



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 29, Issue 12

May 31, 2020

"What Is Pentecost?"

The church has a birthday, and it's called "Pentecost."

Pentecost is a time for Christians to celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples shortly after Christ ascended into heaven ([Acts 1:8-9; 2:1-47](#)).

Pentecost was originally a Jewish holiday known as the "Feast of Weeks" ([Lev. 23:15](#)), which was observed seven weeks after the Jews celebrated the Passover. Since the resurrection of Jesus, however, Christians have celebrated Pentecost seven weeks after Easter. Luke tells us at the beginning of the book of Acts that Jesus promised his disciples they would "be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" ([Acts 1:5](#)). In the Gospel of John, Jesus also informed them of this plan saying, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever" ([John 14:16-26; 15:26; 16:7](#)). When Jesus left, the disciples were sad that their Savior-King had left them. They stood there looking off into heaven, not knowing what to do ([Acts 1:10](#)). But as God promised them, a Helper would come to them.

On the day of the Jewish celebration of Pentecost, God the Holy Spirit came down upon those gathered in Jerusalem ([Acts 2](#)). When the Holy Spirit descended, he gave them the remarkable ability to speak in other languages ([Acts 2:4](#)). This speech was human (not otherworldly) language, and thousands of people from various regions were able to hear the "mighty acts of God" for the first time in their own tongue (v. 11).

I've been to Zurich and I don't speak even a bit of Swiss-German, so it was difficult for me to get around without an interpreter. But this experience of the early Christians would have made it so they could speak and interpret Swiss-German without ever studying the language! That's pretty spectacular.

The apostle Peter made good use of this special time in history by preaching the gospel to as many people as possible. The church as we know it today was born with about three thousand baptisms ([Acts 2:41](#)).

Why Does Pentecost Matter?

Pentecost teaches us that God is sovereign, and he is the one who guides us. When the day to celebrate the same old Jewish holiday came around after Jesus' ascension, his disciples were waiting together in Jerusalem ([Acts 2:1](#)). They were leaderless (Jesus had left them), and they were vision-less (they were basically moping around).

Suddenly, "like a mighty rushing wind" God the Holy Spirit showed up and changed everything ([Acts 2:2-4](#)). Pentecost tells us that God is the one who is in control and he not only saves us but also guides us into all truth.

Pentecost was a unique event in God's story of salvation, and it will never happen again. In [Genesis 11:1-9](#), we are told of a time when all of the nations were divided by language. This episode is often referred to as "the story of Tower of Babel." What is remarkable about Pentecost is that this was the moment when God reversed the curse of Babel. The gospel is no longer restricted to the nation of Israel but is now unleashed to the whole world—every tongue, tribe, and nation. Pentecost affirms the diversity of people, both in terms of race and cultural-ethnic differences, while at the same time creating a unity that would have otherwise been impossible.

The gospel itself unites all kinds of people—male and female, Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, black, white, Asian, Latino, etc.—and it brings everyone together under the same new reality: we are all one in Jesus Christ ([Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:11-18](#)).

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PRAYER CHAIN

REQUESTS

Please call

Eleanor Galik

708-302-1686

for immediate prayers



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Lutheran Church

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

**** NEW SUNDAY
SCHEDULE**

9:00 am Adult study
10:00 am Worship

Continued on bottom of page 2

"Getting Ready To Reopen"

As we are preparing for reconvening for worship, the following guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health and we encourage all our members to be aware of the risks and follow recommendations.

Know the systems:

Symptoms Clinical features are fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illnesses. Symptoms may include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Human coronaviruses can sometimes cause lower-respiratory tract illnesses, such as pneumonia or bronchitis.

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, we ask that you stay home and enjoy our online worship opportunity.

If you are attending worship, Please take your temperature before leaving home.

The following can help prevent the spread of coronaviruses and protect yourself and your fellow members from becoming infected:

- wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
- avoid close contact with people who are sick.

In addition, we will be avoiding shaking hands as a social greeting

WORSHIP SERVICES will start fully today, May 31st. WE ARE CHANGING THE START TIME FOR WORSHIP SERVICE TO 10:00 AM. ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS TIME WILL CHANGE TO 9:00 AM. We will keep to the social distancing rules of 6' apart and will seat everyone accordingly. We will also practice social distancing after worship service. We ask that you wear a face mask for your own safety as well as for the safety of your fellow members. We all need to be masked. However, Pastor Lee will not be wearing his face mask as he needs to lead the service, but will maintain social distancing and not be able to greet anyone. We leave it to your own discretion as to when you feel safe and comfortable enough to come back to worship at Living Word. As originally stated, communion Sunday will be June 7th and June 21st. We will have the pre-packaged single serve communion cups of wine with the wafer for everyone. Even though we all have been anxiously waiting to be able to worship together, your safety and health are of the utmost importance to us. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email me, and we will do everything we can to take care of your concerns. Please note that the Adult Bible Study location will be moved to the sanctuary so everyone can be seated apart from one another.

"What Is Pentecost?"

Continued from page 1

Pentecost reminds us that God has not abandoned us as orphans, but has poured out his Spirit and given us his church. The departure of Jesus must have been devastating to his disciples. They had already lost him once, and now they were going to lose him twice. It's no wonder they were staring off up in the sky after he left! Often, we can feel like the disciples did because God seems so distant from us.

We are over two thousand years removed from the time that Jesus walked this earth, but his promise to us is as true now as it was then. Jesus told his disciples that he would be with them always, even "to the end of the age" ([Matt. 28:20](#)). This promise remains true for us because he has kept it by sending his Spirit to be with us in his absence.

In addition to gifting us with his indwelling Spirit, he has also gifted us with his church—an institution in this world that, although flawed and cracked, still holds in her hands the key and stairway to heaven: the gospel of Jesus Christ.

So this week, as we look backward to Pentecost and forward to the second coming of Christ, let's celebrate by saying, "Happy birthday to the church!"

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MAY 31 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:00 am Worship (Re-opening)	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:00 am Worship with Commun. 10:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Fellowship	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Fellowship	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:00 am Worship with Commun. 10:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Fellowship FATHER'S DAY	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am	29	30				

New Adult Bible Study Time: 9:00 AM

New Sunday Worship Time: 10:00 AM



June Celebrations



June 1 Nicole Miklos
June 13 Colby Kurtzman
June 15 Bob Grossart
June 17 Larry Andorf
June 17 Karen Grossart
June 20 Paige Hostert
June 20 Anne Lyons
June 29 George Hostert
June 30 Sarah Bonnar



June 3 Emily Olund
June 11 Dorothy Kohutynski
June 12 George Hostert
June 12 Faith Michael
June 18 Eileen Rhoads
June 23 Joe Urbank
June 24 Robert Hodo
June 24 Bruno Kolb
June 26 Joan Gabrielson
June 30 Jessica Lyons

Anniversary



June 2 Gary & Bobbi Pote
June 6 Tom & Renate DiGrazia
June 8 Randy Bev Hodo
June 11 Jim & Rose McKinney
June 17 Bob & Nicki Gabrysiak
June 26 Gary & Anita Meier
June 30 Kurt & Deanna Meier

Stewardship Snapshot

May 28, 2020

No Service

Financial Support

1,257.00 Preschool Account
 667.61 Transferred from Tech fund
 150.00 Cook County Board
2,645.00 General Contributions
 4,719.61 Total Deposit

Living Word's budget calls for weekly offerings averaging \$3654 to fund our ministry. Regular, intentional and meaningful contributions from what the Lord provides you helps carry this out.

Church Contacts

Pastor Steven Lee

intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

Webmaster, Diana Motel

dianamotel@yahoo.com

Leadership Team

Rick Boehm - President

Jim Schultheiss - Vice President

Bobbi Pote - Treasurer

Diana Motel - Secretary

LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 5/31/2020)

The current value of the fund is \$139,414.02 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$17,371.64. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$37,061.65. Of this, \$18,530.83 will return to Living Word for growth initiatives.

THIS REPRESENTS A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

To Date:	Total contributions	\$84,980.73
	Market value over cost	17,371.64
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>37,061.65</u>
	Total market value	\$139,414.02

HOW THE ENDOWMENT FUND WORKS

Contributions treated as donation for tax purposes

Funds invested by Thrivent Financial

50% of interest and dividends available for church growth

Interested in estate planning? Call Tim Regan/Thrivent (708-326-4750)

If any questions, call Bob Grossart



Classes & Groups

ADULT SUNDAY FORUM will resume meeting again each Sunday with a new start time of **9:00 a.m.** Join us each week in our new location in the sanctuary, even though it might be a smaller group than usual, we still want to maintain safe social distancing.

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 9:30a.m. Sundays on 1580 AM



For Your Information ...

CARE GIVER NEEDED If you or you know of anyone who would be interested and is qualified to be a live-in care giver, please contact Cathy Baidis at 708-710-1141 as she is looking for someone to be with her mom.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR can be provided in memory of a special event, a person or in thankfulness to God. Choose your date and place your order. Hearts & Flowers 708-532-2772 will supply a standard low, long arrangement (about \$25) and do other arrangements as well. You can also make and bring your own arrangement. Hearts & Flowers also delivers.

TAX STATEMENTS for last year 2019 are still available and they are in the office, please see me on Sunday to pick up yours. Also the first quarter statements for 2020 are now available as well. Please call or email the office if there are any discrepancies in your statements.

WE NEED MORE USHERS AND GREETERS! Now that we are getting back together again for worship we will be needing people to volunteer to be ushers or greeters. If you are not currently serving and would be willing to serve as you worship please inform the office or Bev at church. The monthly schedule usually only requires each person to serve once a month, maybe less if we can get enough people. Thank you in advance for your service, it is greatly appreciated.

ORLAND PARK POLICE would like to remind everyone to be safe and mindful of your surroundings. Always make sure you lock your car doors and never to leave your keys in the car. Criminals can access your garage door opener from your unlocked car and gain entry into your home that way. As always if you see something, say something and call 911. Never approach a dangerous situation. Any questions or other concerns regarding safety or the community can be directed to Deputy Chief Joseph Mitchell 708-349-4111.

QUIET TIME WITH PASTOR LEE has come to an end this week. Wednesday, May 27th was the final night for the Zoom conference call for "Quiet Time with Pastor Lee". However by all means if you need anything at all you can always call or email the church office and if you need Pastor Lee specifically, he is always readily available by cell phone 708-334-5883.

CELEBRATION DINNER Hopefully as soon as the stay at home order is lifted and we start to gather for worship on a more regular basis, with all of us in attendance, we will want to start looking forward to fellowship events and summertime fun. The idea is already being kicked around slightly. Of course our main goal is everyone's safety, but we just thought that it would be really nice to have something to get excited about and to be able to have plenty of time to start planning. We will, of course want to have some type of dedication ceremony for our brand new floor and we will honor Ruth Grebik for her very generous bequest at that time as well. In order to make it easy on everybody and to keep everyone safe, we most likely will have it catered. We will send more information out about what type of donations we should have or be able to accept, you know how hungry we all must be for not being able to have a grand spread all this while. LOL.

CONGRATULATIONS goes to Karl Galik, a member of Living Word extended family, Eleanor's son, on your planned retirement from your ministry in Florida today. We wish you much adventure, health and rest in your future. Speaking from our recent past experience, I know your congregation will miss you, we will keep you, your family and your congregation in our thoughts and prayers. God's blessing to you and Marilouise.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK *We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. – Romans 12:6b (NIV)*

Spiritual gifts enable us to serve in the church. They are given to us, but are not for us, but for God's church. Only as we use them for God's purposes will we experience their power.

The New Living Word

THE WORK IS DONE, at least the majority of the work that is for now. Take a look at how great everything looks and thank you's to all of the people who have worked so hard and were here all the time pitching in and helping. We had quite a few painters and handy men and cleaners that made us ready for our re-opening service today.



There are a couple of more pictures on the next page to show off everybody's hard work and pride in our church.



The New Living Word





Elim has been involved in supplying essential school supplies to **under-resourced children in the Chicagoland area** for the past five years through our *HOPE Packs* program. This program not only helps low income families and children, but it **also provides meaningful work for our adult participants with disabilities**. They too have been side-lined by this pandemic and are anxious to get back to work. In addition, the wide-spread unemployment in the communities we serve has only increased the demand for school supply assistance for this upcoming school year.

It is their goal and desire to help as many under-resourced families as we can and provide meaningful work for our adults. At this time they plan to build approximately 11,000 kits which will be distributed to the communities with the most significant need. To do so, they need the partnership of local churches like ours who also desire to make a life-changing difference for children and families in need.

Here is a link to short video that captures the community impact your church makes through HOPE Packs: [HOPE Packs Impact](#). Please prayerfully consider how our church can partner with Elim in this mission. Feel free to respond to this email or contact my colleague, Glenn Spoolstra, at 708-293-6510 with any questions you may have.

Here are a few FAQ's about the Hope Packs Program

What are HOPE Packs?

HOPE Packs are packs of school supplies provided to students to give them the tools they need to have a productive and successful school year. These packs include pencils, folders, notebooks, glue, markers, erasers, scissors, and more! They are carefully assembled by Elim's adults and distributed to schools and ministries in the Chicagoland area.

Who is impacted?

By supporting HOPE Packs, you are supporting two individuals: Our partnership blesses an Elim adult with meaningful work AND provides essential school supplies to a child not far from your own community. You make a life-long impact on both of their lives.

What happens with the HOPE Packs donations?

Donations received for HOPE Packs cover the funding needed for Elim's HOPE Packs participants to purchase the necessary school supplies, assemble them into boxes of HOPE Packs, and distribute them to local children in need.



Does Elim only provide HOPE Packs to schools?

While their annual HOPE Packs drives generally raise funds for School Supply Kits, they also build Food and Military HOPE Packs. For more information, contact Glenn Spoolstra, glenn.spoolstra@elimcs.org or 708-293-6510.

Who are their mission partners?

They are so grateful to be able to partner with such great organizations. Their mission partners are: [Chicagoland Prison Outreach](#), [Faith and Action](#), [Christ Cares](#), [Lampstand Ministries](#), [YMEN](#), [Restoration Ministries](#), [Roseland Christian Ministries](#), [Circle Urban Ministries](#), [Break Through Urban Ministries](#), [Resilient](#), and many suburban and Chicago Public Schools.

