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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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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 17

April 27, 2025

"Blind Chance versus God's Command"

Could life as we know it – plant, animal, and human life – have spontaneously happened by chance? Could our amazing solar system be the result of an accident? The more advanced science becomes, the more evidence there is for a Master Designer. Researchers continue to uncover the divine order in each tiny human cell. American biochemist Bruce Alberts, former president of the National Academy of Sciences, writes, *'We have always underestimated cells; undoubtedly we still do...Cells are the basic unit of life...indeed the entire cell can be viewed as a factory that contains an elaborate network of interlocking assembly lines, each of which is composed of a set of different protein machines in defined positions.'*

The psalmist David wasn't a scientist, yet he recognized that each of us is a complex product of God's amazing hands! *'You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb...You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion...woven together in the dark of the womb...How precious are your thoughts about me...They cannot be numbered!...And when I wake up, you are still with me!'* (vv. 13, 15, 17-18).

The average human heart beats 115,000 times a day. Our blood travels 12,000 miles every day (about twenty times the length of the UK from northern Scotland to southern England!). Adults take an average of 18,000 to 30,000 breaths a day, and for the most part, all these functions take place without our awareness. Amazing! Today, stop and take a few minutes to acknowledge and thank your Creator for the amazing things He did with that first clump of dirt.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your marvelous work in creating me. Let me live in Your image each day and forgive me when I do not. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Speaking of our amazing bodies...what about DNA? Each human cell (up to 100 trillion) contains a database larger than the Encyclopedia Britannica! Could all that have originated by chance? English physicist Paul Davies makes this comparison: 'It's rather like exploding a stick of dynamite under a pile of bricks and expecting it to build a house. You may liberate enough energy to raise the bricks, but without coupling the energy to the bricks in a controlled way, there's little hope of producing anything other than a chaotic mess.'

Clearly it requires more than a pile of bricks to build a house. The intelligence of the architect and the skill of the builder are key components. And it's the same with all the complexities of a human being. The odds are zero that all the required elements necessary to initiate human life just *happened* to assemble themselves in the same spot on earth at the same time. And even if we did accept that notion, blind chance couldn't put those 100 trillion cells together in the order required to produce life.

Prominent scientist Francis Crick wasn't noted for his faith, but even he said, 'The origin of life seems almost to be a *miracle*, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going.' And what's the miracle? The psalmist said, *'You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made'* (Psalm 139:13-14). That's the miracle!


PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Creator God, I marvel at how You have uniquely created every person who has ever lived. You are God! In Jesus' name, Amen.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	28	29 9am-Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	30 9am-Noon Preschool	1 9am-Noon Preschool Picture Day	2	3

April Celebrations

 Apr 27 Karen Grossart Apr 28 Lara Wasilkoff	 Apr 28 David Holloway Apr 29 Tiffanie West	Happy Anniversary  Apr 27 Ed & Cathy Baidis
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Church Contacts

Church Contacts <i>intouchlwc@yahoo.com</i> Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel <i>dianamotel@yahoo.com</i> <u>Leadership Team</u> Neal Hartz - President Ken Marks —Vice President Bill Merchantz - Treasurer Diana Motel - Secretary <u>Members at Large</u> Paul Huang
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Stewardship Snapshot

April 18th (Good Friday)

14 Worshipped

8 Watched Online

22 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

410.00 General Fund Offering

April 20th (Easter Sunday)

23 Worshipped, 23 Communed

6 Watched Online

29 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

700.00 General Fund Offering

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 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.

VERSE OF THE WEEK ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." *John 12:13-15*

VERSE OF THE MONTH ²⁵ I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. ²⁶ And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God. *Job 19:25-26*

Mission of the Month



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY is our Mission of the Month for April. The funds collected each week will go towards the Easter Eggs, and the items that her and Kyle had filled all 1,828 eggs for the 137 kids that were registered for this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Mrs. Whatever is left over, will go towards the VBS Bible Buddies and materials for all crafts for each day of VBS.

VBS 2025

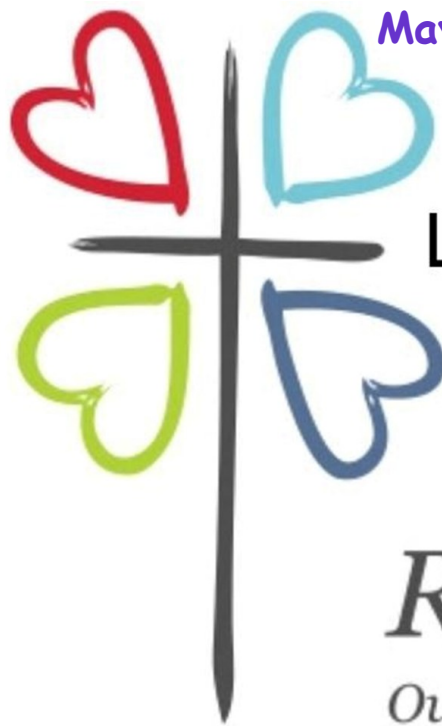
VBS 2025 is now being posted and advertised on the website and Facebook, and several of our past VBS families have already commented and liked the new update! Diana has already reached out to the high schools last week to have them post for volunteers. If you know any high schoolers that need community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



VBS 2025

Save the date!

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



May Mission of the Month

Living Word May 2025
Mission of the Month

Redeeming Life
Outreach Ministries Inc.

REDEEMING LIFE OUTREACH MINISTRIES will be our Mission of the Month for May. It is truly a passionate and caring ministry for women and their newborn babies. Redeeming Life has been one of our past missions, especially for the month of May, helping the moms who are struggling with difficult issues and finding hope with Redeeming Life. Below is one of the more recent letters that we have received from them.

Dear Steve & Elaine,

Have you experienced a "But then...." moment? A moment where everything was going wrong and seemed impossible. But then...something happened! A change of heart or a change of circumstance and suddenly everything is possible. Everything changes.

Here at Redeeming Life's maternity homes, we see many "But then...." situations. Women come to us with no hope left for a better future. They have been stuck in poverty, poor relationships, unemployment, and homelessness for so long that hope seems futile. An unplanned pregnancy adds to the despair.

But then...they find a Redeeming Life maternity home! Welcomed in by caring staff, they have a safe home and help with their situation. Some women need help getting prenatal care for the first time while others need mentorship in getting and keeping a job. All of them need love and grace. With all this help, they find hope for a better future and can build a stable life!

This Holy Week, we *Christians celebrate the ultimate "But then...."* in the celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection that gives each of us new life in Him! Residents at Redeeming Life are introduced to the redeeming love of Jesus daily as we pray and study and worship together. Together, we share the hope that we were all lost, but then Jesus saved us!

As we celebrate the hope we share in Jesus this Easter, I ask you to continue sharing that hope with the moms

and babies of Redeeming Life with a gift today. Your support is vital to serving women in dire situations with a home, help and hope.



Redeeming Life
Outreach Ministries, Inc.



Serving God and His Children,
Sheryl
Sheryl DeWitt, Executive Director

Living Word News

GOD'S GRACE AND COMFORT for Ed and Cathy Baid's and their entire family. Ed's mom, Hildegard Baid's passed away and went to be with our Lord and loving husband. Even though this was not unexpected, it is still a very difficult time for the family. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

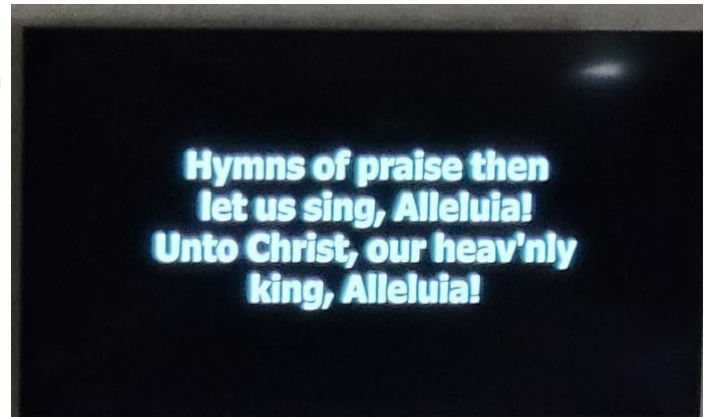
COUNCIL MEETING was Tuesday, April 22nd. The usual topics of discussion are the financials, preschool updates, there was an update from the Call committee, and then the status of updating the technology in the sanctuary and an update on the roof replacement.

A BIG THANK YOU to our new video team, lol. Paul Motel, (Diana's hubby), Dave Holloway and Paul Huang for all of their hard work last Saturday. They set up the new computer in the tech booth, Man is that fast now, yay! They also installed the new 85" TV screen on the wall, and were able to connect the TV and the new computer to each other so we would be able to test it out last Sunday for worship. The group was here for 8 hours on Saturday. They were all exhausted by time they left. Our apologies for not having all of the wrinkles worked out yet on Sunday morning, it was a slight learning curve for Diana and especially me. Paul Motel worked on a few of the issues after worship on Sunday while the Egg Hunt was going on. He was able to improve the resolution

and he was also able to remove the clock, we know that Pastor will be very happy about that, lol. We appreciate everyone's patience while we strive to keep making improvements to the projection and visibility aspect of the new tech. We believe you will be at least somewhat pleased with the improvements we have already made, and we hope to have a few more conquered by next week. We will continue to improve the quality and we truly appreciate your understanding in the process. The three guys will be back at it again tomorrow, the 27th. They are coming back, hopefully with a couple of extra guys too, so that they can take the TV down and move the bracket up higher and then remount the TV. Even though some people said they didn't have any issues, some of the bottom lines were still hard to see for some of us shorter people. Thank you guys for moving the TV.

EASTER FLOWERS are here, if you had ordered any of the flowers please feel free to take them home after service on Sunday. It was so nice to have them here for our Easter worship. They made the sanctuary so bright and cheerful.

CARE MEALS MINISTRY is proud to still be an active ministry for our fellow Christians. Even though everyone is humble and don't want to impose, we are always here to help. Hospital stays, medical treatments and just basic life issues can be difficult for people to handle along with everyday tasks, that's why we are here to lend a helping hand.



MEALS MINISTRY

Caring for the sick & shut in.

See Bev or Diana for more information



4-27-2025 Message Outline

“Praise the Lord!”

Psalm 148 says: *“Praise the Lord!”* How do we praise the Lord...?

1) Praise the Lord in your TRIALS.

¹² The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade. ¹³ No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. ¹⁵ As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶ Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed. ¹⁷ Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. ²⁰ “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.” Acts 5:12-20

2) Praise the Lord with your TESTIMONY.

⁴ John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. ⁷ “Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen. ⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” ⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.” ¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.” Revelation 1:4-18

3) Praise the Lord despite your “THOMAS.”

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” ²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” ²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:19-31