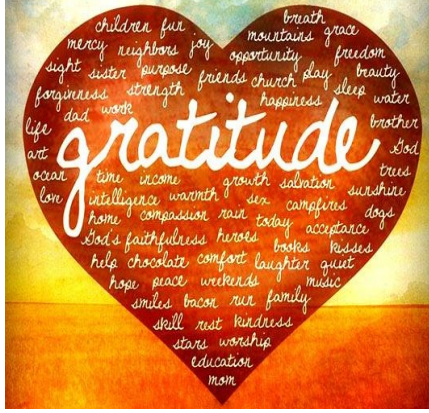


What fills your Heart?



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IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 16

April 19, 2026

"Rendering Thanks"

The question posed in Psalms 116:12, "What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?" resonates profoundly within the heart of every believer. It is a poignant reminder that our relationship with God is not one-sided; it is a sacred duet of grace, mercy, love, and gratitude. This scripture beckons us to pause and reflect on the manifold blessings bestowed upon us by our Creator and to assess how we respond to such overwhelming goodness.

In life, we often become engulfed in a whirlwind of activity—the pressures of work, the demands of family, and the continual pursuit of our personal goals. Yet, amidst this chaos, how often do we stop to consider the benefits God has graciously granted us? Daily, we are recipients of His mercies, not one of which we could earn by our own merit or effort. The Psalmist, in his contemplative tone, asks this pivotal question, inviting us to partake in the important practice of grateful acknowledgment.

As we unpack the verse, it's essential to explore what constitutes God's benefits toward us. Our lives are imbued with countless gifts: the air we breathe, the love of family and friends, the beauty of each sunrise, and the comfort of His presence. Each moment serves as a testament to His unwavering providence and love. In choosing to view our lives through the lens of gratitude, we shift our mindset from that of entitlement to one of appreciation. Gratitude is a profound state of being, transforming the way we experience life. When we recognize the 'benefits' God has poured into our lives, we inevitably cultivate a sense of duty to respond.

The Psalmist's inquiry prompts us to consider our response—how do we express our thanks, and how do we live out our gratitude? The notion of "rendering" suggests action; it implies that our gratitude should be more than just recognition. It should move us into a posture of giving. To "render" means to deliver or to give back. The challenge lies in determining how we can return the blessings we have received. Let us explore some practical ways:

1. ****Worship and Praise****: One of the most fundamental acts we can offer is our worship. Singing praises, praying, and dedicating time to express our love for God are natural responses to His goodness. As we pour forth our hearts in worship, we acknowledge His supremacy and grace.

2. ****Acts of Service****: Jesus exemplified a life of selfless giving. We can emulate Him by engaging in acts of kindness, outreach, and service to others. Sharing our blessings and time with those in need illustrates our gratitude to God.

3. ****Living a Life of Integrity****: Rendering thanks also means living out our faith authentically. This involves making choices that reflect our values and honoring God in our daily actions. When others observe our uprightness, they are drawn to the God we serve.

4. ****Sharing Our Testimony****: Every believer has a story of God's goodness. Sharing your personal testimony of His blessings can encourage others and magnify His name. This not only glorifies Him but also reminds us of His faithfulness.

5. ****Giving Back****: Whether through the local church, missions, or charities, giving our resources is another way to render thanks. When we give of our time, talents, and treasures, we participate in God's work in the world.

Ultimately, the question "What shall I render unto the LORD?" is an invitation to engage in a lifelong dialogue with our Creator. It challenges us to evaluate how we honor Him in our daily lives, leading us toward a deeper understanding of His grace and mercy.

Let your heart be open to the countless ways God benefits you daily, and may your response be one of joyful giving. In rendering thanks to the Lord, we find not only our purpose but the profound joy of living out our faith. With gratitude, we recognize that every blessing we receive is an opportunity to glorify the One who loves us unfailingly.

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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intouchlwc@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
19 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	20 9am–Noon Preschool	21 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	22 9am–Noon Preschool	23 9am–Noon Preschool 12:15pm Call Committee Meeting	24 9am–Noon Preschool	25

Church Contacts

Church Contacts

intouchlwc@yahoo.com

Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel
dianamotel@yahoo.com

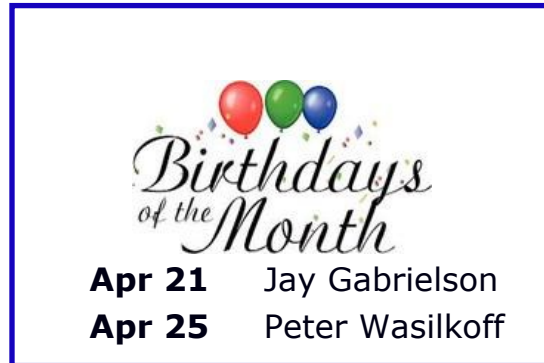
Leadership Team

Neal Hartz - President
 Ken Marks—Vice President
 Bill Merchantz - Treasurer
 Diana Motel - Secretary

Members at Large

Paul Huang

Celebrations



Stewardship Snapshot

April 12th

17 Worshipped

2 Watched Online

19 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

\$630.00 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 April 21st.**

<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

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ³⁴ "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"

³⁵ "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. *Romans 11:33-36*

You alone are holy, Lord God, Worker of Wonders. You are mighty. You are great. You are the Most High. You are omnipotent, our holy Father, King of heaven and earth. You, Lord God, three in one, are our every good. You, Lord God, all good, our highest good - Lord God living and true. You are charity and love. You are wisdom. You are humility. You are patience. You are security. You are peace. You are joy and gladness. You are justice and temperance. You are riches altogether sufficient. You are beauty. You are meekness. You are our refreshment. You are our hope. You are our faith. You are our most profound sweetness. You are our eternal life, great and admirable Lord, omnipotent God, merciful Savior!

VERSE OF THE MONTH 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. *1 Peter 1:3-5*

Living Word 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.

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.

COUNCIL MEETING was this past Tuesday night. Among the topics discussed was the finances, building improvements and the Call Committee updates.

Preschool News

DOWN ON THE FARM with our preschoolers this month. It has been a very busy month at the Living Word Farm, lol. We have eggs sitting in the incubator hoping to have some chicks hatching and about a week or so, the kids are also watching the caterpillars grow and turn into their chrysalis and eventually into butterflies. They also have planted grass in front of their homes. I have some pictures below and on the next page for you to check out.





0 of 1 Purchased
4-Tier Clear Acrylic Paper...
4.7 ★★★★★ (134)
Save 19%
\$28⁹⁹ (\$7.25/count)
Typical: \$55.99

[Edit Item](#)

0 of 1 Purchased
Play Doh Modelin...
4.8 ★★★★★ (66.4K)
\$7⁹⁹ (\$0.80/count)

[Edit Item](#)

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[Edit Item](#)

0 of 4 Purchased
Flybar Hopper Bal...
4.6 ★★★★★ (2.8K)
Limited time deal
\$13⁴⁹ List: \$14.99

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0 of 7 Purchased
Lilkee Open Ended...
4.6 ★★★★★ (173)
\$9⁹⁹

0 of 1 Purchased
YOHOOOLYO...
4.5 ★★★★★ (47)
\$23⁹⁹

0 of 1 Purchased
First Magic Paintin...
4.3 ★★★★★ (87)
\$7⁹⁹ List: \$9.99
You Earn: 8 pts

[Edit Item](#)

0 of 1 Purchased
First Magic Paintin...
4.3 ★★★★★ (87)
\$7⁹⁹ List: \$9.99
You Earn: 8 pts

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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
TEEN CENTER

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

“What Shall I Return...?”

“What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?”
Psalm 116:12

1) For all His goodness, I shall return FAITH in the Lord.

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” ³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” ⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

2) For all His goodness, I shall return LOVE in the Lord.

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. ²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:17-25

3) For all His goodness, I shall return HOPE in the Lord.

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ “What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.” ²⁵ He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” ³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Luke 24:13-35