



Inside this issue:

"God Working With Our Hands"	1
April 2022	2
Celebrations, Stewardship, Contacts	3
Mission of the Month	3
Ways To Help Ukraine	3
Ways to Help Ukraine	4
Living Word Endowment Fund	4
Sharing Information/Bible Studies	5
Preschool	6
Early Education Summer Program	7
Ways To Help Ukraine	8

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
intouchlwc@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 14

April 3, 2022

"God Working With Our Hands"

God's work, our work

For the past few years the Evangelical Lutheran Church has encouraged members to participate in a "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday in September. The church's website explains the purpose of this. *This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.*

The basic idea here, service to benefit our neighbor and awareness that it is God's work that we're doing with that, is undoubtedly good. But reflection on some Facebook conversations about this has made me realize a couple of things. The first is that there's something that we need to watch out for. The second is that we have an opportunity here for a teaching moment in which some important ideas that play a role in theology-science discussions can be conveyed. That thing to watch out for is our ever-present tendency, as sinful human beings, to think that we need to be able to claim some merit for the good works that we've done. It would be especially meritorious if we could do more than is really required. (I remember from college teaching days students asking what they could do for "extra credit" near the end of a term.) That kind of thinking about earning merits was one of the things that brought about the Reformation. We need to remember Jesus' sobering words to his disciples in Luke 17:10. "So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done.'" Is there anything in that statement from the church that I quoted that might encourage people to consider themselves meritorious if they engage in works of service? I guess it depends on how the words "God's work" are understood. "Work" is a noun, and "God's work" can mean the work that God wants to be done, kind of like a To-Do list for us. Then it's up to us to have "our hands" do the tasks on that list. And when the work is done and we're the ones who have done it, surely we ought to get some credit for that. But God is never inactive — "Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light" we sing in one hymn. That's why I chose the title "God working with our hands" for this article. It's not as snappy as "God's work. Our hands" but it conveys unambiguously the idea of God's activity in the work of service that's being done. God is active in everything that takes place in the world. Of course "our hands," and really all of our bodies and minds, are also working. The work won't get done if we don't get busy. But nothing would get done if God weren't working. In fact, we wouldn't even be alive if God weren't working to keep our bodies functioning. God and humans cooperate — they literally "work together."

God's action in the world

That's just one example of what is referred to in discussions of science and theology as the subject of "divine action." Careful study of phenomena show that processes in the physical world fall into definite patterns that scientists try to describe with what they call "scientific laws" — conservation of energy, the laws describing the basic natural forces, and so on. Christian faith says also that God is doing things in the world — providing our "daily bread" and other necessities of life. So how are we to understand that work of "providence" or "continuing creation" together with the activities of bodies and fields and forces that science studies? A number of different ways of thinking about this have been suggested.

APRIL 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	2
3 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship—COMM 11:30 am EASTER EGG HUNT	4	5 10:00 am PUSH	6	7	8 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	9 9am-5pm UKRAINIAN REFUGEE DONATION DRIVE
10 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship PALM SUNDAY	11	12 10:00 am PUSH	13	14	15 GOOD FRIDAY 6:00 pm Tenebrae Service	16
17 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship—COMM EASTER	18	19 10:00 am PUSH 7:00 pm Council Meeting	20	21	22 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	23
24 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	25	26 10:00 am PUSH	27	28	29 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	30

April Celebrations



April 5 Tami Folgers
April 7 Donna Wasilkoff
April 13 Shawn Regan
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

Anniversary



April 27 Cathy & Ed Baidis

Stewardship Snapshot

March 27th

15 Worshipped

2 Watched DVD's

8 Watched Online

25 Total

Financial Support

1,875.00 General Fund Deposit

98.50 For Easter Lilies

152.00 For "He Is Risen" Crosses

1,000.00 For Items For Ukrainian Refugees

20.00 Cash for Easter Basket Items

3,045.50 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.

Contacts

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

Mission of the Month



EASTER BASKET TIME! March is over and Diana will be delivering the Easter baskets to the Village of Orland Park on Monday afternoon. We have surpassed last year's numbers, of course. She was very busy here early last Sunday morning as you can see, lol. She will be delivering 28 baskets filled with all kinds of goodies. You never cease to amaze us as to all of your generosity, thank you to all that contributed one way or another.

UKRAINIAN REFUGEE DONATION DRIVE is our mission of the month for April and is already in full swing here at church, with the \$1,000 donation from last week, 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. He was able to get quite a bit of stuff, the table is full, I think we will need more tables by next Saturday. Thanks Bob doing all of that shopping on Wednesday in that downpour. Ways you can help, we will need more coffee and creamer for Saturday, and of course if anyone wants to bring in goodies or snacks, they would be very much appreciated. Also, if you can help out by greeting people as they come in to drop the items off, that would be great also. By now, you know we have flyers printed out and I have the rubber bands here at church now, so you will be able to pickup everything if you have signed up to pass out flyers in the area. Please let me know what area you will be delivering them to, so we can track and not duplicate all of your hard work. Please see the flyer on the following page for any items that you care to pickup, they need large quantities of each of the items, so no fear as too having too much of one thing or the other.

Ways to Help Ukraine

OTHER WAYS TO HELP As always the Ukrainian refugees need your prayers. Please join us in keeping Ukraine in our prayers. Also, after we have collected the items that have been dropped off here at church, we will need volunteers to deliver the boxes of items to St. Peter and Paul Church in Palos. Please help us help Ukraine in their greatest time of need. Thank you in advance for all of your generosity, and for all of the items and for your time that you have donated.

Ukrainian Refugees need your help! Join us in collecting donations.

Living Word Lutheran Church 16301 Wolf Road Orland Park

Stop by on Saturday, April 9th from 9 am–5pm with
donations and enjoy some light refreshments.
or drop off donations Monday – Friday 9:30 am–1:00pm
Sunday's 9:30 am–11:30am

The Little Church that Cares

Items Needed

Please keep Ukraine in your prayers

- Backpacks 10 x 19 x 14 (approximately size)
- Bandage Strips, 1"x3"
- Big Cinch Abdominal Bandage
- Burn Aid - water gel burn dressing 4x16
- Burn Aid - water gel burn dressing 4x4
- Eye Wash, 4oz
- Medical Adhesive tape rolls (2 - 3" inches)
- Multi Trauma Dressings, 12"x30"
- Pain Relievers - Ibuprofen or Acetaminophen, or both
- Pair of Tweezers

- Safety Pins
- Abdominal pad (sometimes "ab pad"), 5" x 9" (2x)
- Acetaminophen / Tylenol
- Adhesive bandages (Band-Aids) in several sizes
- Adhesive tape
- Antiseptic wipes
- Aspirin / Bayer
- Butterfly bandages, 0.5" x 2.75" (16x)
- Caffeine pills
- Gloves
- Pepto-Bismol pills
- Plastic cling wrap
- White petroleum jelly / Vaseline in small container
- Rolled gauze, standard 4.5" x 4 yards

Living Word Endowment Fund

LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 3/31/2022)

The current value of the fund is \$166,428.95 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$33,353.93. 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	33,353.93
	Dividends and interest	48,094.29
	Total market value	\$166,428.95

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



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. Diana also said that she will follow up with her next Friday letting her know about our Ukraine Collection Event. This seems to be a very good growth opportunity for us, simply by sharing the posts of the events that we have planned.

GOOD FRIDAY TENNEBRAE SERVICE is scheduled at 6:00 pm on April 15th. We will be worshipping in person and it will be livestreamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

KITCHEN ITEMS will need to be replenished in this coming week, most needed item will be coffee and to be on the safe side, creamer too. As always if you would like to donate any goodies, we are always willing to help you eat them, lol.

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. -John 4:35 (NLT)*

One plants and another harvests. Faithful Christians before us have planted, and that seed is now ready to bear fruit. At any moment our witness may be used by the Holy Spirit to open someone's spiritual eyes, resulting in their coming to saving faith in Jesus. The harvest is ready. You are called to harvest spiritual fruit. Pray for the wisdom to see that harvest wherever it is, and to gather the newly faithful into God's kingdom.

Zoom Bible Study

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 April 3rd.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82733414437?pwd=SFM4OXJxUUplLnVJTIREYXdpRTJxdz09>

Meeting ID: 863 2642 4927 Passcode: 425592

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86326424927#,,,425592# US (Chicago)

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

POW (People of the Word) Bible Study has wrapped up their study on the Parables for Lent. 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. They have begun their next study for Lent. "Surrounded By Grace" study last Friday. If you would like to join them, please call Donna or the church, so you can get a book sent out to you. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the Bible study on April 8th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89078809645?pwd=S09JQ0JxVlhHY01RZms1RElxRXI1QT09>

Meeting ID: 890 7880 9645 Passcode: 921330

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89078809645#,,,921330# US (Chicago)

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

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

"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.

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

"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.

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. Even though its only early March, we already have almost 30 kids signed up for it.

"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





ST. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH sent out a posting this week, they are collecting the following items at their church located at 8410 W. 131st Street in Palos Park. You can drop the items off anytime outside their doors. The list includes:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| • First aid kits | Antiseptics | Face Masks | Socks |
| • Over the counter pain relievers | Antibiotics ointments | Eye Protection | Hygiene Items |
| • Kids fever reducer | Bandages | Cold Medicines | Razors |
| • Band aids | Refillable water bottles | Latex Gloves | Female Products |
| • Sleeping bags | Walkie-talkies | Diapers | Gloves |
| • Thermal underwear | Backpacks | Gauze | Flashlights (no batteries) |

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN, Christian based organization has sent this email, if you would like more info, visit FMSC.org.

“The bullets and bombs in Ukraine could **take the global food crisis to levels beyond anything we’ve ever seen before.**”

FMSC is coordinating efforts with our network of partners in Eastern Europe. Already, **1.5 million MannaPack® meals are on their way to Ukraine, as well as Poland, Romania and Moldova.** More than 2 million additional meals have been requested — and the need is growing. FMSC is ready to produce these meals, but we need you to **help fund them.**

It’s easy to feel helpless in the face of humanitarian catastrophe, **but you can take action today.** Here are two things you can do right now to help the people of Ukraine and other crises around the world:

1. Pray: The word “crisis” is an understatement; the attacks in Ukraine will have far-reaching consequences across the globe for years to come. **But Jesus calls us to bring all our burdens before Him — and we know nothing is too big.** Please join us as we pray: For peace and an end to the attacks; For protection for the vulnerable; For open corridors for food and other humanitarian aid

2. Fund meals: Ukrainian refugees are hungry. Critical food shortages are expected to increase in already-vulnerable regions, including the Horn of Africa, Yemen, Afghanistan and Haiti. **Your gifts matter. And because each meal costs just 24 cents each, every dollar counts.**