



The Promise of Help When You Need God

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**PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS**

Please call the office 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 35, Issue 9

March 1, 2026

## "God's Promise of Help"

Every person will encounter chaos, crisis, and trauma in their life. A loved one will die. A divorce. A chronic illness. Abuse of various kinds. Injuries from a car accident. When chaos overwhelms our life, we cry out to God or others to help us and rescue us in our desperation. These crises seem personal, targeted against us, because they are. The apostle Peter describes the activity of the Devil (and his demons) as a "roaring lion, seeking who he can devour". Whether we know it or not, we have an enemy who is trying to kill us or destroy our calling, anything he can do to hurt the Creator and his most beloved creation—humans. In such circumstances, we need help, and we can often look around and wonder, "Where does my help come from?" It's a valid, human question, and we can relate to the psalmist who helps us answer this question.

### Where Does the Bible Say "Where Does My Help Come From"?






Psalm 121 begins with the question, "Where does my help come from?" in the first verse. The psalm, likely written by King David, is part of a group called the Songs of Ascents. The Israelites sang or recited these songs as they journeyed to Jerusalem for one or more of the major feast days—Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. The psalm opens with, "I lift my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from?" The writer was probably considering the hills in the region around Jerusalem. During the major Jewish religious holidays, Israelites from every tribe were required to travel to Jerusalem. These journeys could be dangerous since the hilly terrain could hide thieves and raiders who waited to ambush religious travelers. Additionally, in these ancient times, people would build places for idol worship on "high places," because they thought that getting closer to the sky gained favor with the pagan gods. The psalmist rejects any idea of idol worship and answers his question regarding the source of help in the next verse. "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." God, the Creator of all things, is the only real source of help. As Creator, God has authority over all things, the greatest help anyone could hope for. The rest of the psalm continues to encourage us about God's love and protection. "He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber" (Psalm 121:3). Any human protection is limited. People have to sleep. They get tired and make mistakes. God needs no rest or sleep. He's always awake and watching over his people. The following verse in Psalm 121 describes God as a shade that protects from the sun's heat and the enemies in the night. The song ends with a comfort: how God will "keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore." If we consider David as the possible author, the biblical narrative shows how he would have learned to trust in God to rescue and save him, to protect him in harrowing circumstances. Along with writing praise songs, he lived as a warrior and conquering king. David had learned to trust God's help.

### What Does "Where Does My Help Come From" Mean for Us Today?

The issue isn't "if" we will ever face crises and chaos but "when." When we encounter troubles and attacks, we remember our loving God promises to deliver those who remain faithful. All things work together for good for those who love God. Paul is clear about who the promise is for. We first love God and follow him in bringing his love to others through the Gospel. Despite all the troubles we face, God himself ensures it all works together for good.

Psalm 121 doesn't say our help comes from anything of this world, not wealth or human governments. He looks beyond what earthly things can do and states the truth of God as the only possible help. The worldly resources seem more immediate, yet they will ultimately fail us. God will not. In this, we remember two things. First, God alone is good, loving, just, and powerful. Second, since he is the Creator, he sovereignly controls all things, whether governments or natural events. Circumstances or resources can't limit him.

# March 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00am Adult Bible Study  10:00am Worship Traditional Communion Hymnal Service	<b>2</b> 9am- Noon Preschool	<b>3</b> 9am- Noon Preschool  10:00am Push Prayer	<b>4</b> 9am- Noon Preschool	<b>5</b> 9am- Noon Preschool	<b>6</b> 9am- Noon Preschool	<b>7</b> 11:00-12:30 Preschool Open House  Daylight Savings Time
<b>8</b> 9:00am Adult Bible Study  10:00am Blended Worship Service	<b>9</b> 9am- Noon Preschool	<b>10</b> 9am- Noon Preschool  10:00am Push Prayer	<b>11</b> 9am- Noon Preschool	<b>12</b> 9am- Noon Preschool	<b>13</b> 9am- Noon Preschool	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00am Adult Bible Study  10:00am Blended Communion Worship Service	<b>16</b> 9am- Noon Preschool	<b>17</b> Election Day No Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer  St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b> 9am- Noon Preschool	<b>19</b> 9am- Noon Preschool  7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>20</b> No Preschool  First Day of Spring	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Spring Break—No Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Blended Worship Service 11:30 Easter Egg Hunt  Palm Sunday	<b>30</b> 9am- Noon Preschool	<b>31</b> 9am- Noon Preschool 10:00am Push Prayer				



## March Celebrations

 <p><b>March 14</b> Diana Motel</p>	 <p><b>Mar 1</b> Pam Hostert  <b>Mar 10</b> Gary Meier  <b>Mar 14</b> Matt Meier  <b>Mar 15</b> Anita Meier  <b>Mar 18</b> Ashley Meier  <b>Mar 22</b> David Merchantz</p>	<p><i>Happy Anniversary</i></p>  <p><b>Mar 25</b> Peter &amp; Donna Wasilkoff</p>
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## 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

### February 22nd

17 Worshipped

7 Watched Online

24 Total Worshipped

### Financial Support

\$510.00 General Fund Offering

\$155.00 Ash Wednesday General Fund Deposit

\$192.00 Mission of the Month (Kingdom Kids)

**\$857.00 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. We are always looking for people to join us in prayer to our Lord.

**PUSH PRAYER** will be available on Zoom now for any of our out-of-towners and/or shut-ins to join us., I will email the link on Monday afternoons or Tuesday mornings, so it would be easier for you to find the email in your inbox. Just click on the link and it will connect you to the group. Please note that this is a recurring link for the meeting, so if I don't send it out right away, or you don't see it in your inbox, you can save and use this link over again in Zoom. **Please see below for the Zoom info for the PUSH PRAYER on March 3rd.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84076099900?pwd=d3BxLBWbTlZRVpuSGhgTXc2dGRldz09>

Meeting ID: 840 7609 9900 Passcode: 427470

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84076099900#,,,,\*427470# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,84076099900#,,,,\*427470# US

**DEVOTION OF THE WEEK** <sup>3</sup>When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. <sup>4</sup>For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. <sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

*Psalm 32:3-5*

O Lord, penetrate those murky corners where we hide memories and tendencies on which we do not care to look, but which we will not unearth and yield freely up to you, that you may purify and transmute them. That persistent buried grudge, the half-acknowledged animosity which is still smoldering, the bitterness of that loss we have not turned into sacrifice, the private comfort we cling to, the secret fear of failure which saps our initiative and is really inverted pride, the pessimism which is an insult to your joy. Lord, we bring all these to you, and review them with shame and penitence in your steadfast light.

**VERSE OF THE MONTH** <sup>14</sup>Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. *Psalm 27:14*

Our trust is in the Lord and we will stand strong and follow His Will, for only He knows what the future holds for all wait for Him.

**EASTER FLOWERS** even though the weather doesn't know if it's time to think of spring or not, the Easter Flower forms will be in the bulletins this week. Orders are due by March 15th. We will have the option of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths again.

**SAVE YOUR PAPER TOWEL TUBES** for our VBS program this summer. Mrs. Diana will have the kids make rain sticks out of them. As your paper towels run out, please save the cardboard tubes for her, you can bring them in at any time. There is a box on the desk in the fellowship hall for you to drop them into. Thank you.

**COUNCIL MEETING** was this Thursday evening at 7:00pm. Among the topics that were discussed are the financial updates, preschool updates and various improvement topics for our church.

**CALLING ALL DOG LOVERS** On March 8th, we will be hosting the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs. Jael and Michael will be here providing us with love and comfort. Yes, we will be able to pet the loving and caring puppies after service. Lutheran Church Charities will of course be our Mission of the Month in March. I am sure we will be happy to make the dogs feel welcomed and loved. They will be giving us a brief presentation and will stay for a short while after our worship service.

## Mission of the Month



### Lutheran Church Charities

### March 2026 Mission of the Month

Lutheran Church Charities works throughout the United States and Internationally in bringing the Mercy, Compassion, Presence, and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those suffering and in need.

They offer different ministries including K-9 Comfort Dogs, K-9 Military Ministry, K-9 Police Ministry, Disaster Response, Human Care Ministry, and Hearts of Mercy & Compassion

## Easter Egg Hunt

**Sunday, March 29th**

**@ 11:30**

**Registration is now open  
and required**



**PRESCHOOL WISH LIST** on Amazon. Mrs. Diana had created a wish list on Amazon last week. The past few years, Diana has been supplying all of the items that her classroom has needed throughout the school year without being compensated for it. We all know how expensive that can get, so in order to help her out a little, here is a wish list on Amazon. Here is the link to the list she has created: [https://www.amazon.com/registries/gi/guest-view/20NAPMBATD5WA?ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_apann\\_ggr-subnav-share\\_MNF6H1V8W4DMC469VA9T&language=en-US](https://www.amazon.com/registries/gi/guest-view/20NAPMBATD5WA?ref=cm_sw_r_apann_ggr-subnav-share_MNF6H1V8W4DMC469VA9T&language=en-US) This isn't mandatory of course, and if you happen to find some things cheaper elsewhere, then by all means feel free to buy them where the items are cheaper. Some of the items on the list are under \$10. Thank you to the ones who bought some of the items, the children are having a blast with them. As a reminder, please keep your receipts and turn them in to me, so I can add the amounts to your tax statements. If you need me to email you the link, just let me know. As always thank you for your overwhelming generosity and supporting our preschool. As you can see, there's Magic Paint Books, Play-Dough, Play-Dough accessories and tools, stickers, a magnetic board for the classroom door, and classroom equipment.

0 of 1 Purchased  
4-Tier Clear Acrylic Paper...  
4.7 ★★★★★ (134)  
Save 19%  
\$28<sup>99</sup> (\$7.25/count)  
Typical: \$55.99  
Edit Item

0 of 1 Purchased  
Play Doh Modelin...  
4.8 ★★★★★ (66.4K)  
\$7<sup>99</sup> (\$0.80/count)  
Edit Item

0 of 1 Purchased  
Simplex3 Rock an...  
4.8 ★★★★★ (1.1K)  
\$49<sup>99</sup>  
Edit Item

0 of 4 Purchased  
Flybar Hopper Bal...  
4.6 ★★★★★ (2.8K)  
Limited time deal  
\$13<sup>49</sup> List: \$14.99  
Edit Item

0 of 1 Purchased  
LiKee Open Ended...  
4.6 ★★★★★ (173)  
\$9<sup>99</sup>

0 of 1 Purchased  
YOHOOO...  
4.5 ★★★★★ (47)  
\$23<sup>99</sup>

0 of 1 Purchased  
Wild Animals Mag...  
4.7 ★★★★★ (243)  
\$7<sup>85</sup> List: \$9.99  
You Earn: 8 pts  
Edit Item

0 of 1 Purchased  
First Magic Paintin...  
4.3 ★★★★★ (87)  
\$7<sup>99</sup> List: \$9.99  
You Earn: 8 pts  
Edit Item

# Living Word Preschool Open House

## Saturday, March 7th 11-12:30

**Are you looking for a preschool for your child this Fall? Come tour our classroom and meet our teacher. We offer a 5-day program with a 4,3, and 2-day option.**

## ***“My Help”***

*“My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”*

Psalm 121:2

### **1) My help comes from our PROMISE KEEPER.**

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” <sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. <sup>5</sup> He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. <sup>6</sup> Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup> Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev. Genesis 12:1-9

### **2) My help comes from our GIFT GIVER.**

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? <sup>2</sup> If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. <sup>3</sup> What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. <sup>5</sup> However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. <sup>6</sup> David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup> “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. <sup>8</sup> Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.” ... <sup>13</sup> It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup> For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, <sup>15</sup> because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup> As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not. Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

### **3) My help comes from our SOUL SAVER.**

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” <sup>4</sup> “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. <sup>10</sup> “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:1-17