



# God's Friday

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 14

April 5, 2026

## "God's Friday"

**"For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)**

I usually begin Fridays by saying, "Happy Friday." And today that feels strange because this is Good Friday — the day when the sins of the whole world were judged and sentenced and the punishment fell on one innocent man.

There's nothing cheerful about the events themselves. Jesus is betrayed, abandoned, beaten, mocked, crucified. And yet the church has insisted on calling this day good.

That name was never meant to describe what happened to Jesus. It describes what God accomplished through Him.

In fact, the term Good Friday is uniquely English. Some languages call it Black Friday or Mourning Friday, as in grieving mourning, or Holy Friday — names that better match the grief and darkness of the cross.

Some scholars suggest that Good Friday may actually come from an older phrase, God's Friday, and that may be the most faithful way to think about it today, because this was the day God's salvation plan was carried all the way through, the day when the Son — in faithful obedience and even joy as Scripture tells us — endured the cross for what lay on the other side of it.

Hebrews says it plainly: **"For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross."**

Joy. Not because of the pain, but because of the outcome.

On this day, every sin, every act of disobedience, every rebellion in your life and mine was placed on Jesus. And when He died, the barrier between us and God the Father was removed. Nothing now keeps us away.

The cross was not the failure of God's plan — it was the fulfillment of it. And can you imagine the joy of the Father, the joy of having rescued the world He loves, the joy of seeing His children brought home safely, the joy of knowing that sin and death no longer get the final word.

Many of us know just a glimpse of that joy. We feel it when our children make the right choice, when they return home after a long period of time away.

What was broken begins to heal on Good Friday or God's Friday. And that is a day of joy when we were secured — and secured to God the Father.

So yes, it feels strange to say "Happy Friday" today, but this Friday is good. Not because of the cross alone, but because of the love that held Jesus on it.

### PRAYER

**Heavenly Father, today we stand in awe of Your love. Thank You for seeing Your plan through. Thank You for sending Your Son. Thank You for the faithful obedience of Jesus who endured the cross for the joy set before Him. We confess that our sin, our disobedience, and our rebellion once kept us far from You. But we thank You that because of the cross, nothing keeps us away anymore. Thank You for the joy of reconciliation, the joy of forgiveness, the joy of welcoming your children home. Help us hold the weight of this day with reverence, in the hope of this day with gratitude. And as we wait in the quiet of Holy Saturday, anchor our faith in what You have already accomplished because of Jesus. This is God's Friday, and it is good. Amen.**

### Inside this issue:

"God's Friday"	1
April 2026 Calendar	2
April Celebrations/Devotional Time	3
Living Word News	4
Stewardship Snapshot	4
Mission of the Month	5
Preschool News	6

### 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  
intouchlwc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
9:15 am Adult study

# April 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9am-Noon Preschool	2 9am-Noon Preschool	3 No Preschool 6:30pm Ten- ebrae Good Friday Service 	4
5 10:00am Blended Com- munion Wor- ship Service  Easter	6 9am-Noon Preschool	7 9am-Noon Preschool  10:00am Push Prayer	8 9am-Noon Preschool	9 9am-Noon Preschool	10 9am-Noon Preschool	11
12 9:00am Adult Bible Study  10:00am Blended Wor- ship 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
19 9:00am Adult Bible Study  10:00am Worship Tra- ditional Com- munion Hym- nal Service	20 9am-Noon Preschool	21 9am-Noon Preschool  10:00am Push Prayer	22 9am-Noon Preschool	23 9am-Noon Preschool	24 9am-Noon Preschool	25
26 9:00am Adult Bible Study  10:00am Blended Worship Ser- vice	27 9am-Noon Preschool	28 9am-Noon Preschool  10:00am Push Prayer	29 9am-Noon Preschool	30 9am-Noon Preschool		



## April Celebrations



**Apr 7** Donna Wasilkoff  
**Apr 21** Jay Gabrielson  
**Apr 25** Peter Wasilkoff  
**Apr 28** Lara Wasilkoff



**Apr 28** David Holloway

Happy Anniversary



**Apr 27** Ed & Cathy Baid

## 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 7th.**

<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** 14<sup>3</sup> Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. *John 12:3-6*

Oh, the wretchedness of Judas! He saw the harlot kiss the feet of Christ, but deceitfully he contemplated the kiss of betrayal. She loosed her hair while he bound himself with wrath. He offered the stench of wickedness instead of myrrh, for envy cannot distinguish value. Oh, the wretchedness of Judas! Deliver our souls, from this, O God.

**VERSE OF THE MONTH** 53 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. 4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. 9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. 11 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. *Isaiah 53*

# 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** was last Sunday following our worship service. This was a rain or shine event, so we were very thankful the good Lord answered our prayers and provided some warmer weather and some sunshine for this great outreach event. There were a lot of eggs that all of the kids found, lol.

**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.

**THANK YOU** for everyone's overwhelming generosity. During the month of March, we collected \$320 for Lutheran Church Charities. I think it helped having the dogs here on March 8th, lol.

**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.

## Church Contacts

**Church Contacts**  
*intouchlwc@yahoo.com*  
**Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel**  
*dianamotel@yahoo.com*

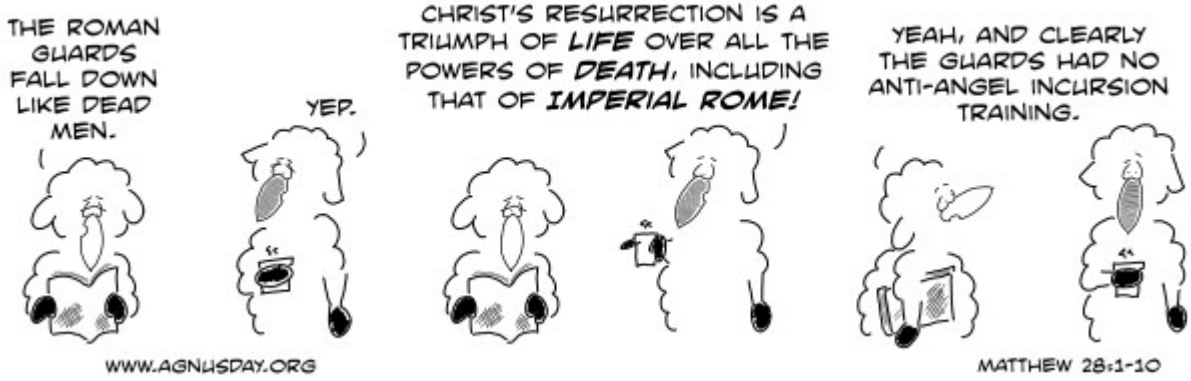
**Leadership Team**  
 Neal Hartz - President  
 Ken Marks—Vice President  
 Bill Merchantz - Treasurer  
 Diana Motel - Secretary

**Members at Large**  
 Paul Huang

## Stewardship Snapshot

**March 29th**  
**27 Worshipped**  
**No Online Service**

**Financial Support**  
 \$755.00 General Fund Offering  
 \$2,000.00 Preschool Offering  
 \$320.00 Mission of the Month (Lutheran Church Charities)  
**\$3,075.00 Total Deposit**



# 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 on 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.

**SPRING BREAK IS OVER** for our preschoolers, they really enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt in the sanctuary on Thursday. Speaking of eggs, Mrs. Diana will be teaching and showing them how chickens hatch. She brought in 12 eggs, and their incubator on Friday, and her students will be learning all about the farm life in the Dramatic Arts Play Area in April.

**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/gl/guest-view/20NAPMBATD5WA?ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_apann\\_ggr-subnav-share\\_MNF6H1V8W4DMC469VA9T&language=en-US](https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/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 something 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 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. The kids have been so excited to with all of the new items for their classroom. They just love playing with everything and they all want to give a big heartfelt THANK YOU to all that have purchased items for them. They really do appreciate your overwhelming generosity and your support towards their free time and giving them a fun way of learning and getting ready for kindergarten.



**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) <b>Save 19%</b> \$28<sup>99</sup> (\$7.25/count) Typical: \$35.99</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>Edit Item</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>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>Edit Item</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 YOHOOLOO... 4.5 ★★★★★ (47) \$23<sup>99</sup></p> <p>Edit Item</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>	