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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

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 7

February 15, 2026

"Transfiguration Sunday"

After the story of Peter's confession and the subsequent passion prediction of Jesus, Matthew presents the episode of Jesus being transformed into a luminary figure. If one follows the Two-Source Hypothesis, Matthew's source for this passage is Mark 9:2-13, while the question of Mark's source for this pericope cannot be answered. In his form-critical study of the synoptic traditions, Bultmann hypothesized that this "legend" was originally a resurrection-story interjected into the Galilean phase of Jesus' ministry. An interesting parallel can be found in the apocryphal Gospel of Peter, which is the only early Christian literature depicting the resurrection event itself. In verses 35-42, on the day of the resurrection, the heavens were opened and two men, who were radiant, descended from the heavens and entered the tomb of Jesus. Then they brought Jesus out, each supporting him from one side, followed by a cross. The heads of the two unnamed men reached the heavens, while the head of Jesus reached beyond the heavens. A voice from the heavens was heard, "Have you proclaimed to those who have fallen asleep?" An answer came forward from the cross, "Yes." This striking correspondence between the transfiguration narrative and the resurrection scene in the Gospel of Peter might be just coincidence, but it certainly renders significant support. Whether this story was originally from the Easter Christophany tradition or not, its place in Matthew's plot line—in other words, immediately after the passion prediction—clearly indicates that it offers a glimpse of the future glory of Jesus, which will eventually be manifested in the resurrection story at the end. In the passion prediction (16:21), Jesus foretells his great suffering at the hands of the Jewish leaders (stated) and his execution by the Roman authorities (implied). The reason for this suffering and death is not provided, but perceptive readers will know that, just as John the Baptizer was executed by Herod Antipas, a puppet tetrarch appointed by the Roman emperor, because of his public ministry and message for the Kingdom of Heavens, Jesus will face the same persecution by the Romans and their Jewish collaborators because of his proclamation of the Kingdom of Heavens. Then, the brief moment of the earthly Jesus being transformed into a shiny figure in this passage functions as a presage for the final vindication by God for the life and ministry of Jesus that would cause his unjust execution. The location of the transfiguration is on a high mountain. In Matthew, it is also on a mountain that Jesus gives his first and last great discourse, as well as his final commission to the 11 disciples after his resurrection. This motif of mountain as the locus of important teaching in the narrative world of Matthew endows the transfiguration episode with the same symbolic significance as one of the most important revelations about Jesus.

Moses and Elijah in this scene are often understood as representatives of the Law and the Prophets. This line of interpretation has frequently led to the idea that Jesus is greater than Moses and Elijah and therefore the teaching of Jesus replaces the Hebrew Scriptures. It is certainly an overinterpretation that the text itself does not warrant. It seems to be more influenced by Christian theology rather than exegetical observations. One common aspect between Moses and Elijah is that they both encountered the presence of God on Mount Horeb/Sinai. Especially, the description of Moses' face shining after he came down from the mountain adds one more resemblance to the transfiguration story of Jesus. Exodus 34:29 makes it clear that Moses' shining face is because he was talking with God, which means the glory in Moses' face is not his own but is God's glory temporarily reflected on Moses' body. Jesus' shiny face and his dazzling white clothes also reflect God's glory reflected in, not necessarily transferred to, the person of Jesus. The heavenly voice from the cloud (verse 5) saying, "This is my son, my beloved one, in whom I am well pleased," is a verbatim repetition of the same voice that was heard at the baptism of Jesus. It adds no new information for the readers who are hearing/reading the gospel from the beginning. However, it is a new revelation to Peter, James, and John as in the plot line of Matthew's narrative, since they were recruited by Jesus to follow him only after his baptism.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	16 No Preschool	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

February Celebrations



Stewardship Snapshot

February 8th

19 Worshipped
5 Watched Online
24 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

\$630.00 General Fund Offering
 180.00 Building Use (God Is Able)
\$810.00 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 17th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84076099900?pwd=d3BxLBWbTlzRVpuSGhgTXc2dGRldz09>

Meeting ID: 840 7609 9900 Passcode: 427470

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84076099900#,,,,*427470# US (Chicago) +13092053325,,84076099900#,,,,*427470# US

DEVOTION OF THE WEEK ¹How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty! ²My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. *Psalm 84:1-2* My dwelling places are many, Lord: my house or apartment, my dorm or condo; my neighborhood, parish and local community; where I work, where I study, where I pray; my dwelling places are many....First of all, I thank you, Lord, not only for so many dwelling places in my day but for the gift at each day's end of a door to a place, to a room with a roof overhead, the place I call home, whether large and spacious or small and cramped, a place to lay down my head at night and rest...My dwelling may not be a castle, Lord, but how many in need would deem it a palace for its locks and safety, its light and warmth, a fridge with food, a shower and toilet, a bed and a pillow, an address for mail, for it's being a place to return to each night for being a place to call home...I thank you for my dwelling place, Lord: let me not take it for granted and keep me generously mindful of those who have no place they might call home...And how lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts...Your dwelling is the universe and all the heavens - and beyond the heavens, Lord...Your dwelling has no roof, no walls, no beginning and no end...The beauty of your dwelling's beyond any-thing my mind might conceive or my dreams imagine and yet - your dwelling place is with me and in me...You who cannot be confined, you choose to dwell within my soul and make your home within my heart...You, whom all creation can't contain, you enter my humble quarters, the spare, simple chambers of my heart, and there, in Spirit, make yourself at home...And, Lord, as you can see, I'm seldom ready for company, for receiving any guests at all, let alone, you, the greatest guest of all...So, please forgive me, (indeed, forgive me, Lord!) for my house is not in order, not yet or ever ready to be a place where you might dwell a place you might call home...And yet, you come, you enter and you stay and you don't leave, you don't go away, you remain within me, always, and in making my heart your home you make of your heart a home for me...Amen.

VERSE OF THE MONTH ¹⁴Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. *Psalm 27:14*

Living Word News

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.

SAVE YOUR PAPER TOWEL TUBES for our VBS program this summer. Mrs. Diana will have the kids make rain gauges out of them. As your paper towels run out, please save the cardboard tubes for her, you can bring them in at any time.

Ash Wednesday



Preschool News

**Living Word Preschool
Open House**

**Saturday, March 7th
11-12:30**

**Are you looking for a preschool for
your child this Fall? Come tour our
classroom and meet our teacher.
We offer a 5-day program with a
4,3, and 2-day option.**

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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% \$28.99 (\$7.25/count) Typical: \$55.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Play-Doh Modelin... 4.8 ★★★★★ (66.4K) \$7.99 (\$0.80/count)</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Assorted Designs Dough... 4.3 ★★★★★ (787) \$9.63</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Ready 2 Learn... 4.5 ★★★★★ (549) \$14.84</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Simplay3 Rock an... 4.8 ★★★★★ (1.1K) \$49.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 4 Purchased Flybar Hopper Bal... 4.6 ★★★★★ (2.8K) Limited time deal \$13.49 List: \$14.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>
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 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Play-Doh Modelin... 4.8 ★★★★★ (28K) \$28.99 (\$0.27/ounce)</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased HAMICAR Magnet... 4.3 ★★★★★ (788) \$14.99 (\$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) \$10.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Jasonwell 100pcs... 4.8 ★★★★★ (9.6K) Limited time deal \$22.99 List: \$69.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Wild Animals Mag... 4.7 ★★★★★ (243) \$7.85 List: \$9.99 You Earn: 8 pts</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased First Magic Paintin... 4.3 ★★★★★ (87) \$7.99 List: \$9.99 You Earn: 8 pts</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>0 of 1 Purchased Space Magic... 4.6 ★★★★★ (218) \$7.85 List: \$9.99 You Earn: 8 pts</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Art Drying Rack 18... 5.0 ★★★★★ (2) \$49.99 Typical: \$55.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased LiKe Open Ended... 4.6 ★★★★★ (173) \$9.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased YOHOOLYO... 4.5 ★★★★★ (47) \$23.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>



**Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, March 29th
@ 11:30**

**Registration is now open
and required**

Mission of the Month

FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH is our Children's Ministry. We will be collecting donations throughout the month for our Easter Egg Hunt and for the VBS week this summer. Diana will be busy filling eggs next month, we usually always have 50 to 60 kids register for this event, providing also that the weather cooperates with us, lol. As always we appreciate all you do for our church and the events we organize for the community.



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.**

2-15-2026 Message Outline

“God’s Holy Mountain”

“I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.”

Psalm 2:6

1) God’s holy mountain is the one of SINAI.

⁸Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.” ⁹Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. ¹¹But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank. ¹²The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction.” ¹³Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. ¹⁴He said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them.” ¹⁵When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, ¹⁶and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. ¹⁷To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. ¹⁸Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 24:8-18

2) God’s holy mountain is the one of ZION.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. ¹⁹We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:16-21

3) God’s holy mountain is the one of TRANSFIGURATION.

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. ⁴Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁵While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” ⁸When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Matthew 17:1-9

