



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 11

March 15, 2026

## "In the Storm with Jesus"

With the storms that our area had this past week, I thought this article from the Lutheran Church Charities Daily Devotional was very appropriate.

Growing in faith and getting to know Jesus intimately requires going through storms with Him. The disciples discovered this when Jesus said to them, 'Let us cross over to the other side.' Next, we read: 'A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling' (v. 37). Their story has a happy ending. Jesus calmed the storm, and they said in amazement, 'Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!' (v. 41). There are life-changing truths Jesus taught and aspects of His character that you will never understand until you have been through a storm with Him.

Sometimes when storms come, we assume they are the result of something we have done wrong or that we're not in the will of God. The disciples were in the storm due to obedience, not disobedience. They hadn't done anything wrong; they had done something right. Understand this: even if you love Jesus with all your heart, you will still face storms. As the disciples discovered, the storm can come when you're closest to Jesus. He doesn't promise that the storm won't strike your boat, but that the storm won't sink it. He doesn't promise smooth sailing, but He guarantees a safe landing.

You will face life's troubles with either fear or faith. How are they different? Fear concentrates on the storm; faith concentrates on the Savior. It may sound surprising, but we need storms. Jesus permits us to sail into them so that we will 1) consider His promises, 2) stay calm in His presence, and 3) have confidence in His power.

**PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help me not be afraid in the storms, knowing that You are with me! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

A pastor describes some storms in life: 'You come home from work, walk into the kitchen, and find a note saying, "I want out of the marriage." A clap of thunder! You go to the doctor anticipating a normal check-up, and the lab work comes back, and you have cancer. The wind howls! You go to bed at peace, only to be interrupted by a phone call at three in the morning telling you that your father has suddenly died of a heart attack. Your ship nearly capsizes! The only predictable thing about life's storms is their unpredictability. They sweep in when you least expect them.'

Jesus had told His disciples, 'Let us cross over to the other side'. They should have realized that when He climbed aboard the boat, it became unsinkable. Inherent in His words was a promise of safe arrival. A difference exists between hearing a promise and believing it. Too frequently, we fail to believe that Jesus will accomplish what He has promised us.

The pastor encourages us: 'In those moments, we should remind ourselves that the sun may quit shining, the wind may start blowing, and the waves may begin crashing, but Jesus never fails to keep His promises...Jesus wants you to...remember that there is no need to fear when He is near...He wants to be the Captain of your life's ship. You may not always be aware of Jesus, but He is there just the same. For those disciples, the safest place in the world...was right there in that boat. Because safety is not the absence of problems. Safety is the presence of Jesus.'

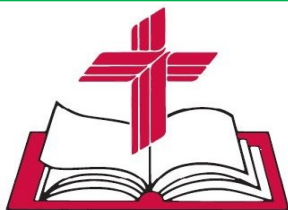
**PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank you for being in my life always, even when I do not acknowledge or forget You are there. Thank You Jesus! Amen.**

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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>15</b> 9:00am Adult Bible Study  10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	<b>16</b> 9am–Noon Preschool	<b>17</b> Election Day No Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer  St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b> 9am–Noon Preschool	<b>19</b> 9am–Noon Preschool  7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>20</b> No Preschool Start of Spring Break  First Day of Spring	<b>21</b>

### March Celebrations



Happy Baptism Birthday!

**March 15** Anita Meier  
**March 18** Ashley Meier

### Stewardship Snapshot

**March 8th**

**28** Worshipped  
**3** Watched Online  
**31** Total Worshipped

**Financial Support**

\$890.00 General Fund Offering  
 \$500.00 Kingdom Kids-Easter Egg Hunt  
**\$1,390.00** 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. 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 March 17th.**

<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** <sup>1</sup>I cry aloud to the LORD; I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy. <sup>2</sup>I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble. <sup>3</sup>When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who watch over my way. In the path where I walk people have hidden a snare for me. <sup>4</sup>Look and see, there is no one at my right hand; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life. *Psalm 142:1-4*

**VERSE OF THE MONTH** <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. *John 3:16-17*

## 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 have been in the bulletins the past couple of weeks. Orders are due by March 15th. We will have the option of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths again. In order to save on shipping costs, I will be picking them up on Saturday, April 4th from Alsip Nursery.

**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.

**THE ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT** is scheduled for Palm Sunday, March 29th following our worship service. We already have over 50 kids registered and I am sure that number will grow as it gets closer. This is rain or shine, so we are praying the good Lord will provide some warmer weather and some sunshine for this great outreach event. She has already ordered all the items she needs to fill the eggs that we have collected over the years and she will be spending most of her Spring Break filling eggs, and I am sure Kyle will be helping her when he gets home from school some of those days, lol.



**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS** looking for a good home. Mrs. Diana was going thru her classroom and found some stuff that she does not need, so they are on the narrow cabinet by the window in the fellowship hall. Please feel free to help yourself.

# Mission of the Month

**AND THEN WE HAD DOGS HERE** On March 8th, we hosted the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs. Jael and Michael were here providing us with love and comfort. Yes, we were able to pet the loving and caring puppies before and after the service. Lutheran Church Charities will of course be our Mission of the Month in March. As you can see below and on the next page, we were all happy to make the dogs feel welcomed and loved. Dan and Karen gave a brief presentation and stayed after our worship service.



## Lutheran Church Charities March 2026 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





## Preschool News

**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/gf/quest-view/20NAPMBATD5WA?ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_apann\\_ggr-subnav-share\\_MNF6H1V8W4DMC469VA9T&language=en-US](https://www.amazon.com/registries/gf/quest-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) <b>Save 19%</b> \$28<sup>99</sup> (\$7.25/count) Typical: \$35.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Play Doh Modelin... 4.8 ★★★★★ (66.4K) \$7<sup>99</sup> (\$0.80/count)</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Play-Doh Dough Machine... 4.8 ★★★★★ (1.1K) \$49<sup>99</sup></p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 4 Purchased Flybar Hopper Bal... 4.6 ★★★★★ (2.8K) <b>Limited time deal</b> \$13<sup>49</sup> List: \$14.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>
 <p>0 of 1 Purchased LiKee Open Ended... 4.6 ★★★★★ (173) \$9<sup>99</sup></p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased YOHOOLYO... 4.5 ★★★★★ (47) \$23<sup>99</sup></p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased First Magic Painting Under the Sea 4.7 ★★★★★ (243) \$7<sup>85</sup> List: \$9.99 You Earn: 8 pts</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased First Magic Paintin... 4.3 ★★★★★ (87) \$7<sup>99</sup> List: \$9.99 You Earn: 8 pts</p> <p>Edit Item</p>

**“Set Me Free”**

“Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name.”  
Psalm 142:7a

**1) “Set me free from LOSTNESS.”**

<sup>14</sup>“For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant. <sup>15</sup>I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools. <sup>16</sup>I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. <sup>17</sup>But those who trust in idols, who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’ will be turned back in utter shame. <sup>18</sup>“Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! <sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the LORD? <sup>20</sup>You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen.” <sup>21</sup>It pleased the LORD for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious. Isaiah 42:14-21

**2) “Set me free from DARKNESS.”**

<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup>and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup>It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup>This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Ephesians 5:8-14

**3) “Set me free from BLINDNESS.”**

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup>“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ...<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup>Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”<sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. <sup>17</sup>Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.” ...<sup>34</sup>To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” <sup>38</sup>Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

