



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 31, Issue 22

May 29, 2022

## "The Ascension of Our Lord"

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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

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

When it comes to the holy days and festivals of the Church year there is perhaps no greater confusion than over the Ascension of our Lord both in terms of what we are celebrating and why we are celebrating it. We confess the ascension of Christ every Sunday in the words of the both the Apostles' and the Nicene Creed: "And he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father" but no further explanation is really given in either of the creeds, and we are left with more questions than answers concerning Christ's ascension:

- Why didn't he stay?
- Where is he now?
- What is the right hand of God?
- Where is it?
- Does this mean that Christ isn't with us anymore?

These questions are worth exploring from the Bible because they determine how we, as the Church, receive Christ and his benefits on the other side of his death and resurrection.

The appointed readings for the Ascension come from Acts 1, Ephesians 1, and Luke 24, and historically these three sections of Scripture have served as the basis for our confession of the Ascension. From both his Gospel and Acts, we hear Luke's historical retelling of the events after Jesus' resurrection: that Christ appeared to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and also to the Eleven, teaching them, and delivering to them the promise of the Holy Spirit. He says, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem... Behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you" (Luke 24:46-47, 49) and after this he takes them out to Bethany, blesses them, and "while he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven" (Luke 24:51) or as it says in Acts, "he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).

These passages from Luke and Acts help greatly with both the "what?" and the "why?" First, Christ is taken, body and soul, as God and man in one person, and is received into heaven by a cloud. The testimony of the angels in Acts confirms this when they ask the disciples, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus... was taken up from you into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Not only is he in heaven, but Mark 16 and 1 Peter 3 add that Christ is "at the right hand of the Father" which we hear also reflected in our creeds.

The "why?" Luke provides in part, namely, that everything which had to be fulfilled by Jesus in his earthly ministry was fulfilled. It was necessary for Christ to come, die, and rise, and these very things Jesus did and was standing before them live-and-in-person to testify to that fact. The promise of the Holy Spirit or the "promise of my Father" and the preaching of the Gospel play another part in answering why. The giving of the Spirit and the preaching of the Gospel hint that Jesus is not ascending into heaven with the result that he is absent from us or that he is no longer with us. Christ promises at the end of Matthew that he would "be with us always" and this remains true – especially in light of the Ascension.

(Continued on the bottom of Page 7)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		10:00 am PUSH	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship—COMM	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Meeting with Pastor Penikis	<b>7</b> 10:00 am PUSH	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 am PUSH   Flag Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship—COMM  Father's Day	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00 am PUSH   First Day of Summer 7:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	<b>25</b> 10:00am—12 Noon Living Word Early Education Program Open House
<b>26</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 am PUSH	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

## June Celebrations



**June 3** Emily Olund  
**June 11** Dorothy Kohutynski  
**June 12** George Hostert  
**June 12** Faith Michael  
**June 18** Eileen Rhoads  
**June 23** Joe Urbank  
**June 24** Robert Hodo  
**June 24** Bruno Kolb  
**June 26** Joan Gabrielson  
**June 29** Kristi Hartz  
**June 30** Jessica Lyons



*Happy Baptism  
 Birthday!*

**June 1** Diane Chitwood  
**June 1** Sarah Johnson  
**June 1** Nicole Miklos  
**June 15** Bob Grossart  
**June 17** Larry Andorf  
**June 17** Karen Grossart  
**June 20** Paige Hostert  
**June 20** Anne Lyons  
**June 29** George Hostert  
**June 30** Sarah Bonnar

*Anniversary*



**June 2** Bobbi & Gary Pote  
**June 6** Renate & Tom DiGrazia  
**June 8** Bev & Randy Hodo  
**June 11** Rose & Jim McKinney  
**June 17** Nicki & Bob Gabrysiak  
**June 26** Anita & Gary Meier  
**June 30** Deanna & Kurt Meier

## Stewardship Snapshot

**May 22nd**

**17 Worshipped**  
**2 Watched DVD's**  
**14 Watched Online**  
**33 Total**

**Financial Support**  
 1,300.00 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

*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 Early Childhood Education Program

# OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 25th

From 10 am to Noon

Come stop by and see our amazing  
 early childhood education classroom.

Children can come see the classroom  
 and play while Mrs. Diana answers any  
 questions you may have. Registration  
 forms will be available.

**OPEN HOUSE** for the preschool program is scheduled for Saturday, June 25th from 10 to Noon. Come see how much work Mrs. Diana has done over the past couple of weeks in the classrooms. The students are going to have a great year. Please help us pass the information along to anyone you know that have little ones at home. We really need to help her grow the Living Word Early Childhood Education Program. We will be working with local churches that don't have preschools to pass our information to their families. I will also be emailing the churches that do have a preschool that might have a waiting list for their program. If you are able to drop off any goodies for Diana, please let us know, I am always here from 9 to 2 every week day.

## Living Word News

**TRANSITION TEAM** met last Monday with Pastor Croon here at church, and then they have a meeting scheduled for June 6th with Pastor Penikis. They will still continue to work on a few other different ideas and proposals and will have more information for us in the weeks to come.

**GOD'S BLESSINGS TO THE MERCHANTZ FAMILY** on the birth of their son Frederick Adam born on Tuesday, May 24th at 12:06 am. He was 5 pounds, 12 ounces and 20 1/2" long. Please keep Freddy in your prayers as he is still in NICU at Silver Cross Hospital for a possible infection and seeking answers to a couple of issues. May God bless and watch over you Freddy.

**GREETINGS FROM GEORGIA** We received a letter from Carolyn Wagenaar this week. It reads: *"Dear Bev, Wishing you and yours well and always keeping Living Word in prayer and those who work so hard there. Blessings to all and to Pastor Lee. I am doing well and our summers are getting warmer every day. Enclosed find my check for my church giving."* Signed, *Yours in Christ, Carolyn.* The letter is posted on the bulletin board next to the office. Thank you Carolyn, we all miss you and we're happy to hear that you are doing well. You will always be in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers.

## Sharing Information

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *"For I [Jesus] have come to you in my Father's name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them."* - John 5:43 (NLT)

The truth about our relationship to Christ is wrapped up in the question, "Who's in charge?" Who is in charge of your life? If it's you, if it's your friends' opinion, if it's your political or cultural group's expectations, if it's anyone other than Jesus Christ, then it's time to surrender to God's will. It's time to acknowledge the Lordship, not just the wisdom, of Jesus Christ.

**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 created an ad on Facebook for our preschool, if at all possible, please start sharing the updated information for the three different week day options for preschool and for the two different weeks that she is offering for the preschool summer primer. The same day she had created the ad on Facebook, she had already received comments and questions about the preschool, this should be a great way to reach more people.

## Something to Consider—Church!

**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 pray by laying hands on the hurting. 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



**REDEEMING LIFE OUTREACH MINISTRIES** is the Mission of the Month for May again this year in honor of Mother's Day! 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. The home and property that they were opening in Carpentersville in the Northern Illinois District (NID) last year fell through. Just last week, their update was that they were trying real hard to get a property and home in East Dundee. We just received their latest letter from them last week. All their prayers were answered, Immanuel Lutheran approved their offer to purchase the property. Please join me in keeping them in your prayers. 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, they walk alongside the 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.

### *"Sunday Zoom Bible Study Classes"*

**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 May 29th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81964893646?pwd=VHZvK0RHQjdnSk1GOFpNbno4dHRNdz09>

Meeting ID: 819 6489 3646 Passcode: 384435

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81964893646#,,,,\*384435# US (Chicago)

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

### *"Friday Zoom Bible Study Classes"*

**POW (People of the Word) Bible Study** will have 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 as they start new studies. Not only will you gain some insight with these bible study classes, but you will have fun doing so at the same time. Last Friday, they had resumed their study on the Parables. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the Bible study on June 3rd.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81526264225?pwd=MU9QYi9WMUxES3BqektrUVQ1WU1lZz09>

Meeting ID: 815 2626 4225 Passcode: 000052

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81526264225#,,,,\*000052# US (Chicago)

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

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

## 5-29-22 Message Outline

### “King Over All”

Psalm 47 says: “For the Lord Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.” Our ascended King gives me power...

#### 1) Our ascended King gives me power to **PROCLAIM**.

[Jesus said] <sup>8</sup> “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.  
Acts 1:8-9

#### 2) Our ascended King gives me power to **PRAY**.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 1:15-20

#### 3) Our ascended King gives me power to **PRAISE**.

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

<sup>46</sup> He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” <sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Luke 24:44-53

### “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. 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 May, we already have over 30 kids signed up for it already, and we have 8 student volunteers as well.

## "New Updates on Living Word Preschool"

**A NEED FOR OUR PRESCHOOL AGAIN** Please pass the word about our preschool throughout our community. Now that we are heading into summer, we need to fill our church with the little ones and teach them the love and knowledge of Jesus and prepare them for kindergarten. Diana is planning an open house on June 25th, so the kids can see the classroom again and meet Mrs. Diana. We already have a few more interested and saying that they want to come back. Diana has created a new flyer and registration form on our website. We've added more options for families, there is a 2, 3 and 5 day program for preschool. 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 visit the church and classrooms.

### LIVING WORD LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

## Registration is open!

Offering both a 5 day program  
with a 3 or 2 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

## "The Ascension of Our Lord"

(Continued from Page 1)

Ephesians 1 and 4 help further clarify what Luke hints at saying that Christ "ascended up far above all heavens, that He might *fill* all things" and that God "set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places" to have "power, and might, and dominion" so that "all things are under his feet." Paul confesses that Christ's Ascension is not Christ's absence, but real presence. Because of Christ's ascent to the right hand of God he is not constrained to one place, but is, as God and man, filling all things. In light of these verses, we confess the right hand of God, not to be a seat of rest, locally fixed in heaven, but Christ's authority *over* all creation *in* all creation. His authority is everywhere. Even though Christ is "out of sight" as it says in Acts, Christ is yet present, and not only in power, but physically in his body and blood in the Lord's Supper. As a person, God and man, Christ was crucified, dead, and buried, and as a person, God and man, Christ ascended into heaven and is therefore present for you today as a person, God and man, concretely, tangibly, and physically. In this there is no greater comfort and glory for God. Because of Christ's Ascension, Christ himself absolves me of my sins through the mouth of a pastor. Because of Christ's Ascension, Christ himself has baptized me and made me his own. Because of Christ's Ascension, Christ himself serves me at the table with his very own body and blood for the forgiveness of my sins. And because of Christ's Ascension, the ruler of this world has been cast out and Christ alone reigns in glory over all creation.



## 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](mailto:lwlcmedia@yahoo.com) or call 708-403-9673

When - Tuesday, August 2nd -Thursday, August 4th.  
From 9:00am-Noon

Where- Living Word Lutheran Church  
16301 Wolf Road Orland Park  
Cost- \$40 a day

