

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 13

March 29, 2026

"Anchors for Your Soul"

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While everyone else on board Paul's ship was in a state of panic, he remained at peace. Why? Because of three great truths that serve as anchors for our souls, truths you can build your life on that will steady you in the storm. Let's look at each.

First, anchored by the presence of God. In the midst of the storm, Paul announced, 'Last night an angel of...God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me and said, "Do not be afraid, Paul."' Life's storms can never conceal us from God. Even when we don't see Him, He sees us. We may feel He is a million miles away, but He is with us and is looking after us. God dispatched a personal emissary, an angel, to tell Paul, 'I am with you. I see you in the stormy Mediterranean Sea in that little ship.'

The truth is, God is with you in the storm you're going through today, and if you need assurance of His presence, meditate on these Scriptures and stand on them: "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you' (Isaiah 54:10). "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go...I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you' (Genesis 28:15). 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you' (Hebrews 13:5).

So, anchor your soul to God's Word today, and let nothing move you.

Second, anchored by God's plan and purpose. The second anchor in a time of crisis is found in Acts 27:24, where Paul quotes God's angel: 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' In other words, 'You're on board this ship because I have a purpose for your being here. And my eternal purpose for your life is greater than this temporary storm.'

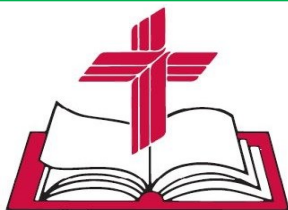
Have you discovered your God-given purpose yet? You're not here on earth simply to take up space; God has a specific plan for you. The storm you're caught in right now is just a temporary setback. Absolutely nothing can change God's plan for your life unless you choose to disobey Him. And yes, you can do that. But the Scriptures teach that no outside person or force can change God's plan for your life or alter His divine purpose as long as you're willing to say, 'Lord, I want to do your will.'

As surely as God told Paul, "You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you," He is saying to you, 'I will bring you through this storm.' When you focus on your God-given purpose, He empowers you to overcome your problems. That's why Paul wrote: 'I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us' (Philippians 3:13-14).

Third, anchored by God's promises. The third anchor that gives us confidence in a crisis is found in Paul's words, 'I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.'

If you have ever been betrayed by an unfaithful spouse, you may have lost trust in marriage. If you're a victim of the mortgage crisis, you may have lost your home and your trust in the financial industry. If you voted for someone you believed had integrity only to discover they were in the pocket of special interest groups, you may have lost your trust in government. But never ever lose trust in the promises of God! Look in the face of your storm today and sing the words of this famous hymn by Russell Carter: 'Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling winds of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God, I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God.' You may lose your cargo, you may lose your ship, you may even go overboard – but you're going to prevail because of God's promises to you. As the old saying goes, 'God said it, I believe it, and that settles it!'


PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS
Please call the office for immediate prayers

An icon showing a hand with a red cross over it, set against a blue background with a white cross.

Living in the Word...that the Word may live in others.

Living Word Lutheran Church
16301 South Wolf Road
Orland Park, IL 60467
livingwordorland.org
intouchlwlc@yahoo.com
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
29 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service 11:30 Easter Egg Hunt	30 9am–Noon Preschool	31 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	1 9am–Noon Preschool	2 9am–Noon Preschool	3 	4

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 31st.**

<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 14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God¹; believe also in me. ²My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. *John 14:1-4*
 We seem to give back the dead to you, Lord, who gave them to us. But as you did not lose them in giving, so do we not lose them by their return. Not as the world gives do you give, O lover of souls. What you give you do not take away, for what is yours is ours if we are yours. And life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is only a horizon, and a horizon is nothing, save the limit of our sight. Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further; cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly; draw us closer to yourself, that we may know ourselves to be nearer to our loved ones who are with you. And while you prepare a place for us, prepare us also for that happy place, that where you are we may be also, forever, and ever. Amen.

VERSE OF THE MONTH 11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ²saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’” ⁴They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” ⁶They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” ¹⁰“Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” *Mark 11:1-10*

Living Word News

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 already has filled the eggs that we have collected over the years. A total of almost 1,300 eggs, good job Diana.

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.

JAZZ BAND CONCERT will be held at the North & Maple Restaurant located at 18401 N. Creek Drive in Tinley Park. (Basically right by some of the hotels west of Harlem). It will be this coming Wednesday, April 1st at 7:00 pm. Jim McKinney is one of the members of the band. If you are planning on attending, it is highly recommended that you make reservations prior to April 1st. The concert itself is free.

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

March 22nd

16 Worshipped

4 Watched Online

20 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

\$1,130.00 General Fund Offering

\$99.00 Easter Flowers

\$1,229.00 Total General Fund Deposit

Good Friday Service
 April 3rd at 6:30 pm

Tenebrae

A SERVICE OF SHADOWS

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE will be at 6:30 pm on April 3rd, and then we will have our celebration Easter service at 10 am on Easter morning.

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 for all of March. Michael and Jael have been very busy, they were in Kankakee and Aroma Park, IL along some of their friends comforting all of the victims from the tornadoes that had hit both of those areas.



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

April Mission of the Month



The vision of The Bridge Teen Center is to provide teens with a place to find hope, purpose, and direction.

SPRING BREAK was this week for our preschoolers. Even though there was no school this week for them, they still had something to keep them busy while they were at home. Mrs. Diana let them adopt a rubber duck to take home and take care of while their on break. Each child got to pick their own special rubber duck to adopt with their own adoption certificate as well, and each duck had their own special coop to go to their new home. They also had to keep track of how they took care of their ducks throughout the week.

PRESCHOOL WISH LIST on Amazon. Mrs. Diana had created a wish list on Amazon last month. The past few years, Diana has been supplying all of the items that her classroom has needed throughout the school year without wanting to be 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/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 somethings 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.

SAVE THE DATE May 17th will be our Preschool Graduation/Moving Up Ceremony during our worship service. It is always such a joy to see the children perform their songs for us. Mrs. Diana of course will make sure that we have some refreshments and goodies that day as well.



<p>0 of 1 Purchased 4-Tier Clear Acrylic Paper... 4.7 ★★★★★ (134) Save 19% \$28⁹⁹ (\$7.25/count) Typical: \$35.99</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 Crayons and markers set 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>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>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>

3-29-2026 Message Outline

“Rejected?”

“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”
Psalm 118:22

1) Sovereign Lord **VINDICATES** His persecuted prophets.

⁴The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. ⁵The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. ⁶I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. ⁷Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. ⁸He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! ⁹It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who will condemn me?
Isaiah 50:4-9a

2) God the Father **EXALTS** His Servant Son.

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Philippians 2:5-11

3) We **BLESS** Christ our King!

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!” ¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” ¹⁶At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him. ¹⁷Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”
John 12:12-19

THEREFORE GOD ALSO HIGHLY EXALTED HIM
AND GAVE HIM THE NAME
THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME,
SO THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS
EVERY KNEE SHOULD BEND,
IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH
AND UNDER THE EARTH,
AND EVERY TONGUE CONFESS THAT
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD,
TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.



PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

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