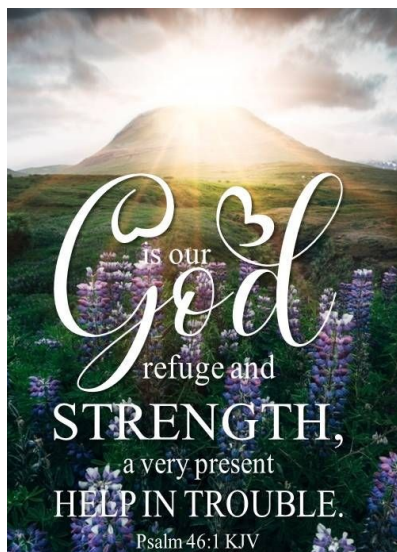


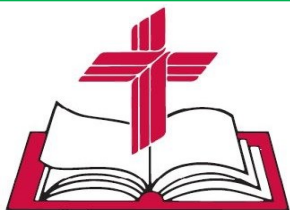


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PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Eleanor Galik
for immediate prayers



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

Living Word Lutheran Church

16301 South Wolf Road
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 47

November 23, 2025

"10 Lessons From Psalm 46"

1. God is Our Refuge and Strength

In times of trouble, we often seek comfort and security. Psalm 46:1 reminds us, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble." This verse assures us that no matter the storm, God is our safe haven. When life feels overwhelming, remember that you have a divine fortress ready to protect and empower you.

2. Fear Not, Even When the Earth Shakes

The world can be a scary place, with natural disasters and personal crises shaking our foundations. Yet, Psalm 46:2-3 encourages us, "Therefore we will not fear, though the earth is transformed and the mountains are toppled into the depths of the seas." This is a call to trust in God's sovereignty, knowing that He holds the universe in His hands.

3. The River of Joy

Amidst chaos, there is a river that brings joy and peace. Psalm 46:4 tells us, "There is a river whose streams delight the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells." This river symbolizes the Holy Spirit, bringing life and joy to our souls. Tap into this divine source of peace and let it flow through your life.

4. God is Within Us

Psalm 46:5 declares, "God is within her; she will not be moved. God will help her when morning dawns." This verse reassures us that God dwells within us, providing stability and support. With His presence, we can face each day with confidence, knowing that we are never alone.

5. Nations May Rage, But God is in Control

In a world filled with political turmoil and conflict, it's easy to feel anxious. Yet, Psalm 46:6 reminds us, "Nations rage, kingdoms crumble; the earth melts when He lifts His voice." God's power surpasses all earthly authority, and His plans will prevail. Trust in His ultimate control over the affairs of the world.

6. The Lord of Hosts is With Us

Psalm 46:7 proclaims, "The LORD of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." This is a powerful reminder that the same God who led Israel is with us today. He is our protector and defender, ready to fight our battles and provide shelter in times of need.

7. Witness the Works of the Lord

Take a moment to observe the wonders of God's creation and His mighty works. Psalm 46:8 invites us, "Come, see the works of the LORD, who brings devastation upon the earth." Reflecting on His power and majesty can strengthen our faith and remind us of His ability to transform any situation.

8. Be Still and Know

In the hustle and bustle of life, it's crucial to pause and reflect. The psalm instructs us, "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted over the earth." This is an invitation to quiet our hearts, acknowledge His sovereignty, and find peace in His presence.

9. God Will Be Exalted

God's glory will ultimately be recognized by all. Psalm 46:10 assures us, "I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted over the earth." This promise gives us hope and encourages us to live in a way that honors Him, knowing that His name will be lifted high.

10. The God of Jacob is Our Fortress

Finally, Psalm 46:11 reiterates, "The LORD of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." This closing verse reinforces the theme of divine protection and presence. As we navigate life's challenges, we can rest in the assurance that God is our unshakeable fortress, always ready to shelter and guide us.

November Celebrations



23 Worshipped

Financial Support

\$1,750.00	General Fund Offering
\$150.00	Building Use (Gretel Hansen Concert)
\$1,900.00	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. We are always looking for people to join us in prayer to our Lord.

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 13 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴ For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. ⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. *Romans 13:1-7*

Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

VERSE OF THE MONTH ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. *Titus 2:11-14*

CAPTURED BY GRACE is the first book that the Bible study class had began with. They started a couple of months 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. 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. If you have any questions, or need a book, please see Neal.

A decorative arrangement of autumn-themed items, including several large, detailed leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red, and clusters of small, round, light-colored berries on thin green stems. These are scattered across the top half of the page.

give thanks

Do not be anxious about anything, but
in every situation, by prayer and
petition, with thanksgiving, present your
requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

Thanksgiving Devotional



The Orland Township Food Pantry supplies food and Christmas gifts to low-income residents who need immediate assistance.

We will be collecting monetary donations all month to help them stock their shelves and buy gifts for our community.

NOVEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH will be the Village of Orland Park Food Pantry. We will be collecting monetary donations every Sunday for them to help stock their food pantry and to be able prepare for their holiday dinner and gift programs. With the prices of food and gifts continually rising, there are so many families in our community that are struggling to make ends meet. It's our goal to help make their holidays a little brighter by helping the Village to buy more items for them. As always we greatly appreciate your overwhelming generosity.

A SECOND THANK YOU LETTER was received earlier this week from Lutherans For Life via email. It reads,

Dear Friends of Life,

In November, as the leaves turn and the days shorten, we are reminded of how quickly time passes. As we reflect back, we are filled with gratitude for all our Lord Jesus has provide to Lutherans For Life, especially through you. On behalf of the Development team and all the staff at Lutherans For Life, thank you for your financial gift in October!

Your gift helps equip thousands of people For Life across the Nation each year – from children with our Lil' Lutherans program, teens and young adults with Y4Life and YA4Life, those in crisis with our spiritual care hotline at Word of Hope, to congregational volunteers with Life Advocates, Life Teams, and Life Chapters! Every dollar given seeds life-affirming messages through our publications such as Life Date, events like our National Conferences, and congregational resources available on our website and through Concordia Publishing House.

We could not do it without you!

Thank you again for choosing to affirm Life through your financial and prayerful support of LFL. Let us know how we can pray for you!

Your sister in Christ,

Erika Peterson

Events Coordinator



LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE will be held on November 26th at 6:30pm. The service will be led by our head elder, Bill Merchantz, he will also be leading our worship service the following Sunday, November 30th, as Pastor and Elaine will be spending their holiday with their family in Alabama.



2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available and in their usual spot on the desk in the fellowship hall. I know 2026 is still about a month and a half away, but you know how quickly that time will go. Lol.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT is scheduled 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 have 16 registered so far and hoping for a few more families to reach out and register once they are able to finalize all of their holiday family events. 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. We, of course already have some of our faithful VBS volunteers already commit to helping us out. She has 25 teenage volunteers.

ORLAND PARK CHRISTMAS TREE was also purchased this year. Anyone who wants to help decorate the tree can see Diana for more details as to the dates. The tree will be up and ready for us to decorate as of November 27th and must be completed by noon on November 30th. We are planning to go and decorate it sometime on November 29th. The tree is located round the corner from the Civic Center at 14750 Ravinia. We are along the sidewalk and it is tree number 12.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped us last Sunday morning with bring down all of the Christmas stuff from the attic. Bill Merchantz and Diana Motel went upstairs before service and Noah and Chloe Hostert and Dave Holloway helped me grab the boxes and items from them and put them in the crying room for the time being. We will start decorating during next week while the preschool is on vacation, so that way we will be ready for Advent to start immediately after Thanksgiving. I don't know about anyone else, but the holidays are just coming too fast. Lol.

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM is planned for our worship service on Sunday, December 14th. Please be sure to be here and watch the girls perform their songs for us. They have already started working on them. We even have their families asking if they had started working on the songs. They are so cute, it will be a very special service for all.



GRETEL HANSEN MUSIC SCHOOL will be hosting their winter/Christmas concert here on Saturday, December 6th at 2:00pm. So take advantage of giving yourself a break during the hectic holiday preparations and come and enjoy some live music and fellowship that afternoon.

“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God...”
Psalm 46:4a

¹³“You have spoken arrogantly against me,” says the LORD. “Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’
¹⁴“You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty?’¹⁵ But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly evildoers prosper, and even when they put God to the test, they get away with it.”¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.¹⁷ “On the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty, “they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him.”¹⁸ And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

Malachi 3:13-18

¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:13-20

²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wept for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’” ³⁰ Then “they will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’” ³¹ For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?” ³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” ³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” ³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Luke 23:27-43

