

Types of Storms

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 34, Issue 11

March 16, 2025

"Contrary Winds"

When you set out to do anything for God, the Enemy will make sure you encounter 'contrary winds'. In fact, if you're not sailing against the wind, chances are you're headed in the wrong direction! The Bible says Jesus was 'tempted of the devil'. Satan never let up, including the night before Jesus was crucified when 'Satan entered into Judas...one of the twelve'.

'Wherever you go today, Satan will...try to get you at some street corner, at the office, or in the field. He will make you fall if you leave home without your spiritual armor on; if you leave your belt of truth...in the closet, your breastplate of righteousness...by the door, your gospel shoes under your bed, or if you leave your shield of faith, the sword of the Spirit and the helmet of salvation behind you...If you say at daybreak, "I will pray whenever I get a chance today," you just gave away your victory. Before long the wrong words will come out of your mouth, you will look at forbidden fruits and display an improper attitude. The most foolish thing you can do is to leave home unarmed and spiritually naked. A fool says, "I have no time to pray," but later...he finds all kinds of time to attempt to repair the damage prayerlessness...produced... Following Jesus is not a walk in the park...Every good thing in the kingdom...from Adam on has come to us through men and women who stuck it out when the going got tough. The biblical history of the church ends with [these victorious words] ... "and so we came to Rome". Paul told everyone on board the ship bound for Rome, 'The voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but...our lives'. One author writes: 'Paul didn't talk about a little skirmish...a little loss...This voyage would be beset with disasters, with much loss, even to their lives...To Paul, this journey meant eventual martyrdom. However, Paul would not die until his mission was completed until he would strike a fatal blow at the heart of the Roman Empire, its political genius, military supremacy...pride, and pomp. When Paul walked into Rome with the Gospel, hell shook and all heaven rejoiced. We are all beneficiaries because that little battle-scarred man with a chain around his ankle started to convert many in Rome [and gave] us the books of Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon while he was the prisoner of Jesus Christ... These phrases bring this journey more to life: *The winds were contrary...we sailed slowly...passing with difficulty...sailing was now dangerous...tempestuous winds arose...we secured the skiff with difficulty...we used cables to undergird the ship...exceedingly tempest tossed... we threw the ship's tackle overboard...neither sun nor stars appeared for many days...all hope that we would get saved was given up...the stem was broken up.*' The destination is within reach – but not without 'much loss'. Thank God that's not the end of the story. The centurion, 'wishing to save Paul...commanded those who could swim to throw themselves overboard...and make for the shore...the rest on...pieces of the vessel...escaped safely to land'. When you keep your eyes on Jesus, you will make it in spite of the storm. **Guaranteed!** The winds were contrary when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, they were contrary on their way to the promised land, and they were contrary when they got there. There is no such thing as a storm-free voyage: 'Through...hardships and tribulations we...enter the kingdom'. When you have to fight to stay afloat day after day, it's easy to get discouraged. Paul said, 'When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days...all hope...we would be saved was...given up'. Maybe you're weary and discouraged because of what you're battling. You're ready to call it quits – and humanly speaking, nobody would blame you. But before you give up, ask yourself this: what if God is the One engineering this storm to get you where you need to go? What if He is the One who 'spoke and raised a stormy wind', so you would have to keep your eyes on Him? What if He is the One who 'hurled a great wind on the sea', to see if you would keep the faith when you can't see the far shore? A psalmist tells us God uses 'fire...hail, snow...clouds and stormy wind' to fulfill His word. In Exodus 10, He 'directed an east wind on the land all...day... and...night; and...it...brought the locusts...He shifted the wind to a very strong west wind, which picked up the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea'. One author adds, 'When the Lord fought for Israel...stormy winds brought about their deliverance...And one day, by God's great mercy, we too shall stand upon the sea of glass and see how stormy winds brought about our deliverance.'

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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



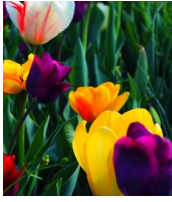
16301 South Wolf Road
Orland Park, IL 60467

livingwordorland.org
intouchlwc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:15 am Adult study

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>16 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service 4:00pm Gretel Hansen Classical Music Concert</p> 	<p>17 St. Patrick's Day</p> 	<p>18 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer</p>	<p>19 9am–Noon Preschool</p>	<p>20 9am–Noon Preschool First Day of Spring</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>

March Celebrations



Happy Baptism Birthday!

March 18 Ashley Meier

Stewardship Snapshot

March 9th
 19 Worshipped
6 Watched Online
 25 Total Worshipped

Financial Support
 1,200.00 General Fund Total Deposit

Devotional Time

Opportunities to Connect with God

PUSH PRAYER will be available on Zoom now for any of our out-of-towners and/or shut-ins to join us., I will email the link on Monday afternoons or Tuesday mornings, 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 March 18th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84076099900?pwd=d3BxLBWbTlzRVpuSGhgTXc2dGRldz09>

Meeting ID: 840 7609 9900 Passcode: 427470

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84076099900#,,,,*427470# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,84076099900#,,,,*427470# 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

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

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. - Romans 8:17 (NLT)*

When we receive the Holy Spirit, and live under his control, we receive a new identity. We are no longer just servants (willing or not) of God, but children of God, part of His family. That's a glorious heritage, and a glorious inheritance. Keeping that inheritance in mind will strengthen and encourage us as we face suffering in the meantime.

VERSE OF THE MONTH ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures *1 Corinthians 15:3-4.*

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Easter Egg Hunt

April 13th at
11:30am

Get ready for an egg-citing adventure at our Easter Egg Hunt! 🎉 Registration is a must to ensure we have plenty of eggs and space for everyone to join in on the fun. The hunt kicks off at 11:40 AM sharp! 🌟 Open to kids ages 1 to 13, we have three areas categorized by age groups, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Everyone will be hunting at the same time. This outdoor event is happening rain or shine please dress accordingly.

Don't forget to bring your own bag or basket to collect all those colorful eggs. 🐣🌻

Register online at

<https://livingwordorland.org/childrens-activities/easter-egg-hunt-2025/>

Living Word Lutheran Church
16301 Wolf Road Orland Park, IL 60467
www.livingwordorland.org

Easter Egg Hunt 2025

EASTER EGG HUNT 2025 is coming quickly. Even though Easter is later this year, that time is fast approaching. It is scheduled for April 13th following our Palm Sunday worship service. We are hoping that it will be much better weather that day. If you are able to stay for a little while, we would greatly appreciate it if you could help check families in and direct their children to the appropriate age groups. We would also need people that come a little early to help spread out all those eggs. Diana already has around 40 kids that signed up for the event. All of our former preschool families already jumped on the website to get registered also.



Easter Egg Hunt
 Sunday, April 13th @ 11:30
 Registration is required.
 Link available on our website.

Mission of the Month

MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH is our Technology Fund. We are hoping to upgrade our projectors and sound system in the sanctuary in the upcoming months. We know that both the projectors/screen and the sound system leave a lot to be desired and are outdated. We are getting quotes from a couple of different sources, one is from the company that helped us get the new copier, and the other one will be from some of our more technical minded members, lol. We will also need to help Mrs. Diana out with a new laptop for the preschool, I guess she is just doing too much teaching, lol.

March Mission of the Month Technology Fund

**We are looking to upgrade our
 projectors, sound system, and
 Preschool laptop.**

Living Word News

ASPIRE WOMEN'S EVENT will be on Friday, April 4th at 7:00pm. The event will be held at Calvary Assembly of God Church, located at 18620 Governors Highway in Flossmoor. They will have an author and Bible teacher, comedian and a musician. There are handouts and information on the desk in the fellowship hall, and if you would like more information, please come see me in the office or give me a call.

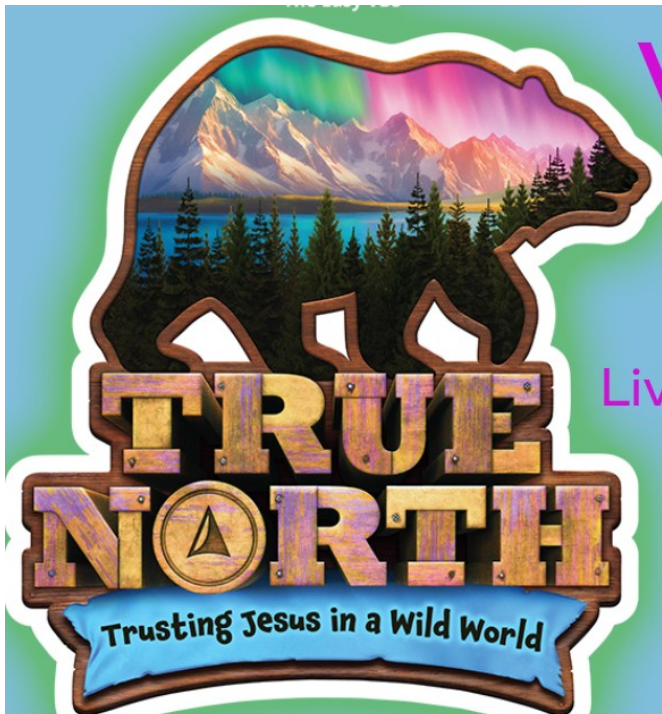
VBS 2025 is now being posted and advertised on the website and Facebook, and several of our past VBS families have already commented and liked the new update! Diana has already reached out to the high schools last week to have them post for volunteers. If you know any high schoolers that need community service hours, this is a great way to get at least 20+ hours if they are able to work the whole week. We still have some volunteers who are working and going to college that has told Diana they will help out as much as possible. Sherri Grecci will of course be here helping out with snack time each day too.

MUSIC CONCERT will be performing here today at 4:00pm. Gretel Hansen's music students will be performing a Classical Music Concert here at Living Word in the sanctuary. Please plan to show your support for her and her very talented students. I am positive you will not be disappointed by their performance.



GOD'S BLESSINGS to the Merchantz family. Congratulations to Bill and Abby. Their son, Simon Arthur Merchantz was born on Tuesday afternoon, March 11th at 3:24 pm. Bill said he is doing great!. Thank you Bill for sharing these pictures with us. Simon is a cutie! What a beautiful family you have. Please send our love to Abby. As always, we will be praying for continued health and strength for both Abby and Simon..

VBS 2025



VBS 2025

Save the date!

Living Word Lutheran Church
Orland Park, IL
July 21st-25th

3-16-2025 Message Outline

“Set Apart”

Psalm 4: “The Lord has set apart his faithful servant for himself...”

1) The Lord set apart JEREMIAH.

⁸ But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, “You must die! ⁹ Why do you prophesy in the LORD’s name that this house will be like Shiloh and this city will be desolate and deserted?” And all the people crowded around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. ¹⁰ When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they went up from the royal palace to the house of the LORD and took their places at the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD’s house. ¹¹ Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, “This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against this city. You have heard it with your own ears!” ¹² Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people: “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the things you have heard. ¹³ Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the LORD your God. Then the LORD will relent and not bring the disaster he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴ As for me, I am in your hands; do with me whatever you think is good and right. ¹⁵ Be assured, however, that if you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it, for in truth the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing.”

Jeremiah 26:8-15

2) The Lord set apart PAUL.

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. **4** Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends! [Philippians 3:17-4:1](#)

3) The Lord set apart JESUS.

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’ ³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem! ³⁴ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

Luke 13:31-35

