her in your prayers that she remains healthy and that she can start enjoying her time in sunny Florida, even though it has been cold there for Florida. It was only in the mid 40's in Tuesday when we had prayer group. You are doing great Eleanor, keep up the hard work. 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.

OFFERING STATEMENTS for 2024 are available, and in the box on the desk in the fellowship hall. Due to getting a new computer this past year, our outdated Servant Keeper software was not compatible with the brand new computer, I had to reload all of the offerings into Excel. So please double check your statements to see if there are any errors. I have all of the offering envelopes from each week, and I have the Excel spreadsheets for all of the weekly counts, so it will be easy to verify the information.

PRESCHOOL WAS CANCELLED this week due to the weather and Mrs. Diana being sick all week, plus one of the little girls was sick also this week. The tour that was scheduled for this Wednesday is now scheduled for next Wednesday. Please join me in keeping our preschool and our wonderful teacher in your prayers this week. She felt terrible about cancelling school this week, but also did not want to get any of her students sick or their families either. They kids will finish up their month of learning about dinosaurs next week, I'm sure they will be busy making up for lost time.

Mission of the Month

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.

1-26-2025 Message Outline

“Joy to the Heart”

Psalm 19 says: “*The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.*”

1) The joy of the Lord is your **STRENGTH**.

All the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. ² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. ... ⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ... ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. ⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

2) The Body of Christ is your **PLACE**.

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. ¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁸ And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

3) The year of the Lord is your **TIME**.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked. ²³ Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’” ²⁴ “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Luke 4:16-30

Community Event

YOU'RE INVITED TO GOOD TIMES AND GUINNESS

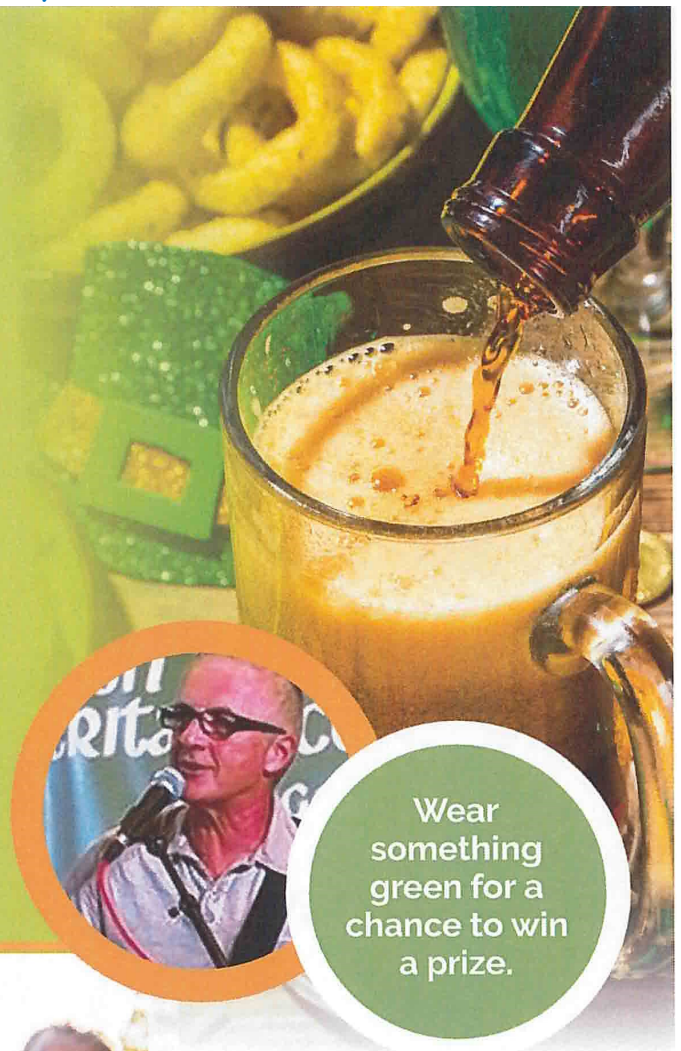
Saturday, March 8 | 2:00 P.M.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Marian Village!

Enjoy traditional Irish music performed by Gerry Haughey and Irish dancing by the Hughes-Farrelly School of Irish Dance while eating tasty fish and chips, with a glass of Guinness beer.

Join us for a tour following the program.

RSVP by March 1 to 708.226.3786 or
adoherty@franciscancommunities.org



Wear
something
green for a
chance to win
a prize.



At Marian Village in Homer Glen, nothing is too small for us to celebrate! Each day is filled with possibilities and good times because that's how we choose to live and serve.

Marian Village

is a warm and inviting senior living community offering
Independent Living and Assisted Living.

Call 708.226.3786, to learn more!



15624 Marian Dr., Homer Glen, IL 60491
www.marianvillage.org

