



# Let the Faithful Pray

Psalm 32

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## PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Eleanor Galik  
for immediate prayers



Living in the Word...that the Word may live in others.

## Living Word Lutheran Church

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
9:15 am Adult study

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 32, Issue 37

September 10, 2023

## "Psalm 32—Something to Shout About!"

### I. Experiencing forgiveness (vv. 1-2)

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. Forgiveness is a state of being that is exciting. It feels good! Notice David writes Blessed is he and Blessed is the man. Read the meaning of the words used stating what God does when He forgives a person:

**A. forgiven** - He lifts up the burden of guilt and carries it away.

**B. covered** - He covers the sin from view.

**C. does not count against** - God chooses not to think of the forgiven person as guilty anymore.

### II. Needing forgiveness (vv. 3-4)

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Notice first what is not mentioned here. The actual sin is not identified. In this passage David fails to tell us what his sin was. He doesn't even give us a hint. Why? Because what he did is not the issue. The focus is on God's forgiveness. The seriousness of the sin doesn't affect the capacity of God to forgive. After he sinned, David says, I kept silent. That's when his trouble began. We try to manage guilt. We try to cope with guilt. We try to rationalize guilt away. We try to blame someone else to minimize our guilt. Observe what happens:

**A. Physical deterioration.** He writes my bones wasted away. No one questions the delicate balance between mind and body anymore. Guilt ravages a person physically.

**B. Mental suffering.** David describes a relentless anguish in his soul. It does not stop. He is groaning all day long.

**C. Spiritual separation.** David feels distance between God and himself. It appeared that God was hostile towards him. Guilt warps our perception of who God is and His readiness to forgive us. Ultimately all enjoyment of life is lost. Our strength and desire for life is transformed into an arid, dry landscape.

### III. Receiving forgiveness (v. 5)

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" - and you forgave the guilt of my sin. David describes how to thoroughly deal with guilt and obtain forgiveness from God.

**A. Sin must be acknowledged.** David writes I acknowledged my sin to you. He simply and clearly stated that what he did was a sin. This can be particularly challenging if we believe others are to blame!

**B. Sin must be exposed.** David adds that he did not cover up his sin. Literally he is saying, "I have made my sin naked and bare before You." The word cover refers to the normal function of a garment in its natural sense. When we confess our sin, we strip away all the ridiculous attitudes we use to "dress up" what we have done. This is an experience of shame. It does not feel good, but it will not last for long. Remember that whatever we expose and uncover through confession, God will soon cover and hide from view through His forgiveness!

**C. Sin must be confessed.** The word confess means to cast or throw something away. Confession is the act of fully casting away our sin, guilt and shame before God. Do you see the entire picture that David has painted for us? We call what we did "sin" as God does. We take full responsibility for the sin. We make no attempt to "dress up" or hide our sin, rather we expose it before God. Then we take that sin and cast it away from us before God. When we do that, we can confidently join in David's joy when he writes that God forgave the guilt of my sin! Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart! David makes it clear that rejoicing is a non-optional activity for those who really know the forgiveness of God. They have something to shout about. Do you? Have you experienced His forgiveness? Will you rejoice today?

## This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>10</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Worship Blended Service</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>

## September Celebrations



*Happy Baptism Birthday!*

**Sept 14** Jennifer Lange

*Happy Anniversary*



**Sept 12** Tami & Dan Folgers

## Stewardship Snapshot

### 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

### August 27th

**21 Worshipped, 21 Communed in person**

**5 Watched Live**

**43 Watched Later**

**69 Total**

### Financial Support

\$1,500.00 Pure Energy Refund for General Fund

1,020.00 Additional Donations for the Preschool Account

1,450.00 General Fund Donation

**\$2,950.00 Total General Fund Deposit**

Living Word's budget calls for weekly offerings averaging \$3654 to fund our ministry. Regular, intentional and meaningful contributions from what the Lord provides you helps carry this out.

## 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.

### 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

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *[Jesus prayed] "I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them."* - John 17:26 (NLT)

As Christians, God lives in us. As we experience the love of God for us, we in turn express it to others. The world does not understand this, but the revelation of God makes it real in our lives, and those whose lives we touch. Pray that you will see it happen in your life today.

## Living Word News

**GROWTH IN OUR ATTENDANCE** this year. As many of you are aware we have been trying to grow our attendance for worship service, both in person and online. I know some of you think that we still only get about 20 people coming for service every week, but we actually have been doing much better this year. I ran some reports just to make sure I wasn't imaging it, and the numbers have increased substantially. So for the 10:00 am Sunday morning services, in 2022 from the beginning of January to the end of August our in person attendance total was 659 and we had 213 online viewers. This year till the end of August, the in person attendance total is 805 and there were 310 online viewers. That is a 22% increase for in person attendance and a 45% increase in online viewers. These numbers include only church members, including Pastor and Elaine, and they do not include any visitors or extended family members in these reports as we count them as guests. In other words, those totals are even higher. Thank you everyone for helping make this possible. Please keep up the excellent effort in this matter. We love seeing all of our church family and it's so rewarding to know that you haven't forgotten about us. As an added bonus, we also should be eligible for the growth initiative from the endowment fund which would help us tremendously. **Good work everyone!!**

**PRAYER REQUEST** for Pastor John as he has been in the long-term care facility of the Victorian Village. He is still having trouble with the blood clots. He still has a very strong heart and spirit. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they are very concerned about Pastor John. If you would like to send cards and/or well wishes within the next week or to call him, here is the complete address: John Bucka, C/O Victorian Village, Hope House, Room #17, 12600 Renaissance Circle, Homer Glen, IL 60491. Phone number is 708-578-7091. It is Pastor John's wishes though that you do not come and visit him, as he is very weak and tired, and his health has been declining. I will keep everyone posted as to any new updates.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES** has seen a bit of a change starting this month. The first Sunday of every month will be a traditional hymnal worship service and the third Sunday of the month will be an informal outreach service and the remaining Sundays will be the blended service that we currently have. This will be a trial basis for a 6 month period, at which time you will have a chance to express your favorites, suggest minor changes to either service and choose if we do this going forward or use one or the other or go back to the same service styles each week. We will be announcing this on our sign and on our website and Facebook page to see if we can get any visitors or new members.

**KITCHEN ITEMS NEEDED** we are beginning to run a little low on coffee, if you happen to be out doing your grocery shopping, we would greatly appreciate it if you could pick up a can of coffee for Sunday morning fellowship time. As always, thank you in advance for any contributions.

**CALL COMMITTEE** is looking for anyone who would like to volunteer to join us in our ongoing process of calling a pastor. I have volunteered to join the committee going forward, but we would love to have more voices and input in this process. There will be a meeting scheduled very soon with Pastor Schauer, our Visiting Circuit Pastor from Trinity Lutheran as he will be receiving another list of potential pastors that we can interview and discuss our pastoral needs.

**SEPTEMBER CALENDAR** is available and copies are located on the welcome desk in the fellowship hall.

**PRESCHOOL** started off on Tuesday night with Mrs. Diana's Back to School night, she has been working so hard almost all summer long on rearranging her classroom and cleaning out all of her cabinets. She has 4 students starting this week, one girl will start next month in October after she turns three years old, and we will one student's little sister join the class in February when she turns three also. Please help spread the word about our preschool, we have to make sure the preschool keeps growing, Diana will accept students throughout the school year, as soon as the child is three. The first day of school was amazing for the kids and we only had a couple tearful moms leaving here in the morning, lol.





**Tot Time**  
**Ages 2-4 year olds**  
**Monday, September 18th**  
**9:30 am- 11am**  
**Registration required**



**Tot Time**  
**TOT TIME IS BACK!** Diana will be having Tot Time again this school year. It looks like the first theme next month is Camping Fun, lol. If you have any friends or neighbors that have little ones at home yet, tell them about how much they can have at this fun event. Diana reads them a story, they will have some fun time to play in the Dramatic Arts Play Area and they will be working on their crafts before going home. The kids really do love it and a couple have already signed up for it. Hopefully, this will also help grow our preschool enrollment for the fall and winter.

**Mission of the Month**

**AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH** was returning Living Word Preschool. Thanks to your very generous donations, we as a congregation had collected \$200.00 which was deposited into the Preschool account last week. We also received a separate special donation of \$1,000.00 during the week that was requested to be deposited as part of our Mission of the Month for August into that same Preschool account, plus we also received some additional donations for the preschool on Sunday. Both of these generous donations were deposited in the Preschool Account on Thursday afternoon. As always thank you so much for all of the generous donations, it is so gratifying to Diana how much we want her preschool to succeed and to grow.



**HONEY SUNDAY** is returning to Living Word this year. We are holding the Honey Sunday on September 24th. For each bottle of honey, there is a \$10.00 fee, 30% of the proceeds will be returned to Living Word, and 70% will be donated to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. This is our Mission of the month for September. If you need additional time, just let us know. Please call me with any orders that you would like to place because if you place the order online, we will not receive the 30%. Please see the bulletin inserts inside of your worship folders for the order forms. Once we have all of the order forms and money, we will fill out the master order form and mail it to them, and you will receive your in the mail. If you prefer, and need to have your honey mailed here, please let us know, and we will just put the church's address on the form. We also have extra forms on the desk located next to the office if you need any.

**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!



## 9-10-23 Message Outline

### **“Forgiven”**

Psalms 32: “Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven.” Because we are forgiven, today we pray...

#### **1) “Lord, help me warn the WICKED.”**

<sup>7</sup>“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. <sup>9</sup>But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved. Ezekiel 33:7-9

#### **2) “Lord, help me do right, not WRONG.”**

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup>Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup>For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. <sup>4</sup>For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. <sup>6</sup>This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup>Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. <sup>8</sup>Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:1-10

#### **3) “Lord, thank you that I am your chosen CHILD.”**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” <sup>2</sup>He called a little child to him and placed the child among them. <sup>3</sup>And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. <sup>6</sup>“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. <sup>7</sup>Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! <sup>8</sup>If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell. <sup>10</sup>“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. <sup>11</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” <sup>12</sup>“What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. <sup>14</sup>In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. <sup>15</sup>“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. <sup>16</sup>But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ <sup>17</sup>If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:1-20

**A Prayer for the Anniversary of 9/11** O God, our hope and refuge, in our distress we come quickly to you. Shock and horror of that tragic day have subsided, replaced now with an emptiness, a longing for an innocence lost. We come remembering those who lost their lives in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. We are mindful of the sacrifice of public servants who demonstrated the greatest love of all by laying down their lives for friends. We commit their souls to your eternal care and celebrate their gifts to a fallen humanity. We come remembering and we come in hope, not in ourselves, but in you. As foundations we once thought secure have been shaken, we are reminded of the illusion of security. In commemorating this tragedy, we give you thanks for your presence in our time of need and we seek to worship you in Spirit and in truth, our guide and our guardian. **Amen.**

## Back Page

### Craft and Vendor Fair Trinity Lutheran Church New Lenox, Illinois Saturday, October 21, 2023 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

#### **Craft and Vendor Fair 2023:**

Please join us for the annual Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, October 21 from 9 to 3. This is a fundraiser for the youth of our congregation. There will be more than 30 participants. Come enjoy a vast array of crafts and products being sold just in time for the holidays. In addition, there will be a bake sale.

If you have questions, please email Jan T. @ [trinitycraftshow@gmail.com](mailto:trinitycraftshow@gmail.com)" (or call the church office at 815-485-6973)

If interested, please fill out the form online if you would like to be a Crafter or Vendor at our fair.

"Trinity Lutheran Church invites you to our annual Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, October 21, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Admission is free! This is a fundraiser for the youth of the congregation. Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 508 N. Cedar Road in New Lenox. They are on the east side of the road, three blocks north of the Metra train station at Cedar Road and US 30. If you are interested in being a crafter or vendor at their Fair, visit their website at [www.trinitynewlenox.org/craft-fair-2023.html](http://www.trinitynewlenox.org/craft-fair-2023.html)"



**NEAT REPEATS RESALE STORES ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO WORK IN THEIR STORES WITH A BOUTIQUE ATMOSPHERE. SHARE YOUR COMPASSION, TALENTS, AND TIME. GIVE FIVE HOURS A WEEK, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

**All sales at Neat Repeats Resale benefit the clients served by the Crisis Center for South Suburbia, a non-profit domestic violence agency. For additional information, contact Michelle McCarthy (708-429-7233) option #5 or [mmccarthy@crisisctr.org](mailto:mmccarthy@crisisctr.org)**