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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

16301 South Wolf Road  
Orland Park, IL 60467

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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 25

June 22, 2025

## "Because He Said So"

One of the things as a child that I rarely appreciated hearing were those words from my parents as a response to my constant questioning about their decision. It meant that there would be no further explanation and no more discussion. The decision was made. That, of course, left me in a place where there could be no more debate.

And of course, as a parent, I often found myself using those same words with a deeper appreciation of their importance. You know the words I'm talking about? 'Because I said so'. Yet, as God's child, I still hear those words spoken to me. Honestly, there are many times that I do not understand God's reasoning. There seems to be other logic and other ways of living that often seem to make a lot of sense to me. As I hear God's Word, it invites me to trust and believe not because I understand it, but rather simply to trust and follow, listen and obey *because* He said so.

When Jesus called Simon to follow as his disciple, he asked him to push out from shore and to drop his net for some fish. Peter, a seasoned fisherman, explained to the Teacher that he had been out all night fishing and caught nothing. You can almost hear the gentle pleading, as Simon in a sense is saying, 'Lord, I tried that already'.

Simon then adds these words in his response, *"But because you say so, I will let down the nets."* (Luke 5:5) And when Simon obeyed, there were more fish than he knew what to do with, more than he could handle.

When it comes to God saying, 'Because I said so', it comes down to trust, obedience to His authority, and His will. It was Jesus who showed what such obedience looks like when he asked the Heavenly Father to allow the cup of suffering and the crucifixion to pass away from him. But then he added, *"But not my will, but your will be done."* (Luke 22:42)

In a sense, He was saying, 'Because you say so'.

I want to share with you two things that Jesus wants you to trust, simply because he says so. First, you are sinful and in need of saving. This is so important because sometimes we self-justify ourselves for doing things that the Lord has asked us not to do, or by refusing to do the things he's asking for us to do.


And when we use self-justification to deny our sinfulness, we make God out to be a liar and the truth is not in us, but rather the Lord is waiting for us to hear his word, his commands, and trust that they are right because he said so. When we confess that, we are actually saying, 'God, we recognize that the things You say are true about us—we are sinners.'

We can then confess things as sins and wholeheartedly confess them to him and seek his mercy. And that leads us to the second thing that he wants you to trust, simply because he said so. And that is, you are rescued and safe in his grace. It's one of the reasons why we call his grace 'amazing' is because it defies our reason.

Why would God choose to have mercy on us? And yet those words of forgiveness and absolution are absolutely true because he said so. We call that declarative justification, that forgiveness secured for all of your sins in God's courtroom through your great defender, Jesus Christ, who died to set you free.

The other time, that can be difficult to trust these words of forgiveness just because he said so, happens when we see sin continuing in our lives. Many times, our own guilt and the badgering of the evil one tries to convince us that we are beyond Christ's mercy. The words of God are clear, *"He has removed your sins away from you as far as the east is from the west."* (Psalm 103:12) So believe you are forgiven, because he said so.

# This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>22</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10:00am Blended Worship Service</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>10:00am Push Prayer</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>11:00am-12:30pm Preschool Open House</b>

## 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

## Stewardship Snapshot

### June 15th

19 Worshipped, 18 Communed

5 Watched Online

24 Total Worshipped

### Financial Support

\$641.00 Total General Fund Offering

## June Celebrations



**June 23** Joe Urbank  
**June 24** Robert Hodo

## Happy Anniversary



**June 26** Anita & Gary Meier

## 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** <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. *Romans 5:8*

"I WAS READY TO BE FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME." IS THIS GOD SPEAKING?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YES, THAT'S GOD'S NATURE.



JESUS CROSSES THE SEA TO MEET ONE MAN WHO IS BEING TORMENTED.\* AND WHEN THE MAN WANTS TO FOLLOW JESUS, JESUS REFUSES HIM. "GO HOME AND TELL EVERYONE WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR YOU," HE SAYS. THAT'S OUR CALLING TOO.



BUT THAT WOULD REQUIRE A GRIPPING BACKSTORY!



ISAIAH 65:1-9

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### Lutheran Church Charities June 2025 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 placed 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 through churches, can provide an HMC at no charge.



## Preschool 2025

# PRESCHOOL

## Open house

Living Word Lutheran Church  
in Orland Park

Saturday, June 28th  
11 am - 12:30pm



## VBS 2025

**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. Sherri was just here this week picking up the snack book to get the list ready for us.



# VBS 2025

## Save the date!

Living Word Lutheran Church  
Orland Park, IL  
July 21st-25th

## Living Word News

**MOWERS NEEDED** even though we only have the one working mower as of right now, it would be greatly appreciated if we could get more volunteers for the mowing ministry. For right now, Neal Hartz and George Hostert has been doing the fronts and sides of the church yard. Ed Baidis does the back field. I know in the past year or two, we've had a few others come out when they could and take care of the mowing. I will print out the mowing schedule once again for this year, so our other mowers can choose the days that best works for them. If we can get at least 4 volunteers, it will only be once a month that you would have to do it, or less if we have any periods of drought. Our old mower was found out to be 23 years old, and in need of many repairs. Neal has found a landscaper that will sell us a used mower with a three year warranty on it. We are hoping that will be here this week. My apologies if I forgot to mention anyone to thank and recognize in previous newsletters, it was never my intention to overlook all you do for us. Thank you all for everything that you do for our church, it is greatly appreciated.

**PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE** is scheduled for next Saturday June 28th. Let's pray that Diana gets a couple of families at least that received our flyers. If any of your friends or family members are looking for a preschool for their little ones, please remember to pass the word along to them about Diana's fantastic program here. She is looking to have school 5 days a week if she can get enough families that would want full week preschool. As of right now, one family is interested and by November they will have 2 children registered for the 5-day program.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** was held Sunday, June 8th. We voted on calling Pastor Collin Ford to be our sole pastor at Living Word Lutheran Church. The ballots and the link to watch the meeting live were emailed prior to Sunday, plus they were also emailed after the meeting to watch the recorded version. The votes have all been counted and the vote was unanimous to extend a Call to Pastor Ford. Ken texted Pastor Ford to let him know that Diana will email and send out hard copies of the Call documents via registered mail to him, which was done on Wednesday morning. Pastor Ford did reach out to us last Thursday to schedule a follow up conversation via Zoom, which was scheduled for last Friday. Him and his wife had a few questions that they needed clarification on and had also asked us if we would be willing to extend a call to his wife Abigail with zero salary and zero benefits as Director of Church Ministries. This was brought to council's attention on Sunday at their meeting and it was suggested that Diana reach out to the District to verify if this is something that would be acceptable to them. President Buss called Diana on Wednesday afternoon with his blessings and to confirm all would be good to go. This of course will be announced to the congregation during the announcements on Sunday morning. Thank you for your vote and attendance for the meeting. Please keep Pastor Ford and his wife, Abigail and both our church and Mount Olive in your prayers while they prayerfully consider accepting our Call.

**CHURCH FLYERS** have all been printed, all 5,000+ that is, lol. They all have been folded with everyone's help. Thank you for bringing them back in time to be brought to the post office. Originally we were planning on having a pizza lunch for everyone who was going to help us, but we understand that June is very busy, and we would like to have these flyers in everyone's mailbox at least a week or two before the Preschool Open House, and they were. 2,304 flyers have been bundled and dropped off at the Orland Park Post Office last week and have been delivered, and over 2,700 flyers were taken to the Lockport post office on Monday to be delivered to a route in Lemont and 4 routes in Homer Glen. For delivery mid to late this week. Thank you all for all of your effort and hard work. We know this was a very huge task and we could not have done it without your help. Since this our first time doing this outreach, we do plan on doing these mailings at least every 3 or 4 months maybe, depending on our events and if we get any positive outcome or responses from this endeavor. We are however exploring other options for the folding aspect of this project. We will keep you informed with those details as they become available to us. Thank you again for all of your help. The Baidis, the Boehms, Diana, Neal, Bill, Malia, Eleanor, Phil and George, if I left anyone out, I am sorry, it was a very busy couple of weeks.

**COUNCIL MEETING** was held last Sunday after worship. They discussed the financial updates at the start of the meeting. Ken and Diana advised the council as the outcome of our follow up meeting with Pastor Ford and his wife Abigail. Neal also let the council know that he was able to get the lawn mower that was discussed at the congregational meeting with the three year warranty. He also told them that the roofers were going to start working on the roof this week. They then started discussing the options for dedicating the reading corner in the preschool room with a plaque for Dolores and some new shelves for a preschool library. That way more of Diana's books can be available to the preschoolers year round for her to read to them and for them to begin to learn how to read some of the words in the books. We will keep you posted as details become more available about this new addition for the preschool room.

## ***“From The Lord Comes Deliverance”***

*“Arise, Lord! Deliver me, my God!”*  
Psalm 3

### **1) The Lord delivers me from BETRAYAL.**

“I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’”<sup>2</sup> All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations—<sup>3</sup>a people who continually provoke me to my very face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on altars of brick; <sup>4</sup>who sit among the graves and spend their nights keeping secret vigil; who eat the flesh of pigs, and whose pots hold broth of impure meat; <sup>5</sup>who say, ‘Keep away; don’t come near me, for I am too sacred for you!’ Such people are smoke in my nostrils, a fire that keeps burning all day. <sup>6</sup>“See, it stands written before me: I will not keep silent but will pay back in full; I will pay it back into their laps—<sup>7</sup>both your sins and the sins of your ancestors,” says the LORD. “Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains and defied me on the hills, I will measure into their laps the full payment for their former deeds.”<sup>8</sup> This is what the LORD says: “As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes and people say, ‘Don’t destroy it, there is still a blessing in it,’ so will I do in behalf of my servants; I will not destroy them all. <sup>9</sup>I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah those who will possess my mountains; my chosen people will inherit them, and there will my servants live.”

Isaiah 65:1-9

### **2) The Lord delivers me from BONDAGE.**

<sup>23</sup>Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. <sup>26</sup>So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup>for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. **4** What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. <sup>2</sup>The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. <sup>3</sup>So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to son-ship. <sup>6</sup>Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. Galatians 3:23-4:7

### **3) The Lord delivers me for BLESSING.**

<sup>26</sup>They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. <sup>27</sup>When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!” <sup>29</sup>For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. <sup>30</sup>Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “Legion,” he replied, because many demons had gone into him. <sup>31</sup>And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. <sup>32</sup>A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup>When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. <sup>34</sup>When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, <sup>35</sup>and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus’ feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. <sup>36</sup>Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. <sup>37</sup>Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left. <sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup>“Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

Luke 8:26-39