

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

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## "The Powerful King of Glory Who Brings Renewal"

We live in a world where anxiety, relational strain, and emotional burdens weigh heavily on our hearts. It is easy to feel overwhelmed, adrift, or powerless when life feels chaotic. Psalm 24 speaks directly to this struggle, reminding us that the earth belongs to the Lord, that He desires pure hearts, and that He reigns as the King of Glory, bringing victory and peace.

### Psalm Summary & Exposition

It is a psalm of triumph and worship, sung by God's people as they approached the temple after deliverance. Its message unfolds in three movements: God's sovereign rule, the requirements for those who seek Him, and the glorious entry of the King. The psalm offers not only a picture of worship in Israel's history but also a rich source of hope for counseling the heart today.

#### The Sovereign Lord of All (Psalm 24:1-2)

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers." These verses establish the psalm's foundation: God owns everything because He created everything. For the anxious heart, this truth steadies us when life feels chaotic. Relational conflicts, financial stress, or emotional turmoil can make us feel untethered, but we are not adrift. The Creator who formed the world holds our lives securely. Recognizing God's ownership reframes our perspective: nothing is beyond His reach, and no part of life is outside His care.

#### The Heart God Welcomes (Psalm 24:3-6)

The psalmist then asks: "Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?" The answer pierces us: "He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully." This requirement reveals God's desire for integrity, both inside and out, in actions that reflect clean hands and motives that flow from pure hearts. It reminds us that God sees both what we do and why we do it. For those wrestling with guilt or shame, these verses bring conviction but also hope. None of us meet this standard. But in Christ, we are cleansed and made new. By His Spirit, we are being transformed day by day into people whose lives reflect sincerity, holiness, and truth. Counseling often requires addressing both inward and outward struggles. A person battling anger may need heart-level healing through forgiveness, while someone stuck in deceit must learn to walk in honesty. God's blessing: His favor, vindication, and renewal flow to those who humbly seek Him. Verse 6 reminds us that those who "seek the face of the God of Jacob" will experience His presence.

#### The Triumph of the King (Psalm 24:7-10)

The psalm crescendos with a majestic call: "Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in." This picture of the ark entering Jerusalem foreshadows the greater triumph of Christ. Twice the question is asked: "Who is this King of glory?" Twice the answer resounds: "The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle." He is not a distant ruler but a conquering King who brings His victory into the lives of His people. These verses echo Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem not with war chariots but on a humble donkey to secure salvation through the cross. He is the true King of Glory, strong and mighty to save. Counseling the heart with this truth means inviting Christ's reign into the deepest struggles—fear, regret, broken relationships, and inner turmoil. Where He is welcomed, healing and victory follow.

#### Christ-Centered Connection in Psalm 24

Psalm 24 points us to Jesus Christ, the greater King of Glory. He fulfills the requirement of clean hands and a pure heart perfectly. By His sacrifice, we receive righteousness we could never achieve. He entered the heavenly sanctuary on our behalf, securing eternal redemption. When we open the gates of our hearts to Him, we find freedom from sin's power, peace in the midst of emotional storms, and courage to face relational conflicts with grace. Christ reigns not only over creation but also in the hearts of those who trust Him.

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**PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS**

Please call the office 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

# December 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>21</b> 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service First Day of Winter 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00am Push Prayer  <b>Christmas</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service  <b>Christmas Break—No</b>	<b>25</b> Office Closed 10 am Christmas Day Worship Service  <b>Preschool</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>

## Church Contacts

**Church Contacts**  
*intouchlwc@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

**December 14th**  
**48 Worshipped**  
**7 Watched Online**  
**55 Total Worshipped**

**Financial Support**  
 \$1,320.00 General Fund Offering  
 \$105.00 Parents' Night Out Registration  
 \$200.00 Building Use (Spring Creek Townhomes)  
**\$1,625.00 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** <sup>13</sup> Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. <sup>14</sup> I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. <sup>15</sup> If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. <sup>16</sup> Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. <sup>17</sup> For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, <sup>18</sup> because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. <sup>19</sup> Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.  
*Romans 14:13-19*

**VERSE OF THE MONTH** <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*

**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. They will be taking a break after this Sunday. Classes will resume after the holidays. 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.



**Our December Mission of the month is Bethesda Lutheran Disability Ministries. Bethesda uplifts the faith of individuals living with intellectual and developmental disabilities, ensuring they have the spiritual resources needed for a dignified and fulfilling Christ-centered life**

## Who is Bethesda?

Bethesda is a national nonprofit operating in 13 states across the country. We've been operating for more than 115 years, but we have never wavered in our mission: to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through services that share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Some of our services include:

- **Community living:** Providing stable, welcoming homes with residential support options that include shared living, group homes and supported living.
- **Career connections:** Supporting meaningful, integrated employment with job coaching, skill development and ongoing assistance.
- **Bethesda College of Applied Learning:** A two-year certificate program giving people with disabilities a real college experience.
- **Faith supports:** Ensuring everyone has the opportunity to be active members of their faith community.

We also offer a host of materials to help you create a more inclusive environment for people of all abilities, from Bible studies, devotions, confirmation materials and more.

For more information, contact  
[ReligiousLife@BethesdaLC.org](mailto:ReligiousLife@BethesdaLC.org)  
or visit [BethesdaLC.org/FaithResources](http://BethesdaLC.org/FaithResources)





**PARENTS' NIGHT OUT** was last Saturday. There were almost 20 volunteers and 20 kids who joined the fun. They had a fake snowball fight, made crafts, watched the movie "Star", and had pizza and popcorn and made popcorn trail mix with mini marshmallows and M & M's. A huge thanks to Ms. Diana for all of her hard work and her giant inflatable screen and her projector. She is already thinking about the next Parents' Night Out for February maybe. Also, thanks to Neal for making sure there Was plenty of pizza for everyone.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight 6:00 pm**  
**Christmas Day 10 am**

**ORLAND PARK CHRISTMAS TREE**

is located round the corner from the Civic Center at 14750 Ravinia. We are along the sidewalk and it is tree number 12. Go check out all the pretty ornaments the preschoolers made this year.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES** will be our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 6:00pm and then we have our Christmas morning service at 10:00am. Even though this joyous season is a very hectic time of the year for everybody, we need to take time to remember the reason why we celebrate the season.

**PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** was last Sunday, December 14th. They were so cute, it was a very special service for all of us and all of the preschool families. Ms. Diana and Kyle led the Children's Message. Kyle read a Bible verse to them, and before they could even get started Ms. Diana had explained all about the manger to the kids. Thursday was jammies day and Jesus' birthday party for the kids. They exchanged goodie bags with each other and ended the day with a fake snowball fight, and somehow all of the snowballs ended in Ms. Bev's office, hmm I wonder how that happened, lol.



## 12-21-2025 Message Outline

### “Who is This King of Glory?”

“Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty,  
the Lord mighty in battle....”

Psalm 24:8

#### 1) The King of Glory RULES us.

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, <sup>16</sup> for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. <sup>17</sup> The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria.” Isaiah 7:10-17

#### 2) The King of Glory CALLS us.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— <sup>2</sup> the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup> Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake. <sup>6</sup> And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 1:1-7

#### 3) The King of Glory is WITH us.

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. Matthew 1:18-25

