



Inside this issue:

"Finding Common Ground"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Celebrations	2
Stewardship Snapshot/Devotional Time	2
Preschool Pics	3
Mission of the Month/Easter Egg Hunt	4
Living Word News	5
VBS 2025	5
3-9-2025 Message Outline	6

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
intouchlwlc@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 34, Issue 10

March 9, 2025

"Finding Common Ground"

To influence someone, you must first connect with them. And to do that, you must look for common ground. Paul writes, *'I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.'* In Paul's words: *'Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized – whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ – but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!'*

Note the words *'I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view'*. When it came to preaching the truth, Paul would not yield an inch. But when it came to reaching and influencing people for Christ, he tried to remove every roadblock between them and Christ. And you must be willing to do the same.

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. That's why you must approach them heart-first, not headfirst. Before someone can receive the truth you have to share, they must be convinced that you love and care for them. And that means finding common ground. Whether you are applying for a job, trying to show someone Jesus, counseling and advising, or correcting someone's behavior, to be effective you must look for common ground. Let's look at some of the qualities that it calls for. **Availability**. Paul writes: *'I have voluntarily become a servant to...all...to reach a wide range of people.'* Establishing areas of common interest takes time. It also takes effort. It's been reported that today a typical business executive has an on-the-job attention span of six minutes. That's pathetic! In six minutes a person can hardly get his or her feet on the ground, much less find common ground. Identifying areas you can agree on calls for empathy and a willingness to listen to what the other person has to say. In *How to Talk So People Listen*, Sonya Hamlin reports that most people find this challenging because of the 'Me-First Factor'. She writes: 'Listening requires giving up our favorite human pastime – involvement in ourselves and our own self-interest. It's our primary, entirely human focus. And it's where our motivation to do anything comes from. With this as a base, can you see what a problem is created when we're asked to listen to someone else?' First of all, it's essential to acknowledge and answer two of the listener's instinctive, unspoken questions, which are: 'Why should I listen to you? What's in it for me if I let you in?' Anytime you're willing to listen to people and figure out how what you're offering meets their needs, you are halfway towards your goal of finding common ground. To establish common ground, you must be **adaptable**. 'To convert somebody, go and take them by the hand and guide them.' You must be willing to move from where you are to where they are; to adapt and try to see things from their point of view. Anytime you're aware of the distance between you and the person you're trying to reach, it's good to search for something in your own background and experience that relates to theirs. Don't start the process by telling them about yourself. Begin by moving to where *they* are and trying to see things from their perspective. Adapt to them – don't think they should adapt to you. Instead of telling people how you feel, find out how they feel. Instead of telling them what you see, discover how they see things. Instead of trying to tell them what you want, discover what they want. When meeting with another person, spend less time thinking about yourself and more time about them. The truth is, you can't take someone on a journey unless you're willing to start where they are. Only then can you truly connect and lead them to where you want to take them. You can know a lot about a person and still not understand them. More information isn't always the answer. The Bible says, *'Deep calls to deep'*, and to really understand people, you must move beyond head knowledge and learn to speak the language of the heart.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blend-ed Worship Service	10	11 9am-Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	12 9am-Noon Preschool	13 9am-Noon Preschool	14	15

March Celebrations



March 14 Diana Motel



March 10 Gary Meier
March 14 Matt Meier
March 15 Anita Meier

Stewardship Snapshot

March 2nd

22 Worshipped, 20 Communed
7 Watched Online
29 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

2,240.00 General Fund Total Deposit

March 5th (Ash Wednesday)

9 Worshipped, 8 Communed
1 Watched Online
10 Total Worshipped

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 your requests, or join us for 30-40 minutes each week. You can also join on Zoom.

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 11th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84076099900?pwd=d3BxLBWbTlZRVpuSGhgTXc2dGRldz09>

Meeting ID: 840 7609 9900 Passcode: 427470

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

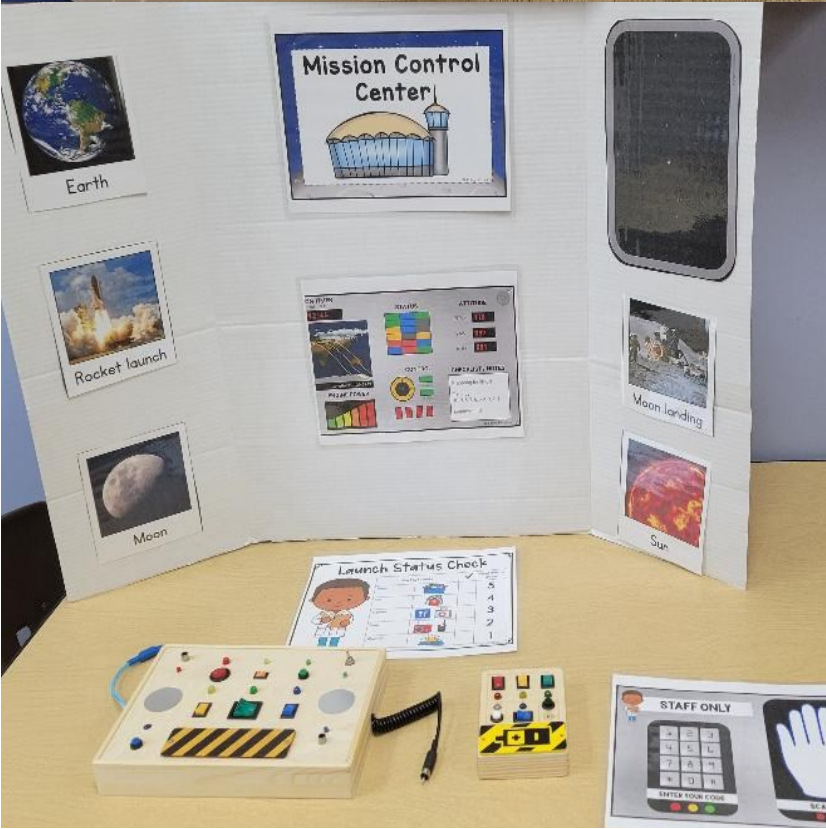
+13126266799,,84076099900#,,,,*427470# US (Chicago)

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

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK *But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. - Romans 8:9a (NLT)*

There is a constant struggle in our lives for control of our thoughts, our words, and our actions. On the one hand, our sinful nature wants us to put ourselves before anyone and anything else. On the other hand, God wants us to put ourselves under the control of the Holy Spirit, who will lead us to a life filled with love, joy, and peace. When we give in to our sinful nature, death results. As we trust less in ourselves and more in Christ, we will have abundant life.

VERSE OF THE MONTH 13 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 *Corinthians 13.*



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.**

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.



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.

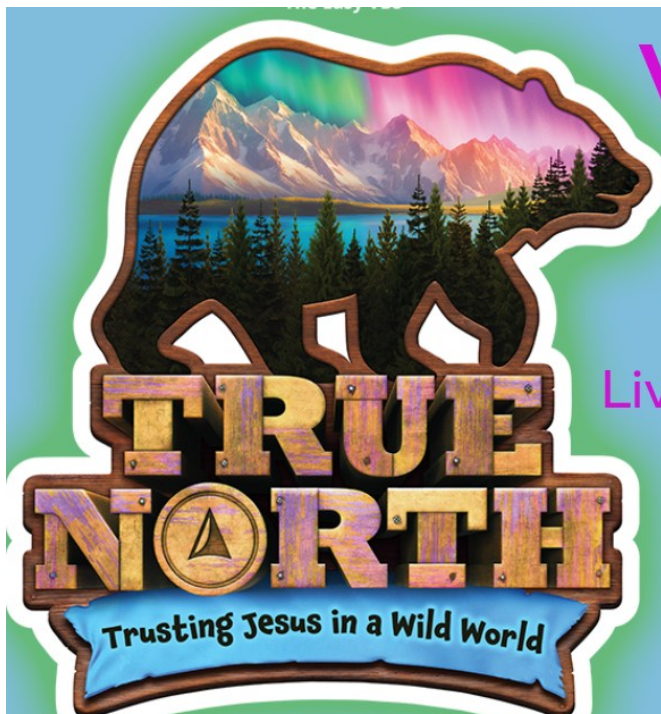
VBS 2025 is now being posted and advertised on the website and Facebook, and several of our past VBS families have already commented and liked the new update! Diana has already reached out to the high schools last week to have them post for volunteers. If you know any high schoolers that need community 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.

NEW CHURCH BANNERS are being made here at church. We finished working on new Lenten banners for our church. Thank you so much to Kristi for getting this project off and running, she had her sister sew and hem the banners and she cut out all of the letters after Diana had made the stencils for us on her Cricut machine and then Kristi and I glued all of them onto the banners. She is now looking to do other banners, if you have any designs in mind or would like to help, please see Kristi for details. We have just started on the next one, for the spring and summer time.

MUSIC CONCERT will be performing here on March 16th 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.



VBS 2025



VBS 2025

Save the date!

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

3-9-2025 Message Outline

“Shelter in the Shadow”

Psalms 91 says: “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.” To rest, remember Jesus’ words...

1) “Man shall not live on BREAD alone.”

26 When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, ² take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name ³ and say to the priest in office at the time, “I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴ The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. ⁵ Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: “My father was a wander-ing Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. ⁶ But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor. ⁷ Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our ancestors, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. ⁸ So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an out-stretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. ⁹ He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; ¹⁰ and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, LORD, have given me.” Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. ¹¹ Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

2) “WORSHIP the Lord your God and SERVE him only.”

“The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:8b-13

3) “Do not put the Lord your God to the TEST.”

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’” ⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” ⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; ¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” ¹² Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. Luke 4:1-13

“...IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THAT **JESUS IS LORD** AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT **GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD...**”



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YES

ISN'T THIS JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE? LIKE THE **SUNRISE?** LIKE **GRAVITY?**



YES



THEOLOGY IS BOTH **EASIER** AND **HARDER** THAN I EXPECTED.



ROMANS 10:5-15