



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 17

May 2, 2021

## "I Am The Vine, You Are The Branches"

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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

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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  
10:00 am Sunday School

Does Jesus' metaphor here strike you as a bit odd?

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing ([John 15:45](#))

Vine branches don't have to *try* to abide in vine. They just do. only way they become detached is if someone or something detaches them.

Not so with us. We are strange "branches" that are prone to wander. Staying put in the vine is something we must obey. "Abiding" for us is a discipline.

So why are we prone to leave the "vine" we love? Because we are easily deceived into believing that we are vines, not branches. Remember Satan's original deception, "You will be like God"? That's what we want to be: vines! We don't want to be branches. We want to bear our own fruit!

This is the ancient sin of pride and it governs fallen human nature. And we Christians remain susceptible to this very powerful and subtle temptation, which is why Jesus spoke this metaphor to his disciples. We struggle to believe that apart from him we can do *nothing*. So how can we honestly evaluate the level to which we are abiding in Jesus? One simple way is to examine how we pray in secret. The Bible is clear: Word-saturated prayer is the primary means of abiding in Jesus. That's why prayer is the chief of the spiritual disciplines and the one we are commanded to be constantly doing:

"[Pray] at all times in the Spirit" ([Eph. 6:18](#)); "Continue steadfastly in prayer" ([Col. 4:2](#)).

God appointed prayer as the chief of the disciplines precisely because it is designed to undermine our self-sufficient pride. Prayer requires profound humility and faith to exercise. It appears foolish and weak to the worldly-wise and strong. It's the posture of a dependent child or a beggar. And since its productivity can't be quantified, it can look like a waste of time. In other words, prayer forces us to trust God. This is why we selected "Prayerful Dependence" as one of our stated core values at Desiring God:

We seek our deepest delight in Jesus Christ and acknowledge that we can do nothing apart from him ([John 15:5](#)). Our desire is to abide in him constantly, "[praying] at all times in the Spirit" ([Eph. 6:18](#)). Therefore, we will be intentional to build prayer into the visible life of the organization at all levels and to cultivate a shared life together of living by faith in God's future grace for us.

January is a month of resolutions. One of our ongoing resolutions at Desiring God is to cultivate *more* prayerful dependence on Jesus in our spreading efforts. Would you join us?

Create your own resolution to cultivate greater prayerful dependence on God. Through more intentional prayer, let's fight our desire to live like vines together and seek instead to be branches that are joyfully and firmly grafted in Jesus.

One way we want to encourage you in your personal resolution is to encourage you to listen to John Piper's message, "[Battling the Unbelief of Pride](#)." John draws from Paul, James, Peter, and Jeremiah to explain the nature of pride and how to fight its many manifestations. He includes a helpful section on the role of prayer in the battle. A memorable quote from his closing prayer is, "It is utter folly to be anything but a baby in your arms."

# MAY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship— <b>COMM</b>  Work Day	<b>3</b>  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>4</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 10:00 am PUSH 11:40 am Chapel Time	<b>5</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>6</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>7</b>  9:30am POW Bible Study	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship  Mother's Day	<b>10</b>  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>11</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 10:00 am PUSH	<b>12</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>13</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>14</b>  9:30am POW Bible Study	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship— <b>COMM</b>	<b>17</b>  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>18</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 10:00 am PUSH	<b>19</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>20</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Preschool Graduation Last Day of School 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>21</b>  9:30am POW Bible Study	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	<b>24</b>  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>25</b> 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 10:00 am PUSH	<b>26</b> 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy 6:30 pm "Nature's God Presentation" (NEA & Pastor Lee Program)	<b>27</b>  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>28</b> 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy  9:30am POW Bible Study	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	<b>31</b> Memorial Day Office Closed					

## May Celebrations



**May 4** Daniel Michael  
**May 8** Cathy Baidis  
**May 12** Diane Chitwood  
**May 13** Bob Grossart  
**May 20** Anne Lyons  
**May 28** Brian Michael  
**May 30** Deanna Meier  
**May 30** Joshua Regan



Happy Baptism  
Birthday!

**May 9** Tracy Cygan  
**May 9** Shawn Regan  
**May 11** Ethel Hamill  
**May 12** Diana Motel  
**May 13** Paxton Hostert

Anniversary



**May 9** Eileen & Steve Rhoads  
**May 18** Darlene & Phil Cygan  
**May 19** Karen & Pastor Lange

## Stewardship Snapshot

**April 25th**

36 Worshipped  
 10 Watched Online  
2 Watched DVD's  
 47 Total

### Financial Support

2,970.00 General Fund  
 1,295.00 Lutheran Church Charities  
 150.00 Nature Academy  
 \$4,415.00 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

### Church Contacts

Pastor Steven Lee

[intouchlwlc@yahoo.com](mailto:intouchlwlc@yahoo.com)

Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel

[dianamotel@yahoo.com](mailto: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

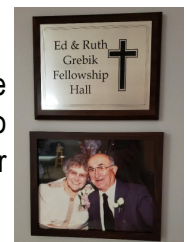
**POW (People of the Word) Bible Study** started meeting again last month, Friday. They will continue to meet every Friday at 9:30 am. With word pictures to spark your imagination, the preeminent prophet Isaiah paints pictures of the holy and composes symphonies of hope. Witness the double-edged dynamic 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.



**PRESCHOOL GRADUATION** will be held here on Thursday, May 20th. We are having it during the week as we are still trying to keep everyone safe, but still be able to celebrate the students' achievements and advancement. The students will have their families here and I will record the program, and the video and a photo collage will be played after service at a later date in May.

**THANKS GOES TO** Jim McKinney and Donna Wasilkoff for their efforts and work in getting the picture and plaque for the Ed & Ruth Grebik Fellowship Hall. What a very nice a distinguished touch it adds to our building. Please stop by to see the perfect tribute to the two people who had done so very much for our church and take a moment to honor their memory and how much they meant to us.



**“True Worship”**

Psalm 150 says: *“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”* Today our Scripture readings teach us the meaning of true worship...

**1) True worship SHARES Christ.** [See also Matthew 28:18-20]

<sup>30</sup> Philip ran up to the [the Ethiopian eunuch's] chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. <sup>31</sup> “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” <sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

Acts 8:30-35

**2) True worship LIVES Christ.** [See also Ephesians 4:15]

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world...

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:1-3, 7-11

**3) True worship REMAINS IN Christ.** [See Romans 12:1-2 below]

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”  
John 15:5

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy,*

*to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

*Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—*

*his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

**Mission of the Month**

**THANK YOU ALL** for such heart felt generosity, we collected \$1,295.00 for Lutheran Church Charities in the month of April.

**REDEEMING LIFE OUTREACH MINISTRIES** is the Mission of the Month for May. CALLED TO PRESERVE LIFE God is leading Redeeming Life to expand in Illinois! Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and serves single, pregnant women and their unborn children. These women are often at-risk of homelessness, domestic violence, or choosing abortion. We are opening a new Christ-centered maternity home in Carpentersville in the Northern Illinois District (NID) as early as 2021. The Maternity Home Steering Committee and LCEF are partnering with us to preserve life and share the love of Christ with vulnerable young women. Immanuel Lutheran in East Dundee led by Pastor Bill Yonker will be the official host congregation for this new location. This new maternity home will provide a safe, comfortable fully furnished home for the residents to live and thrive in and will be supervised by one full-time, live-in Manager. The residents will engage in self-directed learning and one-on-one training with the help of a full-time Program Director. The expectant moms will learn necessary life skills including saving and budgeting, parenting, cooking, cleaning, connecting with others, and most importantly, connecting with God. Prayer, Bible study and worship are important components of the maternity home program. As a pro-life ministry, we walk alongside our mothers on their journey whether they plan to parent or lovingly place their baby for adoption. Every woman who calls Redeeming Life home will find help, love, and support. Please help make this new maternity home in Illinois a reality! No one can do everything, but every individual and congregation can do something!