



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 31, Issue 6

February 6, 2022

"The Miraculous Catch"

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During His ministry, Jesus performed more than 40 miracles including healing the sick, changing the natural elements of nature and even raising people from the dead. A miracle is considered an event that occurs outside the bounds of natural law. Each month, we will take a closer look at one of His miracles to understand the depth of His love for us. Understanding the miracles of Jesus can change your life, and it all begins with believing through faith.

The Bible describes more than one miracle of Jesus involving fishing. In Luke 5:1-11, Jesus is sitting in a boat, talking to people on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Afterward, he instructs Peter (also known as Simon) to take the boat further into the lake. Jesus said, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the net."

The net went into the water and immediately they caught such a large number of fish that the net began to break. They summoned another boat to come and help them, and both boats were so full of fish that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." Working for long hours trying to catch fish yet without results was exhausting and discouraging for the fishermen. Peter tells Jesus that they had fished all day with no results, but reluctantly obeys Jesus' command to try again. Jesus commands Peter to let down his 'nets' (plural), yet Peter replies with 'net' (singular). Peter's reluctant obedience is half-hearted. It's obvious that Peter probably thinks the result would be the same as his earlier lack of fish. His unbelieving thoughts show in his unenthusiastic obedience. At this early stage, Peter is still learning about the power of God.

What can we learn through this miracle? When Christ speaks, we should listen and obey His commands. In this case, this miracle affected the work and livelihood of the obedient fishermen. God wants us to be successful in everything we do. He always has our best interest.

Had Peter failed to obey Christ's command, he would have been unable to experience both the miracle and the blessing. When we serve, obey and sacrifice, God will reward our efforts with abundant blessings, sometimes even more than what we can imagine. Our nets and our hearts will be overflowing.

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

16301 South Wolf Road
Orland Park, IL 60467
708-403-9673
livingwordorland.org
intouchlwlc@yahoo.com
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm
SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:00 am Adult study
10:00 am Worship



This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship— COMM	7	8 10:00 am PUSH	9	10	11 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	12

February Celebrations

 <p>Feb 2 Kyle Motel Feb 4 David Holloway Feb 5 Anita Meier Feb 6 Delores Urbank Feb 12 Gary Meier</p>	 <p>Feb 1 Beverly Hodo Feb 14 Barbara Harris</p>	 <p>Feb 10 Margie & Kevin Sefcik</p>
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Stewardship Snapshot

January 30th

20 Worshipped
2 Watched DVD's
12 Watched Online
34 Total

Church Contacts

intouchlwc@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

LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 1/31/2022)

The current value of the fund is \$168,665.87 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$35,590.85. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$48,094.29. Of this, \$24,047.15 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	35,590.85
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>48,094.29</u>
	Total market value	\$168,665.87

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



Mission of the Month



JANUARY MISSION OF MONTH was 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. We collected \$90.00 during the month of January for them. Thank you so much for your generous donations this past month.

FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH Please see below regarding the David's Harp Foundation. This can also be found on our website and the bulletin board.



David's Harp is an outgrowth of the work and development of St. Paul's Music Conservatory in Council Bluffs, IA. In 2009, St. Paul's Lutheran Church established a formal music conservatory in order to raise up church musicians and proclaim the Gospel through music. This manner of music education was well received by the congregation and community alike. Over-time, this conservatory not only grew but has become a center of music education within the Council Bluffs community and has developed resources specifically for use in the parish based music conservatory. Having positive reception from across the synod, the leadership of SPMC has entertained interested ministry leaders from all across the country seeking to establish similar forms of outreach in their own context. Seeing that the work of the local conservatory, resource development, and collaboration with leaders from across the country would be too much for one parish to effectively handle, the leadership of SPMC called for help and created a new organization called David's Harp. The mission of this entity is simple: Produce music resources and produce centers of musical development around the world.

David's Harp, through its resource development and centers of music education care deeply about the following:

MISSIONS Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

OUTREACH Reaching into communities and neighborhoods that surround our churches, schools and mission sites all over the world with the message of Christ.

EDUCATION Catechizing all ages in the faith through the rich hymns of the Lutheran Church.

YOUTH Teaching even the youngest among us in every community as we bring them up in the faith.

MUSIC Using the enormous power of music as the vehicle for all of this.

David's Harp believes that the Lutheran church is well-positioned for intentional outreach through music. Through strategic planning and collaboration in the areas of resource generation and the establishment of centers of music, David's Harp will support the Synod's churches, schools and missions in spreading the Gospel.

Music centers in the foreign mission field are indeed realistic! In fact, music is often one of the most effective ways of connecting people who find themselves specifically in the mission field.

In a foreign mission context, the church often competes with the influence of different strains of Christianity and different forms of paganism. Music helps lead a community into a culture that is not only Christian, but truly Lutheran! The best and most practical summary of that Lutheran culture is found in our liturgy and hymns. Having that music preserved in a hymnal which is used and taught regularly further facilitates faithful worship and a rich sacramental life.

Music in a foreign context also carries the culture of the Church to places where pastors are denied access. A music studio or conservatory, for example, may be permitted when a church is not. A music teacher may be able to travel where a pastor or missionary cannot. And sacred music itself, especially recorded music, may find its way through the Internet or on the airwaves to places no missionary can enter. All of these are ways music centers can benefit the mission field.

Important Information

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATES Diana Motel has been very busy the past couple of weeks, 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, we finally got the approval that all was good to go, the documents have been printed out and will be signed and officially sent to them. Thank you Diana for all of your work this week. We appreciate all of your hard work.

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!

ATTENDANCE TRACKING Going forward starting with this year, 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.

SUNDAY MORNING Bible Study will be on Zoom. We will have a dedicated link every Sunday for the Zoom portion of the class. Going forward, I will email this link to everyone on Fridays, so it would be very easy for you to find the email with the link. Please see me or call the office if you would like to join, we can give you the information that you will need for Zoom. Not only will you gain some insight with these bible study classes, but you will have fun doing so at the same time. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the Bible study on January 9th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89721834695?pwd=SDhlahkTU51a2M0QzBISVkrbWNNdz09>

Meeting ID: 897 2183 4695 Passcode: 436866

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89721834695#,,,,*436866# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

POW (People of the Word) Bible Study will be back to their study on the Parables next Friday. We are going back to individual links every Friday for the Zoom portion of the class. I will email the following link to everyone on Thursdays, so it would be very easy for you to find the email with the link in your inbox. Please see me or call the office if you would like to join, that way we can order books for you. Not only will you gain some insight with these bible study classes, but you will have fun doing so at the same time. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the Bible study on February 11th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82401150559?pwd=WVhY05YT3ZleDZ0VDVkbVFjSDdOdz09>

Meeting ID: 824 0115 0559 Passcode: 937916

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82401150559#,,,,*937916# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

"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 *Then, going over to the people who sold doves, [Jesus] told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me." - John 2:16-17 (NLT)*

Jesus was angered that people had turned what should be a sacred space dedicated to the worship of God into a place of commerce. It is so easy for each of us, as well, to neglect what should be space and time devoted to God and allow the ordinary routines of the rest of our life to encroach upon it. Lord Jesus, show us the places where we need to let You make a holy space in our lives, and remove our resistance so that we will allow it to happen.

2-6-22 Message Outline

“Answering God’s Call”

Psalm 138 says: “When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.” Answering God’s call begins with calling on Him...

1) God calls the WILLING.

⁵“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.” ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”
Isaiah 6:5-8

2) God calls the WISE.

Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church... ¹⁹ But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. ²⁰ ...Stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.
1 Corinthians 14:12b, 19-20

3) God calls the WASHED.

⁵ One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into [Simon’s boat] and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” ⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” ⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” ... Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.
Luke 5:1-8, 10b-11

VBS 2022

Living Word Lutheran Church

VBS 2022

July 25th-29th 9 to Noon

Closing Ceremony July 31st at 10am

Ages 3-11

MONUMENTAL

CELEBRATING GOD’S GREATNESS

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.