

When God Opens the Door



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 21

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"When God Opens the Door"

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In seeking to know God's will, there are two things you should never do. **First**, when the door is closed, get impatient and force it open. **Second**, create your own door. To succeed in what God has called you to do, follow the 'open door policy'. The Bible describes it this way: 'To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": 'I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name'" (vv. 7-8 NKJV).

Who does God open doors for?

1) People who 'have a little strength'. So, your mistakes don't disqualify you, as long as you're willing to learn from them. And your inadequacies don't limit God if you allow them to make you more dependent on Him.

2) People who 'have kept My word'. The people God opens doors for are governed by this guiding principle: 'Whatever God's Word says about it, that's what I'm going to think, believe, and do.' If it's not on God's blueprint, don't build it. If it's not in God's recipe book, don't mix it into the recipe.

3) People who 'have not denied My name'. Regardless of rejection or ridicule, these people speak boldly about the things they value most in life, including their relationship with Jesus. If you want God to open doors for you, live by these principles each day.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help me get, stay, and remain in Your Word and wait patiently for You to open the doors. My foot is tired and sore from trying to kick them open! In Jesus' name, Amen.

The New Living Translation states Paul's words this way: 'There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me.' In doing the will of God, you should anticipate opposition from those who are not privy to what God has shared with you or instructed you to do. Indeed, if you are accepted and applauded wherever you go, you should re-examine either the assignment you believe God has given you or the way in which you are carrying out His plan for you.

You say, 'But didn't Jesus say that His yoke was "easy"?' Yes, and He was talking about a comfortable-fitting yoke around the neck of a hardworking ox that ploughed from morning until night. The work was hard, but the yoke was comfortable. That means when God calls you to do something difficult, He will provide you with the grace and resources to do it.

You say, 'But Satan is attacking me.' Attack is a sign of respect; it means you represent a threat to the kingdom of darkness. And as you get closer to your God-given goal, expect Satan's attack to intensify. But there is good news. The intensity of the attack is an indicator of the blessing God has for you on the other side of the attack.

And one more thought. Your greatest rewards will not come in this life but in the life to come. And that's good because they won't just be temporal, they will be eternal. The hymnist wrote: 'To him that overcometh a crown of life shall be; He with the King of glory shall reign eternally.'

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help me continue to run the course of the door YOU have opened for 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
24 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service Congregational Meeting	25 10:00am Preschool Tour	26 10:00am Push Prayer	27	28	29	30

Celebrations



Birthdays of the Month

May 24 Freddy Merchantz
May 30 Deanna Meier

Stewardship Snapshot

May 10th

63 Worshipped
6 Watched Online
69 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

\$2,210.00 General Fund Offering

Devotional Time

Opportunities to Connect with God RADIO & TV OPPORTUNITIES

- **Worship Anew**—8:00 a.m. Sunday - Comcast channel 184 (TLN) & 8 (SD) , WPWR channel 50, AT&T U-verse channel 1008 (HD) & 8 (SD), Dish Network # 8495; 10:30 a.m. Sunday - DIRECTV channel 377 (TCT)
- **The Lutheran Hour** 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays on 1230 AM; and 9:30 a.m. Sundays on 1580 AM

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 26th.**

<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 ¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. *1 Timothy 1:15* O Christ, tirelessly You seek those who are looking for You and who think that You are far away; teach us, at every moment, to place our spirits in Your hands. While we are still looking for You, already You have found us. However poor our prayer, You hear us far more than we can imagine or believe.

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

CALL COMMITTEE has had several meetings over the past couple of weeks. We have met with three pastors via Zoom and had made our recommendations to the Church Council at their meeting. Please keep praying for God's will to be done for our church. Diana had me send out three videos of Pastor Murray's services for you to watch.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is on Sunday, May 24th immediately after our worship service. We realize that this is a holiday weekend, however we prefer not waste time and be able to send out a call to Pastor Murray once we have all of your votes. If you are unable to be here at church on Sunday, please make sure to watch the separate link that Diana will be sending out right before the meeting starts. We would like to have everybody vote whether or not we Call Pastor Murray. You can give me a call, email me or come to church and fill out your vote. As always thank you for your support while we try to follow God's plan and will for our church.

Preschool News

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 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 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 GRADUATION was a huge success last Sunday. We had 41 preschool family members in attendance to see their children graduate into kindergarten or move up in preschool. The kids did a great job performing their 4 songs for us. And then they all got a treat afterwards, not only did we have an abundance of goodies, we had baby chicks pay us a visit, they are not little chicks anymore.

ANOTHER PRESCHOOL TOUR is scheduled for Monday, the 25th. Since Monday was the only day that both Mom and Dad could come together to check out our preschool, Diana will be here for the tour on Memorial Day. As always, please keep this wonderful Kingdom Kids ministry in your prayers. Mrs. Diana has done a wonderful job with all of her preschoolers this year and the previous 3 years.



Memorial Day Blessings Images

MAY EVERY IMAGE OF A
WAVING FLAG REMIND US
OF THE BRAVE SOULS
WHO CARRIED ITS MEANING
INTO THE FIRES OF BATTLE.

*We Remember
With Honor and Gratitude*



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!

5-24-2026 Message Outline

“My Trust”

“In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.”
Psalm 25:1

1) I put my trust in God's PROPHETIC PLAN.

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people what the LORD had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the tent. ²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again. ²⁶ However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” ²⁸ Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses’ aide since youth, spoke up and said, “Moses, my lord, stop them!” ²⁹ But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!” ³⁰ Then Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp. Numbers 11:24-30

2) I put my trust in God's PENTECOST POWER.

² When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” ¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Acts 2:1-21

3) I put my trust in God's PERFECT PERSON.

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. John 7:37-39

PETER'S SERMON SOUNDS LIKE HE THINKS PENTECOST IS THE END OF THE WORLD, "IN THE LAST DAYS... THE SUN TURNED TO DARKNESS..."



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

THAT HAPPENED AT THE CRUCIFIXION.*



*LUKE 23:44-45

EVER SINCE THE RESURRECTION, WE'VE BEEN LIVING IN THE END TIMES.



JESUS REALLY KNOWS HOW TO STRETCH THINGS OUT!



ACTS 2:1-21

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