



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

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"Find a Mentor"

Most people who decide to grow personally find their mentors in the pages of books. That is a great place to start. For that matter, it's a great place to continue. And the wisdom that's found in Scripture makes the Bible the best mentor's manual ever written. If you're not reading it daily, you're robbing yourself of the best source of inspiration and illumination. At some point, if you're wise, you will also look for a role model to mentor you. No matter how gifted or experienced you are, you will go further with the right mentor than you will on your own.

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Jesus, the greatest mentor of all, disciples a group of men who changed the world forever. *'And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him' (vv. 18-22).*

Note the words *'follow Me, and I will make you...'* Just as the right mentor can make you, the wrong mentor can break you. So you need to pray about this. Then you must do something about it. Why? Because if you follow only yourself, you may find yourself going in circles and getting nowhere. Jesus said, *'I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it' (Matthew 16:18).* When He spoke those words, the religious leaders of His day were plotting His death, the society in which He lived was controlled by the might of Rome, and His followers were common people. Humanly speaking, what He promised was audacious, and the possibilities of it happening were zero. Nevertheless, it came to pass. Two thousand years later, He is the most quoted author in the world, and many of our values are based on the principles He taught. How did He do it? By mentoring others.

So, when looking for a mentor, try to find someone who exemplifies the qualities and character Jesus displayed. *'Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light"' (Matthew 11:28-30).* Jesus used an agricultural illustration His listeners would understand. To get the highest productivity out of an ox, the yoke around its neck had to be a comfortable fit. And a good mentor is someone who understands you and knows what is the right fit for your temperament and talents. A mentor is an extra pair of eyes and ears, and that always has your best interests at heart. When you think about it, having the right mentor is one of the best investments you can make in your future.

Your mentor should not only demonstrate professional excellence and possess skills from which you can learn, but must also be someone who displays character qualities worth imitating. As you search for role models and mentors, examine their personal lives as thoroughly as their public performance. Your values will be shaped by theirs, so don't be casual or careless about whom you decide to follow. Paul writes, *'Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.'* You must be sure that the person in whose footsteps you are following is following in the footsteps of Christ. Why is this so important? Because there will be an audit! Whatever you have spent your life building will be evaluated at the judgment seat of Christ. For Whom and for What were you building? *'Each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss' (1 Corinthians 3:13-15).*

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
intouchlwlc@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
17 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service Preschool Program	18	19 10:00am Push Prayer	20	21	22	23

Church Contacts

intouchlwlc@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

May 10th

**18 Worshipped
No Online Service**

Financial Support

\$2,130.00 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 May 19th.**

<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 ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. *1Peter 3:18-19, 22* How gracefully you freed our souls from sin. On spent bodies, restoring vital breath where it had failed. You passed, Immortal, to the land of Shades, breaking in the secret place of death. You alone, Immortal one, Flinging back the veil of night rose on high to the Father in heaven and by your everlasting plan purged evil from the face of earth. You alone stand with the Father, and you, that Spirit wholly pure, Who all are One Simplicity in threefold light. And thus we stand in wonder that for our sakes alone the holder of the power of life came even to death.

VERSE OF THE MONTH ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. *Titus 2:11-12*



Living Word News

COUNCIL MEETING was scheduled for this Thursday, May 14th. Among the topics will be the financial updates, the Call Committee updates, building improvements among a couple of other topics.

CALL COMMITTEE has had several meeting over the past couple of weeks. We have met with three pastors via Zoom and we will be making recommendations to the Church Council at their meeting mentioned in the above item. Please keep praying for God' will to be done for our church.

THANK YOU LETTER was received late last week from Bethesda Lutheran Disability Ministries. They were our Mission of the Month back in December. It reads, "Dear Friends, Thank you for your kind donation to Bethesda Lutheran Disability Ministries (BLDM), formerly the Bethesda Auxiliary. We continue to share Jesus and His love with people living with disabilities. This mission haas not changed in 70 years. We provide resources and mentors for others to establish disability ministries through our website, Bethesdaldm.org, and many volunteers. Please remember us in your prayers." It is signed, "Blessings, Karen Carter, President BLDM" The thank you card and letter can be found on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Preschool News

SAVE THE DATE Today, 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 has made sure that we have some refreshments and goodies that day as well.

COMMUNITY WORKERS was 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 veterinarrians among other community workers. This has helped the children to decide what they want to be when they grow up. Some, of course had a very imaginative career that they would like to be, lol.

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. Even though preschool is winding down this year, don't forget to keep Mrs. Diana and her class room in mind for next year.

PRESCHOOL TOUR was scheduled for last Friday, it was with a family who had been referred to come here by one of our new families for next year. As always, please keep this wonderful ministry in your prayers. Mrs. Diana has done a wonderful job with all of her preschoolers this year and the past 3 years.





Lilijana (Graduate)



Dani (Graduate)



Lucy (Graduate)



Maci (Moving Up)



Hazel (Moving Up)



Wally (Moving Up)



Luke (Moving Up)



James (Moving Up)

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!