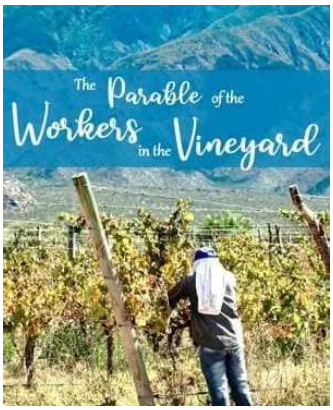


Inside this issue:

"The Workers in the Vineyard"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Stewardship Snapshot	2
Church Contacts/Devotional Time	2
September Celebrations	2
Living Word News	3
Preschool News	4
Mission of the Month	4
Preschool Wish List	5
9-20-2026 Message Outline	6

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

16301 South Wolf Road
Orland Park, IL 60467

livingwordorland.org
intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:00 am Adult study
10:00 am Worship

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 38 **September 20, 2026**

"The Workers in the Vineyard"

Right before Jesus tells this parable, he talks with his disciples about the rewards for following him. Peter, seemingly filled with awe, says, "Look, we've left everything and followed you! What then will we have?" The reward Jesus describes to him is stellar, even if it is given to "everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields" for his name's sake. But, and it's a big but, then Jesus adds: "many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Now, we know that Peter was not the only disciple to get wide-eyed when thinking about their future place in glory. James and John notoriously were also involved in such a conversation with Jesus. So though this parable is only in the gospel of Matthew, the heart of its message belongs to all of them. And that's because the need to be first so as to not be last is deeply ingrained in our earning culture and human mentality.

Grace and generosity, of course, belong to an altogether different realm. Their math only makes sense in the Kingdom, and even then, we subjects need help making sense and accepting it. As he often did, Jesus helps his disciples ponder the Kingdom with a story that shows everything being upside-down and redefines fairness and equality.

The workers who question out loud the vineyard owner's generosity don't think that it's fair that people who worked less than them are getting the same pay as them. Imagine what damage would have been done to the establishment of the church if that was the attitude that Peter and the other disciples brought along with them as apostles!

Instead of fostering a community of joy, of celebrating when someone else has had something good happen to them, we get upset because we want more. The people who were hired by the vineyard owner to work were all in the same boat in the morning; they needed jobs and they needed the money in order to buy food for themselves and their family. Each group, no matter the time they are hired, are promised by the vineyard owner that they will be paid what is right. To the dismay of the workers who worked all day, they receive what is right, a full day's wage, alongside those who worked for only a fraction of the time. As they watched the pay go out, they assumed that what was right would be that they would get *more.* It's a fair assumption but it goes much deeper than the pay. The issue seems to have impacted their sense of self. In their mind, they are better than the people hired later and throughout the day. They are superior and better workers—that's why they were hired at the start. The problem is that the way this pay has come out, the vineyard owner has made the less suitable workers "equal to us", they complain.

The vineyard owner calmly looks at them and explains the reality of the Kingdom of God: we humans, with all of our measuring and looking for "fairness" can't make heads or tails of grace's record books. Equality in the Kingdom comes with an entry ticket, no matter when you show up. Those who "get in line early" so as to get the best seat, the best choice, the best view, the best whatever, are in for a rude surprise: every seat is good, every view is breath-taking, and every bite is delicious: our Heavenly Father spares no expense. And God, the Creator of the Universe and the Author of Salvation, gets to do with it what he wants. He can respond to our comments and complaints in the same way the vineyard owner does: "Are you envious because I am generous?"

The literal translation of the second half of verse 15, "Or are you envious because I am generous?" is "Is your eye evil because I am good?" Remembering that at that time and place the eye was the window to the soul, Jesus' words penetrate much deeper than gut reactions to what seems unfair; he's talking about the general disposition of our souls.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	21 9am–Noon Preschool	22 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	23 9am–Noon Preschool	24 9am–Noon Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting	25 9am–Noon Preschool	26 6:00pm Dinner and Meeting with AFLC President Micah

Stewardship Snapshot

September 13th
20 Worshipped
7 Online Viewers
28 Total Worshipped

Financial Support
$770.00 Total General Offering

September Celebrations

Sept 23 Jesse Meier

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

Devotional Time

Opportunities to Connect with God

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

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.

DEVOTIONAL OF THE. WEEK 7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, 8 lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, 9 you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, 10 wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, 11 kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, 12 young men and women, old men and children. 13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. *Psalm 148:7-13*

For all things bright and beautiful. For all things dark and mysterious and lovely. For all things green and growing and strong. For all things weak and struggling to push life up through rocky earth. For all human faces, hearts, minds, and hands which surround us, and for all nonhuman minds and hearts, paws and claws, fins and wings. For this Life and the life of the world. For all that you have laid before us, O God. We lay our thankful hearts before you. In Christ's name.

VERSE OF THE MONTH 1 Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. 2 From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. 4 I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. *Psalm 61:1-4*

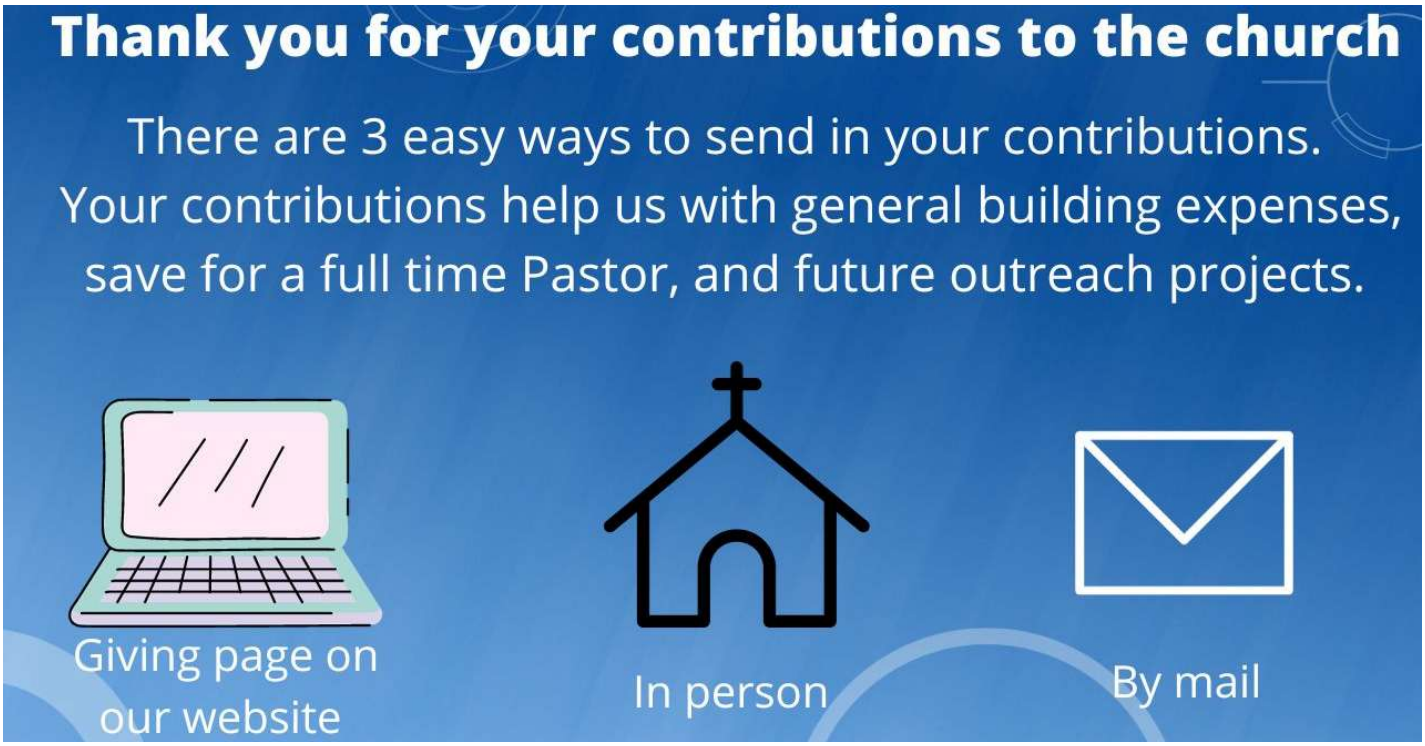
PUSH PRAYER will be available on Zoom now for any of our out-of-towners and/or shut-ins to join us., I will email the link on Monday afternoons or Tuesday mornings, so it would be easier for you to find the email in your inbox. Just click on the link and it will connect you to the group. Please note that this is a recurring link for the meeting, so if I don't send it out right away, or you don't see it in your inbox, you can save and use this link over again in Zoom. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the PUSH PRAYER on September 22nd.**

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84076099900?pwd=d3BxLBWbTlzRVpuSGhgTXc2dGRLdz09
Meeting ID: 840 7609 9900 Passcode: 427470

Living Word News

PRAYER REQUEST for Eleanor Galik as she is now in Florida. Thank you to Karen and Marilouise for bringing her to church last Sunday so we could all say goodbye and wish her all the best. Hopefully we will be able to see you when you come up for the holidays or for your birthday.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped spread mulch last Saturday in the playground and in Linda's garden. There was 14 yards of mulch that Neal and Kristi Hatz, Ed and Cathy Baids, Bill and David Merchantz, Dave Holloway and Ken Marks all worked together and helped make it beautiful for the kids to play in it, when it wasn't raining this week. Also thanks to Kristi who even planted the fall mums in the planters last Saturday.



If you would like to set up automatic donations you can use our website or scan the QR Code You are able to set up an account and can choose how often you would like to make a doantion or can just do a one time donation as well.

https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z7Y1/home

MANY WAYS TO GIVE We want to thank everyone for their donations and contributions. If you ever need to have other options to make your offerings, here are just a few ways to make life just a little easier for you. Please check out just a few these options listed below:

1: In person with your offering envelope each week, either with a check or cash.

2: Go to our website and click on the Giving Page tab, and follow the prompts to give a one-time donation or a recurring donation. You are given 3 different options, weekly, every other week, or monthly.

3: You also can set-up auto pay with your bank. They can draft a check and have it sent directly to us. I check the mail everyday so it will not be sitting in the mailbox for verry long.

As always w appreciate everything you do for our church.

Preschool News

IT'S TIME FOR PRESCHOOL School started on September 8th. We have 3 returning students and 3 new ones. Plus it sounds like we will have another little boy starting next month. Since the class is bigger than usual to start off, she has been busy creating a wish list for the classroom. You can view the items on the following page for what is needed, or you can also scan the QR code that's to the right. Of course, I can always email you the link as well. As stated before, this isn't mandatory, it's just something to help offset the costs for our preschool and the teacher too. Thank you to all who helped Diana out last year, it was very much appreciated. You can save any of your receipts and turn them into the office and I will include them on your tax statements.

NEW DRAMATIC ARTS PLAY AREA THEME is all about the 5 senses. The Living Word Preschool Café is now open, lol. The kids have been busy making their customers breakfast, lunch and dinner. They have also been busy helping make food for their customers' parties. Make sure you stop by the room to check out all of the goodies that might be on the menu this month.

SCAN ME

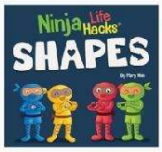
PRESCHOOL AMAZON WISH LIST

Mission of the Month

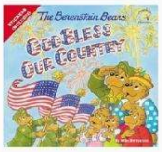
Living Word News

SEPTEMBER 27th SERVICE with Pastor Micah leading us in service that Sunday. Pastor Micah is the President of the AFLC. He will be staying for fellowship that day to answer any of your questions and/or concerns. This is in the very preliminary stages of us looking at other options for a pastor, nothing is set in stone, and if it becomes more serious of a venture, we will all get to vote on it during a congregational meeting. Most former members of our church have received a letter and the packet that was handed out on July 5th after service in the mail this week. We are encouraging all to be in attendance as to get a clearer picture of who and what the AFLC is all about.

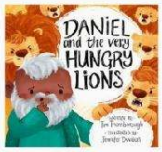
Preschool Wish List



0 of 1 Purchased
Ninja Life Hacks...
3.9 ★★★★☆ (19)
$12.81
You Earn: 13 pts



0 of 1 Purchased
The Berenstain...
4.8 ★★★★★ (1.1K)
$6.98
You Earn: 7 pts

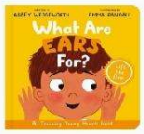


0 of 1 Purchased
Daniel and the V...
4.8 ★★★★★ (460)
$10.79 List: $12.99
You Earn: 11 pts

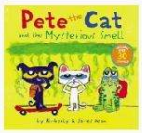
0 of 1 Purchased
Jesus Loves You...
5.0 ★★★★★ (107)
$10.48 List: $14.99
You Earn: 11 pts

0 of 1 Purchased
Wooden Puzzles...
$18.99

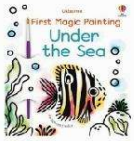
0 of 1 Purchased
SYNARRY Numbe...
4.6 ★★★★☆ (263)
$22.99



0 of 1 Purchased
What Are Ears Fo...
4.8 ★★★★★ (256)
$6.59 List: $11.99
You Earn: 7 pts



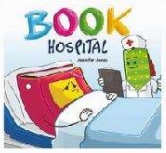
0 of 1 Purchased
Pete the Cat and...
4.9 ★★★★★ (840)
$3.87 List: $6.99
You Earn: 4 pts



0 of 1 Purchased
First Magic Painti...
4.7 ★★★★★ (69)
$5.55 List: $9.99
You Earn: 6 pts

0 of 1 Purchased
1000 PCS Teache...
4.7 ★★★★☆ (411)
$5.99 ($3.00/count)

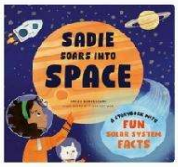
0 of 1 Purchased
The Day the...
4.8 ★★★★★ (25K)
$9.50 List: $15.99
You Earn: 10 pts



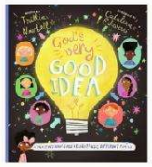
0 of 1 Purchased
Book Hospital (O...
4.4 ★★★★☆ (177)
$12.91
You Earn: 13 pts

0 of 1 Purchased
Wooden Magneti...
4.4 ★★★★☆ (422)
$24.89

0 of 1 Purchased
Wooden Jumbo...
4.5 ★★★★★ (297)
$18.99



0 of 1 Purchased
Sadie Soars into...
4.8 ★★★★★ (121)
$9.49 List: $10.99
You Earn: 10 pts

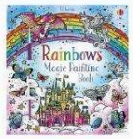


0 of 1 Purchased
God's Very Good...
4.8 ★★★★★ (1.6K)
$9.47 List: $16.99
You Earn: 10 pts

of 1 Purchased
AIH Fine Tip Dr...
★★★★☆ (1.4K)
.99 List Price: $12.99
37/count)

0 of 1 Purchased
Magnetic Buildin...
4.7 ★★★★☆ (108)
$13.99 Typical price: $15.99 ($0.09/count)

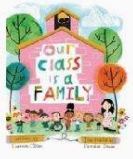
0 of 1 Purchased
7" Washable Ink...
5.0 ★★★★★ (3)
$9.49



0 of 1 Purchased
Rainbows Magic...
4.8 ★★★★★ (675)
$7.49 List: $9.99
You Earn: 8 pts

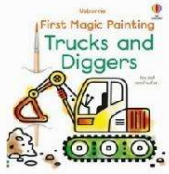
0 of 1 Purchased
1000PCS Scratch...
4.3 ★★★★☆ (47)
$9.99 ($0.01/count)

0 of 1 Purchased
Bugs Magic...
4.7 ★★★★☆ (59)
$7.99 List: $9.99
You Earn: 8 pts



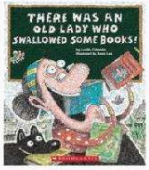
0 of 1 Purchased
Our Class is a...
4.8 ★★★★★ (15.5K)
$14.99
You Earn: 15 pts

0 of 1 Purchased
IRIS USA Storage...
4.6 ★★★★☆ (1.3K)
$29.99 ($5.00/count)

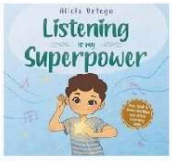


0 of 1 Purchased
First Magic Painti...
4.7 ★★★★☆ (60)
$7.99 List: $9.99
You Earn: 8 pts

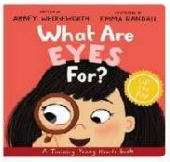
0 of 1 Purchased
Pencil Hospital: A...
4.4 ★★★★☆ (287)
$12.91
You Earn: 13 pts



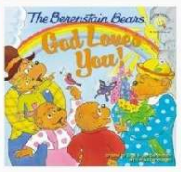
0 of 1 Purchased
There Was an Ol...
4.8 ★★★★★ (1.8K)
$5.58 List: $8.99
You Earn: 6 pts



0 of 1 Purchased
Listening is My...
4.8 ★★★★★ (174)
$12.99
You Earn: 13 pts



0 of 1 Purchased
What Are Eyes Fo...
4.9 ★★★★★ (255)
$6.99 List: $11.99
You Earn: 7 pts



0 of 1 Purchased
The Berenstain...
4.8 ★★★★★ (1K)
$5.58
You Earn: 6 pts

0 of 1 Purchased
1000 PCS Jesus Love Y...
4.7 ★★★★☆ (43)
$9.99

of 1 Purchased
lagnetic Color a...
★★★★☆ (268)
nds in 05:01:13
13.99 Typical: $15.99
ave 5% on 3 select
em(s)

2 of 4 Purchased
Flybar Hopper Ba...
4.5 ★★★★★ (3K)
$13.99 List: $14.99

0 of 1 Purchased
Mini Magnetic...
4.7 ★★★★☆ (259)
$15.99 List Price: $24.98
($0.44/count)

9-20-2026 Message Outline

"Your Face, Lord, I Will Seek"

Psalm 27:8b

1) "I will seek the Lord's WAYS."

6 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake their ways and the
unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will
freely pardon. 8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As
the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
Isaiah 55:6-9

2) "I will seek the Lord's COURAGE."

12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result,
it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 And because of my
chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.
…19 For I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my
deliverance. 20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ
will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the
body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be
with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will
remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that through my being with you again your boasting
in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me. 27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then,
whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as
one for the faith of the gospel 28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be
destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. 29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in
him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I
still have. Philippians 1:12-14 & 19-30

3) "I will seek the Lord's REWARD."

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his
vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. 3 "About nine in the
morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, 'You also go and
work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' 5 So they went. "He went out again about noon and
about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others
standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' 7 "'Because no
one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' 8 "When evening
came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with
the last ones hired and going on to the first.' 9 "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and
each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one
of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 'These
who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the
burden of the work and the heat of the day.' 13 "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you,
friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last
the same as I gave you. 15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because
I am generous?' 16 "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:1-16