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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

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"Taste and See"

Fifteen individual Hymns of Thanksgiving occur in the book of Psalms. In them, psalm singers give thanks to God for deliverance from various life-threatening situations: illness, enemies, and dangers. Two aspects of Psalm 34 intrigue this reader.

First, the superscription of the psalm places it within a particular life situation of King David: "when he feigned madness before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away." The only story in the biblical text that might be associated with Psalm 34's superscription is found in 1 Samuel 21:10-15. There, David fled from Saul and went to King Achish—not Abimelech—at Gath. But Achish recognized him and David was afraid for his life, so he feigned madness to disguise his true identity. Ascertaining a specific historical event in the life of David in which to place Psalm 34 is not as important as using the setting to gain insight into the meaning and intent of the psalm. In Psalm 34, David praises God for deliverance from a life-threatening situation—perhaps his encounter with King Achish of Gath, later remembered as Abimelech.


Second, Psalm 34 is an alphabetic acrostic. Each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Acrostic poems were the works of highly skilled literary artists and functioned in ancient Israelite literature in a number of ways. Acrostics were most likely memory devices to aid in private and public—that is, individual and corporate—recitation; in addition, literarily, they summarized all that could be said or that needed to be said about a particular subject, summing it up from *alif* to *tav*, from A to Z. Adele Berlin suggests further that in an acrostic, the entire alphabet—the source of all words—is marshaled in praise of God. One cannot actually use all of the words in a language, but by using the alphabet one uses all potential words.

Thus, Psalm 34 is an individual hymn of thanksgiving of David, sung on the occasion of the deliverance of his very life by God, perhaps as the ultimate word about God's help to those who are in need (a summary of all that could be said about God's help in the face of oppression and hurt). Readers and hearers, then, should heed the words of Psalm 34, a song of thanksgiving for deliverance, and find in them hope for deliverance from various oppressive situations. Psalm 34:1-8, the psalmist first offers praise to God: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD.

Blessing and praising God are common themes in the Psalter. The word "bless" comes from the same root as the Hebrew word "knee." Thus, to bless is literally "to bend the knee"—to kneel before a sovereign. The words "praise" and "boast" come from the same Hebrew root word, the word that occurs in the phrase "hallelujah." Praise will be in the mouth of psalmist; while the psalmist's inmost being (here translated as "soul") finds its praise in the Lord. The psalm then states the reasons for offering praise to God: I sought the LORD and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble. Two more common themes of the Psalter occur in these verses. God delivers (*natsal*) and God saves (*yashah*) the psalm singer when the singer cries out to God. The two verbs are similar in meaning, but carry slightly different nuances of meaning. *Natsal* suggests a "snatching away" or "pulling away." Thus, we may picture God plucking the psalmist out of the midst of fears and moving the psalmist to a safer place. *Yashah* means "to take full care of" or "to help," suggesting that God enters the troubled situation of the psalmist and cares for the psalmist in the midst of the trouble. Note that the word "soul" occurs in verse 6, just as it does in verse 2. The inmost being of the psalmist cried out to God and was cared for and thus finds its praise (boasts) in the Lord.

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This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	12	13 10:00am Push Prayer	14	15 7:00pm Council Meeting	16	17 6:00pm Windy City Thunderbolts Game 

August Celebrations

Happy Anniversary



Aug 11 Tiffani & David West



Happy Baptism Birthday!

Aug 12 Lisa Regan

Stewardship Snapshot

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

August 4th

18 Worshipped, 18 Communed
 2 Watched Live
10 Watched Later
 30 Total

Financial Support
 \$1,962.00 Total General 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.

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 ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷ "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Taste and See"

(Continued from Page 1)

Finally, the singer exhorts hearers/readers to join in praise of God's deliverance with words of admonition: O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. The words of verse 8 are familiar words, but what does it mean to "taste and see" the goodness of the Lord? The word translated as "taste" means "to try something by experiencing it." The psalm singer admonishes readers/hearers to try God's goodness for themselves and experience it as one would taste a new food. The word is used in the same metaphoric way in Job 11:12 and Proverbs 31:18.

Tasting is one of our five senses. Seeing is another. We see the goodness of God powerfully displayed in the created world. Recall that in Genesis 1, after each creative act, God "saw" that it was good. And at the end of the creation story, God saw that creation was not just good, but that it was "very good." Psalm 34 encourages us to experience God for ourselves and to open our eyes and see the goodness of God that is all around us.

Verse 8 ends with the words "Happy are those who take refuge in him." The word translated here as "take refuge" means "to hide oneself." This writer pictures a small child wrapped up in its parent's arms—protected, warm, loved. The result? Happiness. The word "happy" occurs some 25 times. Some translations render the word as "blessed," others as "happy." Another option for translation is "content." Taking refuge in God—being protected, warm, and loved—can result in a deep, inner sense of contentment, a feeling in the very depth of your being that all is well. Content, indeed, are those who allow themselves to be wrapped up in the arms of God.



Mission of the Month

PHIL'S FRIENDS will be the Mission of the Month for August. They are a Christ-centered support organization for cancer patients. They not only provide emotional support to the patients, but they also provide the basic essentials to these individuals and their families.

August Mission of the Month

Our Mission : To provide Christ-centered support and hope to those affected by cancer.



Our Vision: Phil's Friends will expand to a sustainable international organization by implementing new programs, increasing services, expanding volunteer opportunities, and developing needed support for individuals and families affected by cancer.

Our Values: We are committed to carrying out our mission in a Christ-centered, caring culture dedicated to supporting individuals and families impacted by cancer. We adapt to the dynamic needs of the people we serve by acting responsibly, with a sense of urgency, and a passion for excellence. With integrity, our team serves with compassion, respect, and kindness, offering hope and peace to all.

Living Word News

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. Pastor Lee and Elaine had visited with him this past Sunday and gave him communion and prayed with him. They said that he is in good spirits and alert throughout the day, he is still struggling with having dizziness and falling, but other than that he is doing well.



Living Word News

PRESCHOOL is now closed for the summer months. She has 4 students enrolled for next fall already, she had a tour last 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. Also please let everyone you know what a wonderful program she has, and how their children will flourish in our preschool.

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.



COUNCIL MEETING was last Thursday afternoon. They reviewed the financials and then they discussed the upcoming budget for this fiscal year and also received updates from Ken and Diana on behalf of the Call Committee on our meeting with Pastor Koschmann last Monday. Their next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, August 15th, at the regular time of 7:00pm.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is scheduled for Sunday August 18th, following the service. The Transition team will present Pastor Koschmann, we will have his information and ask you to vote to extend Call documents to him. The council will also have information to share with you regarding the proposed budget and information regarding different things that have been taken care of around the building and the different services that we have changed for the building as well. They will also share the outcome of the church surveys that everybody filled out earlier this summer. Please plan on attending this meeting, we need everyone's vote and participation. We would like to thank you for all that you do for our church.



THANK YOU LETTER was received this week from Lutheran Church Charities. It reads, "Dear members of Living Word Lutheran Church, I want to personally thank you for joining with us in bringing comfort, love, and safety to those in need through your gift of \$343.00. Your partnership enables us to share the Mercy, Compassion, Presences and Proclamation of Jesus Christ throughout the United States and world. LCC works with and through churches and other Christian ministries in bringing comfort to thousands of lives each year. Our committed and dedicated staff and volunteers serve every day through our K-9 Ministries, Disaster Response, Human Care and Hearts of Mercy and Compassion/Crosses for Losses ministries as well as supporting other domestic and international ministries. ...If you wonder how your support is making a difference, I want to invite you to sign up with our weekly newsletter where you will see and hear about the difference you are making in someone's life. These stories are powerful as they are life changing. If you already receive our newsletter, would you take a moment to invite a friend to receive it? ... Please remember LCC in your prayers tonight as we also pray with thanksgiving for you this day!" It is signed, "Sharing the comfort of Christ, Rev. Chris Singer. So very grateful for your Gospel partnership."

“Taste and See!”

Psalm 34 says: *“Taste and see that the Lord is good!”*

1) Taste the Lord's STRENGTH!

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.” ³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” ⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” ⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. ⁷ The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” ⁸ So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

1 Kings 19:1-8

2) See your new SELF!

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. ²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing some-thing useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassion-ate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. ¹ Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 4:17-5:2

3) Taste and see the Father's SON!

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.” ⁴¹ At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven?’” ⁴³ “Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered. ⁴⁴ “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. ⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. ⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

John 6:35-51