

Living Word

Lutheran Church

LCMS

June 2012 Newsletter



"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Worship Hours:

Christian Growth Hour: 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church

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

What we aim to do:

Make disciples for Jesus - as we go, wherever we go.

What we aim to be:

A joyful, caring, Christ-centered family of God.

Question for Pastor...

"When will you be able to be in your new building?"

If you've driven on County Road 9 south of New London, you've noticed that LOTS of things have been happening since our May Newsletter. If you don't regularly drive that road, I'd encourage you to go to our website

<http://www.livingwordlutheran.net> for pictures and descriptions of the latest developments.

Here are just a few of the major things that have happened since you received your May Newsletter:

- A hearing was held regarding our request for a Conditional Land-Use Permit to put a House of Worship in an area that is zoned "R-2" (residential use). No concerns were raised by anyone.
- The county commissioners formally approved our Conditional Land-Use Permit.
- We held a short ground-breaking ceremony after our Sunday School Picnic on Sunday, May 20. (See pictures). After each person in attendance overturned a shovel of ground, we proceeded to the area where the sanctuary will be located. We read together Psalm 100 ("Enter His gates with thanksgiving...") We also sang "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love" and the Doxology, praising God for this great blessing.
- The next day, May 21, Stai Trucking, Inc. began the excavation work. (See pictures)



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- By Friday, May 25, the building site and parking lot area had been leveled and the south hill landscaped. The trenches had been dug for the concrete footings and foundation. (See pictures)
- On Wednesday, May 30 the footings had been poured and foundation blocks laid by Joe Caskey Masonry. (More pictures)

As you can imagine, I am no longer am I getting any "What's going on with your building project?" questions. People can see that a building is going up! Now the question has become, "How soon do you expect to be in?"

Here's what our Mission and Ministry Team has told the school (our current landlord): "If everything goes according to plan, we anticipate being able to be in our building by the end of August."

Of course, the words "according to plan" is a huge key to that statement becoming reality. If you've ever been part of a building or remodeling project, you know that very often things don't quite go as planned. Delays can come from less-than-ideal weather as well as contractor delays on other jobs that keep them from being able to work on our job as soon as they hoped. A host of other "unforeseen circumstances" can pop up. (If we knew what those are, we wouldn't have to label them "unforeseen").

But, at this point, the end of August is our goal.

Some of the things you can look forward to seeing this coming month:

- The plumbing, electrical and in-floor heat ducts will be roughed in.
- The concrete slab floor will be poured.
- Our "Structural Insulated Panel" (SIP) walls will be erected.
- Roof trusses will be set on top of the walls.
- Steel roof panels will be set in place.

But maybe the real key for us to be able to take up residence in our new building by the end of August is what comes after the contractors complete their work: **The work WE will do.**

One of our goals in putting up a new building is to Grow Our Congregation. Not merely growing in numbers, but just as importantly growing closer to each other. One of the best ways to grow closer to the people you worship with is to work on a project with them. Very soon we will have that opportunity for growing together by working together. Here are some

opportunities for you to plug in and use your talents and abilities

(There really are tasks for almost everyone):

- ___ Making Meals for workers
- ___ Providing childcare for workers
- ___ Painting
- ___ Hanging sheetrock
- ___ Insulating the ceiling
- ___ Installing vinyl siding
- ___ Landscaping
- ___ Decorating
- ___ Running errands (Being a "Go-Fer")

Many of you have already indicated one or more of these areas you could possibly help out with. The sign-up sheet will still be available at worship the next couple of weeks if you haven't had a chance to volunteer. (Or you could just email me pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

Marcia Welsh and Nancy Jo Wendt will be coordinating all of our work efforts. Since we don't know specific days when some of these things will actually be needed, we understand if you may not be available to help on a certain day.

One final thing. After I answer whatever questions people have about our building, the response is the same: "That's exciting!" You bet it is!

Thanks for asking (and volunteering),
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net



Groundbreaking ceremony...

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Thot for a day Genius is perseverance in disguise.

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Leveling the land...

More photos and updates
at
www.livingwordlutheran.net



Trenches for foundation are dug...



The foundation is laid...

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

Advice for the Recent Graduates (and us all)...

If I could offer you only one tip for the future, sunscreen would be it. The long-term benefits of sunscreen have been proved by scientists, whereas the rest of my advice has no basis more reliable than my own meandering experience. I will dispense this advice now...

- Enjoy the power and beauty of your youth. Oh, never mind. You will not understand the power and beauty of your youth until they've faded. But trust me, in 20 years, you'll look back at photos of yourself and recall in a way you can't grasp now how much possibility lay before you and how fabulous you really looked. You are not as fat as you imagine.
- Don't worry about the future. Or worry, but know that worrying is as effective as trying to solve an algebra equation by chewing bubble gum. The real troubles in your life are apt to be things that never crossed your worried mind, the kind that blind-side you at 4 pm on some idle Tuesday.
- Do one thing every day that scares you.
- Sing.
- Don't be reckless with other people's hearts. Don't put up with people who are reckless with yours.
- Floss.
- Don't waste your time on jealousy. Sometimes you're ahead, sometimes you're behind. The race is long and, in the end, it's only with yourself.
- Remember compliments you receive. Forget the insults. If you succeed in doing this, tell me how.
- Keep your old love letters. Throw away your old bank statements.
- Stretch.
- Don't feel guilty if you don't know what you want to do with your life. The most interesting people I know didn't know at 22 what they wanted to do with their lives. Some of the most interesting 40-year-olds I know still don't.
- Get plenty of calcium.
- Be kind to your knees. You'll miss them when they're gone.

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Thot for a day: If you try to fail and succeed, what did you just do?

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- Dance, even if you have nowhere to do it but your living room.
- Read the directions, even if you don't follow them.
- Do not read beauty magazines. They will only make you feel ugly.
- Get to know your parents. You never know when they'll be gone for good. Be nice to your siblings. They're your best link to your past and the people most likely to stick with you in the future.
- Understand that friends come and go, but with a precious few you should hold on. Work hard to bridge the gaps in geography and lifestyle, because the older you get, the more you need the people who knew you when you were young.
- Accept certain inalienable truths: Prices will rise. Politicians will philander. You, too, will get old. And when you do, you'll fantasize that when you were young, prices were reasonable, politicians were noble and children respected their elders.
- Respect your elders.
- Don't expect anyone else to support you. Maybe you have a trust fund. Maybe you'll have a wealthy spouse. But you never know when either one might run out.
- Be careful whose advice you buy, but be patient with those who supply it. Advice is a form of nostalgia. Dispensing it is a way of fishing the past from the disposal, wiping it off, painting over the ugly parts, and recycling it for more than it's worth.

...But trust me on the sun screen.

Elected to Serve:

At our Spring Voters' Assembly this past week the Voters elected the following officers to serve a two-year term that will begin at our Installation of Officers at worship on July 1.

Please thank these people for serving the Lord by serving us.

Chairman -	Jamie Iverson
Secretary -	Sarah Miller
2 Elders -	Brady Sharp & Scott Wachter
Stewardship Chair -	Jason Miller
Community Outreach Chair -	Laurel Iverson
Youth Chair -	Bryson Wachter

Opportunities for Growth...

Thursday Men's Study -

(Meet at Pastor's car 45 minutes before softball games)

New Study: "The Home Run King"

How to hit a "Home Run" in your life at home & work

June 7: 5:30 at Red Field
June 14: 7:30 at Green Field
June 21: 7:30 at Yellow Field
June 28: 7:30 at Red Field



Mom's Study

9:30 Wednesday mornings (Childcare provided)

Wednesday Noon Study

Open to guys and gals of all ages

New Study: "The Life-Ready Woman"

Every modern woman has wondered, "How do I juggle it all?" Now, The Life Ready Woman helps you discover God's road map for finding balance, peace, and delight in this crazy contemporary life. The study focuses on God's plan and purposes for women and then hones in on the practical implications for you as an individual—exploring your heart, your relationships, your specific challenges, and the unique gifts and personality God has crafted in you.

- experience more of life—with less regret
- minimize stress
- find clear direction about God's priorities for you
- bring a biblical balance to life
- discover clarity in relationships, including with God and men
- develop a personal plan for fulfilling God's callings

The Life-Ready Woman will be our study for both Mom's Study and Wednesday Noon Study.

OR

If you'd like to host The Life-Ready Woman for an evening study, talk to Pastor about getting a leader's guide.

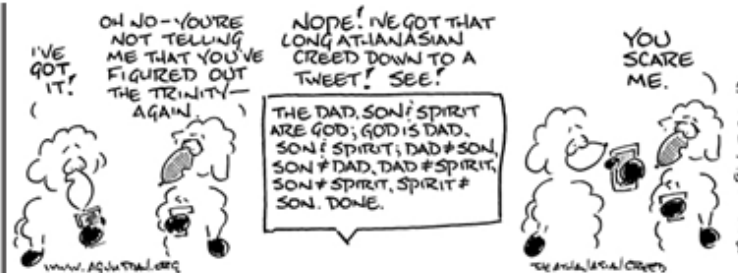
In our first study we learned about God's Purposes for us

1. As human beings
2. As females
3. As individuals

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That for a day: Experience is that thing you have just after you need it.

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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 201

Rev. 7:10-17

L	M	E	S	I	A	R	P	Y	R	O	L	G	H	S
O	W	N	E	Y	E	S	T	R	A	E	T	T	T	R
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After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

White Robes

AMEN	BELONGS
ANGELS	CENTER
BEAT	HUNGER
BLOOD	POWER
ELDERS	ROBES
EYES	SALVATION
FACES	SAYING
FELL	SERVE
GLORY	SHEPHERD
GOD	SPREAD
GREAT	SPRINGS
HONOR	STANDING
LAMB	STRENGTH
LEAD	TEMPLE
LIVING	THANKS
LOUD	THIRST
NEVER	THRONE
NIGHT	VOICE
PRAISE	WASHED
TEAR	WATER
TENT	WHITE
WIPE	WISDOM

Psalm 8

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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June Discipleship Verse...



((In honor of our 2012 NL-S Grad Kasey Nieland - This was her confirmation verse))

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:5

June - Daily Devotionals

Last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit was poured out on the first disciples. All this month we will read passages that describe the Spirit and things He does.

Wk of June 3 Daily Readings Examples of being FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

June 4 Exodus 35:30-36:1 _____

June 5 Acts 2:1-4 _____

June 6 Acts 4:5-13 _____

June 7 Acts 4:31 _____

June 8 Acts 13:6-12 _____

June 9 Acts 13:46-52 _____

Wk of June 10 Daily Readings The HOLY SPIRIT in the Old Testament

June 11 Genesis 1:2 _____

June 12 Numbers 11:23-30 _____

June 13 Judges 3:9-11 _____

June 14 Judges 14:5-6 _____

June 15 1 Samuel 16:10-13 _____

June 16 Isaiah 63:7-10 _____

Wk of June 17 Daily Readings RESULTS of having the Holy Spirit

June 18 Ezekiel 36:26-27 _____

June 19 Isaiah 42:1 _____

The Holy Spirit

June 20 Acts 1:8-9 _____

June 21 Acts 10:34-38 _____

June 22 Joel 2:28-31 _____

June 23 1 Cor. 12:1-3 _____

Week of June 24 Daily Readings: CHARACTERISTICS of the Holy Spirit

June 25 Isaiah 11:1-3 _____

June 26 John 14:15-17 _____

June 27 John 14:25-27 _____

June 28 John 16:7-8 _____

June 29 John 16:12-15 _____

June 30 Galatians 5:22-26 _____

Wk of July 1 Daily Readings Important WORK of the Holy Spirit

July 2 2 Peter 1:19-21 _____

July 3 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 _____

July 4 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 _____

July 5 Romans 8:26-27 _____

July 6 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 _____

July 7 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 _____

June 2012 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 3 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum 10:00 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	4	5 8:30 Outreach Meeting @ Pastor & Violet's	6 9:30 Moms' Study Life-Ready Woman Noon Bible Study Life-Ready Woman 5:30 Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up	7 5:30 Men's Devotion Red Field 6:15 Church League Softball vs. Svea Luth. Red Field	8	9
10 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	11	12 7:15 Elders' Team	13 9:30 Moms' Study Life-Ready Woman Noon Bible Study Life-Ready Woman 6:30 LWML @ Pam Johnson's	14 7:30 Men's Devotion Green Field 8:15 Church League Softball vs. AG Green Field	<div> PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY AT 11:09 EVERYDAY <i>(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")</i> </div>	
17 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum 10:00 Worship - w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	18 8:30 (Leave YFC) Youth Valley Fair Trip (return @ 11:00 pm)	19	20 9:30 Moms' Study Life-Ready Woman Noon Bible Study Life-Ready Woman 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	21 7:30 Men's Devotion Yellow Field 8:15 Church League Softball vs WCRC Yellow Field	22	23
24 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	25	26	27 9:30 Moms' Study Life-Ready Woman Noon Bible Study 1:00-9:30 Jr/Sr High Grand Slam /FMSC Day	28 7:30 Men's Devotion Red Field 8:15 Church League Softball vs Roseland Red field	29	30
July 1 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum 10:00 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	July 2	July 3	July 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	July 5 6:30 Men's Devotion Green Field 7:15 Church League Softball vs Svea Luth. Green Field	July 6	July 7

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

June 3	Scott Wachter
June 10	Bryson Wachter
June 17	Wendy Robbin
June 24	Mona Hjelle

July 1	Phil Iverson
July 8	Kevin Welsh
July 15	Linda Dilley
July 22	Mark Fuglie
July 29	Tammy Fuglie

Fellowship Servers

June 3	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
June 10	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
June 17	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
June 24	Wendy Robbin / Alida Sawatzky

July 1	Nancy Jo Wendy / Tammy Fuglie
July 8	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
July 15	Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
July 22	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
July 29	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen

Children's Church Schedule

June 3	Mona Hjelle
June 10	Eve Bajari
June 17	Michelle Johnson
June 24	Donna Peterson

July 1	Mona Hjelle
July 8	Eve Bajari
July 15	Michelle Johnson
July 22	Donna Peterson
July 29	

Make A Meal Volunteers

June	Pam Johnson	Donna Peterson
July	Jamie Iverson	Mona Hjelle
August	Gracie Geer	Laurel Iverson
September	Pastor David	Linda Dilley
October	Violet Dauk	Julie Bajari
November	Scott & Tammy Wachter	Nancy Jo Wendt
December	Wendy Robbin	Bryson Wachter

Thot for a day: The secret of managing life is to keep the folks who can't stand you away from the folks who are undecided.

Elders

June 3	Jason Miller & Troy Hansen
June 17	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
July 1	Scott Wachter & Troy Hansen
July 15	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp

Acolyte

June & July	Children's Church Kids
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Usher / Greeter Schedule

June 3	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer	Bryson W
June 10	Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle	Laurel I
June 17	Kevin & Noah Welsh	Bonnie H
June 24	Vern Samuelson & Wally Abraham	

July 1	Jamie & Phil Iverson	Bryson W
July 8	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weffen	Laurel I
July 15	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter	Bonnie H
July 22	Lonny Robbin & Jason Olson	
July 29	Troy Hansen & Brady Sharp	

LWML Meetings June, July & August:

The LWML meet in member's homes over the summer months. The June meeting will be at Pam Johnson's on Wednesday, June 13 @ 6:30p.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church on the Web

Our Website:

Information about our church, calendar of events, schedules, past newsletters, and more at <http://www.livingwordlutheran.net>

Our Blog:

The latest in information, news, views, and interesting items from Living Word Lutheran at

<http://livingwordlutheranlcms.blogspot.com/>

**Link is also found on home page of our website*

Facebook:

Posting the daily bible readings, church activities, and taking prayer requests! Go to www.facebook.com to sign up for your free account. Already on Facebook? Go to <http://www.facebook.com/people/Living-Word-Lutheran-Church/100002935463148>

**Link is also found on home page of our website*

Inspirational Message...

A daughter complained to her father about life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of struggling. It seemed that as soon as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In one he placed carrots, in the second he placed eggs, and the last he placed ground coffee beans. He let them sit and boil, without saying a word.

The daughter sucked her teeth and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. In about twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then he ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her he asked, "What do you see?" "Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

He brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. She smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. She said, "What's the point?" He explained that each of the items had faced the same adversity - boiling water - but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong and hard. But after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.



"Which are you?" he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

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Thot for a day: He who lives in a glass house should not invite in he who is without sin.

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My name is Paul Otte. I am the Minister of Music at Peace Lutheran (LCMS) in Hutchinson. My wife and I are leading a tour to Germany this fall with an emphasis on the Reformation. We'll be in Wittenberg on Reformation Day.

We have eight spaces left to fill up the tour. Anyone interested can call 320-583-8873 or email me at otte@hutchtel.net to get a full brochure.

German History and Heritage Tour

14 Days

October 28-November 11, 2012

from \$3669-incl. air/hotels/meals
& all ground transportation

Tour Highlights

- Discover Berlin - Vibrant city of culture, architecture, history, and world class museums and gardens
- Visit Potsdam - retreat of Frederick the Great
- Experience Wittenberg on Reformation Day where Luther lived for 36 years and sparked the Protestant Reformation
- Visit the historic castle of Torgau and the only church that Martin Luther personally designed
- Marvel at the newly reconstructed Frauenkirche and hear an organ recital in the exciting city of Dresden
- See Freiberg, a city never damaged in the war with the famous "tulip pulpit" and the world's finest organ
- Enjoy Leipzig where Bach spent most of his life
- Stay in a medieval convent in Eisleben, the town where Luther was born and where he died
- Mourn the depravity of man at Buchenwald
- Enter Eisenach's Wartburg Castle where Luther was imprisoned for his safety
- Be enchanted by Erfurt where Luther lived as a monk
- See the castle at Coburg where Luther lived six months working on his Bible translation
- Tour Nuremberg with the nightwatchman



- Cruise the beautiful Rhine
- Gaze up at Cologne's "skyscraper" cathedral
- Meet Charlemagne in Aachen where he was crowned
- Travel back in time to Trier, oldest Roman city in Germany, and see Porta Nigra and Roman excavations
- Hear echoes of Luther's trial at Worms and see his famous monument there
- Get the most out of the tour by attending free German History and Heritage presentations this summer
- Visit SEVEN UNESCO World Heritage sites
- Taste Thuringian Bratwurst, the finest beers in the world, and world famous German breads, pastries, cheeses, and more!

Hosted by

Paul & Barbara Otte



terra lu
www.terra-lu.com travel

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
320-587-5215

bpotte@mchsi.com

E-Mail Humor...

Get Well Quick

A little boy sent a "get well quick" card to his grandfather in the hospital. Inside the card he wrote:

Dear Grandpa,
Mama tells me that you went to the hospital for some tests.
I hope you get an "A"!
Love, Billy

Lying

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

Father of the Bride

At a wedding rehearsal, the minister told the father of the bride, "As you give your daughter's hand to the bridegroom, you should say something nice to him."

The father, a grocery store manager, took the advice. During the wedding ceremony, he placed the bride's hand on his son-in-law's arm and said, "No deposit, no return."

All We Need to Know

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

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Thot for a day: Before entering a battle of wits, check your ammunition.

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*Join us for
the 50th Anniversary of Ordination
of the Rev. Robert Friedrich*

Sunday June 24, 2012

***Redeemer Lutheran Church
1401 SW Sixth Street
Willmar, MN***



***Service of Celebration
10:30 A.M.***

Potluck dinner following

***Cake and Coffee Open House
1:00 to 3:00 P.M.***

Cards and greetings for Pastor and Irene may be sent to them in care of Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1401 SW Sixth Street, Willmar, MN 56201.

You can help with our Support of Heidi

We have committed to \$32/month to help pay for basic needs and Christian education opportunities for Heidi. Donations may be placed in the "Heidi" box on the usher table at church.

Sharing the Love of God In Practical Ways...

Accompanist Needed

Our 1st and 3rd Week accompanist Susan Johnson, has moved to Hudson, WI, so we are in need of people who can help in worship by providing accompaniment on piano, organ or keyboard. Please talk to Pastor David if you can help - or know of someone who can. Thanks!

Building Help Needed

We have lots of opportunities to work together as the building goes up. If you didn't get a chance to indicate the tasks you could help with, please check the sign-up sheet. Thanks to Marcia Welsh and Nancy Jo Wendt for volunteering to match up work with workers.

Altar Guild Help Needed

The Altar Guild is in need of more helpers to do things like set up/take down of communion. If you could assist with that, please contact Mona Hjelle. Thanks!

Use Our Make-A-Meal Program

Several years ago we began the Make-A-Meal program as a way to share Jesus' love with people going through a tough time. **Please use the Prayer and Care cards in the attendance pad at worship** or call Pastor David or Meal Coordinator Linda Dilley if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks!

Elders Available For Prayer After Worship

God tells us in the book of James (5:14-15), *"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray.... Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord."* Our Living Word Elders (Troy Hansen, Kevin Welsh, Jason Miller and Brady Sharp) will be available each week after worship at the front of the sanctuary to pray with you.

Prayer List from Worship Available to Take Home

We have begun printing off the prayer requests from worship, so you can take them home and keep them in your prayers during the week.

Pray "together" at 11:09. As before, we can pray together even when we are not physically together by taking time to pray at the same time each day (11:09) wherever we are.

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Thot for a day Forgive your enemies. It messes with their heads.

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Story Behind The Song...

Since the June issue of the Newsletter 'hits the stands' on Trinity Sunday it seemed only appropriate to focus on a song that, like the Sunday, celebrates the doctrine of the Trinity; the fact that God is three persons - the Father, the Son (God incarnate in Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit - yet one God.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826) was a Bishop in the Church of England. He wrote the hymn Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty in 1826 for a Trinity Sunday celebration. After Heber's unexpected death at age 43, his wife found the song amongst some of his writings, and passed it on to noted musician John B. Dykes (1823-1876), who composed and arranged the hymn for publication.

Heber wrote the lyrics for 57 hymns. During his lifetime his most famous hymn was "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," which exhorted missionary efforts to be made in the more difficult and remote cultures and climates. While that hymn is still sung in churches today, the hymn penned by Heber that has stood the test of time on earth, is the hymn whose words echo the ongoing worship of heaven: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty."

Heber was impressed by the holiness of God. Whether in England, with the prevalence of vice, or in Calcutta, where people worshiped idols, he would often write "Only Thou art holy." He used the symbolism of "three" repeatedly throughout his hymn. For example, God is "holy, merciful and mighty," He's "perfect in power, in love and purity," He's worshiped by saints, cherubim, and seraphim, and He's praised "in earth and sky and sea." Through these consistent units of three, this hymn describes and worships God in three persons.

Dykes composed the tune Nicaea for this hymn in 1861. The name of the tune is a tribute to the First Council of Nicaea which affirmed the biblical teaching that God is Three-in-One, and formalized into creedal form what has become our Nicene creed.

The hymn text and tune were first published together in 1861. Since that time, this popular hymn has appeared in hundreds of hymnals and been translated into many languages.

The text paraphrases a couple of passages - one in the Old Testament and one in the New - where people saw visions of worship in heaven. The first is Isaiah's vision of the 'throne

room' in Isaiah 6:1-5.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

The second is from chapter four of the Apostle John's Revelation:

Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. 8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Alfred Lord Tennyson felt "Holy, Holy, Holy" was the world's greatest hymn. It truly does call us to worship our God, falling down before him with those who sing in Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty."

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Thot for a day: Honesty is the best policy, but insanity is a better defense.

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Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, bless'd Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, bless'd Trinity!

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



.. it is more blessed to give than receive.
Acts 20:35 (The Pitcher's Proverb)