



GOD KNOWS
HOW TO
MAKE IT
ALL WORK OUT...
HE IS IN
COMPLETE
CONTROL.

Inside this issue:

"God Is In Control"	1
This Week at Living Word	2
Celebrations/Church Contacts	2
Stewardship Snapshot/Devotional Time	2
VBS 2025 Pictures	3
VBS 2025 Pictures	4
Living Word News	5
7-27-2025 Message Outline	6

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 30

July 27, 2025

"God Is In Control"

God is in control, but God is also in relationship with His children and asks us to pray, to lament, and to ask Him to change His mind as we participate as the Bride with our Bridegroom.

The Old Testament lesson for this Sunday is written in the first book of the Torah. The text is Genesis 18:20-33 and is the account of Abraham and his bargaining session with the LORD over the fate of Sodom. In truth, it appears Abraham is actually concerned for the fate of his nephew, Lot, who resides in the city of Sodom and not so much about the city itself. The context of this pericope is right after the "Three Visitors" have been with Abraham and announced the upcoming birth of the child of Abraham and Sarah's old age. Now, two of these visitors (angels) have left and are on their way to Sodom and the Angel of the LORD (the pre-incarnate Christ) has remained with Abraham and reveals what is about to take place at Sodom. Note it is the Covenantal relationship the LORD has with Abraham which causes Him to share this information (verses 17-19).

It is also their Covenantal relationship which gives Abraham the right to have this interesting bargaining session (argument) with the LORD. Western Christianity is uncomfortable with this kind of conversation between God and man. However, it is a very common and accepted, even encouraged, manner of conversation in the Scriptures. This bargaining/arguing could be considered a sub-category of "lament" which is quite common in the Psalms. However, we also see it with Moses, Elijah, and Jeremiah. Because of the God-established covenantal relationship, Abraham, as well as the rest of the covenantal people, has the right to question God or bargain and argue with Him. The Hebrews understood lament, in general, to be evidence of faith because one does not argue with a God they do not believe in and who they do not believe has any power to change the order of things. In this relationship Abraham knows the LORD and His promises quite well. Thus, we see Abraham recalling the LORD's attention to the LORD's own attributes, character, and promises. Abraham knows the LORD is merciful, gracious, just, and righteous. So, he points this out as he engages in the argument. Basically, Abraham is calling on God to be who He promised to always be! And Abraham is certain the LORD will respond appropriately because He must be true and faithful. This takes great faith on the part of Abraham and shows how well he understands the covenantal relationship.

Remember, it is the covenant which gives Abraham the right to question God and His judgment. And, equally important in all manner of lament, Abraham leaves it in the hands of the LORD to deal with the situation properly. Abraham believes God is personally in control of the events of history and can be persuaded to change His mind. After all, He who created the world in six days can certainly change His mind concerning Sodom, save Lot and his family, and still keep the earth spinning in the proper way!

God is in control, but God is also in relationship with His children and asks us to pray, to lament, and to ask Him to change His mind as we participate as the Bride with our Bridegroom. As a result, we trust, no matter what the action or answer to our conversation with Him, the LORD God will do what is good and right for the sake of His Kingdom.

Something to take note of: Abraham stops his bargaining short of the number of righteous in the city of Sodom. However, God who is faithful and just, answers Abraham's concerns/prayers in another manner as He saves Lot and his family.

July 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:00am Blended Wor- ship Service Bonnar Bap- tism 11:00am Fel- lowship Time	28	29 10:00am Push Prayer	30	31	1	2

July Celebrations



July 27 Kurt Meier



Happy Baptism
Birthday!
July 29 Josh Regan
July 30 Ashley Regan

Stewardship Snapshot

July 20th

27 Worshipped, 22 Communed

5 Watched Online

32 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

\$1,555.00 General Fund Offering

240.00 Building Use (God Is Able)

\$1,790.00 Total General Fund Deposit

Devotional Time

Opportunities to Connect with God

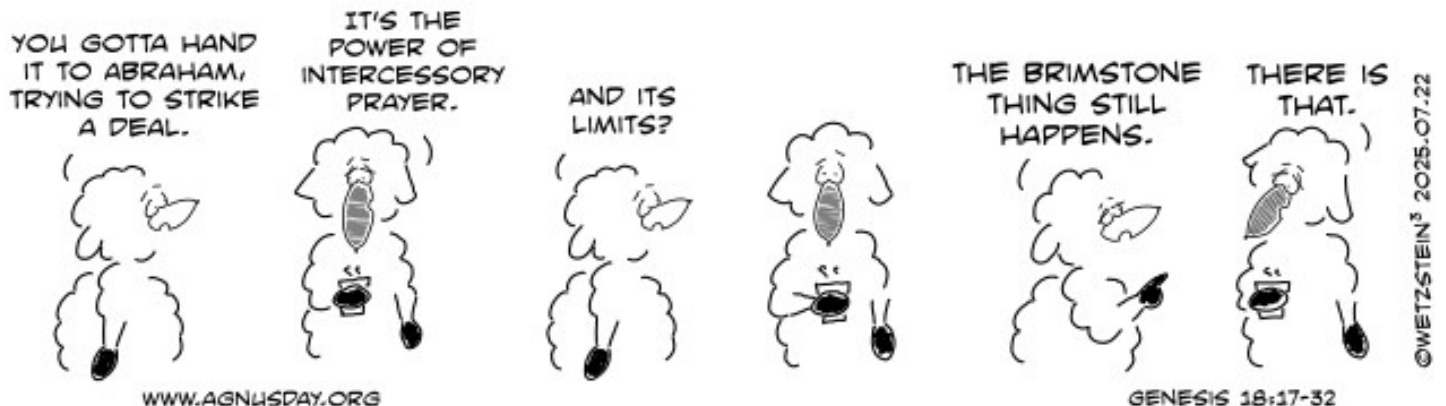
PUSH PRAYER meets **every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.** to pray for our church, community and world. We welcome requests (call 708-403-9673) or visit our website to send in your prayer request, or join us for 30-40 minutes each week.

RADIO & TV OPPORTUNITIES

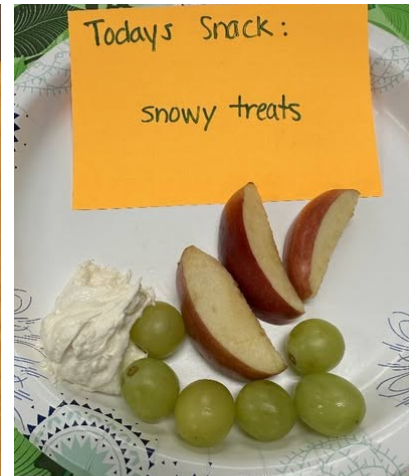
- **Worship Anew**—8:00 a.m. Sunday - Comcast channel 184 (TLN) & 8 (SD) , WPWR channel 50, AT&T U-verse channel 1008 (HD) & 8 (SD), Dish Network # 8495; 10:30 a.m. Sunday - DIRECTV channel 377 (TCT)
- **The Lutheran Hour** 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays on 1230 AM; and 9:30 a.m. Sundays on 1580 AM

DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK ³⁰What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. ³²Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. ³³As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame." *Romans 9:30-33*

VERSE OF THE MONTH ⁶Then 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. ⁷Let 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*









LAST DAY OF VBS was even better than the years before this one! One of our volunteers reminded Ms. Diana how they used to have the pie challenge years ago. So since they were willing, she told the kids at VBS if they could collect 115 items for the Orland Food Pantry, that she would let them pie Matt, and seeing how he was so willing to be a good sport about it, she also challenged the kids if they would collect 150 items this week, they could pie her too. The kids accepted these challenges and collected 181 items for the families in need for Orland Park. So after they performed their songs for their friends and families on Friday, they got to pie both of them and continue with their water balloon fight. Good job kids, and Matt and Ms. Diana too.



COUNCIL MEETING for this month was held on Monday, July 21st, following the first day of VBS. Among the topics of discussion were the financial updates. The call Committee will have an update as to the status of the Call extended to Pastor Ford.

CONGRATULAIONS to Nick and Erica Bonnar. They had a little boy, Waylon born on May 19, 2025, and he will be baptized here at Living Word this Sunday, the 27th. It will be so good to see the Bonnar family here again.

PLEASE KEEP THE GALBERT FAMILY in your prayers. Last Friday their house caught on fire and basically lost everything. In a matter of minutes everything they had went up in flames. Clothes, furniture, electronics, photos and other vital necessities were all lost, and sadly one of the family's dogs had not survived the fire either. Fortunately they are all safe no one was home, but the loss of everything was devastating. There is a Go Fund Me page for the family if you would like to help them out. Braden will need to replace everything that he was going to take with him to college and Paige was getting ready to go on a Clean Water Mission in Malawi. Last known, they were trying to seek temporary housing during the time it will take for them to collect on the insurance and relocate.

7-27-2025 Message Outline

“You Answered Me”

“When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me...”

Psalm 138

1) God answers our prayers for PEOPLE.

²⁰ Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous ²¹ that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.” ²² The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?” ²⁶ The LORD said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.” ²⁷ Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, ²⁸ what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?” “If I find forty-five there,” he said, “I will not destroy it.” ²⁹ Once again he spoke to him, “What if only forty are found there?” He said, “For the sake of forty, I will not do it.” ³⁰ Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?” He answered, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.” ³¹ Abraham said, “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?” He said, “For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it.” ³² Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?” He answered, “For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.” ³³ When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

Genesis 18:20-33

2) God answers our prayers for POWER.

⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. ⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Colossians 2:6-15

3) God answers our prayers for PARDON.

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” ² He said to them, “When you pray, say: “‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.”’” ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’” ⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’” ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. ⁹ “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Luke 11:1-13