



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

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June 1, 2025

## "A Witness of His Resurrection"

The next scene is something of a brief interlude before the drama of the coming of the Spirit in the next chapter. Many have wondered over the years: why is this here? What is the point and the purpose of it in Luke's recording of events? And why did they use "lots" to decide who would be the replacement apostle for Judas? The story is here to teach us about the nature of apostleship. The criteria that are required for an apostle are clearly specified by Peter. He must be someone who was a witness to the resurrection of Jesus. By its nature, then, apostles in this biblical sense of the word are no longer with us: an apostle is someone who had seen with his own eyes the physical resurrection of Jesus and had been commissioned by God to be a witness to that resurrection of Jesus. (There are other "apostles"—or literally "sent ones"—but not those who were sent by Jesus directly as a witness to his resurrection, but those who are sent out by the church for some wider ministry or missionary role).

The other lesson here is the sovereignty of God. Once the criteria had been made clear, then the early church trusted God to select the person of His choosing through some randomized process. We can be sure that God is sovereignly at work even through events that seem to us to be random.

From this brief interlude, we can learn the following four spiritual lessons:

#1 Trust that God is sovereign in your life even through random or confusing circumstances.

The betrayal of Judas and the selection of Matthias were not apparently smooth, orderly, or perfectly organized from a human perspective. But God was sovereignly at work through those events nonetheless. Trust that God is at work through the circumstances of your life even if they do not seem to be perfectly organized from a human perspective.

#2 Take renewed confidence in Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and therefore your resurrection if you trust in him. The early church took careful, deliberate, and empirical efforts to ensure that the historical record could attest to the factual resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Christ's resurrection from the dead physically is no myth. It is a fact of history, and therefore if you trust in him you too will rise again.

#3 Pray constantly. If you feel that you are in something of an "interlude" in your life—a gap between God's commission and your initiation into that new task—then learn from the example of these early Christians. "They all joined together constantly in prayer." Can you take a step towards growing your prayer life by not only spending a few moments each day praying, but also developing a pattern of praying about matters as they come up through the day?

#4 Read the Bible. Peter's leadership, and the actions of all the believers, were formed by a close attention to the Bible and a deliberate following of its teaching and its inner logic. "The Scripture had to be fulfilled." Would you grow in your practice of God's Word by not only spending a few moments reading it each day, but asking how God's Word applies to the particular issues and opportunities that you face? What biblical principles are there to guide your giving (2 Corinthians 9:6), your witness (1 Peter 3:15), your worship (1 Peter 2:9)?

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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

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
9:15 am Adult study



# June 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00am Push Prayer	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service Pentecost 11:20 Congregational Meeting 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00am Push Prayer	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service 11:30am Council Meeting Father's Day Trinity Sunday 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00am Push Prayer	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> First Day of Summer	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00am Push Prayer	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 11:00am-12:30pm Preschool Open House 
<b>29</b> 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	<b>30</b>			 <p>As the Sun Spirals Its Longest Dance, Enlightening Us.            As Nature Depicts Bounty and Blesses Us.            Let All Things Live and Fulfil Their Destiny.            Here's Wishing You All a Happy Summer Solstice!</p>		

## June Celebrations



**June 12** George H.  
**June 12** Faith M.  
**June 18** Eileen R.  
**June 23** Joe U.  
**June 24** Robert H.  
**June 29** Kristi H.



*Happy Baptism  
 Birthday!*

**June 1** Diane C.  
**June 15** Bob G.  
**June 17** Karen G.  
**June 20** Paige H.  
**June 29** George H.

## Happy Anniversary



**June 8** Bev & Randy H.  
**June 11** Rose & Jim M.  
**June 17** Nicki & Bob G.  
**June 26** Anita & Gary M.  
**June 30** Deanna & Kurt M.

## Church Contacts

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*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

### Members at Large

Paul Huang

## Stewardship Snapshot

### May 25th

**23 Worshipped, 21 Communed**

**4 Watched Online**

**27 Total Worshipped**

### Financial Support

2,105.00 General Fund Offering  
 1,000.00 Building Maintenance (Designated)  
 182.00 Mission of the Month (Redeeming Life Outreach)  
 120.00 Dolores Urbank Memorial  
**\$3,407.00 Total 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** <sup>19</sup> One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?" <sup>20</sup> But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" <sup>21</sup> Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use? <sup>22</sup> What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? <sup>23</sup> What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory—*Romans 9:19-23*

**VERSE OF THE MONTH** <sup>2</sup> My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. <sup>1</sup> *John 2:1-2*

## Mission of the Month

**REDEEMING LIFE OUTREACH MINISTRIES** was our Mission of the Month for May. We collected the final donations last Sunday for their ministry. As always, thank you so very much for your overwhelming generosity. You truly are part of the solution for these struggling moms that did not have to choose the wrong option, abortion. We collected a total of \$182.00 for them, again thank you so much for your overwhelming generosity. I know they will truly be grateful.

**JUNE'S MISSION OF THE MONTH** is none other than Lutheran Church Charities. It is one of the truly compassionate ministries that go above and beyond the call to serve those who have been affected by natural disasters, senseless shootings and so many more hardships. The following is an email that I received after all of the storms that just nearly missed us.

After tornadoes and severe weather left a swath of devastation and damage across Missouri, Kentucky, and other states this weekend, **Lutheran Church Charities (LCC)** is deploying **LCC Disaster Response** teams to provide chainsaw assistance and debris removal with heavy equipment at multiple sites this week. **LCC Care Teams** trained in **Spiritual First Aid™** are standing by to mobilize and travel to affected areas.

The series of storms that began last Friday and continued through Sunday night killed at least 27 people, injured dozens, uprooted numerous trees, and damaged hundreds of homes and buildings across the Plains and Midwest states, including the campus of **Concordia Seminary and Park** in St. Louis.

News outlets are describing the devastation as a "mass casualty event."

LCC is calling on its supporters to pray for families and individuals affected, as well as LCC's preparations to serve the **Missouri, Southern Illinois**, and other **Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) districts**, plus working alongside other **Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT)** participating in recovery efforts. Also, please pray for weather conditions to allow for ongoing cleanup and recovery efforts.



## 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. Sherri was just here this week picking up the snack book to get the list ready for us.



# VBS 2025

## Save the date!

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



## Living Word News

**MOWERS NEEDED** even though we only have the one working mower as of right now, it would be greatly appreciated if we could get more volunteers for the mowing ministry. For right now, Neal Hartz and George Hostert has been doing it. I know in the past year or two, we've had a few others come out when they could and take care of the mowing. If we can get at least 4 volunteers, it will only be once a month that you would have to do it, or less if we have any periods of drought. We will let you know as soon as the other mower is up and running again. Thank you for all that you do for our church, it greatly appreciated.

### **PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

is scheduled for June 28th. If any of your friends or family members are looking for a preschool for their little ones, please remember to pass the word along to them about Di-ana's fantastic program here. She is looking to have school 5 days a week if she can get enough families that would want full week preschool. As of right now, one family is interested and by November they will have 2 children registered for the 5-day program.



**CALL COMMITTEE** with Pastor Ford and his wife last Tuesday, the 27th. We had a very nice conversation with them. They're currently living in South Carolina and are hoping to be able to move back into the Midwest region as both of their families live in the neighboring states from Illinois. Pastor Ford seems very outgoing and I have emailed out the video links of his sermons and children's messages to you on Wednesday morning. Please take time to view these links and get familiar with Pastor Ford's sermons. We will be having a Congregational Voter's Meeting on Sunday, June 8th following our worship service. We would like to have as many of our members be in attendance for this meeting so we can vote whether we should extend a Call to him. We would like to email and send hard copies of the Call Documents to Pastor Ford during the following week. Thank you in advance for your participation and attendance for this decision.



## ***“The Dew of Hermon”***

Psalm 133 says: *“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! ...It is like the dew of Hermon falling on Mount Zion, For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore...”*

### **1) The Dew of Hermon floods over the FIELD OF BLOOD.**

<sup>12</sup> Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. <sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) <sup>16</sup> and said, “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup> He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.” <sup>18</sup> (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. <sup>19</sup> Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) <sup>20</sup> “For,” said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms: “‘May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,’ and, “‘May another take his place of leadership.’” <sup>21</sup> Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup> So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Mathias. <sup>24</sup> Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen” <sup>25</sup> to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” <sup>26</sup> Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Acts 1:12-26

### **2) The Dew of Hermon flows from the THRONE OF GOD.**

<sup>22</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. <sup>6</sup> The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”... <sup>12</sup> “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. <sup>14</sup> “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. <sup>16</sup> “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.” <sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. <sup>18</sup> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. <sup>19</sup> And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. <sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:1-6, 12-20

### **3) The Dew of Hermon fills up our HEARTS OF LOVE.**

<sup>20</sup> “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—” <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. <sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

John 17:20-26