

I will give
THANKS
to the
LORD
with my
WHOLE
HEART

Psalm 111:1



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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

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 34, Issue 51

December 28, 2025

"Lessons from Psalm 111"

1. Praise as a Priority

Psalm 111 opens with a call to praise: "Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly" (Psalm 111:1). This sets the tone for the entire psalm, reminding us that praising God should be a priority in our lives. Whether in private devotion or public worship, expressing gratitude to God aligns our hearts with His goodness and sets the stage for a life filled with His presence.

2. The Greatness of God's Works

The psalm states, "Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them". This verse encourages us to take time to reflect on the wonders of creation and the miracles in our lives. Doing so, we have a deeper appreciation for God's handiwork and are inspired to live in awe of His power and creativity.

3. God's Righteousness Endures Forever

We read, "Splendid and majestic is His work; His righteousness endures forever". The assurance of God's eternal righteousness provides a foundation for our faith. No matter the challenges we face, we can trust that God's character remains unchanging and His justice will prevail.

4. Remembering His Wonders

"He has caused His wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate" (Psalm 111:4). This verse highlights the importance of remembering God's past deeds. By recalling His faithfulness, we strengthen our trust in His future provision.

5. Provision for His People

The psalmist assures us, "He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever" (Psalm 111:5). This reminds us that God is our provider, meeting both our physical and spiritual needs. Trusting in His provision allows us to live with confidence, knowing that He cares for us deeply and is committed to His promises.

6. The Power of His Works

"The works of His hands are truth and justice; all His precepts are trustworthy". God's works are not only powerful but also rooted in truth and justice. This encourages us to align our lives with His precepts, knowing that they are reliable and lead to a life of integrity and righteousness.

7. Redemption and Covenant

"He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name". This verse points to the ultimate redemption found in Jesus Christ. As believers, we are part of an eternal covenant, sealed by His sacrifice. Embracing this truth empowers us to live with purpose and hope, knowing we are redeemed and cherished by God.

8. The Fear of the Lord

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts gain rich understanding" (Psalm 111:10). Reverence for God is the foundation of true wisdom. By prioritizing His commands and seeking His guidance, we gain insight and understanding that surpasses worldly knowledge, leading to a life that honors Him.

9. Eternal Praise

"His praise endures forever". The psalm concludes with a reminder that God's praise is eternal. Our lives should echo this truth, as we continually offer Him praise and live in a way that reflects His glory. This eternal perspective encourages us to focus on what truly matters and to invest in our relationship with God.

10. Living in Awe

Psalm 111, we are invited to live in awe of God's majesty and grace. By embracing these lessons, we cultivate a heart of worship and a life that reflects His love and truth. Let's be inspired to live each day with gratitude, trust, and reverence, knowing that God is worthy of all praise.

December 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service First Day of Winter	29	30 10:00am Push Prayer Christmas Break—No	31 New Years Eve 	1 New Years Day Office Closed Preschool	2	3

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 21st
 27 Worshipped, 25 Communed
4 Watched Online
 31 Total Worshipped

Financial Support
 \$2,055.00 General Fund Offering
\$150.00 Building Use (Gretel Hansen Music Concert)
\$2,205.00 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 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, ¹⁸ because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. ¹⁹ Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.
Romans 14:13-19

VERSE OF THE MONTH ¹⁴ 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. 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
or visit BethesdaLC.org/FaithResources



12-28-2025 Message Outline

“Remember”

“He has caused his wonders to be remembered...”

Psalm 111:4a

1) This Christmas season, remember God’s PRESENCE.

I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. ⁸He said, “Surely they are my people, children who will be true to me”; and so he became their Savior. ⁹In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. ¹¹Then his people recalled the days of old, the days of Moses and his people—where is he who brought them through the sea, with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who set his Holy Spirit among them, ¹²who sent his glorious arm of power to be at Moses’ right hand, who divided the waters before them, to gain for himself everlasting renown, ¹³who led them through the depths? Like a horse in open country, they did not stumble; ¹⁴like cattle that go down to the plain, they were given rest by the Spirit of the LORD. This is how you guided your people to make for yourself a glorious name. Isaiah 63:7-14

2) This Christmas season, remember God’s PATRIMONY.

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. Galatians 4:4-7

3) This Christmas season, remember God’s PROMISES.

¹³When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” ¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸“A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” ¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.” ²¹So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene. Matthew 2:13-23

