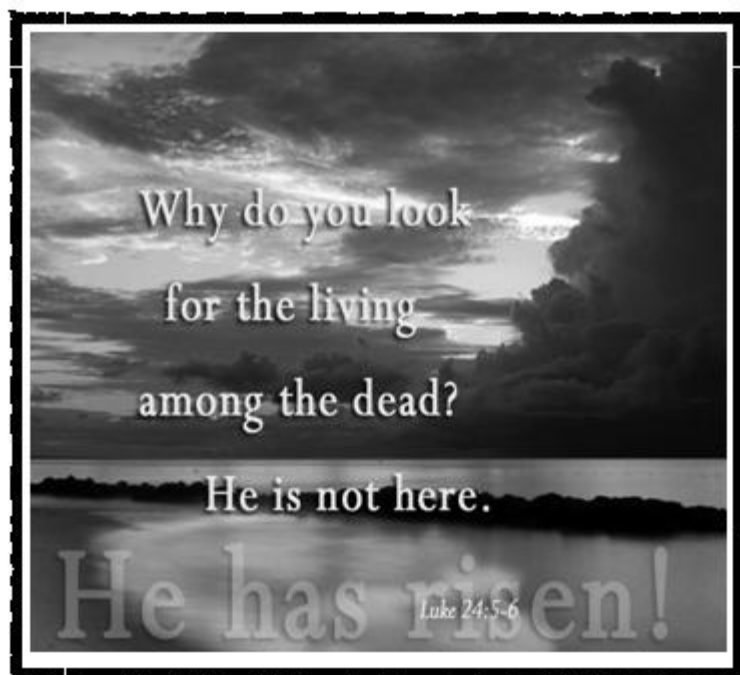


Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

April 2010 Newsletter



"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Worship Hours:

Christian Growth Hour: 8:45 a.m.

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church

Located on the West of Spicer on Cty Rd 10
in old Prairie Meadows building
PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273
Phone: 320-796-0742
Website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

Question for Pastor...

Where Did This "Maundy Thursday" come from ?

There are lots of words we use in church that are not part of our everyday vocabulary. Words like "liturgy," "justification," and "hallowed." "Maundy" certainly fits into that category.

The Thursday of Holy Week has been referred to by the church as Maundy Thursday for centuries. The word "maundy" is derived from the Latin *mandatum* meaning "commandment." (English words "mandate," "mandatory," "command" and "demand" are all derived from this Latin word). The *mandatum* referred to on this special Thursday is found in Jesus' words to His apostles as recorded in John 13:34: "A new command I give you: love one another."

Of course, the command to love one another is found throughout the Bible. The "new" part of that command is found in the next sentence: "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." We are to love one another *as Jesus loved us*. And how would that be? In a word: "unconditionally."

Loving others unconditionally - as Jesus did - means loving each other when our love is not returned. Loving others when they are "unloveable." Loving others when there is absolutely nothing in it for us. Loving others by doing what they need - even when we don't feel like giving what they need. In the next sentence Jesus went on to say that this kind of love is something that demonstrates to others that we are truly disciples of Jesus.

On "Maundy" Thursday Christians around the world gather to recall the events that took place on that night when Jesus was betrayed. The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (Matthew 26:20-30; Mark 14:17-26; and Luke 22:14-35) concentrate on the institution of the Lord's Supper, so Holy Communion is always celebrated in worship services that day.

The gospel of John (chapters 13-16) focuses instead on the Lord's final teachings to His disciples, including His example of humble,

Page 3

servanthood demonstrated when He washed their feet. In later centuries, some Christians would combine the two emphases and commemorate the Last Supper with a ceremonial foot-washing, which came to be known in French as a , a shorter form of . That French word became a descriptive term applied to the day, becoming "maunde" in Middle English. Eventually, its spelling was standardized as "maundy," the word we use today.

One tradition typically observed after the communion meal in Maundy Thursday worship services is that of stripping the altar. The members of the altar guild remove all vessels, crosses, books, candles, linens, paraments, banners, and other decorations from the altar and chancel area. This ancient ritual is a powerful and dramatic reenactment of the Lord's humiliation at the hands of the Roman soldiers. As the altar is being stripped, left bare or adorned only with black paraments, it is transformed from the communion table of Maundy Thursday into the tomb slab of Good Friday.

While we're at it, I might as well refer to a couple other unusual words we will use during Holy Week: *seder* and *tenebrae*.

Seder is a Hebrew word meaning "order" or "sequence". The Passover Seder is the special meal where special foods are eaten in a specific "order." This seder meal relives the enslavement and subsequent Exodus of the Children of Israel from Ancient Egypt and is designed to help participants remember what God did for His people in that Passover event.

Tenebrae is a Latin word meaning "darkness." In many churches the Good Friday worship is marked by the progressive extinguishing of candles as each of the "seven last words" spoken by Jesus on the cross are read. The final candle to be extinguished is the Christ Candle - a candle that calls to mind the fact that Jesus came to be a "Light to the world." The Christ Candle is then removed from the sanctuary symbolizing Jesus being cast out of the Father's presence as part of taking the punishment for our sin. It is a very stark visual reminder that Jesus had his life snuffed out by Satan and all the "forces of darkness." But the Tenebrae service ends with the Christ Candle brought back into the sanctuary and placed on the altar. It serves as a reminder to return on Easter Sunday morning when that Christ Candle will be re-lit as we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection and the fact that because of His death and Resurrection there is a "light at the end of the tunnel" for all who trust in Him.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Opportunities for Growth...

How would you change if you spent just a couple minutes a day getting to know God through His Word?

Check out the "What Does God Have to Say About...? Daily Readings on pages 11 & 12. And make a commitment to find out how God will change you through reading just a couple minutes a day.

Paul the Apostle:

What culture doesn't want you to hear

New 8:45 Sunday morning Adult Study beginning in March.
See page 7 for details

Tuesday Noon Study at Geneva Olson's in NL

Colossians: How does Jesus stack up against all the other religious ideas? That's not a question that has just recently surfaced. It was a question Christians had in the first century. The book of Colossians is an answer to that question.

Mom's Study - Wednesday mornings @ 9:30

"Five Things God Uses To Grow Your Faith"
See page 8 for details

Women's Study - Wednesdays @ noon

"That The World May Know"
See page 9 for details

Men's Revelation Bible Study

"How We Got the Bible."
1st and 3rd Wednesdays this Month @ 7:00 p.m.
See page 8 for details

Couples Bible Study

Saturday, April 10th @ 6:30
See page 9 for details

All Stars for Jesus

Wed., April 28 A fun afternoon for 3-6th Graders
Plans are for the All Stars group to meet after school this month.

Parenting Young Children - 8:45 each Sunday

A special class for parents of pre-school through 4th grade children.

Page 4

Thot for a day: Jesus's resurrection was certainly not a grave condition.

Page 5

Holy Week Schedule...

Please join us for the celebration of the events our faith hinges on (even if you haven't been to church for awhile).

Easter Choir Practice -

Sundays after worship

We practice our Easter songs at 9:30 on Easter morning.

Maundy Thursday - April 1

Seder Meal at 6:30 with Lord's Supper following.

Good Friday - April 2

Tenebrae (service of darkness) Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

Easter Schedule - Sunday, April 4

- Sunrise Worship: 6:50 a.m.
(Begins outdoors at actual sunrise time)
- Easter Breakfast: 8:00 a.m.
- Easter Egg Hunt 9:00 a.m.
- Worship 10:00 a.m.

Youth Notes...

We meet again for planning and study on April 7 @ 6:30

We have 5 people who will be attending "WE BELIEVE" the LC-MS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer: Becca Dauk, Emily Fuglie, Dani Skaggs and adult leaders Lana Bjork and Pam Johnson.

We are needing to raise roughly \$3000 to enable us to attend this every-three-year event, so please keep your eyes open for our fundraisers.

Some fundraisers that have recently been completed:

- + Chip Shoppe - We made \$350 on this fundraiser
- + Wait tables at Pizza Ranch - We made approx. \$350 this past Wed.
- + Purse sales (going on now)

Some that are still coming up:

- + Slim Jim sales
- + Sell concessions at a local auction
- + Host a "servant" auction
- + Garage Sale
- + Garden Plants Sale

Thanks in advance for your support and prayers !

Sharing the Love of Jesus In Practical Ways...

Nominations Open for Mission & Ministry Team...

The following MMT positions are up for election at our May 5, Voters' Assembly.

- **Chairman** - Presides over meetings
- **Secretary** - Takes official notes at monthly meetings and posts notices
- **Two Elder positions** - Provide spiritual leadership of the congregation
- **Community Outreach Director** - Oversees evangelism to the community
- **Congregational Outreach Director** - Organizes fellowship events for members
- **Christian Growth: Youth** - Promotes fellowship and spiritual growth of youth
- **Stewardship** - Promotes the use of the time, talent, treasure God gives
- **Director of Trustees** - Oversees the care and maintenance of building/grounds

Please talk to Pastor or one of the current MMT members if you have someone you'd like to nominate for any of the above positions, so the MMT Nominating Committee can put together a list of candidates. Thanks!

Make-a-Meal Program Notes:

Meal Makers & Takers: The Schedule is now available.

Check the Schedules Page in this newsletter for April - June schedules.

Everyone else: Please use the "Prayer and Care" cards in the attendance folder to indicate the name of someone going through a tough time and could use a meal.

"Secret Paul" Prayer Partner Program Notes:

REMINDER: If you haven't received your "Secret Paul" prayer-person assignment please see Laurel Iverson today.

If you have received your assignment, please send a card letting them know you are praying for them - but remember not to let them know who you are. That's the "secret" part.

Page 6

Thot for a day: Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Page 7

Plan and Organize Fellowship Activities

One of the goals we set for the coming year is to provide more opportunities for members to get to know each other outside of church. In order to accomplish that goal we need someone who enjoys organizing activities that "get people together." Things like 'fun nights' or service projects or outings. Please talk to Pastor David if you would like to help in this way. Thanks!

Sunday Morning Study...

COMING SUNDAYS IN MARCH: 8:45 Sunday Forum Topic

Paul the Apostle: What culture doesn't want you to hear

Americans live in a culture that places great emphasis on entertainment, achievement and self. It's increasingly difficult for Scriptural truth to cut through the noise and sink into our hearts. But when we stop and study Scripture, we find the culture we live in faces the same problems as the early church.

In these four DVD-based sessions filmed on location in Rome, speaker and author David Nasser uses the life of Paul to highlight how followers of Christ can stand up to cultural "norms" and stand firm in Christ.

Mark Your Calendars...

Youth Garage Sale Fund-raiser

Saturday, April 10

Items for the sale may be brought to the church an time before the sale.

Please have your items pre-priced. Thanks

Baby Shower

Tuesday, April 13 @ 7:00 p.m.

For Rya Sharp, daughter of Bryan and Kari Sharp

April Discipleship Verse...



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:3

Mom's Study...



9:30 a.m. Wednesday Mornings

"Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith"

What would it be like to have perfect faith? Find out in Andy Stanley's dynamic group study! The six sessions will spark discussion about approaching each day with unshakable confidence; belief in God's control; and trust in his purposes.

Discover how God uses practical teaching, relationships, private disciplines, personal ministry, and pivotal circumstances to grow your faith. **Childcare is provided.**

New Men's Study...



"How We Got the Bible"

NOTE CHANGE OF DAY/ TIME

1st and 3rd Tuesdays @ 6:00 p.m.

This Bible study begins with a discussion on the spiritual significance of the Bible and what it means to claim that Scripture is the Word of God.

Lessons to follow consider the function of divine inspiration against contemporary attacks claiming the Bible to be a product of man or later ecumenical councils. Throughout Dr. Paul Maier emphasizes the extreme care and attention to detail early scribes displayed when it came to copying and preserving the Scriptures. He also looks into Jesus' own claims to divinity and considers them against assertions He was essentially deemed "divine" by the decree of church councils in the centuries following His appearance. The Bible study closes with a look at the development of the English Bible and some of the heroic pains required of men and women who gave everything to get God's message into print. Throughout each chapter, Web links offer interesting jumping-off points for users to glean more information.

As an expert on this subject, Dr. Paul Maier, who is the Russell H. Seibert professor of ancient history at Western Michigan University, has profound insights regarding the production, canonization, and inspiration behind the texts that comprise the Scriptures.

Page 8

Thot for a day: The best way to forget your troubles is to wear tight shoes.

Page 9

Couple's Study...



Pastor and Violet will host the the study on **Saturday, April 10th** at 6:00 p.m. at their home. You are most welcome to attend even if you weren't able to attend the first study in February.

The Details: Couples will meet at our home at 6:00 for the study, then we send everyone off on a date (you make the plans).

Last month we learned that it is not possible to know what love is until you've been on the receiving end of true love. Thankfully we have. God has first loved us - unconditionally.

This month: we'll study... "Love for a Lifetime" - marriage as a lifelong covenant

It doesn't matter if you've been married 6 months or 60 years, you will find this study to be very helpful in strengthening your marriage and your commitment to each other.

Women's Study...



Wednesday Women's Study Topic

"That The World May Know"

Faith Lessons on the Promised Land

Wednesdays at noon

Exploring an ancient culture... and discovering relevance for today...

That the World May Know is a unique video series that brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance. By weaving together the Bible's fascinating historical, cultural, religious and geographical contexts, teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan reveals key insights into the Scriptures' significance to modern believers. The result? Illuminating "Faith Lessons" that will solidify your convictions, strengthen your walk with God and inspire you to impact your world.

A sampling of significant Holy Land sights we've seen recently

+ Mount Carmel- the sight of the famous face-off between Elijah and the prophets of Baal

+ "Har Meggido" (Armageddon) - the valley that not only symbolizes the final battle between God and Satan but that was also the location of real battles between godly and godless cultures in Old Testament times.

April - Daily Devotionals

During Holy Week we focus on Jesus' DEATH, then move on to His RESURRECTION. Then we see what God says about the AUTHORITY Christians have because of Jesus' death. Finally we look at a few of the many things God tells us about our ultimate enemy: SATAN.

Mar 28 **What God Says About ... JESUS' DEATH - It's purpose**

Mar 29 Isaiah 53:4-12 _____

Mar 30 Romans 5:6-11 _____

Mar 31 Titus 2:11-14 _____

Apr 1 Galatians 3:10-14 _____

Apr 2 1 Peter 3:18 _____

Apr 3 Matthew 26:28 _____

April 4 **What God Says About ... JESUS' RESURRECTION - Who Witnessed It**

Apr 5 Matthew 28:8-10, 16-20 _____

Apr 6 Mark 16:9-11 _____

Apr 7 Luke 24:15-31 _____

Apr 8 John 20:19-31 _____

Apr 9 Luke 24:50-51, Acts 1:2 _____

Apr 10 1 Corinthians 15:5-8 _____

Apr 11 **What God Says About ... JESUS' RESURRECTION - Its result for us**

Apr 12 John 11:20-27 _____

Apr 13 1 Corinthians 15:12-23 _____

"What Does God Say About...?"

Apr 14 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 _____

Apr 15 Acts 4:32-35 _____

Apr 16 Colossians 3:1-10 _____

Apr 17 1 Peter 1:3-9 _____

Apr 18 **What God Says About ... OUR AUTHORITY THROUGH CHRIST'S BLOOD**

Apr 19 Matthew 16:17-19 _____

Apr 20 Matthew 18:19-20 _____

Apr 21 John 20:21-23 _____

Apr 22 John 6:53-58 _____

Apr 23 Hebrews 9:12-14 _____

Apr 24 John 14:11-14 _____

Apr 25 **What God Says About ... OUR ENEMY (Satan)**

Apr 26 Hebrews 2:14-15 _____

Apr 27 Matthew 13:18-19 _____

Apr 28 John 8:42-44 _____

Apr 29 1 Peter 5:8-9 _____

Apr 30 Revelation 12:3-12 _____

May 1 Revelation 20:7-10 _____

April 2010 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 28 PALM SUNDAY 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Sunday School Parents' Study 10:00 Worship (S.S. & choir sing) 11:15 Easter Choir Practice	29	30	31 9:30 Mom's Study "5 ways to grow faith" Noon Women's Study "That the world may know"	1 MAUNDY THURSDAY 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Maundy Thursday Seder Meal w/ Lord's Supper	5 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 Good Friday Tenebrae Worship (service of darkness)	6
4 EASTER SUNDAY 6:50 SonRise Worship 8:00 Breakfast 9:00 Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 Choir Practices 10:00 Easter Worship (w/choir) w/Lord's Supper	5 8:30 Circuit Pastors @ Montevideo	6 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's 6:00 Men's Study 7:00 Elders Team	7 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study 6:00 Meal 6:30 Youth Meeting 7:00 Bldg Committee	8	9	10 8:00 Garage Sale Fundraiser 6:00 Couples' Fireproof Study @ Pastor & Violet's
11 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Apostle Paul Sunday School Parents' Study 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship noon Johanna Asche baptism	12	13 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's 7:00 Baby Shower for Rya Sharp	14 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study "That the world may know" 1:30 LWML 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Bldg Committee	15	16	17 Gertken-Koester Wedding @ Long Prairie
18 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Apostle Paul Sunday School Parents' Study 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	19	20 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's 6:00 Men's Study 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	21 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Bldg Committee	22 Xtreme Tour @ NL-S	23	24
25 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Apostle Paul Sunday School Parents' Study 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	26	27 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	28 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study After School: All Stars 4 Jesus	29	30	May 1 Spring Voter's Assembly Next Wed (May 5) Election of Officers

Upcoming Schedules...

If you aren't able to serve on your Sunday, please call someone and switch with them. Thanks!

Scripture Readers

Apr 4	Jack Kuppich	254-8355
Apr 11	Wendy Robbin	354-9049
Apr 18	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
Apr 25	Kevin Welsh	796-6840
May 2	Carolyn Rossow	952-738-1036
May 9	Gerri Wadsworth	796-2294
May 16	Paulette Spletter	354-7143
May 23	Linda Dilley	235-0235
June 6	Mark Fuglie	796-6975
June 13	Tammy Fuglie	796-6975
June 20	Lu Kiehm	979-0097
June 27	Tammy Wachter	796-6222

Fellowship Servers

Apr 4	Easter Breakfast
Apr 11	Wendy Robbin / Stacy Olson
Apr 18	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Apr 25	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
May 2	Lu Kiehm / Mona Hjelle
May 9	Laurel Iverson / Violet Dauk
May 16	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
May 23	Sunday School Picnic
May 30	Youth
June 6	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
June 13	Wendy Robbin / Stacy Olson
June 20	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
June 27	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller

Elders

Apr 4	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Apr 11	Troy Hansen & Kevin Welsh
May 2	Wally Abraham & Jason Miller
May 16	Bryson Wachter & Troy Hansen
June 6	Kevin Welsh & Wally Abraham
June 20	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter

Page 14

Thot for a day: Anything not nailed down is a cat toy.

Page 15

Usher & Greeter Schedule

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
Apr 4	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen	Jack
Apr 11	Kevin & Noah Welsh	Laurel
Apr 18	Mark Fuglie & Brady Sharp	Lu
Apr 25	Linda Dilley & Lu Kiehm	**
May 2	Tim Geer & Allan Fuglie	Jack & Bryson
May 9	Mona Hjelle & Paulette Spletter	Laurel
May 16	Jamie & Phil Iverson	Lu
May 23	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter	Gerri/ Paulette
May 30	Youth	
June 6	Brian Tri and Troy Hansen	Jack & Bryson
June 13	Lonny Robbin & Jack Kuppich	Laurel Iverson
June 20	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen	Lu Kiehm
June 27	Kevin & Noah Welsh	Gerri W. & Paulette S

* Fill-in Greeter Bonnie Hansen 796-5605

Please call Bonnie if you aren't able to greet on your scheduled Sunday

Children's Church Schedule

Apr 4	Mariah Welsh	796-6840
Apr 11	Joe Johnson	354-3545
Apr 18	Kasey Nieland	354-2036
Apr 25	Becca Dauk	354-4103
May 2	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
May 9	Halee Lucas & Mikayla Geer	
May 16	Emilie Fuglie	796-6975
May 23	Carolyn Rossow	952-738-1036
May 30	Mariah Welsh	796-6840
June 6	Joe Johnson	354-3545
June 13	Kasey Nieland	354-2036
June 20	Becca Dauk	354-4103
June 27	Mona Hjelle	354-4315

A Minute For Your Marriage...

Do an unexpected gesture of kindness for your spouse...
...this week... pick a day... then just do it.

(From Day 2 of The Love Dare)

E-Mail Wisdom... (received via e-mail)

From Focus On The Family
re: The Tim Tebow SuperBowl ad

Just last week while I was in Tampa, Florida, I met a friend of the ministry. "Bill" asked to chat, and I was eager to listen. Here is the essence of what he said:

"Now, look, please don't get me wrong. I was excited to see Focus run that ad in the Super Bowl--if you're going to be effective, you're going to have to reach a new generation and maybe try new things in new ways. I get it! But my wife, who loves Focus, said she thought the ad was kind of 'soft,' and she was disappointed it didn't even mention the word abortion. What do you say to people like her?"

I was grateful for the candid dialogue. I shared with Bill some of the background behind the ad, especially surrounding our conversation with CBS. For example, the network would not permit the word "abortion" to even be mentioned. So, if we didn't want to play by their rules, we couldn't run the spot. I also explained there had always been a two-part strategy surrounding the ad campaign. Our main goal was to drive viewers to FocusOnTheFamily.com where the full story of Mr. and Mrs. Tebow was featured. Over 1.5 million people have viewed the online movie.

The second part of the ongoing strategy concerns our commitment and passion to witness to people about the saving nature of Jesus Christ with a gentle spirit of humility. Focus on the Family is HIS ministry. As such, we're determined to engage the culture and present His truths--respectfully, thoughtfully and winsomely--all from a biblically based foundation.

Incidentally, I also shared with Bill some new research data that indicated the Super Bowl ad caused over 5 million viewers to reconsider their view of the legality/morality of abortion.

To God be the glory!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any question or concern you might have if we could be of help. Contact us by calling 1-800-A-FAMILY (232-6459) or by visiting FocusOnTheFamily.com.

God be with you!
Sincerely,
Jim Daly
President

Page 16

Thot for a day: Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.

Page 17

So That The World May Know...

The Building Committee meets again after Easter to decide between a couple of floor-plan options and basic building structures (traditional "stick-built" or pre-engineered-panels)

Please continue to keep our building process in your prayers. Our plan is still to "go into the promised land" this summer. We will need LOTS of prayers and help in order to make that a reality. Thanks for your support !

Sermon Summary...

"By His Stripes: Healing Wounded Relationships"

The Christian life (indeed all human life) is about relationships: Our relationship with God and with each other. Each Sunday in Lent we have looked at things Satan uses to tear down relationships in our lives - and what God gives to heal them.

So Far We've Focused on These Things Satan Uses to Destroy Relationships. Which ones are troubling for you ...

Escalation... Where a simple disagreement escalates into name-calling, digging up the past, and eventually ends up with contempt for each other.

Invalidation... Snide remarks, sarcasm and direct put-downs of people's ideas and actions as a way of trying to make yourself feel superior.

Negative Interpretation... A situation where one person always assumes the other person has "an ulterior motive" for everything they do or say.

Withdrawal and Avoidance... where one person deals with conflicts and issues by NOT dealing with them. Withdrawing from the relationship

A Minute For Parents...

Think of something you really enjoyed doing with one of your parents when you were a kid / teen. Then invite your child to do something like that with you.

Make sure to tell them about that experience you had as a kid - they love hearing about what you were like at their age (and what Grandma and Grandpa were like).

Meet Our New Members...

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP IN MARCH:

- Dan Gertken and Tabitha Koester;
- Carolyn Rossow; Caleb Beeler, Jacob Beeler, and Lizzie Beeler
- Brent, Alicia, Lance and Carson Sawatzky;
- Brandon Sharp;
- Bryan, Kari & Rya Sharp;
- Paulette Spletter;
- Gerri Wadsworth

To help introduce you to our new members we've asked them to tell a little about themselves including favorite Bible passages and what attracted them to Living Word. This month's biographies are from the Sawatzky family and Gerri Wadsworth.

Gerri Wadsworth

I was born in the Scandinavian community of Sunburg, MN, and raised in Benson. I now live in Spicer and came out of retirement to work for Lutheran Social Services doing Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meals. I love it!!

My immediate family has dwindled down, but I have a great daughter, Paulette and her husband Hal. I also one granddaughter, Bridie, and her husband J.J. Together they have five children, so I have five great grandchildren and they are very dear to me!!

Hobbies: I knit baby caps and booties for premies and send them to the University Hospital. I also knit caps for children with cancer and bring them to the Cancer Society. I have a dog named Chancey and she is my shadow. I love her dearly! I like to fish but haven't done so for a very, very long time. I also make kennel blankets for animals at the humane shelter. I love animals!

I don't have a favorite Bible passage as I believe they each contain their own messages. I have been through a lot of trials and tribulations in my lifetime and thank God that my faith has helped me overcome bad times. The hardest of those trials were when my son Thomas passed away twelve years ago, April 19, 1998 at age 34. Recently, on December 22 of 2009, my oldest daughter, Sandy, passed away at age 52. I have never questioned my Lord as to why He called my children so early. I feel like they were on loan from God to begin with. Needless to say, I am happy for them that they no longer have to suffer.

Page 18

Thot for a day: Sometimes I think I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.

Page 19

Paulette and I were looking for a church where we could feel welcome without judgement and after the first time we attended, we were hooked! I love this church and congregation! It's like one big family! I thank God for leading us here.

Gerri Wadsworth

The Sawatzky family: Alicia, Brent, Lance & Carson

Hi, I'm Alicia Sawatzky and first off I want to say how excited we are to be members of Living Word! I was born in Marshall, MN and grew up in Balaton, MN. My husband and I have been married for 4 years in May. We live in Kerkhoven and have two boys Lance who is 5 years and Carson who is 1 ½ years. Lance is in Kindergarten and goes to KMS and Carson goes to First Step daycare in Willmar. I work at Home State Bank in Willmar as an Operations Assistant. I enjoy spending time with family, scrapbooking, camping, fishing, gardening, listening to K Love or any Christian music and motorcycle riding. One of my favorite Bible passages is Philippians 4:13, *I can do everything through him who gives me strength*. This is one of my favorites because after I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis I turned to my faith. It has been the Lord's strength that has gotten me thru each day and has brought peace into my life. I believe God brought us on the path to Living word because of the changes with the ELCA. Along with having family with you at church is really important. Also, the members are so welcoming and caring.

Hi, I'm Brent Sawatzky. I was born in Springfield, MN and grew up in a small town called Darfur. I currently live in Kerkhoven with my family. I am self-employed and stay busy trapping full time in season and building traps and trapping supplies the rest of the year. My hobbies include spending time with my family, trapping, hunting, fishing, camping, gardening, canning and cutting wood. One of my favorite Bible passages is Matthew 25:34, *Come, inherit the kingdom prepared for you*. This is one of my favorites because some of the most challenging time to be strong in, and hold on to your faith comes with the death of a family member or anyone very close to you. This verse reminds me that not only did God prepare a place for us after death but that he welcomes and invites us in. It's hard to be sad for a loved one who passes, when you think about where they have gone! Thank you for welcoming my family and I into your family, we are proud to be a part of it.

Sincerely,
The Sawatzkys



The LINK Update...

April 2010

Neighbors in Need

People in our community are falling further and further behind. We are trying to help people get back to square one and off to a fresh start. Since the beginning of 2010, The Link has disbursed over \$7000 to assist people with things like medical bills, health insurance premiums, transportation costs, housing, utilities, etc.

This is just the first step in building relationships with people that will connect them to the community, to employment opportunities, to improved financial security, and emotional well-being.

Please consider how you can help support these people, through your financial gifts, contribution of time and talents and the sharing of other resources.

Drop 'N Shop Spring Clothing Exchange

Friday and Saturday, April 16-17 at Peace Lutheran Church in New London

Drop off your donated clothes on Friday noon-6pm
Come back and shop on Saturday 9am-noon
Everything is FREE, including breakfast!!
Volunteers are still needed- contact The Link to sign up!

Resources Available

Laundry Facilities- Free at the New London office
Household items, furnishings, appliances, linens, etc.
Haircuts- free of charge

Resources Needed

People able to do small car repairs
Gift cards for gas, groceries, and household/ hygiene needs
Volunteers for office, computer

Community Meal Planning Committee:

Community Meal Project in the works to begin this fall.
Next Meeting is Thursday, May 6th 6pm at Faith Lutheran

For more information, contact Michelle Peterson by phone at (320) 796-2522 or (320) 894-1681 or by email flc_michelle@tds.net

Page 20

Thot for a day: Smart young folks know all the rules. Smart old folks know the exceptions.

Page 21

11:09... (set the alarm on your cell phone)

"9-11 reminds us of terror – 11:09 reminds us of prayer"

"The Family That Prays Together, Stays Together" is as true for a church family as it is for your family. Our church family prays together on Sunday, but we can also pray together the rest of the week - together at the same time, if not the same place. On Friendship Sunday we kicked-off a special prayer program that has us each praying at the same time every day no matter where you are - 11:09 a.m. (Inspired by Luke 11:9). If you didn't get an "11:09" reminder card or magnet, please take one home from church - and remember to set the alarm on your cell phone for 11:09 every day.



SPRING DROP 'N SHOP CLOTHING EXCHANGE

ALL FREE OF CHARGE
NO PROOF OF INCOME REQUIRED
First Come - First Serve!

WHEN: Friday, April 16th noon-6pm

Drop your spring clothing items off

Saturday, April 17th 9am-noon

Shop for your family's spring clothing items

WHERE: Peace Lutheran Church in New London-Gymnasium
Use the northeast entrance



A free breakfast will be served from 9-11am!

This is an opportunity for you to donate your **clean and gently used** items to other people in the community who can benefit. Clothing that has been outgrown or is "so last year" in style! Items will be sorted by size and gender for Saturday's shopping event. Bring in your items on Friday and come back on Saturday to shop for your family! Leftover items will be donated to other area organizations.

***We are also accepting clean winter outerwear for our distribution in the fall!

Volunteers are also needed for the set up and shopping event

Contact Michelle Peterson for more information (320) 796-2522



This is a project of The Link

Story Behind The Song...

"Christ Arose"

Songs that celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ are some of the greatest songs ever written. *Christ Arose* is one of those songs. Our choir will sing it on Easter again this year. The song sets an appropriate tone for our celebration as it begins slow and somber with the words "Low in the grave He lay," calling to mind the reality of Jesus' death on Good Friday. But the song builds to a crescendo as it announces the great news: "Up From the Grave He Arose!"

The song is a bit unusual in that both the words and the music were penned by the same person, Robert Lowry. During his lifetime Mr. Lowry had served as a professor of literature at Bucknell University, pastored several large churches in the eastern United States and finally became music editor of Bigelow Publishing Company.

It was during the Easter season in 1874 as Mr. Lowry was having a his evening devotions that the angel's words from Luke 24:6-7 struck a chord with him (literally).

He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."

Soon Lowry found himself seated at the little pump organ in the parlor of his home translating his thoughts about that verse into the words of the great Easter hymn *Christ Arose*. Not only does the song sum up the message of victory, but the words at the end of each line of the verses remind us of the result for us of Jesus' rising from the grave:

- 1) He can be trusted as our Savior and
- 2) He deserves to be followed as our Lord.

The song was published the following year and has been a favorite way for Christians to express their victory joy ever since.

*Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior!
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!*

*Up from the grave He arose,
with a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
and He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah, Christ Arose!*

Page 22

Thot for a day: If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together.

Page 23

*Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Savior!
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! (Repeat Chorus)*

*Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior!
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! (Repeat Chorus)*

E-Mail Humor...

Today, I was in the bathroom at a popular coffee chain.

Someone wrote "What Would Jesus Do?" on the wall.

Another person wrote directly underneath that, "Wash His hands."

Then a third person wrote, "And your feet."

~~~~~

## Weddings and Funerals

Old aunts used to come up to me at weddings, poking me in the ribs and cackling, telling me, "You're next."

They stopped after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



Rev. Wilson's attempt to create a contemporary Easter sermon did not go over well with the traditional congregation at Ninnyville Lutheran.