



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 14

April 11, 2021

"He Welcomes Your Worries"

Inside this issue:

"He Welcomes Your Worries"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Celebrations, Stewardship & Contacts	2
Lutheran Church Charities	3
4-11-21 Outline	4
Classes & Groups Information	4
Spring Events & Living Word News	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

Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

"Don't Worry. Everything's going to be all right."

How many times have you heard those words? When you're scheduled to undergo surgery, when you're having family or personal problems, or when you're struggling to survive because your expenditures far exceed your income, someone inevitably says, "Don't worry. Everything's going to be all right."

Usually those words are slim comfort, because the one who speaks them has no solution for the problems you are facing and, sadly, no real basis for assuring you that everything will be okay. So you smile feebly, thank the person for their comment, and continue to fret about what the outcome of the problem you are facing will be.

There is One, however, who says to you, "Don't worry," and who can say it with absolute confidence and authority. That One is Jesus Christ. And He means exactly what He says; although sometimes we doubt His message or fail to understand His meaning.

When we do doubt or not grasp our Lord's words of reassurance, we are not alone. Even His closest followers did not always comprehend Him or completely trust His words—though they witnessed His crucifixion—and His resurrection.

What does Jesus mean when He tells us not to worry about food, clothing, or all the things that make us anxious in this life? (See Matthew 6:25-34.) He means to tell us that these are the times when we need to lean into Him in faith, trusting that He who overcame our darkest sins on the cross is there for us now and all our future days.

Do you know the name Dietrich Bonhoeffer? He was a Lutheran pastor, erudite theologian, and one who boldly defied the Nazis during World War II. A few months before he was executed on April 9, 1945, he wrote a letter to his friends from prison. The letter beautifully expressed Bonhoeffer's faith in God and tells his friends not to worry about him. His words offer comfort and strength to Christians everywhere when they are troubled over their lives or worried about the lives of others.

Bonhoeffer wrote on August 23, 1944: "Please don't ever get anxious or worried about me, but don't forget to pray for me—I'm sure you don't! I am so sure of God's guiding hand, and I hope I shall never lose that certainty. You must never doubt that I am traveling my appointed road with gratitude and cheerfulness. My past life is replete with God's goodness, and my sins are covered by the forgiving love of Christ crucified."

This is the faith and assurance we can have, too, that no matter what our circumstances we are in God's merciful and gracious hands. The Bible tells us so. "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:31-32)

His love is boundless, and He wants us to know that. We can know that because He has shown us this in Jesus Christ.

This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	12 Classes Resume	13 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 10:00 am PUSH	14 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	15 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	16 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 9:30 am POW Bible Study	17
18 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship— COMM Congregation Meeting	19 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	20 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 10:00 am PUSH	21 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	22 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy Earth Day	23 9:30 am POW Bible Study	24

Celebrations

Church Contacts



April 13 Shawn Regan
April 20 Ashley Regan
April 21 Jay Gabrielson



April 22 Catie Lyons
April 28 David Holloway
April 29 Nicholas Bonnar
 Tiffanie West

Church Contacts
Pastor Steven Lee
intouchlwc@yahoo.com

Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel
dianamotel@yahoo.com

<u>Leadership Team</u>	<u>Members at Large</u>
Rick Boehm - President	Jim McKinney
Bobbi Pote - Treasurer	Pastor John Bucka
Diana Motel - Secretary	Donna Wasilkoff

Stewardship Snapshot

April 2nd Good Friday

12 Worshipped
 17 Watched Online
2 Watched DVD's
 31 Total

April 4th Easter

50 Worshipped, 46 Communed
 16 Watched Online
2 Watched DVD's
 68 Total

CALL COMMITTEE will hold a congregational meeting immediately after service on next Sunday, the 18th. They unfortunately had heard from Pastor Erb, who had declined our call to him. The team met this past Tuesday to discuss their options and how they will proceed from here. More information will be given to us at the meeting.

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.

Mission of the Month News

LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARITIES will be our mission of the month for April. They provide several different ministries all around the country, below are the many amazing features of this wonderful organization. Their mission is to share the mercy, compassion presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need. They were headquartered in Addison, IL and now currently in Northbrook. LCC was founded in 1947 as a nonprofit ministry to help support Christian human care ministries of the Church. They work throughout the United States and internationally. Every dollar given for a cause goes directly to that cause or need. Their ministries are listed below and on our website:

LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry was launched in August of 2008, and it is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ. They serve everyday in the community in which they are placed in times of disaster and crisis to bring comfort to all those affected, including first responders and the volunteers who serve them.



LCC Kare 9 Military Ministry is a ministry by veterans for veterans. They strive to serve our military veterans and their families. The Kare-9 Military Ministry dogs and their trained veteran handlers visit many places including VFWs, VA hospitals, Traumatic Brain Injury Care Centers, homes of veterans that are home bound, Expos, Vet Clinics and various other activities to help spread the mercy and compassion.

LCC K-9 Police Ministry handlers are law enforcement officers (current and former) who understand the unique challenges facing the law enforcement community. They bring the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who protect and serve, as well as their families. Crisis Response serves the law enforcement and family members in their time of need, by providing comfort following injuries, deaths or major incidents. Ongoing Support is the K-9 visits (headquarters, substations and dispatch centers), provides assistance with department missions such as Christmas shopping with children, summer camps and public events, comforting crime victims prior to interviews, counseling or courtroom testimonies, and general support for department members and their families.



LCC Disaster Response Ministries coordinates deployment of trained volunteers for Disaster Response. When disasters strike; lives, homes, businesses, churches and more are affected. LCC L.E.R.T. volunteers respond quickly to serve people affected by a disaster. LCC teams are trained to work through local churches to serve their communities. LCC Disaster Response provides on-site and online Lutheran Early Response Team (L.E.R.T.) basic training. Additional training includes expertise in the area of chainsaw, heavy equipment, debris removal, flood recovery, and emotional and spiritual care.

LCC Human Care Ministries work with pastors and congregations to pass through donor financial assistance, in-kind donations, volunteer people resources, emotional or or spiritual support.

Hearts of Mercy and Compassion (HMC), Crosses for Losses provides a physical and spiritual symbol through the giving of hearts and crosses to families and friends who have suffered a loss or are experiencing the illness of a loved one. An HMC can also be given to celebrate a victory, honor service, as an expression of love, or to be an encouragement in the face of adversity. Given as a gift, each HMC provides the love and hope of Jesus through presence and prayer. Upon request, LCC, working through churches, can provide an HMC at no charge.

Other LCC ministries include international and domestic ministries, church worker support, WORD Bible Studies, Congregational Preparedness, and support for passion through needs and causes.

Your support in these very worthy causes is much appreciated, as we always say here, we might be small, but we sure are mighty.

"Praise the Lord!"

Praise overcomes depression. Psalm 148 encourages all creation to:

"Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord...!"

1) GRACE overcomes greed.

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Acts 4:32-35

2) FORGIVENESS overcomes failure.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness... My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 1:8-9, 2:1-2

3) DISCIPLESHIP overcomes doubt.

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:24-29

Spring Events

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 and the information that Kristi brought on that's on the table 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 or see Kristi Hartz with any questions. 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.



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

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DRAW - 11AM - 5PM - 5000 THREE CHANCES TO WIN
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Classes & Groups

POW (People of the Word) Bible Study will start meeting again this month, Friday, April 16th will be the first class, starting at 9:30 am. With word pictures to spark your imagination, the preeminent prophet Isaiah paints pictures of the holy and composes symphonies of hope. Witness the double-edged dynamic of God's holiness, both burning away sin in the furnaces of His judgment and refining the humble so they are fit for His presence. God the looming judge also sends the Suffering Servant, who takes our sorrows upon Himself. Watch Isaiah bring these seeming contradictions to dramatic resolution in his magnificent masterwork.

ADULT SUNDAY FORUM meets 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.