



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 2

January 10, 2021

## "What is Epiphany and Why Does It Matter?"

You decorated, traveled, ate, open gifts, and ate some more. You rang in the new year with a long list of resolutions. Now, what?

Epiphany: It's time to take down all the decorations.

Many people have only heard of Twelfth Night or Epiphany as the deadline for taking down Christmas decorations, but it's actually a significant part of Christian history.

### What is the history behind this holiday?

The word epiphany means "manifestation" or "revelation." When Christians talk about Epiphany, we are referring to the three wise men or the Magi's revelation that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah that Israel had been waiting for ([Matthew 2:1-12](#)). On this day, we recognize the wise men's journey to see, worship, and bring gifts to "the one...born king of the Jews" ([Matthew 2:2](#)). The festival commemorating Epiphany is Jan. 6 and is also called Three Kings Day.

*Epiphany celebrates Jesus' outward and visible expression of love for us.*

### Why does the Epiphany matter?

Christ's birth was a big deal for the wise men, and it is a big deal for us. At its essence, Epiphany celebrates Jesus' outward and visible expression of love in leaving His rightful place in heaven to live as a human and become the sacrifice for our sins. The Magi, wise men who studied the stars and were considered sinners, represent Jesus' ability to draw all types of people to Him. He is a Savior who came for all people, including each one of us.

### Should I celebrate Epiphany? And if so, how?

Epiphany traditions vary from culture to culture. It can be helpful to remember and celebrate significant events in Jesus' life, including the Epiphany. What is important to keep in mind when celebrating any holiday is the reason for and the heart behind the celebration. Rather than acknowledging traditions or rituals because they've always been done, celebrate the meaning of the holiday: Jesus came to earth to save us.

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### PRAYER CHAIN

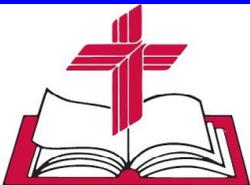
#### REQUESTS

Please call

Eleanor Galik

708-302-1686

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

708-403-9673

livingwordorland.org  
intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

**\*\* NEW SUNDAY  
SCHEDULE**

**9:00 am Adult study  
10:00 am Worship**



## This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>10</b>  <b>9:00 am Adult Study</b>  <b>10:00 am Worship</b>	<b>11</b>  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>12</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm <b>Preschool</b> 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy <b>10:00 am PUSH</b>	<b>13</b>  9:00am – 12:00pm <b>Preschool</b>  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>14</b>  9:00am – 12:00pm <b>Preschool</b>  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>

## Church Contacts

### Stewardship Snapshot

#### Stewardship Snapshot for January 3rd

**19** Worshipped, **19** Communed

**20** Watched Online

**3** Watched DVD's

**42** Total

#### Financial Support

840.00 General Fund

100.00 For Call Committee

**\$940.00 Total General Fund 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**

*intouchlwc@yahoo.com*

**Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel**

*dianamotel@yahoo.com*

#### Leadership Team

**Rick Boehm** - President

**Bobbi Pote** - Treasurer

**Diana Motel** - Secretary

#### Members at Large

**Jim McKinney**

**Pastor John Bucka**

**Donna Wasilkoff**

## This Week's Celebrations



**January 12** Joan Fraser  
**January 16** Beverly Hodo

### LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 12/31/2020)

The current value of the fund is \$158,610.72 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$33,443.72. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$40,186.27. Of this, \$20,093.14 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	33,443.72
	Dividends and interest	40,186.27
	<b>Total market value</b>	<b>\$158,610.72</b>

#### 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



# 01-10-21 Message Outline

## “Strength & Peace”

Psalm 29:11 says, “*The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.*” Today’s Scriptures give us the Lord’s keys to His strength and peace...

### 1) **The Lord gives me LIGHT.**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <sup>3</sup>And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. Genesis 1:1-5

### 2) **The Lord gives me LIFE.**

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup>By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup>Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, <sup>a</sup> that we should no longer be slaves to sin— <sup>7</sup>because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6:1-11

### 3) **The Lord gives me LOVE.**

<sup>9</sup>At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Mark 1:9-11



## Classes & Groups

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

**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 join us for 30-40 minutes each week.



## 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

## GROWTH & OPPORTUNITIES...

**HELP US GROW OUR CHURCH** In these unprecedented times it is important to get back to the basics. Remember how lively and full our church was back in the '90's, or just a few years ago even, we are trying to get back to that status. Please don't forget about us at this time. We miss seeing you here at church and we would like to be able to have more regular attendance at service every Sunday. We have been worshipping together since May 31st and haven't had any issues with COVID or any other illnesses. The church gets cleaned weekly, and now since both preschool and the Nature Exploration Academy has started up again, it gets cleaned two to three times a week, plus we have been going thru a lot more disinfectant spray and wipes. Your safety and health are still the utmost important aspect, but at the same time, the future of our church is starting to depend on your help. Your offerings, and helpful talents have been so appreciated in the past, and we look forward to receiving those benefits again. The transition team has been back in full swing working on the call process, please be on the lookout for more information to come in the coming weeks and months.

**MORE BUILDING UPDATES!** A big thanks goes out to Jim McKinney, Ed Baidis, Bill and Abby Merchantz for painting the bathrooms last week. They did a great job and it looks great. They really needed a new paint job. Next step in the two bathrooms will be the new partitions among a few other minor updates. The conference room floor was also replaced with the laminate flooring that is throughout the other rooms. And last but not most certainly not least, we have our new sign for the fellowship hall, a dedication ceremony will be planned for a later date for the Ed and Ruth Grebik Hall.

**ALUMINUM CANS** are being collected again. Randy Hodo will be taking over this project and will be crushing and recycling the cans to help raise a little bit more cash for the church.

**PLEASE SEND** in any new contact information such as change of address and/or phone numbers via email or phone call. The new directory is about a third completed and just so you know, it will be a photo directory, so if you haven't done so yet please send me a recent photo. I will send particular requests to those that I still need something from. Thank you to all that have given me the information that was requested.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2021** are available and on the table in the fellowship hall.

**PRESCHOOL GROWTH** is happening for the new year! We now have 2 more students are starting in January. Jordie and his cousin Aubrey will be 2 days week. We also have another student joining us in February.



**JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH** will be the Military Bible Sticks. Please see the worship folder insert and/or the information on the table next to the office.

**2020 TAX STATEMENTS** are available for pick up, they are in the small box located on the table next to the office.

**NEW CHRISTMAS TREE!** Thanks to the networking and social media work from Diana Motel, we have a new 7.5 foot Christmas tree donated to us. However, it is not a pre-lit tree, so if you are looking to get rid of any of your clear light sets that are still working, please remember we could use them. Also, this is the perfect time to go shopping with all of the after Christmas sales going on.

