



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 18

May 9, 2021

## "Sing A New Song"

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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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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

We all love old music. Whether it's centuries old or even just a few months, the tunes we enjoy most are unavoidably the ones we already know. And there's no getting around it. Music has a strange power to capture thoughts and feelings from the past, recent or long ago, and send them streaming into our present at the sound of just a few bars.

It's a common experience to find yourself moved by some old song that you've sung for years. And if it's a Christian hymn or worship chorus, you might feel freshly connected to God's amazing faithfulness, not just through the ages, but in your particular life.

That was my experience recently when I heard an old anthem called "Holy Is He." It brought back rich memories and inspired gratitude for God's mercy in my life in surrounding me at an early age with such high praise to him, even before I was old enough to understand it much or feel it deeply. Which has me sensing afresh that there is a wonderful place for old songs.

But I'm unaware of any command in the Bible to "sing old songs." It's not disobedient to sing old songs; it simply isn't something God needs to remind us to do. Our inertia is toward humming and singing and selecting the stuff we already know. We already like the songs we like, after all.

What we don't yet know is the new songs. And it takes some energy to write them and learn them. So the Scriptures need to remind us again and again to "sing a new song."

### Sing Something New

Three Psalms start with precisely these words — Psalm 98 is one of them — "sing to the Lord a new song." As does Isaiah 42:10 ("sing to the Lord a new song") and Psalm 33:3 ("sing to him a new song"). And Psalm 144:9 adds its voice to the chorus, "I will sing a new song to you, O God."

The psalmist has "waited patiently for the Lord" for some deliverance. God hears him, and rescues him, and one of the things he does for him in the deliverance is "he put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God" (Psalm 40:3).

New songs of praise are appropriate for new rescues and fresh manifestations of grace. As long as God is gracious toward us, as long as he keeps showing us his power, and wowing us with his works, it is fitting that we not just sing old songs inspired by his past grace, but also that we sing new songs about his ever-streaming, never-ceasing grace.

### New Mercies, New Music

And this isn't just true in this age, but for eternity. God will never cease to inspire awe in us about the breadth and depth and height of who He is and His mindboggling love for us in Christ, and we get the joy of continuing to create and sing new songs of praise to Him for it. If we take our cues from the worship of heaven in the book of Revelation, and get a little foretaste now of the feast of worship to come, it seems God would have us blend in new songs with the old as we prepare to "sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever".

In Revelation 15:3, we're told that "those who had conquered the beast" sing "the song of Moses" — which is an old song, from Exodus 15 or Deuteronomy 32 — but they also sing "the song of the Lamb," a new song. So also the worshipers of heaven are said to be "singing a new song" in Revelation 14:3. And in Revelation 5:9, the four living creatures and 24 elders "sang a new song."

Forever God will continue to "show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus", and as He does — for His glory and for our joy — we will keep singing new songs.

## This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>9</b> <b>9:00 am Adult Study</b> <b>10:00 am Worship</b>  <b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>10</b>  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>11</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm <b>Preschool</b> 9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy  <b>10:00 am PUSH</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm <b>Preschool</b>  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>13</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm <b>Preschool</b>  9:00–3:00 Nature Exploration Academy	<b>14</b>  9:30am POW Bible Study	<b>15</b>

## May Celebrations



**May 4** Daniel Michael  
**May 8** Cathy Baidis  
**May 12** Diane Chitwood  
**May 13** Bob Grossart



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



**May 9** Eileen & Steve Rhoads

## Stewardship Snapshot

**May 2nd**  
**30 Worshipped, 26 Communed**  
**13 Watched Online**  
**2 Watched DVD's**  
**45 Total**

**Financial Support**  
 2,680.00 General Fund  
 28.00 Cash In-Kind for Work Day Donations

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*  
**Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel**  
*dianamotel@yahoo.com*

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

## Living Word Endowment Fund

### LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 4/30/2021)

The current value of the fund is \$166,000.07 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$40,231.61. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$40,787.73. Of this, \$20,393.87 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	40,231.61
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>40,787.73</u>
	<b>Total market value</b>	<b>\$166,000.07</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



## 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 at 10:00 am. 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 into graduation. The students will have their families here and there will be a photo collage shown after service at a later date in May.

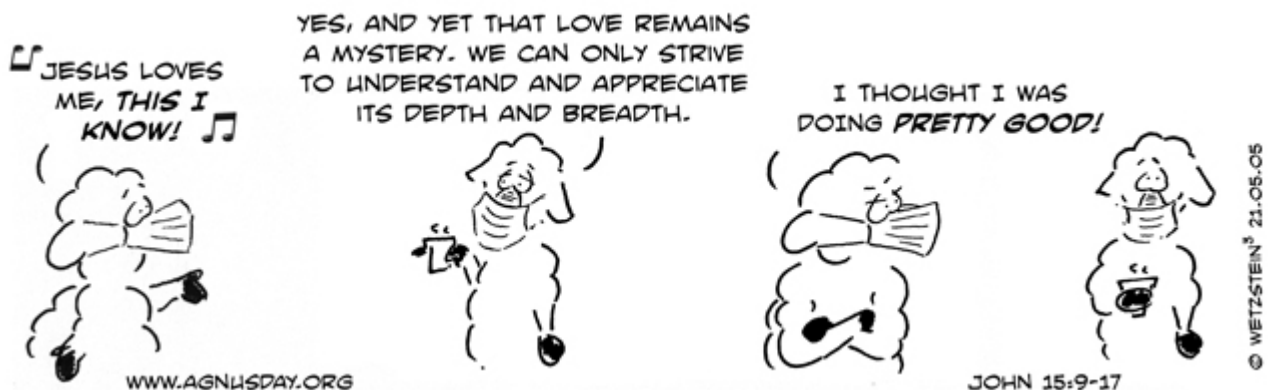
**THANKS GOES TO** Jim McKinney and Donna Wasilkoff for their efforts and work in getting the picture and plaque for the Ed & Ruth Grebik Fellowship Hall. What a very nice a distinguished touch it adds to our building. Please stop by to see the perfect tribute to the two people who had done so very much for our church and take a moment to honor their memory and how much they meant to us. So many people have just like to stop and say what a beautiful picture that is and what a great tribute to 2 loving, caring and generous people.



**A HUGE THANKS TO ALL** our helpers who worked very hard and gave up their Sunday afternoon last week. We would like to thank Bill and David Merchantz, Donna Wasilkoff, Diana and Kyle Motel, Neal and Kristi Hartz, Gary and Bobbi Pote, Paul Huang, Jim McKinney, George and Pam Hostert and Anita Meier. Without all of their efforts we would never have been able to deep clean the kitchen, cleaned the range hood filter, stove and oven, fixed the door bell, mailbox and post, get the garden weeded and cleaned, plant flowers, replaced the stained ceiling tiles, disinfected mold build up, washed the windows, clean out and plant the preschool veggie and flower gardens, power wash the siding of the church, put up hooks on the bathroom partition doors, lay ant traps and pour bleach down floor drains, and various other projects that needed to be done. It was a job well done by all, and even though a lot of things were accomplished, we would still like to have one more work day sometime later in the summer, hopefully not on such a warm day though.

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY** to all of our moms, they are a very important part of our lives, and even for those who may have gone before us to be with our Lord, we will never forget you and all of the things you have done for us, and we will always hold you close to our hearts.

**NATURE EXPLORATION ACADEMY** with Pastor Lee will be hosting a end of the year program called "Nature's God", a presentation on their class together from this past school year learning how nature's laws and God's laws are related to each other. The program will be on Wednesday, May 26th at 6:30 pm. If you would like to attend and watch the connection transpire, please RSVP to me by phone, email or in person.



**"A New Song"**

So, how's life working for you? Whatever your circumstances and feelings, today's Scripture readings are for you. As Psalm 98 says: *"Sing to the Lord a new song..."*

**1) I will sing a new song of ACCEPTANCE.**

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. <sup>36</sup> You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. Acts 10:34-36

**2) I will sing a new song of VICTORY.**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. <sup>2</sup> This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. <sup>3</sup> In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

1 John 5:1-5

**3) I will sing a new song of FRIENDSHIP.**

<sup>9</sup> "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other. John 15:9-17

**Mission of the Month**

**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! This type of project is very important as the lives of women and unborn children needs help and protection. Single pregnant women who lack safe, stable housing feel that abortion is their only option. Redeeming Life is a positive, pro-life maternity home that provides just-in-time resources to redeem the lives of women and babies.

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ. - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (NLT)*

The Thessalonian church was characterized by faithful work, loving deeds, and enduring hope. All of these become manifest when opposition arises and we continue to press in to what God has called us to do. Faithful work continues even when it's hard, loving deeds are done even when they are not appreciated or are received with suspicion, and hope endures as we continue to eagerly look forward to that hope becoming reality.