

IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 15

April 12, 2026

"10 Lessons from Psalm 148"

1. All Creation Praises the Lord

Psalm 148 opens with a call for all creation to praise the Lord, from the heavens to the earth. This universal call reminds us that everything in existence is designed to glorify God. As it says, "Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the highest places" (Psalm 148:1). Whether it's the sun, moon, or stars, each element of creation reflects God's majesty. Let this inspire you to join in the chorus of praise, recognizing that your life, too, is a testament to His greatness.

2. Angels and Heavenly Hosts Join In

The psalm highlights that even the angels and heavenly hosts are part of this grand symphony of praise. "Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His heavenly hosts" (Psalm 148:2). This serves as a reminder that we are not alone in our worship. The spiritual realm is actively engaged in glorifying God, and we are invited to participate in this divine celebration.

3. The Sun and Moon as Witnesses

The celestial bodies are not just physical entities; they are witnesses to God's enduring faithfulness. "Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars" (Psalm 148:3). Every sunrise and sunset is a reminder of His constancy and power. Let the regularity of these natural phenomena encourage you to maintain a steady rhythm of praise in your own life.

4. The Waters Above the Skies

Even the waters above the skies are called to praise, illustrating that every part of creation, seen and unseen, has a role in glorifying God. "Praise Him, highest heavens, and you waters above the skies" (Psalm 148:4). This teaches us that no matter how hidden or insignificant we may feel, our praise is valuable and essential in the grand design of worship.

5. Created by His Command

The psalm emphasizes that all things were created by God's command, underscoring His ultimate authority. "Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded and they were created" (Psalm 148:5). This truth reassures us that our lives are not random but purposefully crafted by a loving Creator. Embrace this divine purpose and let it fuel your daily actions.

6. Established Forever

God's creation is not only purposeful but also enduring. "He established them forever and ever; He issued a decree that will never pass away" (Psalm 148:6). This permanence reflects God's unchanging nature and His eternal promises. In a world of constant change, find comfort in the stability and reliability of God's word and His creation.

7. Earthly Elements Praise Him

The psalm transitions from the heavens to the earth, calling on elements like fire, hail, snow, and wind to praise God. "Praise the LORD from the earth, all great sea creatures and ocean depths". This inclusion of natural forces reminds us that every aspect of our environment is a testament to God's power and creativity. Let this fact deepen your appreciation for the world around you.

8. Mountains and Hills Sing

Even the mountains and hills are part of this universal praise. "Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars". These majestic landscapes serve as a backdrop to our lives, constantly pointing us to the grandeur of God. Allow their silent testimony to inspire awe and reverence in your heart.

9. All Living Creatures Participate

The psalm calls on all living creatures, from wild animals to cattle, to join in the praise. "Wild animals and all cattle, crawling creatures and flying birds" (Psalm 148:10). This inclusivity highlights the interconnectedness of all life and our shared purpose in glorifying God. Recognize your role in this divine ecosystem and let it guide your interactions with others.

10. Humanity's Unique Role

Finally, the psalm concludes with a call for humanity to praise God, emphasizing our unique role in creation. "Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth".

Inside this issue:

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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

16301 South Wolf Road
Orland Park, IL 60467

livingwordorland.org
intouchlwlw@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
12 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	13 9am-Noon Preschool	14 9am-Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	15 9am-Noon Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting	16 9am-Noon Preschool	17 9am-Noon Preschool	18

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

<p>April 3rd (Good Friday) 26 Worshipped, 24 Communed No Livestream Available</p> <p>Financial Support \$475.00 General Fund Offering</p>	<p>April 5th (Easter) 26 Worshipped, 24 Communed <u>7 Watched Online</u> 33 Total Worshipped</p> <p>Financial Support \$2,730.00 General Fund Offering <u>\$9.00</u> Easter Flowers \$2,739.00 Total Deposit</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 April 14th.**

<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)

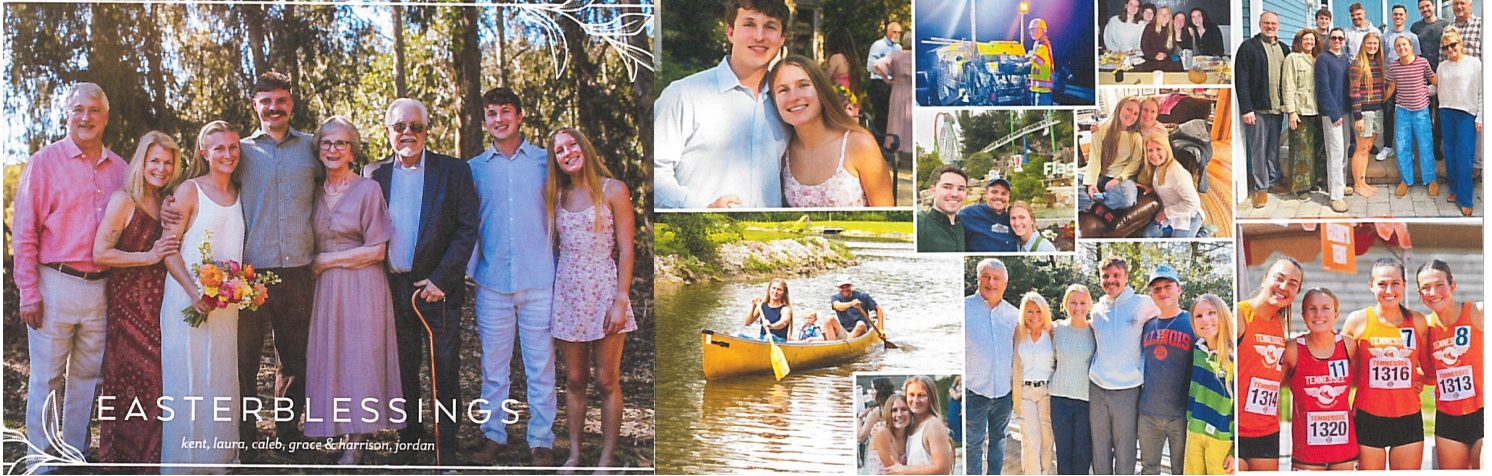
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VERSE OF THE WEEK ⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. *Matthew 28:5-6*

VERSE OF THE MONTH ³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. *1 Peter 1:3-5*



Easter Blessings from the Wetzels



- ### Coming in 2026-27
- K,L,C & J Trip To CA to visit Grace & Harrison
 - JoJo cont. Internship w/ Branch Civil this summer
 - Freebird Fundays
 - Camp Fisher 2026
 - Road Trips to UT & JoJo
 - Illinois Visits w/ Family
 - Raleigh Sibling Concert

Highlights for the Year

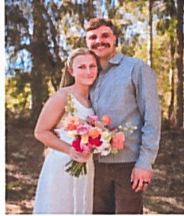
- ◆ A phone call from Grace saying, "I'm engaged!"
- ◆ God arranged visit with forever friend's Cindy & Peter Harmon
- ◆ A very Jesus-filled fall vacation with Goddaughter Faith in Naples
- ◆ Thanksgiving & engagement celebration in Montreat, NC at Helm's Home
- ◆ Tues Bible Studies - Laura's Women's & Kent's Men's Life Groups
- ◆ Thankful to Julia for our devotional time with Mom & Dad Wetzels
- ◆ Hosting & leading SWCC Young Adult's 1st & 3rd Thursdays
- ◆ Playing a realtor on stage in 1995 may have been foreshadowing Laura's new career as a REALTOR w/ MKB REALTORS
- ◆ Kent & Laura connected w/ friends at U of I homecoming football game
- ◆ Lyle sharing one of his famous Bible studies on Love the morning of Grace & Harrison's wedding
- ◆ Prayers answered as we witnessed Grace marry Harrison

EASTER BLESSINGS from our dear friends, Kent and Laura Wetzels and family. We are blessed with their heartfelt love and greetings, thank you so much Laura for keeping us posted. Congratulations to Grace and Harrison. We're so happy for the newlyweds. We miss all of you so much, but appreciate the updates each year. I think I can speak for all of us when I say I can't believe how much the kids have grown. God's blessings to you all! The full update and pictures can be found on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.



Caleb 26

- ◆ Project Analyst & Environmental SPOC w/ Pike Engineering
- ◆ Living in first solo apartment
- ◆ Ran Raleigh10k while JoJo ran the half marathon (pic above)
- ◆ Bach party w/ Harry's crew
- ◆ Wkly Bible study "Spiritual Gainz" w/ current & former athletes around the country
- ◆ Sam Barber (again) & Ole 60 in concert
- ◆ Groomsman in Nick & Kinsey's wedding
- ◆ Harrison's groomsman & walked Grandma Carol & Grandpa Jim down the aisle



Grace & Harrison 1mo & 14 days

- ◆ Engaged 11.23 & married 2.22
- ◆ Honeymoon at Big Sur, CA
- ◆ Called in obedience & baptized by Harrison & Kat 1/31
- ◆ Trip to Great Basin Natl Park
- ◆ Visit w/the Mello's July 4th
- ◆ Both serving in kid's ministry
- ◆ Spoiled By Wetzels & Manley wedding showers
- ◆ Christmas visit w/ Wetzels & Manleys
- ◆ Finally living off base!



Jordan 20

- ◆ Junior Civil Engineering @ University of Tennessee
- ◆ UT Student Advancement Rep & TA for Structural Mechanics
- ◆ Ran in UT's Big Orange Invite
- ◆ NIRCA regionals win w/ Tennessee Run Club
- ◆ TN run club team events coordinator
- ◆ Attending Cru Bible study & Calvary Chapel Knoxville
- ◆ Maid of Honor for Grace!
- ◆ XC Nationals in Hershey, PA & track nats in Richmond, VA
- ◆ Enjoyed Elmhurst w/ Ella & Peyton - Bonus time w/A Marianna & U Kirk & Chicago adventures



HE HAS RISEN!
LOVE KENT, LAURA, CALEB, GRACE, HARRISON, JORDAN,
BEAN & ROCKY



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.

EASTER FLOWERS are here as of last Sunday. If you had ordered any of them, please feel free to take them home with you if you would like.

IF YOU'RE DOING ANY SPRING CLEANING please keep in mind that The Bridge Teen Center is our Mission of the Month for April. If you are unable to give any monetary donations, which is totally understandable these days, save any items that you do not need, or can not use any more, as the Teen Center has a Thrift store that could use any of gently used items that they could sell in the store. Also, if you are already done with your spring cleaning, and are able to just pick up an item or two at the store when you are shopping, here are some of the things that they are looking for: Cleaning supplies and paper products, arts and crafts supplies, gift cards to help with their daily living expenses. As for food and beverage items, cases of bottled water, ground coffee (decaf and regular) and hot chocolate K-cups. These are just general categories of course, there is a wish list with the specific items that are needed for any of these categories to choose from. If we do collect any of these items, we have plenty of boxes here at church, and Diana and I can always drive it over to them at the end of the month. As always, thank you for helping us support our community.

Preschool News

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.

Preschool Wish List

 <p>0 of 1 Purchased 4-Tier Clear Acrylic Paper Holder 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 Modeling Clay 4.8 ★★★★★ (66.4K) \$7.99 (\$0.80/count)</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 4 Purchased Flybar Hopper Ball... 4.6 ★★★★★ (2.8K) Limited time deal \$13.49 List: \$14.99</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 7 Purchased Lilkee Open Ended Toy... 4.6 ★★★★★ (173) \$9.99</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased YOHOOPLYO... 4.5 ★★★★★ (47) \$23.99</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>	

Mission of the Month



THE BRIDGE TEEN CENTER is the Mission of the Month for April. Diana and Neal had been given a tour of their facility last Thursday, and both were impressed as to how amazing it is there. Here are some pictures from their visit.



April Mission of the Month



THE
BRIDGE
T E E N C E N T E R

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

“Raised Up”

“And he has raised up for his people a horn...” Psalm 148:14a

1) God raises up His SAINTS.

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” ³³ When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. ³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. ³⁵ Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. ³⁶ Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. ³⁷ After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. ³⁸ Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.” ⁴⁰ His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah. Acts 5:29-42

2) God raises up His SALVATION.

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:3-9

3) God raised up His SON.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” ²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” ²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:19-31