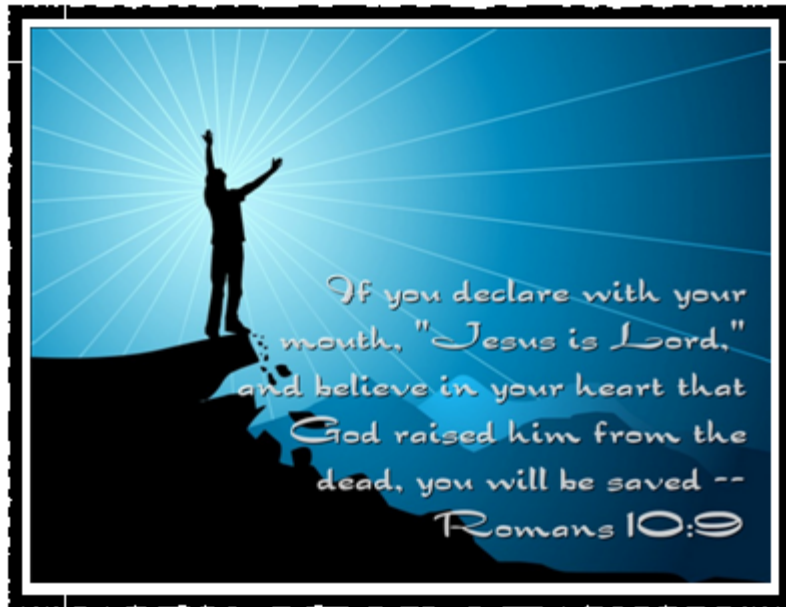



Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



May 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...

How can I tell someone about Jesus?

One of the assignments the confirmation students have is to "interview" some of the leaders of the congregation. They ask some questions that I came up with for them like, "What suggestions do you have for me about how to keep my faith - even during tough times?" But I also require them to come up with at least one question on their own. The above question is one of those.

Here are some of the responses they received:

"By your actions"

It's been said, "You may be the only Bible your neighbor ever reads."

i.e. The only way many people will know about Jesus is from what they observe of people who follow Jesus. It's important for them to see that as Christians we are different - in positive ways, not weird ways.

Take a sincere interest in the people around you...

In Philippians 2:20 the Apostle Paul lifted up his friend Timothy as an example of someone who had a "genuine interest" in the welfare of people - as opposed to so many others who only "look out for their own interests."

Again, it's been said, "People don't care how much you know about Jesus... until they know how much you care about them."

Jesus cared enough about us to die for us. When the rest of the



Page 3

people in someone's life are "looking out for their own interests" you will certainly catch that person's attention when you show that you genuinely care.

Genuine care doesn't have to be difficult.

Simple is good:

- Take someone a meal when they are going through a tough time.
- Offer to watch their kids one night, so they can go out on a date.
- Offer to pray for them with a comment like, "I know how much it helps me when people tell me they are praying for me, would it be ok if I kept you in my prayers?"
- Invite them to come to church with you - offer to pick them up (and maybe even promise brunch afterward).
- Invite them to a smaller-group church function - something less "formal" than worship like a Mother-Daughter luncheon, a Bible study, crafting day, a church softball game, a youth lock-in or movie night or a picnic, etc... In these informal settings it's sometimes easier to get to know some of the people in church (and hopefully discover that followers of Jesus really aren't a bunch of weirdoes).

Pray for God to give you an opportunity...

That's a prayer you can bet that He will answer. He wants more than anything for people to get to know Him, so they can trust Him with their life.

The challenge for us is to have our eyes open to *see* those opportunities and be ready for them.

Maybe the best thing about recent movies like *Son of God*, and *God's Not Dead* and *Heaven is For Real* is that they provide non-threatening conversation starters (as well as maybe a place to invite someone). Movies are a natural topic of conversation. You could say something like

"I just went to see _____ the other day. It really got me to thinking" or "It made me dig out my Bible to see if..." Then just let the Holy Spirit lead from there.

Ken Davis.... "Is this the sign?" Give me another one..

All of these things fall into the category of "pre-witness." At some point in time, you have to actually TELL someone about Jesus, so as Peter says, "Always be prepared to give reason for the hope you have."

Prepare yourself by writing out your answer to questions like:

What difference has Jesus made in my life? And how - specifically - have I seen God work in my life? (People can't argue with personal experience.)

The confirmation students will be giving us their answers to these questions on Sunday, May 11 during worship. I'd invite you to hear what they have to say.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

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.

Last month we highlight the first of five keys for having a successful marriage: Never forget that you are a TEAM (with God as your coach)

This month's Key:

A main source of problems is forgetting this truth: Men and Women ARE Different

(And God made us different on purpose!)

- Men handle conflict differently than women.
- Men communicate differently than women.
- Men view romance differently than women.
- Men are encouraged by different things than women are.
- Etc.....

One other thing to remember about our natural differences: *Just because you are 'wired' you a certain way, doesn't give you an excuse to say, "That's just the way I am - deal with it!"*

One key to resolving problems is to figure out areas of your life (not your spouse's life) where you need to change the way you think and act.

And two things to remember about making changes:

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Thot for a day: I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.

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1. It's never easy, but *God can do immeasurably more than you can ask or imagine according to His power that is at work in us!* Eph. 3:20
2. When *you* make changes to better the relationship, your spouse will very often change in the way they respond to you.

Thanks!

- To everyone who brought food for the food shelf in April. We donated 44 pounds!
- To everyone who bought baked goods for 1001 Orphans. We raised \$50
- To everyone who helped clean, build and organize at our Work Day !
- To everyone who brought Band-Aids for the Link's give-away !

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.

Mark Your Calendars...

Church-League Softball

Another Season starts on Thursday, May 15
Come and cheer on your team at the Swanson
Fields on Willmar Avenue in Willmar



"Old - Fashioned Church Picnic"

Sunday, May 19

After worship - behind the church.
Picnic, Softball, volleyball, cake walk, gunny sack races, etc..
Bring a friend and a dish to pass.

Beginning in June: Our Outdoor "Picnic Service"

The first Saturday each month during summer.
5:30 pm - worship (we'll worship inside in bad weather)
6:30 pm - Picnic / games

Mission & Ministry Team

Meets on the 3rd WEDNESDAY of the month for the summer
months (May - August), beginning May 14

Landscaping Activities To Watch For

(and maybe even volunteer to help with)

- + Planting trees / shrubs
- + Designing a picnic area
- + Designing a playground area
- + Paving the parking lot
- + Creating a lawn-volleyball court
- + Staining the frame of our sign

Please talk to one of our Landscape Team members (Tim Geer, Jason Miller, Brent Sawatzky, Mona Hjelle, Pastor David) if you'd like to help with (or coordinate) any of these activities. Thanks !

4-9th Graders :

Any interest in summer church-league basketball?
We will be organizing teams to play once a week (Wed?) if there is enough interest. Talk to Pastor or Bryson if you are interested .

Congregation Invited to Confirmation Open House

For Michelle Johnson

Sunday, May 11, from noon to 3:00pm
At her home in New London (223 3rd Ave SE)

LWML News...



- LWML Hosts:
MOTHER-DAUGHTER LUNCHEON
Saturday, May 10 @ 10:00
- Remember to bring your food shelf donations on Sunday, May 11 (Thanks for the 44# of food donated last month!)

Come enjoy Fun & Fellowship

The Living Word LWML help celebrate... **Hats Off**



Saturday, May 10
10am to noon
at Living Word Lutheran Church

Come celebrate moms and Mother's Day at this luncheon! Bring a salad to share and your mother, daughters and friends. There will be a special speaker and an activity, in addition to the meal.

Any questions can be directed to Pam Johnson 894-8602

Opportunities for Growth...

Angels are among the most *mis*-represented beings of God's creation. Instead of looking to TV shows or Hallmark cards to find out about angels, why not find out about them from the One who created them? We'll do that in all of our studies this month in a series based on what God tells us in the Bible. Here's a sampling of what we'll look at:

- Common myths about them.
- Who is The Angel of the LORD?
- What exactly are they - and what do they really do?
- What are the Cherubim and Seraphim? Fallen angels?
- What about the angels that are named: (Michael & Gabriel)?
- Do we have Guardian Angels?
- Did angels used to be human?
- Are they Visible? Invisible?

Please join any of our studies for a look at the truth about angels!

- **New Men's Study**
Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
- **Sunday Morning Study:**
Sundays @ 9:00
- **Mom's Study:** Wednesdays at 9:30
Childcare is Provided
- **Wednesday Noon Study:**

Confirmation:

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

This month we wrap up our classes and prepare for Confirmation Sunday.

May 7	Final Interviews with Pastor
May 11	Confirmation Day
May 17	Adopt-a-Highway

Remember: Take sermon notes (if you haven't completed yours)

Weekly Bible readings:

(This month our readings focus on Angels -and the Bible is FULL of examples of angels serving us. You'll find the reading list on pages 11 & 12 in this Newsletter)

*Audio versions are available on our website.

Sunday School

9:00 - 9:45 Sunday mornings.

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That for a day: I have a hard time deciphering the fine line between boredom and hunger.

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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
- This month we focus on learning about Jesus' death and resurrection
- **Sunday School Lessons for May:**
May 4- "Jesus at age 12" - Luke 2:41-52
May 11- Mothers Day Lesson - Ephesians 6:1-3
May 18 - Last Day of Sunday School- Group Activities
"Old-Fashioned Sunday School Picnic"

Looking Forward to Spring...



- ... and the Mother-Daughter Luncheon -May 10!
- ... and Confirmation Day - May 11!
- ... and a new year of church softball league -May 15!
- ... the Old-Fashioned Sunday School Picnic - May 18!
- ... the Spring Voters' Assembly - Sunday, May 18
- ... and a paved parking lot (May / June)!
- ... and a new playground for the kids!
- ... and a new place to play outdoor volleyball!
- ... and planting trees around the church yard!

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 that **He's Not Dead, but Risen!** Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week

May 2014 - Daily Devotionals

This month we look at Bible passages that tell us about the unseen ministers of God: Angels
Audio Recordings of each reading can be streamed from www.livingwordlutheran.net
Record your insights from these chapters on the lines provided.

Wk of May 4 Daily Readings ANGELS

- May 4 Hebrews 13:1-3 _____

May 5 Genesis 3:21-24 _____

May 6 Genesis 16:6-14 _____

May 7 Genesis 18:1-15 _____

May 8 Genesis 18:16-33 _____

May 9 Genesis 19:1-22 _____

May 10 Genesis 22:9-18 _____

Wk of May 11 Daily Readings ANGELS

- May 11 Exodus 14:15-22 _____

May 12 Exodus 23:20-33 _____

May 13 Numbers 22:20-35 _____

May 14 Joshua 5:13-15 _____

May 15 Isaiah 6:1-8 _____

May 16 Ezekiel ch 10 _____

May 17 Hebrews 1:1-14 _____

Wk of May 18 Daily Readings: ANGELS

- May 18 Daniel 6:16-23 _____

May 19 Daniel 8:13-27 _____

May 20 Daniel 9:20-27 _____

- May 21 Daniel 10:12-21 _____

May 22 Luke 1:8-20 _____

May 23 Luke 1:26-37 _____

May 24 Luke 2:8-20 _____

Wk of May 25 Daily Readings ANGELS

- May 25 Matthew 1:18-25 _____

May 26 Matthew 2:13-19 _____

May 27 Matthew 4:1-11 _____

May 28 Matthew 18:1-10 _____

May 29 Matthew 28:1-7 _____

May 30 Acts 1:6-11 _____

May 31 Acts 12:5-18 _____

Wk of June 1 Daily Readings ANGELS

- June 2 Galatians 1:6-9 _____

June 3 Luke 16:19-31 _____






June 4 Luke 22:39-46 _____

June 5 Revelation 5:1-12 _____

June 6 Revelation 12:1-9 _____

June 7 Revelation 22:7-10 _____

May 2014 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 27 9:00 Adult Study <i>Soul Detox</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 4:00 Youth Group	28	Apr 29 6:30 Men's Study "Angels"	Apr 30 9:30 Moms' Study <i>Defending your faith</i> noon Wed. Noon Study "Angels" 6:30 Confirmation / Gracie Geer baptism	May 1	2	³ Youth Lock-In 
4 9:00 Adult Study - "Angels" Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	5	6 6:30 Men's Study "Angels"	7 9:30 Moms' Study "Angels" noon Wed. Noon Study "Angels" 6:30 Confirmation Interviews	8	9	10 10:00 MOTHER-DAUGHTER LUNCHEON
11 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY (Bring items for NL Food Shelf) 9:00 Adult Study: "Angels" Sunday School 10:00 CONFIRMATION WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship "1001 Orphans" Bake Sale 4:00 Youth Group	12 	13 6:30 Men's Study "Angels"	14 9:30 Moms' Study "Angels" noon Wed. Noon Study "Angels" 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	15 TBA CHURCH-LEAGUE SOFTBALL BEGINS	16 	17 10:00 ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY 
18 SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC 9:00 Adult Study/ Sunday School 10:00 Worship/Lord's Supper 11:15 SPRING VOTERS' MTG. 11:30 SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC	19	20 6:30 Men's Study "Angels"	21 9:30 Moms' Study "Angels" noon Wed. Noon Study "Angels"	22 TBA Church-League Softball	23 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0f0e0; padding: 5px;"> Lord's Supper Dates In May: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday, May 4th • Confirmation Sunday, May 11th • Sunday, May 18th </div>	24
25 9:00 Adult Study "Angels" 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 3:30 4-6TH GRADE GROUP	26 MEMORIAL DAY 	27	28 9:30 Moms' Study noon Wed. Noon Study	29 TBA Church-League Softball	30	31

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

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

May 4 Scott Wachter
 May 11 Confirmands
 May 18 Bryson Wachter
 May 25 Wendy Robbin

June 1 Mona Hjelle
 June 8 Phillip Iverson
 June 15 Kevin Welsh
 June 22 Linda Dilley
 June 29 Mark Fuglie

Fellowship Servers

May 4 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
 May 11 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
 May 18 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
 May 25 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson

June 1 Wendy Robbin / Alida Sawatzky
 June 8 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
 June 15 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
 June 22 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
 June 29 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson

Usher Schedule

May 4 Jamie & Phil Iverson
 May 11 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
 May 18 Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
 May 25 Wendy & Lonny Robbin

June 1 Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp
 June 8 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
 June 15 Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle
 June 22 Kevin & Noah Welsh
 June 29 Jamie & Phil Iverson

Altar Guild

May Nancy Jo Wendt
 June Mona Hjelle

Make A Meal Volunteers

May Wendy Robbin & Bryson Wachter
 June Pam Johnson & Donna Peterson

That for a day: Today's housekeeping tip: Always keep several get-well cards on the mantle. That way, if unexpected guests arrive, they'll think you've been sick and unable to clean.

Custodian

May Mona Hjelle & Nancy Jo Wendy
 June Chuck Weflen

Elders

May 4 Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
 May 11 (Confirmation Day) Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
 May 18 Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp

June 1 Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
 June 15 Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp

Nursery

(more volunteers needed, please talk to Mona)

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

May 4 Eli Sharp
 May 11 Lance Sawatzky
 May 18 George Arends-Schmidt
 May 25 Carson Jaspersen

June 1 Noah Miller
 June 8 Andrew Sharp
 June 15 Levi Miller
 June 22 Eli Sharp
 June 29 Lance Sawatzky

Accompanying Musicians

May 4 Sharon Willen
 May 11 Scott Wachter
 May 18 Pam Johnson
 May 25 Scott Wachter

June 1 Sharon Willen
 June 8 Scott Wachter
 June 15 Pam Johnson
 June 22 Scott Wachter
 June 29 Scott Wachter

May Discipleship Verse...

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

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. Our Mother-Daughter Luncheon

Saturday, May 10 @ 10:a.m.

If you don't have a mother or daughter to invite... just 'adopt' one for the morning !

2. Any of our Angels studies:

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

3. Our Old-Fashioned Sunday School Picnic

After worship - behind the church

Picnic, Softball, volleyball, cake walk, gunny sack races, etc..

Bring a friend and a dish to pass.

4. Our New 4-6th Grade Group

4-6th Graders will meet for 1 ½ hours of fun, snacks and God's Word the 4th Sunday of each month (May 25) from 3:30- 5:00. Rides are available. Please talk to Bryson if your student will need a ride.

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

Don't Ever Forget:
You Are the PARENTS

"Your kids have plenty of friends and playmates BUT ONLY TWO PARENTS."

Being your child's friend is not your ultimate goal.

God talks in Proverbs about "Training up a child in the way he/she should go..." That really is a good summary of the responsibility God has given us as parents. And the good news is that, in spite of what they may tell you, they actually thrive on order and structure.

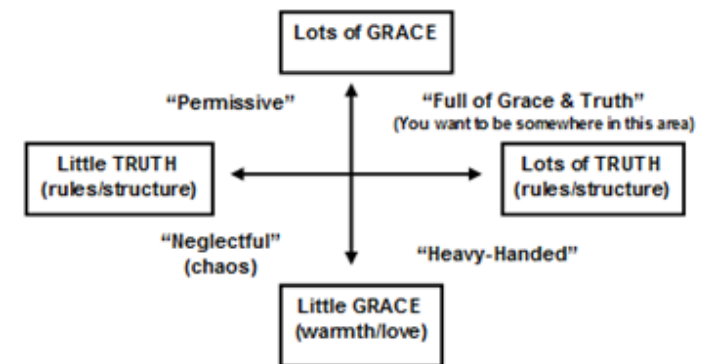


God tells us in the first chapter of the Gospel of John that Jesus came into this world "Full of GRACE and TRUTH." Grace and truth are two keys to training your children in the way God would have them go.

Don't be shy about setting out plenty of rules (truth) for them. God has filled the Bible with rules - guidelines - for our behavior. Structure and order is a good thing!

But also don't be shy about showing grace - as defined by the amount of "warmth" (love/forgiveness/understanding) in your home. Just like God, we don't give rules "for the sake of rules." We give them in for the sake of love because we know that following the right rules will lead to the best life for our kids.

The Daily Dozen author lists four possible parenting styles as evidenced by how much grace and truth are present. In the "Full of Grace & Truth" quadrant children have the security of knowing what is expected of them, as well as the safety of knowing they have parents who truly love them, will forgive them and will try to understand and help them.

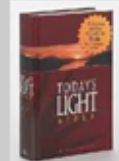


Few rules + Lots of grace = Permissive Parenting
 Few rules + Little grace = Neglective Parenting
 Lots of rules + Little grace = Authoritarian Parenting
 Lots of rules + Lots of grace = THE GOAL OF PARENTING

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.

Sharing the Love of Jesus in Practical Ways...

Please Fill Out an Orange "Opportunities to Serve" Insert... if you haven't done so yet. You can place it in the offering plate

Remember to use our Make-A-Meal Program

One of the best (and simplest) ways to share Jesus' love is by making a meal for someone who is going through a tough time. Please use the Prayer and Care cards in the attendance pad at worship or call Pastor David or Meal Coordinator Linda Dilley if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks! Our May Make-a-Meal volunteers: Wendy Robbin and Bryson Wachter.

Build Picnic Tables

Spring is coming and that means getting our large outdoor area ready for outdoor activities - like a playground and outdoor fellowship area. Picnic tables will be a major part of our outdoor area. If you like woodworking and could help make tables for us, please talk to Pastor David. Thanks!

Help with Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up

Saturday morning, May 17. @ 10:00

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 \$50.... THANK YOU!

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!

Be Custodian of the Month

Our Custodian of the Month schedule is over half-way filled for

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That for a day: The Golden Rule is of no use to you unless you realize that it is your move.

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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 deaning 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!

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.



Link Newsletter, May 2014

Tuesday's Table in May:

Food. Friends. Fellowship.

May 6th: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church
May 13th: Evangelical Covenant Church
May 20th: Faith Lutheran Church
May 27th: Peace Lutheran Church

As I look out the window at the most recent snowstorm, I am reminded of the storms, or challenges, we all face in life. Each day, our neighbors take on storms: health challenges, unemployment or the high costs of meeting basic needs. **The Link is here to help.** April 15th was the end of the Cold Weather Rule and many households have recently sought Link assistance to prevent the shutoff of their main heat source.

Here's a quick story about one of the families that needed some help: A young family with a newborn contacted the Link with an electric shut off notice of about \$1,200. The Link worked to connect the family to local resources and connect with resources at their home congregation in Willmar.

Salvation Army/Heat Share:	\$500
The Link:	\$150
Home church:	\$250
Family's resources:	\$300

THANK YOU to the following organizations for funds to purchase items for the "Just the Basics" event! We will highlight all our wonderful partner churches next month after our event!



New London Lions



of West Central MN



Spicer Sunrise Lions

Come out and support the Link's First Annual Ribfest at the Glacial Ridge Winery on Sunday, June 22nd from 4-8 pm.
Fun, family-friendly event with great music!

Link contact information:
Rhonda Otterson, Director
thelink@faithspicer.org
310 Medayto Drive
Spicer, MN 56288
320.796.2522

Spring cleaning? Bring your gently used clothing to the ECC Clothes Closet and your basic household goods to the Link Household Exchange!

Hours: Tuesday 2-4 pm, Thursday 10 am-2 pm
Saturday (Clothes Closet only): 9 am-1 pm

"Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other."

Email Humor...

...An "Oldie but Goodie"

A man dies and goes to heaven. St. Peter meets him at the Pearly Gates and says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her and loved her deep in my heart."

"That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth two points."

"Two points!?" he says. "Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service."

"Terrific!" says St. Peter. "That's certainly worth a point."

"One point!?! Well, I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says.

"Two points!?! Exasperated, the man cries, "At this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the grace of God."

"Bingo! 100 points! Come on in!"

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...

- + Our Confirmands: Terrell Abbott, Eve Bajari, and Michelle Johnson getting confirmed this month.
- + Skylar Wachter & Dana Schroeder getting married this month.
- + Dani Skaggs graduating from college this month.
- + Moms (and don't forget Mother's Day is May 11)
- + For a good Spring weather for planting, growing & outdoor activities
- + Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- + The ability to live like you know that Jesus IS alive.
- + An overturn of laws that restrict our religious freedom
- + Opportunities to "be Jesus" to someone where you live, work or play
- + Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way

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Thot for a day: Eventually you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

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Second Sunday of May...

Food-Shelf Sunday - May 11th

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" - May 11th

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.

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

A professor stood before his class of 20 senior organic biology students, about to hand out the final exam.

"I want to say that it's been a pleasure teaching you this semester. I know you've all worked extremely hard, and many of you are off to medical school after the summer. So that none of you gets your GPA messed up because you might have been celebrating a bit too much this week, anyone who would like to opt out of the final exam today will receive a 'B' for the course."

There was much rejoicing amongst the class as students got up, passed by the professor to thank him, and signed out on his offer. As the last taker left the room, the professor looked out over the handful of remaining students and asked, "Anyone else? This is your last chance." One more student rose up and took the offer.

The professor closed the door and took attendance of those students remaining. "I'm glad to see you believe in yourselves," he said. "Each of you gets an 'A.'"

Pastor's Note: And if God believes in you enough to die for you... who are you to tell Him that He's wrong?!

Story Behind The Song...

"Just a Closer Walk With Thee"

With Confirmation Sunday close at hand, I thought it would be appropriate to research the song with the title that sums up the goal of the Christian once we have become followers of Jesus: to daily become more like Jesus.

Every so often (sometimes *quite* often) a question comes up that I just have to answer, "I don't know. God hasn't really told us about that." e.g. "When and how, exactly, did Satan rebel and 'go over to the dark side'?" The Bible doesn't specify the details on that one.

Well, the origins of *Just A Closer Walk With Thee* fall under the same "We haven't a clue" heading. We don't know who authored the words or who composed the tune. Here's what we do know:

It was probably the favorite southern gospel song of the twentieth century, becoming nationally known in the 1930s, when African-American churches held large musical conventions. In the 1940s, southern gospel quartets featured it in all-night gospel-singing rallies.

The first known recording was by the Selah Jubilee Singers on October 8, 1941, (Decca Records 7872) New York City; In 1950 it was a million-seller for Red Foley. Tennessee Ernie Ford made the charts with it in the late 1950s. By the end of the 1970s, more than a hundred artists had recorded the song. Here's just a sampling: Mahalia Jackson, Patsy Cline, Van Morrison, Bob Dylan & Johnny Cash (duet), Harry Connick Jr., Charlie Daniels and Sarah Evans.

Just a Closer Walk has also been said to be the single-most frequently played number in the 'Hymn and Dirge' section of New Orleans "jazz funerals"

The song combines a number of biblical themes, but most obviously the theme of following ever-closer in the footsteps of Jesus. A goal that is, as the first verse reminds us, something made possible by God's grace.

**Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

**I am weak, but Thou art strong,
Jesus, keep me from all wrong,
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.**

**Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee**

**When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more,
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore.**

Editor's note: Too many choices for this song... In addition to the artists already mentioned, a favorite would be the beautiful version sung by the classic Ella Fitzgerald at:

<http://youtu.be/B3vTNPPMa9c>

or if country is more your style, enjoy this version by the Oak Ridge Boys at: <http://youtu.be/4AKiv3ZRxE>

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



Jesus said "Follow me, and I will make you Fishers of Men". **Mt. 4:19**
Karl.. sez he will stick to fishin for fish.