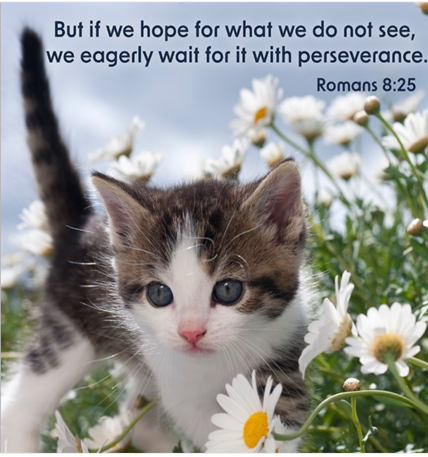


But if we hope for what we do not see,
we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.
Romans 8:25



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 35, Issue 18

May 3, 2026

"Is It Spring Yet?"

A lot of us have been saying, "Hey, is it going to be spring yet? Or is it still winter?" It seems like spring and winter are in a bit of a tug-of-war right now, at least where I'm living. And, it is May now. How about for you?

You know, one day it feels like it's warm, and you can leave the coats at home. And the next day, it's cold again, maybe even within just a few hours or less. It's like the seasons can't quite make up their mind. Almost spring, but not fully.

There was a Facebook posting about the 12 seasons of Chicago weather. Here is their list, lol. Actually for Facebook, it's very accurate, lol.
Winter, Fool's Spring, Second Winter, Spring of Deception, Third Winter, The Pollening, Actual Spring, Summer, Hell's Front Porch, False Fall, Second Summer and Actual Fall.

In Romans, Paul describes something that feels very similar to our spiritual life. He writes, **"But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."** (Romans 8:25)

Paul is speaking into that space between what God has already begun and what is not yet complete. He describes creation groaning.

And even we, who believe feeling that same tension, are kind of wondering when, where, how. We know God's promises, but we don't yet see them fully. We feel the weight of what is still broken. We experience the waiting, the uncertainty, or the ache of that not yet.

But that's where hope comes in. But not a hope we manufacture, not a patience that we produce on our own. Our hope is grounded in Jesus — and Jesus Christ crucified — crucified and risen.

Because in Him, God has already done what He promised. Sin is forgiven. Death is defeated. The future is secure. Even if we don't yet see the fullness of it, it is already ours through Christ.

So when Paul speaks of waiting, he's not pointing us inward to try harder. He's pointing us back to God's promises — promises delivered to us in His Word, promises that do not change even when everything around us does.

We live in that not yet. That not yet healed. That not yet resolved. That not yet complete.

But we don't live in an uncertain time — because what Christ has finished, God will bring to completion.

So we wait again, not because we're strong, but simply because God is faithful. Not because we can see the outcome, but because His promises are sure. God is still at work through His Word, by His Spirit, and even in these moments of not quite yet,

I do know that spring is coming. I'm looking forward to summer. I'm looking forward even more to the light of Jesus. Completely seen, realized, received that one day when He brings me home. And I pray that you are confident this weekend in that same faith — that one day, we're not home yet, but one day we will be.

And until then, we continue to live with hope because God is faithful.

Inside this issue:

"Is It Spring Yet?"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Devotional Time/Stewardship Snapshot	2
Church Contacts/Celebrations	2
Living Word News	3
Preschool News	4
Preschool Wish List	4
Mission of the Month	5
5-3-2026 Message Outline	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
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
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 12:15pm Preschool Tour	9

Celebrations

Stewardship Snapshot

 <p>May 8 Cathy Baidis</p>	<p><i>Happy Anniversary</i></p>  <p>May 9 Steve & Eileen Rhoads</p>	<p>April 26th 15 Worshipped 8 Watched Online 23 Total Worshipped</p> <p>Financial Support \$2,465.00 General Fund Offering \$160.00 Mission of the Month (Bridge Teen Ctr.) \$2,395.00 Total Deposit</p>
--	---	--

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 5th.**

<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 ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. *Philippians 3:20-21* O Christ, the brightness of God's glory and express image of his person, whom death could not conquer, nor the tomb imprison; as you have shared our mortal frailty in the flesh, help us to share your immortal triumph in the spirit. Let no shadow of the grave affright us and no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you. Reveal yourself to us as the first and the last, that Living One, our immortal Savior and Lord. Amen.

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.

SPRING BAND CONCERT is today, May 3rd at 3:00 pm at the Central Middle School located at 18146 South Oak Park Avenue in Tinley Park. For more information and details, please see Jim McKinney.

PRESCHOOL PICTURE DAY was this past Thursday. Our very own "professional" photographer, Mrs. Diana took everyone's picture and had all of their caps and sashes ready for them. As you can see below and on the following page how cute they are.





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 had eggs in the incubator and 7 chicks have hatched last week. Everyone thought it was real funny that the baby chicks peed and pooped on the table cloths when Mrs. Dian would take them out of the brooder and let the kids watch them and be able to pet them. The chicks have gone to Motel Farm for now. They will be back to watch the kids graduate and move up on May 17th. The kids are also watching the caterpillars grow and turn into their chrysalis and they have now turned into butterflies and were released outside on Thursday.

 <p>0 of 1 Purchased 4-Tier Clear Acrylic Paper... 4.7 ★★★★★ (134) Save 19% \$28⁹⁹ (\$7.25/count) Typical: \$55.99</p> <p>Edit Item</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased Play Doh Modelin... 4.8 ★★★★★ (66.4K) \$7⁹⁹ (\$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) Limited time deal \$13⁴⁹ 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 7 Purchased Lilkee Open Ended... 4.6 ★★★★★ (173) \$9⁹⁹</p>	 <p>0 of 1 Purchased YOHOOOYO... 4.5 ★★★★★ (47) \$23⁹⁹</p>	 <p>Usborne First Magic Painting Under the Sea</p>	 <p>Usborne First Magic Painting Trucks and Diggers</p>	<p>0 of 1 Purchased First Magic Paintin... 4.3 ★★★★★ (87) \$7⁹⁹ List: \$9.99 You Earn: 8 pts</p> <p>Edit Item</p>

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!

“Blessed Are Those...”

“Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. He is the Maker of heaven and earth.” Psalm 146:5-6a

1) Blessed are those who choose God’s HELP.

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” ⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸ Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. ² To this he replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me! ...⁵⁰ Has not my hand made all these things?” ⁵¹ “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵² Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— ⁵³ you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.” ⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a & 51-60

2) Blessed are those who choose God’s HOPE.

² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house^{al} to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” ⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:2-10

3) Blessed are those who choose God’s HEAVEN.

¹⁴ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

John 14:1-14