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PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Eleanor Galik
 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

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 intouchlwlcc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
 Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
 9:15 am Adult study

IN TOUCH
 with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 33, Issue 16

April 28, 2024

"A Good Shepherd: Caring For the Needy"

Since the government didn't care for widows and orphans back in New Testament times, the church took on that responsibility. Unfortunately, bias raised its ugly head, and Jewish widows and orphans were given preferential treatment over Gentile widows and orphans. How did the church leaders respond? They could easily have dismissed it, like we so often do. They could have said, 'We're called to feed souls, not stomachs. We deal in matters of sin and salvation, not sandals and soup.' Instead, here is what they did. First, *they called a meeting to resolve the problem* (see Acts 6:2). They let every member know that their church took poverty seriously, and they were each personally responsible before God to do something about it. The Scripture doesn't endorse forced communism, but it clearly teaches Spirit-led volunteerism. Second, *they assigned the problem to their brightest and best*. They selected seven men – well respected, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom – and gave them this responsibility (see Acts 6:3). Instead of grooming our children for 'important' fields like medicine, law, politics, or government, let's teach them that caring for the needy is one of God's highest callings.

Why do 10 percent of the world's population go to bed hungry each night? Or seventeen thousand-plus children die every single day (one every five seconds) from malnutrition and preventable diseases when we can do something about it? No one can do everything, but God has called each of us to do something! *'Pure and genuine religion...means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let world [systems] corrupt you [into believing that it's not your responsibility]'* (James 1:27).

When he was a theology student, Jim Wallis and some of his classmates took scissors to the Bible and cut out every verse about poverty, wealth, justice, or oppression. And would you believe it, by the time they had finished, there were some two thousand verses lying on the floor! The fact is, when you cut concern for the poor from your Bible, you cut the heart right out of it! Here is one such verse: *"He defended the cause of the poor and needy...so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?" declares the Lord* (v. 16).

Jesus often quoted Scripture, but one occasion do we find Him selecting and reading from it. And what portion did He choose to read publicly? *'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor...to proclaim freedom for the prisoners...recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free'*. Here was His to-do list: help for body and soul, strength for the physical and spiritual, and therapy for temporal and eternal.

Now, some people (albeit a minority) are poor because they're lazy and need to be taught that God's Word says, *'Those unwilling to work will not get to eat'* (2 Thessalonians 3:10). But others are poor because parasites have weakened their bodies, or they spend six hours every day collecting water, or rebel armies have destroyed their farms, or disease has claimed their parents. These are the people God has assigned us to care for!

Three-quarters of the world's income ends up in the pockets of 20 percent of its population. Think of it this way: ten dairy farmers live in the same valley, and among them, they own ten cows. But the cows aren't evenly distributed, one cow to one farmer. It's more like this: two farmers own eight cows, while the other eight farmers share two cows. Does that seem right? The two farmers who own eight cows might easily say, 'I worked for my cows.' But the question is, what responsibility does God place on the 'haves' with regard to the 'have-nots'? First, that you allow yourself to feel concern and compassion. Second, that you get out of your comfort zone and do something about it. 'Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the Lord delivers them in times of trouble. The Lord protects and preserves them – they are...blessed in the land – he does not give them over to the desire of their foes. The Lord sustains them on their sick-bed and restores them'. When you bless the poor, God blesses you.

May 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 12:15pm Pre-school Tour	2 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	3	4
5 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service	6	7 9:00am—12:00pm Pre-school 10:00am Push Prayer	8 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting	9 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	10	11
12 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service Mother's Day 	13	14 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	15 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool	16 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool Last Day of School	17	18
19 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service Preschool Graduation 	20	21 10:00am Push Prayer	22	23	24	25
26 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	27 Memorial Day Office Closed 	28 10:00am Push Prayer	29	30	31 6:30pm Movie Night "Letter to the American Church" 	

April Celebrations

Stewardship Snapshot



Apr 21 Jay Gabrielson
Apr 25 Peter Wasilkoff
Apr 27 Karen Grossart

Happy Anniversary



Church Contacts

intouchlwc@yahoo.com

Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel

dianamotel@yahoo.com

Leadership Team

Neal Hartz - President

Ken Marks—Vice President

Bill Merchantz - Treasurer

Diana Motel - Secretary

Paul Huang

April 14th

20 Worshipped

3 Watched Live

6 Watched Later

29 Total

Financial Support

\$640.00 General Fund Deposit

April 21st

21 Worshipped, 19 Communed

3 Watched Live

6 Watched Later

30 Total

Financial Support

\$2,725.00 General Fund Deposit

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 *Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. - 1 John 3:21-22 (NLT)*

Let God's love flow through you. "Give up our lives for our brothers and sisters" is a high calling, but it is possible in and through the Holy Spirit. If you're only concerned with yourself, expand your vision of whom God would have you serve.

If you're feeling guilty about your past failures in this respect, good news—God has taken care of your failures. You no longer have to feel guilty, and if you're not feeling guilty—good news, you can now come to God with bold confidence, and ask Him to serve other believers through you in greater and greater

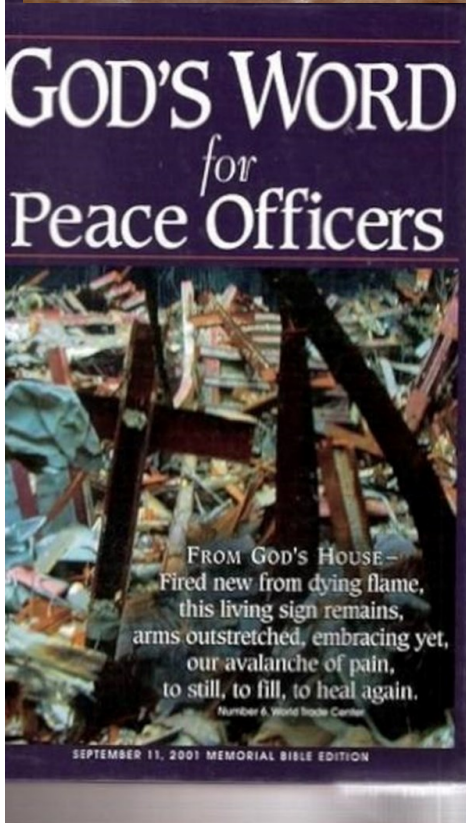
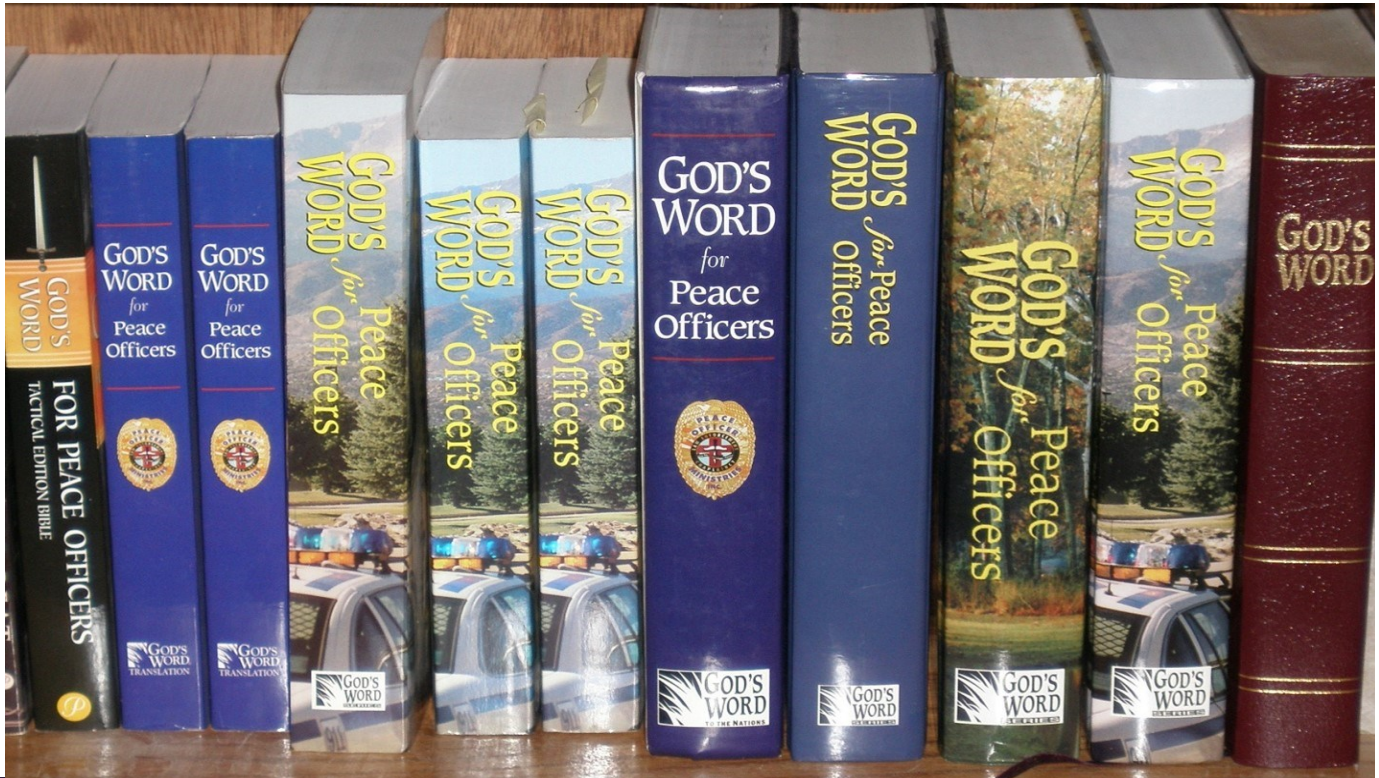
VERSE OF THE MONTH The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7

GOD'S GRACE AND COMFORT to Paul Huang's family. His daughter Isabella had passed away last Friday, April 19th. She finished her confirmation classes here at Living Word and will be dearly missed. Please keep Paul and his entire family in your prayers. Visitation and her service was yesterday here at Living Word.

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.

April Mission of the Month



GOD'S WORD for Peace Officers Mission of the Month April 2024

“The Mission of GOD’S WORD for Peace Officers Law Enforcement Bible Project is to publish and place into officers' hands our special edition Bibles with a 96-page forward, written by former local/federal law enforcement officer and Chaplain Steve Lee, explaining how God's Word provides them spiritual backup in their life and work.”

LAST SUNDAY for the month of April. Pastor Lee has been busy working on the forward for the Peace Officers' Law Enforcement Bible Project. Everyone has been very generous, we have collected over \$1,500.00 towards this very much needed project for the police and first responders who serve and protect all of us everyday. If you are able to do so, and have not already contributed, the basket is located at the entry of the sanctuary for the Mission of the Month. We only have today to help in this very worthwhile endeavor.

Former Mission of the Month



**CELEBRATION
Open House**

Saturday, May 18
12 pm — 4 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
East Dundee, IL

Meet the founders of the ministry and take a tour of the NEW HOME in East Dundee, IL!

Food will be served.

All are invited to worship at Immanuel at 5 pm.

Immanuel Lutheran • 310 E Main St. • East Dundee, IL

We encourage you to invite your congregation to come when you can and stay as desired!

Food will be served continuously at Immanuel Lutheran Church of East Dundee and shuttle service will run guests to and from the maternity home to avoid parking issues at the home. We will be creating a special piece of art to grace the home during the event. All are welcome to stay for worship at Immanuel at 5 PM.

To bring you up to speed on the home project:

- The interior of the home is finished! Furniture is in, and the house is ready to welcome residents. We praise God for all who made it possible!
- We are in the process of hiring a residential manager (aka house mom) and a director of program ministries.
- We still need to complete exterior site work, a result of all the earthmoving that was done in the project's late stages and unforeseen difficulties tying into city services. Once the site is regraded and filled, it will be seeded.

We THANK YOU for your part in bringing this ministry for moms and babies to this much-anticipated opening! We praise God for your hard work and for igniting the fire in so many others to serve women here in the NID as they choose life!

Serving God and His Children,
Sheryl DeWitt
Executive Director

May Mission of the Month

MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH SPEAKER will be a representative from PASS. There will be a short presentation at the end of service on May 12th. It has been quite sometime since we have partnered with them. They reached out to us again letting us know about their current diaper drive. Please see below the different items and sizes they need the most. We also will be collecting monetary donations and they can buy what is needed afterwards.

PASS network for life will be hosting a Diaper Drive

Newborn, up to 10 lbs., Small, 8-14 lbs. (Size 1), Small/Medium, 12-18 lbs. (Size 2) Medium, 16-28 lbs. (Size 3), Large, 22-37 lbs. (Size 4)*, Ex. Large, 27+ lbs. (Size 5)* XX Large, 35+ lbs. (Size 6)*, Training Pants/Pull Ups, Wipes* & Baby Wash*

**Most needed items in our centers.*

Additionally, PASS is in need of onesies, sleepers, socks, bibs, fitted crib sheets and seasonal clothing. PASS accepts new and gently used baby clothing up to size 5T. All items, including diapers, are placed in the Baby Boutique at each of the PASS pregnancy centers. Mothers earn points by attending PASS classes through the Abundant Life Program and redeem the points in the Baby Boutique. All items are made available to PASS clients by the kindness and generosity of others. Thank you!



Living Word News

CARE MEALS HAVE RETURNED! We have started up our Care Meal Teams again. We have one team 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. Thank you in advance for your service and support towards this ministry.

COUNCIL MEETING was last Thursday, April 18th at 7:00pm. They discussed Call Committee updates, Preschool, worship service surveys, an upcoming movie night, missions of the month and financial updates. Meeting notes are on the following page.

TRANSITION TEAM met with Pastor Schauer on April 17th to go over the list of pastor's names that he received from the district. The list now has 5 names for us to consider to choose from for the Call process. Afterwards, Ken Marks will call these pastors to see if they are still possibly interested in accepting a call from a church.

IF YOU NEED TOILET PAPER, we have changed over to a different brand of toilet paper this past month as our older toilet and sewer system needs a touch more of tender loving care. Please feel free to help yourself to the toilet paper that will be on the counter in thee fellowship hall, and if not, just see me in the office.

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 changed everything out last weekend, as it is a new month coming up, so it's a new theme for her students. The theme was be Down on the Farm. Make sure you check out her farm in the Dramatic Arts Play Room. The kids loved learning all farm animals. They even got to plant a garden a few weeks ago. We now have both, the baby chicks here during the week and caterpillars too in our preschool room. However, the baby chicks went back to the farm.

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.

Council Meeting Notes

Living Word Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 7 pm

Attendees: Bill M, Paul H, Phil H, Diana M, Ken M, and Neal H.

The meeting opened with a prayer from Phil at 7:10 pm.

The council went over all finances from general, designated, and preschool. Ken is going to look into other options for natural gas for the church. Neal is also having a meeting with Proven IT on Friday, April 19th to discuss buying a copier instead of us leasing one. Diana did make a motion for Bill to reimburse the general fund \$544.77 from the Sunday school fund for Easter egg supplies. Phil 2nd and it was voted unanimously. Neal asked the council to allow him to have someone come survey the lot for \$1,500 as we really need to know where our property lines are. The council all agreed to allow this.

Diana did let the council know she has 4 students for next year so far. Three of them will be 3 days a week and one is still undecided if they want to stay with 2 or go to 3. Bill will also be doing the service for the preschool graduation on Sunday, May 19th.

Diana did just let the council know we have 5 names from the district. They have all the information on the pastors and will meet again next Wednesday the 24th to discuss the pastors. Then Ken will call each pastor to see if they will be willing to speak with us. As we know some pastors don't know they are on the call list or don't want to move at this time.

We will be conducting a survey for the congregation to anonymously fill out to see how they feel the direction of the church is going and things they would like to see the church do. Neal will be contacting the district to get this set up so we can share the link and print out copies for people to fill out.

We will be hosting a movie night and inviting other churches in the area to join us to watch The Letter to the American Church. Neal has some books that he will give to the churches to see what the movie will be about. He will also get some books to sell after the movie if anyone else would like them. Neal has spoken with the district and they are ok with us showing this movie. Diana has made up a flyer to share. We will show the movie at 6:30 on May 31st.

Diana wanted to let everyone know that PASS in Tinley park reached out to partner with and will be our Mission of the Month for May. We will have a guest speaker on May 12 and will talk for about 10 to 15 minutes at the end of the service. The person who contacted her use to work together with Pastor Lange in the past. Phil will also be giving a Gideon presentation July 7th and Gideon will be our Mission of the Month for July.

Neal did mention he will need a check for the new cameras, fire, and security alarm system being put in on April 27th. The check will come from general and then will be reimbursed from designated funds.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm with a prayer from Phil.



“Praise the Lord!”

Psalms 150 says: *“Praise the Lord!”* Today our Scriptures tell us why...

1) Praise the Lord because the GOSPEL is for everyone.

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” ³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. ³¹“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ³⁷Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The eunuch answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” ³⁸And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Acts 8:26-40

2) Praise the Lord because we can OVERCOME anything.

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. ⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. ⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:1-11

3) Praise the Lord because we can DO everything.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:1-8