

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

January, 2018

## The Living Word!

### THE LIVING WORD

We don't often connect words that are spoken with giving life, or understand a person to be embodied in spoken word. But we have one notable exception; and that is with God, and more specifically, with Jesus Christ.

From the Creation story in Genesis 1, we know that God created the heavens and the earth by speaking them into existence. But it wasn't just matter, or *material* things, that the heavens and earth are made of – land, water, etc. – it was *living* things – plants, fish, birds, creatures, and mankind. Day by day, and one by one, God spoke. He said, "Let there be..." and it was. So there was life being given as He breathed and spoke in the days of Creation.

We know that God, the Father, was there, and according to Genesis 1:2, we know that the Spirit of God was there, on Day 1, also. But was the second person of the Godhead, the pre-incarnate Son of God, there as well? ... Yes, indeed He was.

We get some hints of this when God says, in Genesis 1:26:

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..."

Someone else, besides God, the Father, was participating in the creation process because he uses the plural pronouns "us," and "our." And also, the Hebrew word that is translated "God," is the word, "Elohim." This is actually a plural word. So this is a conversation between the persons of the Godhead: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

But this much becomes clearer, when the Apostle John begins his gospel in the New Testament. He

is writing about Jesus, and he is clearly awestruck as he contemplates all that he had experienced as he walked the roads of Galilee, Judea, and Samaria with Him. Listen to what he says, as he introduces Jesus to his hearers. He says:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ... 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-4, 14

He calls Jesus, the Word, which in Greek is "the Logos," and says that the Logos was with God in the beginning, and that the Logos was God. The word "logos" generally refers to thought or reason that is expressed or spoken. And John seems to be aware that among the Greek philosophers they referred to divine reason and divine wisdom and revelation as the Logos. But the Greek philosophers never personified this idea like John did.

John saw Jesus as the embodiment of divine expression of reason, wisdom, and revelation – that He was God, and that, as Creator and God, life was in Him as well. He was the source of life from the beginning; and as the Logos, He spoke everything into existence. And everything that had been made, was made through Him.

But most remarkable to John was that the Logos became flesh, "and dwelt among us," he said. John witnessed His glory, so he knew that Jesus was God, the Son, and that He had come from the

(Continued on next page)

Father. John expands a little more on that in his first epistle, or letter. Notice what he says:

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:1-4

Jesus Christ, the Son, is the Word of life. He is the source and revealer of eternal life. He was from the beginning, and with the Father, yet He came and appeared in flesh and blood in order to establish a way for us to enter eternal life and to have fellowship with the Father, and His Son.

The Old Testament reveals Him too, but in more subtle ways. When you read through the Old Testament, you will find many places where it says that “the Word of the LORD came to” a variety of individuals – Abraham, Samuel, Nathan, Solomon, Jehu, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Haggai, and Zechariah. It might seem that this is merely a way of saying that the Holy Spirit gave these prophets a message to deliver from the LORD. But if you look a little deeper, you might find a more unique presence of the Word in these cases. We also find Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Gideon and others in the presence of the angel of the LORD, or persons, identified as the LORD, but manifested in another form.

In many of these cases, the scribes recognized these unique appearances as the Word (Logos) also, and when they wrote the Targams, translations in Aramaic used in the synagogues, the scribes inserted the Aramaic word “Memra” in these places, where in the Hebrew it would be “YHWH.” And “Memra” has the

same meaning as the Logos, or the WORD. They knew this was the pre-incarnate Christ.

But even when the word of the LORD means the words given through the Holy Spirit to be spoken or recorded by the prophets, it is still the “life-giving” word of God, even if it is not a reference to the second person of the Godhead. In fact, all Scripture is infused with God’s life-giving power. As we see in Hebrews 4:

12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:12-13

Everything God says, or *has* said, is alive, living, and life-giving. But look for the revelation of Christ, as the living Word. He is the focal point. It is through Jesus, the Son of God, alone that we are given life – eternal life, and an inheritance in His Father’s house. “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” Jesus said, “No one comes to Father, except by me.”

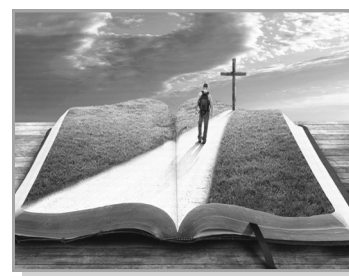
Is your life focused and centered on the Living Word, on Jesus, the Christ?

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

James 1:16-18

He is still in the creation business. Let Him breathe life into your soul.

Blessings to you, in the Living Word!  
Pastor Pete



Connect

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# TLC

Together Loving Christ

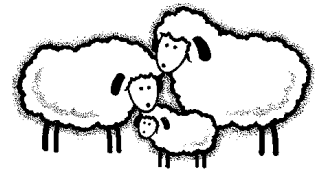
**A**re you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

**J**oin with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

**Grow in the Word!**

## Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

*Kid's Rock* available  
for children ages five to nine  
*Nursery Services Provided*



### "Sing a New Song"

Morning Worship Service

Saturday, January 20th

10:00 a.m.

At Sunny Place Church

Come join us as we praise and thank God  
in song. All are welcome!

Visit us at: [www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org](http://www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org)



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

**Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ**

# Minutes of the Elder's Meeting December 6th, 2017

Attendees: Pastor Pete Weber, Tim Kasza, Ted Gehman, Sam Jacob, Glenda Kasza, Nona Koivula

Devotion and prayer: "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

2 Corinthians 10: 3-5

## **Ministry Reports:**

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance is \$1,765.96

Worship: There was a worship team meeting Nov. 26 planning the Candlelight service on Friday, Dec 15.

Christian Education: Classes continue on Sundays and Thursdays

Hospitality & Encouragement: There have been gifts sent to the men who are serving in the military and will not be with their loving families for Christmas. We continue to hold them in our prayers for safety and their return home.

Prayer and Devotion: There will be an afternoon of prayer on Sunday December 17 immediately after our worship service with a light lunch to follow

Stewardship & Support Services: There was a workday Saturday November 18 combined with the Woman's Ministry. Since the weather was nasty, all work was done indoors replacing bulbs, checking doors and windows for winter closure, other tasks to prepare for winter snow and icy conditions.

Ladies Ministry: There is a small group ladies Bible Study focusing on the last epistle written by the Apostle Paul, 2 Timothy. Meeting on Wednesday morning at our church, the study will continue in January. The next schedule event is a ladies night out January 28 at the Patio Restaurant in Lombard.

Evangelism and Outreach: There was a team meeting held Sunday Dec. 10. Strategies were discussed on inviting seniors to the church. Planned to open the Second Saturday Senior Luncheon to families and friends of the seniors, especially on the months of February and March. Also explored meaningful interactions/activities that may bring our seniors to an intimate relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Counseling: Continues as planned.

## **Old and New Business:**

There was discussion about the nominations for elders. Pastor Pete will follow up with the nominees. Pastor Pete said the town of Addison is planning to partner with the township of Addison to create a non-profit organization to assist the underserved in the community. The proposed 2018 budget was reviewed in great detail and several line items were adjusted to meet expected needs for the next year.

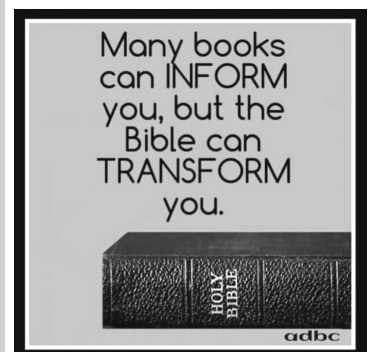
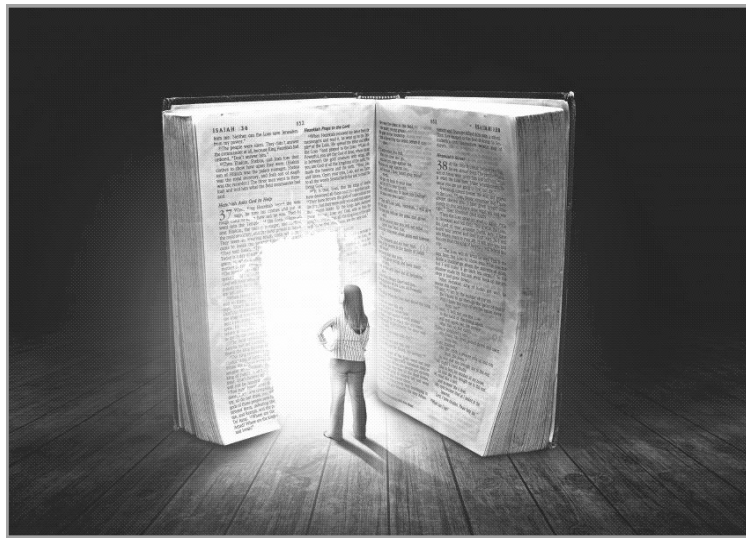
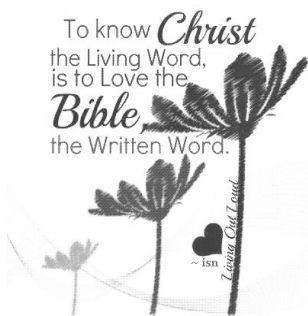
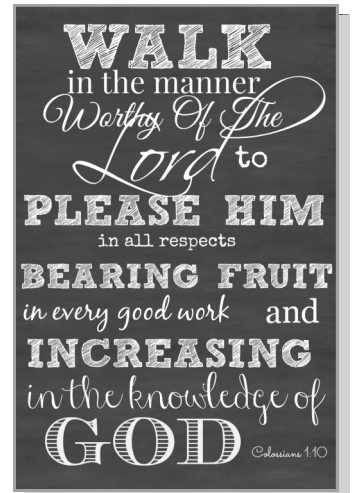
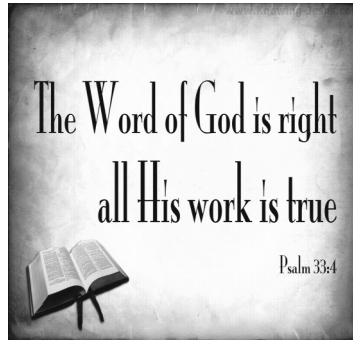
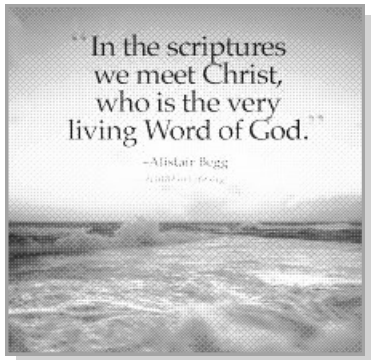
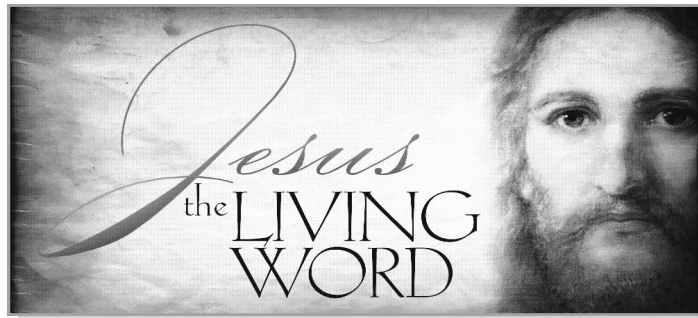
**The next Elder's meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10th**



Kid's

# Connection

## The Living Word

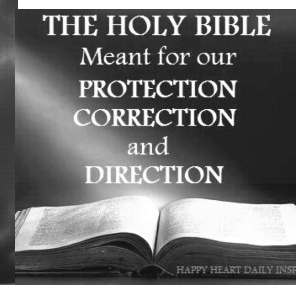
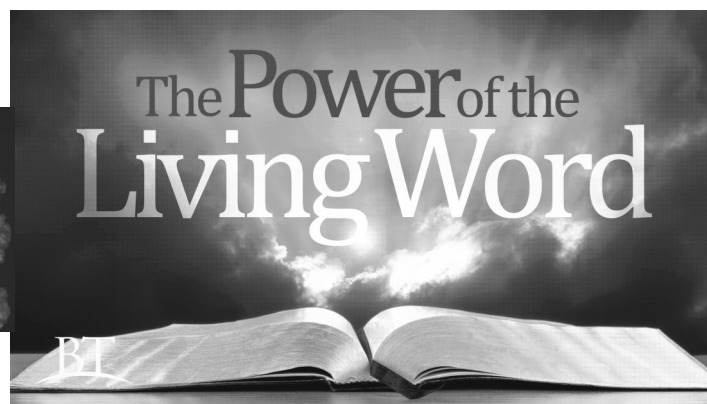
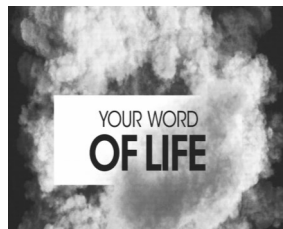


# *Sunny Place Church Annual Business Meeting*



Sunday, January 28th,  
1:15 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Following a pot luck dinner, at 12:30 p.m.  
Please use the signup sheet on the  
Narthex window.



Join us as we take time to pray for one another in love.

**Afternoon of Prayer**  
a light lunch following  
Sunday, January 21st  
12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place

## It's time for a Winter Barbecue



### Ladies Only/Night Out

At the Patio Restaurant

2780 S. Highland Ave.

Lombard - 630/627-2600

On Friday, January 28th, 6:00 p.m.

Some of the best BBQ in Lombard.

They offer baby back ribs, kabobs, brisket sandwiches, burgers, fish, salads and chicken,

**Yum!!!**

Fellowship and fun for a ladies night out.

Families and friends are also welcome.

See Nona for additional details.



### Second Saturday Senior Luncheon

Saturday, January 13th

11:30 p.m.

At Sunny Place Church

Come be our guest for food, great speakers and activities. This is a free event for seniors 55 & up. Please phone 630/398-2314 to reserve a spot

### Sunday School Line-Up

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Adult  
Bible  
Study

#### **"Difficult Texts"**

The Scriptures that you may have wondered about, or wrestled with.

Led by John Gryparis



### Children's Classes

**Grades 4-7** led by Carla Weber

**Youth 8-12** led by Sabra Martin

**Nursery services are provided**

Thursday Evenings

7:00 p.m.

at Sunny Place



### **"Persistent Faith and Love"**

A Bible Study through  
1st & 2nd Thessalonians

Led by Pastor Pete



# January

## 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Adult Bible Study            7:00 p.m.            at Sunny Place         </div>		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
 Holy Communion			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Elder's Meeting            7:00 p.m.            at Sunny Place         </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Adult Bible Study            7:00 p.m.            at Sunny Place         </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Senior Luncheon            11:30 a.m.            at Sunny Place         </div>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Outreach Meeting            12:30 p.m.            at Sunny Place         </div>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Christian Education Meeting            7:00 p.m.            at Sunny Place         </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Adult Bible Study            7:00 p.m.            at Sunny Place         </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           "Sing a New Song"            Morning Worship Service            10:00 a.m.            at Sunny Place         </div>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Afternoon of Prayer,            light lunch following            12:30 p.m.            at Sunny Place         </div>				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Adult Bible Study            7:00 p.m.            at Sunny Place         </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Ladies Outing            at the Patio,            in Lombard            6:00 p.m.         </div>	
28	29	30	31			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Annual Business Meeting            @1:15 p.m.            following a Pot Luck lunch            @12:30 p.m.         </div>						