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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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Orland Park, IL 60467

708-403-9673
livingwordorland.org
intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:15 am Adult study
10:00 am Worship

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 32, Issue 14 April 2, 2023

"Journey to the Foot of the Cross—10 Things to Remember"

Remember the formula. The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.

It's a time of prayer. Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.

It's a time to fast. With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Christians these days actually fast. And maybe that's why it gets all the attention. "What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?" It's almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.

It's a time to work on discipline. The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. "I'm going to exercise more. I'm going to pray more. I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers."

It's about dying to yourself. The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control – it's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.

Don't do too much. It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. There's a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don't try to cram it all in one Lent. That's a recipe for failure.

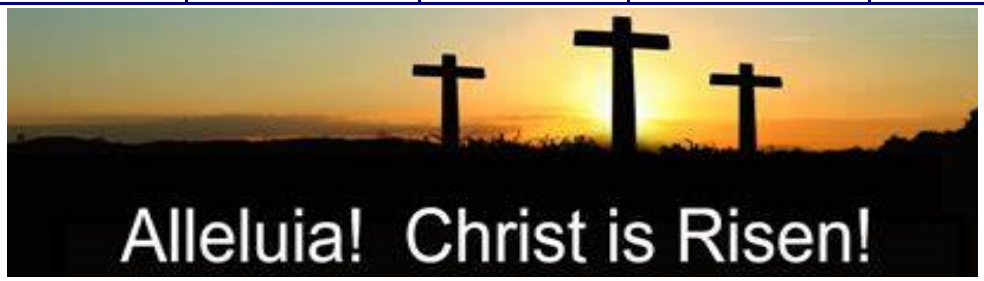
Lent reminds us of our weakness. Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we're all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity.

Be patient with yourself. When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. "What a bad person I am!" But that's the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.

Reach out in charity. As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It's about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it's about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.

Learn to love like Christ. Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship-COMM Palm Sunday 	3 6:00pm Meeting with Pastor Arthur	4 Election Day No Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	5 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool Resumes	6 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	7 6:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service 	8
9 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Easter 	10 6:00pm Meeting with Pastor Hurst	11 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	12 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	13 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 6:00pm Meeting with Pastor Schwarz	14	15
16 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship-COMM 12:00pm Preschool Open House	17	18 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	19 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	20 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting	21	22
23 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship	24	25 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	26 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	27 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	28	29
30 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship						

April Celebrations

Apr 5	Tami Folgers
Apr 7	Donna Wasilkoff
Apr 21	Jay Gabrielson
Apr 25	Peter Wasilkoff
Apr 27	Karen Grossart
Apr 28	Lara Wasilkoff

Apr 14	Alissa DiGrazia
Apr 22	Catie Lyons
Apr 28	Nicholas Bonnar
Apr 28	David Holloway
Apr 29	Tiffanie West

Happy Anniversary

Apr 27 Ed & Cathy Baids

Church 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

Stewardship Snapshot

March 26th

22 Worshipped
11 Watched Online
33 Total

Financial Support

$1,215.00 General Fund Deposit
$70.00 Sunday School Account (From Easter Eggs)
$140.00 (Mission of the Month (OPPD)
$1,425.00 Total Deposit

$85.00 from the Easter Egg Collection was used for Easter Basket Items

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.

Devotional Time

Opportunities to Connect with God

PUSH PRAYER meets every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. to pray for our church, community and world. We welcome requests (call 708-403-9673) or visit our website to send in your prayer request, or join us for 30-40 minutes each week.

RADIO & TV OPPORTUNITIES

- **Worship Anew—**8:00 a.m. Sunday - Comcast channel 184 (TLN) & 8 (SD) , WPWR channel 50, AT&T U-verse channel 1008 (HD) & 8 (SD), Dish Network # 8495; 10:30 a.m. Sunday - DIRECTV channel 377 (TCT)
- **The Lutheran Hour** 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays on 1230 AM; and 9:30 a.m. Sundays on 1580 AM

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *Jesus shouted to the crowds, "If you trust me, you are trusting not only me, but also God who sent me. For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me. I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark." - John 12:44-46 (NLT)*

Jesus is not just an enlightened human teacher. He is God incarnate, God in human form. His life and death have accomplished everything needed for our salvation; we have only to trust rather than reject Him. As a light in the darkness of our sinful world, He enables us to proceed safely through this life to the next.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS is every Sunday morning at 9:15am in the conference room. Join Pastor Lee, Pastor John and the others as they review the Word of the our Lord.

Mission of the Month

EASTER BASKETS were delivered to the Village on Tuesday. They were so amazed that we have outdone ourselves once again. Thank you to all who had donated all the items for Diana to stuff 30 Easter baskets. The Easter bunny will be making a lot of children very happy next Sunday.

LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARITIES will be the mission of the month for April. I will have more information about LCC in the newsletter next week. Even though we are very familiar with all the work they do and how compassionately they use the Word to comfort and console others, LCC is always expanding their mercy and good work in many different ways, from helping clean up after natural disasters to comforting those who have suffered and endured tremendous losses. The logos below and on the following page represent just some of the work that LCC does, including the following information from their newsletter this week.

On Monday, March 27, three young students and three adults were killed and all those present were traumatized after a twenty-eight year old former student entered **The Covenant School, an elementary school ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee,** and began shooting until fatally wounded by Metro Nashville Police. We pray for and grieve with the families of those killed: **students Evelyn Dieckhaus (9), Hallie Scruggs (9), William Kinney (9), and Cynthia Peak (61), Dr. Katherine Koonce (60) Head of School, and Mike Hill (61).**
The same afternoon, Lutheran Church Charities was invited by **Pastor Lane Reuter, senior pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church & Academy in Nashville, Tennessee**, to bring the LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs and Hearts of Mercy & Compassion, Crosses for Losses, to the shocked and hurting community that has been greatly impacted by this horrific event.
Bonnie Fear, LCC K-9 Crisis Response Coordinator, and the following LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry teams will arrive today to be with families, survivors, and all of the first responders who serve them:
LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs Hope (Faith – Marietta, Georgia), Job (Christ the King – Memphis, Tennessee), Magdalene (Cornerstone – Carmel, Indiana), Mercy (Our Savior – Louisville, Kentucky), Naomi (Holy Cross – Indianapolis, Indiana), and Zillah (Immanuel – St. Charles, Missouri) and their handlers will be present to listen to those who are grieving, bringing them comfort, love, friendship, hope and prayer. The hearts/crosses will be placed at the designated memorial site for people to sign and leave condolence messages, pray, and pay their respects in honor of the six lives lost.

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 places 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 (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.

Mission of the Month

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 though 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 Church that Cares"

Preschool News

OUR PRESCHOOL STUDENTS are on their spring break this week, and will be off on Tuesday since that is election day. When they return they will be learning all about community helpers this month. We are very excited about the special guests that we will seeing, Fireman Mike will be here on April 6th with his fire truck, he is the father of one of the preschoolers. Later in the month we will have a visit from Officer Shawn Walsh from the Orland Park Police Department, he will of course be driving his squad car here for the kids. Ms. Diana will teach them all about being a chef and we will get to see Sheri Greci as she will be teaching the students all about being a dentist and oral hygiene. And through all of this, they will of course be getting ready for graduation and practicing their songs that they will be performing for us on May 21st.

VBS 2023

VBS 2023 will be out of this world. She had only posted this flyer a few weeks ago and we already have over 30 kids signed up for it. She already placed her order for the different items that are needed, and they came in last week. It will be a good month or two before we will get a supply list that is needed and we will have a more definite number of kids that will be registered by then. We are also always on the lookout for volunteers for that week also, it doesn't have to be the whole week, but if you have a little time to spare on a given day, just let Diana know.

"Rejected or Received?"

Psalm 118 says: *"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."* Do you reject or receive Christ, our Cornerstone…?

1) Do I condemn the Cornerstone or my CORRUPTION?

4 The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He
wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. 5 The Sovereign Lord has opened
my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. 6 I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to
those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. 7 Because the Sovereign Lord
helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. 8 He
who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let
him confront me! 9 It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me. Who will condemn me? Isaiah 50:4-9a

2) Do I commit to my own considerations or CHRIST'S?

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by
taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he
humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest
place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven
and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the
Father. Philippians 2:5-11

3) Do I comprehend only my culture or true CHRISTIANITY?

12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to
Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" 14 Jesus found a young donkey
and sat on it, as it is written: 15 "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a
donkey's colt." 16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did
they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to
him. 17 Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from
the dead continued to spread the word. 18 Many people, because they had heard that he had
performed this sign, went out to meet him. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is
getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!" John 12:12-19

Living Word News

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATES: The team met with Pastor Schauer on Tuesday afternoon, he had the information from the district for the pastor who was recommended to us from Pastor Johnson. Plus he also had another list of names and the information from the district for another call list. They will be meeting with Pastor Arthur from Louisiana on Monday evening, they also have meetings scheduled with 2 other pastors the following week. Please join me in keeping the team and the process in our prayers, we appreciate all the work and concern that they have been putting into this ongoing procedure for us.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE will be this Friday, the 7th at 6:00pm. We will be in person of course and livestream. We look forward to seeing you at church to celebrate Holy week.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION:
Wolf Road will be closed between 183rd Street and 187th Street will be closed again this spring and summer. The detour signs have already been posted on Wolf Road, they will be replacing the bridge crossing I-80.