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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  
intouchlwlw@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 23

June 5, 2022

## "Three Reasons to Celebrate Pentecost"

Why is Pentecost important for us?

### 1. Pentecost fulfills Jesus's promise to never forsake his own.

As painful as the parting at the ascension might have been, Jesus assured the disciples that it was to their advantage that he would go away, "for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. . . . When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (John 16:7, 13-14)

The fulfillment of the promise of Jesus was the outpouring of the gift of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and, as Peter proclaimed, on *all* of God's people in this new era (Acts 2:38). The promises of the new covenant are ours through the indwelling Spirit (Jeremiah 31:33ff; Ezekiel 36:26ff). Jesus did not end his work on earth with the ascension — he continues it now through his Spirit-indwelt church. We, therefore, can take fresh courage in Jesus's words, "Behold, I will be with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

### 2. Pentecost launches the global proclamation of the gospel.

Jesus's death at Passover and his mighty resurrection three days later signaled the "firstfruit" of God's victory over sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:20-24). Jesus had accomplished everything necessary for the gospel to run and triumph (Hebrews 2:14-15; cf. Revelation 20:1-3) and the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost signals that the greater harvest has begun. The three thousand souls added to the church on Pentecost hailed from all corners of the Roman world. They, in turn, would carry the gospel to their families and communities. The narrative arc of Acts follows the Spirit-indwelt disciples as they carry the gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). *You heard about Easter because of Pentecost.* The fields are white with harvest and, as part of the church of the risen Christ, we too can "go, therefore, and make disciples" (Matthew 28:18).

### 3. Pentecost signals the coming of fuller restoration and a greater celebration.

At Pentecost, Peter proclaims that the prophecy of Joel 2:28-31 has come to pass. Intriguingly, this prophecy of the eschatological gift of the Spirit comes immediately after another striking promise from God in Joel 2:25-27:

I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

While Jesus's reign is secure and eternal, it has yet to come to its fullest expression on the earth. While death has been decisively defeated, it has yet to be put to a final end (1 Corinthians 15:24-26). Paul reminds us that creation longs for its final restoration and that even we ourselves, who "have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies" (Romans 8:23).




Pentecost is a pointer that history is inexorably moving towards the restoration of all things. The bridegroom has come; his bride is making herself ready. We await the greatest celebration of all. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." (Revelation 19:9)

# This Week at Living Word

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>5</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship—COMM	<b>6</b> 6:00 pm First Softball Game vs. Good Shepherd at Centennial Park –Field #5 6:30 pm Meeting with Pastor Penikis	<b>7</b> 10:00 am PUSH	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:30 pm Softball Game vs. Christ at Centennial Park –Field #8	<b>10</b> 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	<b>11</b>

## June Celebrations

		
<b>June 3</b> Emily Olund <b>June 11</b> Dorothy Kohutynski <b>June 12</b> George Hostert <b>June 12</b> Faith Michael	<b>June 1</b> Diane Chitwood <b>June 1</b> Sarah Johnson <b>June 1</b> Nicole Miklos <b>June 15</b> Bob Grossart	<b>June 6</b> Renate & Tom DiGrazia <b>June 8</b> Bev & Randy Hodo <b>June 11</b> Rose & Jim McKinney

## Stewardship Snapshot

**May 29th**

**21 Worshipped**

**11 Watched Online**

**32 Total**

**Financial Support**

3,815.00 General Offering

370.00 Mission of the Month (RLOM)

4,185.00 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.

### 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

## LIVING WORD ENDOWMENT FUND (as of 5/31/2022)

The current value of the fund is \$158,532.18 invested in Thrivent funds. Current market value exceeds cost of investments by \$25,260.10. Since inception (10/12/05), the Fund has earned interest and dividends totaling \$48,291.35. Of this, \$24,145.68 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	25,260.10
	<u>Dividends and interest</u>	<u>48,291.35</u>
	<b>Total market value</b>	<b>\$158,532.18</b>

### 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



**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. Our Open House is on June 25th, the kids can see the classrooms 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 are offering 2 or 3 day program for preschool. 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 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

### 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 week with Pastor Croon here at church, and then they have a meeting scheduled for this Monday, 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. Both Freddy and his Mom came home from the hospital last Friday. Bill and Abby want to thank all of us for our prayers

**MAY'S MISSION OF THE MOINTH** was Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries and through your very generous donations, we collected a total of \$370.00 for their new maternity home in East Dundee, Illinois. Thank you for your care and concern for the single pregnant women that will receive guidance in this new home.

**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. Now that its just over a month away, we already have over 30 kids signed up for it already, and we have 8 student volunteers.

### Sharing Information

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!" When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself. - John 6:14-15 (NLT)*

God faithfully provides for our needs, in both ordinary and miraculous ways. But even though we might experience the power of God, do we want to follow His wisdom as to what to do with that power? May we ever keep our hearts tuned to God's leading, and never start believing we can make God do what we want, rather than seeking to do what He wants.

**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!



## "On Level Ground"

Psalm 143 says: "My spirit fails... may your good Spirit lead me on level ground." The Spirit does indeed lead us on level ground...

### 1) *The Spirit points me to the Lord's PLAN.*

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. <sup>2</sup> As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup> They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. <sup>4</sup> Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." <sup>5</sup> But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. <sup>6</sup> The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup> Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." <sup>8</sup> So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world.

Genesis 11:1-9a

### 2) *The Spirit fills me with His POWER.*

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:1-4

### 3) *The Spirit calms me with Christ's PEACE.*

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. <sup>25</sup> "All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:23-27

## "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. 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 June 5th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82440211937?pwd=SIJCRVhxQjFyV0VCWUdETFhZaXIDZz09>

Meeting ID: 824 4021 1937    Passcode: 306509

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82440211937#,,,,\*306509# US (Chicago)

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

## "Friday Zoom Bible Study Classes"

**POW (People of the Word) Parables 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. Next Friday will be the last class, till August 12th. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the Bible study on June 10th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85102026519?pwd=OVpicFNUWGhpS1Nrd3F6emJrOEVOUT09>

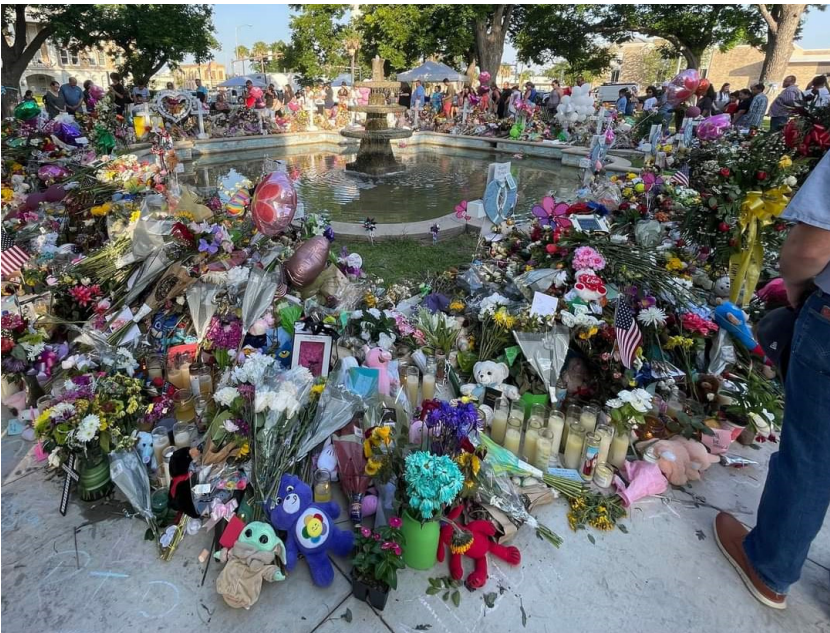
Meeting ID: 851 0202 6519    Passcode: 422071

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85102026519#,,,,\*422071# US (Chicago)

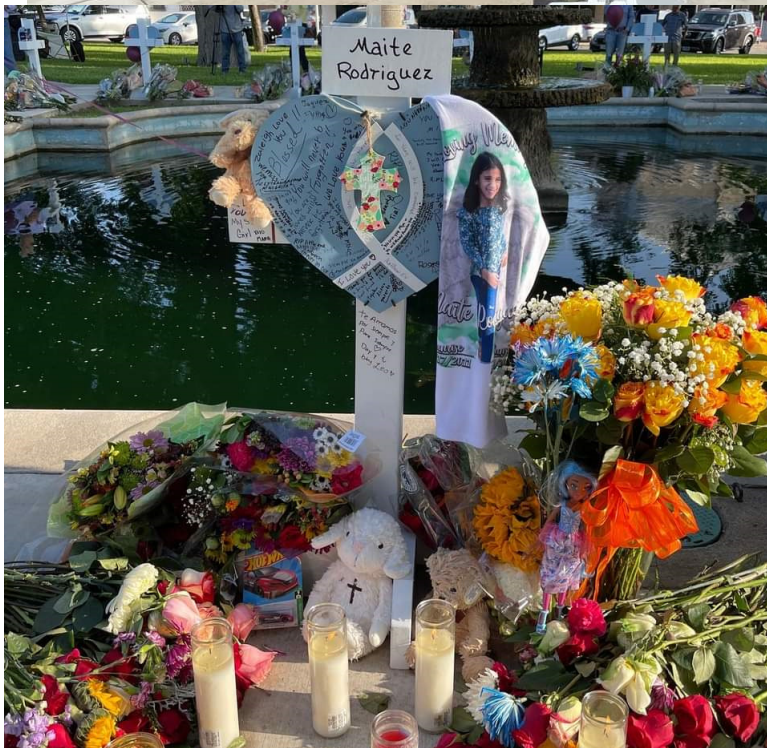
Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)





**JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH** is the Lutheran Church Charities. Their Hearts of Mercy & Compassion Crosses for Losses Ministry went to Uvalde, TX this past week. They brought with them 21 crosses, one for each victim in the massacre. There are pictures and a message from their Facebook page on this page and the next page.

*"As you can see, the town square in Uvalde, TX has become a gathering place for the entire community to mourn together. We have seen the crosses transform into representations of each victim. Each cross is overflowing with flowers, candles, balloons, favorite toys and messages from loved ones. The wood has truly come to life. Thank you to our donors and hard working volunteers for making this possible. We pray that this town square continues to be a place full of love and reflection for all who visit."*





## Mission of the Month

**LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARITIES** will be our mission of the month for June. They provide several different ministries all around the country, below are the many amazing features of this wonderful organization. Their mission is to share the mercy, compassion presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need. They were headquartered in Addison, IL and now currently in Northbrook. LCC was founded in 1947 as a nonprofit ministry to help support Christian human care ministries of the Church. They work throughout the United States and internationally. Every dollar given for a cause goes directly to that cause or need. Their ministries are listed below and on our website:

LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry was launched in August of 2008, and it is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ. They serve everyday in the community in which they are placed in times of disaster and crisis to bring comfort to all those affected, including first responders and the volunteers who serve them.



LCC Kare 9 Military Ministry is a ministry by veterans for veterans. They strive to serve our military veterans and their families. The Kare-9 Military Ministry dogs and their trained veteran handlers visit many places including VFWs, VA hospitals, Traumatic Brain Injury Care Centers, homes of veterans that are home bound, Expos, Vet Clinics and various other activities to help spread the mercy and compassion.

LCC K-9 Police Ministry handlers are law enforcement officers (current and former) who understand the unique challenges facing the law enforcement community. They bring the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who protect and serve, as well as their families. Crisis Response serves the law enforcement and family members in their time of need, by providing comfort following injuries, deaths or major incidents. Ongoing Support is the K-9 visits (headquarters, substations and dispatch centers), provides assistance with department missions such as Christmas shopping with children, summer camps and public events, comforting crime victims prior to interviews, counseling or courtroom testimonies, and general support for department members and their families.



LCC Disaster Response Ministries coordinates deployment of trained volunteers for Disaster Response. When disasters strike; lives, homes, businesses, churches and more are affected. LCC L.E.R.T. volunteers respond quickly to serve people affected by a disaster. LCC teams are trained to work through local churches to serve their communities. LCC Disaster Response provides on-site and online Lutheran Early Response Team (L.E.R.T.) basic training. Additional training includes expertise in the area of chainsaw, heavy equipment, debris removal, flood recovery, and emotional and spiritual care.

LCC Human Care Ministries work with pastors and congregations to pass through donor financial assistance, in-kind donations, volunteer people resources, emotional or or spiritual support.

Hearts of Mercy and Compassion (HMC), Crosses for Losses provides a physical and spiritual symbol through the giving of hearts and crosses to families and friends who have suffered a loss or are experiencing the illness of a loved one. An HMC can also be given to celebrate a victory, honor service, as an expression of love, or to be an encouragement in the face of adversity. Given as a gift, each HMC provides the love and hope of Jesus through presence and prayer. Upon request, LCC, working through churches, can provide an HMC at no charge.



Other LCC ministries include international and domestic ministries, church worker support, WORD Bible Studies, Congregational Preparedness, and support for passion though needs and causes.

Your support in these very worthy causes is much appreciated, as we always say here, we might be small, but we sure are mighty. We are definitely "The Little Church that Cares"



## 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**

