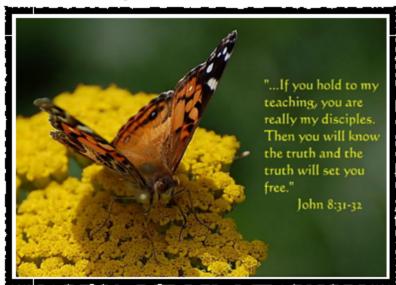


July 2013 Newsletter



"Communicating the Love of Jesus"
Worship Hours:

Christian Growth Hour: 9:00 a.m. Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church

PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273

Located north of the New London Township Hall on Cty Rd 9 NE

Phone: 320-354-4637

Email: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net 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...

More Questions about heaven:

Will I recognize and know my relatives & friends?

Of all the questions I get, it seems the majority fall into the category of "what will heaven be like?". God reminds us that our time here on this earth is very temporary and that our true citizenship is in heaven, so it's only natural to wonder what heaven will be like. There's a contemporary Christian song that sums it up pretty well: I Can Only Imagine. In other words, heaven - our never-ending life on the new earth God will create for all those who trust in His Son (see last month's Question for Pastor) - is so far greater than anything we can understand that often the best we can do is imagine what it will he like.

God hasn't told us a lot about eternity - certainly not anywhere close to everything we'd like to know. This really makes sense when you think about it. God trying to describe eternity to us - who have never experienced anything like it - would be like me attempting to describe one of God's amazing sunsets to a person who has been blind since birth.

God does, however, tell us some general facts about heaven that we can understand and relate to. For example, in Matthew 13:44-46 Jesus tells two really short parables, one about a pearl and one about hidden treasure, making the simple point that heaven is so great that it's worth selling everything you have just to get it. And in Revelation 21 God describes heaven in terms of what will not be there: Evil, death, Satan, crying, pain, mourning, sin. All of those are bad things we are all-too-well acquainted with, so we can understand at least a little of the great joy of heaven by knowing

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that those bad things will not ever be part of our experience there.

Of the things God does tell us about eternity in the Bible, the one that stands out as being emphasized most is this: We will see God - with our very own eyes! We will live forever in His visible presence. (The hardest part of our life here on earth right now just may be having to "see" God with only our mind's eye - our faith.)

So, what about the specific question at hand? Will we be able to see and know our friends and relatives there?

Where should we look for answers to that question? It is really tempting to look to the great number of books people have written recently about heaven. Many of those have been written by people who have died and were brought back to life. (It strikes me that one sure-fire way to get rich quick would be to write a book about heaven. People will flock to the shelves to buy it!)

Some of the things written about heaven in these books may actually be true. Some may not - just something imagined. Unfortunately, we really have no way of knowing which things are true and which are wishful thinking until we actually get to heaven. We do know that our human nature is going to tend to lead us to believe the things from those books that we want to believe. I want to believe that the Twins will win the World Series this year too. The problem is that wanting something to happen doesn't mean it actually will/happen that way. (In the case of the Twins winning the World Series I'd guess you'd have at least a 99% chance of it not happening.)

So, has God given any indication in *His* book about an answer to this question? (And remember *His* book - the Bible - is the one we can trust 100%)

I would have to say that YES, God has given us something to base an answer on. In the gospel accounts of the "Transfiguration" - Matthew 17, Mark 9 and Luke 9 - Jesus "opens up the heavens" to give Peter, James and John a glimpse of eternity. One thing they see is that Jesus is shining an indication of His divinity. The other thing they witness with their very own eyes (not their imaginations) is a couple of folks chatting with Jesus - folks who had never met on this earth. Guys named Moses and Elijah. In this glimpse of heaven, not only do Moses and Elijah obviously know who Jesus is, the assumption is that they also know each other. Not only that, but Peter, James and John also immediately recognize Moses

and Elijah even though they had never seen even a picture of either of them. (I've got to think that Moses and Elijah weren't wearing little "My Name Is:" tags so that the disciples would know who they were.)

If we will be able to recognize people we have not met and didn't know on earth, how much more will be able to recognize and know those we did know on earth!

Thanks for asking Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Building-Front Cross Dedicated on June 23



The members of Living Word would like to express their gratitude to the family of Randy Nissen who are gathered here in front of the cross they gave in memory of their husband, son, father and brother. The cross is an LC-MS style three-dimensional cross and was made from solid white oak by Mike Torison of New London.

In Addition to the Cross, You May Have Noticed...

- A New 'Living Word' sign by the driveway
- · Our new sidewalk on the south side of the building
- · Landscape rock and flower planters also on the south side
- New grass growing on the west and north sides

Thanks to all the folks who have made these things happen!

Page 4

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Page 5

F-Mail Humor

The Stone Step

The congregation of a small stone church decided that the stone which formed the step up to the front door had become too worn by its years of use, and would have to be replaced. As a sign of the faithfulness of members over the years, the stone had a pronounced dip in the middle, well-worn by parishioners entering and leaving the chapel.

Unfortunately, there were hardly any funds available for the replacement. Then someone came up with the bright idea that the replacement could be postponed for many years by simply turning the block of stone over.

They discovered that their great-grandparents had beaten them to it.

Overshadowed by Jesus' love

A minister was conducting the funeral of a rather unsavory character who had never been near a place of worship in his life. Though he had not known the man, the preacher poured on the praise for the dearly departed. After 10 minutes of hearing the dead man described in terms of endearment as a husband, father, boss and neighbor, the widow's expression grew more and more puzzled. She nudged her son and ordered, "Go up there and make sure it's your father in that casket."

If we were to hear Jesus standing before God the Father describing our lives, we might look puzzled, too. That's because when the blood of Christ is poured over my life and your life, it becomes unrecognizable. God will not see us as sinners; he will only see the love of Jesus overshadowing us.

Congratulations!

- Kim & Cody Strohbeen on the birth of your daughter Zoey!
- · Alyssa Wachter on your new teaching position!
- Kim & John England on the news that you are expecting a baby.

Please email <u>pastor@livingwordlutheran.net</u>if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

That for a day:

Silence is

Upholding Marriage: God's Plan and Gift

A statement by the Rev. Bart Day, executive director, LC-MS Office of National Mission June 26, 2013

Today the Supreme Court issued its ruling, striking down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), allowing for federal benefits for legally married gay couples and potentially allowing for gay marriage in all of California with regard to Proposition 8. Though the ruling is not a surprise, we are saddened for our nation, even as we call our fellow Christians to faithfulness and prayer.

As Christians, we believe and confess that God Himself instituted marriage as the life-long union of one man and one woman. Same-sex unions are contrary to God's will, and gay marriage is, in the eyes of God, no marriage at all. As Christians, we proclaim this truth, no matter what the courts or legislatures may say. We are called not to popularity but to truth. Therefore, we call on our fellow Christians to be faithful first to God's Word, knowing that another court is ultimately supreme.

Marriage is a fundamental building block of society, binding parents to their offspring. Every child benefits from the nurture of a mother and the leadership of a father. While having one mother is a blessing, having two mothers or two fathers is confusing for the child and detrimental to her well-being. The divorce culture has done great harm to the institution of marriage as well, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has and will continue to respond to that heartache with Christ's comfort while simultaneously working to restore a culture where marriage is upheld.

While this occasion reminds us that Scripture calls homosexuality sinful (see Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:24–27), the Bible also says plainly that those who "hunger and thirst for righteousness," that is to say, those who repent and show genuine sorrow over their sin, are forgiven and loved by Christ.

And so as Christ's Church, we forgive and love too, following His lead with compassion and humility. We forgive and love because we are all sinners in need of His grace and mercy; because no matter the sin, we have all rebelled against our Creator and fallen prey to unbelief; because He has justified us by grace through faith, freely given and joyfully received (Rom. 3:23–24); because Christ has reconciled us to the Father; because He has declared us righteous and we are.

The LCMS will continue to teach marriage according to God's plan and gift. We will continue to proclaim marriage as a picture of Christ's love for His bride, the church. And we will continue to be a place of forgiveness, mercy and healing for all people, even as we will continue to proclaim God's truth in love. As we move forward, we offer up our prayers for the nation and particularly for marriage, family and children.

Rev. Bart Day, executive director LCMS Office of National Mission

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Mark Your Calendars...

Mission & Ministry Team

Meets on the 3rd WEDNESDAY of the month for the summer months (May - August)

NEW This Summer: "The Picnic Service" Saturday, June 29 -

Now that we have our own land we can hold outdoor worship. So... the Living Word Elders' Team as decided to do just that. The last Saturday of June, July and August we will hold what we are calling "The Picnic Service" at 5:30 p.m. We will worship outdoors - picnic style. That means you bring whatever you want to sit on - a blanket, a lawn chair, a horse even. And the Elders will bring something to throw on the grill after worship - hot dogs, brats or burgers.

As it sounds, The Picnic Service will have a more informal format with camp songs, a message and prayers. It's a great opportunity to utilize the land God has blessed us with, as well as provide an alternative to Sunday morning worship for those who may be out of town that Sunday.

Mark your calendar and bring some friends (and, of course, something to sit on).

Sunday School News...

During the summer we have plans to keep the kids connected with a special activity each month. In June we took a group of kids to Lutheran Island Camp for a fun "VBS Day." Here's what's coming up:

- + JULY ACTIVITY: **Building birdhouses / feeders** and placing them around our land. Tuesday evening, July 23
- + AUGUST ACTIVITY: **VBS** is set for late August. Possibly Aug. 22-23 (2 sessions with celebration service). Celebration Service on the 25th.

Elected to Serve...

Officers elected to serve beginning July 1:

Vice Chairman Tim Geer
Treasurer Jason Olson
Congregational Outreach Linda Dilley

Elders: Mark Fuglie, Kevin Welsh

Christian Growth - Education Mona Hjelle

Opportunities for Growth...

<u>Sunday Morning Study:</u> Sundays at 9:00 am "God's Resurrection Power for His People"

This month we continue a study on the book of Ephesians. The power that God displayed when He raised Jesus from the grave is also available for the church - all believers in Jesus. Join us Sunday mornings to find how that Power is available to you.

Sunday Night Youth Group

For youth (grades 5+) from 7:00 to 9:00

Sunday nights will include some activities, a short study, and some snacks, along with other special things. Please come and hang out, bring some friends, have some fun, and learn about God. (P.S. we will also try and mix in a special event night every once and a while.)

Confirmation: JULY FUNDRAISER:

We will be scraping, priming and painting a cabin on Long Lake (Dates to be determined)

Children's Church for the Summer:

Children's Church takes a break for the remainder of the summer. In its place, the kids will receive activity bags with books and activities to complete during the sermon. Pastor will hand these out at the end of the Children's Message.

Mom's Study: takes a break for the Month of July

Men's Study: takes a break for the Month of July Men's Study Summary: Creation vs. Evolution

- When it comes to this issue remember to trust the words of the One... ... who was there
 - ... and who knows everything
- 2. The evidence is on the side of Creation
- (You aren't stupid for believing that God created everything)
- Just because a scientist or professor says it, doesn't make it true. (Remember in the 1970's they told us we were entering an ice age.)
- This is a Foundational issue. (Our faith crumbles if there's no Creator. So does our society - see #5)
- Evolution is at the foundation of many of today's problems (Without a Creator, each person can do what's right in their own eyes)

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Wednesday Noon Women's Study:

takes a break for the Month of July

Insights from our Wednesday Study: "You've Got an Attitude"

- Maybe most important to remember is that you don't have to be a slave to your attitude. YOU CAN CHANGE IT.
- Humility is one of the attitudes God values greatly.
- Humility ...is the abilityto know "It's not about me."
- You won't be humble until you find your value in God not in what others think.
- · Your attitude follows what you focus on
- Learn from the past, but don't focus on it! (Because you can't change it)

Find someone (Like Jesus) who models good attitudes, and imitate them.

Could You Host A Small Group Study This Summer?

One of our Core Values at Living Word is that making disciples (people who are committed to growing to become more like Jesus) happens best in small group settings.

For example, it's easier for people to get connected to Jesus through small groups. It's easier to get to know other Christians in small groups. Caring happens best in small groups. With that in mind we'd like to "plant" more small groups this spring. If you could host a small group study - at your home, a coffee house or at church, please talk to Pastor David. There are many different kinds of studies available. We can find one that fits your situation.

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:

Keep up with the latest news and scripture lessons from Pastor Dave at http://livingwordlutheranlcms.blogspot.com/

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-

http://www.facebook.com/people/Living-Word-Lutheran-Church/100002935463148

*Link is also found on home page of our website

Thot for a day: All I ask is a chance to prove

July - Daily Devotionals

We begin the month finishing our readings about being holy. Then we begin our "Summer Reading" - short books of the Bible you can read in a week (or so) by just reading a chapter a day. Record your insights as you read. God will bless your reading!

	Wk of June 30 Daily Readings Holy Things
July 1	2 Timothy 1:8-9
July 2	2 Timothy 3:12-15
July 3	Hebrews 2:10-11
July 4	1 Peter 1:13-16
July 5	2 Peter 3:10-14
July 6	Revelation 4:8-11
	Wk of July 7 Daily Readings Ruth: Loyalty in Action; Joel: Repent!
July 7	Ruth 1
July 8	Ruth 2
July 9	Ruth 3
July 10	Ruth 4
July 11	Joel 1
July 12	Joel 2
July 13	Joel 3
	Wk of July 14 Daily Readings Nahum & Jonah: God's dealings with Ninevah
July 14	Nahum 1
July 15	Nahum 2

July 16	Nahum 3
July 17	Jonah 1
July 18	Jonah 2
July 19	Jonah 3
July 20	Jonah 4
July 21	Wk of July 21 Daily Readings: Esther: No Coincidences with God Esther 1
July 22	Esther 2
July 23	Esther 3
July 24	Esther 4
July 25	Esther 5
July 26	Esther 6
July 27	Esther7
July 28	Wk of July 28 Daily Readings Esther; Malachi: Q & A from God Esther 8
July 29	Esther 9
July 30	Esther 10
July 31	Malachi 1
Aug 1	Malachi 2
Aug 2	Malachi 3
Aug 3	Malachi 4

July 2013 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 30 9:00 Adult Study: Ephesians 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 7:00 Youth Group	9:30 Mcm's Study Godly Attitudes		3 H★PPY PENDENCE D★Y	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	4:00 Baptism: Zoey Strohbeen
9:00 Adult Study: 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Elders' Team 7:00 Youth Group		9 5:30 Helpwith Tuesday's Table at NL Covenant	10 6:30 LWML	8:15 Church League Softball (Yellow)	PLEASE REMEME 11:09 EVERYDA (inspired by Luke: you, Ask and it will Seek and you will the door will be op	NY 11:9: "So I say to Il be given to you; find; Knock and
9:00 Adult Study: 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 7:00 Youth Group	15	16	6:30 Mission & Ministry Team	Ling Liverd	19	11:00 Water Days Parade Outreach
9:00 Adult Study: 10:00 Worship - wLord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 7:00 Youth Group	22	23 Sunday School Kids "Make & Place Birdhouses & Feeders"	24	TBA Church League Softball Playoffs	26 CHURCH COOKOUT	5:30 'Picnic Service' (Grilling after)
9:00 Adult Study 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 7:00 Youth Group	• Sur	30 S SUPPER DATES IN Inday, July 7th Inday, July 21st	JUNE:	Aug 1 TBA Church League Softball Playoffs	Aug 2	Aug 3

Upcoming Schedules...

Scri	pture	Read	ers

July 7	Kevin Welsh
July 14	Linda Dilley
July 21	Mark Fuglie
July 28	Tammy Fuglie
Aug 4	Duane Hansen

Aug 4	Duane Hansen
Aug 11	Tammy Wachter
Aug 18	Eve Bajari
Aug 25	Terrell Abbott

Fellowship Servers

July 7	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
July 14	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
July 21	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
July 28	Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky

Aug 4	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Aug 11	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Aug 18	Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
Aug 25	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson

Children's Church Schedule

Children's Church takes a break for the remainder of the summer. Instead, at the end of Children's Message the kids will receive activity bags with books and activities to complete during the sermon.

Confirmation Meal

<u>Custodian</u>

July	Pam Johnson family
August	Wendy & Lonny Robbin

<u>Elders</u>

July 7	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
July 21	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Aug 4	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
Aug 18	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter

Usher Schedule

July 7	Kevin & Noah Welsh
July 14	Jamie & Phil Iverson
July 21	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
July 28	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter

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olite and courteous in the home and, w	e his car onto a freeway.
child to be polite and cour	ever be able to merge
y: Teach a chilo	up, he'll nev

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Aug 4	Lonny Robbin & Jason Olson
Aug 11	Troy Hansen & Brady Sharp
Aug 18	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Aug 25	Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle

Make A Meal Volunteers

July	Scott & Tammy Wachter & Nancy Jo Wendt
Aug	Wendy Robbin & Bryson Wachter

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

July 7	Carson Jaspersen
July 14	Noah Miller
July 21	Andy Sharp
July 28	Lance Sawatzky

Aug 4	George Arends-Schmidt
Aug 11	Carson Jaspersen
Aug 18	Noah Miller
Aug 25	Andy Sharp

Altar Guild

July Nancy Jo Wendt

Accompanying Musicians

Accompanying musicians				
July 7	Sharon Willen			
July 14	Pam Johnson			
July 21	Scott Wachter			
July 28	Scott Wachter			
Aug 4	Sharon Willen			
Aug 11	Pam Johnson			
Aug 18	Scott Wachter			
Aug 25	Scott Wachter			

LWML News...

Our next meeting will be July 10 at 6:30.



July Discipleship Verse...



"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:31

Update from Jade Dohls...

When I share with you all, I usually try to highlight stories of joy and inspiration. But the fact is, working with refugees is not all joy and inspiration, and I think it is important for you all to see the dark side of my work as well.



In March I was introduced to Isaiah, a lone refugee who had been in Bangkok for two years. Like many refugees, he had absolutely zero resources to survive. Nothing.

Life Raft was not able to help him on a monthly basis, but I was able to connect him to another organization, Generation Miracle, which gave some assistance. As I got to know him, I was confronted with the darkness that refugees can experience when they are isolated and faced with a system that rejects them.

To really understand what he experienced, I think that Isaiah can explain it best in his own words. Below is a series of text messages I received from him over the course of a few days. These were written from shadows of his dark, bare room. Once a man full of life and passion, life in Bangkok had reduced Isaiah to a pile of protruding bone

April 2: I'm in jail. I can't go to the right or to the left because of my past, I DON'T TRUST ANYBODY! I need my fears for security...

April 26: I'm underground; no fan, no light. It's like my grave; an individual cell, but for what crime?

Isaiah's desperation and isolation reached a point where he felt all hope was gone. He went on a hunger strike, was kicked out of his apartment, and was arrested by police. He is now in a real prison, where he will remain indefinitely. I hope to visit him soon.

One of the reasons that Isaiah's story is so devastating is because of its contrast with hope that the families we work with are able to experience. If you want to be cheered up, check out these blog posts at jadedols.com House of Peace, Worst Nightmare, and Making a \$100 Wedding Amazing.

Life Raft's vision is to reach more and more refugees so that they do not reach the point of depression and isolation that Isaiah experienced. We do this by connecting them with people, both in Bangkok and America.

If you would like to be a part of this work, you can take the first step to connecting and sponsoring a family at jadedols.com

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July 2013

The Link is 5 YEARS OLD in July! Thank you for being a part of this important min-

istry in our community. Our communities have great resources. However, the needs of families in our community exceed the resources that are available through federal, state or local assistance. The Link is often a resource of last resort when all resources are expended or there is a gap in the resources available in the communitv.

Some of the recent challenges that people in our community have sought the Link for assistance:

- a young couple starting new jobs and needed some gas to get
- a working parent in need of summer child care assistance because the child care assistance at the county has a waiting list
- a working parent facing a short-term health crisis (forced to quit his job) trying to survive on \$437 of county cash assistance; his rent is about \$500

These stories are just a few examples of the needs and challenges of our neighbors. The Link is able to assist in some of these situations. However, the need is always greater than the resources.

Thank you for your continued support of the Link and for reaching out to share God's love!

Pastor Mark Kopka - Faith Lutheran Church Link Advisory Board Member

Tuesday's Table in May: All are welcome!

July 2, 2013: CANCELLED

July 9, 2013: Evangelical Covenant Church July 16, 2013: Faith Lutheran Church

July 23, 2013: CANCELLED

July 30, 2013: Hope Presbyterian Church

Summer Fundraising Events to Support the Work of the fink!

Sunday, July 28th from 4-6 pm Spicer Music in the Park featuring the Mill Pond Jazz Quartet Bring a lawn chair!

Saturday, August 17th from 12-6 pm New London Music Festival

Bring a lawn chair! More info: http://newlondonmusicfestival.com

Donations can be sent to:

The Link 310 Medayto Drive Spicer, MN 56288 www.thelinknls.ora 320,796,2522

Needs: Household Exchange donations of gently used furniture, household goods and kitchenware.

Volunteers needed: Can you help out with our summer fundraising efforts?

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Opportunities to be a Friend Like Jesus...

Coordinate Our Water Days Parade Outreach

Saturday, July 20

Please talk to Pastor David if you (or your group) could coordinate our annual parade outreach. Thanks!

Make Pies (or Serve) for our Annual Pie & Ice Cream Outreach

At the New London Music Festival - Saturday, August 17 Please sign up today to make pies, set-up, take-down or serve. Thanks!

Be a Custodian for the Month of September

We still need families to volunteer for September-December. A check-list of duties is provided. Talk to Trustee Lonny Robbin and choose your month. Thanks

Finish Installing Baseboards

The moldings are ready to install in the hallway and bathrooms. All that's needed is a volunteer to put them on.

Use Our Make-A-Meal Program

Several years ago we began the Make-A-Meal program as a way to share Jesus' love/mercy 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 could use a meal as a reminder that we are thinking of them. Thanks!

Accompanists Still Needed

We are in need of people who can help in worship the third or fourth Sunday of each month by providing accompaniment on piano, organ or keyboard. Please talk to Pastor David if you know of someone who can help. Thanks!

Fulfill One Of These Requests from The Link:

The Link has had many requests for the following items the past couple of weeks:

- + Volunteer drivers
- + Help with lawn care
- + Fans and air conditioners (it is so HOT outside!) Please call the Link at 320.796.2522 if you are able to help out! Please talk to Pastor David if you (or your group) could coordinate our annual parade outreach. Thanks

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Tuesday's Table Success!



On Tuesday, June 11, Living Word served approximately 160 people at the Link-sponsored Tuesday's Table. Many thanks to everyone who helped - especially our organizing crew: Elaine Abraham, Laurel Iverson, Marcia Welsh and Nancy Jo Wendt! Pictured here with the tables all set are Elaine and Marcia. Until the next time we get to fill-in as a host church, we will be looking for volunteers to assist the folks at New London Covenant the 2nd Tuesday each month.

Creation-Safari Camp

(at Lutheran Island Camp)

Send your child on the ultimate journey of exploration. God has given us a wonderful place to search for strange animals, neat plants, big fish, and lots of bugs. During our Creation-Safari camps we'll be teaching youth to see just how miraculous those creations are. We'll have fun with butterflies, fish, horses, flowers, and bugs. This year our safari will take us to Christ Serve Ranch where we'll be camping in tents or tipis. At the same time we'll be taking a safari into God's word to hunt dinosaurs, giant fish, exotic plants, and strange weather patterns. Promises of God

Cost: \$290; Deposit:\$75

Dates: #1-July 7-12 Rustic at Christ Serve Ranch,

2-July 14-19 # 3-August 4-9

Ages:8-11

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

Without God This Would Be Our Week:

Sinday Mournday Tearsday Wasteday Thirstday Fightday Shatterday

7 Days Without God Makes One WEAK!

Just Be There

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside. "Your son is here," she said to the old man. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened.

Heavily sedated because of the pain of his heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed Marine standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand. The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse brought a chair so that the Marine could sit beside the bed. All through the night the young Marine sat there in the dimly lighted ward, holding the old man's hand and offering him words of love and strength.

Occasionally, the nurse suggested that the Marine move away and rest awhile. He refused.

Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious of her and of the night noises of the hospital - the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients. Now and then she heard him say a few gentle words. The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son all through the night.

Along towards dawn, the old man died. The Marine released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited.

Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy,

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Page 21

but the Marine interrupted her, "Who was that man?" he asked.

The nurse was startled, "He was your father," she answered.

"No, he wasn't," the Marine replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son, and his son just wasn't here. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed. I came here tonight to find a Mr. William Grey. His son was killed in Iraq today, and my orders were to inform him of this loss. What was this gentleman's name? "

The nurse with tears in her eyes answered, "Mr. William Grey."

[Personal thought: the next time someone needs you, just be there]

Church League Softball..

Come and cheer on your team (We're 5-2 as of June 28)

July 4	No Games	(holiday)
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July 11 8:15 Yellow Field July 18 No Games (Sonshine Festival)

July 25 Playoffs begin - Game time TBA Aug 1 Playoffs continue - Game time TBA

You can help with our Support of Heidy

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

WE HAVE NEW PEW BIBLES!

These were given in memory of Geneva Olson by her family.

We Also Have New Today's Light Bibles

- 1) For our Bible Studies
- 2) To take home or give to someone who needs a Bible

These were also given in memory of Geneva Olson by her family.

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Story Behind The Song...

Our National Hymn

Did you know that the United States of America does have an official hymn? No, it is not the "Star Spangled Banner".

Daniel C. Roberts, the 35 year-old rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, a small rural church in Brandon, Vermont, wanted a new hymn for his congregation to celebrate the American Centennial in 1876. He wrote "God of Our Fathers" and his congregation sang it to the tune Russian Hymn.

In 1892, he anonymously sent the hymn to the General Convention for consideration by the commission formed to revise the Episcopal hymnal. If approved, he promised to send his name. The commission approved it, printing it anonymously in its report. Rev. Dr. Tucker, who was the editor of the Hymnal, and George W. Warren, an organist in New York city, were commissioned to choose a hymn for the celebration of the centennial of the United States Constitution. They chose this text and Warren wrote a new tune for it, National Hymn, including the trumpet fanfare at the beginning of the hymn.

It was first published in Tucker's Hymnal, 1892, with this tune, then in 1894 in the Tucker and Rosseau's Hymnal Revised and Enlarged. These lyrics were also set to the hymn tune Pro Patria in Charles Hutchins' The Church Hymnal. But National Hymn prevailed and it is the tune to which "God of Our Fathers" is always sung today.

God of our Fathers (National Hymn)

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand Leads forth in beauty all the starry band Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past, In this free land by Thee our lot is cast, Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide and Stay, Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense; Thy true religion in our hearts increase, Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

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Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way, Lead us from night to never ending day; Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

Daniel C. Roberts, lyrics, 1876 George W. Warren, melody, 1892

Editor's note: Listen to a live version from Bill & Gloria Gaither and friends at http://youtu.be/rQpHsQez-JU

Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord. Ps 33:12 THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD! We should honor our Christian heritage or else fly our flags at half mast.