

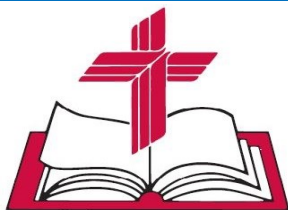


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PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

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
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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 6

February 9, 2025

"I Give You Thanks"

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving in individual style. Such songs perhaps served as liturgies for the offering of well-being, the words of the psalm accompanying the thanksgiving sacrifice. The word for the offering in Hebrew is *today*, the same term that may more generally mean "thanksgiving," and the verbal expression "I give thanks" here comes from the same Hebrew root. The sacrifice of well-being was a free-will offering Israelites made in response to God's gift of healing from illness or restoration of any sort. Jeremiah 33:10-11 depicts such an offering after the Lord restored the fortunes of Judah from the devastating circumstances of Babylonian captivity. Whether or not Psalm 138 was used alongside a sacrifice of this type, it contains beautiful words of thanksgiving for a prayer of gratitude. "With my whole heart" is an expression that communicates a wholehearted desire to give thanks. The phrase is a first-person version of the words "with all your heart" in the Shema's injunction to love God completely. The reference to the temple in verse 2 confirms a possible setting in worship like that described above, namely, for one who came to give an offering after God restored her from sickness or trouble.


Despite the appropriateness of Psalm 138 for the cultic act of making a thanksgiving offering, a number of elements of the psalm suggest the psalm served as "a general song of praise by the restored community in the postexilic period" rather than just the song of an individual.² For example, the first section of the psalm (verses 1-3) gives very general reasons for thanksgiving and does not indicate a situation of sickness or other specific trouble. Also, rather than giving details of God's restoration, it simply names God's "steadfast love and faithfulness", which are popular descriptions of divine character, and recalls only that "on the day I called, you answered me". The psalm identifies perhaps its most important setting in verse 1b: "before the gods I sing your praise." The expression "before the gods" reflects the task of the community of faith to witness to God's power and goodness in a world in which many "gods" vie for attention. Although these words may not seem applicable for modern believers who have adopted a narrow understanding of monotheism, "before the gods" is a powerful reminder that God is the only true source of healing and refuge.

Praise in the Old Testament always has a positive, straightforward dimension in which the worshipper declares his or her adoration of God ("I sing your praise"). It also carries, however, a pejorative element, a denunciation of the power of "the gods," which modern worshippers do well to recognize in all the forces that claim their loyalty. Verses 4-6 focus on the nations' recognition of the Lord with assurance that they will acknowledge the ways of the Lord and give praise. It identifies the primary reason for this praise: the Lord's character is worthy of it because the Lord "regards the lowly." This statement of God's character is common in the psalms. Although God is powerful, it is the particular use of divine might that defines the Lord. Mainly, the Lord exercises power to bring justice and equity, "righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne". Verses 7-8 return to explicitly individual language as the psalm concludes with thanksgiving for deliverance from trouble, similar to that in other thanksgiving songs. The final line, however, speaks again of a community of faith. "The work of your hands" describes God's people.

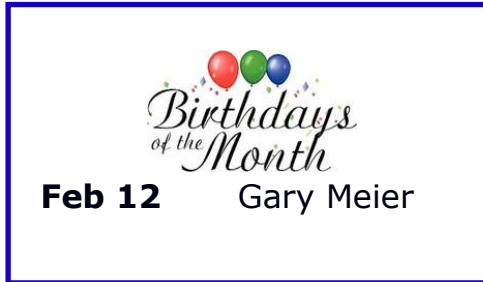
Thus, the psalm as a whole testifies to God's deliverance as individuals experience it as part of the redeemed community. It points to the larger purpose of salvation, namely to reveal to the "nations" the goodness of God and to testify to the community's reliance on God and confidence that God's salvation will come to completion.

Perhaps most important to note, however, is that this psalm has potential to guide worshippers to the true meaning and purpose of thanksgiving. It reminds us that our salvation, for which we give thanks, is not for us alone. It is also evidence of the reign of God and the coming of God's kingdom. Psalm 138 gives us language to proclaim the truth of God's kingdom to the powers of this world that claim falsely to hold the keys to life.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 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

Celebrations



Stewardship Snapshot

February 2nd

16 Worshipped, 16 Communed

10 Watched Online

26 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

1,435.00 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 11th.**

<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 *So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. - Romans 7:14 (NLT)*

God has given us a conscience, which often prompts us to do right and avoid wrong. But our sinful human nature resents the outside direction of the law, and chooses to disobey. Only the power of God's Spirit within us can counteract that.

VERSE OF THE MONTH **53** Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² He 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. ³ He 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. ⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But 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. ⁶ We 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. ⁷ He 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. ⁸ By 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. ⁹ He 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. ¹⁰ Yet 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. ¹¹ After 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. ¹² Therefore 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)*

Missionary of the Month

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH was Faith Comes By Hearing. We collected 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. We will have all of your donations deposited into the General Fund and Bill will write a check for \$160.00 and it will then get mailed to their headquarters. As always thank you for all of the generous support and contributions.

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, even though before last week it had been cold there for Florida. And this week, she has at least been able to enjoy the sun on their lanai. You are doing great Eleanor, keep up the great 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.

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.

VBS 2025



VBS 2025

Save the date!

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

2-9-2025 Message Outline

"Vindication"

Psalm 138 says: *"The Lord will vindicate me..."*

1) The Lord vindicates me by His ATONEMENT.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." ⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. ⁵ "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"
Isaiah 6:1-8

2) The Lord vindicates me with His GIFTS.

Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church. ¹³ For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. ¹⁶ Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer, say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified. ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹ But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. ²⁰ Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.
1 Corinthians 14:12b-20

3) The Lord vindicates me in His CALL.

⁵ One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.
Luke 5:1-11



Community Event

YOU'RE INVITED TO GOOD TIMES AND GUINNESS

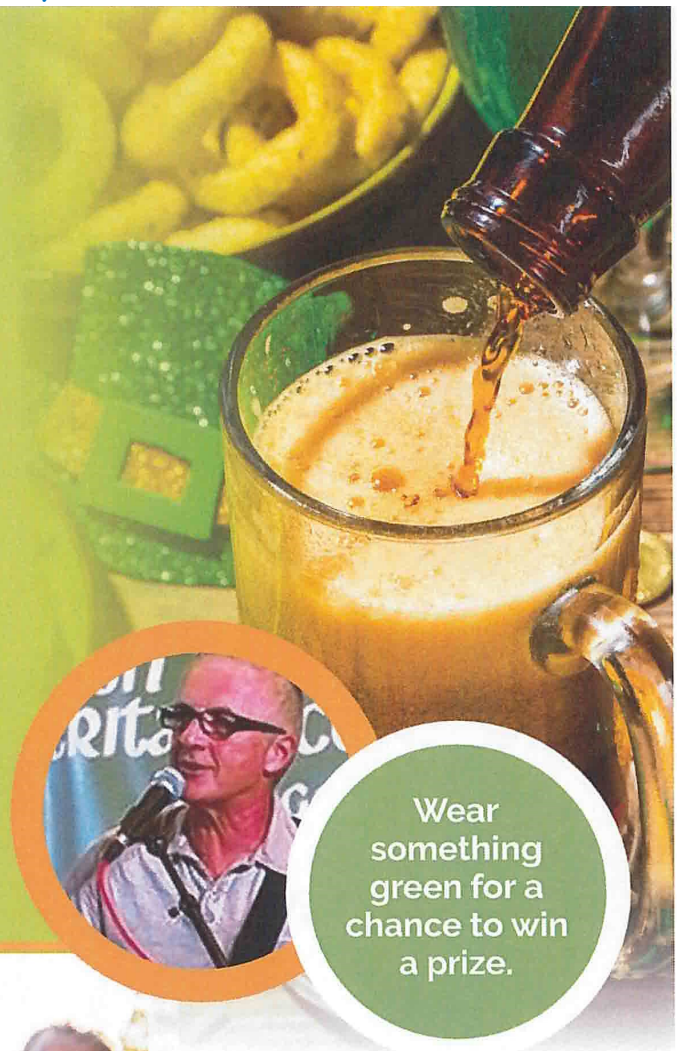
Saturday, March 8 | 2:00 P.M.

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

