

October 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...

Why Did God Put Us Here - Why Do We Exist?

This is a question that people have been searching for an answer to for eons. It's the basic question of life.

There are all sorts of ways to head in an effort to answer this question. For example, one direction to go would be to answer it from the "God's purpose for us" perspective.

There are a bunch of right answers when it comes to God's purpose for us human beings. Maybe the one found most often in the Bible is the '3G' purpose. (For those of you who pay attention to such things, please know that this answer has nothing to do with cell-phone speed.) The '3G' answer is: Give God Glory. It is certainly biblically correct to say that we are here with a purpose of shining the spotlight on God with our words and actions.

But I believe the person who asked this question was coming at it from a different angle, from the perspective of "God's motivation" for creating us. What was His purpose?

There may also be several different levels of correct answers here. But for me the answer at the most basic level has to do with God's most basic characteristic. John in his first epistle (1 John 4:16) puts it very simply "God is love." (You can't get much simpler than a nine-letter sentence.) Since God's primary trait is love, it logically follows that He needs to have objects of his love. God needs being who can be the recipients of His loving actions. The most basic thing about love is that it is focused on others. It

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cannot exist in a vacuum. That means God needs Creatures who are capable of receiving His love.

God put us here to be the objects of His love. Maybe another way to think of it would be that God was creating a family for himself. (And - back to the "Our purpose" aspect of the question - since we have been created in His image, that means one of our most basic purposes is to return that love and follow His example, loving others like He loves us.)

I'd invite you to join our Sunday morning study to discover some of the other correct and "deeper" answers to that question. But the simplest answer may be that God is love and needs people to receive that love.

Thanks for asking Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net



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:

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

*Link is also found on home page of our website

Sunday School News...

Class Time: 9:00 - 9:45 every Sunday morning
 Teachers: Preschool - K: Amanda Sharp

1-3 grade - Jason Miller 4-6 grade - Violet Dauk

Substitutes still needed. Please talk to Mona if you can help.

Curriculum:

"Jesus is...A through Z" (names/titles of Jesus)

Oct: 6 Lesson 4: C - Carpenter, etc.

Oct 13 Lesson 5: D - Dayspring, Deliverer, Door, etc..

Oct 20 Lesson 6: E - Emanuel, Eternal, etc..
Oct 27 Lesson 7: F - Friend, Faithful & True, etc.

SS teachers' meetings:

After worship on the 2nd Sunday of each month

Ten Differences Between Living and Dying Churches:

- Live churches are filled with folk with Bibles in hand; dead churches are not.
- Live churches are intense and earnest about praise; dead churches are not.
- Live churches have parking problems; dead churches do not.
- Live churches have lots of "noisy" youth; dead churches do not.
- Live churches move by faith; dead churches inch along by sight.
- Live churches support missions very heavily; dead churches keep all their money "at home."
- Live churches focus on people; dead churches focus on problems.
- Live churches are filled with tithers; dead churches are filled with tippers.
- Live churches have the fresh wind of love blowing; dead churches are given to bickering.
- Live churches evangelize; dead churches fossilize.

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Miscellaneous Notes...

Last Call For Time Capsule Items

Bring something that signifies our faith and church at this point in time. Maybe a cd, movie, book, photos, predictions, news clippings, etc.... Also bring a favorite Bible passage to show even though some elements of our faith and religion change over the years, the most important - the rock-solid foundation that is the Living Word of God - never will..

Church Directory Pictures

If you didn't get your directory picture taken earlier this year, there's still time to bring a picture for us to include. Please talk to Linda Dilley.

Nursery Replaces "Children's Church"

Living Word is currently offering a nursery for 2-4 year olds (give or take). To make this happen we will need some volunteers to help. Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you'd like to help out one Sunday a month.

In place of Children's Church, 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.

LWML News...

 Thanks to Everyone who helped in any way with Mike Knutson's Benefit



Living Word Shirts & Sweatshirts

Are available to order. See the order form on page 7 in this newsletter.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 9 at 6:30.

Mark Your Calendars...

Fall Voters' Assembly

Sunday, October 27 after worship.

The purpose of the fall assembly is to approve both a 2014 budget and 2014 ministry goals. The Mission and Ministry Team came up with a set of recommended goals at their September planning meeting. They will be preparing a proposed budget at their October meeting.

Thot for a day: I

E-Mail Humor

A counselor was helping his kids put their stuff away on their first morning in summer camp. He was surprised to see one of the youngsters had an umbrella.

The counselor asked, "Why did you bring an umbrella to camp?"

The kid answered, "Didn't you ever have a mom?"











Ole's Farm (of no theological significance whatsoever)

Government surveyors came to Ole's farm in the fall and asked if they could do some surveying. Ole agreed, and Lena even served them a nice meal at noon time.

The next spring, the two surveyors stopped by and told Ole, "Because you were so kind to us, we wanted to give you this bad news in person instead of by letter."

Ole replied, "What's the bad news?"

The surveyors stated, "Well, after our work here, we discovered your farm is not in Minnesota but is actually in Wisconsin!"

Ole looked at Lea and said, "That's the best news I have heard in a long time. I just told Lena this morning that I don't think I can take another winter in Minnesota."











What is God watching?

At a certain church gathering, one of the "Church Basement Ladies" stacked a pile of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - God is watching."

On the other end of the table was a pile of cookies on which a confirmation student had placed a sign saying, "Take all the cookies you want - God is watching the apples."

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

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Living Word Shirt Order Form... Page 7

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH Shirt Order Form



Embroidened Polo Shirt Front Left embroidered POLO COLORS

Embroidered Polo Shirt

Port Authority 100% Cotton 6.2 oz Adult Size: S. M. L. XL \$25.95

Embroidened V. Nech V-NECK COLORS

Embroidered Performance V-Neck Sport-Tek 5 oz. 95/5 Poly/Spandex Loose Athletic Fit Adult Size: XS, S, M, L, XL \$17.95 2XL, 3XL \$19.95

Qty	Description	Color	Size	Price	Total
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PLE	ASE PRINT				
PHONE	EMAIL				

Return order forms with check payable to Living Word Lutheran Church Production will not start until after the order deadline when all orders are in.

Full color form can be downloaded from www.livingwordlutheran.net/order.pdf

Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study: Sundays at 9:00 am

"Who Am I - and What Am I Doing Here?"

These are the BIG questions that eventually confront each one of us. They usually begin to pop up when we are kids. We ask and we wonder. But unfortunately, these questions don't go away with time. We might choose to ignore them or cover them up with distractions or rationalizations. But eventually each of us returns to these questions about our own existence and the reason for being. Thankfully God has the answers. In this study we will see how He answers these nagging questions.



Men's Study:

Starts Tuesday, September 10 @ 6:30pm

"Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School"

(Plus: NEW "Baloney Shop" Episodes)



Mom's Study:

Wednesdays at 9:30 Soul Detox

Wednesday Noon Women's Study:

Soul Detox Wednesdays at noon

Soul Detox is a five-week video-based study designed to help us get free from all the toxins that weigh down our souls:

- Lethal Language Experiencing the Power of Life-Giving Words
- 2. Scare Pollution Unlocking the Chokehold of Fear
- 3. Radioactive Relationships Loving Unhealthy People Without Getting Sick
- 4. Septic Thoughts Overcoming Our False Beliefs
- 5. Germ Warfare Cleansing Our Lives of Cultural Toxins

Sunday Night Youth Group

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

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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:

This month we will continue our video Bible overview on Wednesday nights as well as do our fall Adopt-A-Highway service project

Could You Host A Small Group Study This Fall?

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.

COMING Saturday, Oct 26th: What Does the LC-MS Believe?

Pastor will be hosting a "What does the Missouri Synod believe" dass for those interested in membership at Living Word.

Plans are to hold this dass on Saturday

morning, October 26 at 9:00. Please talk to Pastor David if you'd like to take the class, but don't have that day available. Thanks!

REMEMBER... We Have New Today's Light Bibles

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

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



Parents & Grandparents:

Daily Dozen of Christian Parenting sessions continue on Sunday evenings at 6pm. Please feel free to join us even if you missed the first couple sessions.

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October - Daily Devotionals

This month we continue reading the "100 (or so) Key Chapters" of the Bible. Each of these chapters from the Old Testament will help you come to a greater understanding of God and prepare you for better understanding what you read in the New Testament.

Record your insights from these chapters on the lines provided.

	Wk of Sept 29 Daily Readings Key Chapters on Entering the Promised Land
Sept 30	Deuteronomy 11
Oct 1	Deuteronomy 28
Oct 2	Joshua 3
Oct 3	Joshua 5:13-6:27
Oct 4	Joshua 24
Oct 5	Judges 2
Oct 7	Wk of Oct 6 Daily Readings Key Chapters about Early Leadership in Israel Judges 6
Oct 8	Ruth 1
	1 Samuel 1
Oct 10	1 Samuel 8
Oct 11	1 Samuel 16-17
Oct 12	2 Samuel 11-12
	Wk of Oct 13 Daily Readings Key Chapters about Israel Under Kings
Oct 14	1 Kings 3
Oct 15	1 Kings 8

Oct 16	1 Kings 17-19
Oct 17	2 Kings 2
Oct 18	2 Kings 17
Oct 19	2 Kings 25
	Wk of Oct 20 Daily Readings Key Chapters in Israel's History
Oct 21	1 Chronicles 29
Oct 22	2 Chronicles 7
Oct 23	Ezra 1
Oct 24	Esther 3-4
Oct 25	Job 38-41
Oct 26	Job 42
	Wk of Oct 27 Daily Readings: Key Chapters in the Psalms
Oct 28	Psalm 1 & 19
Oct 29	Psalm 23 & 27
Oct 30	Psalm 32 & 46
Oct 31	Psalm 51 & 91
Nov 1	Psalm 100 & 127
Nov 2	Psalm 139 & 145

October 2013 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

			· ·			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship	Sept 30	1 6:30 Men's Study	9:30 Moms' Study "Soul Detax"	3	4	5
11:15 Fellowship 6:00 Daily Dozen of Parenting 7:00 Youth Group		"Stuff they didn't teach me in Sunday School"	"Soul Detox" 6:30 Confirmation @ Michelle's	SOUL		
6 LWML SUNDAY	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 6:00 Daily Dozen of Parenting 7:00 Youth Group	9:00 Pastors' Conf	5:30 Helpwith Tuesday's Table at NL Covenant 6:30 Men's Study "Stuff they didn't teach me in Sunday School"	9:30 Morns' Study "Soul Detax" noon Wed. Noon Study "Soul Detox" 6:00 Confirmation @ Gracie's 6:30 LWML	11:0 (insp Ask you	ASE REMEMBER TO DO EVERYDAY Dired by Luke 11:9: " and it will be given to will find; Knock and med to you")	So I say to you, o you; Seek and
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00 Adult Study: Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Elders' Tearn SS Teachers' Mtg. 6:00 Daily Dozen of Parenting 7:00 Youth Group	STURE THEY DOWN THE ACE AND IN SUNDAY SCHOOL	6:30 Men's Study "Stuff they didn't teach me in Sunday School"	9:30 Moms' Study "Soul Detox" noon Wed. Noon Study "Soul Detox" 6:30 NO Confirmation (MEA)	6:30 Mission & Ministry Team	LORD'S SUPPER • Sunday, Octob • Sunday, Octob	er 6th
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship - wLord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 7:00 Youth Group		6:30 Men's Study "Stuff they didn't teach me in Sunday School"	9:30 Moms' Study noon Wed. Noon Study 6:30 Confirmation @ Eve's			9:00 What Does the LCMS Believe? New member dass
27	28	29	30	31	Nov1	Nov 2
9:00 Adult Study: Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 FALL VOTERS' MEETING 7:00 Youth Group		6:30 Men's Study "Stuff they didn't teach me in Sunday School"	9:30 Morns' Study noon Wed. Noon Study 6:30 Confirmation		3	

Upcoming Schedules...

Kevin Welsh

Scripture Readers

Oct 6

Oct 13 Linda Dillev Oct 22 Mark Fuglie Oct 29 Tammy Fuglie Nov 3 Duane Hansen Nov 10 Tammy Wachter Nov 17 Eve Bajari Nov 24 Scott Wachter

Fellowship Servers

0ct 6 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller Oct 13 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham Oct 20 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen Oct 27 Nov 3 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson Nov 10 Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky Nov 17 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie

Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller

Nursery

Nov 24

Oct 6 Mona Hjelle Oct 13 Eve Bajari Oct 20 Grace Geer Oct 27 Michelle Johnson

Nov 3 Mona Hjelle Nov 10 Eve Bajari Nov 17 Grace Geer Nov 24 Michelle Johnson

Altar Guild

October Nancy Jo Wendt November Mona Hjelle

Make A Meal Volunteers

October Jamie Iverson & Mona Hjelle November Grace Geer & Laurel Iverson

Custodian

++ Custodians Needed ++ October ++ Custodians Needed ++ November

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Elders Oct 6 Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp Oct 20 Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter Nov 3 Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp Nov 17 Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter

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Oct 6	Troy Hansen & Brady Sharp
Oct 13	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Oct 20	Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle
Oct 27	Kevin & Noah Welsh
Nov 3	Jamie & Phil Iverson
Nov 10	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
Nov 17	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Nov 24	Lonny Robbin & Jason Olson

Acolyte	(little brothers & sisters can help)
Oct 6	Levi Miller
Oct 13	Eli Sharp
Oct 20	Lance Sawatzky
Oct 27	George Arends-Schmidt
Nov 3	Carson Jaspersen
Nov 10	Noah Miller
Nov 17	Andy Sharp
Nov 24	Levi Miller

Accompanying Musicians

Oct 6	Pam Johnson
Oct 13	Scott Wachter
Oct 20	Sharon Willen
Oct 27	Scott Wachter
Nov 3	Sharon Willen
Nov 10	Scott Wachter
Nov 17	Pam Johnson
Nov 24	Scott Wachter

October Discipleship Verse...



"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children," Ephesians 5:1



Have you ever been the recipient of such kindness, you were overwhelmed with emotion, relieved as a huge burden was lifted from your back? The act of giving and gratefully receiving are critical to community wellness and vibrancy. So many times, the Link is able to give to fill a critical, unmet need in our community. This act of giving is a great honor, to be able to share God's abundance with our neighbors. MANY recipients of Link services give back through Tuesday's Table, receiving and paying back a revolving loan or through volunteering at a fundraising or distribution event.

A recent story about a Link client: Sharing is second nature to Joan (name has been changed.) She offers her gifts and talents to people all the time. Over the last few years, Joan has struggled with illness. As she has recovered, she has been more and more involved in the community. When her car broke down in May, Joan needed a loan to pay for the cost of a rebuilt transmission. No other community resources were available. Based on her long-standing relationship with the Link, taking a new part-time job and her commitment to "giving back", the Link provided a revolving loan to help with the cost of fixing her car. Joan has followed through with her work and repayment commitments! It is an honor to partner with her!

Thank you for your continued support and for reaching out to share God's love in our community.

Sincerely, Rhonda Otteson Link Director

Tuesday's Table in October: All are welcome!

October 1st: **Cancelled **
October 8th: Covenant Church
October 15th: Faith Lutheran Church
October 22nd: Peace Lutheran Church
October 29th: Hope Presbyterian Church

The purpose of Tuesday's Table is to build relationships among all of

God's people.

Exciting news!

The Link is happy to announce that the Community Choir Concert to benefit the Link will be Sunday, November 24th at 7 pm at Peace Lutheran Church in New London.

Everyone is invited to participate in the community choir and should attend practice on Sunday, November 17th at 7 pm. This year we will provide an additional opportunity to give through a pre-concert dinner and program. More details to come!

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Н	Т	Α	к	W		D	Е	Т	S	D	N	U	0	Р	SPLIT	WATERS
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now at 488 and have only 2 free passes remaining.

Signed.

(vour name)

Inspirational Story...

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. Well, as such things go, one thing led to another. The sales meeting lasted longer than anticipated.

Their flights were scheduled to leave out of Chicago's O'Hare Airport, and they had to race to the airport. With tickets in hand, they barged through the terminal to catch their flight back home. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table, which held a display of baskets of apples. Apples flew everywhere.

Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding, all but one. He paused, took a deep breath and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him and told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight.

Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the floor. He was glad he did. The 16-year-old girl at the apple stand was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her, no one stopping or to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them into the baskets, and helped set the display up once more. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket. When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$20 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears.

He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister...." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride, and he wondered. Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

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Do people mistake you for Jesus? That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace. If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting Scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day.

You are the apple of His eye even though we, too, have been bruised by the fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked you and me up on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit.



Congratulations!

Mari Geer on the birth of your baby boy Michael!

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

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

The boys had been up in the attic together helping with some cleaning. The kids uncovered an old manual typewriter and asked her, "Hey Mom, what's this?"

"Oh, that's an old typewriter," she answered, thinking that would satisfy their curiosity.

"Well, what does it do?" they gueried.

"I'll show you," she said and returned with a blank piece of paper. She rolled the paper into the typewriter and began striking the kevs, leaving black letters of print on the page.

"WOW!" they exclaimed, "That's really cool...but how does it work like that? Where do you plug it in?"

"There is no plug," she answered. "It doesn't need a plug."

"Then where do you put the batteries?" they persisted.

"It doesn't need batteries either," she continued.

"Wow! This is so cool!" they exclaimed. "Someone should have invented this a long time ago!"

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Opportunities to be a Servant Like Jesus...

Provide a "Project-With-A-Purpose" School Kit

VBS is over, but you can still help with our "Project with a Purpose" Put together a "School Kit". Information sheets detailing what to purchase for each kit can be found on the "Free Stuff" table

Be A Sunday School "Sub"

We need a couple substitute teachers. Talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help

Participate in the Community Choir Concert

(Benefit for The Link)

The Concert will be at Sunday, November 24, at Peace Lutheran. Practice on Nov. 17 @ 7pm and prior to the concert. Talk to Pastor David if you would like to be part of this choir.

Help With A Nursery

On Rally Sunday we began offering a nursery for 2-4 year olds (give or take). To make this happen we will need some volunteers to help. Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you'd like to help out one Sunday a month. Thanks!

Be a Custodian for the Month of October

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

Provide Pictures for Our 1st-Year Time Capsule

On Rally Sunday, September 8, we celebrate the first birthday of this building. We will be burying a time capsule with memories from this past year. Please bring any pictures you have of special events from this year.

Provide Church Directory Pictures

If you didn't get your directory picture taken earlier this year, there's still time to bring a picture for us to include. Please talk to Linda Dilley.

Use Our Make-A-Meal Program

A meal is a simple 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 Linda Dilley if you know someone who could use a meal as a reminder that we're

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thinking of them. Thanks! (Jamie Iverson & Mona Hjelle are our October Make-A-Meal volunteers)

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.



Story Behind The Song...

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning, great is Your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" Lamentations 3:22-24

Even though Thomas Obadiah Chisolm (1866-1960) lived to be 94 years old, it has been said that he had a difficult adult life. His health was so fragile that there were periods of time when he was confined to bed, unable to work. Between bouts of illness he would have to push himself to put in extra hours at various jobs in order to make ends meet.

Thomas Chisholm wrote "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" as a testa-

Thot for a day:

ment to God's faithfulness through his very ordinary life. Born in a log cabin in Franklin, Kentucky, Chisholm became a Christian when he was twenty-seven and entered the ministry when he was thirty-six, though poor health forced him to retire after just one year. During the rest of his life, Chisholm spent many years living in New Jersey and working as a life insurance agent. Still, even with a desk job, he wrote nearly 1,200 poems throughout his life, induding several published hymns.

Thomas found great comfort in the Scriptures, and in the fact that God was faithful to be his strength in time of illness and provide his needs. Lamentations 3:22-23 was one of his favorite scriptures:

Chisholm explained toward the end of his life, "My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me on until now. Although I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness."

While away from home on a missions trip, Thomas often wrote to one of his good friends, William Runyan, a relatively unknown musician. Several poems were exchanged in these letters. Runyan found one of Williams' poems so moving that he decided to compose a musical score to accompany the lyrics. Great is Thy Faithfulness was published in 1923.

For several years, the hymn got very little recognition, until it was discovered by a Moody Bible Institute professor who loved it so much and requested it sung so often at chapel services, that the song became the unofficial theme song of the college.

It was not until 1945 when George Beverly Shea began to sing Great is Thy Faithfulness at the Billy Graham evangelistic crusades, that the hymn was heard around the world.

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father There is no shadow of turning with Thee Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not As Thou hast been, Thou for ever will be

Chorus:

Great is thy faithfulness Great is thy faithfulness Morning by morning new mercies I see All I have needed thy hand hath provided Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me

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Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest Sun, moon and stars in their courses above Join with all nature in manifold witness To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside

Editor's note: Listen to a music video of this song by the amazing CeCe Winans at http://youtu.be/60o3UP4Kjwg

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The way to the goal is the narrow hole between left guard and center and is filled with 370 lb. nose tackle BeelzeBUBBA Smith. Mt 7:13-14 gridiron gospels note: be sure to wear full pads of God (Eph 6) and use the Holy Spirit as your lead blocker. Jo 14:15-16