



PSALMS 41:1 NIV

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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 28

July 13, 2025

"Compassion and Its Divine Reward"

Psalm 41 is a profound scripture that speaks to the heart of compassion and divine reward. It begins with a powerful statement: "Blessed are those who have regard for the weak." The verse highlights the importance of caring for those who are vulnerable or in need. In our everyday lives, this could mean offering help to the elderly, supporting those who are sick, or simply lending a listening ear to someone who is struggling. The act of compassion not only uplifts those in need but also enriches the soul of the giver. The psalm continues by reassuring us that God is aware of our compassionate acts. It states, "The Lord sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their illness." This conveys a promise that those who show kindness will receive divine sustenance in times of their own need. It is a comforting thought to know that our good deeds do not go unnoticed and that there is a spiritual reward for living a life of empathy and care. Psalm 41 reminds us of the integrity that comes with compassion. "In my integrity, You uphold me," it says, that living a life of honesty and compassion aligns us with God's will. Integrity is about being consistent in our actions, regardless of who is watching. By caring for the weak, we show a commitment to living out our faith, showing the world that our beliefs are not just words but actions.

The Spiritual Benefits of Compassion

Compassion is more than just a moral duty; it is a pathway to spiritual growth. When we extend kindness to others, we open our hearts to receiving God's love and blessings. This is because compassion is a reflection of God's nature, and acting in this way brings us closer to Him. The act of giving, whether it be time, resources, or emotional support, strengthens our connection with the divine. Compassion has the power to change communities. When people come together to support those in need, it creates a ripple effect that benefits everyone. Communities that prioritize caring for the weak often experience greater unity and peace. This unity is a testament to the power of compassion as a force for good, creating an environment where everyone can thrive. Besides community benefits, compassion enriches our personal lives. It gives us a sense of purpose and fulfillment, knowing that we are making a positive difference in the world. It assures us that compassion leads to divine blessings. Caring for others, we invite God's grace into our lives, living the joy and peace that comes from helping others.

Living with Integrity

Integrity is a cornerstone of a compassionate life. It involves being true to our values and maintaining consistency between our beliefs and actions. It emphasizes the importance of integrity, suggesting that it is through living with honesty and compassion that we find favor with God. This means standing firm in our convictions, even when it is difficult or inconvenient. Living with integrity also means being a role model for others. When we act with honesty and compassion, we inspire those around us to do the same. This creates a culture of integrity within our communities, encouraging others to live out their faith boldly and intentionally. By setting a good example, we contribute to a world where kindness and honesty are valued. Integrity is about accountability. It involves being responsible for our actions and acknowledging when we fall short, which reminds us that God upholds those who act with integrity, offering forgiveness and guidance when we need it. By striving to live with integrity, we align ourselves with God's will, inviting His blessings into our lives.

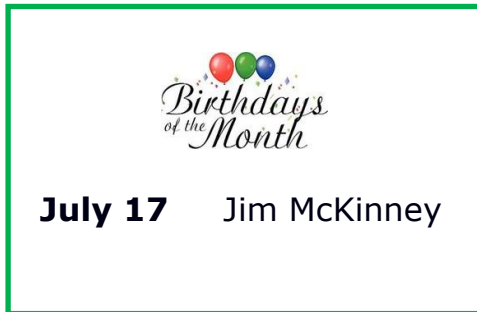
Praise and Gratitude

Psalm 41 invites us to praise the Lord, the God of Israel. Praise is an expression of gratitude for the blessings we receive when we care for the weak. By recognizing God's role in sustaining and rewarding us, we know His presence in our lives. This gratitude strengthens our faith, reminding us of the divine support we have in times of need. Gratitude also plays a vital role in having a positive outlook on life. When we focus on the blessings we receive, we cultivate a mindset of abundance rather than scarcity. This encourages us to continue our acts of compassion, knowing that our efforts are valued by God. By practicing gratitude, we become more aware of the many ways God enriches our lives. Ultimately, it calls us to live a life of compassion, integrity, and gratitude. By caring for the weak, we not only fulfill our moral duty but also receive divine blessings. Scripture reminds us that God is always present, sustaining and protecting those who live according to His will. We find the strength to live out these values, bringing hope and healing to the world around us.

July 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 10:00am Blended Wor- ship Service 11:00am Fel- lowship Time	14	15 10:00am Push Prayer	16	17	18	19

July Celebrations



Stewardship Snapshot

July 6th

26 Worshipped, 22 Communed

8 Watched Online

34 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

\$2,300.00 General Fund Offering

\$29,793.12 From the IRS 2021 Employee Relief Fund

\$32,093.12 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

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK ¹⁹ One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?" ²⁰ But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" ²¹ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use? ²² What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? ²³ What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory— *Romans 9:19-23*

VERSE OF THE MONTH ⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. *Revelation 19:6-7*



Lutheran Church Charities is planning to deploy to the Texas Hill Country this week to BE THERE to offer HOPE TO THE HURTING after catastrophic rains, rapid rises in river levels, and massive flash flooding overwhelmed multiple communities over the July 4 weekend, taking the lives of more than 100 people, including at least 28 children at campgrounds along the Guadalupe River basin.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Texas District President Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther and Texas District Disaster Response Coordinators Julie Tucker and David Ricks have invited LCC to lend Disaster Response expertise and bring K-9 Comfort Dog, Hearts of Mercy & Compassion ministries, and LCC Care Teams trained in Spiritual First Aid™ to the Texas Hill Country to provide physical, emotional, and spiritual care to those affected by the still-unfolding tragedy.

LCC volunteers in Texas and Oklahoma are standing by to mobilize and travel to affected areas.

Search and rescue operations continue with around-the-clock response from local, state, and national first responders. Hundreds of officers and support staff are working in Kerr County and the surrounding region.

LCC is calling on its supporters to pray for families and individuals affected, as well as LCC's preparations to serve the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) Texas District, plus working alongside LCMS pastors and congregations participating in community care efforts, including Kerrville, Boerne, San Antonio, and Houston. Also, please pray for weather conditions to allow for ongoing recovery efforts.

LCC President/CEO Rev. Chris Singer has been in communication with LCMS district officials, while the directors from all four LCC ministry areas are reaching out to pastors in the region, as well as LCC volunteers poised to help.

"The scope of this tragic disaster is large and so many families are facing the devastating reality of lost loved ones," Rev. Singer said. "Lives have been upended and torn apart. They need our prayers and our urgent help right now."

LCC is preparing to BE THERE with them, ready to offer emergency assistance, tangible support, and most importantly, the comfort and hope found only in Jesus Christ.

LCC can provide this assistance because of faithful, generous donors and volunteers who are willing to support and serve.

Your earnest prayers and kindhearted assistance are greatly appreciated by the many people overwhelmed by the trauma and pain, as well as those who are responding with help.

LCC makes visits with LCC K-9 Comfort Dog ministry teams, places hearts and crosses at memorials and vigil sites, and provides free disaster response assistance as a reminder to hurting communities that people across the nation love and support them. LCC seeks to provide those impacted by tragedy with opportunities to process their grief and receive messages of love and hope, ultimately finding solace in the peace of Jesus Christ.

Thanks to you, Lutheran Church Charities will BE THERE as long as necessary to provide the mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are struggling, suffering, and in need.



Mission of the Month

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY specifically VBS will be our Mission of the Month for July. VBS is fast approaching and as always, they will be busy making their crafts and snacks everyday. Please see the list of supplies below that will be needed. As always, you can always make monetary donations as well and we will pick up the items that have not been donated. If there is any cash left over, it will be deposited into the VBS Fund for all of the goodies for next year. As always we really appreciate all of your help and support for this ministry. All supplies will need to be here at church by July 20th.

15 Plastic Tablecloths

Approximately 35 Apples

350 Small/Medium Paper Cups (9-12 oz.)

65 Cups of Vanilla Pudding Cups

10 Containers of Drink Mix (Red and Blue)

3 Containers of Grapes

4 Boxes of Golden Grahams Cereal

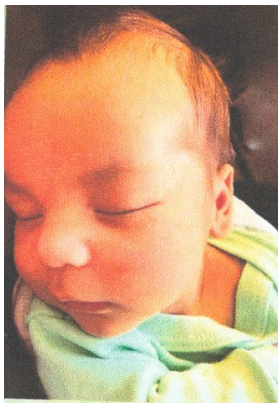
5 Bags of Chocolate Chips

VBS 2025 is less than a couple of weeks away. We have about 60 kids signed up for it. I want to thank everyone who braved and survived the heat last 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 Baidis and Dave Holloway for helping us that hot day, and of course, Trinity for letting us use everything since their VBS was last week.



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 Baidis 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.

COUNCIL MEETING for this month will be held on Monday, July 21st, following the first day of VBS. Among the topics of discussion will be the financial updates, and off us receiving the final two COVID Employee Relief Fund checks and how they will be put to use. The call Committee will have an update as to the status of the Call extended to Pastor Ford. If there is anything that you would like to bring to the council, please see Diana, Ken, Neal or Bill with that request. Also, I would like to thank the members of the council for their diligence and hard work they went thru working on obtaining the Federal Employee Retention Credit, that will help our church in many ways.



We thank God
for our first
baby resident in
the Illinois
maternity
home-
Borja!
Born
5/22/2025
Baptized
6/29/2025

THANK YOU NOTE was received this week from Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries. It reads, *"Thank you for your sending a ministry gift of \$182.00 to support Redeeming Life's Illinois maternity home ministry! Your members' generous support shares the love of Jesus with our resident moms and babies while providing for their essential needs and so much more. Because of your generosity, Redeeming Life shares a home, help and hope with women in crisis. As new residents begin our program, we see that they often lack the skills needed to live a full and independent life, and in the maternity home, they find help to build those skills and set goals to begin the path to independence. Many of the women are unfamiliar with God's unconditional love. Here they find the help they need along with caring support. We are the hands and feet of Jesus to them. Together as brothers and sisters in Christ,*

all the saints at Living Word Lutheran Church share the life-changing good news of the Gospel with the moms and babies of Redeeming Life. Your partnership is truly a blessing to all of us. We are grateful for the opportunity to love and care for God's precious children alongside you in this impactful way. To God be the glory!" It is signed, *Thank you to all at Living Word! Your partnership is dear to our ministry, In His Service, Sheryl"* The actual letter can be found on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Along with the letter, they also sent a birth announcement of the first baby resident in the Illinois maternity home.

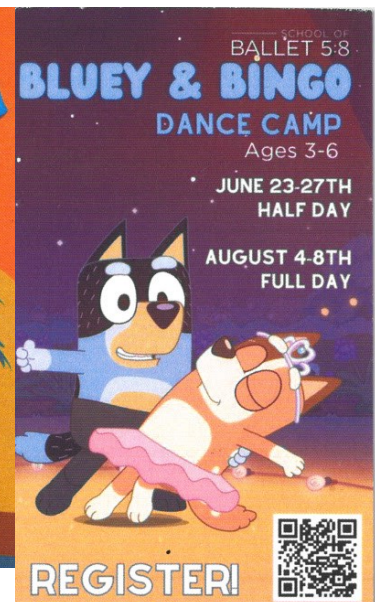
BALLET 5:8 DANCE COMPANY dropped off some information and cards for a dance camp and dance that they are hosting. All of the information is below. The first set of dates for each dance camp was unfortunately in June, but there are two others that kids can attend.

Ballet 5:8 invites you to an evening of vibrant new works featuring dancers from our 2025 Summer Intensive alongside the Ballet 5:8 Professional Company.

Fresh choreography. Powerful storytelling. Artists on the rise.

THE FUTURE IS NOW
Friday, July 25 | 7:00 PM
Lincoln Way East High School
Frankfort, IL

Tickets start at \$15
Reserve yours at ballet58.org/tickets



7-13-2025 Message Outline

“Because of My Integrity”

“Because of my integrity you uphold me...”
Psalm 41:12a

1) “Because of my integrity I will LOVE a neighbor.”

⁹“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God. ¹¹“Do not steal. “Do not lie. “Do not deceive one another. ¹²“Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD. ¹³“Do not defraud or rob your neighbor. “Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight. ¹⁴“Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the LORD. ¹⁵“Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. ¹⁶“Do not go about spreading slander among your people. “Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor’s life. I am the LORD. ¹⁷“Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt. ¹⁸“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.
Leviticus 19:9-18

2) “Because of my integrity I will EVANGELIZE a neighbor.”

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To God’s holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father. ³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people— ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. ⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
Colossians 1:1-14

3) “Because of my integrity I will BE a neighbor.”

²⁵On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” ²⁷He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” ²⁸“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” ²⁹But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³²So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ ³⁶“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” ³⁷The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”
Luke 10:25-37