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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

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

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 31, Issue 16

April 17, 2022

"Easter—Its Meaning and History"

What is Easter?

Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb on the third day after his crucifixion. Easter is the fulfilled prophecy of the Messiah who would be persecuted, die for our sins, and rise on the third day (Isaiah 53). Remembering the resurrection of Jesus is a way to renew daily hope that we have victory over sin. According to the New Testament, Easter is three days after the death of Jesus on the cross.

Easter follows a period of fasting called Lent, in which many churches set aside time for repentance and remembrance. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Good Friday, the day of Jesus' crucifixion. The 40 day period was established by Pope Gregory 1 using the 40-day pattern of Israel, Moses, Elijah, and Jesus' time in the wilderness.

The week leading up to Easter is called The Holy Week, or "Passion Week", and includes Palm Sunday (the day Jesus entered Jerusalem and was celebrated), Maundy Thursday (the "Last Supper" where Jesus met with his disciples to observe Passover), and Good Friday (when Jesus would be crucified on the cross).

Easter is a very significant date within Christianity and is the foundation of the Christian faith. Jesus, the Son of God, fulfilled prophecy and through his death, has given the gift of eternal life in heaven to those who believe in his death and resurrection. Read the entire Biblical account of Resurrection Day in Matthew 28, Mark 16, and Luke 24 and more Easter Bible verses at BibleStudyTools.com.

Origin of Easter and First Celebrated

The earliest Christians celebrated the resurrection on the fourteenth of Nisan (our March-April), the date of the Jewish Passover. Jewish days were reckoned from evening to evening, so Jesus had celebrated His Last Supper the evening of the Passover and was crucified the day of the Passover. The origin of Easter started with early Christians celebrating the Passover worshiped Jesus as the Paschal Lamb and Redeemer.

The origin of some of the Gentile Christians began celebrating Easter in the nearest Sunday to the Passover since Jesus actually arose on a Sunday. This especially became the case in the western part of the Roman Empire. In Rome itself, different congregations celebrated Easter on different days!

Many felt that the date should continue to be based on the timing of the Resurrection during Passover. Once Jewish leaders determined the date of Passover each year, Christian leaders could set the date for Easter by figuring three days after Passover. Following this schedule would have meant that Easter would be a different day of the week each year, only falling on a Sunday once in a while.

Others believed since the Lord rose on a Sunday and this day had been set aside as the Lord's Day, this was the only possible day to celebrate His resurrection. As Christianity drew away from Judaism, some were reluctant to base the Christian celebration on the Jewish calendar.

Constantine wanted Christianity to be totally separated from Judaism and did not want Easter to be celebrated on the Jewish Passover. The Council of Nicea accordingly required the feast of the resurrection to be celebrated on a Sunday and never on the Jewish Passover. Easter was to be the Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. Since the date of the vernal equinox changed from year to year, calculating the proper date can be difficult. This is still the method used to determine Easter today, which is why some years we have Easter earlier than other years.

This week At Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship-COMM EASTER SUNDAY	18	19 10:00 am PUSH	20	21	22	23

April Celebrations

		
April 20 Ashley Regan April 21 Jay Gabrielson April 25 Peter Wasilkoff April 27 Karen Grossart April 28 Lara Wasilkoff	April 22 Catie Lyons April 28 David Holloway April 28 Nicholas Bonnar April 29 Tiffanie West	April 27 Cathy & Ed Baidis

Stewardship Snapshot

April 10th 23 Worshipped 2 Watched DVD's 13 Watched Online 38 Total Financial Support 1,060.00 General Fund Deposit <u>250.00</u> For Items For Ukrainian Refugees 1,310.00 Total 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.

Contacts

Church Contacts

intouchlwc@yahoo.com

Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel

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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

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK Jesus asked, "Will you never believe in me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?" - John 4:48 (NLT)

Jesus is certainly capable of performing signs and wonders, in 1st century Palestine and in 21st century America. But he desires that we move deeper in our trust and belief, so that we are not continually wanting one more miracle before we fully commit to seeking and following His will. So continue to bring your needs to God, but don't hold back putting your faith into action while waiting for His answers.

Mission of the Month

UKRAINIAN REFUGEE DONATION DRIVE is our mission of the month for April as we had our community event here at church last Saturday. As you can see we were able to buy a lot of needed items for the Ukrainian refugees. Bob Grossart went shopping and talked to a few stores in the area. When he went to the Walmart store in Orland Hills, they told him they couldn't give him a discount, but they did give him \$100 in gift cards. As you can see by the picture below, we had 4 tables full of stuff. Thank you to all that donated time, monetary donations, and/or items and especially for your prayers for the Ukrainian refugees. Help us help Ukraine in their greatest time of need. As you can see by the pictures below, we really are "The Little Church That Cares!"





PICTURES OF ST. PETERS AND PAULS CHURCH These are the pictures that Bob took of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Palos Park when he dropped off an entire van full of the items that had been bought and collected. They were very appreciative of all the time effort and work that went into this event. Thanks to all you had a hand in this endeavor.

4-10-22 Message Outline

"Filled with Joy!"

Psalm 16 says: *You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand...*

1) This Easter, I am filled with the joy of JERUSALEM!

¹⁷ "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. ¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more." Isaiah 65:17-19

2) This Easter, I am filled with the joy of JUBILEE!

¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead! 1 Corinthians 15:19-20a

3) This Easter, I am filled with the joy of JESUS!

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" ⁸ Then they remembered his words. ⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. Luke 24:1-12

"Living Word Preschool"

A NEED FOR OUR PRESCHOOL AGAIN Please try to help us pass the word about our preschool throughout our community. Now that we are past January and the winter semester, 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 last month. Diana has created fliers and registration forms on our website and has sent them out to past VBS and Easter Egg Hunt families. I know most of us don't have any little ones at home, but if you happen to know of anyone who does, please let them know about our website and that they can come and check out the church and classrooms at anytime.



"Stewardship Updates"

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.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT During these very trying and difficult times, like all of us, the offerings for the church have also been suffering and are below the projected budget. Please help us and come to worship so that we can have better attendance totals and that we can reconnect with each other as we worship together. In doing so, we will be able to reach our goals in the attendance achievements for the endowment fund. Thank you as always for keeping us moving forward in these times.

Sharing Information

SHARE OUR POSTS!! Please share our posts with all of your Facebook groups, it's a very small and easy thing to do and the results are so great. Diana has shared her posts on the Easter Basket mission just recently, and we already had 2 people drop off several items and a couple of filled Easter buckets. More importantly, the lady that dropped off the 2 Easter buckets, works at the Evergreen Assisted Living center and had expressed interest in our preschool, plus she seemed very excited in working with us in the future and to help us grow. Diana emailed her back thanking her for the donations and to let her know about the preschool primer that will be the first week of June. I have followed up with her last week to inform her about our Ukraine Collection Event. She responded back wanting to know what type of items that were needed, and she stopped by on Friday and brought some refreshments for the people at the Bible study. This seems to be a very good growth opportunity for us, simply by sharing the posts of the events that we have planned.

"Living Word Early Education Program Summer Primer"

SUMMER PRIMER is back and better than ever. Looking for a preschool, here's a chance to visit our Early Education Program see how much fun your child will have while learning about new and exciting things.



LIVING WORD EARLY EDUCATION SUMMER PROGRAM

Is your child registered for preschool yet?

We still have some spots available for our early education program this coming school year. If you are still looking for a program for your child come check out Living Word's Early Childhood Education Program. Children will see just how much fun they will have in preschool this fall. Space is limited so register at <https://livingwordorland.org/preschool> For questions email us at lwlcmedia@yahoo.com or call 708-403-9673

**When - Tuesday, May 31st - Thursday, June 2nd
From 9:00am-Noon**

**Where- Living Word Lutheran Church
16301 Wolf Road Orland Park**

Cost- \$40 a day

