



Inside this issue:

"God Loves A Humble Heart"

September 2025 Calendar

Celebrations/Church Contacts

Stewardship Snapshot/Devotional Time

Mission of the Month

Living Word News

8-31-2025 Message Outline

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 35

August 31, 2025

"God Loves A Humble Heart"

Jesus wanted his disciples to look for the power of God in people, but that would mean they needed to look at people with a godly perspective.

THE POWER OF HUMBLE FAITH

Jesus told the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector to "some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt". Most commentaries teach that Jesus addressed this parable to a group of Jewish leaders, probably the Pharisees themselves. The Pharisees were respected as leaders, and their job caused them to closely follow the rules of their faith and teach others to do the same. The tax collector worked for the Roman government and often cheated his Jewish brothers in the process of doing his job. On the surface, it would appear an easy decision about who was most pleasing to God. But, Jesus' parable taught God's perspective. Both the Pharisee and the tax collector went to the temple to pray. The Pharisee's prayer was simply a long list of his accomplishments that made him appear to be more spiritual than most. The tax collector would not even look up to heaven. With a humble heart, he prayed to God, honestly begging for mercy. The Pharisee was proud of his life, and the tax collector recognized he was a sinner.

The parable makes it clear that the tax collector left the temple that day "justified" and the Pharisee did not. Why does that matter to us today? Both men entered the temple, seeking to pray and be right with God. Only one left the temple that day "justified." The tax collector was forgiven of his sins; the Pharisee wasn't. The Pharisee didn't see himself as a sinner; the other man did. Jesus said, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 14:11). Humility was the reason the tax collector was justified.

THE PHARISEES AND TAX COLLECTORS TODAY

The parable will simply be a story Jesus directed at people in the first century if we don't ask ourselves whom the two men represent today. But, if we begin to label those people in our own culture, we have missed the point. Every Christian is both a Pharisee and a tax collector. The point isn't the position we have earned in this world; it is the position we take before God. Are we proud of ourselves when we address God, or are we humbled by his greatness? Do we think we are *better* than others, or do we realize that we have our own set of sins? The best-behaved people in the world were the Pharisees, according to their rules. But, according to God, the tax collector was justified. The tax collector left the temple with his sins forgiven.

IF YOU WANT TO BE JUSTIFIED



All of us who have received Christ as our Savior have been justified eternally because of our salvation. Jesus provided for *every sin* that day on the cross. But, sometimes our salvation gives us confidence apart from humility. Our salvation means we are eternally justified, but we aren't yet "purified." We still need to pray to God like the tax collector, head bowed and humbled. We still sin. We are saved, but we aren't perfected. We still need God's grace, God's forgiveness, and God's cleansing in our lives. Did you ever enter into worship knowing you desperately needed God's grace—or proud that you have it? That's the difference between today's Pharisees and tax collectors. The humble person is justified and exalted by God.

GOD LOVES A HUMBLE HEART

James wrote, "Humble yourself before the Lord, and he will exalt you". The prophet Micah wrote, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?". If you want to please God and others, seek humility before God and others. God has always loved a humble heart because that is the person he is able to exalt. He has told us "what is good."

God loves a humble heart because it belongs to a person who walks with him.

September 2025 Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|-----------|
| | 1 Labor Day Holiday Office Closed  | 2 9am–Noon Preschool Resumes  10:00am Push Prayer | 3 9am–Noon Preschool | 4 9am–Noon Preschool | 5 9am–Noon Preschool | 6 |
| 7 10:00am Wor- ship Tradition- al Communion Hymnal Ser- vice 11:00am Fel- lowship Grandparents’ Day | 8 9am–Noon Preschool | 9 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer | 10 9am–Noon Preschool | 11 9am–Noon Preschool 7:00pm Council Meeting | 12 9am–Noon Preschool | 13 |
| 14 9:15am Bible Study 10:00am Blended Wor- ship Service 11:00am Fel- lowship | 15 9am–Noon Preschool | 16 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer | 17 9am–Noon Preschool | 18 9am–Noon Preschool | 19 9am–Noon Preschool | 20 |
| 21 9:15am Bible Study 10:00am Blended Com- munion Wor- ship Service 11:00am Fel- lowship Time | 22 9am–Noon Preschool First Day of Fall  | 23 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer | 24 9am–Noon Preschool | 25 9am–Noon Preschool | 26 9am–Noon Preschool | 27 |
| 28 9:15 Bible Study 10:00am Blended Wor- ship Service 11:00am Fel- lowship Time | 29 9am–Noon Preschool | 30 9am–Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer | <div>  </div> | | | |

September Celebrations



Sept 5 Noah Hostert
Sept 5 Dwight Hostert
Sept 8 James Boehm
Sept 17 David Merchantz



*Happy Baptism
 Birthday!*

Sept 1 Jodi Kempke
Sept 3 Kyle Motel
Sept 14 Jennifer Lange
Sept 23 Jesse Meier
Sept 30 Dwight Hostert

Happy Anniversary



Sept 6 Pam & George Hostert
Sept 19 Diana & Paul Motel

August Celebrations



Aug 31 Randy Hodo



*Happy Baptism
 Birthday!*

Aug 31 Sandy Boehm

Stewardship Snapshot

August 24th

17 Worshipped

6 Watched Online

23 Total Worshipped

Financial Support

\$860.00 Total General Fund Offering

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 ⁹ And David says: "May their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them. ¹⁰ May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever." *Romans 11:9-10*

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.



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. Today will be our last day to collect donations for Phil's Friends.

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 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. Back to School night was this past Thursday, August 28th. The tour that she had on Monday evening went very well, the little girl will be joining the

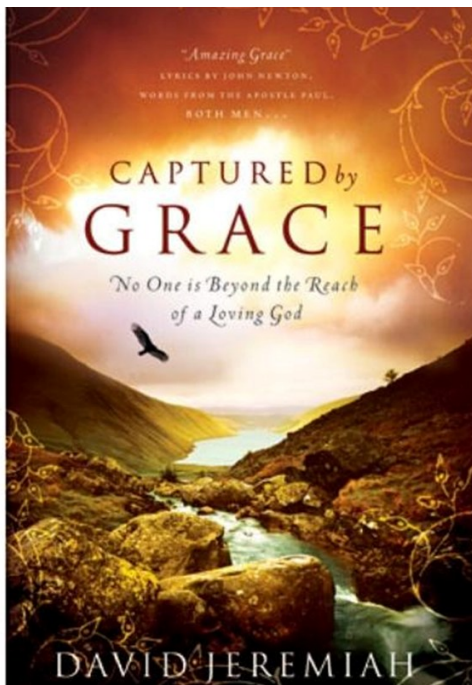
rest of the preschoolers in November, if not a bit earlier than that. So as of January, we will have a total 7 kids in preschool, some will be 3 says a week, a couple will be 5 days a week, and one will be 2 days a week. So, we will still have spots available in case you know of anyone needing a good preschool. School will be starting on Tuesday, September 2nd.

LOST RING was found in the church parking lot last week. If you had lost a ring, please come see me in the office.

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.

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 anAHL (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.

CAPTURED BY GRACE will be the first book that the Bible study classes will begin with. The group will be doing one chapter a week, each chapter is basically a different topic, so if you can't make it for the entire book, you won't be behind. They will do one chapter a week and they should finish up by the start of Advent or shortly there after. The following study will be based on the book, A Life Beyond Amazing.



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

“A Humble Heart”

“My heart is not proud, Lord, my eyes are not haughty...”

Psalm 131:1

1) A humble heart seeks God's PRESENCE, not man's.

² It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. ³ As the heavens are high and the earth is deep, so the hearts of kings are unsearchable. ⁴ Remove the dross from the silver, and a silversmith can produce a vessel; ⁵ remove wicked officials from the king's presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness. ⁶ Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among his great men; ⁷ it is better for him to say to you, “Come up here,” than for him to humiliate you before his nobles. What you have seen with your eyes ⁸ do not bring hastily to court, for what will you do in the end if your neighbor puts you to shame? ⁹ If you take your neighbor to court, do not betray another's confidence, ¹⁰ or the one who hears it may shame you and the charge against you will stand. Proverbs 25:2-10

2) A humble heart seeks God's PLEASURE, not man's.

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. ² Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. ³ Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. ⁴ Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” ⁶ So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” ⁷ Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹ Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. ¹² And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. ¹³ Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. ¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. ¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. ¹⁷ Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

Hebrews 13:1- 17

3) A humble heart seeks God's PLACE, not man's.

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. ² There in front of him was a man suffering from abnormal swelling of his body. ³ Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?” ⁴ But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way. ⁵ Then he asked them, “If one of you has a child or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?” ⁶ And they had nothing to say. ⁷ When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸ “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹ For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” ¹² Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” Luke 14:1-14