



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 5

February 1, 2026

"Overcome Temptation"

In Scripture, Satan is called *'the tempter'* and *'the accuser'*. First, he will tempt you, and when you fail, he will accuse you. He wants you to feel unworthy and disqualified in God's eyes. But you're not! *'We do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need'* (Hebrews 4:15-16). When you fail, you can go to God with confidence, knowing He will not only forgive you but provide the enabling grace to help you overcome temptation next time. We all face temptation; it's an unavoidable part of life. Even believers who have walked with the Lord for many years deal with it. Their areas of temptation may be different from yours, but Satan does not give any of us a free pass.

You can overcome temptation. One of the first steps to conquering it is to start saying the right thing. The Bible says, *'Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit'*. Your words give life to what you say. So, start speaking God's Word. Jesus said, *'I give you the authority...over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you'*. Claim that promise today; for what God promises, He will give you the strength. *'Therefore let anyone who thinks he stands [who feels sure that he has a steadfast mind and is standing firm], take heed lest he fall [into sin]. For no temptation (no trial regarded as enticing to sin), [no matter how it comes or where it leads] has overtaken you and laid hold on you that is not common to man [that is, no temptation or trial has come to you that is beyond human resistance and that is not adjusted and adapted and belonging to human experience, and such as man can bear]. 'But God is faithful [to His Word and to His compassionate nature], and He [can be trusted] not to let you be tempted and tried and assayed beyond your ability and strength of resistance and power to endure, but with the temptation He will [always] also provide the way out (the means of escape to a landing place), that you may be capable and strong and powerful to bear up under it patiently'* (1 Corinthians 10:12-13 AMPC). The words *'means of escape'* do not promise you exemption from temptation. Satan, who is called *'the tempter'*, never lets up or takes a day off. But God's goal is to make you strong where you have been weak, so His promise to you is *'that you may be capable and strong and powerful to bear up under it patiently'*. Keep going! As you become stronger in the Lord, the temptations you are battling will become progressively weaker until they lose their appeal and you begin to walk in victory.

If you are serious about overcoming temptation, here are five things you must do:

1) Think about the choices you are making, and the consequences, before you make them. Wisdom always looks ahead.

2) Believe that you can resist temptation – because you can. *'You are of God...and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world'* (1 John 4:4).

3) Recall how you felt when you gave in to temptation before. Guilt, condemnation, shame. These are some of Satan's favorite weapons. When you give in to them, it is hard to get back on your feet again.

4) Don't put yourself in situations where you can easily fall. If you struggle with managing your money, don't go to the shopping mall or shop online when you can't afford to buy anything.

5) Celebrate each victory, but be sure to give God the credit for it.

You won't graduate from being tempted. It's easy to think you're beyond stumbling, and once that happens, you make yourself an easy target for the Enemy. God wants you to trust Him for victory in every area of your life. Sheep are defenseless animals; they have no fighting skills. When they stray from the fold, they are quickly devoured by the wolf. So, they have learned that their safety and protection lie in staying close to the shepherd. And the same goes for you. Here is a promise you can stand on today: *'The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations'*.

Inside this issue:

- "Overcome Temptation" 1
- February 2026 Calendar 2
- Church Contacts 3
- Stewardship Snapshot/Devotional Time 3
- Preschool News 4
- Living Word News 5
- Mission of the Month 5
- 2-1-2026 Message Outline 6

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Please call the office 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

February 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service	2 9am- Noon Preschool	3 9am- Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	4 9am- Noon Preschool	5 9am- Noon Preschool	6 9am- Noon Preschool	7
8 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	9 9am- Noon Preschool	10 9am- Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	11 9am- Noon Preschool	12 9am- Noon Preschool	13 9am- Noon Preschool	14  Valentine's Day
15 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	16 No Preschool Presidents' Day	17 9am- Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	18 9am- Noon Preschool  6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 9am- Noon Preschool	20 9am- Noon Preschool	21
22 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	23 9am- Noon Preschool	24 9am- Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	25 9am- Noon Preschool	26 9am- Noon Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting	27 9am- Noon Preschool	28




February Celebrations



*Birthdays
of the Month*

Feb 2	Kyle Motel
Feb 4	David Holloway
Feb 5	Anita Meier
Feb 5	Phil Hauze
Feb 12	Gary Meier
Feb 18	Matt Meier



*Happy Baptism
Birthday!*

Feb 1	Beverly Hodo
Feb 28	Petra Wasilkoff

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

Stewardship Snapshot

January 25th
11 Worshipped
No Online Service Available

Financial Support

\$260.00 General Fund Offering
536.00 Reimbursement from US Bank for Copier
\$796.00 Total General Fund 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. We are always looking for people to join us in prayer to our Lord.

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 note that this is a recurring link for the meeting, so if I don't send it out right away, or you don't see it in your inbox, you can save and use this link over again in Zoom. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the PUSH PRAYER on February 3rd.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84076099900?pwd=d3BxLBWbTizRVpuSGhgTXc2dGRldz09>

Meeting ID: 840 7609 9900 Passcode: 427470

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

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

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

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

DEVOTION OF THE WEEK I will proclaim the LORD's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father.

⁸ Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. *Psalm 2:7-8*

Great God, We need to remember that how things are now is not how they've always been; and it's not how they always will be. We need to remember that your kingdom has come, that it is growing among us now, and that the time will come when it fills the world with justice and love. And so we pray for your coming, to those around the world whose poverty, pain, trauma, and grief make your kingdom feel like a pipe dream; to those in our community who long to see your love and justice expressed through your followers; to those in your Church who seek to be faithful and to make a difference while juggling the needs of themselves and their families; and to us, who long to know you more, and to live as citizens of your kingdom in this place and time. May your coming be something we hope for, but also be something we experience moment by moment. In Jesus' Name; Amen.

PRESCHOOL WISH LIST on Amazon. Mrs. Diana had created a wish list on Amazon last week. The past few years, Diana has been supplying all of the items that her classroom has needed throughout the school year without being compensated for it. We all know how expensive that can get, so in order to help her out a little, here is a wish list on Amazon. Here is the link to the list she has created: https://www.amazon.com/registries/gll/guest-view/20NAPMBATD5WA?ref=cm_sw_r_apann_ggr-subnav-share_MNF6H1V8W4DMC469VA9T&language=en-US This isn't mandatory of course, and if you happen to find some things cheaper elsewhere, then by all means feel free to buy them where the items are cheaper. Some of the items on the list are under \$10. Thank you to the ones who bought some of the items, the children are having a blast with them. As a reminder, please keep your receipts and turn them in to me, so I can add the amounts to your tax statements. If you need me to email you the link, just let me know. As always thank you for your overwhelming generosity and supporting our preschool. As you can see, there's Magic Paint Books, Play-Dough, Play-Dough accessories and tools, stickers, a magnetic board for the classroom door, and classroom equipment.

 <p>0 of 1 Purchased 4-Tier Clear Acrylic Paper... 4.7 ★★★★★ (134) Save 19% \$28⁹⁹ (\$7.25/count) Typical: \$55.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Play-Doh Modelin... 4.8 ★★★★★ (66.4K) \$7⁹⁹ (\$0.80/count)</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Assorted Designs Dough... 4.3 ★★★★★ (787) \$9⁶³</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Ready 2 Learn... 4.5 ★★★★★ (549) \$14⁸⁴</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Simplay3 Rock an... 4.8 ★★★★★ (1.1K) \$49⁹⁹</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 4 Purchased Flybar Hopper Bal... 4.6 ★★★★★ (2.8K) Limited time deal \$13⁴⁹ List: \$14.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>
 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>
<p>Most Wanted</p>  <p>0 of 1 Purchased Play-Doh Modelin... 4.8 ★★★★★ (28K) \$28⁹⁹ (\$0.27/ounce)</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	<p>Most Wanted</p>  <p>0 of 1 Purchased HAMICAR Magnet... 4.3 ★★★★★ (788) \$14⁹⁹ (\$1.36/count) Save 5% on 2 select item(s)</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Learning Resource... 4.8 ★★★★★ (477) \$10⁹⁹</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Jasonwell 100pcs... 4.8 ★★★★★ (9.6K) Limited time deal \$22⁹⁹ List: \$69.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Wild Animals Mag... 4.7 ★★★★★ (243) \$7⁸⁵ List: \$9.99 You Earn: 8 pts</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased First Magic Paintin... 4.3 ★★★★★ (87) \$7⁹⁹ List: \$9.99 You Earn: 8 pts</p> <p>Edit Item</p>
<p>Most Wanted</p>  <p>0 of 1 Purchased Space Magic... 4.6 ★★★★★ (218) \$7⁸⁵ List: \$9.99 You Earn: 8 pts</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	<p>Most Wanted</p>  <p>0 of 1 Purchased Art Drying Rack 18... 5.0 ★★★★★ (2) \$48⁹⁹ Typical: \$55.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>
 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Space Magic... 4.6 ★★★★★ (218) \$7⁸⁵ List: \$9.99 You Earn: 8 pts</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Art Drying Rack 18... 5.0 ★★★★★ (2) \$48⁹⁹ Typical: \$55.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased LiKee Open Ended... 4.6 ★★★★★ (173) \$9⁹⁹</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased YOHOOLYO... 4.5 ★★★★★ (47) \$23⁹⁹</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>

CHURCH FLYERS New flyers have been printed. The flyer will be promoting Preschool Open House, our annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Bible Studies. We are hoping to have them folded and brought to the post office by the first week of February.

CALL COMMITTEE had given a brief update to the congregation a few weeks ago following the service. Diana explained how we had been talking to the District and at this time we are going to apply for seminary student. It was unanimous to go forward with this decision. They received our application and paperwork, and said they will interview several candidates that they think will be a good fit for us. So after several suggestions by the District and the council reworking some of the issues, Diana had sent out the final draft of our application and the Call documents to the District and to the Seminary Board. We will not know how those interviews go until sometime in April. As always, please continue to pray for our church and to be able to follow God's plans for us and our church family.

2025 TAX STATEMENTS have been printed out and are available on the desk in the fellowship hall. Please make sure to review your statement with your records and let me know if there are any discrepancies.



ASH WEDNESDAY is February 18th. Service will be at 6:30pm. We pray that you will be in attendance for that special worship service.

Mission of the Month



Feb Mission of the Month

What is more fitting for a month about love than to support our children's ministry?

We need to stock up for our Easter Egg hunt, get our VBS kit, and also plan some other future kids' events.

2-1-2026 Message Outline

“Who May Live?”

“Lord... Who may live on your holy mountain?”

Psalm 15

1) “Who may live?” ...The **GOOD** person.

Listen to what the LORD says: “Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say.”² “Hear, you mountains, the LORD’s accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel.”³ “My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me.”⁴ I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.⁵ My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”⁶ With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:1-8

2) “Who may live?” ...The **SAVED** person.

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” ²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

3) “Who may live?” ...The **BLESSED** person.

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,² and he began to teach them. He said:³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:1-12

