

  
**Living Word**  
**Lutheran Church**  
LCMS



**May 2024 Newsletter**

**"Communicating the Love of Jesus"**

**Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.**  
**Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.**

# Living Word Lutheran Church

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## Questions for Pastor...

Was Luke an apostle?

This is a question I received after one of our Daily Devotional readings from the Gospel of Luke.

We typically refer to the Old Testament as being written by "The Prophets" and the New Testament as written by "The Apostles." Both of those statements are generalizations. Most of the Old Testament was written by those who were known as "prophets." There are some exceptions to that generalization. For example, a large number of Psalms were written by David, the king, and a large number of Proverbs were written by Solomon - also a king.

In the same way, the vast majority of the New Testament was written by apostles - those disciples specifically sent by Jesus to tell the world about Him. Among the exceptions are the books of James and Jude (Jesus' brothers) and the books of Luke and Acts (both written by Luke.)

Before I go any further, we need to be reminded of what the apostle Peter wrote: (2 Peter 1:20-21) *"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."* The Apostle Paul put it this way in 2 Timothy 3:16 *"All Scripture is God-breathed,"* (or "inspired by God.")

Even though the words of the Bible were written down by men, everything they wrote was what God prompted them to write, so God is ultimately THE Writer of both Old and New Testaments.

A lot of times when people are interested in finding out more about Jesus and aren't sure where to start reading, I will point them to the Gospel of Luke. One reason is that Luke records several things that most people have at least some familiarity with, like the "Christmas" story in Luke 2 and the famous parables of the "Good Samaritan" in Luke 10 and "Prodigal Son" in Luke 15. Another reason is because of what Luke tells us at the beginning of his Gospel: *"Since I myself have carefully*



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*investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."* Anyone interested in finding out about Jesus wants to know the truth, the facts. Luke states point-blank that everything he wrote was a result of careful research, so that whoever reads what he wrote can be confident that it is true.

Luke had to do "careful investigation," because he was not an eyewitness to the events he wrote about in his Gospel. He records at the start of the Gospel of Luke that his "careful investigation" included talking with those who were eyewitnesses. Obviously, these eyewitnesses included the disciples who were with Jesus from the start of His ministry. But we get the idea - especially from the details of the "Christmas Story" - that Mary was also one of the eyewitnesses Luke interviewed.

Luke first used "we" in Acts 16:10. Prior to that he referenced events by using "they." This indicates that it was at this point on the Apostle Paul's second missionary journey (ca 49-51 AD) that Luke had joined Paul and thereafter also becomes an eyewitness.

Thanks for asking  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)



**Summer Worship**  
Sundays at 9 a.m.

**Summer Worship Time:**  
9:00 a.m.  
**Begins Memorial Weekend**  
Sunday, May 26  
(And runs through Labor Day Weekend)

## Thanks...

- to our Altar Guild chair Mona Hjelle for placing the Easter Lilies in memory of loves ones lost this past year!
- to the ladies who on made meals on Make-a-Meal Day!

If you have someone you'd like to thank, please email [webmaster@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:webmaster@livingwordlutheran.net)



## Email Inspiration...

### Salvation When We Least Expect It: Camille's Story

by Joshua Tumil, Jews for Jesus Paris Branch Leader

Camille attended our Paris Passover event in 2021 at the insistence of a mutual friend, a Jewish believer named Joël. The following year, she came on her own. That's when I introduced her to Irma, another Jewish believer. I was surprised when Irma put her hand on Camille and prayed for God to reveal Himself, and to show Camille that Yeshua (Jesus) is her Messiah. It was uncharacteristic for Irma, and I wondered if Camille felt pressured.

But unbeknownst to me, God was working! In fact, my wife, Delphine, had offered Camille a copy of our Messianic prophecy book, Y'shua, that same night.

I was so pleased when Camille accepted my invitation to one of our Zikaron BaSalon events, where Holocaust survivors share their stories. Camille's parents had survived the Nazi concentration camps, but their memories were so traumatic that they would never discuss what happened. So, Camille was grateful to finally connect with her parents' past. I had expected this but was totally surprised when she exclaimed,

"Josh, I believe!"

"Believe what?" I asked.

She replied, "In Jesus!"

I asked, "What about Him?"

Camille answered, "Everything—that He is the Messiah, the Son of God."

It turned out that Camille had read the entire Y'shua book in one sitting, then continued reading the Bible on her own. "After years of claiming to be an atheist, I finally realized the truth about Jesus and the truth about myself," she admitted with a smile. Wow—how amazing is our God!

But there is another piece of the story that you've got to hear!

Joël, the friend who insisted that Camille attend our Passover event, had himself survived the Holocaust at a young age. He became a follower of Jesus and shared his faith with the people he'd grown up with, including Camille. Though they could not understand Joël's choice, she and the others saw changes in his life and how he had

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That for a day: When people check behind shower curtains for murderers, what's the plan if they find one?

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been able to heal spiritually from the trauma he experienced.

Over the years, Joël continued to passionately share the gospel with his Jewish friends. When Camille came to that first Passover event, Joël was suffering from kidney failure. Camille was quick to donate one of her kidneys to save her dear friend. Nonetheless, Joël died a month later.

Joël's funeral was held at a monumental cathedral. He was greatly loved, and more than 1,000 people attended. Camille was very happy that we were there to represent Joël's Jewish identity.

His death really shook her, but his testimony had made an impact, and she decided she would come to another Passover event. She confessed, "Joshua, I can't believe like you do ... but I'd like to." And you know the rest.

I know that Jesus and the angels are rejoicing over Camille's salvation, and so is Joël! While we continue to minister to her here in France, I've also connected her with my colleague Kata in Hungary, where Camille was born and where she frequently visits family.

Pray for Camille as she grows in the Lord, and for other Jewish seekers like her. Pray for God to continue raising up witnesses like Joël and Irma—and don't be surprised if He answers that prayer by emboldening you as you share your faith.

[Names and are changed to protect privacy.]





## Email Humor...

### In Honor of Moms:

A man came home from work and found his three children outside, still in their pajamas, playing in the mud, with empty food boxes and wrappers strewn all around the front yard. The door of his wife's car was open, as was the front door to the house and there was no sign of the dog.

Proceeding into the entry, he found an even bigger mess. A lamp had been knocked over, and the throw rug was wadded against one wall. In the front room the TV was loudly blaring a cartoon channel, and the family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilled on the counter, the fridge door was open wide, dog food was spilled on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table, and a small pile of sand was spread by the back door.

He quickly headed up the stairs, stepping over toys and more piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried she might be ill, or that something serious had happened. He was met with a small trickle of water as it made its way out the bathroom door. As he peered inside he found wet towels, scummy soap and more toys strewn over the floor. Miles of toilet paper lay in a heap and toothpaste had been smeared over the mirror and walls.

As he rushed to the bedroom, he found his wife still curled up in the bed in her pajamas, reading a novel. She looked up at him, smiled, and asked how his day went. He looked at her bewildered and asked, "What happened here today?"

She again smiled and answered, "You know every day when you come home from work and you ask me what in the world I do all day?"

"Yes," was his cautious reply.

She answered, "Well, today I didn't do it."

### "Participate" in Worship from home...

If you can't be here in person: Watch on our YouTube channel with Sunday services being livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VvIJEU22yCYxbhwjg/featured>

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That for a day: Sometimes you win and sometimes you learn.

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## Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in May on the normal **First and Third Sundays (5t & 19th)**



### Reminders:

- Those who are not comfortable coming to the altar should inform an Elder or Usher, and communion will be brought to you in your pew.
- **Gluten-free bread wafers are available** for those who have gluten-sensitive conditions. You will find these wafers in a separate cup in the communion tray.



### Pastor is Planning a Membership Class...

Please talk to him if you are interested in finding out about membership at Living Word.

## Thank God For...

You've seen our sign board out by the road with the beginning of a sentence: "Thank God For..." Each week we'd like to change the ending of that sentence to encourage people who drive past to remember that God is the giver of all good things - especially things we take for granted.



In April we thanked God for...

- **Green**

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence in May

## Smoke-Detector Battery Outreach...



We Have LOTS of Batteries left from Our Annual Smoke-Detector Battery Giveaway

A great time to change your smoke detector battery is when you change your clocks on March 10th.

Please take some from the "Free Stuff" Table for your family and friends!



## Youth Events...

### 11-12th Grade YOUTH:

11-12th Grade Bible Study group meets every other week.



### 7-8th Grade Youth

Skating in St. Cloud on April 28th.

### Planning has begun for attending...

Gathering Date: July 19—23, 2025

Youth, 14-19 years of age by the Gathering Date



**Current fundraiser:** Mr B's Chocolate orders will be her May 3rd. Thanks to everyone who ordered!

## Sunday School News...

**May 5-** Kids will wrap up their lessons on the "Armor of God", by showing the congregation their "pieces" of armor that they have made and also will share in song/chant/scripture.



**May 12 -** Mother's Day

**May 19 -** Last Day of Sunday School - John 3:16 "Gospel in a Nutshell! (Eggshell!) A fun day of lesson, scavenger hunt including eggshells and game!!

**Special Thank you's** go out to Meggie Ashburn, Tammy Wachter, Lara Dahl for another year of teaching the faith to the kids!

**Also special thanks** go out to Lexi Macik for helping in the Sunday School room and also Thank you goes out to Alison Sarsland for helping out in Children's Church during services! 2 exceptional gals!

## Simple Ways to Give Your Spiritual Life a Lift...

### Read 100 (or so) Key Bible Chapters

(Or listen to Pastor read them.)

He will text or email you a link to each day's recording)

Refresh your memory about God's work in His world through these basics of the Christian faith, from Creation to John's Vision of Heaven.

You'll find the readings listed on our Daily Readings page

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That for a day: The first person to hear a parrot talk was probably not okay for a few days.

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## Opportunities for Growth...



### Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00 (through May 19th)  
Please join us for coffee and study of God's Word

### Monthly Morning Women's Study:

May 8th @ 10:00 a.m.  
All ladies are invited!



### Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30  
(Come at 6:15 for food.)



## LWML News...

Our next meeting and Bible study will be Wednesday, May 8th @ 10:00 a.m.  
All ladies of the church are welcome!  
(Please bring a snack to share.)



### SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

A huge thank you to all who have donated!  
This is fund-raiser for Lutheran Island Camp.  
Please continue to bring your good used shoes, slippers, or boots to church. Collection tote is in the entry of the church.

**LWML NORTH DISTRICT 31st BIENNIAL CONVENTION** "Walking as Children of Light" will be held at Cragun's Resort and Convention Center June 3-5, 2024. KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Katie Schuermann "Light In The Lord". There will also be BREAKOUT SESSIONS, BIBLE STUDY, MITES IN ACTION, SPEAKERS, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP, ENTERTAINMENT, A MITE WALK, and SINGING. For more information visit LWML MN NORTH DISTRICT at: [www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org)



## Miscellaneous Notes...

### Food Pantry Reminder

Please remember to bring your donations for the Food Pantry on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Place them in the purple container by the door at church. Thank to everyone for donating!



### Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

Here's just a sampling of what you'll find :

- Kid's books
- May Newsletters
- April—June Portals of Prayer
- Smoke Detector batteries

### Recorded videos of Sermons

Sermons can be found in on our Living Word YouTube channel (New London Living Word) at

<https://www.youtube.com/@newlondonlivingword8097/streams>

- Apr 7 "What we learn from Jesus' response to doubts"
- Apr 14 "The 'Resurrection Chapter' - 1 Corinthians 15"
- Apr 21 "When do you need a Good Shepherd?"
- Apr 28 "They prayed for WHAT?!!"

### Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings



Living Word has the option of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account.

Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.

### Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2024

If you like to use dated envelopes for your offerings, we have them available. Just pick up a box of envelopes from under the mailboxes. Write down the # of the box you picked up. Thanks!



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That for a day: The first five days after the weekend are the hardest.

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## Mark Your Calendars...

### Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, May 9th @ 6:30 p.m.  
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

### Building Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 7th @ 5:30 p.m. (Prior to Men's Study)

## Upcoming Fellowship Outings...

### Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate May Birthdays  
at the Spicer Legion  
Tuesday, May 7th @ 11:00



May Supper-Fellowship Outing:  
Thursday, May 6th — 6:00  
@ the Handle Bar in Atwater

### Who can you invite to...

The Roseville Zoo Outing  
May 19th after worship  
See Marcia for details



## Building Committee Update...

The committee is continuing to study several layouts for the new sanctuary. Their goal is to maximize worship space.

### OUR NEXT BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday, May 7th @ 5:30 (Prior to Men's Study)

## Choir News...

Sings on Pentecost (May 19)

Join us after worship  
during May to practice.





## Email Wisdom...

### The Homeless Person

The parking lot filled rapidly on Sunday morning as members of the large church congregation filed into church. As usually happens in a church that size, each member had developed a certain comfort zone - a block of space within those four church walls that became theirs after the second or third sitting.

It was as much a part of their church experience as the recliner was to the television at home. Some of the older members had been sitting in the same row on the same side for several decades. A team of oxen could not have moved them to the opposite side of the church.

One morning a stranger stood at the edge of the parking lot near a dumpster. As families parked cars and piled out, they noticed him rummaging through the trash. "Oh no! I don't believe it," whispered a lady to her husband. "That's all we need -- a bunch of homeless people milling around here."

One worried little girl tugged on her dad's sleeve. "But Daddy..."

Daddy was busy sizing up the bearded stranger, whose baggy, outdated trousers and faded flannel shirt had dusted too many park benches.

"Don't stare at him, honey," he whispered, and hurried her inside.

Soft music filled the high-ceiling sanctuary as churchgoers settled into their usual spots. The choir sang an opening chorus, "In His presence there is comfort ... in His presence there is peace..."

Sunlight suddenly flooded the center aisle. The double doors swung open and the homeless man, sloppy and stooped, headed toward the front.

"Oh no, it's him!" somebody muttered.

"What does he think he's doing, anyway?" snapped an incredulous usher.

The stranger set his bagful of dumpster treasures on the very first pew which had been upholstered in an expensive soft teal fabric just three months ago. The music stopped. And before anyone had a chance to react, he ambled up the stairs and stood behind the fine, handcrafted oak podium, where he faced a wide-eyed congregation.

The disheveled stranger spoke haltingly at first, in a low, clear voice. Unbuttoning and removing his top layer of clothing, he described Jesus, and the love He has for all people.

"Jesus possesses a sensitivity and love that far surpasses what any of

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**That for a day:** I keep hearing it takes a village to raise a child. Do they just show up, or is there a number to call?

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us deserves."

Stepping out of the baggy old trousers, the stranger went on to describe a forgiveness that is available to each and every one of us...without strings attached.

"Unconditionally He loves us. Unconditionally He gave His very life for us. Unconditionally and forever, we can have the peace and assurance that no matter who we are, where we've come from, or how badly we may have mistreated others or ourselves, there is hope."

"In Jesus, there is always hope."

"You see, my friends, it is never too late to change," the man continued.

"He is the Author of change, and the Provider of forgiveness. He came to bring new meaning to 'life'."

Men and women squirmed as reality hit them like an electrical current. The stranger tugged at his knotted gray beard, and removed it.

"I'm here to tell you that we are loved with a love far beyond human understanding, a love that enables us to accept and love others in return." Then tenderly he added, "Let's pray together."

That wise pastor - under the guise of a homeless "nobody" - did not preach a sermon that day, but every person left with plenty to think about.





## A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

You know you love your spouse... but have you ever found yourself wondering if you actually like them? Maybe it was just a fleeting thought, when they did that thing that annoys you again. Or maybe it lasted longer, during a rough patch in your marriage.



It might seem contradictory, but loving and liking someone are actually two different emotions. Think of love as a reflection of how you feel internally about someone, while liking them is more of an appreciation for who they are. Ideally, these two emotions are aligned. But marriage can be complicated, and sometimes they're not. You might feel like you're constantly critical, annoyed, or negative with each other, or even dislike spending time together – even though you know you love each other dearly. So what gives? Are there things you can do to get back to liking your spouse as much as you love them? Keep reading.

### 1. Nurture your friendship.

It seems so basic, and yet one of the aspects of marriage that is easily neglected over time is the friendship between you and your spouse. Sure, you're married, run a household together, possibly have children, and are committed to your lives together – isn't that enough? While those things are all important, actually being friends with your spouse is a major factor in the overall happiness and longevity of your marriage – and this friendship requires intention. Think of your other friends. Chances are you actually admire and appreciate them as people and enjoy spending time with them. What kinds of things do you do to keep those friendships strong? Do you make an effort to have fun together? Do you try to be thoughtful, encouraging, and supportive? Do you focus on their positive traits? Now ask yourself: are you doing those things in your marriage?

### 2. Separate the person from the behavior.

Sometimes the feeling of disliking your spouse can stem from an action – maybe something they said or did, or something they do continuously, like a habit or recurring behavior. It can be difficult, but try to separate the behavior from them as a person. You might dislike something they do, but that doesn't mean you have to dislike who they are. We all have habits that others might find annoying or undesirable, and we probably hope that our loved ones don't hold them against us. Give your spouse that same grace. If there are bigger issues at play, such as excessive moodiness or controlling behavior, consider sitting down for a serious conversation about what's really going on, and get help from a professional if necessary.

### 3. Don't forget who you are as individuals.

Once you're married, there's a lot of focus on your identity as a couple –

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That for a day: Not to brag, but I was alive when you could SLAM the phone down to hang up on someone. It was spectacular.

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your sense of "we". Healthy relationships have a good amount of this, and it's not unusual for the "we" mentality take priority. It makes sense, as you understandably want to put your marriage and spouse first. What's important is that it's balanced out by both partners maintaining their self-identity. Having your own separate likes and dislikes, hobbies, interests, friends, etc. is critical to having a healthy sense of self. This uniqueness is a big part of what initially drew you and your partner to each other in the first place, and giving each other the space to continue growing as individuals – together – will ultimately strengthen your relationship in the long run.

### 4. Reset your perspective.

Over time, we tend to zero in on the negatives. Maybe the personality traits and quirks that you once found charming you now find annoying. You tend to view your spouse more critically, unable to ignore the flaws you once overlooked. Time to check yourself and get back to seeing each other in a positive light. Next time you find yourself getting irritated or on the verge of making a critical remark, try to flip your perspective by seeing the positive side instead. Or try this exercise: think about how you might "sell" your spouse to someone who doesn't know them. It might sound silly, but you'd play up all their positives, right? Try to lean into that mindset.

### 5. Prioritize your relationship.

It happens – you unintentionally fall into a relationship rut. Maybe your communication has been sub-par lately, or you've both been stressed out and short with each other. Or you're so wrapped up with your kids, jobs, and the day-to-day grind that you no longer get to enjoy the fun-loving side of each other. Get back to the couple you used to be by making sure you are prioritizing quality time and your relationship overall. Schedule date nights or commit to daily check-ins where you focus on your marriage. Sure, your children are obviously important, but the quality of your relationship acts as a foundation and sets the tone for your family.


### 6. Do some self-reflection.

When you're dealing with (or failing to deal with) your own personal issues, it's not uncommon to project that onto the people closest to you, i.e. your spouse. When you're feeling bad, that negativity can create a cycle within your relationship that builds upon itself. You see the worst in yourself, and you see the worst in your partner, too. Take some time to reflect on whether you've got stuff you need to work through. Talk about it with your spouse. Allowing yourself to be vulnerable increases your emotional intimacy, which can help you get back to appreciating each other again.

Hopefully, you've never (or rarely) had the experience of disliking your spouse. If you have, or are in it right now, you're not alone. Your relationship is not doomed. With intention and a willingness to reframe a negative perspective, you can get back to liking your spouse as much as you love them.



# May 2024 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>April 28</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	<b>Apr 29</b>	<b>Apr 30</b> 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	<b>1</b> 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
		<div style="border: 2px solid green; background-color: #00FF00; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <b>Lord's Supper Dates</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday, May 5th</li> <li>Sunday, May 19th</li> </ul> </div>				
<b>5</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 11:00 MAY Birthdays at Spicer Legion 5:30 - BLDG. TEAM 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	<b>8</b> 10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	<b>9</b> <i>Mission Ministry</i> 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> MOTHERS' DAY & BAPTISM 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/ Baptism of Sullivan and Valen Kocher	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	<b>15</b> 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	<b>16</b> 6:00 -FELLOWSHIP OUTING @ The Handle Bar Atwater	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> LAST DAY of SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - PENTECOST WORSHIP w/Communion 2:00 - ROSEVILLE ZOO	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	<b>22</b> 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> SUMMER WORSHIP TIME 9:00 - WORSHIP	<b>27</b> MEMORIAL DAY 	<b>28</b> 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>June 1</b> TOMORROW: SPRING VOTERS' ASSEMBLY



# May 2024 - Daily Readings

This Month we conclude our "100 - or so - Key Chapters of the Bible" readings. Pastor records the readings (along with devotions based on the readings). To receive these audio recordings daily, just email him: [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net). NOTE: Email or text Pastor with questions you have on something you read.

Apr 28 Use today to Worship and catch up on readings you missed

Apr 29 Luke 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 30 Luke 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 1 Acts 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 2 Acts 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 3 Acts 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 5 Use today to Worship - and Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection!

May 6 Acts 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 7 Acts 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 8 Acts 12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 9 Acts 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 10 Acts 17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 12 Use today to Worship and catch up on readings you missed

May 13 1 Timothy 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 14 2 Timothy 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 15 Hebrews 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 16 Hebrews 12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 17 1 Peter 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 19 Use today to Worship - and catch up on readings you missed

May 20 2 Peter 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 21 1 John 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 22 1 John 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 23 John 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 24 John 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 26 Use today to Worship & catch up on readings you missed

May 27 John 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 28 Revelation 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 29 Revelation 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 30 Revelation 21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 31 Revelation 22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Recordings of the Daily Readings can also be found on our website at:

<https://www.livingwordlutheran.net/devotions.htm>



## Upcoming Schedules...

### After-Worship Fellowship

We will have coffee / water and cookies at 11:15 after worship .Please join us when you can!



### Usher Schedule

May 5	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
May 12	Jason & Levi Miller
May 19	Pam Johnson & Linda Van Meter
May 26	Larry Levin & Jack Kuppich

### **USHERS NEEDED**

Since we have resumed gathering the offerings during worship, we are in need of more ushers to help with that. Please sign up at church if you could take a turn. Thanks!

### Elders

May 5, 12	Kevin & Dan
May 19, 26	Scott & Steve

### Custodian

May -	Available
June -	Available

### Nursery

( Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

### Altar Guild

May	Mona Hjelle
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### Communion Bread Maker

May 7	Carter
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### Power Point Clicker

May 5	Carter
May 12	Parker
May 19	Ella
May 26	Troy

### Accompanying Musicians

May 5	Sharon Willen
May 12	Scott Wachter
May 19	Sharon Willen
May 26	Scott Wachter

That for a day: Christians are like tea - their strength is drawn out by hot water.

## Spring Voter's Assembly...

...is coming June 2nd. The Spring Assembly is our annual election to fill Mission and Ministry positions. We will be electing members to 2-year terms in the following positions:

Chairman	Joe Johnson
Stewardship -	open
Secretary -	open
Trustee -	Lonny Robbin
Elders (three):	Steve Wulf, Duane Hansen, Scott Wachter
Christian Growth - Youth	open
Community Outreach -	Tammy Miller

We need suggestions for people to fill the Secretary, Youth and Stewardship positions. If you have members you'd like us to consider for either position, please give their names to an Elder or Mission and Ministry Team member. Thanks!

## Confirmation News



May 1, 8 and 15 (and maybe 22 if we need)

Class @ 6:00 (pizza @ 5:45)

Remember to check the "PowerPoint Clicker" schedule.

### *Seen on Church Signboards...*

**Does Your Life Need A  
"Spring Cleaning?"**

**Jesus Does a Great Job —  
Call Him Today!**

## May Discipleship Verse...

*"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."*

Acts 4:12



## Mother's Day—May 12, 2024...

Mother's Day can be traced back to ancient pagan practices, but it has gone through a lot of changes and names to get to what we know today. The history of Mother's Day can be traced back to celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea, the mother of the gods. During the 1600s, the early Christians in England celebrated a day to honor Mary, the mother of Christ. By a religious order, the holiday was later expanded to include all mothers. Mother's Day occurs in the U.S. once a year on the second Sunday of May. Traditional ways to celebrate Mother's Day are to take mothers out to dinner and/or honor them with cards, flowers, or candy. Biblically, honoring mothers (and fathers) is commanded by God in both the Old and New Testaments (Deuteronomy 5:16: Ephesians 6:2).

The Bible does not command us to dedicate a special day to honor our mothers, nor is there anything in the Bible to condemn it. So the question is whether, considering the pagan roots of the holiday, Christians should celebrate Mother's Day. The key is found in Romans 14:5-8: *"One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."*

A God-fearing mother helps her children discover God's will, purpose, and path for their lives. She helps them discover their God-given gifts and talents and how they may best use them to bless others and glorify God. Through her example, she teaches her children how to pray, live, work, serve, and worship.

This day is a reminder to be grateful to our mothers for what they did to bring us into the world. Similarly, we also forget that all of us, including our mothers and fathers and the generations who preceded them, are here because of the true Mother or Parent, God.

Proverbs 31:31 *"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."*

Isaiah 66:13 *"As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you."*

Proverbs 31:25-27 *"Strength and honor are her clothing; she is confident about the future."*

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**That for a day:** Lets race... I run like the winded.

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## More Email Humor...



A clergyman was walking down the street when he came upon a group of about a dozen boys, all of them between 10 and 12 years of age.

The group surrounded a dog. Concerned that the boys were hurting the dog, he went over and asked "What are you doing with that dog?"

One of the boys replied, "This dog is just an old neighborhood stray. We all want him, but only one of us can take him home. So we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to keep the dog."

Of course, the reverend was taken aback. "You boys shouldn't be having a contest telling lies!" he exclaimed. He then launched into a ten minute sermon against lying, beginning, "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie," and ending with, "Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie."

There was dead silence for about a minute. Just as the reverend was beginning to think he'd gotten through to them, the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, he wins. Give him the dog."



**"This week's sermon is about how we all need to simplify our lives. Unfortunately, I lost the whole thing when my computer crashed."**





## The Link...

### March 2024 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

The Link has officially purchased the space we have been in since 2021!! With individual donors, community support and a generous grant from the USDA, the funding need-

ed to purchase the building was finally met and closing happened March 29th! We are so blessed and grateful to have a space to call home!

### Ribfest planning is in the works for 2024!!!! SAVE THE DATE—JUNE 8TH FROM 2PM-5PM.

We are currently looking for silent auction items for Ribfest! If you have anything you'd like to donate or would like to donate monetarily to The Link to help fill some of the baskets, please reach out to Ashley at 320-354-5465 or email [director@youarethelink.org](mailto:director@youarethelink.org).

The Link has absorbed a new program—**Foster Stitches** is a resource for children in foster care and their foster families providing them clothing and other basic necessities when they are put into care. For more information, you can visit [www.fosterstitches.org](http://www.fosterstitches.org). If you would like to donate toward the mission, you can do so online at [www.youarethelink.org](http://www.youarethelink.org) and choose "Foster Stitches" from the drop down menu!

**The Food Pantry.** In March, The Link served 150 households - including 228 adults, 133 children, and 55 seniors -distributing a total of 8,461 pounds of food.

**Wildcat Backpack and Snack Pantry.** The Link is currently serving 96 children each week from NLS schools! This is an ability to supplement children's food for the weekend when they are not in school. The Link is also currently connecting 31 teachers with snacks for students in their classroom.

**Client Outreach.** Each month, The Link is able to provide support to a number of families facing hardships, such as (but not limited to): job loss, chronic illness, unexpected change in family dynamics and increase in the cost of living. In March, your donations were able to support 36 families by helping with medical bills, gas, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic needs. Household Exchange. The Household Exchange Program was able to provide 18 families with much needed furniture and other household necessities in March..

**Tuesday's Table.** A free community meal the 1st Tuesday of the

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That for a day: I don't have a train of thought. I have seven trains on four tracks that narrowly avoid each other when the paths cross and all the conductors scream at each other.

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month: Our Lady of the Lakes (Spicer), 2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant (New London), 3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran (Spicer), 4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran (New London), 5th Tuesday: Crossroads Community Church (call 320-354-5555 for more information).

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?** Pray for the Link and the community--Help us spread awareness by talking about The Link to your friends and family and sharing on social media-- Donate unexpired food items to the food pantry or organize a food drive-- Volunteer at the thrift store or in the food pantry-- Donate your gently used clothing and household goods- (all proceeds kick back into The Link's programs -- or Donate financially.

**CURRENT NEEDS:** Gently used clothing and household necessities, any unexpired/packaged and labeled food. Remember for every \$1 donated, The Link can purchase \$10 in food through Second Harvest.



Donations made easy Monthly giving at The Link is convenient. You can set up online giving directly through your bank or by visiting The Link's website at [www.youarethelink.org](http://www.youarethelink.org) by scanning the QR code. You can also mail your donation to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273, drop off your donation in person or leave your check in the drop box outside of The Link's door at 20 Central Ave E, New

London. Questions? Contact Ashley at 320-354-5555. Thank you for your support! YOU ARE THE LINK!

## Its Time...

...to Start Planning for Summer Camp !

Summer 2024 brochures are available at church

### LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS:

Our LWML will provide \$50.00 per camper, for ages preschool (Little Lambs), through grade 9. Deadline for letting Bonnie know that your child will be attending (so it can be budgeted for) is June 1st.





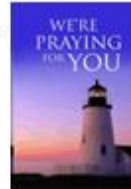
## Opportunities to Serve...

### Help With Our Nursery

We need a couple more volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-6 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help.

### Remember to use our "We Prayed for You" program...

We'd like to send out a card or two each week to people we prayed for during worship. We are currently in need of a volunteer to mail the cards. If you could help, talk to Pastor David



### Help Record our Worship Services ...

that we livestream and later upload our YouTube channel (New London Living Word). Talk to Pastor David if you can help out with this - just one Sunday a month. (Hint: It's really not difficult - even Pastor figured it out!)

### Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.

Teal's Grocery gives a 1% rebate to eligible organizations. There's a teal-colored box on the back-wall table where you can put in your receipts.



### Custodian Volunteers Needed.

Pick Your Month for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian. We are still in need of volunteers for any month after April. Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to sign up or find out more details.



## Make-A-Meal Program...

One of the best (and simplest) ways to share Jesus' love is by taking a meal for someone who is going through a tough time.



Meals are in the freezer at church - waiting for you to grab and take to someone.



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That for a day: I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

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## Prayer...

### **Remember to use "The Prayer Force"**

Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email ([pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)) prayer requests to Pastor David for the Prayer Force prayer chain to include in their prayers. Thanks!

### **And an Invitation to Join our "Prayer Force"**

Being a part of our prayer chain is a HUGELY important - and very simple - way you can serve God and His people! When a request to pray comes in, Pastor forwards it via text message (or email for those who don't have a cell phone). Then you simply include that request in your prayers. Text Pastor today and tell him "Yeah, I can do that!" Thanks!

### **Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day**

(inspired by Luke 11:9: "So I say to you, Ask and it will be given to you; Seek and you will find; Knock and the door will be opened to you")

Remember to take a time-out to PRAY for things like... these VBS Prayers:

- Asking God to help you live remembering Christ is STILL Risen!
- Asking God for boldness to point people to Jesus,
- Thanking God for moms.
- Thanking God for Sullivan and Valen Kocher, baptized on May 12
- Asking God for His healing for Harry & Will's family & friends
- Thanking God for all who gave their lives serving our country.
- Asking God's blessing on our Youth Gathering fundraising efforts
- Asking God for good weather for the planting and growing season.
- Asking God's continued guidance for our Building Committee
- Thanking God that His Word is Truth amidst the lies of the world.
- Asking God for faith to stand for His Truth like Daniel's 3 friends !
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Asking God to humble you, seek Him and repent (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- God's protection, wisdom & courage for government leaders
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan and the Int'l Lutheran Council

### **Thank You from the Jastrams..**

We are so happy to have you as part of our missionary team. Your support for LCMS mission work in Asia means a lot to us. Dan & Joan Jastram

Read the current newsletter at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yrst6m6e>





## Monthly Music Videos...

Some great new videos last month. Here are some favorites:

- Ryan Stevenson with country icon Deana Carter just released what may be the best song of the month, "Rich"...  
<https://youtu.be/q3iOhYKVVW-c>
- Off her new REBEL album, Anne Wilson's new song "Songs About Whiskey" is part country and part Christian, "went from raising hell to raising hands"... <https://youtu.be/6JIPU4crP7k>
- Another song I really like by Anne Wilson off this album is "3:16"...  
<https://youtu.be/9jQ8E61CHDI>
- "Dreaming With You" is a new release from Freedom Heart...  
<https://youtu.be/oa0Ef6KS7Rk>
- Stephen McWhirter just released an amazing cover of "Old Rugged Cross"... <https://youtu.be/nlJxeWGdRok>
- "What Is God Gonna Do" is a great new song from the Afters...  
<https://youtu.be/pTsVlWlqbmC>
- Worship leader Mack Brock just released "Tine And Time Again"...  
<https://youtu.be/unJ2671dkaA>
- "What He Says About You" is the latest from Unspoken...  
<https://youtu.be/c4UTAYdMGco>
- Colton Dixon released a new "Rest Of My Life" from the upcoming movie SIGHT... <https://youtu.be/KXUcMBj9ohw>
- I really like "Lay My Burdens Down" from Brad Alden...  
<https://youtu.be/Dj0ctM2O3kk>
- Kim Walker-Smith hasn't had a new project for several years, but just released the new song "Trample"...  
<https://youtu.be/B2LWwpQoGoA>
- "Worship Through It" is a new release from Tasha Layton...  
<https://youtu.be/pBeivKtQ0RM>
- Finally, not a new video to share, but the CCM world was shocked by the untimely passing of **Mandisa**, a great CCM artist, American Idol alum, Dove Award, and Grammy winner. Some of her best known hits include:  
"Overcomer"... <https://youtu.be/b8VoUYtx0kw>  
"Stronger"... <https://youtu.be/WFY2Hdh7cvA>  
"Good Morning"... [https://youtu.be/eB0RS\\_Ai1gQ](https://youtu.be/eB0RS_Ai1gQ)  
"My Deliverer"... <https://youtu.be/-qluFesblc>

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**That for a day:** It turns out that being an adult now is mostly just googling how to do stuff.

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## Living Word Apparel...

Orders will be arriving at church in early May.



## Story Behind The Song...

*"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." – John 14:2*

### Sweet By and By

This is the only hymn ever written in a drugstore. For decades millions of Americans have sung the lyrics to his famous hymn; yet, only a handful know the name of the one who co-wrote Sweet By and By. Sanford Fillmore Bennett was born in New York, 21 June 1836. He moved to Elkhorn, Wisconsin and in 1864 enrolled in the Wisconsin Volunteers and served as Second Lieutenant in the Civil War. Following the war, he returned to Elkhorn and started a drug store. During this time he began the study of medicine at Rush Medical College in Chicago. He graduated in 1874.

Sanford had a friend, a musician named Joseph Webster, who would visit the drugstore and spend time with Sanford. The two men had a mutual love of music and composed several tunes together – Sanford writing the words and Joseph composing the music. One morning two women came in to the drugstore and told Sanford that they had met his friend Joseph and he seemed depressed. "You know how musicians are – temperamental – but I know just what to do to help him when I see him" Sanford replied. Mr. Webster, like many musicians, was of an exceedingly nervous and sensitive nature, and subject to periods of depression. During these times, everything seemed dark to him. Webster had learned his peculiarities so well that on meeting him he could tell at a glance if his friend was melancholy. Webster had found that he could rouse him by giving him a new song to work on.

The following account comes from Sanford Bennet's autobiography:



"He came into my place of business [in Elkhorn, Wisconsin], walked down to the stove, and turned his back on me without speaking. I was at my desk. Turning to him, I said, "Webster, what is the matter now?" "It's no matter," he replied, "it will be all right by and by."

The idea of the hymn came to me like a flash of sunlight, and I replied, "The Sweet By and By! Why would not that make a good hymn?" "Maybe it would," he said indifferently.

Turning to my desk I penned the words of the hymn as fast as I could write. I handed the words to Webster. As he read the words, his eyes kindled. I stepped back to the my desk and he began writing the notes seated at the stove. Taking his violin, he played the melody and then jotted down the notes of the chorus. It was not over thirty minutes from the time I took my pen to write the words before two friends with Webster and myself were singing the hymn." —Sanford Fillmore Bennett (1836-1898)

As the men were singing the new hymn, R.R. Crosby, Sanford's uncle, came into the store. "I never heard that song before" exclaimed Mr. Crosby. "I heard it across the street and couldn't resist coming in to hear it better. That hymn is immortal." It was used in public shortly after, for within two weeks children on the streets were singing it. The hymn became a Gospel standard and has been included in hymnals ever since.

"Sweet By and By" was originally written on a little piece of 5 x 7 paper, but it was big enough to sing its way into the hearts of millions of Christian people for over 140 years.

There's a land that is fairer than day,  
And by faith we can see it afar,  
For the Father waits over the way  
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

(CHORUS)

In the sweet by and by,  
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;  
In the sweet by and by,  
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

We shall sing on that beautiful shore  
The melodious songs of the blest;  
And our spirits shall sorrow no more—  
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

In the sweet by and by,  
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;  
In the sweet by and by,

That for a day: why is it at class reunions, you always feel so much younger than everyone else looks?

We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

To our bountiful Father above  
We will offer our tribute of praise  
For the glorious gift of His love  
And the blessings that hallow our days.

In the sweet by and by,  
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;  
In the sweet by and by,  
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

This song has been recorded by many artists. I think my favorite is by the Booth Brothers...  
<https://youtu.be/bE3Ud1fN2Uo>  
the classic version by The Statler Brothers..  
<https://youtu.be/lblFi4rrwEU>  
Here is a fun Southern gospel version by Ben Hester  
<https://youtu.be/JhNxXTlifk>

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson

