

GOING TO WORK FOR GOD

HOW TO MAKE GOD #1 IN YOUR
NON-MINISTRY WORK OR BUSINESS



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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 34, Issue 14

April 6, 2025

"God and Your Work"

In the Bible, you will notice that everybody works! And most of its heroes had secular vocations. Isaac developed land, Jacob was a farmer, Joseph served God best by staying in his well-paying government job rather than starting a non-profit, faith-based organization to do charity work. Daniel was an immigrant who attended Babylon's version of Oxford and grew to be prime minister. Lydia was a profitable businesswoman in textiles. Conceivably the ultimate expression of how much God values work is Jesus the carpenter. More than three-quarters of His life, He occupied Himself in the building profession, creating benches and tables, and was probably engaged in construction. The word we translate as 'carpenter' comes from the Greek word *tektón*, from which we get our word *technology*, and would contain the capability to do stone or masonry work. The Bible was penned by workers, about workers, and for workers. Work was God's idea. *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it'*. The first man, Adam, was a landscaper. By identifying what you have been called to do in life and giving yourself fully to it, you are as 'ordained' as any pastor who stands in a pulpit. It's a pity we use the word *secular* when it comes to any kind of work other than church work because God doesn't see it that way. All honest work earns His smile of approval. When it comes to work, the thing He requires from you is wrapped up in these words: *'Whatever you do, do well.'*

Most adults spend about half their waking lives at work. Your work is a huge part of God's plan for your life. He designed a specific vocation just for you in which you should find personal fulfillment, meet the needs of your family, and help to perpetuate His purposes in the earth. The fourth commandment covers all seven days of the week, not just the Sabbath. *'Six days you shall labor and do all your work...for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth'*.

Sometimes you hear sermons designed to make you feel guilty about not keeping the Sabbath, but have you ever heard a sermon designed to make you feel guilty about not honoring the six-day workweek? The point is that just as God made and loves the Sabbath, He also made and loves work. The Bible says, *'The kingdom of God is in your midst'*. Whether you're a farmer, butcher, baker, or candlestick maker, you're required to demonstrate integrity in the workplace. It's embarrassing when nonbelievers say, 'I'll never do business with a Christian again.'

The Bible says, *'O Lord...how excellent is thy name in all the earth!'* (Psalm 8:1). You should strive to be *excellent* in your work. Lateness, clock-watching, messing around, water cooler gossip, flirting, speaking evil about your boss – these things should have no place in your life. The Bible says, *'It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.'* You should go to work praying, 'Lord, today I want to do a good job and bring credit to Your name.'

The first person in the Bible who was said to be *'filled with the Spirit of God'* was Bezalel. And if his name doesn't ring a bell, it's because he wasn't a prophet, priest, king, or apostle. He was a craftsman, skilled in design. He had an eye for color and a flair for management, and when it came time for building the Tabernacle, he oversaw the job. Here is what God said about him: *'I have chosen Bezalel...and...filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills – to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts'*.

Imagine being Bezalel. From your youth, you loved to work with your hands. You don't know God is involved in this – but He is! He actually placed these desires within you. When you're working, the joy you feel is actually the presence of God. You have certain strengths; you were born with them. They will always be your strengths, and you delight in them. Wonderful things happen when you discover those strengths, put them to use, and focus on improving them. When you're in your God-given slot, working with your God-given strengths, you're at your best. When that happens, you are blessed, and so is everybody around you. The point is, in God's plan, Bezalel was every bit as important as Moses. So, take heart; what you do matters!

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service	7	8 9am-Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	9 9am-Noon Preschool	10 9am-Noon Preschool	11	12

April Celebrations



Stewardship Snapshot

March 30th 23 Worshipped <u>10 Watched Online</u> 33 Total Worshipped <u>Financial Support</u> 2,167.00 General Fund Total Deposit
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Devotional Time

Opportunities to Connect with God

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 April 8th.**

<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

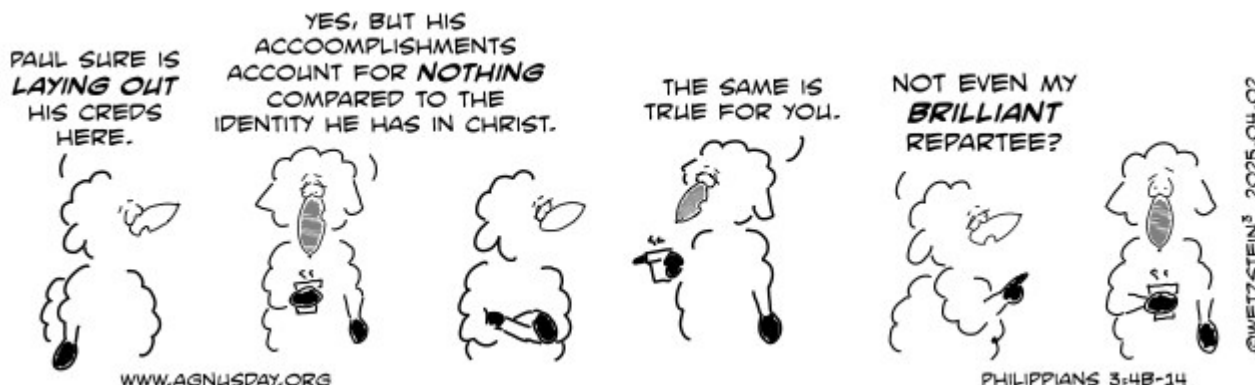
RADIO & TV OPPORTUNITIES

- **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 ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. *1 John 4:8.*

God is love, and He serves as the creator and sustainer of love in our world. Empowered by Jesus, we can experience God's love and share it with others through our lives.

VERSE OF THE MONTH ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. *1 Corinthians 15:3-4.*



Mission of the Month



MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH was for our Technology Fund. We are hoping to upgrade our projectors and sound system in the sanctuary in the upcoming months. We know that both the projectors/screen and the sound system leave a lot to be desired and are outdated. We have gotten quotes from a couple of different sources, one is from the company that helped us get the new copier, and the other one is from some of our more technical minded members, lol. So they already have the new TV screen here, so it will only be a matter of time till it is up for us. We will also need to help Mrs. Diana out with a new laptop for the preschool, I guess she is just doing too much teaching. As always we truly do appreciate all of your generosity.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY will be our Mission of the Month for April. The funds collected each week will go towards the Easter Eggs, and the items that her and Kyle will fill all 1,828 eggs for the 137 kids that are registered for this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Whatever is left over, will go towards the VBS Bible Buddies and materials for all crafts for each day of VBS.



EASTER EGG HUNT 2025 is coming quickly. Even though Easter is later this year, that time is fast approaching. It is scheduled for April 13th following our Palm Sunday worship service. We are hoping that it will be much better weather that day. If you are able to stay for a little while, we would greatly appreciate it if you could help check families in and direct their children to the appropriate age groups. We would also need people that come a little early to help spread out all those eggs. Diana already has over 130 kids that signed up for the event. All of our former preschool families already jumped on the website to get registered also.



Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 13th @ 11:30
Registration is required.
Link available on our website.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES starts off with our Palm Sunday service on April 13th at 10:00am. The Tenebrae Good Friday service will be on April 18th at 6:30pm and then we will celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter morning at 10:00am with our Sunday morning worship service. Please plan on joining us for these services this Easter season.

Tenebrae Service
Friday, April 18th at 6:30 pm

**GOOD
FRIDAY**



Living Word News

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING was last Sunday shortly after our worship service, We appreciate all of those who attended the meeting. We discussed the possibility of renting out our church to God Is Able Church. They have been in existence for over 20 years and never had their own church. They will bring their own instruments and will have their services at 1:00pm. If there is a Sunday when we are here later than usual, they have already said they can come later, they are willing to be flexible and to work with us. We also talked about adding names of current members to the Thrivent Endowment Fund. Lastly, Neal had explained how our roof is in poor condition due to all of the hail storms and thunder and wind storms that we have had this past year. We have filed a claim with our insurance company Church Mutual and we have been approved to proceed with the work. It will be a complete tear off. We had 16 members in attendance and 4 members had called their vote into either Diana or myself, all 20 votes were unanimous "yes" votes for all 3 items. There were no online ballots submitted.

LETTER WAS RECEIVED from Carolyn Wagenaar this past week. It reads: *"Dear Bev, Thank you very much for the Portals of Prayer booklet I received today. Enclosed find a check for Living Word Lutheran Church. I am doing well and keep myself active and moving and walking. Preparing for a trip to Alaska in the middle of May if I keep myself out of trouble. My daughter Janice, her husband and my two grand-daughters are taking me. Looking forward to a busy time ahead."* It is signed, *"Yours in Christ, Carolyn Wagenaar"* Thank you for the letter Carolyn, it is always great to hear from you. We miss you, but are very happy and thankful to hear you are with your family and are doing well. Keep up the good work, Have a wonderful and safe trip to Alaska. Enjoy! As always, we will keep you in our prayers. The actual letter can be found on the bulletin board next to the office.

COUNCIL MEETING will be scheduled for April 22nd, please make sure you change your calendars. The usual topics of discussion are the financials, preschool updates, hopefully there will be an update from the Call committee by then, and then the status of updating the technology in the sanctuary and an update on the roof replacement.

VBS 2025

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

Save the date!

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

And definitely is a wild world out there!

4-6-2025 Message Outline

“Of Sowing & Singing”

Psalm 126: *“Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy.”* Whether sowing in tears or singing with joy:

1) *Sip from the STREAM.*

¹⁶This is what the LORD says—he who made a way through the sea a path through the mighty waters, ¹⁷who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: ¹⁸“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. ¹⁹See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. ²⁰The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, ²¹the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

Isaiah 43:16-21

2) *Stretch for the STARS.*

If someone thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. ⁷But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have obtained all this, or have arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:4b-14

3) *Stand on the STONE.*

⁹He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. ¹⁰At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. ¹²He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out. ¹³“Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’ ¹⁴“But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ ¹⁵So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. “What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When the people heard this, they said, “God forbid!” ¹⁷Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written: “‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? ¹⁸Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” ¹⁹The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people. ²⁰Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be sincere. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said, so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor.

Luke 20:9-20

**Those who go out
weeping, carrying seed
to sow, will return
with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with
them.**