




## Developing Godly Character

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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 34, Issue 13 March 30, 2025

## “Character”

Abraham Lincoln said, ‘Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.’ It’s easier to focus on our talent because, generally speaking, it produces results that are rewarded and celebrated by others. In other words, there is an element of ego connected to our gifts. Character is built in private. Your reputation is what people *think* you are, but character is what God (and you) *know* you are.

If you want to go the distance, focus more on character than talent. The writer of Proverbs says, ‘*Live right, and you will eat from the life-giving tree. And if you act wisely, others will follow*’ (Proverbs 11:30). If you’re praying for greater results, being must precede doing. To achieve greater goals, you must become a more effective leader. To attract better people, you must become a person of great character. When you consistently display character, competence, and purpose, you make a powerful statement to those around you and draw them closer to you. Great things are rarely accomplished alone, so if you want to attract good people, you have to become a better person yourself.

This is particularly true if you’re a person of great ability. Your talent may lift you up before others, but your lack of character will bring you down. The Bible says, ‘*A thick bankroll is no help when life falls apart, but a principled life can stand up to the worst*’ (Proverbs 11:4 MSG). A wise leader is willing to admit, ‘I’m not perfect, but I know who is. And I’m doing my best to become more and more like Him in my professional and personal life.’

Because he was handsome, Joseph attracted the unwanted attention of his boss’s wife. Day after day, she tried to seduce him. Now fast-forward to later in his life: if Joseph encountered that level of temptation when he was just a household slave, can you imagine the level he was exposed to when he became Egypt’s prime minister? Acting with integrity in small things equips you to act with integrity in big ones. In the hour of temptation, you will be called upon to choose one of two paths: character or compromise. And every time you choose character, you become stronger, even when your choice comes at a cost. Observe:

- 1) Character is more than just talk.** Do you remember the old show-and-tell method of teaching in school? If you’re all tell and no show, you lose credibility.
- 2) Talent is a gift, but character is a choice.** Generally speaking, talent is something you’re born with; you have little say in the matter. But character is a choice you get to make each day, and usually, it’s made when only God and you know about it.
- 3) Character brings lasting success.** It’s said that early Stradivarius violins were made from wood taken from the side of trees that had faced the brunt of a storm. Why? Because weather-beaten wood produces the sweetest music. Are you getting the idea?
- 4) Temporarily you may rise above your character limitations, but you won’t be able to sustain it.** Eventually, you will be seen for what you are. So, the word for today is – don’t just work to build your career, work to build your character.

# April 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <b>Election Day</b> <b>No Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>9am-Noon Preschool Resumes</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>9am-Noon Preschool</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>9am-Noon Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>9am-Noon Preschool</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>9am-Noon Preschool</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>10:00am Blended Worship Service</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>11:30am Easter Egg Hunt</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>9am-Noon Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>9am-Noon Preschool</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>9am-Noon Preschool</b>	<b>18</b> <b>6:30pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>9am-Noon Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>9am-Noon Preschool</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>9am-Noon Preschool</b>  <b>7:00pm Council Meeting</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Blended Worship Service</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>9am-Noon Preschool</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>9am-Noon Preschool</b>			

## April Celebrations



**Apr 7** Donna Wasilkoff  
**Apr 21** Jay Gabrielson  
**Apr 25** Peter Wasilkoff  
**Apr 27** Karen Grossart  
**Apr 28** Lara Wasilkoff



Happy Baptism  
 Birthday!

**Apr 28** David Holloway  
**Apr 29** Tiffanie West

## Happy Anniversary



**Apr 27** Ed & Cathy Baidis

## Stewardship Snapshot

**March 23rd**

18 Worshipped, 17 Communed

5 Watched Online

23 Total Worshipped

### Financial Support

835.00 General Fund Total Deposit

## Devotional Time

### Opportunities to Connect with God

**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 see below for the Zoom info for the PUSH PRAYER on April 1st.**

<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

### 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** *For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory. - Romans 8:29-30 (NLT)* We are not alone. The Holy Spirit works in our lives daily, praying for us, strengthening us, and empowering us. Right now we cannot see all that the immediate future holds, but we can be assured of our eternal future. God has planned that future since the beginning of time and He sees the big picture. Trusting that we have been chosen, and called, and justified, we too can see the big picture, that we will also eventually be glorified.

**VERSE OF THE MONTH** <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. *1 Corinthians 15:3-4.*



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

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## Easter Egg Hunt 2025

**EASTER EGG HUNT 2025** is coming quickly. Even though Easter is later this year, that time is fast approaching. It is scheduled for April 13th following our Palm Sunday worship service. We are hoping that it will be much better weather that day. If you are able to stay for a little while, we would greatly appreciate it if you could help check families in and direct their children to the appropriate age groups. We would also need people that come a little early to help spread out all those eggs. Diana already has over 110 kids that signed up for the event. All of our former preschool families already jumped on the website to get registered also.



## Mission of the Month

**MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH** is our Technology Fund. We are hoping to upgrade our projectors and sound system in the sanctuary in the upcoming months. We know that both the projectors/screen and the sound system leave a lot to be desired and are outdated. We are getting quotes from a couple of different sources, one is from the company that helped us get the new copier, and the other one will be from some of our more technical minded members, lol. We will also need to help Mrs. Diana out with a new laptop for the preschool, I guess she is just doing too much teaching, lol.

## March Mission of the Month Technology Fund

**We are looking to upgrade our  
projectors, sound system, and  
Preschool laptop.**



## Living Word News

**ASPIRE WOMEN'S EVENT** will be on Friday, April 4th at 7:00pm. The event will be held at Calvary Assembly of God Church, located at 18620 Governors Highway in Flossmoor. They will have an author and Bible teacher, comedian and a musician. There are handouts and information on the desk in the fellowship hall, and if you would like more information, please come see me in the office or give me a call.

**VBS 2025** is now being posted and advertised on the website and Facebook, and several of our past VBS families have already commented and liked the new update! Diana has already reached out to the high schools last week to have them post for volunteers. If you know any high schoolers that need community service hours, this is a great way to get at least 20+ hours if they are able to work the whole week. We still have some volunteers who are working and going to college that has told Diana they will help out as much as possible. Sherri Grecci will of course be here helping out with snack time each day too.

## VBS 2025



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** was announced last Sunday that we would have a meeting on **Sunday, March 30th**, shortly after our worship service. We appreciate all of those who are able to attend the meeting to be here in person. This will be a voter's meeting, as we will be sharing several different possibilities that have come to our attention over the past couple of months. I will be sending out a private link to watch the meeting online. The Call committee will give a brief update and the council will be presenting a few different projects that they are working on to make improvements to our church. Please plan on attending this meeting for our church.

# Sunday, March 30th

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

PLEASE JOIN US

## 3-30-2025 Message Outline

### **"Blessed Is The One"**

Psalm 32: *"Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven..."*

#### **1) Blessed is the one the Lord SAVES.**

In that day you will say: "I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me." <sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation." <sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup> In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. <sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you." Isaiah 12:1-6

#### **2) Blessed is the one Christ RECONCILES.**

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 6:16-21

#### **3) Blessed is the one our Father LOVES.**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable: ... <sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> 'Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> 'When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'" Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

### ***The Prodigal Son Returns***