



IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

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August 3, 2025

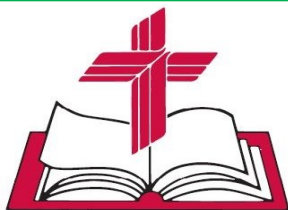
"God Is Good!"

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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

This sentence has become somewhat of a cliché. But it is indeed true. Amid the chaos and seemingly unnecessary pain in this fallen world, God has always been and always will be good! His goodness is one of his fundamental attributes. What does it mean then, that God is 'good,' biblically? In the western world God's goodness is generically understood as God being a nice grandpa in the sky, ready to support our every move and handing out money and candy. We project our human idea of 'goodness' onto God, rather than allowing the Scriptures to define what it means. And so, the aim of this article is to meditate on the goodness of God from a biblical perspective.

Perfectly good and righteous

It is firstly made clear that the biblical God is good in the moral sense. He is perfectly good and righteous, and there is no evil or sin in him. God cannot be unjust, lose his temper, harbor bitterness, envy, lie, or cheat. As Moses writes, "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind". In contrast, we can imagine an evil, malevolent deity who lies and takes pleasure in the suffering of his creatures, just because he can. The God of the Bible, however, is spotlessly good and full of integrity. He *cannot* do wrong; he cannot even desire to do wrong. It is in violation of his own nature. His disposition and his actions are always perfectly good and appropriate.

Goodness and love overlapping

Secondly, we often see in the Scriptures how God's goodness overlaps with his love. "Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" The greatest display that God is love is found in the work of redemption for fallen sinners—though we were underserving, hardened, self-exalting, and self-centered idolaters. We were enemies, scoffers, and haters of the one true God, who created us in his very own image. In theology, this redemptive love that saves sinners is called particular or 'special grace.' However, in this article, I want us to meditate on the demonstrations of love and goodness in our everyday lives that we often take for granted. The grace of God which is poured out indiscriminately and shared by the whole of creation.

Common grace

This aspect of God's love and goodness is known as God's benevolent love or 'common grace.' The psalmist declares: "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you". God is, in this sense, good to all indiscriminately. Similarly, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus sets the highest standard of love that has ever existed: "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust'. In order for us to be like our heavenly Father then, we are to love our enemies and do good to them, rather than responding in kind. In Ezekiel 33:11 we read, "Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked..." Likewise, in response to Jonah's self-righteous anger God says, "Should I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than 120,000 people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well?". Here we see that the perfectly holy and just God nevertheless has a disposition of goodwill toward even evil men (and their livestock!). Although he must and does punish sinners, he takes no pleasure or enjoyment in it. The biblical God is thus a benevolent God who desires good for all his creation.

August 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00am Wor- ship Tradition- al Communion Hymnal Ser- vice 11:00am Fel- lowship Time	4	5 10:00am Push Prayer	6	7	8	9
10 10:00am Blended Wor- ship Service 11:00am Fel- lowship	11	12 10:00am Push Prayer	13	14	15	16
17 10:00am Blended Com- munion Wor- ship Service 11:00am Fel- lowship Time	18	19 10:00am Push Prayer	20	21	22	23
24 10:00am Blended Wor- ship Service 11:00am Fel- lowship Time	25	26 10:00am Push Prayer	27	28 Back To School Night 	29	30
31 10:00am Blended Wor- ship Service 11:00am Fel- lowship Time	 					

August Celebrations



Aug 19 Sandy Boehm
Aug 31 Randy Hodo



Aug 1 Donna Wasilkoff
Aug 6 Jim McKinney
Aug 9 Randy Hodo
Aug 9 Robert Hodo
Aug 12 Lisa Regan
Aug 19 Kurt Meier
Aug 21 Freddy Merchantz
Aug 31 Sandy Boehm

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

July 27th

39 Worshipped

6 Watched Online

45 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 Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. ² For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. ³ Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴ Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. ⁵ Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." *Romans 10:1-13*

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*

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

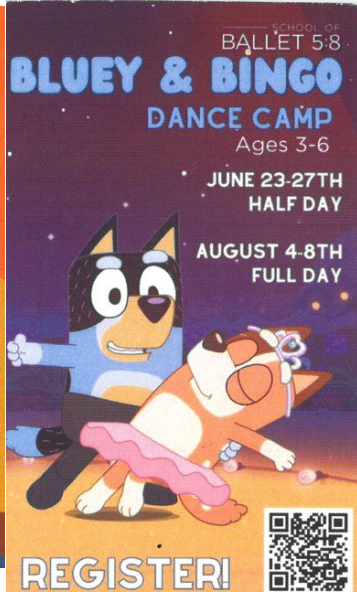
Thank you for your compassion and support during this critical time. Your generosity makes a real difference in the lives of those on a difficult journey.

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



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 month from now. Diana will be busy getting her rooms together and ready for the little kiddos this month. 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.



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.

THANK YOU to all who donated all of the items for VBS. Especially Ed and Cathy Baidis, George and Pam Hostert, Neal and Kristi Hartz, Anita Meier and most especially to Diana, not only getting the last few remaining items that were needed, but for all of her hard work and time that she always puts into our VBS. It is a great way for the kids in our community to come and learn about Jesus. And as always, she is already getting the kids excited about next year's VBS, they will be going to the Rain Forest. I know I can't wait, lol. I also would like to thank Sherri Grecci for all her time and

effort she puts into doing the snacks for the children every year. And again thank you to Neal and Ed and Sandy and Jim Boehm for all of the work they did to get the playground looking so good for the kids to enjoy during VBS too.

THE AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING is tentatively scheduled for August 21st at 7:00pm, more information will be made available in the newsletters if there are any changes to that date.

AUGUST CALENDARS are available on the welcome desk in the fellowship hall.

REDEEMING LIFE OUTRECH MINISTRIES is happy to announce the first baptism celebration for their Illinois residence. A couple of weeks ago, I included a picture of the birth of their first baby in the residence, we just received a postcard of the baptism for little Borja. Congratulations mom and Borja. The post card has also been posted on our bulletin board in the fellowship hall. How cute!!!

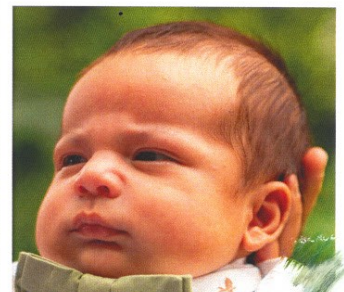
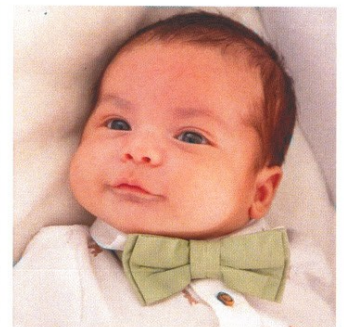
This is what great help our Missions of the Month extends towards our communities.

Welcome to The World !



**Borja
Yañez**

Born
5/22/25
Baptized
6/29/25



8-3-2025 Message Outline

“The Lord is Good”

“The Lord is good and his love endures forever...” Psalm 100:5a

1) The Lord is good... He gives me MEANING.

The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: ² “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” ... ¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! ¹⁴ I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. ... ¹⁸ I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. ¹⁹ And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. ²⁰ So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. ²¹ For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. ²² What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? ²³ All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless. ²⁴ A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? ²⁶ To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14 & 2:18-26

2) The Lord is good... He gives me LIFE.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Be-cause of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid your-selves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Colossians 3:1-11

3) The Lord is good... He gives me RICHES.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’” ¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’” ²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’” ²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Luke 12:13-21

SO THAT'S IT.
IT'S ALL A BUST.
NOTHING MATTERS.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

WELL, IT'S TRUE, NOTHING WE DO
LASTS. BUT EVERYTHING WE HAVE IS
A GIFT FROM OUR ETERNAL GOD.
WE FIND OUR JOY IN THE LIVING,
NOT IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT.



NEXT, YOU'RE
GONNA TELL ME
THAT THE JOURNEY
IS ITS OWN REWARD.



ECCLESIASTES 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26

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