



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 33, Issue 13 *"The Miracle of Miracles"* March 31, 2024

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The miracle of the resurrection is the miracle of all miracles. There was none greater and there will be none greater. It is not a miracle by Jesus but a miracle of Jesus. The miracle was the work of God the Father: "whom God raised from the dead." The whole Christian religion stands or falls on the reality of the resurrection. In *On Being a Christian* Hans Kung wrote, "Without Easter there is no Gospel, not a single narrative, not a letter in the New Testament. Without Easter there is no faith, no proclamation, no worship, no mission in Christendom." Because of the resurrection, Christians worship Jesus as Lord, Son of God, Savior. His rising from the dead confirmed what he said about himself: "The Father and I are one." Because he rose, the cross was not a martyr's death for a good cause but was the atonement for the sins of the world. "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself." Because he lives, the church turned the sabbath from Saturday to Sunday to celebrate the resurrection. Each Sunday the church observes the miracle of the resurrection. Because he rose and ascended to his Father, we have the Holy Spirit and look forward to his return for the ultimate victory over the world. In the light of the resurrection, we live with assurance that life is stronger than death, love greater than hatred, and goodness than evil. By his resurrection Jesus conquered humanity's last and greatest enemy, death. Because of the infinite importance of the resurrection, we need to be sure that it really and truly happened. Was the resurrection historically true or the wishful thinking of the disciples who passed on the idea to later generations? Is the resurrection a reality or an ideology? Did he physically rise or does he live only in the minds of his followers? Is he alive only because I believe he is alive? With these questions in mind, we take a fresh look at the Easter story. Hopefully we will come to the conclusion of Mary Magdalene, "I have seen the Lord."

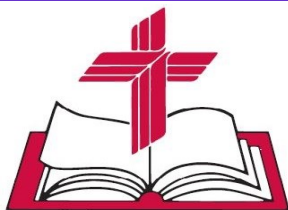
The Situation

Before the sun came up on Easter Sunday morning, several women including Mary Magdalene came to the tomb where Jesus was laid. Mary Magdalene was shocked to find the stone in front of the tomb removed and the tomb empty. At once she ran to tell Peter and John. In response, the two men ran to the tomb. John outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He looked in and saw the grave clothes but did not enter the tomb. However, Peter went into the tomb and also saw the clothing. Having inspected the tomb, the two men returned to their homes. However, Mary Magdalene remained at the tomb and was weeping. Two angels asked her why she was weeping. She explained that the body of Jesus was taken and she did not know where it was. Then Jesus appeared and asked her the same question. Thinking he was the gardener, she asked him where he put the body so that she could take care of it. Jesus then revealed himself to her by saying her name, "Mary." At once she recognized him and embraced him. He told her not to hold on to him because he had to return to his Father in heaven. He instructed her to tell the disciples that he was alive. She did just that! She rushed to the disciples to tell them she saw Jesus and related to them her conversation with the risen Christ.

The Setting

In addition to appearing to Mary Magdalene, the risen Christ appears twice to the assembled disciples. Chapter 20, according to scholars, is the final chapter of John's gospel. Chapter 21 is considered an appendix. He tells the story from his own perspective according to his theology. He has one purpose in mind: to convince his readers that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God so that they might have life. John's account of the Easter event shows that the resurrection was a totally unexpected event. The women and disciples were totally surprised to learn of Jesus' rising from death. They went to the tomb only to care for a dead body. Not only did they find an empty tomb but a living presence. This unexpected experience proves that the resurrection was not a cunningly devised fable or myth or the result of wishful thinking. They know Jesus was alive because historically, realistically, factually the risen Jesus was encountered.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS
 Eleanor Galik
 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
 livingwordorland.org
 intouchlwlcc@yahoo.com
 CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
 Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm
 SUNDAY SCHEDULE
 9:15 am Adult study

April 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Easter 	1	2 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	3 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	4 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	5	6
7 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service	8	9 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	10 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	11 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	12	13 11:00am—12:30pm Preschool Open House 
14 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	15	16 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	17 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 12:00pm Call Committee Meeting	18 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting	19	20
21 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Communion Worship Service	22	23 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	24 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	25 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	26 New Security System Installed	27
28 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	29 New Security System Installed	30 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer				

April Celebrations

 <p>Apr 7 Donna Wasilkoff Apr 21 Jay Gabrielson Apr 25 Peter Wasilkoff Apr 27 Karen Grossart Apr 28 Lara Wasilkoff</p>	 <p>Apr 14 Alissa DiGrazia Apr 28 Nicholas Bonnar Apr 28 David Holloway Apr 29 Tiffanie West</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Happy Anniversary</i></p>  <p>Apr 27 Ed & Cathy Baid</p>
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Stewardship Snapshot

<p>Church Contacts <i>intouchlwc@yahoo.com</i> Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel <i>dianamotel@yahoo.com</i></p> <p><u>Leadership Team</u> Neal Hartz - President Ken Marks—Vice President Bill Merchantz - Treasurer Diana Motel - Secretary Paul Huang</p>	<p>March 24th 25 Worshipped 2 Watched Live 15 Watched Later 42 Total</p> <p><u>Financial Support</u> Offering was not counted for March 24th</p>	<p><u>Financial Support for March 3rd</u> \$1,606.00 General Fund Deposit 400.00 Children’s Ministry \$2,006.00 Total Deposit</p> <p><u>Financial Support for March 10th</u> \$895.00 General Fund Deposit 25.00 Children’s Ministry \$920.00 Total Deposit</p> <p><u>Financial Support for March 17th</u> \$1,095.00 General Fund Deposit</p>
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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.

PUSH PRAYER will be available on Zoom now for any of our out-of-towners shut-ins to join us. Diana will email the link out before leaving church on Sunday with the worship link, so it would be easier for you to find the email in your inbox. Just click on the link and it will connect you to the group. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the PUSH PRAYER on April 2nd.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84981563150?pwd=ZzR0TFNvNzZwQkg4Y1hTb29QWGVqQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 8156 3150 Passcode: 7624144

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84981563150#,,,,*624144# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,84981563150#,,,,*624144# US

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 *Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come. - 1 John 2:18 (NLT)*

We’ve been in the end times for almost 2000 years, because the characteristics of the end times continue to play out in our world. People continue to either stand up under persecution or show themselves faithless when Christianity is no longer popular in their society. Strive to remain faithful by staying connected to Christ and to other faithful Christians.

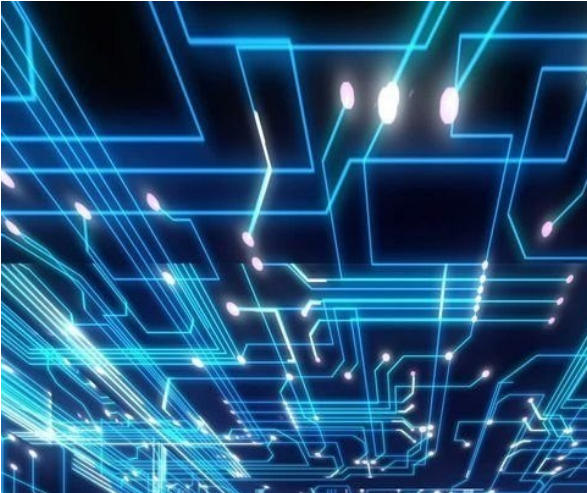
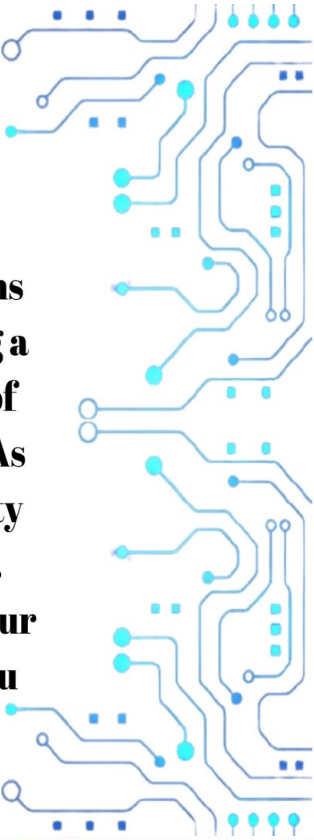
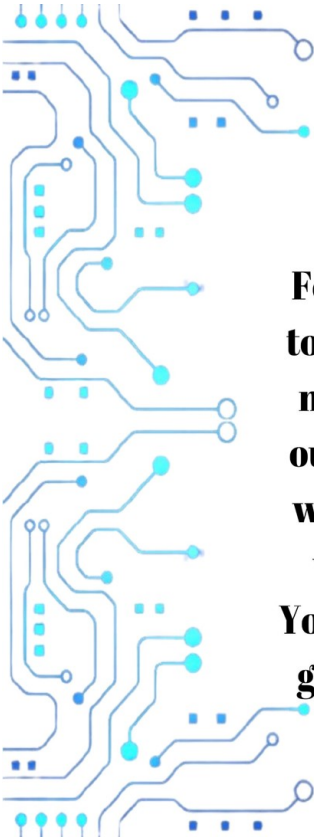
VERSE OF THE MONTH *Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those that love Him. James 1:12*

March Mission of the Month

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Technology Fund

For the month of March, we will be collecting donations to update some of our technology. We will be installing a new security camera system and also updating some of our computers. Bev's computer needs to be replaced. As we love to help other organizations and our community we also need to do some updating around the church. You can bring your donation to church, mail it, or use our giving page and select Mission of the Month. Thank you for all your continued support.



Living Word News

TRANSITION TEAM will be meeting with Pastor Schauer on April 17th to go over the list of pastor's names that he received from the district. The list has 3 names for us to consider to talk with for the Call process. Afterwards, Ken Marks will call these pastors to see if they are still possibly interested in accepting a call.

CARE MEALS HAVE RETURNED! We have started up our Care Meal Teams again. I am hoping to be able to organize a few teams of volunteers to help or assist with cooking or buying different dishes for meals for our families that are going through medical issues, hospital stays, treatments and those who might have lost loved ones recently. We currently have 5 volunteers, and we will always accept more people to step up to give a helping hand. We don't need you to have to cook anything, one will donate money when need be. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me or Diana know. There is a sign up sheet on the desk in the fellowship hall as well. We have already made a meal for Ken Marks' mom late last year, and we have made several meals and bought snacks and frozen meals to John and Jay Gabrielson at the end of the year also. Thank you in advance for your service and support towards this ministry.

PRESCHOOL IS AT CAPACITY This is now her biggest class yet since the fall of 2019. She now has 10 students. Please keep spreading the word about what a wonderful teacher Mrs. Diana is and what a wonderful program that she has at the preschool. Check out all of the crafts they have made this month. She will be changing everything out this weekend, as it is a new month coming up, so it's a new theme for her students. The theme will be Down on the Farm. Make sure you check out her farm in the Dramatic Arts Play Room. The kids will love learning all farm animals. Don't be too surprised if you see baby chicks and caterpillars in our preschool room.

NEED A CHRISTMAS TREE? Please contact me in the office if you're in need of a different Christmas Tree for next year. With all of the truly generous Christmas donations within the past couple of years, we are looking to pass the generosity forward to anyone who is need of a tree. It is never too early to think about Christmas and decorating for the festive holiday, lol.



PRAYER REQUEST OF THANKSGIVING for Pastor John as he was in the long-term care facility of the Victorian Village. He is still weak and a fall risk, but as they had re-evaluated his condition and moved him to the regular assisted living building. He is now able to join in the meals in the dining area and/or any activities that he can participate in, just as long as he has someone with him. His new room number is at the bottom of this page. He has expressed that he is up to having visitors again. Just plan on short visits with him so he doesn't try to overdo it and won't get too overwhelmed. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they are very concerned about Pastor John, but are very thankful for his improved condition. If you would like to send cards or well wishes or to call him, here is the complete address: John Bucka, C/O Victorian Village, **Rm #108**, 12600 Renaissance Circle, Homer Glen, IL 60491. Phone number for Victorian Village is 708-578-7091, so just ask for Pastor John Bucka when they answer.

OUR ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT was last Sunday right after our service. Despite the cooler and windier weather conditions, we still had 52 kids braving the elements and going away with quite a good haul of Easter Eggs. They all had a great time too.



“Easter Eyes”

How do you see your world? Psalm 16:8 reminds us: *“I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”* This Easter, and always, keep your eyes on the Lord...

1) Focus on your heavenly FATHER, not on life's Pharaohs.

²“The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. ³The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name. ⁴Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. Exodus 15:2-4

2) Remember Christ's RESURRECTION, not death's realm.

²²“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵David said about him: “I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. ²⁶Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, ²⁷because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. ²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.” ²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³²God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.” Acts 2:22-32

3) Look at the LORD, not just at your loss.

²⁰Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ²So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” ³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. ¹¹Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹²and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). ¹⁷Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:1-18

