



# DEPEND ON GOD

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 17

April 26, 2026

## "Depend on God"

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Paul shares with us the key to his amazing success in life: *'I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].'* There is a syndrome called 'failure to launch'. It's experienced by people who feel insecure about their future. They never seem to get to the place in life where they feel ready, so they miss out on opportunities.

Life says, 'Ready or not, here I come.' Now, life's inevitability doesn't mean that preparation is trivial; it's important. But feeling ready is very overvalued. We are called to *'walk by faith, not by sight' (2 Corinthians 5:7)*.

When God brought the Israelites into the promised land, He told them to step into the Jordan River first; after, He parted the water. If they had waited for evidence first, they would be waiting on the banks still. Faith grows when God says go and you say yes. The truth is, you don't realize what you can do until you do it. 'Ready' happens quicker if you are already moving. If you wait to move until you're completely ready, you will wait until you die. Jesus doesn't tell us, 'Go; you're ready.' He tells us, 'Go; I'll go with you.' You will grow as you 'go'. You will develop as you 'do'.

Here is the key: the thing that makes you 'ready for anything and equal to anything' is 'Him Who infuses inner strength' into you. God designed it that way because He wants you to depend on Him.

The last thing Jesus said to His disciples before returning to heaven was this: *'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...I am with you always.'* When God gives you an instruction or an assignment, it will always require His involvement, His strength, His guidance, and His provision. Will He use your talents? Yes. Will He use others to assist and bless you? Yes. But He will never allow you to depend on anyone more than Him.

Back at the point when Jesus sends His disciples off to change the world, there are two remarkable challenges. One, there are now only eleven disciples present with them. Throughout the Gospels, the number twelve reminds readers that the disciples have been selected to be a representation of the redeemed, restarted twelve tribes of Israel. Twelve is the number of completeness, wholeness, and readiness. Now it would seem they don't have sufficient players.

But it's not merely that they have the wrong number. Following Christ's resurrection, we read: *'The eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted'* (vv. 16-17). They already have a quantity dilemma; now they have a quality dilemma. They don't have enough disciples, and even those don't believe enough. Yet God used them mightily. Indeed, the accusation levelled against them by their enemies started with one of their greatest compliments: *'These who have turned the world upside down have come here too'* (Acts 17:6).

So, the key to success is not in your ability but in God's ability to work through you. That's why you must live each day in dependence on God.

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, keep me dependent on You and not the numbers of those with me! 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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Orland Park, IL 60467

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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>26</b> <b>9:00am Adult Bible Study</b>  <b>10:00am Blended Worship Service</b>	<b>27</b> <b>9am- Noon Preschool</b>	<b>28</b> <b>9am- Noon Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>29</b> <b>9am- Noon Preschool</b>	<b>30</b> <b>9am- Noon Preschool</b>	<b>1</b> <b>No Preschool</b>	<b>2</b>

## Celebrations

 <b>Apr 28</b> Lara Wasilkoff	 <b>Apr 28</b> David Holloway	 <b>Apr 27</b> Ed & Cathy Baidis
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## Stewardship Snapshot

**April 19th**

**17 Worshipped, 17 Communed**

**19 Watched Online**

**36 Total Worshipped**

**Financial Support**

\$2,105.00 General Fund Offering

\$50.00 Preschool Offering

\$240.00 Building Offering (God Is Able)

**\$2,395.00 Total Deposit**

## 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

## 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 28th.**

<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** <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. *1 Peter 2:9*

Lord of the Church, enable your people to be the Church: a redeemed people, a holy people, a united people, a missionary people: and in all things a people gladly submissive to the truth as it is found in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**VERSE OF THE MONTH** <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> 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*

# May 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 No Pre-school	2
3 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service	4 9am-Noon Preschool	5 9am-Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	6 9am-Noon Preschool	7 9am-Noon Preschool	8 9am-Noon Preschool	9
10 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service Mother's Day 	11 9am-Noon Preschool	12 9am-Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	13 9am-Noon Preschool	14 9am-Noon Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting	15 9am-Noon Preschool Last Day of School	16
17 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service Preschool Graduation 	18	19 10:00am Push Prayer	20	21	22	23
24 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	25  Memorial Day Office Closed	26 10:00am Push Prayer	27	28	29	30
31 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	 					

# Living Word News

**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.

**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 and, as you can see, 4 chicks have hatched late this week, the kids are also watching the caterpillars grow and turn into their chrysalis and eventually into butterflies.



## Preschool Wish List

 <p>0 of 1 Purchased 4-Tier Clear Acrylic Paper Holder 4.7 ★★★★★ (134) <b>Save 19%</b> \$28.99 (\$7.25/count) Typical: \$55.99</p> <p><a href="#">Edit Item</a></p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Play Doh Modeling Clay 4.8 ★★★★★ (66.4K) \$7.99 (\$0.80/count)</p> <p><a href="#">Edit Item</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Edit Item</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Edit Item</a></p>	 <p>0 of 4 Purchased Flybar Hopper Ball 4.6 ★★★★★ (2.8K) <b>Limited time deal</b> \$13.49 List: \$14.99</p> <p><a href="#">Edit Item</a></p>
 <p><a href="#">Edit Item</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Edit Item</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Edit Item</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Edit Item</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Edit Item</a></p>
 <p>0 of 7 Purchased Lil'ee Open Ended Blocks 4.6 ★★★★★ (173) \$9.99</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased YOHOOPLYO Blocks 4.5 ★★★★★ (47) \$23.99</p>	 <p><a href="#">Edit Item</a></p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased First Magic Painting Trucks and Diggers 4.3 ★★★★★ (87) \$7.99 List: \$9.99 You Earn: 8 pts</p> <p><a href="#">Edit Item</a></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 earlier this month, 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.

**“In the Valley”**

*“Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me...” Psalm 23:4*

**1) God gives me DEVOTED FRIENDS in the valley.**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

**2) God gives me an OVERSEEING SHEPHERD in the valley.**

<sup>19</sup> For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. <sup>20</sup> But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” <sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” <sup>25</sup> For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. 1 Peter 2:19-25

**3) God gives me a FULL LIFE in the valley.**

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. <sup>7</sup> Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:1-10

