

THIS DAY IS HOLY TO OUR LORD. DO NOT GRIEVE, FOR

THE

the joy of the Lord is your strength.

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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 33, Issue 33

August 25, 2024

"Think Possible"

Reading the two Scriptures: 'With God all things are possible' (v. 26). 'He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief' (Matthew 13:58). Those two verses mean this: many things that are possible remain undone because of doubt and unbelief. So, think possible.

If God's Word says you can succeed, but you're failing, it may mean this: you don't really believe what He says, or you're not willing to do your part. When you think *possible*, it increases your energy level. Who gets energized at the prospect of losing? If you know something can't succeed, how much time and energy are you willing to give it? Nobody goes looking for a lost cause. You only invest yourself in what you believe can succeed. So when you think *possible* and trust God for success, your faith becomes the energizing force.

Some people believe that possibility thinkers are naive or foolish. If you're one of them, answer this question: how many highly successful people do you know who are continually negative? How many impossibility thinkers are you acquainted with who achieve big things? None! The first step to thinking *possible* is to stop yourself from searching for and dwelling on what's wrong with each situation. People with an it-can't-be-done mindset have two choices: they can expect the worst and continually experience it, or change their thinking. And that begins with eliminating the negative self-talk you hear in your head before you have even opened your mouth. 'The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences'. In order to think possible, you must believe and speak *possible*.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help me say and believe each day that ALL things are possible with You! In Jesus' Name, Amen

The Bible says, 'Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him' (v. 6). Here is something God can't do: be pleased without faith!

Twelve spies entered the Promised Land, but only two came back and said, 'We are well able to overcome it'. God had promised it to them, but the majority thought it couldn't be done. People who think *possible* not only create forward-looking, optimistic pictures of the future in their own minds, but also in the minds of others. And the opposite is true, 'Nothing is so embarrassing as watching someone do something that you said couldn't be done.' Now, believing you can doesn't guarantee you will. But believing you can't guarantees you won't!

How's your approach to life? When you face the unknown, the undone, or the untried, do you focus on all the things that can go wrong or all the things that can go right? Wernher von Braun said, 'I have learned to use the word "impossible" with the greatest caution.' You say, 'Who was he?' The scientist who made it possible for the first man to walk on the moon! 'Never tell a young person that something cannot be done. God may have been waiting centuries for somebody ignorant enough of the impossible to do that very thing.' If you want to achieve something, give yourself permission to believe it is possible – and trust God for success.


PRAYER

Heavenly Father, having faith in You, help me think POSSIBLE and keep looking forward. In Jesus' Name, Amen


Joseph had two dreams, and the second was bigger than the first. His first dream was a field of sheaves; the second dream was a sky full of stars. So the word for today is – dream one size bigger!

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This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blend-ed Worship Service	26	27 10:00am Push Prayer	28	29  5:30pm-6:30pm Preschool Open House	30	31

August Celebrations



Birthdays of the Month

Aug 28 Rene DiGrazia
Aug 31 Randy Hodo



Happy Baptism Birthday!

Aug 21 Freddy Merchantz
Aug 31 Sandy Boehm

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 18th
 19 Worshipped, 16 Communed
 2 Watched Live
 10 Watched Later
 34 Total

Financial Support
 \$1,010.00 Total General Fund Offering
 \$135.00 Total VBS Fund (Oriental Trading Refund)
 \$1,145.00 Total Deposit

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

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.

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.

Community News

TWC thankful to serve families once again at its food pantry

Together We Cope is happy to welcome clients back to our food pantry following more than a year's closure after a fire. Staff has been providing groceries to our neighbors in crisis, with a major assist from the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Food is available Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m. "The Food Depository has been extremely generous in supporting our reopening efforts," said Kathryn Straniero, executive director. "Without them, we'd be struggling to get back in business."

Other funding from private foundations, businesses, and individuals was instrumental in getting the pantry up and running. Additionally, funding from a state grant is forthcoming after TWC was recommended for financial assistance.

Thousands of area residents rely on the TWC pantry to supplement their food budget, receiving a week's worth of groceries free once per month. "Being unable to serve our clients for more than 18 months has been the most painful part of this for me," said Tony Roman, food pantry manager. "The great news is they never stopped receiving assistance," he said, explaining that TWC worked with other food pantries in the region to service families in need. "I imagine families in need of greater assistance have definitely felt the impact of us being closed," Roman said. "Clients were forced to go out of their way in their times of need to obtain groceries, but TWC is getting back on track."

Straniero said the agency is fully aware of the hardship on families that the fire caused. "Typically, we serve 5,000 individuals a month in our pantry. We pride ourselves on providing the highest quality of food to our clients and treating them as we want to be treated. No one is turned away. We are ready and excited to bring clients back. Our volunteers and staff have missed them more than they've missed us."

TWC gratefully accepts volunteers and donations at the food pantry. For more information, contact Tony Roman at 708-633-5040 or troman@togetherwecope.org



Preschool News

PRESCHOOL is now closed for the summer months. She has 4 students enrolled for next fall already, she had a tour earlier this summer 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. Fall semester is only a couple of short weeks away, and Diana is hoping to have our preschool grow into a larger class again this year. In order to help our preschool out, she will be having a very yummy fundraiser. Nothing Bundt Cakes is partnering with us in an effort to help raise money for our preschool. Please see the flyer below for the promotion. All orders will be due by 11/6 and they be ready for pickup on November 18th. Remember you can always freeze them for an extra week to have them for dessert for your Thanksgiving dinner. It's very easy and yummy all at the same time, and there are many delicious varieties and flavors to choose from. It will only be their bundtlets that will be for the fundraiser, each bundtlet is \$6 and comes in their traditional flavors.



NOTHING bundt CAKES®

The Sweetest Way to Support Living World Lutheran Church and Preschool

Fundraiser Cake Flavors Available:

Chocolate Chocolate Chip | Red Velvet | White Chocolate Raspberry

Lemon | Confetti | Classic Vanilla | Carrot

Snickerdoodle | Strawberries & Cream | Gluten-Free Chocolate Chip Cookie

Individual Bundtlet Cost: \$6

"Think Possible"

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'**Make your plans as fantastic** as you like, because twenty-five years from now they will seem mediocre. Make your plans ten times as great as you first planned, and twenty-five years from now you will wonder why you did not make them fifty times as great.' There is only one way to keep growing: make your goal a step beyond what makes you comfortable. That will force you to keep growing! And it will also set you up to believe God for greater things. Most people want their lives to keep improving, yet they value peace and stability at the same time. They forget that you can't improve and stay the same. Growth means change, and that means challenging the status quo.

Thinking possible means you can't settle for what you have now. There will always be people around you who want you to give up your dream and embrace the status quo. Love them, but don't be led by them. As you begin to believe God for greater things and others try to throw cold water on you, remember that right now, as you read this page, other people around the world are thinking about curing cancer, developing new energy sources, feeding the hungry, improving the quality of life, and winning whole nations for Christ. They are beating the odds and challenging the status quo – and you must, too.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help me commit all my thinking to You and dream one size bigger than I can think. In Jesus' Name, Amen



Nothing worth having comes easy

Living Word News

MOWING OPPORTUNITIES are still available if you are interested and able to help our mow crew. We currently have about 4 people who have volunteered to help us out each week. Neal was able to sell our standup mower and bought a new sit down riding mower with a steering wheel, so it is much easier to use, so hopefully we will be able to get a few more volunteers to make it easier for everybody. This is a huge help for us to save money.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING was last Sunday after the service. The Transition team presented Pastor Koschmann, we gave his information and asked you to vote to extend Call documents to him. Thank you to all who voted earlier this week, the vote was unanimous 29-0 to extend Call papers to him. Diana has called Pastor Schauer so he can notify Pastor Koschmann of our decision. She will also have all of the documents prepared and ready to be signed by everyone on Sunday morning, then they will be copied and mailed out to Pastor Koschmann, once he has had a chance to receive and review the documents, Diana will also send a letter notifying his church as to us extending a call to him. Please join me in keeping Pastor Koschmann and his family along with his church, Holy Cross in Los Gatos, CA in your prayers as he hopefully and prayerfully considers accepting our Call.

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 last 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.

VISIT BEING PLANNED to see Pastor John for his birthday. His birthday is October 3rd, so we will either go to Victorian Village either the Sunday before or the Sunday after. Please see Diana and/or Beverly if you would like to go. We would like to give Victorian Village a heads up prior to bring a caravan of people there. Pastor John will be 88 this year.

SAMSUNG WASHER AND DRYER looking for a good home. They are fairly new, just too small for a large household. If you are interested on getting more information about them, please see me in the office or after church. They are priced to sell.

“The Fool Says...”

Psalm 14 says: “The fool says in his heart, *‘There is no God...’*”

1) The fool says, “There is no Divine SCROLL.”

¹¹ For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say, “Read this, please,” they will answer, “I can’t; it is sealed.” ¹² Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, “Read this, please,” they will answer, “I don’t know how to read.” ¹³ The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught. ¹⁴ Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish.” ¹⁵ Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, “Who sees us? Who will know?” ¹⁶ You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, “You did not make me”? Can the pot say to the potter, “You know nothing”? ¹⁷ In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest? ¹⁸ In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see. ¹⁹ Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.
Isaiah 29:11-19

2) The fool says, “There is no Divine MYSTERY.”

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.
Ephesians 5:22-33

3) The fool says, “There is no Divine COMMAND.”

⁷ The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ² and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?” ⁶ He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷ They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’” ⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.” ⁹ And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ¹⁰ For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ ¹¹ But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)— ¹² then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. ¹³ Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”
Mark 7:1-13

