

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

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"Moving From Failure to Success"

The writer of Hebrews said: 'I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets...whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies'. Some of the biggest success stories in Scripture are about people who struggled with weaknesses and character flaws. They were mired in seeming failure and defeat, yet by God's grace they overcame the obstacles and odds stacked against them. The overriding theme of the Bible is resurrection – getting back up again! Here is the question: if you can't avoid failure, and you're not supposed to give in to it or let it color your thinking, how do you handle it?

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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

First, change your attitude. The people who succeed in life have faith and persistence. They refuse to give up; they have decided not to let failure defeat them. Note the words "*whose weakness was turned to strength.*" You may start out weak, but by God's grace, you can become strong. You can rise from the ashes of failure, achieve your goals, and live the life God intends. How do we know? Because God's Word says so!

A noted psychiatrist remarked that two of the saddest words in human vocabulary are 'if only'. He believes people who get trapped by their failures spend their lives saying, 'If only I had tried harder, if only I had been kinder to my kids...if only I had been more truthful...if only...' The way to change that mindset is to change your vocabulary by substituting the words 'next time'. 'Next time I will try harder...next time I will be kinder to my kids...next time I will be more truthful.'


The Bible says, '*You are snared by the words of your mouth.*' And a snare is a trap. Have you ever seen an animal caught in a trap, struggling to be free? Your words can do that. And they don't just affect you, they affect *others*.

'A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit' (Proverbs 15:4). 'Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit' (Proverbs 18:21). Jesus said, '*Whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says*' (Mark 11:23).

What do these Scriptures have in common? They confirm that our words breathe life (or death) into everything! So instead of defeatist talk, speak victory over your situation. Instead of speaking failure, start speaking success. When you do, God will honor the fruit of your lips.

A Christian leader wrote: "Oliver Goldsmith was born the son of a poor preacher in Ireland in the 1700s. Growing up, he wasn't a great student. His schoolmaster labeled him a 'blockhead.' He did manage to earn a degree, but he finished at the bottom of his class. He was unsure of what he wanted to do. At first, he tried to become a preacher, but it didn't suit him. Next, he tried law but failed at it. He then settled on medicine, but he was not passionate about his profession. "He had several jobs only temporarily. Goldsmith lived in poverty, was often ill, and once even had to pawn his clothes to buy food. It looked like he would never find his way. But then he discovered an interest and aptitude for writing and translating. At first, he worked as a Fleet Street reviewer and writer. But then he began to write works that came out of his own interests. He secured his reputation as a novelist with *The Vicar of Wakefield*, a poet with *The Deserted Village*, and a playwright with *She Stoops to Conquer*." Goldsmith's story sounds a lot like the psalmist David's—and maybe yours too: "*Many are they who say of me, 'There is no help for him in God.'* But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head". You may be down today, but God will lift you up if you turn to Him for guidance and cooperate with His plan for your life.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	26 Memorial Day Office Closed 	27 10:00am Push Prayer 4:30pm Call Committee Meeting with Pastor Ford	28	29	30	31

Church Contacts

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

Members at Large

Paul Huang

May Celebrations



May 30 Deanna Meier
May 30 Joshua Regan

Stewardship Snapshot

May 18th

45 Worshipped
4 Watched Online
49 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

1,715.00 General Fund Offering
150.00 Building Use (Cook County)
240.00 Building Use (God Is Able Church)
400.00 Dolores Urbank Memorial
\$2,505.00 Total Deposit

Devotional Time

Opportunities to Connect with God

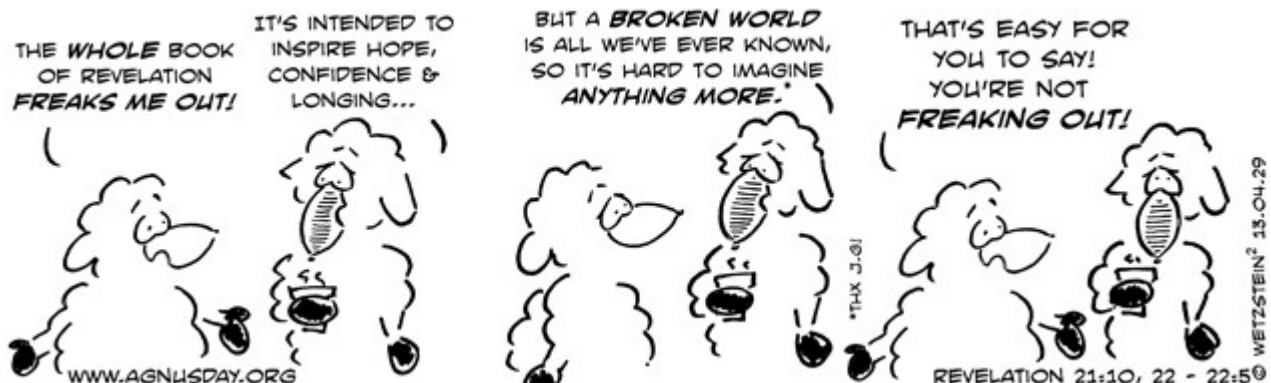
PUSH PRAYER meets every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. to pray for our church, community and world. We welcome requests (call 708-403-9673) or visit our website to send in your prayer request, or join us for 30-40 minutes each week.

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 ¹⁴What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. ¹⁷For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. *Romans 9:14-18*

VERSE OF THE MONTH 2 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. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2



Mission of the Month

REDEEMING LIFE OUTREACH MINISTRIES has been our Mission of the Month for May. It is truly a passionate and caring ministry for women and their newborn babies. Every little bit that we can help these women is greatly appreciated. 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. This Sunday will be our last Sunday for this month that we will be collecting 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.

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 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.



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 GRADUATION was last Sunday, May 18th. The kids were so adorable, and did such a great job singing their songs and dancing for us. Great job class of 2025. With the graduation over, now marks the end of another year of preschool. Mrs. Diana is already busy planning on what days she wants to come in and clean out her class room and organize it. Never a dull moment for her, lol.



A BIG THANK YOU to Diana for planting the flowers and foliage in our stone planters as you come in. After leaving here last Tuesday, she took care of her errands and her and Kyle came back here and planted the geraniums and spikes in the two planters by the front door. They look beautiful and Mother Nature has been making sure that they got plenty of water lately, lol. Thank you for taking care of that for us Diana!



EASTER FLOWERS that have been left here for us, have been transplanted in Linda Boehm's garden. I planted the 3 pots of tulips and the 3 pots of hyacinths in her garden this week, that is before and after all of the rain that we got the past few days.

ALSO, I WANT TO THANK everyone who helped clean up on Sunday after the graduation festivities. Bill Merchantz, Ed and Cathy Baidis and Paul and Kyle Motel all helped take down the tables and chairs for us on Sunday, that was a big help, thank you to all of you. But none of that would have been possible if it wasn't for Diana setting everything up for the luncheon after the graduation ceremony. It truly was an enjoyable fellowship time that was had by all. Plus the food was great and yummy as always, lol.

COUNCIL MEETING was held on Thursday evening. Among the topics discussed was the financial updates, call committee updates, ideas and plans for a Dolores Urbank memorial and status of when and how we will be mailing out a church flyer. More details will be made available about the flyer and how you can help hopefully within the next week. Any of the outcomes from the council meeting will be made during the announcements on Sunday morning.

CALL COMMITTEE will be meeting on Tuesday, May 25th. We will be having a Zoom meeting with Pastor Ford from South Carolina, but has family members in the northern Midwest. He is in his mid thirties and is newly married.

MEMORIAL DAY

"We cherish too, the Poppy red,
which grows on fields where valor led,
it seems to signal to the skies
that blood of heroes never dies."

~Moina Michael~

Tradition of the Poppy:

Poppies would grow on battlefields everywhere blood stained the ground. In 1915, John McCrae penned his famous poem "In Flanders Field" commemorating this phenomenon. In response, Moina Michael wrote her own poem, above, and began wearing a red Poppy on Memorial Day. Madam Guerin of France heard about the idea and began making and selling red Poppies. A year later she asked for the VFW's help ~ and the rest is history!



“Among All Nations”

Psalm 67 says: *“May God be gracious to us...so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations...”*

1) God’s salvation is made known with our MESSAGE.

⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. ¹¹ From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. ¹² From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. ¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. ¹⁵ When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

Acts 16:9-15

2) God’s ways are made known through His MESSENGERS.

⁹ One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. ¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ... ²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass. ²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27

3) God’s ways are made known by His MESSIAH.

²³ In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. ²⁵ “Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. ²⁷ No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.” ²⁹ Then Jesus’ disciples said, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. ³⁰ Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.” ³¹ “Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. ³² “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. ³³ “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

John 16:23-33

