

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 31, Issue 5

January 30, 2022

"Christ Our Rock of Refuge"

The word "REFUGE" is from a Latin word meaning to escape and depicts a place which provides shelter or protection from trouble, danger or distress. A REFUGE is a place of safety and security. And so it is fitting to invite us: "O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes REFUGE IN HIM (the Solid Rock)!" In contrast, in his classic *Paradise Lost*, John Milton writes "Rocks, dens and caves (of this passing world)...in none of these, find place or REFUGE." In the Revelation, kings, great men, commanders, rich, strong, slave and free, all hide themselves in "the rocks" of this world and say "to the rocks "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him Who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb." Spurgeon writes "It will be vain to call to the rocks in the day of judgment, but our ROCK attends to our cries!" And so we see that every man of every age will chose to hide either in the "rocks" of this passing world or in the "everlasting ROCK", a solid, unchanging ROCK. Indeed, the believer's sure REFUGE in this world and the next is not a place but a Person, Christ Jesus, our "ROCK in Whom we take REFUGE", for "Who is a ROCK, except our God?" "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man." Spurgeon exhorts us "to let the sandy foundations of terrestrial trust be the choice of fools, but we are to be like one who foresees the storm, and builds for ourselves an abiding place upon the Rock of Ages." We are encouraged to "Remember that, when you feel defeated, when you are under attack, when doubts come flooding into your mind. Remember that you are already encircled by the belt of truth. You have found the One who is the solid, unchanging Rock. The words of the hymn express this well: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand, All other ground is sinking sand." Moses affirms this faith stabilizing truth declaring "The ROCK! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just. A God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He" Moses then reminds us that the world's "rock is not like our ROCK, as even our enemies concede." Dear Father, we who are so prone to wander (and wonder!) ask that by Your sweet Spirit, you might enable us moment by moment "to fix our eyes on Jesus", our "spiritual ROCK", so that we might not be like those of old who so often "neglected the ROCK" who quickly forgot "the God of their salvation and who did not remember the ROCK of their REFUGE". Amen

OUR ROCK OF REFUGE: THE ROCK OF AGES: In the mysterious, providential working of the Spirit of God, an uneducated layman named James Morris once preached a simple sermon on Ephesians 2:13-note ("But now IN Christ Jesus [think "safe IN the Rock of Refuge"] you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ") in a barn in Ireland reaping only one conversion, a highly educated boy named Augustus Montague Toplady, who had been stirred to attend by an earthquake that had recently rocked the British Isles. "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform. He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm." As an aside may the profound impact of this one otherwise unknown and unlettered man's words on young Toplady's heart be an encouraging reminder to all of us that the "the Gospel is the (intrinsic, inherent, "self-contained") power of God for salvation to everyone who believes", that the Holy Spirit can speak through anyone, and finally that He can make "beautiful (literally "timely in the arrival of") the feet of those who tell good news, who make the Gospel known." Augustus Toplady soon felt God's call to preach the Gospel himself and this he did for the remainder of his short life of 38 years (1740-1778). During his life he preached thousands of sermons, wrote hundreds of poems, and composed 133 hymns. In 1763 Toplady was walking home, when he was caught in a sudden, violent thunderstorm. At first there seemed to be no hiding place, but he soon spied a cleft in a rock, into which he ran and in which he was able to just barely stand upright. And there he remained for refuge as the thunder roared and the lightning flashed. And as he stood in the cleft of this rock, he redeemed the time in a most unique way, for these words welled up in his soul (how fitting that they are in the form of a prayer).

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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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708-403-9673




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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:00 am Adult study
10:00 am Worship

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 am PUSH	2  Groundhog Day			
6 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship—COMM		8 10:00 am PUSH			11 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	
13 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	14  Valentine's Day	15 10:00 am PUSH 7:00 pm Council Meeting			18 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	
20 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship—COMM		22 10:00 am PUSH			25 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	
27 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	28					

 <p>Feb 2 Kyle Motel Feb 4 David Holloway Feb 5 Anita Meier Feb 6 Delores Urbank Feb 12 Gary Meier Feb 18 Matt Meier Feb 22 Bob Weber Feb 23 Russ Tinich Feb 28 Catie Lyons Feb 29 Michelle Boehm</p>	 <p>Feb 1 Beverly Hodo Feb 14 Barbara Harris Feb 15 Steve Rhoads Feb 28 Petra Wasilkoff</p>	<p><i>Anniversary</i></p>  <p>Feb 10 Margie & Kevin Sefcik</p>
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Stewardship Snapshot

January 23rd

20 Worshipped
2 Watched DVD's
9 Watched Online
31 Total

Financial Support

2,565.00 General Fund
200.00 Spring Creek Place Townhomes (Building Use)
2,765.00 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

intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel

dianamotel@yahoo.com 708-287-4939

Leadership Team

Neal Hartz - President 847-344-2410

Jim McKinney - Vice President 708-359-8527

Bill Merchantz - Treasurer 708-539-6027

Diana Motel - Secretary 708-287-4939

Members at Large

Pastor John Bucka 815-931-2961

Bob Grossart 708-870-0202

Paul Huang 626-551-1446

Miscellaneous Information

ATTENDANCE TRACKING Going forward starting with this month, we are trying to keep count of all those who watch the service online. If you could please either sign in with Facebook or very briefly comment at the time that you are watching, and if any are watching with you, we would greatly appreciate it. Also, if you happen to watch it during the week at a more convenient time, please just email us back saying that you had watched, and how many others had watched with you. This way you can get the credit for participating in the service and we can grow our attendance totals in order to reach our endowment fund goals. Thank you for helping us with this effort, again we greatly appreciate any help you can give.

2021 OFFERING STATEMENTS are now available and in the box on the desk located next to the office. Please review carefully and notify us of any discrepancies that you may encounter.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES are ready and available for you to pick up on Sunday. They are located on the desk next to the office.

Important Information

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATES Diana Motel has been very busy this past week, she had received everyone's votes and had tallied them, along with the in person votes from the congregational meeting last week and those who had voted online, the official final count was 37 to 7 in favor of calling a seminary student. Thank you to everyone who had participated in the vote, it was actually one of our biggest turnouts yet. She has been working with the district in order to fill out the paper work, which is completed now and was sent to the district for review, once she gets the approval that it is good to go, the documents will be signed and officially sent to them. Thank you Diana for all of your work this week. We appreciate it.

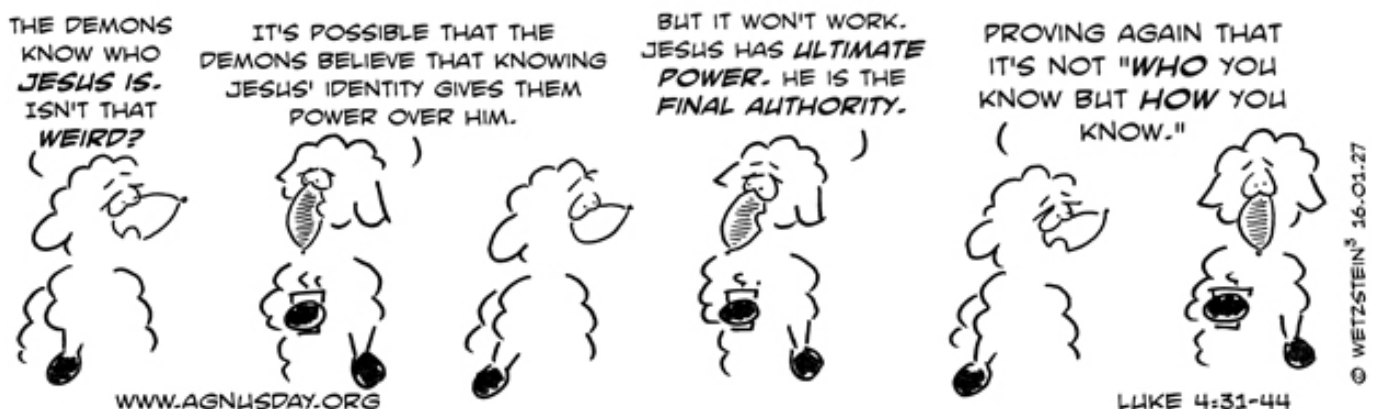
A NEED FOR YOU AND A NEED FOR CHURCH As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient (who doesn't love not getting ready in the morning or leaving their home?!), it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together from your sofa. Christians aren't consumers either. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We do life together. The church needs you. And you need the church. Wherever you are, find a local church where you and your family can be part of community and use your talents to advance the kingdom and reach others. To come alongside one another physically, not just through a screen. While I'm grateful for technology to keep people connected that can't physically come to a facility or need to be away, it's absolutely not like being in the building. Never will be. Yes, church on the sofa is nice. But it'll never be the same as church in the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing everyone in church. There is nothing like fellowship time among some of your closest friends that share the same beliefs as you do!

Mission of the Month



JANUARY MISSION OF MONTH is the LCMS Life Ministry. They speak up for life, care for people in body and soul and they teach about the sanctity of human life. The people of LCMS love children and families and they demonstrate this love through many acts of mercy in their communities. To help support these pro-life efforts, both big and small, we are collecting all month long, not only are you helping with whatever you can give, but our efforts will be doubled, as LCMS will offer to match donations this year, up to one million dollars. Please see the information that is posted on the bulletin board.

A cute look at the gospel reading for this week.



"Living Word Preschool"

A NEED FOR OUR PRESCHOOL AGAIN Please try to help us pass the word about our preschool throughout our community. January and the winter semester is upon us. We need to fill our church with the little ones and teach them the love and knowledge of Jesus and prepare them for kindergarten and grade school. Let all your friends and family know that enrollment is open online. We already have one student enrolled and a family just visited us this week.

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Registration is open!

Offering both a 5 day program
with a 3 day option.

Click on our preschool tab to
register or for more information

Call us with any questions or to
schedule a tour at 708-403-9673



Incarnate Community

A Bible Study from the LCMS Northern Illinois District

Taking it live! Incarnate Community Bible Study Discussions

Join Incarnate Community's author Rev. Kris Whitby and his guests as they take a deep dive into what it means in a pandemic age to be an in person community centered on Jesus!

Thursdays in February 2022, there will be live discussions hosted by Rev. Whitby and special guests fielding questions from our viewers on each of the four Bible study sessions. We'll discuss perspectives on aspects of the study, what churches are currently facing as communities who have not fully come back to in person activity, and what our hope is for the Church, both for in person and online ministry moving forward.

The live discussions will be broadcast on our Facebook and YouTube pages each Thursday in February (February 3, 10, 17, and 24) from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him. John 2:11 (NLT)*

Because the Holy Spirit lives in us, God is able to do miraculous things in our lives, too. Our only task is to not resist the Spirit as He prompts us to speak and to act. Are you attempting to live the Christian life in your own strength? Or are you willing to let God reveal His glory in and through your life?

1-30-22 Message Outline

"My Rock of Refuge"

Psalm 71 prays: *"Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go..."*

1) The Lord is my Rock who RESCUES.

⁴ The word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." ⁶ "Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." ⁷ But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 1:4-8

2) The Lord is my Rock who REMAINS.

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails... ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a, 13

3) The Lord is my Rock who REBUKES.

⁴⁰ At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. ⁴¹ Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah. ⁴² At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³ But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." ⁴⁴ And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Luke 4:40-44

VBS 2022



VBS 2022—CELEBRATING GOD'S GREATNESS Diana has theme for VBS picked out and has already ordered the basic supplies and when it gets closer, and warmer especially, she will have her list of items that she will need for snacks and craft time. Everyone had so much fun here last year, that we already have three kids signed up. Thank you Diana for all of the hard work you put into this program for us and the children of our community. If you can help out a day or two during that week, please see Diana for more information.