

Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Luke 2:52

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 34, Issue 23

June 8, 2025

## "Never Stop Learning and Growing"

The most important skill you can acquire is learning to learn. Gifted people can sometimes act like they know it all, which makes it hard for them to keep growing. Teachability isn't so much about competence and mental capacity as it is about attitude; it's an innate hunger to grow. It's a willingness to learn, unlearn, and relearn. The famous football coach John Wooden said, 'It's what you learn after you know it all that counts.' Only as you remain teachable will you keep growing and continue to make an impact on the world around you. Lifelong learning is an ongoing daily pursuit.

The Roman scholar Cato the Elder started studying Greek at eighty years old. When asked why he was tackling such a difficult task at his age, he replied, 'It's the earliest age I have left.' Unlike Cato, many of us regard learning as an event instead of a lifelong process. It's estimated that only one-third of adults read an entire book after leaving school. Why? Because they view education as a *period* in life, not a *way* of life. Science confirms that while your physical body may atrophy, your mind retains much of its capacity for continued growth. *Every* stage of life presents lessons to be learned. You can choose to be teachable and keep on learning, or you can close your mind and stop growing.

Try this simple experiment for a week: ask others for their advice...deliberately withhold the advice you would normally give...and at the end of each day write down what you have learned by being attentive. You will be amazed!

### Prayer

*Heavenly Father, help me never to grow weary of learning as You have so much to teach me still. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

To keep learning and growing, you must recognize these:

**1) Successful people view learning differently than unsuccessful people.** Joshua learned from Moses. Timothy learned from Paul. Who have you chosen to learn from? Author Sydney J. Harris wrote: 'A winner knows how much he still has to learn, even when he is considered an expert by others. A loser wants to be considered an expert by others before he has learned enough to know how little he knows.' It's all a matter of attitude. It's truly remarkable how much a person has to learn before he or she realizes how little they know.

**2) Nothing is interesting if you're not interested.** In *Quality Is Free*, Philip B. Crosby writes: 'There is a theory of human behavior that says people subconsciously retard their own intellectual growth. They come to rely on clichés and habits. Once they reach the age of...personal comfort with the world, they stop learning and their mind runs on idle for the rest of their days. They may progress organizationally, they may be ambitious and eager, and they may even work night and day. But they learn no more.'

The Bible says, 'Jesus increased in wisdom and stature' (Luke 2:52). He didn't just grow physically; He grew spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. It's a tragedy when you let yourself get into a rut and never climb out; you miss out on the best that God has to offer. By contrast, teachable people are completely engaged in life. They are enthusiastic about things. They're interested in discovering, discussing, applying, and increasing. So, never stop learning and growing!

### Prayer

*Heavenly Father, help me to grow and learn each day. And when I don't feel like it—help me to learn even more to keep growing! In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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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

## This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>8</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Blended Worship Service</b> <b>Pentecost</b> <b>11:20 Congregational Meeting</b> 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>

### June Celebrations

#### Happy Anniversary



**June 8**      Bev & Randy H.  
**June 11**     Rose & Jim M.



**June 12**     George H.  
**June 12**     Faith M.

### Stewardship Snapshot

#### June 1st

**25 Worshipped, 23 Communed**

**4 Watched Online**

**29 Total Worshipped**

#### **Financial Support**

2,461.00 General Fund Offering

65.00 Preschool Deposit

250.00 Dolores Urbank Memorial

**\$2,776.00 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>24</sup>even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? <sup>25</sup>As he says in Hosea: "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one," <sup>26</sup>and, "In the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'children of the living God.'" <sup>27</sup>Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved. <sup>28</sup>For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality." <sup>29</sup>It is just as Isaiah said previously: "Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah." *Romans 9:24-29*

**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. *1 John 2:1-2*



### Lutheran Church Charities June 2025 Mission of the Month

Lutheran Church Charities works throughout the United States and Internationally in bringing the Mercy, Compassion, Presence, and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those suffering and in need.

They offer different ministrys including K-9 Comfort Dogs, Kare 9 Military Ministry, K- 9 Police Ministry, Disaster Response, Human Care Ministry, and Hearts of Mercy& Compassion

**LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry** was launched in August of 2008, and it is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ. They serve everyday in the community in which they are placed in times of disaster and crisis to bring comfort to all those affected, including first responders and the volunteers who serve them.

**LCC Kare 9 Military Ministry** is a ministry by veterans for veterans. They strive to serve our military veterans and their families. The Kare-9 Military Ministry dogs and their trained veteran handlers visit many places including VFWs, VA hospitals, Traumatic Brain Injury Care Centers, homes of veterans that are home bound, Expos, Vet Clinics and various other activities to help spread the mercy and compassion.

**LCC K-9 Police Ministry** handlers are law enforcement officers (current and former) who understand the unique challenges facing the law enforcement community. They bring the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who protect and serve, as well as their families. Crisis Response serves the law enforcement and family members in their time of need, by providing comfort following injuries, deaths or major incidents. Ongoing Support is the K-9 visits (headquarters, substations and dispatch centers), provides assistance with department missions such as Christmas shopping with children, summer camps and public events, comforting crime victims prior to interviews, counseling or courtroom testimonies, and general support for department members and their families.

**LCC Disaster Response Ministries** coordinates deployment of trained volunteers for Disaster Response. When disasters strike; lives, homes, businesses, churches and more are affected. LCC L.E.R.T. volunteers respond quickly to serve people affected by a disaster. LCC teams are trained to work through local churches to serve their communities. LCC Disaster Response provides on-site and online (L.E.R.T.) basic training. Additional training includes expertise in the area of chainsaw, heavy equipment, debris removal, flood recovery, and emotional and spiritual care.

**Hearts of Mercy and Compassion (HMC), Crosses for Losses** provides a physical and spiritual symbol through the giving of hearts and crosses to families and friends who have suffered a loss or are experiencing the illness of a loved one. An HMC can also be given to celebrate a victory, honor service, as an expression of love, or to be an encouragement in the face of adversity. Given as a gift, each HMC provides the love and hope of Jesus through presence and prayer. Upon request, LCC, working through churches, can provide an HMC at no charge.



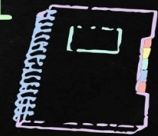
## Preschool 2025

# PRESCHOOL

## Open house

Living Word Lutheran Church  
in Orland Park

Saturday, June 28th  
11 am - 12:30pm



## 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 Diana'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, Abigail 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 energetic for outreach responsibilities. I have emailed out the video links of his sermons and children's messages to you last 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 this 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. The ballots and a private and separate link have been emailed to everyone on Friday. Once our worship service is over, and after a very short break, if you are not here, you can simply click on the separate link which is only emailed to our members. Voting will remain opened till noon on Tuesday, June 10th. Once all of the ballots are counted and if the majority of the vote is to extend a Call to Pastor Ford, we will then email and send out hard copies via registered mail to him. Thank you in advance for your participation and attendance for this decision. Please keep Pastor Ford and his wife, Abigail in your prayers while they prayerfully consider accepting our Call.

**CHURCH FLYERS** have all been printed, all 2,400+ that is, lol. We are hoping they can be folded with everyone's help. Either you take some home with you and bring them back, or if you want to hang around after the meeting on Sunday, that is fine too. Originally we were planning on having a pizza lunch for everyone who was going to help us, but we understand that June is very busy, and we would like to have these flyers in everyone's mailbox at least a week or two before the Preschool Open House. The flyers are in folders on the conference room table and are in sets of 50, 75 and 100 flyers. Thank you all in advance for all of your effort and hard work. We plan on doing these mailings at least every 3 or 4 months, depending on our events.



**Sunday, June 8th**  
**Congregational Meeting**



## “On Level Ground”

Psalm 143 says: “Answer me quickly, Lord; my spirit fails...  
May your good Spirit lead me on level ground...”

### 1) Our SIN rocks level ground.

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. <sup>2</sup> As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup> They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. <sup>4</sup> Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.” <sup>5</sup> But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. <sup>6</sup> The LORD said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup> Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.” <sup>8</sup> So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> That is why it was called Babel—because there God confused the language of all the world. From there God scattered them over the face of the whole earth. Genesis 11:1-9

### 2) God’s SPIRIT restores level ground.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. <sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?” <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” <sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> “‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. <sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. <sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. <sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ Acts 2:1-21

### 3) Jesus’ SENDING reinforces level ground.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. <sup>25</sup> “All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. <sup>28</sup> “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. <sup>30</sup> I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, <sup>31</sup> but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. “Come now; let us leave. John 14:23-31

PETER’S SERMON SOUNDS  
LIKE HE THINKS PENTECOST  
IS THE END OF THE WORLD,  
“IN THE LAST DAYS... THE  
SUN TURNED TO  
DARKNESS...”



THAT  
HAPPENED  
AT THE  
CRUCIFIXION.\*

\*LUKE 23:44-45



EVER SINCE THE  
**RESURRECTION**,  
WE’VE BEEN LIVING  
IN THE **END TIMES**.



JESUS REALLY  
KNOWS HOW  
TO **STRETCH  
THINGS OUT!**



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