



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 34, Issue 8

February 23, 2025

## "The Art of Being a Sheep"

Perhaps you memorized Psalm 23 as a child. The vivid visual images remain with us lifelong. Author Hannah Whittall Smith said, 'What we all need is just to get back into the nursery again, and take up our childish verses once more, and, while reading them with the intelligence of our grown-up years, to believe them with all our old childish faith.'

As adults we become jaded, losing the simple joy that stress-filled lives require. We need to remember these three things:

**1) Who our shepherd is** – 'The Lord'. He is the source of everything we will ever need, beginning with salvation. Jesus said: *'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep'* (John 10:11).

**2) What the shepherd's job is** – protector and provider for the sheep. And He knows how to handle wayward, headstrong, vulnerable sheep and care for them. Long before Jesus came as our shepherd, the Father said, *'I will rescue [my flock] and no longer let them be mistreated...I will give you a shepherd from the family of my servant King David...All of you, both strong and weak, will have the same shepherd, and he will take good care of you'* (Ezekiel 34:22-23).

**3) What the sheep's job is** – to trust the shepherd completely. Attempting to do His job will exhaust and defeat us. We must believe 'with all our old childish faith' that Jesus is a dependable, committed, and capable shepherd – and then act like we believe it.

Knowing that His goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives lifts our present worries and dispels all our future concerns.

**PRAYER:** *Heavenly Father, help me not only look to You but trust You with my whole being – and follow You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

We need to know two things:

**1) Our shepherd's character.** Jesus distinguished good shepherds from bad ones (see John 10:11-16). Bad shepherds look out for their own interests, not the welfare of the sheep. They're unreliable; when a threat arises, they abandon the flock. But Jesus claimed, *'I am the good shepherd'* (John 10:11). What makes Him good? 'The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep' (v. 11). Their needs and their security come before his own, and, if necessary, he will die for them. 'I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me' (v. 14). Jesus knows each of His sheep individually and desires an intimate relationship with them. He calls each one by name; they trust Him and follow where He leads (see John 10:3). You can rely on your shepherd to protect and guide you!

**2) The sheep's condition is the shepherd's business.** He can't be a good shepherd if his sheep's needs aren't being met. Sheep don't know the path to the pasture, the location of the watering hole, or the strategy for their own safety. But the shepherd does. His sheep believe in him, rely on him, and follow him. But believing in and relying on His protection and provision isn't instinctive – it's the only decision you make; an act of your will. Regardless of your feelings or circumstances, you make up your mind to trust the shepherd to handle things and act as your security. When you turn your worries and concerns over to Him and rest in His goodness, He fulfills His promise that you will 'lack nothing'.

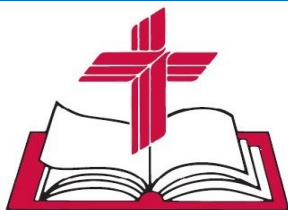
**PRAYER:** *Heavenly Father, help me let go of my road map and trust and follow You where You want to lead me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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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

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
23 10:00am Blended Worship Service	24	25 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	26 9am–Noon Preschool	27 9am–Noon Preschool 7:00pm Coun- cil Meeting	28	1

## Celebrations

## Stewardship Snapshot

 <p><b>Feb 29</b> Michele Boehm</p>	 <p><b>Feb 28</b> Petra Wasilkoff</p>	<p><b>February 16th</b>  19 Worshipped, 18 Communed  <u>6 Watched Online</u>  25 Total Worshipped</p> <p><b>Financial Support</b>  765.00 General Fund Deposit</p>
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## 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 25th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84076099900?pwd=d3BxLBWbTizRVpuSGhgTXc2dGRLdz09>

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** *The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin’s control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. - Romans 8:3 (NLT)*

Belonging to Christ Jesus should be a source of great comfort and hope. When we know and understand what Jesus has done for us, satisfying God’s holy law so that we can live in God’s presence both now and forever, we have motivation to seek more of Christ and less of ourselves each day, and the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish it.

**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. 1 *Corinthians 13.*

## 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 have collected all month long and then send them the check for the total amount of donations that has been collected. Since February is a short month, today will be the last Sunday that we are taking donations for them.



# ***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

**GOD'S GRACE AND COMFORT** for the Ethel Hamill and Sharon Bridson families. I received a call from Sharon Thursday afternoon to let me know that her mom, Ethel who had been in failing health most of the year had passed away and went to be with our Lord and Savior on Tuesday, the 18th. Sharon said that she died peacefully and that she was glad that she was able to take care of her mom so that she could be at home all this while. Her service was in Tennessee at their home church on Saturday, the 22nd. Ethel was 94. Please join me in keeping Sharon and the rest of her family in your prayers. Rest in peace Ethel.

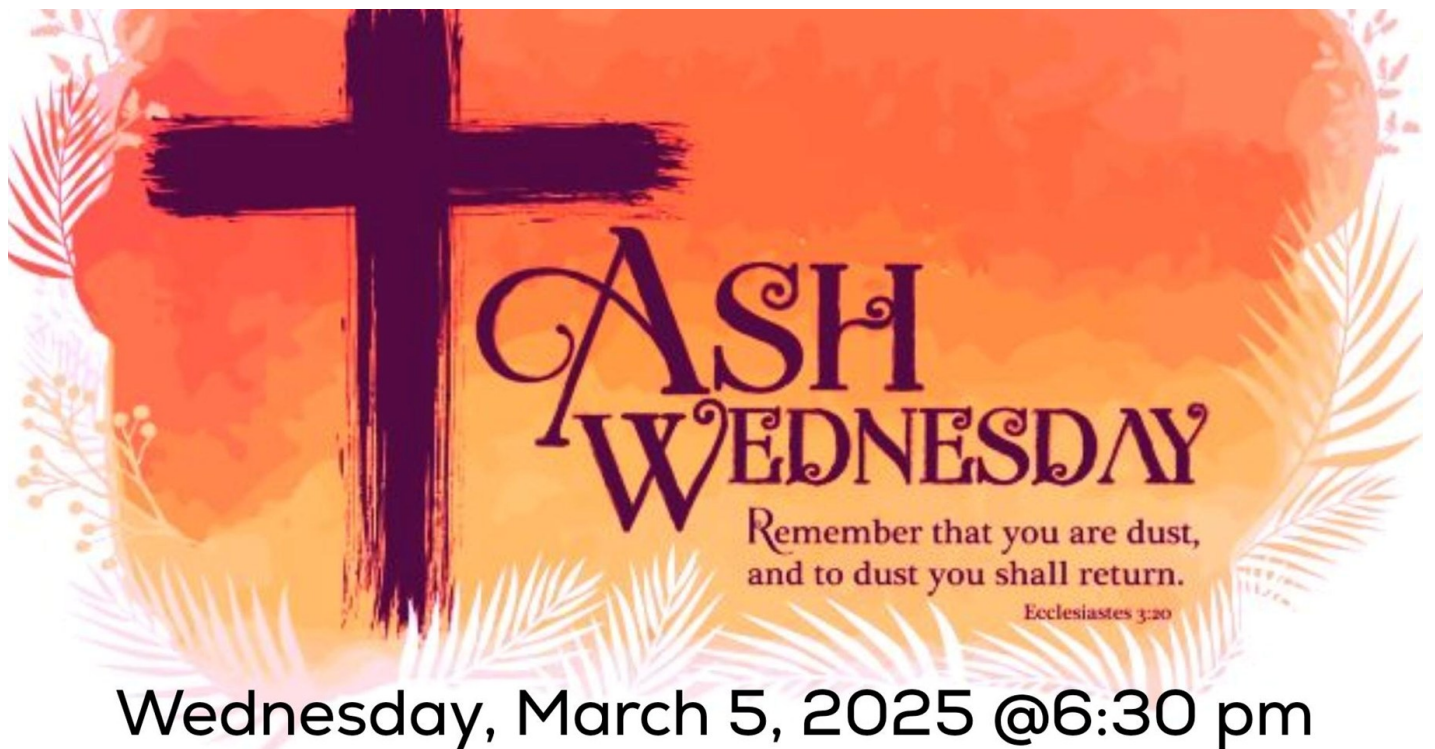
**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** will be March 5th at 6:30 pm. We would like to see our entire church family here for ashes and communion that evening as we begin the Lenten journey this year. Thank you in advance for your participation and worship.

**THANK YOU LETTER** was received this week from Faith Comes By Hearing, it reads; *"We thank you for supporting Faith Comes By Hearing's Vision 2033 mission to record and freely provide Scripture in the world's languages. Your congregation's gift of \$160.00 provides communities practical and meaningful engagement with Audio Scripture. Thank you for your generosity. Every person who roots himself in God's Word benefits from the hope and peace Scripture provides. A small listening group in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to gather and listen to Scripture despite conflict in their region. One community member reports, 'Our country has been at war for years. The growing insecurity amidst this humanitarian catastrophe is undeniable. For us, the Audio Bible serves as a powerful wellspring of hope for peace.'"*

**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 finished working on new Lenten banners for our church. Thank you so much to Kristi for getting this project off and running, she had her sister sew and hem the banners and she cut out all of the letters after Diana had made the stencils for us on her Cricut machine and then Kristi and I glued all of them onto the banners. She is now looking to do other banners, if you have any designs in mind or would like to help, please see Kristi for details.



## 2-23-2025 Message Outline

### **“Not As Our Sins Deserve”**

Psalm 103 says: *“He does not treat us as our sins deserve...”*

#### **1) Instead, God SENDS us sinners.**

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup> “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’ <sup>12</sup> “You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. <sup>13</sup> Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.” <sup>14</sup> Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Genesis 45:3-15

#### **2) Instead, God SOWS us sinners.**

<sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. <sup>24</sup> Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ... <sup>30</sup> And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? <sup>31</sup> I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>32</sup> If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” <sup>33</sup> Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” <sup>34</sup> Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame. <sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” <sup>36</sup> How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. <sup>39</sup> Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. <sup>40</sup> There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. <sup>41</sup> The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. <sup>42</sup> So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable.

1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

#### **3) Instead, God SAVES us sinners.**

<sup>27</sup> “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Luke 6:27-38

Community Events



**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!!**  
 Seating spots are filling up!



The Close the Gap Committee presents:

*"Have a Heart"*  


*Spaghetti Dinner*  
*Fundraiser!*

Friday, February 28, 2025

5:30 - 8:30 pm

Tickets required!

Join us for a delicious Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser & Christian Fellowship. Proceeds raised will go to Christ Lutheran's Close the Gap Fund and Disaster Relief!

Ticket Prices

Adults \$15.00 ea.

Ages 4-12 \$7.00 ea.

Children 3 & under are Free

Full table of 8 \$105.00



Tickets can be purchased before and after all worship services.



Any questions, please contact  
 Pete Schrank at 815-954-0276

For more information, please go to:  
[www.clopec.com](http://www.clopec.com)

