

I have swept away your offenses like a cloud,
your sins like the morning mist.
Return to me, for I have redeemed you.
Isaiah 44:22

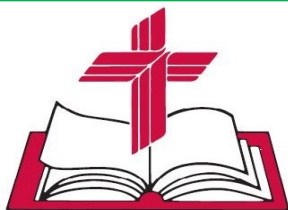


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PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

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 42

October 19, 2025

"Stand on the Word of God"

When you have a hard time forgiving yourself.

There is only one unpardonable sin named in the Bible. And as a believer, you probably haven't committed it, so God will forgive you for everything else. However, when God says He forgives you and you refuse to forgive yourself, it's like opting to stay in prison after the judge has expunged your record and set you free. Worse, you are committing the sin of pride. Because when God forgives you and you refuse to forgive yourself, you're putting your opinion above His. If you're having trouble forgiving yourself, stand on God's Word:

'I...am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins' (Isaiah 43:25).

'I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, and...your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you' (Isaiah 44:22).

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and...will abundantly pardon' (Isaiah 55:7).

"Never open your mouth anymore because of your shame, when I provide you an atonement for all you have done," says the Lord' (Ezekiel 16:63).

'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:9).

'There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus' (Romans 8:1).

Are you 'in Christ Jesus'? Then rejoice; you no longer need to struggle under the weight of condemnation. God has totally forgiven you, so forgive yourself and move on.

When you need to pass a difficult test or exam or certification. The fear of failing can cause your brain to freeze just when you need your thoughts to flow freely. When you know you have done your best to study the material and prepare yourself, trust God with the outcome and stand on His Word:

'Trust in the Lord...do good...and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself...in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust...in Him, and He shall bring it to pass' (Psalm 37:3-5).

'Call to Me...I will answer...and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know'.

'He shall call upon Me, and I will answer...I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him' (Psalm 91:15).

'The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name...will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you' (John 14:26).

'Whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight' (1 John 3:22).

Don't be afraid; God will go with you when it's time to take that test or exam. Long before you prayed, He was already preparing your heart and mind: *'Before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear' (Isaiah 65:24 NKJV).* So square your shoulders and walk into that exam room knowing God is with you!

When you're controlled by materialism. The flawed philosophy behind materialism is 'more, more, more!' And it's the result of 'eye trouble'. The Bible says, *'The eyes of man are never satisfied.'* It's okay to want a nice home, a reliable car, and financial security – and God will provide those things when you're a good steward of what He has already entrusted you with.

(Continued on page 4)

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	20 9am–Noon Preschool	21 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	22 9am–Noon Preschool	23 9am–Noon Preschool	24 9am–Noon Preschool	25

October Celebrations



Oct 25 Ashley Meier
Oct 25 Pastor Steve Lee



Oct 24 Noah Hostert

Church Contacts

Church Contacts
 intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

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

October 12th

24 Worshipped
4 Watched Online
28 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

\$1,200.00 General Fund Offering
 \$120.00 Building Use (God Is Able Church)
\$1,320.00 Total 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 in your prayer request, or join us for 30-40 minutes each week.

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

DEVOTION OF THE WEEK ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. *Romans 12:14-21*

VERSE OF THE MONTH ²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." *Lamentations 3:22-24*

CAPTURED BY GRACE will be the first book that the Bible study classes will begin with. They started a couple of weeks ago, and it is led by Neal Hartz. The group will be doing one chapter a week, each chapter is basically a different topic, so if you can't make it for the entire book, you won't be behind. They will do one chapter a week and they should finish up by the start of Advent or shortly thereafter. The following study will be based on the book, A Life Beyond Amazing, they will start working on that book around the middle of January.



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

Here We Stand For Life

“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason ... I am bound by the Scriptures ... and my conscience is captive to the Word of God.

CHATS 4 LIFE

Want to learn more about contemporary life issues? Host a Chats 4 Life session with Y4Life Director Michelle Bauman!

Y4Life | @lflly4life

Chats 4 Life – Are you interested in learning more about contemporary life issues from a Gospel-motivated perspective? If so, host a virtual Chats 4 Life session! During these sessions, youth learn about a contemporary life issue they're interested in and are encouraged to ask questions and engage in discussion with [Y4Life](https://www.y4life.org) Director Michelle Bauman. Want to host a Chats 4 Life session? Email Michelle at michelle@y4life.org to request a Zoom session!

OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH is Lutherans For Life. We will be collecting every Sunday this month for their organization and for their stand and our stand for LIFE! Just as a reminder, next Sunday will be the last day that we are collecting for Lutherans For Life. As always we appreciate your overwhelming generosity.

Here We Stand to declare and defend the precious value of every human being.

Here We Stand to celebrate the many blessings of abundant and everlasting life.

Here We Stand for every human life, at each stage, in any state—no matter what she's done, no matter what he can't do.

Here We Stand from the invisible miracle of conception to the moment of natural death—because of God's purpose, not our own plans.

Here We Stand behind Jesus Christ's passion, not our own pride.

Here We Stand bearing His Holy Spirit's presence, not our own capacities.



"Stand on the Word of God"

(Continued from page 1)

But when you want more than you need or more than what's required to fulfill His will, the Bible calls it vanity. The word could be defined as being empty, hollow, or without purpose.

Solomon writes, *'He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity' (Ecclesiastes 5:10)*. So before you ask God for prosperity, ask Him to reveal your life's purpose because they're directly linked.

Jesus said, *'A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth' (Luke 12:15)*. God uses a different measuring stick, and His Word says He is *'able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work...Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and...your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God' (2 Corinthians 9:8, 10-11)*.

Is God willing to bless you financially? Yes, but only when you are willing to be a conduit and a distributor of His blessings.



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT is being planned for all of our past and current preschool and VBS families. It will be Saturday, December 13th from 4pm—7pm. Registration hasn't even opened yet, and we already have a family that RSVP'd for their two children, lol. Mrs. Diana is giving parents a night out for Christmas shopping, wrapping presents, date night, or just sitting home relaxing in peace and quiet for a few hours during the hectic hustle and bustle of the holiday season. She will be showing a movie, serving pizza and popcorn, and doing a craft with the children. They will also be having a fake snowball fight here. She has reached out to all the local high schools for volunteers, we of course already have some of our faithful VBS volunteers already commit to helping us out. She has 25 teenage volunteers. If you would like to donate any goodies or help with setting up or cleaning up, please let Diana know, or if you want to, you can also donate towards the cost of the pizza and popcorn and crafts. As always, we appreciate everything you help us with.

THE CHICAGO WOLVES is hosting a Lutheran Schools Night. We will be purchasing tickets for the Saturday, November 15th game that will be at 7:00pm. The Wolves play at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont, IL. The Wolves are an AHL (American Hockey League) team. They will be playing the Cleveland Monsters that weekend. The tickets will be \$23.00 each and the seats will be located on the lower level at center ice and each ticket will also come with a Wolves knit hat. We also have an option to buy food vouchers for a hot dog and soda for \$7.00. Children 2 and under are free. I now have the order form. We need a minimum of 10 people to go in order to get the special discounted pricing. The poster and the order forms are on the welcome desk in the fellowship hall and the poster is also on page 4 of this newsletter. I will be having the order form in the bulletins for the month of October. Deadline for purchasing the tickets is November 2nd. I will email one total order form and then also mail her the hard copy and have Bill write a check for the amount. All tickets and vouchers will then be mailed here, and you will be able to pick them up at your convenience. If you have any questions, please see me or Diana.

ORLAND PARK CHRISTMAS TREE will also be purchased this year. Anyone who wants to help decorate the tree can see Diana for more details as to the dates. It's usually just before the Thanksgiving holiday.

BRROKFIELD ZOO CHRISTMAS TREE has been purchased and we will be planning on decorating the tree on Saturday, November 8th. Most all of the preschool families have already shown interest and are very excited for the chance to be able to go to the zoo. The zoo will be giving us 20 free passes to hand out to the families, and we can purchase additional ones for \$10.00 each, which is a huge discount on the admission price. Mrs. Diana and the preschoolers have been working very hard on the ornaments for both trees. Here's some of the works in progress below. They will also be making candy canes next week.



COUNCIL MEETING was Thursday night. Among the topics discussed were the financials, Call Committee updates, and preschool. They also discussed the plans for Parents' Night Out event and the new flyer that we have started printing and folding.

GREETINGS FROM GEORGIA came in this week from our dear friend Carolyn. The letter reads, *"Dear Bev, Thanks for always sending the church messenger each week and my Portals of Prayer booklet. Means much to me. I am fine and just recently had cataracts taken care of. Blessings to Living Word, Carolyn Wagenaar."* The actual letter is posted on the bulletin board.

THANK YOU LETTER was received this week from Phil's Friends. It reads, *"Dear Friends, Thank you for partnering with Phil's Friends to support cancer patients and caregivers. Your generosity brings peace, encouragement and light into an otherwise dark situation. We are grateful for your partnership in the Gospel!"* It is signed, *"For Christ and His Kingdom, Phil Zielke, Founder of Phil's Friends."* The letter can be found on the bulletin board.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE will be on Wednesday, November 26th at 6:30pm. The service will be led by our head elder Bill Merchantz. He will also be leading our service the following Sunday on November 30th.

10-19-2025 Message Outline

“The Lord Watches Over You”

“The Lord watches over you... both now and forevermore.”
Psalm 121

1) The Lord watches over your WRESTLING.

²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” ²⁷ The man asked him, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. ²⁸ Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.” ²⁹ Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.” But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”
Genesis 32:22-30

2) The Lord watches over your WORK.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. ⁴ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

3) The Lord watches over your WANTS.

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ ⁴ “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”
Luke 18:1-8

