



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 34, Issue 26

June 29, 2025

"Living by the Spirit"

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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

Introduction

Living by the Spirit is a central theme in Christian theology, emphasizing the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. This concept is rooted in the New Testament, where the Apostle Paul and other writers expound on the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding, empowering, and sanctifying Christians. Living by the Spirit involves a daily walk in alignment with God's will, characterized by the fruit of the Spirit and a departure from the desires of the flesh.

Biblical Foundation

The foundation for living by the Spirit is found in several key passages of the New Testament. In [Galatians 5:16-25](#), Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit, urging believers to "walk by the Spirit" ([Galatians 5:16](#)). He writes, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh" ([Galatians 5:16](#)). This passage highlights the ongoing battle between the sinful nature and the Spirit, with the latter leading to a life that reflects God's character. Paul further elaborates on the life led by the Spirit, stating, "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit". This chapter underscores the freedom and life that come from being led by the Spirit, as opposed to the death and condemnation associated with living according to the flesh.

Role of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in the believer's life, acting as a guide, teacher, and source of strength. Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit as a Helper and Comforter saying, "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth". The Spirit indwells believers, enabling them to understand spiritual truths and empowering them to live in obedience to God's commands. The Spirit also convicts believers of sin, righteousness, and judgment ([John 16:8-11](#)), leading them to repentance and a deeper relationship with God. Through the Spirit, believers are sanctified, being transformed into the image of Christ.

Fruit of the Spirit

A life led by the Spirit is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit, as outlined in [Galatians 5:22-23](#): "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)). These attributes reflect the character of Christ and are the natural outcome of a life surrendered to the Spirit's leading. The presence of the fruit of the Spirit in a believer's life serves as a testimony to the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. It stands in stark contrast to the works of the flesh, which include "sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, discord, jealousy, and rage" ([Galatians 5:19-20](#)).

Practical Implications

Living by the Spirit requires a conscious and continual submission to the Spirit's guidance. This involves regular prayer, meditation on Scripture, and a willingness to yield to the Spirit's prompting. Believers are called to "be filled with the Spirit", allowing Him to influence every aspect of their lives, from thoughts and attitudes to actions and relationships. The Spirit empowers believers to overcome sin and live victoriously, as Paul writes "For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live". This victory over sin is not achieved through human effort but through reliance on the Spirit's power.

Conclusion

Living by the Spirit is an essential aspect of the Christian life, marked by a deep reliance on the Holy Spirit's guidance and empowerment. It involves a daily commitment to walk in step with the Spirit, producing the fruit of the Spirit and reflecting the character of Christ in all areas of life.

July 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00am Push Prayer	2	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed 	5
6 10:00am Wor- ship Tradition- al Communion Hymnal Ser- vice 11:00am Fel- lowship Time	7	8 10:00am Push Prayer	9	10	11	12
13 10:00am Blended Wor- ship Service 11:00am Fel- lowship	14	15 10:00am Push Prayer	16	17	18	19
20 10:00am Blended Com- munion Wor- ship Service 11:00am Fel- lowship Time VBS Decorat- ing	21 VBS 9am- Noon 12:30pm Council Meeting 	22 VBS 9am- Noon 10:00am Push Prayer 	23 VBS 9am- Noon 	24 VBS 9am- Noon 	25 VBS 9am- 1:00pm 	26
27 10:00am Blended Wor- ship Service 11:00am Fel- lowship Time	28	29	30	31		

Church Contacts

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

Stewardship Snapshot

June 22nd

24 Worshipped

4 Watched Online

28 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

\$1,405.00 Total General Fund Offering

June Celebrations



June 29 Kristi Hartz



June 29 George Hostert

Happy Anniversary



June 30 Deanna & Kurt Meier



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
July 27 Kurt Meier



July 29 Josh Regan
July 30 Ashley Regan

Happy Anniversary



July 1 Karen & Bob Grossart

July Celebrations

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

THAT'S QUITE
A LIST!



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

WHICH ONE? THE
FIRST OR THE
SECOND ONE?



THE **SECOND**
ONE, I'M ALREADY
FAMILIAR WITH THE
FIRST.



GALATIANS 5:13-25

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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.

MOWERS NEEDED we now have two working mowers, 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 Baid's does the back field, plus the sides and front sometimes. 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. 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.

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 a couple of weeks ago to schedule a follow up conversation via Zoom. 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.

COUNCIL MEETING was held after worship two weeks ago. 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.

VBS 2025 is less than a month away. We have about 60 kids signed up for it. I want to thank everyone who braved and survived the heat on Tuesday to help Diana and I bring a ton of True North decorations from Trinity Lutheran that they had so generously donated to us this week. We brought over a log cabin, boats and canoes, concrete blocks and bears and other woodland animals, all cardboard that is, lol. So a big thanks goes out to Ed and Cathy Baid's and Dave Holloway for helping us that hot day, and of course, Trinity for letting us use everything since their VBS was last week.



VBS 2025

Save the date!

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

“Lord, You Alone”

*“Lord, You alone are my portion and my cup;
You make my lot secure.”*

Psalm 16

1) “Lord, You alone are my HOPE.”

And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” ¹¹ The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” ¹⁵ The LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷ Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸ Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.” ¹⁹ So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. ²⁰ Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. “Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,” he said, “and then I will come with you.” “Go back,” Elijah replied. “What have I done to you?” ²¹ So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

1 Kings 19:9b-21

2) “Lord, You alone are my FREEDOM.”

⁵ It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. ... ¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. ¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

3) “Lord, You alone are my PURPOSE.”

⁵¹ As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then he and his disciples went to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” ⁵⁹ He said to another man, “Follow me.” But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” ⁶² Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Luke 9:51-62