

**April 2014
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...

Does God get 'sick' of us ?

This question came from the confirmation students. I'm guessing it grew out of the realization that we keep on sinning (over and over and over), because that question was followed by this one: "Will God ever quit forgiving us?" As in, "Is there a limit to how many times He will forgive?"

God is the "Ultimate Parent." He's our "Heavenly Father," the father who truly does know what's best. So, how does He view us - the often rebellious, unruly children?

God hasn't left us in the dark on this one. For starters, He's told us that He never quits loving us:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:38-39 NIV

Since our society tends to incorrectly define "love" as something along the lines of "warm, fuzzy feelings of approval," it needs to be said that God doesn't hold to the same definition of love. Love is much more than a feeling. It is a commitment to do what the other person needs - even when you don't feel like it. Even when you don't approve of their actions.

God in Romans 5:5-10 tells of His kind of love - love that requires making a huge sacrifices (like dying).

...God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.



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You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Jesus didn't die for us because we were wonderful, loveable children whose every action He approves of. He died for us in spite of the fact that we were "ungodly," "sinners" and His "enemies" who frequently engage in actions, attitudes and beliefs He doesn't approve of. That's love !

Awhile back I heard a song on a Christian radio station - thankfully I only heard it once - that said, "God's not disappointed with you." The song left me with the impression that God thinks, "I know you're doing your best, so I'm ok with that." That really ticked me off, because it's not a biblical idea. It's an idea born out of that totally wrong definition of love I mentioned above.

I think the song was trying to highlight the biblical truth that God loves you no matter what. No matter what you have done. No matter what has been done to you. Here's the likely thought process behind that song: Since God never stops loving you.... and 'love' is "a warm, fuzzy feeling of approval"... then it logically follows that God always has warm, fuzzy feelings of approval toward you. But because they started by defining 'love' the way our culture defines it instead of how God defines it, I (and probably everyone else who has ever heard that song) was left with the impression that "Because God loves me, He never disapproves of anything I do." And that is just wrong! Totally wrong.

Can you love someone and be yet be disappointed and frustrated with what they've done? Parents, you know the answer to that: Absolutely!

God does care about you - deeper than anyone else ever will! And because He cares that deeply, He's naturally going to get frustrated with us, disappointed in us - even angry with us - when we do things (and keep on doing them) that He knows are harmful and hurtful for us - and other people that God loves. But that frustration, anger and disappointment NEVER lead Him to stop loving us.

Five times Matthew records Jesus using the term "you of little

faith" with His disciples, because of some action or belief or attitude they displayed that was less than what He wanted from them. Did that frustration mean He stopped loving them? Absolutely not. Did that mean He came to the limit of His forgiveness for them? No way.

So, I wouldn't say that God ever gets sick of us. But I would say this, "Yes, because He loves us, God does get 'sick' of our sinful actions and attitudes and unbelief." That's why - in His love - He allows us to reap consequences for those actions, attitudes and lack of trust. More than anything He wants us to learn that those actions, attitudes and lack of trust are actually making us spiritually sick, and that we should stop them.

But never, ever forget this:

Because nothing will keep God from loving you, you can be assured that He will always be holding out His forgiveness for you as well as the power He has for you to repent - to change and be rid of those sinful actions, attitudes and beliefs in the future.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Looking Forward to Spring...

... and a paved parking lot !
... and a new playground for the kids !
... and another year of church softball league !
... and confirmation (May 11) !
... and planting trees around the church yard !
... and the Old Fashioned Sunday School Picnic



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>

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That for a day: A friend is someone who reaches for your hand, but touches your heart.

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Additional page—web version only



The LINK...

Link Newsletter, April 2014

Dear Friends,

The Link is gearing up for our "Just the Basics" distribution event at the end of April. I am pleased to report that area churches and service groups have either given donations or agreed to collect an item or two. With our combined effort, I expect a great turnout. Thank you!

Tuesday's Table in April:

April 1st: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church
April 8th: Evangelical Covenant Church
April 15th: Faith Lutheran Church
April 22nd: Peace Lutheran Church
April 29th: Hope Presbyterian Church

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

Last year, the value of the donated goods to the "Just the Basics" distribution event exceeded \$10,000! Over 300 people benefited the day of the event and many more thereafter as the Link shared leftover product with the New London Area Food Shelf, the Hope Care Pantry and area group homes. This event is a result of cooperation, collaboration and love for our neighbor!

The Link is proud to partner to increase our impact through leveraging resources to fill the critical, basic needs of our neighbors. In early March, a family had some significant transportation needs. With ties to New London and Willmar communities, the Link worked with the family, agencies and local churches to meet the goal of \$2,100 to assist with needed repair and new tires.

\$250	WorkForce Center
\$500	Willmar Good Samaritan Fund of the Willmar Area Community Foundation
\$150	Bethel Church
\$150	First Baptist Church
\$200	The Link
\$850	Contribution from the family

Support the Link!

*Look for a new and exciting event slated for Sunday, June 22nd!
It will be family-friendly with music at the Glacial Ridge Winery.*

Happy Spring!
Rhonda Otteson, Link Director
thelink@faithspicer.org
310 Medayto Drive
Spicer, MN 56288
320.796.2522

"Just the Basics"

Household Item and Toiletries Distribution Event

Saturday, April 26, 2014
9:00 am—10:30 am

Cross Roads Community Church
3400 113th Ave NE, Spicer, MN

Bring your own box!
First come, first served.

"Just the Basics" is a project of the Link, in cooperation with area churches, the Wilmot Area Food Shelf and service groups. "Just the Basics" provides basic toiletries and household goods to help our neighbors in need.
The mission of the Link is: "Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other."
Want to sponsor the cost of an item? Take up a collection? Volunteer for the event?
Call Rhonda at 326.794.2522 or email thelink@falispicer.org for more information.

Words of Wisdom....

Ten Differences Between Living Churches and Dead Churches

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

The Daily Dozen of Christian Parenting-

The class is finished, but the parenting never stops, so we'll have excerpts of things we learned in this and future newsletters.

DAILY DOZEN #6

Good communication: It's more than just words.

Remember: you communicate very powerfully with your ...

- Tone of Voice
- Body Language
- Volume



Pay attention to these aspects of communication. Then...
Work on being SEEN:

Smile appropriately - it creates a warmth and tears down walls.

Eye Contact - Look at your child face-to-face when you talk to them. Don't talk to them from the other room.

Eyebrows - Raising your eyebrows says, "I'm really sincere about this. You can trust me."

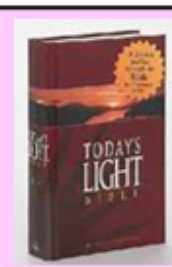
Nod your head - This shows that you are listening and following what they are saying.

REMEMBER...

We 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 given in memory of Geneva Olson by her family.



Thank God For...



You've seen our sign board out by the road with the beginning of a sentence: "Thank God For..."

Each week we'd like to change the ending of that sentence to encourage people who drive past to remember that God is the giver of all good things - especially things we take for granted.

This week we thanked God for Melting (?) Snow
Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week.

Lenten Service

Our Nation Seems to be in a "Moral Free-Fall,"

"Right" has become "wrong" and "wrong" has become "right." Things are bad but the important thing is this: GOD HAS A REMEDY!! And we as followers of Jesus play a huge part in that remedy:

"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and prayer and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, I will forgive their sins and I will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

So, instead of complaining about the deplorable state of things, each Wednesday during Lent we will do what God says and gather at 6:30 for a devotion and a time of prayer. The devotions will focus on some of the myths about God which Satan's successfully planted in our minds - myths that have served to assist the moral decay in our nation.

Light Supper served from.

6:00 to 6:30

Devotion & Prayer Time

6:30 to 7:00

Thus far we've debunked these myths about God:

The "Vending-Machine God" Myth

God is *not* like a vending machine. You can't just 'put in' your prayers or offerings or attendance or 'whatever' and expect He will give you anything you want. That incorrectly assumes that you know what's best for you or that whatever you want is actually *good* for you. Thank God, He does know what's best and good, and that He can't be bribed into giving whatever we want when He knows it won't be good for us.

The "Cosmic Cop" Myth

God is not the "Heavenly Killjoy" who doesn't want you to have any fun. Yet lots of people incorrectly view Him that way. Jesus said in John 10:9-10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* And our Discipleship Verse for March reminded us: *"Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."* Being Satan's "lunch" is what really doesn't sound like fun to me.

The "All Roads Lead to God" Myth

The idea that *"It doesn't matter what religion you believe, because they all lead you to God"* is as silly as saying "It doesn't matter. They'll all lead you there." to someone who asks what road to take out of Willmar to get to downtown Minneapolis. If that person takes your advice and hits Highway 71 first, they may

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That for a day: Teamwork is essential - it allows you to blame someone else.

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end up in International Falls or Texarkana, but never in Minneapolis. Or maybe they bump into Highway 23 first. It could take them to Sioux Falls or Duluth, but never to Minneapolis. Just like there is only one road out of Willmar that takes you to downtown Minneapolis (Highway 12), there is also only one way to God. Jesus said point-blank in John 14:6: *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me."*

Thanks!

- To everyone who brought food for the food shelf in March. We donated 24 pounds!
- To everyone who bought baked goods for 1001 Orphans. We raised \$67
- To Marcia Welsh & Bonnie Hansen for providing food for Wednesday suppers.
- To everyone who helped unthaw our frozen pipes last month!

Lenten Devotions

from Lutheran Hour Ministries

"MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

What more haunting words could any person speak than "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" How could we endure a moment if our Creator would turn His back and ignore our every plea? Where would we turn for help, comfort, and solace if we could not turn to God?

Sadly there are many moments in life where it seems God has forsaken us. We cry out to God in the midst of illness, financial struggles, unemployment, family problems, yet nothing changes. We wonder if God has heard us - or might He have forsaken us too?

This Lenten season we study those dreadful words coming from the lips of God's only - begotten Son Jesus Christ as He hangs on the cross. But that was not the first time Jesus uttered those words. A thousand years before He spoke those very words through His great ancestor King David. The great psalmist faithfully recorded Jesus' words in the twenty-second psalm. This psalm vividly predicts His bitter sufferings, death, and resurrection. It will be the source of our Lenten devotions as we explore the depths of our Savior's sacrifice for us.

Available to read online at

<http://www.lhm.org/lent/dailydevotions.asp> or to hear as a podcast at <http://www.lhm.org/podcasts/> (beginning March 5),

"MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" can also be received as an e-mail subscription throughout the Lenten season. The audio version will begin March 5, 2014.

Opportunities for Growth...

New Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm

Sunday Morning Study:

Sundays @ 9:00



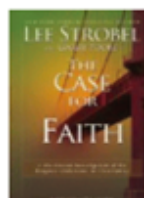
Remaining Toxins we'll study:

2. **Scare Pollution:** Unlocking the choke-hold 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

Mom's Study: Wednesdays at 9:30

Childcare is Provided

The Case for Faith: A Six-session Investigation of the Toughest Objections to Christianity



Wednesday Noon Study:

The Great Deceiver

His tactics...

.... and the Weapons God provides to defeat him

Confirmation:

Wednesdays @ 6:30 (meal at 6:00)

This month we continue to share what we've learned in Don't Check Your Brains At the Door during the Wednesday Lenten devotions.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 2 | Class: Bring Your Bible and Book |
| April 9 | Class: Bring Your Bible and Book |
| April 12 | Help with Easter Celebration for Kids @ 10am |
| April 13 | Monthly Bake Sale for 1001 Orphans |
| April 20 | Serve Easter Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. |
| April 23 | Class: Bring Your Bible and Book |
| April 30 | Class: Gracies' Birthday |

DON'T FORGET : To take sermon notes on Sundays & Wednesdays

Weekly Bible readings:

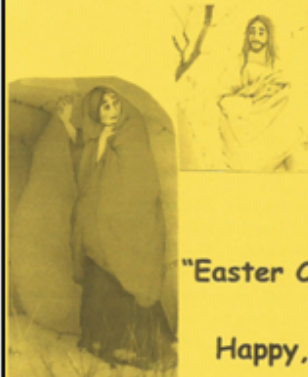
(This month our topic is "Miracles" on pages 10 & 11.)

*Audio versions are available on our website.

Sunday School

9:00 - 9:45 Sunday mornings.

Thot for a day: The difference between a nut and a grave is the depth.



Matthew 28:6
"He is Risen, as he said."

"Easter Celebration for Kids"

Happy, Happy Day!!!!


Where: Living Word Lutheran Church

When: Saturday, April 12, 2014

Time: Starting at 10:00 A.M.

This is a free event for children ages 3-9 (younger and older children are also welcome). Kids will hear a story of Jesus, do a craft, have a snack, sing a song and will see some "springtime babies"!

If more information is needed please contact the church at 354-4637 or Mona Hjelle 354-4315.
Parents are welcome to stay and enjoy coffee and fellowship



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.

- This month we focus on learning about Jesus' death and resurrection
- Sat. Apr. 12 Easter Celebration for Kids @ 10:00
- Class Time: 9:00 - 9:45 every Sunday morning.

April 6: Zacchaeus
 April 13: Palm Sunday- The Triumphal Entry
 April 20: Easter- Easter Video
 April 27: Celebrating Earth Day/Arbor Day

April - Daily Devotionals

God is Unchanging. Last month we got a sampling of the miracles Jesus performed. This month we begin with miracles by Jesus' disciples, then we move into prophecies of Jesus' death and resurrection followed by the accounts of those events.

Audio Recordings of each reading can be streamed from www.livingwordlutheran.net

Record your insights from these chapters on the lines provided.

Wk of Mar 30 Daily Readings Miracles in ACTS

Mar 31 Acts 10:32-43 _____

Apr 1 Acts 12:1-17 _____

Apr 2 Acts 13:4-12 _____

Apr 3 Acts 14:8-20 _____

Apr 4 Acts 16:16-40 _____

Apr 5 Acts 27:10-28:10 _____

Wk of April 6 Daily Readings PROPHECIES OF JESUS' SUFFERING & DEATH

Apr 7 Psalm 22:6-8, 12-18 _____

Apr 8 Psalm 69:19-21 _____

Apr 9 Isaiah 50:5-9 _____

Apr 10 Isaiah 52:13-53:12 _____

Apr 11 Zechariah 9:9-10 _____

Apr 12 Zechariah 11:12-13, 12:10-14 _____

Wk of Apr 13 Daily Readings: HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Apr 14 Luke 19:28-48 _____

Apr 15 Luke 22:1-46 _____

Apr 16 John 18:1-27 _____

Apr 17 John 18:28-40 _____

Apr 18 John 19:1-16 _____

Apr 19 John 19:17-42 _____

Wk of Apr 20 Daily Readings WITNESSES TO THE RESURRECTION

Easter Matthew 28:1-7 _____

Apr 21 Matthew 28:8-10, 16-20 _____

Apr 22 Mark 16:9-11 _____

Apr 23 Luke 24:15-31 _____

Apr 24 John 20:19-31 _____

Apr 25 Luke 24:50-51, Acts 1-2 _____

Apr 26 1 Corinthians 15:5-8 _____

Wk of Apr 27 Daily Readings RESULTS OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

Apr 28 John 11:20-27 _____

Apr 29 1 Corinthians 15:12-23 _____





Apr 30 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 _____

May 1 Acts 4:32-35 _____

May 2 Colossians 3:1-10 _____

May 3 1 Peter 1:3-9 _____

April 2014 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 Adult Study <i>Soul Detox</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 4:00 Youth Group	31	Apr 1 6:30 Men's Study <i>"Soul Detox"</i>	Apr 2 9:30 Moms' Study <i>Defending your faith</i> noon Wed. Noon Study <i>Great Deceiver</i> 6:00 Meal 6:30 Lent Prayer/Devo 7:00 Confirmation	3	4	5 11:00 - ?? CRAFTING / SCRAPBOOKING DAY
6 9:00 Adult Study - <i>Soul Detox</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	7	8 6:30 Men's Study <i>"Soul Detox"</i>	9 9:30 Moms' Study <i>Defending your faith</i> noon Wed. Noon Study <i>Great Deceiver</i> 6:00 Meal 6:30 Lent Prayer/Devo 7:00 Confirmation LWML	10	11 	12 10:00 - 11:30 EASTER CELEBRATION FOR KIDS
13 PALM SUNDAY (Bring items for NL Food Shelf) 9:00 Adult Study: <i>Soul Detox</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship "1001 Orphans" Bake Sale 11:30 Elders' Team & SS teachers 4:00 Youth Group	14 	15 6:30 Men's Study <i>"Soul Detox"</i>	16	17 MAUNDY THURS 7:00 Worship W/Lord's Supper	18 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 Tenebrae Worship 	19
20 THE RESURRECTION !!! 6:27 Easter Sunrise Worship 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:00 Adult Study/ Sunday School 10:00 Easter Worship/communion	21 	22 6:30 Men's Study <i>"Soul Detox"</i>	23 9:30 Moms' Study noon Wed. Noon Study 6:30 Confirmation	24 6:30 Mission & Ministry Team	25	26 WORK DAY AT CHURCH (clean up, clean out, build, etc..)
27 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 3:30 4-6th Grade Group	28	29 6:30 Men's Study	30 9:30 Moms' Study noon Wed. Noon Study 6:30 Confirmation	May 1	<div> Lord's Supper Dates In April: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, April 6th Maundy Thursday, April 17th Easter Sunday, April 20th </div>	

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Apr 6	Mark Fuglie
Apr 13	Tammy Fuglie
Apr 20	Duane Hansen
Apr 27	Tammy Wachter
May 4	Scott Wachter
May 11	Confirmands
May 18	Bryson Wachter
May 25	Wendy Robbin

Fellowship Servers

Apr 6	Wendy Robbin / Alida Sawatzky
Apr 13	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Apr 20	Easter
Apr 27	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
May 4	Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
May 11	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
May 18	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
May 25	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson

Usher Schedule

Apr 6	Kevin & Noah Welsh
Apr 13	Jamie & Phil Iverson
Easter	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
Apr 27	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
May 4	Jamie & Phil Iverson
May 11	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
May 18	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
May 25	Wendy & Lonny Robbin

Altar Guild

April	Mona Hjelle
May	Nancy Jo Wendt

Make A Meal Volunteers

April	Scott & Tammy Wachter. Nancy Jo Wendt
May	Wendy Robbin & Bryson Wachter

Elders

Apr 6	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Maundy	Thurs Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
Easter	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
May 4	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
May 18	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter

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That for a day: The bravest thing you can do when you are not brave is to profess courage and act accordingly.

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Custodian

April	Tammy Fuglie & Laurie Hanson
May	Mona Hjelle & Nancy Jo Wendy

Nursery

(more volunteers needed, please talk to Mona)

Apr 6	Mona Hjelle
Apr 13	Eve Bajari
Easter	Grace Geer
Apr 27	Michelle Johnson

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Apr 6	Carson Jaspersen
Apr 13	Noah Miller
Easter	Andrew Sharp
Apr 27	Levi Miller

Accompanying Musicians

April 6	Sharon Willen
April 13	Scott Wachter
Easter	Scott Wachter; Pam Johnson
April 26	Scott Wachter
May 4	Sharon Willen
May 11	Scott Wachter
May 18	Pam Johnson
May 25	Scott Wachter

Holy Week Schedule

- Maundy Thursday (April 17): 7:00 p.m.
Lord's Supper is celebrated
- Good Friday (April 18): 7:00 p.m.
The Seven Last Words Tenebrae Devotion
- Easter Sunrise (April 20) 6:27 a.m (actual sunrise)
Worship begins outside watching the sunrise
- Easter Breakfast (April 20) 8:00 a.m.
Served by Congregation Youth
- Easter Celebration Worship (April 20) - 10:00 a.m.
Lord's Supper is celebrated.

April Discipleship Verse...



"And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again."

2 Corinthians 5:15

Marriage Enrichment Retreat...

The Marriage Enrichment Retreat is History....

... but History is something we are supposed to learn from. So, for the next few months we'll include some things we learned at the retreat.

The 'foundational' thing to remember: You Are A TEAM

This month we highlight the first of five keys for having a successful team.

Key #1 to Successful Teams: They have a Great Coach.

- Your Marriage "Coach" is GOD. He's the greatest coach you could ever have. Why? Well, for starters..... He created marriage..
"Haven't you read," Jesus replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Matthew 19:4-6 NIV
- Listen to Him. (Your Marriage Coach is never wrong)
... from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:15-17
- Do what He says.
"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Matthew 7:24-17 NIV
- Don't be afraid to ask His help. (Pray TOGETHER)
"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20 NIV

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That for a day: The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.

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- It's not a good idea to skip the Team meetings (always on Sunday).
And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV

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

- A basketball in my hands is worth about \$20.
A basketball in LeBron James' hands is worth about \$18 million.
It all depends whose hands it's in.
- A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6.
A baseball in Joe Mauer's hands is worth \$23 million.
It all depends on whose hands it's in.
- A golf club in my hands is useless.
A golf club in Phil Mikkelsen's hands is worth \$47 million.
It all depends whose hands it's in.
- A rod in my hands will land a fish (on a lucky day)
A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea that the fish swim in.
It all depends whose hands it's in.
- A slingshot in my hands is a kid's toy.
A slingshot in David's hand is a mighty weapon that can defeat an army.
It all depends whose hands it's in.
- Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.
Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in Jesus' hands will feed thousands.
It all depends whose hands it's in.
- Nails in my hands will result in a BIG scream and a tetanus shot
Nails in Jesus Christ's hands resulted in forgiveness for the entire world.
It all depends whose hands it's in.
- As you can see it all depends whose hands it's in.
- Remember to put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your family and your relationships in God's hands.

Sharing the Love of Jesus in Practical Ways...

Don't Forget to Collect Band Aids...

For The Link sponsored "Just the Basics" giveaway Saturday, April 26th from 9-10:30). Each church in the area will provide 300 of the items they are responsible for. So, add "bandaids" to your shopping list. We will begin 'stock-piling' them at church, so bring them here after you purchase them. Thanks!



Bring Food Shelf Items Every Second Sunday

The women of our LWML will be collecting canned and dry goods the second Sunday of each month. These will be delivered to the New London Food Shelf that is sponsored by the Link.

Purchase Some Baked Goods Every Second Sunday

Our confirmation students will be selling baked goods after worship the 2nd Sunday of each month. They are raising funds to support an orphaned child in Kenya. Their goal is to support at least one child (\$33/month). Last month they raised \$67.... THANK YOU !

Be Custodian of the Month

Our Custodian of the Month schedule is over half-way filled for 2014. We still need volunteers for the following months: July, August, October, November and December. If you (or your whole family) could provide the necessary cleaning one of those months, please talk to, call or email our Trustee Lonny Robbin. 320-354-9049 or wfrobbin@tds.net (A check-list of duties is posted by the mailboxes.) Thanks !

Help With Our Nursery

We still need volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-4 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you'd like to help out one Sunday a month. Thanks !

Please Fill Out an Orange "Opportunities to Serve" Insert...

...if you haven't done so yet. You can place it in the offering plate

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Thot for a day: The two most abundant elements in the universe are: hydrogen and stupidity.

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Who Can You Invite?...

One thing Jesus did was to make a simple invitation for people to follow Him.

Here are some special opportunities to follow Jesus' example and invite people this month:

1. Crafting / Scrapbooking Day

SATURDAY, April 5 @11:00 a.m.

Bring your projects and enjoy a day working and conversing.

2. Easter Celebration for Kids.

Saturday, April 12 10-11:30 am - Ages 3 and up...

- + The Easter Story
- + A Craft to take home
- + Snack Time
- + Baby Animals (Lambs, chicks, bunnies, etc...)
- + Coffee/cookies for parents

3. Any of our Soul Detox studies

- + Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.
- + Men's study Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- + Wednesday noon

4. Wednesday Evening Lenten Prayer & Devotion

Each Wednesday during Lent we will gather at 6:30 for a devotion and a time of prayer. The devotions will focus on some of the myths about God which Satan's successfully planted in our minds - myths that have served to assist the moral decay in our nation.

Light Supper served from 6:00 to 6:30

Devotion & Prayer Time 6:30 to 7:00

5. Our New 4-6th Grade Group

4-6th Graders will meet for 1 1/2 hours of fun, snacks and God's Word the 4th Sunday of each month from 3:30- 5:00. Rides are available. Please talk to Bryson if your student will need a ride.

6. Holy Week Services

- Maundy Thursday (April 17): 7:00 p.m.
Lord's Supper is celebrated
- Good Friday (April 18): 7:00 p.m.
The Seven Last Words Tenebrae Devotion
- Easter Sunrise (April 20) 6:27 a.m. (actual sunrise)
Worship begins outside watching the sunrise
- Easter Breakfast (April 20) 8:00 a.m.
Served by Congregation Youth
- Easter Celebration Worship (April 20) - 10:00 a.m.
Lord's Supper is celebrated.

Miscellaneous Notes...

Now Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Living Word is pleased to announce the introduction of an **electronic option for making regular offerings**. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account.

Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.

Daily Readings Now Available in Audio

If you are among the folks who find it easier to listen to the Bible than to read it, you will be glad to hear that Pastor David has recorded the December Daily Bible Readings. You will find the audio recordings of those daily readings on our website www.livingwordlutheran.net.

Easter Lilies Welcome

If you would like to provide Easter lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter, just bring them to church. Thanks !

Mark Your Calendars...

Church Work Day Saturday, April 26

We will...

- Work outside...
planting, working on a playground, cleaning up
- Work inside...
building some shelves and organizing the utility room
- Work on whatever other building, organizing and 'sprucing up' needs to be done

Bring your work clothes and have some fun working together.

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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That for a day: The road to success is always under construction.

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Additional page—web version only

From the LCMS...



Tired of Hobby Lobby?

You're tired of hearing about Hobby Lobby and the Supreme Court, tired of all the talk of fines and health-care plans and reproductive rights, tired of being bombarded with words spoken in anger from both sides of the aisle. You want to put your fingers in your ears, switch the channel, and wait for the ruling and the rest of it to just go away.

But even though you are tired, even though you've grown weary of having the same discussions about the same points, Hobby Lobby and fines and health-care plans still matter. They matter because your country – the United States of America – was founded on the principle that you were born with certain rights: the rights to seek and follow truth, to live according to your beliefs, to worship freely.

And no one, not even the government, gets to tell you how to do that.

Today, our federal government threatens that right, consistently refusing to protect religious liberty as our Constitution and the laws of nature demand. In the dozens of cases against the Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate, the government has started dictating the boundaries of religious beliefs, and to pick and choose which beliefs – and which individuals – deserve religious liberty protection.

The contraceptive mandate, part of the Affordable Care Act, requires employers to provide a full range of 20 FDA-approved contraceptive devices, drugs and services in their health-care plans. These include "emergency contraceptives" with the ability to prevent implantation of an embryo – in other words, the ability to end a human life. Catholics, Lutherans, and many other Americans find these drugs morally reprehensible. Yet, though objections to the mandate are strong and numerous – with over 90 lawsuits filed so far – the government has simply swept them aside.

The mandate's provisions allow for very narrow exemptions for houses of worship. Exemptions do not extend even to affiliates of those houses of worship; for example, a Catholic order of nuns, operating homes for the elderly poor, is not exempt. Nor are Christian colleges, nor are thousands of other religious non-profit organiza-

tions, which serve the public good.

In the case of the non-profits, the government has come up with an empty "accommodation" that would force organizations to sign HHS forms directing third-party administrators to provide the drugs that the organizations cannot. As one plaintiff, the Little Sisters of the Poor, explained, these forms are nothing more than permission slips. The Little Sisters cannot direct someone else to act immorally, just as they cannot act immorally themselves. The government has branded this particular belief meaningless.

Neither the exemption nor the false "accommodation" extends to individuals who run their own businesses, like David and Barbara Green, owners of Hobby Lobby. The Greens morally oppose providing drugs that can prevent implantation and have filed suit against HHS, represented by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. In the Greens' case, the government claims that moral convictions must be abandoned at the door of the workplace. The Greens may not run their own companies according to their consciences. Or, in return for staying true to their convictions, they will be forced to pay crushing fines.

The government's distinctions under the mandate don't make sense. The government does not get to reduce God and the way in which He works down to what happens only in church or worship. By its definition, religious liberty stipulates that a church — not the government — must be permitted to form its own definition and its own boundaries.

Moreover, God uses each of us in our vocations to serve those around us. This call to serve others and live according to our beliefs extends beyond our houses of worship, into our homes, our communities, and our work. To prevent individuals from following the dictates of their consciences is an abuse of power and a gross infringement on human dignity.

As the leader of a Christian church body, I strongly object to the government's approach of picking and choosing whose beliefs merit consideration. Now, according to the government, Catholic nuns must authorize others to give out free contraceptives, and evangelical Christians must abandon their most deeply held convictions in the operations of their own businesses. What group, and what belief, will next be under attack?

Friends, we may be weary. We may be tired. But we must stand together to protect our God-given right to religious liberty. This mandate threatens not only those whose religions specifically compel them to oppose it, but all Americans. We cannot allow our government to define the content of our beliefs or the degree of their significance.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is the current and 13th president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Second Sunday of April...

Food-Shelf Sunday - April 13

Bring some canned goods to help stock the Link's New London food shelf Sponsored each month by the women of Living Word's LWML

Bake Sale Fundraiser for "1001 Orphans" - April 13

The Confirmation students are holding a bake sale the second Sunday of every month to raise funds to support one (or more) of the million-plus children orphaned in Kenya, Africa. Anyone else who would like to bring baked goods for these monthly fundraisers is most welcome to.

Support to a Kenyan orphan or disadvantaged child provides one year of:

- Family and spiritual-care support, by placing each child with a Christian family with ties to a local Lutheran congregation;
- Economic support, by providing money or food to supplement the already stretched-thin resources of families caring for an orphan; and
- Education support, by providing funds so each orphan can attend school.

Email Humor...

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor who was able to fit for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%.

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

LWML News...

+ We will have our quarterly meeting

Wednesday, April 9 @ 6:30

+ Remember to bring your food shelf donations on Sunday, April 13.



Story Behind The Song...

"Jesus Paid it All"

The words to the song Jesus Paid It All were written by Elvina Hall (1822-1889) in 1865. Elvina was a member of the Monument Street Methodist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. The Choir Director of the same church was John Thomas Grape (1835-1915). Unaware of Elvina's composition, Grape had composed a tune he called All To Christ I Owe.

The pastor of Monument Street Methodist Church, Rev. George W. Schreck heard the music written by Grape and immediately thought of the verse written by another of his parishioners, Elvina Hall. At the pastor's suggestion, Hall's lyrics and Grape's music were combined, and then sent to Professor Theodore Perkins, publisher of the periodical Sabbath Carols. The hymn quickly became a favorite and has been published in and sung from hymnals across America ever since.

Recently the song has gained renewed popularity, being recorded by Contemporary Worship artists like Chris Tomlin.

**I hear the Savior say
"Thy strength indeed is small!
Child of weakness, watch and pray
Find in me thine all in all."**

Refrain: **Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow**

**Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone** Refrain

**For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calvary's Lamb** Refrain

**And when before thy throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat** Refrain

Editor's note: Recorded by everyone from the Gaithers to Kirk Franklin to Dave Crowder to the Newsboys, but my favorite has to be Kristian Stanfill. See the video at: <http://youtu.be/brVIXJrkQ>



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Thot for a day: The man who smiles when things go wrong has thought of someone he can blame it on.

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Congratulations!

- Kim & John and Daenarys England on your new residence. Please email pastor@livingwordlutheran.net if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

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

Remember to take a time-out to be "impudent" and PRAY for...

- + Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- + The ability to love like Jesus does - sacrificially.
- + An overturn of laws that restrict our religious freedom
- + Courage to take a stand for Jesus at school and work.
- + Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- + God's Spirit to bring people to seek Him during Holy Week
- + Power to be self-controlled this Lent and give up something that's keeping you from getting closer to God's plan for your life

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Larry & Betty from Hibbing Mn, were fortunate to be visiting family in Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday.