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IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 33, Issue 25

June 30, 2024

"Today God Is Calling You"

God reached into a part of Paul's background that had been formed before he became a Christian, and He found some very useful things there. And they weren't all spiritual things. They were also academic and cultural. Even though Paul seemed unqualified because of his monumental hatred for Christians, his background actually qualified him in a unique way. As a former Pharisee, he understood the Scriptures and the mindset of those who would oppose him. And his former spiritual blindness gave him compassion for the lost. God used both the good and the bad experiences in Paul's life. And He can do the same for you too!

Think about it: when God looked for a man to be an early leader in His church, to write down the theology of His church, to debate religious leaders who argued against His church, to advance the cause of Christ in academic and social arenas, to carry the message all the way from the lowest person on the street to the throne of Caesar, God found a man who already had the necessary qualifications – and that man was Paul.

Here is how God works: first He seeks you out, then He prepares you, then He positions you, then He empowers you to do what He knows you can do most effectively. And God's call is the only thing that will make you completely happy, although you don't always know that in advance. So, is God calling you? Is He preparing you? Is He positioning you? Is He empowering you? Your highest level of joy and fulfillment in life will come when you surrender to Him and say yes.

The word 'sanctified' means 'to be set apart for the exclusive use of'. The word *ordained* means 'ordered according to a plan'. Here are two things you need to know: God doesn't waste anything He created, and He doesn't waste anything He can use. Before you were saved, God permitted experiences, both good and bad, that were equipping you for what He had in mind. That includes who your parents were, the places they came from, where you were educated, the number of years you spent in school, the jobs you held, and the training you received.

It also includes things God put inside you at the time of your birth, even though some of those things may have seemed to work against you while you were growing up. Do you hold on to ideas like a pit bull? God can use that. Do you enjoy pouring through books and research? God can use that. Are you quick to confront, excited to run right at the enemy? God can use that.

Today you may feel like you're in the wrong place, doing the wrong things, with the wrong people. You may be wondering how you're going to dig yourself out of the hole or turn your life around. And truthfully, the answer may be that *you* can't. But *God* can! He makes miracles out of mistakes. So, give Him the things in your life that aren't so good, the things you're not proud of, and say, 'Lord, here they are. I wish my life was different, but it's not. I wish I could change it, but I can't.' Then let God go to work. God wants you to do His **will**, but you'll never reach the place of spiritual maturity in which you're 'Satan-free'. You can overcome him, but you can't eliminate him. Look at Peter. He had only one gear: overdrive. He was always in the middle of everything that was going on, but he wasn't always on top of things. The man who ended up being a church leader, first denied being a disciple of Jesus. Pretty shocking, eh?

But nothing about us surprises God. He doesn't call you and say, 'I hope you're the right person.' No; Jesus told Peter, '*Satan has demanded to sift you...like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail*'. Isn't that an amazing revelation? Even when you don't know how to pray for yourself, Jesus is praying for you. '*He ever lives to make intercession for them*'. Jesus told Peter, '*When you have turned back, strengthen your brothers*'. Out of the mess you're in today can come a ministry to others. Not only can God turn your life around, He can use you to turn the lives of others around too. And one more thing: God isn't apt to think you're worth 'sifting' if you aren't doing something right in the first place. Sifting is a method of purifying, of straining out the debris, and refining what remains. That means there had to be something worth salvaging in you at the outset. Today God is calling you. Don't waste another moment; surrender your life to Him.

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

July 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed 	5	6
7 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service Pastor Schauer	8	9 10:00am Push Prayer	10	11	12	13
14 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service Elder Bill Merchantz	15	16 10:00am Push Prayer	17	18 7:00pm Council Meeting	19	20
21 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service Pastor Whitby	22 VBS 9am- Noon 	23 VBS 9am- Noon 10:00am Push Prayer 	24 VBS 9am- Noon 	25 VBS 9am- Noon 	26 VBS 9am- Noon 	27
28 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service Elder Bill Merchantz	29	30 10:00am Push Prayer	31			

July Celebrations



Birthdays of the Month

July 2	Gary Pote
July 5	Elaine Lee
July 6	Lisa Regan
July 7	John Paul Lange
July 9	Jesse Meier
July 17	Jim McKinney
July 23	John Gabrielson



Happy Baptism Birthday!

July 16	Mark Cygan
July 29	Darlene Cygan
July 29	Josh Regan
July 30	Ashley Regan

Happy Anniversary



July 1 Karen & Bob Grossart

Stewardship Snapshot

June 23rd

24 Worshipped
2 Watched Live
7 Watched Later
33 Total

Financial Support

\$1,131.00 Total General Fund Deposit

Church Contacts

intouchlwc@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

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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY usually meets every Sunday morning in the conference room from 9:30 to 9:55. Please join Pastor Lee and the others every Sunday as they learn about the Word of God.

VERSE OF THE MONTH -⁹ *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.* Joshua 1:9

PRAYER REQUEST OF THANKSGIVING for Pastor John as he is in the regular assisted living building. He was reevaluated this week. He has expressed that he is up to having visitors and phone calls again. He is walking around more, he is still very leery to want to go out as he doesn't want to take the risk of falling again. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they are very concerned about Pastor John, as we all are, and are very thankful for his improved condition. If you would like to send cards or well wishes or to call him, here is the complete address: John Bucka, C/O Victorian Village, **Rm #108**, 12600 Renaissance Circle, Homer Glen, IL 60491. Phone number for Victorian Village is 708-578-7091, so just ask for Pastor John Bucka when they answer.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR Pastor Massey as he is still considering our Call that we had extended to him. He also expressed interest in the fact that he would like to come visit our church with his son, Marco. He will work it out with the church that he is helping out at to see when would be the best time. We, of course will have our usual Meet and Greet for him and his son, and as Diana stated with a small potluck, and as he stated "Is there such a thing as small potluck in a Lutheran Church?"

REQUEST FOR HELP: Pastor Massey is also asking if someone can help him look at houses for sale while he is here. I am willing to help them out if needed, but I also feel that more than just one person's opinion should be considered.

PRESCHOOL is now closed for the summer months. She has 4 students enrolled for next fall already, she had a tour on Friday morning with a new family that has registered their daughter for the fall semester of 2025/2026 school year. Please keep Mrs. Diana and our preschool in your prayers for additional growth and opportunity.

MOWING OPPORTUNITIES are still available if you are interested and able to help our mow crew. We currently have about 3 or 4 people who have volunteered to help us out each week. This is a huge help for us to save money.

WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS Church Night will be Saturday, August 17th. It will be "Elvis Night" also. Tickets are \$7.00. Seats were in a great location last year. The game will start at 6:00pm. There is a sign up sheet on the desk in the fellowship hall. Ticket orders will need to be placed by Sunday, August 4th. We had 7 people attend the game last year, and we all had a great time. There will be a post game fireworks show as well.



CHURCH SURVEYS need to be completed by today, Sunday June 30th. These surveys are completely anonymous. The Synod will close it out by the end of the day. Other churches in our area have already taken this survey. We have a total of 4 computers and/or laptops available if you would prefer to do the survey here at church on Sunday after worship. I did my survey, and it roughly took about 20 minutes or so. I will also have hard copies of the survey available on Sunday, if you prefer you can take one, fill it out and drop it in the basket that is on the desk in the fellowship hall. I will enter the information before leaving church on Sunday. Thank you in advance for helping us try to improve and grow in the correct direction.

CHURCH SURVEY

Watch your email! If you prefer a hard copy please see Bev.

VBS 2024



- 10 Plastic Tablecloths
- 300 Napkins
- 5 Rolls of Paper Towels
- 350 Paper Plates
- 350 small/med. Paper Cups
- 2 Boxes of Ziplock Baggies
- 70 Plastic Knives
- 6 Large Containers Drink Mix (Not Red)
- 5 Boxes of Vanilla Wafers
- 4 Bags of Baby Carrots
- 5 Boxes of Graham Crackers
- 5 Bags of Thin Pretzel Sticks & Rods
- 4 Bags of Veggie Straws
- 2 Large Boxes of Gold Fish
- 4 Bags of Mini Marshmallows
- 9 Containers of Vanilla Frosting
- 2 Bags of White Chocolate Chips
- 2 Bottles of Ranch Dressing
- 6 Large Bags of Skinny Pop Popcorn
- 2 Large Bags of Swedish Fish



Lutheran Church Charities June 2024 Mission of the Month

Lutheran Church Charities works throughout the United States and Internationally in bringing the Mercy, Compassion, Presence, and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those suffering and in need.

They offer different ministrys including K-9 Comfort Dogs, Kare 9 Military Ministry, K- 9 Police Ministry, Disaster Response, Human Care Ministry, and Hearts of Mercy & Compassion

LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry was launched in August of 2008, and it is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ. They serve everyday in the community in which they are places in times of disaster and crisis to bring comfort to all those affected, including first responders and the volunteers who serve them.

LCC Kare 9 Military Ministry is a ministry by veterans for veterans. They strive to serve our military veterans and their families. The Kare-9 Military Ministry dogs and their trained veteran handlers visit many places including VFWs, VA hospitals, Traumatic Brain Injury Care Centers, homes of veterans that are home bound, Expos, Vet Clinics and various other activities to help spread the mercy and compassion.

LCC K-9 Police Ministry handlers are law enforcement officers (current and former) who understand the unique challenges facing the law enforcement community. They bring the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who protect and serve, as well as their families. Crisis Response serves the law enforcement and family members in their time of need, by providing comfort following injuries, deaths or major incidents. Ongoing Support is the K-9 visits (headquarters, substations and dispatch centers), provides assistance with department missions such as Christmas shopping with children, summer camps and public events, comforting crime victims prior to interviews, counseling or courtroom testimonies, and general support for department members and their families.

LCC Disaster Response Ministries coordinates deployment of trained volunteers for Disaster Response. When disasters strike; lives, homes, businesses, churches and more are affected. LCC L.E.R.T. volunteers respond quickly to serve people affected by a disaster. LCC teams are trained to work through local churches to serve their communities. LCC Disaster Response provides on-site and online (L.E.R.T.) basic training. Additional training includes expertise in the area of chainsaw, heavy equipment, debris removal, flood recovery, and emotional and spiritual care.

Hearts of Mercy and Compassion (HMC), Crosses for Losses provides a physical and spiritual symbol through the giving of hearts and crosses to families and friends who have suffered a loss or are experiencing the illness of a loved one. An HMC can also be given to celebrate a victory, honor service, as an expression of love, or to be an encouragement in the face of adversity. Given as a gift, each HMC provides the love and hope of Jesus through presence and prayer. Upon request, LCC, working though churches, can provide an HMC at no charge.

“Rejoicing Comes in the Morning”

Mourning comes, but so too does God’s morning. Psalm 30 says: *“Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.”*

1) The Lord’s COMPASSION comes in the morning.

²²Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.” ²⁵The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; ²⁶it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. ²⁷It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. ²⁸Let him sit alone in silence, for the LORD has laid it on him. ²⁹Let him bury his face in the dust—there may yet be hope. ³⁰Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him, and let him be filled with disgrace. ³¹For no one is cast off by the Lord forever. ³²Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. ³³For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.

Lamentations 3:22-33

2) The Lord’s GRACE comes in the morning.

We want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³...they gave as much as they were able, even beyond their ability... ⁴They urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first to the Lord, and then by God’s will also to us. ⁶So we urged Titus... to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. ⁸I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. ¹³Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, ¹⁵as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”

2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15

3) The Lord’s LIFE comes in the morning.

²¹When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²²Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” ²⁴So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” ²⁹Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. ³⁰At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹“You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’” ³²But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.” ³⁵While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?” ³⁶Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” ³⁷He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” ⁴⁰But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, “*Talitha koum!*” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). ⁴²Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Mark 5:21-43