

Thank you God

for all your blessings to me and my family. For the strength you give me each day and for all the people around me who make life more meaningful.

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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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Orland Park, IL 60467

livingwordorland.org
intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

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 33

August 17, 2025

"God's Blessings"

We encounter a challenging passage from the Gospel of Luke. In Luke 12:49-53, Jesus declares, "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" He speaks of a baptism with which He must be baptised, expressing great anguish until it is accomplished. He then states, "Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." He describes how households will be divided, with family members turning against one another. At first glance, these words may seem at odds with the image of Jesus as the Prince of Peace. However, they reveal the profound cost of discipleship and the radical nature of the Gospel message.

The Fire of the Gospel

When Jesus speaks of setting the earth on fire, He is referring to the transformative power of the Gospel. The message of God's Kingdom is meant to ignite hearts, challenging the status quo and calling individuals to a radical commitment to love, justice, and truth. This fire is not one of destruction but of purification and renewal.

The Division of Discipleship

Jesus acknowledges that His message will not always be received with open arms. Following Him may lead to division, even within families. This division arises not from a desire to cause conflict but from the inevitable clash between the values of the Kingdom and the values of the world. To stand for truth, justice, and love often requires making difficult choices that may not align with societal norms or familial expectations.

The Baptism of Suffering

Jesus speaks of a baptism with which He must be baptised—a reference to His impending suffering and death. This baptism signifies His total identification with humanity's suffering and His willingness to endure for the sake of salvation. As His followers, we are called to share in this baptism, embracing the challenges and sacrifices that come with discipleship.

Peace Through Justice

While Jesus acknowledges the division His message may cause, He does not advocate for conflict. Rather, He points to the deeper peace that comes from living in alignment with God's will. This peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of justice, love, and truth.

A Call to Courageous Discipleship

As we reflect on this passage, we are reminded that following Jesus is not always easy. It requires courage, commitment, and a willingness to stand firm in our faith, even when it leads to division or personal sacrifice. Yet, in embracing this path, we participate in the transformative fire of the Gospel, bringing light and hope to a world in need.

Let us pray for the strength to be faithful disciples, bearing witness to the love and truth of Christ in all circumstances.

Application

Think of your life as a project at work or a family goal. Jesus approached His mission with the urgency of a looming deadline, the dedication of a parent caring for a child. Embrace your purpose with that same intensity. Challenges will come, but they are just part of the journey. Are you ready to tackle your mission with the passion of Christ? In conclusion, Jesus' teachings are transformative and demanding, often leading to division. Believers are urged to find strength in their faith and community, trusting that Jesus' mission ultimately brings true peace and reconciliation. Reflect on personal experiences of conflict or division due to faith, seeking solace and guidance in prayer and Scripture. Embrace the challenges of discipleship, knowing that through them, true transformation and unity can be achieved.

This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 10:00am Blended Com- munion Wor- ship Service 11:00am Fel-	18	19 10:00am Push Prayer	20	21 7:00pm Council Meeting	22	23

August Celebrations

 Aug 19 Sandy Boehm	 Aug 19 Matt Meier
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Stewardship Snapshot

August 10th

21 Worshipped
9 Watched Online
30 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

Offering was not counted for last week

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 11 I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: 3 "Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me"? 4 And what was God's answer to him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal." *Romans 11:1-4*

VERSE OF THE MONTH 6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. *Proverbs 22:6*

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY returns at 9:15am Sunday mornings starting on September 14th. Please see page 4 for the theme of the first Bible study. Please let Neal know if you are interested in joining the class so he knows how many more books to order.

I don't think this is what our Gospel reading is trying to tell us, lol!



August Mission of the Month

Our Mission : To provide Christ-centered support and hope to those affected by cancer.



phil's friends
cancer is strong. hope is stronger.

Our Vision: Phil's Friends will expand to a sustainable international organization by implementing new programs, increasing services, expanding volunteer opportunities, and developing needed support for individuals and families affected by cancer.

Our Values: We are committed to carrying out our mission in a Christ-centered, caring culture dedicated to supporting individuals and families impacted by cancer. We adapt to the dynamic needs of the people we serve by acting responsibly, with a sense of urgency, and a passion for excellence. With integrity, our team serves with compassion, respect, and kindness, offering hope and peace to all.

PHIL'S FRIENDS is in urgent need of care package items to fulfill the many requests they've receive from patients. Currently, they are especially in need of playing cards and puzzle books to bring comfort and joy to those they serve. Please see the Amazon link below for items on their wish list.

Amazon link: amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2VVXEbm1KFW14/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1

If you are able to help, please see the details below on how to send these items to us:

224-653-8315
julied@philsfriends.org

Crown Point Hope Center
1249 Arrowhead Court, Crown Point, IN 46307
Mondays, 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Tuesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 am & 2:00 - 5:30 pm
Thursdays, 9:30 - 11:00 am & 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Addison Hope Center
1150 N. Swift Road, Unit D, Addison, IL 60101
Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:30 am & 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Wheaton Hope Center
213 W. Wesley Street, Unit 104, Wheaton, IL 60187
Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm & 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Thank you for your compassion and support during this critical time. Your generosity makes a real difference in the lives of those on a difficult journey.

#philsfriends #hopeisstronger #spreadHOPE
#CancerSupport #cancercarepackage
#webringhope #philsfriendsministry



Find more information in the post

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. I have some phone numbers for the Shelli and Tom Galbert, I'm not sure how current they are.



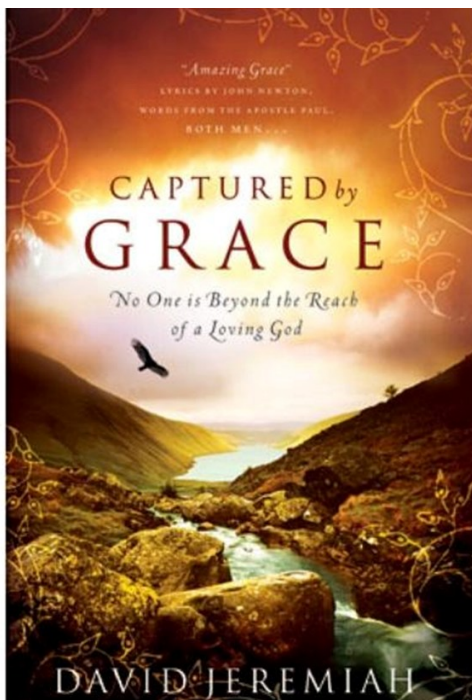
PRESCHOOL is going to start up again in a couple of weeks from now. Diana has been busy getting her rooms together and ready for the little kiddos this month. The Dramatic Arts playroom is all set for their camping adventures, and the classroom is getting set up for the 6 total students that she will have by January. She will be having preschool 5 days a week starting this September, so if you know of anyone who is looking for a wonderful program to sign their little ones up for, please let them know about Mrs. Diana and her preschool program. She will be having her Back to School night on August 28th.

THE AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for August 21st at 7:00pm, more information will be made available in the newsletters if there are any changes to that date. If there is anything that you would like to have addressed, please see Neal, Bill, Ken or Diana so that it can be added to the agenda. Among the topics of discussion will be the financials, preschool, new outreach ideas and the Call committee update. Anything of important conclusions or decisions will be made during the announcements after service the following Sunday morning.

LOST RING was found in the church parking lot last week. It seems to be Mother's or Grandmother's ring maybe, as it has several different colored gemstones. If you lost a ring last week, please see Neal to see if this is your ring.

CHURCH FLYERS have been printed out and are in the process of being folded. I want to thank everybody who has stopped by this week so far to help me fold them. A big thanks goes out to Neal Hartz, Pat and Dale Johnson, and another member who does not want to be mentioned in the newsletter, lol. Currently, we have done over 4,300 flyers and might be looking into a couple of other areas that we might be interested in including, so that will mean some more flyers, more information will be announced on Sunday, as to our goals and as to what we finished and have gotten ready to go out. Once again, thank you for all your help, it has been greatly appreciated.

CALL COMMITTEE has received another list from the district. They gave us another two names, we have reviewed the information and planning on calling the pastors to see if they are interested in talking with us.



Join us for Sunday
Adult Bible Study
at 9:15 am
starting Sunday,
September 14th.



CHICAGO WOLVES

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS NIGHT

NOV. 15 OR NOV. 16

THE CHICAGO WOLVES INVITE YOUR SCHOOL TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR LUTHERAN SCHOOLS NIGHT, AS WE HONOR LOCAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS. ALL STUDENTS, STAFF, TEACHERS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS SPECIAL NIGHT.

- SPECIALLY PRICED TICKETS
- FREE CHICAGO WOLVES HATS
- SPECIAL SCHOOL RECOGNITION ON OUR LED MATRIX BOARD
- ZAMBONI RIDES **PENDING AVAILABILITY**
- FUNDRAISING OPTIONS AVAILABLE



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO TAKE PART IN THIS SPECIAL EVENT,
PLEASE CALL OR TEXT STEFANIE EVANS AT 847-832-1939 OR VIA EMAIL AT [SKEVANS@CHICAGOWOLVES.COM](mailto:skevans@chicagowolves.com)

CHICAGOWOLVES.COM



1-800-THE-WOLVES

THE CHICAGO WOLVES is hosting a Lutheran Schools Night. Either Saturday, November 15th at 7:00pm or Sunday, November 16th at 3:00pm. The games are at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont, IL. The Wolves are an AHL (American Hockey League) team. They will be playing the Cleveland Monsters that weekend. As I can gather more information, I will include it in future newsletters.

“Your Salvation”

*“My soul faints with longing for your salvation,
but I have put my hope in your word.”*

Psalm 119:81

1) God saves me by His word of PROPHECY.

¹⁶This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷They keep saying to those who despise me, ‘The LORD says: You will have peace.’ And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, ‘No harm will come to you.’ ¹⁸But which of them has stood in the council of the LORD to see or to hear his word? Who has listened and heard his word? ¹⁹See, the storm of the LORD will burst out in wrath, a whirlwind swirling down on the heads of the wicked. ²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his heart. In days to come you will understand it clearly. ²¹I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message; I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied. ²²But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds. ²³“Am I only a God nearby,” declares the LORD, “and not a God far away? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?” declares the LORD. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD. ²⁵“I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’ ²⁶How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? ²⁷They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name through Baal worship. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?” declares the LORD. ²⁹“Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”

Jeremiah 23:16-29

2) God saves me by His word of PROMISE.

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” ¹⁹Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death. ²⁰By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. ²¹By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. ²²By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones. ²³By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. ²⁴By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. ²⁵He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. ²⁷By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. ²⁸By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. ²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days. ³¹By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. ... **12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 11:17-31, 12:1-3

3) God saves me by His Word of PEACE.

⁴⁹“I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵²From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law...”

Luke 12:49-53