



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 12

March 28, 2021

"Jesus, The Chief Cornerstone of Our Faith"

Inside this issue:

"Jesus, the Chief Cornerstone..."	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Stewardship and Contacts	2
Living Word News	2
Nature Academy and Easter Events	3
3-21-2021 Message Outline	4
Groups, Classes and Information	4
Devotional of the Week	4

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

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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
10:00 am Sunday School

Isaiah 28:16 talks about a tried stone. A tried stone is a fine grained stone used for carving statues. Stone is a solid nonmetallic mineral matter of which rock is made. A piece of stone can be shaped for a specific purpose.

In every stone building, one stone is crucial. It is laid first, and it is to ensure that the building is square and stable. It is the rock upon which the weight of the entire structure rests. It is the cornerstone.

Scripture describes Jesus as the "Chief Cornerstone" of our faith. As the Chief Cornerstone, Jesus ensures the stability of the whole system of our salvation. Jesus was and is the only plan of salvation. Isaiah 28:16, "Therefore this says the Lord God: 'Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation.'"

Jesus is also called the stumbling stone. Psalm 118:22 calls Christ "the stone which the builders rejected," describing the Jews attempt to build their house but leaving out the stone who was Jesus Christ. Matthew 21:42-44, "Jesus said to them: 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone, this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

Jesus came to His own, and instead of embracing Him, they stumbled over Him and ultimately nailed Him to the cross. Jesus also is called the Smitten Stone. In Exodus 17, we read of Moses striking a rock, which brings forth water. When Paul mentions this in 1st Corinthians 10:4, he interprets the passage prophetically: "They drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them and that Rock was Christ."

The smitten stone of Exodus becomes a picture of the smitten Christ who became the fountainhead of blessing as His blood gushed forth on the cross and He became the Redeemer of the world. In Acts 4:11 when Peter is addressing the Sanhedrin, Peter actually tells them, "Let it be known to you all, and to all of the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom 'you' crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the 'Chief Cornerstone.' Nor is there any salvation in any other, for there is no other name under the heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Paul writes in 1st Corinthians 3:9a, "For we are God's fellow workers, you are God's field, you are God's building." Jesus being the Chief Cornerstone of our faith brings unity to the body of Christ. Ephesians 2:19-22, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the Chief Cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple of the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. As fellow citizens, we are part of the kingdom of God. And as members of God's household, all believers become one spiritual family; and as a holy temple, all believers together form a habitation for God. Peter says in 1st Peter 2:9-10, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; you are a child of the Most High God! Give Him praise!"

This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship Palm Sunday Eater Egg Hunt	29 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	30 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 10:00 am PUSH	31 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	April 1 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 10:00 am Chapel 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	April 2 Good Friday 6:00 pm Tenebrae Service	April 3

Stewardship Snapshot

March 21st

25 Worshipped
14 Watched Online
2 Watched DVD's
41 Total

Financial Support

3,005.00 General Fund 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

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

Living Word News

CHURCH COUNCIL BOARD has openings and opportunities for you to join. Please see Diana, Jim or Rick if interested. We need your help to keep our church running smoothly and to have different input from time to time. Make your ideas heard and flourish with our church family.

CALL COMMITTEE and the church council met with Pastor Erb on Tuesday, the 23rd here at church. We must keep praying for God's blessings and guidance for Pastor Erb and his family. Let's pray that is God's grace that He leads Pastor Erb to our church family and community. It would truly be great if this was meant to be.

GIVING PAGE is on our website. It is safe and secure and your donations will be included on your monthly statements. However if you still choose to send in your donations via the mail, as soon as I receive your offering I will shoot you a quick email stating that it was received.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY will be coming up very shortly. There are many projects that need to be taken care of around our church, if you can volunteer a couple of hours or more, it would be greatly appreciated. Let one of the council members or me know what day works best for you.

LILY ORDER FORMS are due today, the 28th, each lily is \$9.00 this year.

GOD'S GRACE AND COMFORT to the Tarandy family. Linda passed away at the age of 56 after her lengthy battle with cancer. The funeral was held this past Wednesday.

THANK YOU NOTE was received from Phil's Friends this past week. It reads: *"Dear Friends, Thank you for partnering with Phil's Friends to support cancer patients and caregivers. Your generosity of \$171.00 brings peace, encouragement and light into an otherwise dark situation. We are grateful for your partnership in the Gospel! For Christ and His Kingdom, signed Phil Zielke, Founder of Phil's Friends"*

Nature Exploration Academy

PASTOR LEE in class on Wednesday mornings teaching the students from the Nature Exploration Academy the importance of God and His divine, naturally revealed law, as a basis for our own law. They are studying the basic legal foundation for America thru practical exercises. They're having fun creating and starting their own "country" with the 3 branches of government and the consequences when anyone violates those laws.

March Mission of the Month

VOICE OF CARE is an organization of Lutherans supported and serviced by the Missouri Synod of the nurturing of the ministry for people with disabilities. Dennis Pieper who leads this ministry was our guest speaker a couple of years ago, and this ministry is our mission of the month for March. Their mission is to equip the local church to embrace, empower and engage people who experience disabilities and their families in their discipleship walk with Christ. Ministry by and with people with disabilities.



Easter Events

EASTER EGG HUNT is returning to Living Word this year. Diana Motel came up with the idea of having it today on Palm Sunday immediately after service. We have 87 kids that have signed up for it, and we are looking for volunteers to help supervise the different age groups. It will be rain or shine, so maybe if you could say a little prayer for decent weather at least, would be very helpful.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE will be held at 6:00pm on Good Friday, April 2nd. We of course will be livestreaming the service, but after not having the ability to be in church last year for Good Friday or Easter, it will be such a blessing to return to some normalcy after the year we all had experienced.

From Winter to Winner!
Spring is almost here!



Cornerstone's Spring Raffle begins March 19, 2021!

Top Prizes of
\$2,500
\$1,000
\$500

Weekly Drawings of \$100

Only \$5 per chance to win!
Buy online at CornerstoneServices.org

Aim your smartphone camera at this QR code to buy instantly!

Need assistance buying chances? Call 815-741-6743

THE SPRING RAFFLE
A BENEFIT FOR CORNERSTONE SERVICES
CORNERSTONE SERVICES
Proud Sponsor of The Spring Raffle
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SPRING RAFFLE tickets are available for purchase. Cornerstone Services is holding their annual spring raffle again this year. It began on March 19th. Tickets are \$5.00 per chance and you can purchase them online at CornerstoneServices.org. Also, please check out the actual post card that is on the bulletin board next to the office, you can scan the QR code that is on the postcard to buy the tickets instantly. For more information, call 815-741-6743. Winners will be drawn on April 29th at 8:20 am. This is one of their fundraisers to help support the people with disabilities in the Will and Kankakee Counties. All tickets will be purchased online.

THEREFORE GOD ALSO HIGHLY EXALTED HIM AND GAVE HIM THE NAME THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, SO THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BEND, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH, AND EVERY TONGUE CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.



CORNERSTONE 03.08.21

"OUR CORNERSTONE"

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. Ps. 118:22

1) My Cornerstone has COME to me.

⁹ Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you. Zechariah 9:9-12

2) My Cornerstone was CRUCIFIED for me.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5-11

3) My Cornerstone is COMPASSIONATE with me.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." ⁹ Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹ for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him. John 12:1-11

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



DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)*

Communing with God through the daily guiding of the Holy Spirit is what we're designed for. This is expressed in Scripture in many different ways—walking in the Spirit, abiding in Christ, being led by the Spirit, letting the Word of Christ dwell in us richly. None of these are 'normal' in the world's view, which is why we need to be transformed by God to be His instruments.

