



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 32, Issue 20

May 14, 2023

"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

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

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

Ascension, in Christian belief, the ascent of Jesus Christ into heaven on the 40th day after his Resurrection (Easter being reckoned as the first day). The Feast of the Ascension ranks with Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost in the universality of its observance among Christians. The feast has been celebrated 40 days after Easter in both Eastern and Western Christianity since the 4th century. Prior to that time, the Ascension was commemorated as a part of the celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The meaning of the Ascension for Christians is derived from their belief in the glorification and exaltation of Jesus following his death and Resurrection, as well as from the theme of his return to God the Father. Thus, the Gospel According to John uses both the sayings of Jesus and his post-Resurrection appearances to indicate a new relationship between Jesus and his Father and between him and his followers, rather than a simple physical relocation from earth to heaven.

According to the first chapter of The Acts of the Apostles, after appearing to the Apostles on various occasions during a period of 40 days, Jesus was taken up in their presence and was then hidden from them by a cloud, a frequent biblical image signifying the presence of God. Although belief in the Ascension is apparent in other books of the New Testament, the emphasis and the imagery differ. In the Gospel According to John, the glorification described by the Ascension story seems to have taken place immediately after the Resurrection. The imagery of the account in the Gospel According to Luke is similar to that of Acts, but there is no mention of a period of 40 days. The Ascension of Jesus is mentioned in the Apostles' Creed, a profession of faith used for baptism in the early church.

A distinctive feature of the feast's liturgy in the Western churches is the extinguishing of the Paschal candle, first lit on Easter, after the Gospel has been read, as a symbol of Christ's leaving the earth. Despite the idea of separation indicated in this act, which might be expected to set a note of sadness, the whole liturgy of Ascensiontide, through the 10 days to Pentecost, is marked by joy in the final triumph of the risen Lord. One of the central themes of the feast is the kingship of Christ, and the theological implication is that the Ascension was the final redemptive act conferring participation in the divine life on all who are members of Christ. In other words, Christ "was lifted up into heaven so that he might make us partakers of his Godhead."

In the European Middle Ages the people's delight in the visual and dramatic found an outlet in various ritual practices that came to be associated with the feast. Popular customs included a procession in imitation of Christ's journey with his Apostles to the Mount of Olives, as well as the raising of a crucifix or a statue of the risen Christ through an opening in the church roof.

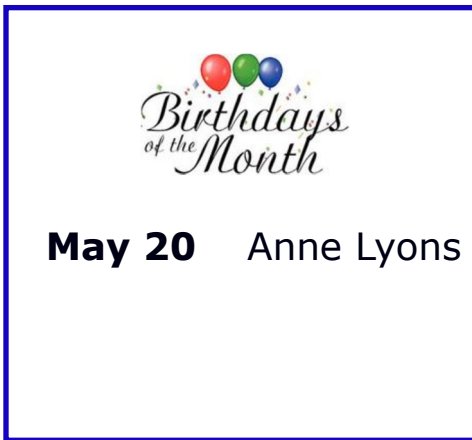
In Christian art the Ascension is an old theme, appearing since the 5th century. The earliest version of the Ascension, which persisted in the West until the 11th century, shows Christ from the side, climbing to the top of the hill and grasping the hand of God, which emerges from a cloud above to pull him into heaven. The Apostles, assembled below, watch the event. In the 6th century a different version of the Ascension was developed in Syria and was later adopted in Byzantine art. This version emphasizes Christ's divinity, showing him frontally, standing immobile in a mandorla, or almond-shaped aureole, elevated above the earth and supported by angels. He holds a scroll and makes a gesture of benediction. A curious detail of this version is the regular inclusion of the Virgin Mary, who is not mentioned in the biblical account of the event, and St. Paul, who, on historical grounds, was not present. The inclusion of these figures has not been adequately explained, but they may represent, with the figure of St. Peter, an allegory of the church that Christ leaves behind. This type of Ascension, which follows the Roman tradition of representing the apotheosis of an emperor, often figured prominently in the monumental decoration of Byzantine churches as the emblem of one of the principal church feast days.

This Week at Living Word

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Mother's Day 	15 9:30am-11:00am Tot Time 	16 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	17 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	18 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool Last Day of Pre-school	19	20

May Celebrations



Stewardship Snapshot

May 7th

28 Worshipped, 26 Communed

11 Watched Online

39 Total

Financial Support

\$4,058.00 General Fund Deposit

\$500.00 Donation from The Aileen S. Andrew Foundation

\$200.00 VBS Designated Fund Donation

\$4,758.00 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.

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

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.

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK [Jesus said] "You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father." - John 14:13 (NLT)

This is an amazing promise, and the reason we often end our prayers with "in Jesus' name." But the "so that..." is key. We are to ask for things that will bring glory to the Father, just as Jesus did when He was on earth. Jesus promises to do His works through us as we seek to do works that are in conformity with His will.

TOT TIME is Monday, the 15th from 930 to 11:00. The theme will be springtime flowers and bugs. Diana will have story time and a craft for them to do. This will be the last Tot Time till the fall semester begins.



TOT TIME


Preschool News

OUR PRESCHOOL STUDENTS are wrapping up the school year. They have been busy making Mother's Day crafts and Father's Day gifts. They have been getting very excited about the Graduation/Moving Up Program for next Sunday. Here are some pictures from this week.



Class of 2023—Callie, Teddy, Jackson, Ryan, Gabriella, Arianna, & Mrs. Diana

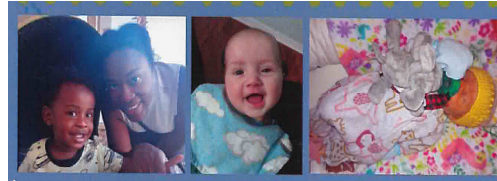




DAYS LIKE THIS
BRING THOUGHTS OF *you*
& WITH EACH *thought*,
A *prayer*
THAT *God* WILL bless YOU
DAY BY DAY
AND KEEP YOU
IN *His* CARE.

*Happy
Mother's
Day*

MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH will be Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries in honor of Mother's Day of course. Here is the newest member of their family. It is so enriching to see how RLOM can help women in their greatest time of need and to ensure the babies have a chance to be baptized and have a brighter future than what they may have. Please join with me in keeping them in our prayers for a very healthy and God like future. I will have more information regarding their new Illinois home in East Dundee. They have been working real hard in renovating the property. They just recently had their Advocates Meeting this past week, spreading awareness of the renovations for their new maternity home. Hopefully we will not be the only ones helping them with their goals. It will be so beneficial to women in Illinois to have a safe haven for them and their children. You can see the progress they are making, they still have a long way to go, plus they are still running into permitting issues for the renovations. There's another way you can donate and help support this mission, check out the bulletin board for more information on the Redeeming Life wear that they are selling. It not only goes to a good cause, but it helps spread awareness for their organization. So you can definitely see what a positive impact



your support for Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries can make for these women and their babies. RLOM gives these women a better and safe option to raise their babies in a Christian environment with support from other women going through the same situation.

IL Expansion Update

Demolition on the new East Dundee maternity home is nearly complete! We are so thankful for everyone's prayers and support as this project continues this spring.

This home is being transformed from a 3 bedroom mid century ranch home into a maternity home with four resident rooms, a live-in residential manager suite, and an open floorplan for community living.

If you or your group want to learn more about sponsoring a room, please email info@rlom.org

Advocate Update

To build support for Redeeming Life, we started an advocate group with the expansion project in Illinois. This is a group of dedicated advocates who stepped up to share the story of our ministry in their home congregations, schools and neighborhoods. This amazing group does everything from presentations to fundraisers to grant writing and we are so thankful for their efforts. This group has been so successful we are starting the same program in Florida and Georgia. Learn more at rlom.org/get-involved.



“Ascended”

Psalm 47 says: “*God has ascended.*” What does this mean...?

1) God took Jesus UP TO HEAVEN.

⁸ “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.” ⁹ After [Jesus] said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:8-11

2) God seated Christ at His right hand ABOVE ALL THINGS.

¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit^l of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:16-23

3) We proclaim Jesus’ name with power FROM ON HIGH!

⁴⁴ 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.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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. ⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. Luke 24:44-53

VBS 2023

VBS 2023 will be out of this world. She had only posted her flyer early last month and we already have almost 40 kids signed up for it. There have been several teen volunteers already that has contacted her. 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.

