



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 8

February 22, 2026

## "Live in the Light"

A pastor writes: 'Have you ever heard the term *achluophobia*? It is the fear of darkness...Being in complete darkness is unnerving. It induces a sense of helplessness. And yet physical darkness is nothing compared to emotional, relational, and spiritual darkness.' Today you may feel like you're in a dark place with no way out: 'I'm depressed and cry for no reason. When will these feelings go away?' Or, 'I'm wrestling with a terrible illness, and I'm basically homebound. I am in a dark place and need help.' If that's your story, there is help, and there is hope.

Jesus said, *'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'* If you're willing to turn to Him today, you will discover that He can illuminate your path and show you the way out of the darkness you're in. When you turn on the light, darkness has to leave. And Jesus is the light that removes our spiritual and emotional darkness. Notice that Jesus did not say He is a light, or one among many, but instead **the** light. He didn't say He is light just for some, but the light of the world. Regardless of where you live, Jesus is your answer. If you are living in darkness, He is inviting you to come to Him and step into the light. The pastor continues: 'Light is one of the things we often take for granted...We could not live without it. Plants are necessary for the existence of mankind. The entire human species and all animal life are dependent on plants for survival. Plants provide all the essential amino acids and most of the vitamins necessary for health through a light process known as photosynthesis. Plants also produce the oxygen we need to breathe. And plants must have light to grow.

'What is true in the physical world is true in the spiritual world. Physical life is impossible without physical light, and spiritual life is impossible without spiritual light...How do you dispel the darkness?...Would you sit down on a couch and feel sorry for yourself? Would you take a broom and try to sweep the darkness away? Would you try to shovel or vacuum the darkness out? There is only one solution to such a quandary; turn on the light.' That's what you do when you commit your life to Jesus. That's what you do when you obey His teachings and follow His instructions. That's what you do when you spend time with Him in prayer. That's what you do when you turn to Him during the dark times in your life. That's when you discover His promise to be true: *'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'* And not only that, you begin to reflect that light to others: *'Believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.'* Jesus said, *'You are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.'*

The pastor continues to explain: 'If you are a follower of Christ, you should also be light amidst the darkness. Your job is to let Jesus shine in and through you so that those living in the dark will find the light as well. That's why it's not enough just to shine. Light is only useful when it encounters the darkness. The place to shine your light and show your light and share your light is not *inside* the church, but *outside* the church. Jesus tells us to do what He did: go find dark places and start shining...You don't have to ask people to look at you when you turn on a light in a dark room. Their heads will turn instinctively.

- 1) You play sports, and you begin playing for and with your teammates. You are a light in the darkness.
- 2) You live in a neighborhood filled with unbelievers and begin performing acts of service for others in Jesus' name. You are a light in the darkness.
- 3) You are the conspicuous Christian in your office, displaying virtue in an atmosphere of selfishness. You are a light in the darkness. Jesus called us to find people in dark places and to move towards those who need Him. Escaping from darkness is as easy as turning on the light.' Remember the children's song 'This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.' That's what God has called you to do.

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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

# This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>22</b> 9:00am Adult Bible Study  10:00am Blended Worship Service	<b>23</b> 9am–Noon Preschool	<b>24</b> 9am–Noon Preschool  10:00am Push Prayer	<b>25</b> 9am–Noon Preschool	<b>26</b> 9am–Noon Preschool  7:00 Council Meeting	<b>27</b> 9am–Noon Preschool	<b>28</b>

## February Celebrations

## Stewardship Snapshot

 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Happy Baptism Birthday!</i></p> <p><b>Feb 28</b> Petra Wasilkoff</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 15th</b></p> <p>19 Worshipped, 18 Communed  <u>6 Watched Online</u>                      25 Total Worshipped</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Financial Support</b></p> <p>\$645.00 General Fund Offering</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 18th(Ash Wednesday)</b></p> <p>10 Worshipped, 10 Communed  <u>6 Watched Online</u>                      16 Total Worshipped</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Financial Support</b></p> <p>Offering was not counted for Ash Wednesday</p>
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## 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 24th.**

<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** <sup>31</sup> Do not envy the violent or choose any of their ways. <sup>32</sup> For the LORD detests the perverse but takes the upright into his confidence. *Proverbs 3:31-32*

God of all good life, on our journey toward Easter, cleanse our hearts of every desire to mimic the violence of wrongs that befall us. Save us from becoming the evil we hate. Save us from denial of abuses which daily crucify Christ afresh. Drive away the chilling cold, the wintry frost, of numbing detachment from other's pain, and our own hurts, also. Breathe, O breathe Your empowering Spirit into the troubled hearts of Your children who wish they could wish to love but cannot. Hear our prayer, in the name of Jesus, the Shining Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

**VERSE OF THE MONTH** <sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. *Psalms 27:14*



## Living Word News

**EASTER FLOWERS** even though the weather doesn't know if it's time to think of spring or not, the Easter Flower forms will be in the bulletins this week. Orders are due by March 15th. We will have the option of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths again.

**SAVE YOUR PAPER TOWEL TUBES** for our VBS program this summer. Mrs. Diana will have the kids make rain sticks out of them. As your paper towels run out, please save the cardboard tubes for her, you can bring them in at any time. There is a box on the desk in the fellowship hall for you to drop them into. Thank you.

**COUNCIL MEETING** is scheduled for next Thursday evening at 7:00pm. Among the topics that will be discussed are the financial updates, preschool updates and various other current topics for our church. If there is something that you would like to have addressed, please see Neal, Bill, Ken or Diana, so that it can be added to the agenda.

**CALLING ALL DOG LOVERS** On March 8th, we will be hosting the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs. Yes, we will be able to pet the loving and caring puppies after service. Lutheran Church Charities will of course be our Mission of the Month in March. I am sure we all will be happy to make the dogs feel welcomed and loved, lol. They will be giving us a brief presentation and will stay for a short while after our worship service.



**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](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.

0 of 1 Purchased  
4-Tier Clear Acrylic Paper...  
4.7 ★★★★★ (134)  
Save 19%  
\$28<sup>99</sup> (\$7.25/count)  
Typical: \$55.99  
Edit Item

0 of 1 Purchased  
Play Doh Modelin...  
4.8 ★★★★★ (66.4K)  
\$7<sup>99</sup> (\$0.80/count)  
Edit Item

0 of 1 Purchased  
Simplex3 Rock an...  
4.8 ★★★★★ (1.1K)  
\$49<sup>99</sup>  
Edit Item

0 of 4 Purchased  
Flybar Hopper Bal...  
4.6 ★★★★★ (2.8K)  
Limited time deal  
\$13<sup>49</sup> List: \$14.99  
Edit Item

0 of 1 Purchased  
LiKee Open Ended...  
4.6 ★★★★★ (173)  
\$9<sup>99</sup>

0 of 1 Purchased  
YOHOOO...  
4.5 ★★★★★ (47)  
\$23<sup>99</sup>

0 of 1 Purchased  
Wild Animals Mag...  
4.7 ★★★★★ (243)  
\$7<sup>85</sup> List: \$9.99  
You Earn: 8 pts  
Edit Item

0 of 1 Purchased  
First Magic Paintin...  
4.3 ★★★★★ (87)  
\$7<sup>99</sup> List: \$9.99  
You Earn: 8 pts  
Edit Item

# 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.**



### 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. So far as of right now, there are almost 30 kids that have registered to get the eggs, lol.



### 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.**

**“I Will Confess”***“I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.’” Psalm 32:5b***1) On this first Sunday in Lent, I confess my LEGACY.**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,<sup>3</sup> but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”<sup>4</sup> “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.<sup>5</sup> “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”<sup>10</sup> He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”<sup>11</sup> And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”<sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”<sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, ‘Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.’”<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in child-bearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”<sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ ‘Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.<sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.’”<sup>20</sup> Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.<sup>21</sup> The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

Genesis 3:1-21

**2) On this first Sunday in Lent, I profess my LIFE.**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—<sup>13</sup> To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone’s account where there is no law.<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.<sup>15</sup> But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!<sup>16</sup> Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.<sup>17</sup> For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!<sup>18</sup> Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.<sup>19</sup> For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:12-19

**3) On this first Sunday in Lent, I witness my LORD.**

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.<sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.<sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.<sup>6</sup> “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.<sup>9</sup> “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Matthew 4:1-11