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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 27

July 6, 2025

## "Shout to the Lord"

Psalm 66 appears to have an anonymous author. We are not told who wrote this psalm. However, it is interesting that Psalm 66 connects well with Psalm 65. The end of Psalm 65 is a declaration that the earth, with its pastures, hills, and valleys, "shout for you, yes, they sing" (65:13; NAS95). Psalm 66 begins, "Shout joyfully to God, all the earth" (66:1; NAS95). Psalm 66 is a psalm of praise to the Lord that has three movements: a universal call of praise (1-7), a call of praise from the Israel community (8-12), and a call of praise from the individual (13-20).

### Universal Call of Praise (1-7)

The first four verses are a call to the whole earth to shout, sing, and praise the glorious name of God. All of God's creation must praise God for his awesome works. Verse 3 declares the need to shout praise to God because of God's triumph over the enemies. Every person will bow his and her knee to God, whether willingly or unwillingly. I believe this is what is pictured for us in verse 3. Notice also in verse 4 that the earth always worships and gives praises to God. Everything about the creation praises God. Unfortunately, we do not always praise God. This is where the psalm turns in verses 5-7.

In verses 5-7 the people are called to "come and see the works of God." We need to jump start our praise to the Lord and make it continual before him just like the earth is continually praising God. We can initiate this by "coming and seeing" the mighty works of God. Verses 5-7 offer some reminders concerning the mighty works of God. In verse 6 the psalmist reminds us, **"He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot; there let us rejoice in him!"** This is an obvious reference to the parting of the Red Sea as the children of Israel left Egypt.

It is interesting to me that God always expects to remember his powerful acts in the past. God does not issue another miracle to the people during this psalmist's life to get them to obey and praise God. They are to remember what God did in the past. In the same way, God does not continue to work miracles today but are called upon to remember the past. The life and death of Jesus is fashioned the same way. We are to know and remember that Jesus came to the earth and died for all people. He is not going to appear on the earth for every generation. The parting of the Red Sea would have been more than 500 years in history if the psalmist lived during David's day. If the psalmist lived during the captivity it would have been more than 1000 years since the parting of the Red Sea. Yet the Red Sea parting was the key act that the psalmist wanted the people of Israel to remember.

But God does simply perform one time acts. **"He rules by His might forever; his eyes keep watch on the nations; let not the rebellious exalt themselves" (66:7; NAS95).** God still rules and continues to watch over the nations. People should not think that God is not in charge or that God is not aware of the actions of humanity on the earth. Just because God does not work a daily miracle to keep people focused on him does not mean that God does not exist or that God is not involved in the affairs of the earth. We are simply told to remember and it is unfortunate that we have become so bad at remembering historical, important events. Proof of this is our treatment of remembrance of 9/11 and our corresponding remembrance of Pearl Harbor. We simply do not care about things that do not happen today, and a lack of remembrance will be our downfall.

# July 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>6</b> <b>10:00am Wor-</b> <b>ship Tradition-</b> <b>al Communion</b> <b>Hymnal Ser-</b> <b>vice</b> <b>11:00am Fel-</b> <b>lowship Time</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>10:00am Push</b> <b>Prayer</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>

## July Celebrations



*Birthdays  
of the  
Month*

<b>July 6</b>	Lisa Regan
<b>July 7</b>	John Paul Lange
<b>July 9</b>	Jesse Meier

## Stewardship Snapshot

**June 29th**

**24 Worshipped**  
**6 Watched Online**  
**30 Total Worshipped**

**Financial Support**  
 \$1,035.43 General Fund Offering  
196.00 Mission of the Month (LCC)  
**\$1,231.43 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** <sup>14</sup>What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! <sup>15</sup>For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." <sup>16</sup>It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. <sup>17</sup>For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." <sup>18</sup>Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. *Romans 9:14-18*

Is that grounds for complaining that God is unfair? Not so fast, please. God told Moses, "I'm in charge of mercy. I'm in charge of compassion." Compassion doesn't originate in our bleeding hearts or moral sweat, but in God's mercy. The same point was made when God said to Pharaoh, "I picked you as a bit player in this drama of my salvation power." All we're saying is that God has the first word, initiating the action in which we play our part for better or worse.

**VERSE OF THE MONTH** <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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*





Matthew 5:16 KJV

# Independence Day Blessings

Love Your Inner Peace

Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works,  
and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

**JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH** was for Lutheran Church Charities. They do so much good work for all different communities that suffer tragedies. Your overwhelming generosity had collected a total of \$196.00. They appreciate anything we can help them with. Thank you for all of your contributions.

**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 herre at church by July 20th.

**15 Plastic Tablecloths**

**Approximately 35 Apples**

**5 Rolls of Paper Towels**

**5 Boxes of Teddy Grahams**

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

**5 BGA OF Pretzel Sticks**

**10 Containers of Drink Mix (Red and Blue)**

**3 Containers of Grapes**

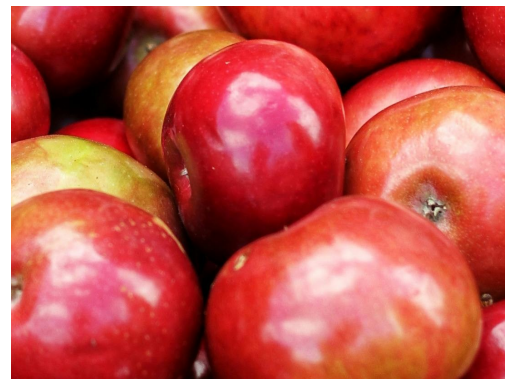
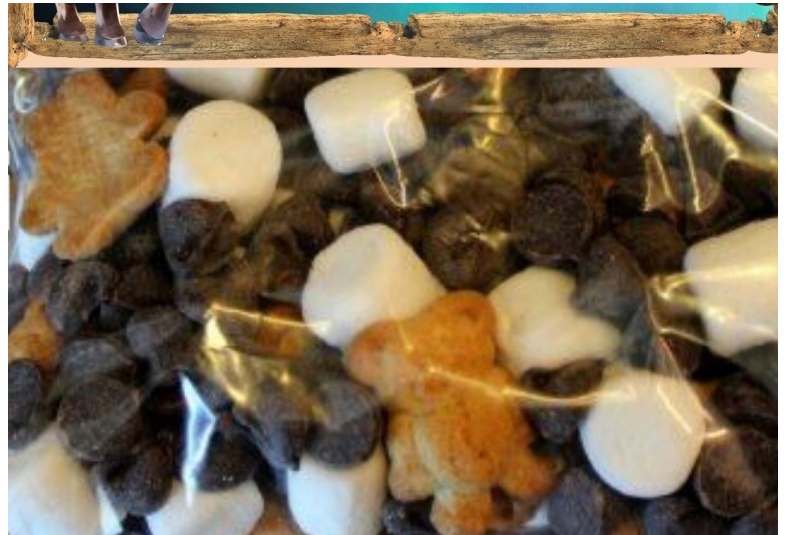
**2 Bags of Raisins**

**4 Boxes of Golden Grahams Cereal**

**5 Bags of Mini Marshmallows**

**65 Cups of Vanilla Pudding Cups**

**5 Bags of Chocolate Chips**





**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 a Sunday morning once we have more details about this process. 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

**TRUE NORTH**

Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

## 7-6-2025 Message Outline

### **“Come and See!”**

*“Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind!”*

Psalm 66:5a

#### **1) Come and see the peace of God’s PLACE.**

<sup>10</sup> “Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice greatly with her, all you who mourn over her. <sup>11</sup> For you will nurse and be satisfied at her comforting breasts; you will drink deeply and delight in her overflowing abundance.” <sup>12</sup> For this is what the LORD says: “I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. <sup>13</sup> As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.” <sup>14</sup> When you see this, your heart will rejoice and you will flourish like grass; the hand of the LORD will be made known to his servants, but his fury will be shown to his foes. Isaiah 66:10-14

#### **2) Come and see the peace of God’s PLEASURE.**

If someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup> Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, <sup>5</sup> for each one should carry their own load. <sup>6</sup> Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor. <sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup> Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. ... <sup>14</sup> May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision mean anything; what counts is the new creation. <sup>16</sup> Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God. <sup>17</sup> From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. <sup>18</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirits. Amen. Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18

#### **3) Come and see the peace of God’s PLAN.**

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. <sup>5</sup> “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ <sup>6</sup> If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. <sup>8</sup> “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ <sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’ <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. <sup>13</sup> “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>14</sup> But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. <sup>15</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. <sup>16</sup> “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.” <sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” <sup>18</sup> He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. <sup>20</sup> However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:1-20