



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 15

April 18, 2021

"500 Years: Here I Stand, I Cannot Do Otherwise"

Martin Luther, though a Catholic monk, was terrified of God. God's wrath, God's justice, God's consuming fire made Luther tremble in agony. He searched for some kind of solace, but to no avail.

Luther spent hours in confession, hoping to stave off the fury of God. He recounted every sin, believing that in order for every sin to be pardoned, every sin must be confessed. Many times he would walk out from the confession box only to turn right back around and begin again because he recalled more sins in need of repentance.

On his pilgrimage to Rome he ventured through the eternal city hoping to find some spiritual relief but instead found only irreverence and disappointment. He climbed Pilate's Stairs and recited the Pater Noster (The Lord's Prayer of Matthew 6:9-13) on each step, hoping to release family members from purgatory. Upon the last step he said in doubt, "Who knows whether it is so?"

Luther returned home still dreading God, and even worse, hating Him. When he was moved to Wittenburg to join the university, Johann von Staupitz, Luther's supervisor in the Augustinian order, saw to it that the troubled monk would get a doctorate in theology. Luther was to study the Bible. And study the Bible he did.

Luther started in the Psalms, and in Psalm 23 he saw Jesus. As he taught through the book of Romans, still trembling when the word "justice" would surface, he discovered his freedom in Romans 1:17 where it says the just will live by his faith.

The Scriptures led him to his freedom, but they also led him to a significant battleground — the Bible, and not the pope, nor the councils as the sole authority for every sinful person seeking salvation.

Here also is our battleground — the authority of Scripture.

The Word of God has always been challenged. Even in the earliest days, in the Garden of Eden, Satan dared to contend with God's Word. In 2 Timothy, the apostle Paul instructs his young disciple to hold fast to the Word of God. In chapter 3, Paul describes a world that looks like our own — lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers and the like. Still, Timothy was to be different and this difference was brought about by God's Holy Scriptures. Paul called on Timothy to be a good soldier (2 Timothy 2:3), and we as the church must be good soldiers as well. The church that stands firm on the Word of God is a mighty weapon in the hand of God.

In the spring of 1521, Martin Luther received a summons from emperor Charles V to account for his numerous writings and teachings at an imperial assembly in Worms, Germany. Luther stood trial and was called on to denounce his works.

This was his reply: "Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason — I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other — my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."

Inside this issue:

"500 Years: Here I Stand"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Celebrations & Living Word News	2
Stewardship & Contacts	3
Spring Events	3
4-11-21 Outline	4
Mission of the Month	5
Lutheran Church Charities	6

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

This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship— COMM	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
25 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship Possible Congregational Meeting	26 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	27 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 10:00 am PUSH	28 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	29 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	30 9:30 am POW Bible Study	2

Celebrations

 <p>April 20 Ashley Regan April 21 Jay Gabrielson</p>	 <p>April 22 Catie Lyons April 28 David Holloway April 29 Nicholas Bonnar Tiffanie West</p>	 <p>April 27 Cathy & Ed Baid</p>
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Living Word News

CALL COMMITTEE will announce a congregational meeting during the announcements today, Sunday, the 18th. Tentatively it will be next Sunday, the 25th immediately after service. They had their informal Zoom Meeting discussion with Pastor Foley from California on Friday, and will share their summary of that meeting with us.

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.

POW (People of the Word) Bible Study had started meeting again this month, Friday, April 16th was their first class. 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.

Stewardship Snapshot

April 2nd—Good Friday

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

Financial Support

430.00 General Fund

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.

April 4th—Easter

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

Financial Support

5,060.00 General Fund

9.00 Lilies

\$5,069.00 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.

April 11th

31 Worshipped
 14 Watched Online
2 Watched DVD's
 47 Total

Financial Support

1,735.00 General Fund

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

Members at Large

Rick Boehm - President

Jim McKinney

Bobbi Pote - Treasurer

Pastor John Bucka

Diana Motel - Secretary

Donna Wasilkoff

Spring Events



WORK DAY is scheduled for May 2nd after service. Lunch will be served and we will maintain social distancing and health regulations. There are numerous projects to be taken care of, both indoor and out, just in case the weather doesn't cooperate with us. Please let us know if you can make it, even if its only for an hour or so. If we get enough volunteers, the work will go much quicker and you will be able to relax the rest of the day. If you have any ideas as to other projects that should be taken care of, we would love to hear your ideas.

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

THE SPRING RAFFLE
 A BENEFIT FOR CORNERSTONE SERVICES
 CORNERSTONE SERVICES
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“Who Will Bring Us Prosperity?”

How do we truly prosper in life? Today our Bible readings give us answers to the Psalmist’s question: “*Who will bring us prosperity...?*”

1) God the Holy Spirit prospers us with His POWER.

¹² ...[Peter] said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does [healing this lame man] surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see...¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

Acts 3:12-16, 19-20

2) God the Son prospers us with His PURITY.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

1 John 3:1-3

3) God the Father prospers us with His PROMISES.

⁴⁶ [Jesus] told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:46-49

DEVOTIONALS OF THE WEEK *When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. - John 14:20 (NLT)*

When Christ is in us, we come to know God experientially, from seeing Him show up in our lives on a regular basis. God is then able to reveal Himself to others through us, through our witness. because we can testify to what He has done, not just 2000 years ago when He won our salvation, but right now in our lives.

“500 Years: Here I Stand, I Cannot Do Otherwise”

[Continued from Page 1](#)

The Lord is looking for a people who will stand firm on His Word; a people who will live by the unpopular belief that it is the truth and demands our total obedience; a people who will not compromise, but instead find themselves complete and equipped to do the work He has prepared for them. We must surrender to God’s Word, not as a book of suggestions or good advice, but as words spoken from the very mouth of God. Those who live by the Bible are mighty weapons in the hand of God against the enemy. We often call ourselves “People of the Book,” but if we abide by this book, we could rightly admit that “We are the people of God.”

We must be like the person in Psalm 1 who meditates on the Word of God day and night. Let it be your breakfast, lunch and dinner. Let it be your joy in your sorrow, your strength in your weakness, your boldness in your fear, and your sword in your conflict. If you want to be used by God, then you must first surrender to His Word. Though it inflicts wounds, it also provides the ointment for healing. Though it brings brokenness and grieving, it provides wisdom for repentance and restoration. While the world deceives and is deceived, we can have full confidence in God’s Word because every Scripture is inspired by Him, and He will never lead us astray.

Mission of the Month News

LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARITIES is 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 places 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.

Lutheran Church Charities News

LCC K-9 COMFORT DOGS AND L.E.R.T. have been very busy these past few weeks. On Thursday, March 25th, the National Weather Service reported 11 tornadoes with EF ratings ranging from EF-1 to EF-4, ripping through Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia causing several deaths, multiple injuries and widespread structural and tree damages.

For the second full week, the director of LCC Disaster Response, Kathy O'Day and L.E.R.T. were deployed and serving in Alabama. At the invitation of Rev. Ed Brashier (LCMS) District Disaster Response Coordinator for the Southern District, recovery efforts continue in the towns of Ohatchee, Wellington, Jacksonville and Piedmont. Since arriving the Monday after Easter, thirty-one LCC Disaster Response L.E.R.T. chainsaw team members have joined the Southern District L.E.R.T. team members to assist those affected by these devastating tornadoes clear properties of downed and damaged trees, and debris utilizing the boom lift, dump trailer, bobcats, ditch witch, and tractors with grapples. This will help them begin their long road of rebuilding and recovery.



Clean-up continues at The Learning Tree and Staff Member Properties. Property damage has been extensive at The Learning Tree Residential Schools for Children & Adults with Developmental Disabilities but care and enthusiasm for their students and residents has not wavered. The director, property manager, and staff can't believe LCC L.E.R.T. chainsaw team members traveled such a great distance to help them in their time of need. They continue to see the hand of God provide for them during the tornado recovery efforts. They look forward to having safe properties, bringing back their students and residents, and helping everyone return to their normal schedule.

Mr. and Mrs. C. were so touched by the assistance the LCC L.E.R.T. chainsaw team gave to remove many downed trees from around the home they share with their daughter, a staff member at The Learning Tree. The entire time we were there, they watched the work being done, and spoke with and hugged every volunteer. They felt we were a blessing sent from God. Pat, another staff member at The Learning Tree, is also very happy with the work being done at her home. She had many large cedar and evergreen trees down on her driveway, chicken coop, and animal pens. The recovery task seemed overwhelming. She expressed her gratitude for the LCC L.E.R.T. chainsaw team assistance and care shown to her. She will remember us every time she looks at the large slice of one of her cedar trees that team members signed.



Removing large tree that landed on the home of a man with a disability, Bob and his family huddled in their bathroom wearing their bicycle helmets as they heard the tornado pass and the trees crashing onto their house and down on their property. When they came out, a large tree was resting on their roof but they were very surprised to see that it didn't go through or damage the interior of their home. Due to his disability, he knew there was no way he could begin to remove the damaged trees. He is very thankful that LCC L.E.R.T. chainsaw teams came with their equipment to assist. If it weren't for all of

the faith-based groups helping the community, he doesn't know how he and his neighbors would be able to clean up all the damage to their properties.

Other LCC L.E.R.T. chainsaw team members have been working on several large jobs that took several days. Property owners have been overwhelmed with the clean



up task and are overjoyed when they witness the hands and feet of Jesus helping them.

