

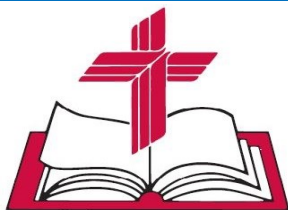


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PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Eleanor Galik
for immediate prayers



Living in the Word...that the
Word may live in others.

Living Word Lutheran Church

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Orland Park, IL 60467

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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 34, Issue 7

February 16, 2025

"Why Is the Man Who Trusts In Man Cursed?"

One of Jeremiah's persistent themes is contrasting those who trust in human resources and those who put their confidence in the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit" (Jeremiah 17:5-8, ESV).

"The man who trusts in man" is the person who rejects God and relies on his own strength and ingenuity or who looks to other people for help and rescue. Such a person is cursed with a dried-up, empty life. He is destined to experience hardship, distress, and eventual death. Conversely, the person who trusts in the Lord is richly blessed. This individual thrives, grows, and prospers, even in the heat of challenging circumstances.

In Jeremiah's day, the nation's leaders were trusting in man—their political allies—and leaning on "the arm of the flesh". Borrowing from the wisdom in Psalms 1:3-4, Jeremiah likens those who trust in God to flourishing, well-watered trees. His warning not to trust in human resources echoes: "Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save." Judah's unbelief and rejection of the Lord would turn their lives and their land into a desert wasteland, but faith and trust in God would establish them as a firmly planted, thriving woodland.

Complete dependence on God was essential to Israel's covenant agreement with Yahweh. God had promised blessings for those who trusted and obeyed Him and curses for those who rejected and disobeyed Him. But the Jewish people and their leaders were known for turning their hearts away from the Lord and trusting in man. Time and time again, Israel's self-reliance and trust in man had ended in disaster.

God alone is worthy of our trust. Fearing people is "a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety". It's impossible to safely navigate the issues of this life relying on our own resources. For this reason, Solomon advised, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil. Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones".

In the matter of our eternal salvation, God rewards faith. Those who trust in the Lord are blessed with His salvation, but those who trust in man are cursed and destined to miss eternity in heaven. There is absolutely no room for trusting in man in God's plan of salvation. If we misplace our dependency—trusting in self or other people—we forfeit the extraordinary relationship God has planned for us with Him.

When God created us, He designed us to live in intimate, trusting fellowship with Him. True believers are "planted in Christ." He is our fountain of "living water" springing up to eternal life. Our relationship with Jesus involves total, lifelong reliance on Him to meet our needs.

The man who trusts in man is cursed because relying on human power or one's own resources will result in negative consequences in this life and eventually eternal death (Proverbs 14:12). But those who trust in the Lord are blessed all their days with His love, care, peace, protection, guidance, provision, and the exceedingly great hope of eternal life.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	17	18 9am-Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	19 9am-Noon Preschool	20 9am-Noon Preschool	21	22

Church Contacts

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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

Stewardship Snapshot

February 9th

19 Worshipped

8 Watched Online

27 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

3,360.00 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 February 18th.**

<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 *Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin. - Romans 7:24-25 (NLT)*

There is a war going on within each one of us. Our sinful nature, inherited from Adam, urges us to do what is wrong. Our conscience prompts us to do good. We have some victories, but so often our sinful nature wins out and we do wrong. We will never win this war on our own. We need to understand the war, and surrender to Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection has not only won our salvation, but has empowered us to defeat our sinful nature. Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE MONTH 13 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Missionary of the Month

FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH is Voice of Care. They are a ministry group that aids people with disabilities and are now engaged with becoming Spiritual Respite Companions and will be providing workshops for families, care givers and individuals who need it most. As usual, we will collect all month long and then send them the check for the total amount of donations that has been collected.



February 2025 Mission of the Month



Voice of Care has been presented with an incredible opportunity last month to partner with **Lutheran District Offices across the Midwest** to provide **Spiritual Respite Companion Care Workshops**. This partnership will enable them to bring much-needed respite care support to individuals, families, and caregivers throughout the region.

Our support will help them:

- **Train Spiritual Respite Companions** who provide care and connection to those who need it most.
- **Equip Churches** to embrace and support families impacted by disabilities.
- **Expanding Their Reach** across the Midwest, creating stronger, more inclusive church communities.

Your generosity has always made a difference, and you have the chance to extend that impact even further. Let's strengthen the Church and lift up families in need.

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. Please keep her in your prayers that she remains healthy and that she can start enjoying her time in sunny Florida. This week, she has at least been able to enjoy the sun on their lanai. 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.

VBS 2025 is now being posted and advertised on the website and Facebook, and several of our past VBS families have already commented and liked the new update! Diana has already reached out to the high schools last week to have them post for volunteers. If you know any high schoolers that need community service hours, this is a great way to get at least 20+ hours if they are able to work the whole week. We still have some volunteers who are working and going to college that has told Diana they will help out as much as possible. Sherri Grecci will of course be here helping out with snack time each day too.

NEW CHURCH BANNERS are being made here at church. We are beginning to work on new Lenten banners for our church. If you would like to help, please see Kristi for details.

VBS 2025



VBS 2025

Save the date!

Living Word Lutheran Church
Orland Park, IL
July 21st-25th

2-16-2025 Message Outline

"The Way of the Righteous"

Psalm 1 says: *"The Lord watches over the way of the righteous..."*

1) The righteous trust in GOD, not MAN.

⁵This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. ⁷"But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ⁸They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. Jeremiah 17:5-8

2) The righteous hope in LIFE, not DEATH.

¹²But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

3) The righteous walk in FAITH, not SIGHT.

¹⁷He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. ²⁰Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²²Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. ²³"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. ²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. ²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets. Luke 6:17-26

SO, THIS SEEMS
LIKE A SORT OF
GUIDE FOR A
GOOD LIFE.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

THE WAY OF
LIFE IN THE
COMPANY OF
GOD.



IT'S THE WAY OF
JESUS WHO
CALLS US INTO
LIFE WITH HIM.



SEEMS LIKE
HE'S ALWAYS
THERE FIRST,
DOESN'T IT?



PSALM 1



Preschool News and Pics



Living Word Zoo is opened this month. Come check out the animals that just arrived last week. We have giraffes, elephants, monkeys, tigers and zebras. We just added a new member of the zoo which is the alligator. We, of course, have to have penguins, Mrs. Diana's favorite zoo animal, lol, plus we even have a dolphin tank too. The kids had a busy week, they made heart crafts for their parents for Valentine's Day. They exchanged Valentine's and candy with each other on Thursday. Ms. Lois from the district was here for a visit on Thursday as well, the kids just love when she comes to visit them.