



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 19

May 10, 2026

"Be a Giver"

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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
intouchlwc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:15 am Adult study

If you want to become a giver, think of yourself as a river instead of a reservoir. Reservoirs continually take in water, but only to fill themselves up. In contrast, a river flows. Whatever water it receives, it gives away. Note what Jesus said about giving: 'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you' (v. 38).

When you give your time, expertise, and resources without expecting anything in return, you're practicing what Jesus preached. And here is an interesting truth: when you focus more on the wants and needs of others, more of your own wants and needs are met. In contrast, when you choose to hoard what you have rather than give, you become the center of your own lonely universe, and you become less content, not more. As a result, you repel both people and potential blessing.

Recalling God's goodness to you leads to gratitude (see *Psalm 103:1-5*). And gratitude leads to giving. Ungrateful people aren't givers. They seldom think about others; they just think of themselves. Their days comprise searching for others to assist them, give to them, and wait on them. And whenever others fail to meet those expectations, they wonder why. Their selfishness prevents them from sowing, and their ingratitude causes them to question why they don't reap. In what way can you show gratitude? By taking a portion of the blessings God has poured into your life and pouring them into the lives of others. In other words, be a giver.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank You for all You have given me – everything I have. Help me be your agent in passing it on to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Paul writes, 'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' The giving that God rewards is purposeful giving when it's done with a cheerful attitude. Here are three ways to do that:

1) Put people before yourself. Every one of the things of this world, including fame and fortune, is temporary. Individuals are what matter. Your job, pastimes, and other interests will die with you. People live on. The true measure of success is not in the number of individuals who help you, but in the number of individuals you help (see *Galatians 5:13*).

2) Don't let stuff own you. No one should ever become a slave to their stuff. No one should make their life's work about obtaining more just to have more. If you want to be in control of your heart, do not let belongings take control of you. The question is, 'Do you own your possessions, or do your possessions own you?' Givers use what they own as a resource to make this world a better place to live. And they do this regardless of how much or how little they have (see *Matthew 6:21*).

3) Define success as sowing, not reaping. Robert Louis Stevenson said, 'I consider the success of my day based on the seeds I sow, not the harvest I reap.' That should be the way we judge not only our days but our entire lives (see *2 Corinthians 9:6-10*). If you live life with the intention of enriching the lives of others, your life will be full, not empty.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help me always remember that all that is in my possession belongs to You and is to be used to serve others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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

Celebrations

Stewardship Snapshot

 May 12 Diane Chitwood	 May 12 Diana Motel May 13 Paxton Hostert	May 3rd 16 Worshipped, 16 Communed <u>6 Watched Online</u> 22 Total Worshipped <u>Financial Support</u> \$3,350.00 General Fund Offering
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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 May 12th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84076099900?pwd=d3BxLBWbTlZRVpuSGhgTXc2dGRldz09>

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 ⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God. ⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them— he remains faithful forever. ⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, ⁸ the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. *Psalm 146:5-8* Lord Jesus, You were in prison, found guilty when you were innocent, You were executed as traitor when in fact you were Savior. To you who died to set all free we pray for: All makers of the laws of the land, that they do so with reason and compassion. All interpreters of the law - judges, lawyers - that they be fair, honest and impartial. All administrators of the law - prison guards and superintendents - that they be merciful in their firmness. All prisoners - that they may know that you are in prison with them, in their homes with their loved ones, and that in you is their hope. Though bound, may they be perfectly free in you and in your service.

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

IF YOU'RE DOING ANY SPRING CLEANING please keep in mind that The Bridge Teen Center was 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. As always thank you for your overwhelming generosity, through all of your contributions, we collected \$160 for Bridge Teen Center in April.

COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for next Thursday, May 14th. If there is anything that you would like to have addressed, please see Neal, Diana, Ken or Bill and they will add it to their agenda. Among the topics will be the financial updates, the Call Committee updates, building improvements among a couple of other topics.

THANK YOU LETTER was received via email late last week from Lutheran Church Charities. It reads, "Hi Living Word Lutheran Church, On Thursday, April 30, 2026 your gift to Lutheran Church Charities was made successfully. Thank you for your generous gift to Lutheran Church Charities! Your support helps bring the mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to people in need. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works." (Ephesians 2:10)" It is signed, "Behind every good deed... is you.—Rev. Chris Singer President/CEO"

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.

COMMUNITY WORKERS is the theme for the Dramatic Arts Play Room for the remainder of the preschool year. Thee students are learning about police men, firemen, doctors and veterinarians among other community workers.

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/gf/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 somethings 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 always thank you for your overwhelming generosity and supporting our preschool and their classroom.



Thank you
for your
Precious Spirit

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!

You should clothe yourselves
with the beauty
that comes from within,
the unfading beauty
of a gentle and quiet spirit,
which is so precious to God.

~1 Peter 3:4



Mission of the Month

REDEEMING LIFE OUTREACH MINISTRIES is the Mission of the Month for May. Diana and I had a meeting with one of the Program Managers for their new Illinois Pregnancy Home. Currently they have one lady there with her little baby. They offer educational, spiritual and financial counseling to all of their residents. They help with resume writing, job hunting among many other resources that they offer each resident. They are always in need of not only baby items, but items for the moms too. Gift cards to Walmart, Target and Jewel just to name a few places. They try to keep their costs of living expenses to minimum. Their application process usually takes only a few days provided the applicants are willing and ready for the transition into the Maternity home. Each resident is able to live at the home for one year. They have had a total of 8 residents in the Illinois home in the past 2 years. Their hope is to have a new transitional home in Illinois that will offer the residents an additional 6 months of assistance, their plans would be for it to be located next to the new Residence.



May 2026 Mission of the Month
Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries
operates Christ-centered maternity homes
to offer love, hope, and a future to single
pregnant women in crisis.

ATTENDANCE TRACKING Continuing, as we have the past 3 or 4 years, we are trying to keep count of all those who watch the service online. If you could please either sign in with Facebook or very briefly comment at the time that you are watching, and if any are watching with you, we would greatly appreciate it. Also, if you happen to watch it during the week at a more convenient time, please just email us back saying that you had watched, and how many others had watched with you. This way you can get the credit for participating in the service and we can grow our attendance totals in order to reach our endowment fund goals. Thank you for helping us with this effort, again we greatly appreciate any help you can give.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT During these very trying and difficult times, like all of us, the offerings for the church have also been suffering and are below the projected budget. Please help us and come to worship so that we can have better attendance totals and that we can reconnect with each other as we worship together. In doing so, we will be able to reach our goals in the attendance achievements for the endowment fund. Thank you as always for keeping us moving forward in these times.

A NEED FOR YOU AND A NEED FOR CHURCH As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient (who doesn't love not getting ready in the morning or leaving their home?!), it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together from your sofa. Christians aren't consumers either. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We do life together. The church needs you. And you need the church. Wherever you are, find a local church where you and your family can be part of community and use your talents to advance the kingdom and reach others. To come alongside one another physically, not just through a screen. While I'm grateful for technology to keep people connected that can't physically come to a facility or need to be away, it's absolutely not like being in the building. Never will be. Yes, church on the sofa is nice. But it'll never be the same as church in the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing everyone in church. There is nothing like fellowship time among some of your closest friends that share the same beliefs as you do!

“God Has Ascended!”

“God has ascended amid shouts of joy...!”
Psalm 47:5a

1) Our ascended God gives us His PROOFS.

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to his chosen apostles. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” ⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:1-11

2) Our ascended God gives us His PRESENCE.

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:15-23

3) Our ascended God gives us His PROMISE.

⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. ⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. Luke 24:44-53

