

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 10

March 8, 2026

## "Always Be Open-Minded"

### Inside this issue:

"Always Be Open-Minded"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Stewardship Snapshot/Devotional Time	2
Living Word News	3
Mission of the Month	4
Preschool News	4
Preschool News	5
3-8-2026 Message Outline	6

King Solomon is considered one of the wisest men who ever lived. He wrote three books in the Bible and is quoted regularly. And he was a lifetime learner and seeker of truth. *'When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction.'*

Note the words *'I considered it well'*. That should be your fixed attitude in life. God's plan for you is to keep learning, changing, growing, and maturing until you draw your last breath. And that means always being open-minded. Consider the Pharisees. They were 100 per cent committed to their belief system. They were also the best-educated people in society. Yet they resisted Jesus and the truth He shared at every turn. Why? For three very common reasons:

**1) Pride:** 'If what Jesus says is right, that makes us wrong.'

**2) Security:** 'If we accept what He is teaching, what will happen to our reputation and our income?'

**3) Tradition:** 'We have believed and done things this way for generations.'

Can you see where we're going with this line of thought? And can you see how it may apply to your life?

One pastor said, 'It's good to be saved and sanctified, as long as you are not saved, sanctified, and stuck!' Spiritual growth requires two things: a hunger for truth, and the humility to acknowledge that you still have more to learn. Those are two qualities that God always honors: *'The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way'* (Psalm 25:9). So always be open-minded.

Here is a tale of two cities:

1) Thessalonica rejected the truth. *'Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures...saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ"...But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar'* (vv. 2-3, 5 NKJV).

2) Berea received the truth. *'Paul...went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men'* (vv. 10-12 NKJV).

This is not just a tale of two cities but two mindsets. An open mindset and a closed mindset. A closed mindset says, 'I believe I know all there is to know about this subject,' and an open mindset says, 'I'm grateful for what I know, but I believe there is more to know.' But a word of caution! Just because a speaker says something doesn't mean you should accept it without question. A leader who seeks to honor God won't be offended when you question what they say. The Bereans *'received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.'* Whose teachings were they checking out? Paul's, the author of half the New Testament! So, the word for today is: always be open-minded.

**PRAYER:** *Heavenly Father, help me keep my mind open for what YOUR WORD says and not necessarily what someone else says about what Your Word says. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**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>8</b> 9:00am Adult Bible Study  10:00am Blended Worship Service	<b>9</b> 9am-Noon Preschool	<b>10</b> 9am-Noon Preschool  10:00am Push Prayer	<b>11</b> 9am-Noon Preschool	<b>12</b> 9am-Noon Preschool	<b>13</b> 9am-Noon Preschool	<b>14</b>

### March Celebrations

### Stewardship Snapshot



Birthdays of the Month

**March 14** Diana Motel



Happy Baptism Birthday!

**March 10** Gary Meier  
**March 14** Matt Meier

March 1st

19 Worshipped, 16 Communed  
 5 Watched Online  
 24 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

\$1,160.00 General Fund Offering

### 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 10th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84076099900?pwd=d3BxLEWbTlZRVpuSGhgTXc2dGRldz09>

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>8</sup> the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. *Psalm 121:8*  
 Lord of my origin, draw me closer to you; Lord of my calling, give me strength to go on; Lord of my faith, preserve me from doubt; Lord of my hope, keep me from despair; Lord of my love, let me never grow cold; Lord of my past, may I never forget you; Lord of my present, be near me always; Lord of my future, keep me faithful to the end; Lord of my life, let me live in your presence; Lord of my death, receive me at last; Lord of my eternity, bless me forever. Amen.

**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.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO DIANA** She had been working on updating our website the last two weeks, and of course she has won us the Best Church Websites Award again, this is the 4th year in a row. She has also rebranded our Children's Ministry to Kingdom Kids Ministry and has updated all of the photos and details about our church and everything we can offer to families looking for a wonderful place to not only worship, but to enjoy fellowship time with our church family. Thank you Diana for all of your hard work and your diligence to keep us updated in the technology world.

**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.



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS** we will be springing forward this weekend. Don't forget to set your clocks, if you still have the analog ones, lol up by one hour before going to bed on Saturday night. You don't want to be late for service or miss the chance to pet the puppies that are visiting us this Sunday morning. At least it will be lighter out later in the evening going forward. We will see all of you bright and early on Sunday morning.

**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

**CALLING ALL DOG LOVERS** On March 8th, we will be hosting the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs. Jael and Michael will be here providing us with love and comfort. 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 will be happy to make the dogs feel welcomed and loved. They will be giving us a brief presentation and will stay for a short while 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

**LIVING WORD PRESCHOOL AQUARIUM** is now open. Come check out the aquarium Mrs. Diana has made for the kids in the Dramatic Arts play room. They can ride in the submarine, look at the hanging jelly fish hanging from the ceiling, lol, and go underwater viewing at all the fish in the oceans. Here's some pictures below and on the next page for those who can't make it to the aquarium this month.



**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/gi/guest-view/20NAPMBATD5WA?ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_apann\\_ggr-subnav-share\\_MNF6H1V8W4DMC469VA9T&language=en-US](https://www.amazon.com/registries/gi/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) <b>Save 19%</b> \$28<sup>99</sup> (\$7.25/count) Typical: \$55.99</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 \$49<sup>99</sup></p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Simplex3 Rock an... 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 Dinosaurs Magic Painting Book 4.7 ★★★★★ (243) \$7<sup>85</sup> List: \$9.99 You Earn: 8 pts</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Wild Animals Mag... 4.3 ★★★★★ (87) \$7<sup>99</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>



## **“Do You Harden Your Heart or Hear His Voice?”**

*Today, if only you would hear his voice,  
“Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,  
as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness...”  
Psalm 95:7b-8*

### **1) Do you look to your leader or to your LORD?**

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>So they quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?” <sup>3</sup>But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?” <sup>4</sup>Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup>The LORD answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?” Exodus 17:1-7

### **2) Do you stand in your own goodness or in God’s GRACE?**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup>And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:1-8

### **3) Do you drink from your well or from Christ’s WATER?**

<sup>5</sup>So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup>When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” <sup>11</sup>“Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?” <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” <sup>13</sup>Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” <sup>16</sup>He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” <sup>17</sup>“I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup>The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” <sup>19</sup>“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” <sup>21</sup>“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” <sup>25</sup>The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” <sup>26</sup>Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.” John 4:5-26