



September 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...

What do you see as the root cause of all the problems in our country / world?

ISIS had beheaded U.S. journalist James Foley, rioters and looters were being bussed into Ferguson, MO, Israel and Hamas were fighting battles, the Ebola virus was causing great worldwide anxiety, Russia was becoming a problem again in Europe, kids were streaming over our Mexican border, states continue to legalize gay marriage and criminalize those whose beliefs prevent them from supporting it. In other words, things seem to be "falling apart at the seams." The question was a natural one - and a good one. Problems demand solutions. And solutions must treat root causes, not just symptoms.

I pondered the question for awhile and decided that both the cause of the problem and the solution can be found in the Bible - hopefully that comes as no surprise !

The book of Judges ends with this sentence:

Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

That sentence pretty much sums up the book of Judges. It could accurately be said that things were "falling apart at the seams" for God's people at that time too. The root cause of their problems was they had quit listening to God and had discarded His laws as the standard by which they tried to live. They replaced that perfect standard with 'whatever was right in their own eyes.' In other words, they pretty much did whatever they felt like doing.



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And to say that wasn't working would be an understatement.

A few weeks ago I mentioned in a sermon something I have found to be one of the most basic principles of life:

Do what God tells you... good stuff will happen.

Don't do what God tells you... bad stuff will happen.

It really is 'as simple as that.'

It may be fairly easy to agree with that principle. But our problem isn't disagreeing with that principle. Our problem is this: We do what we feel like doing - what's right in our own eyes - and then convince ourselves that's what God would want us to do, when in fact it probably isn't.

But it's easier to point fingers at all the "Godless" people "out there" than to take stock of our own lives. But the book of Judges doesn't end with the sentence, "And all the Godless people did whatever was right in their own eyes." It was God's people who were not ordering their lives by the standard He'd set out for them. So the solution can't start with attempting to change the mindset of "all those heathens" out there. It begins with the people who claim to be following God.

God himself gives us that solution in 2 Chronicles 7:14,

"If MY people who are called by My name will humble THEMSELVES and pray and seek My face, and turn from THEIR wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

God's solution begins with us. And His solution is simple... but it's not easy. It requires the hard work of finding out what God's ways are, and then making a conscious effort to seek God's own power on a daily basis to follow those ways instead of doing "whatever feels right." The solution is not easy. But it is worth it. Start by praying what King David did in Psalm 139 & Psalm 51 "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Instead of coming apart at the seams, God will help you keep it all together

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 we are including some things we learned at the retreat.

We've highlighted the first 5 keys for having a successful marriage:

1. Never forget that you are a TEAM (with God as your coach)
2. Don't forget this truth: Men and Women ARE Different by design !
3. Teammates must constantly communicate - don't assume you know!
4. Teammates work together to fight CONFLICT (not each other)
5. Teammates express APPRECIATION & ENCOURAGEMENT

This month's key: Regularly (and 'once a year' is not 'regularly') Have a prayer & devotion time TOGETHER

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:19-20 NIV

That verse tells you that when you pray, you invite God - and His POWER - onto your marriage team. And with God on your team you can't lose !

Chances are good that you've heard this saying:

"The family that prays together stays together."

I read somewhere that when a married couple makes time to pray together daily the divorce statistic goes from 1 in 2 to 1 in 600! Wow! The saying isn't just catchy, it's true! That's because when you pray together you invite God to be with you. God brought you together not for "as long as you both shall love" but "as long as you both shall live"! Feelings of love will come and go. God has the power to keep you together "for better or worse."

In Ephesians 6:10-18, God reminds us of some other very important truths:

- Your teammate (spouse) is NEVER the enemy. The enemy is Satan - the devil. And in 1 Peter 5:8 God reminds us that this enemy wants to have you for lunch!
- God has everything you need to fight Satan AND defeat him.

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That for a day: If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time.

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- His Word - the Bible - is the one weapon that defeats Satan.
- Prayer is the key that unlocks God's arsenal ! You have that key !

Suggestions to make Prayer & Devotion Time a reality:

- Choose a time when you are both together, unhurried, undistracted. (This may require one of you to make a sacrifice)
- Have an assigned reading (e.g. the daily readings in this newsletter or a Portal of Prayer devotional) and a list of possible prayer topics.
- Keep a journal of requests and answers and insights

Email Humor...

A Sunday school teacher said to the children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is?"

One child blurted out, "Aces!"

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"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?" I asked the children in my Sunday School class.

"NO!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "NO!"

"Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my wife, would that get me into Heaven?" I asked them again.

Again, they all answered, "NO!"

"Well," I continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD!"

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A man was getting his hair cut at a neighborhood shop, and asked the barber when would be the best time to bring in his two-year-old son.

Without hesitation, the barber answered, "When he's four."

Sunday School News...

1. Rally Sunday, September 7

- Sunday School Kicks Off at 9:00 with Bible-based fun and games
- Potluck Dinner after worship
- Hay Ride @ 12:30 after Dinner
- Campfire (s'mores?) after the Hayride

Rally Sunday!



2. Regular Classes

Begin September 14

Students will start each morning with music, prayer requests from the kids and offering (monies going to "Project 24").
September Lessons:

- Sept 14th: I Wanna be just like Jesus -
Depending on God - John 15:1-8
- Sept 21st: I Wanna be just like Jesus—
Showing God's Love -1John:3:16;4:7-12
- Sept 28th: I Wanna be just like Jesus -
A Living Sacrifice - Romans 12:1-24

Teachers / Classes:

Pre-school to Kindergarten:	Amanda Sharp
1 st to 3 rd Grade:	Violet Dauk
4 th to 6 th Grade	Keith Hanson
Substitute teachers:	Jason Miller, Tammy Fuglie, Mona Hjelle

3. Rides are Available

We have volunteers who will pick kids up for Sunday School. Please contact either Mona Hjelle, Amanda Sharp or Keith Hanson

4. Our Mission Project: Project 24

Our Vacation Bible School supported the LCMS-sponsored "Project 24" in Kenya as their mission project last month. The Sunday School will continue that support as their mission this year.



Project 24 is committed to building at least 24 orphan rescue centers. Donations help construct safe homes, provide food, clothing, and healthcare for children in need. As their physical needs are met, each child is told of Jesus' love.

On Sunday, August 3, Candice Bicondoa from the St. Cloud area introduced us to this mission that's changing lives of orphans in Kenya. Please help the VBS kids (and orphans in Kenya) by taking home a 'spare change' bank and filling it with your spare change. Thanks!

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Thot for a day: We have to believe in free will. We have no choice.

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

Do you Know that ...

91% of the world's population has heard the name Coca-Cola?
72% of the world's population has seen the bottle/can of Coca-Cola?

51% of the world's population has tasted Coca-Cola?

Ah, by the way, do you also know that, only 10% of the world's population has heard the Gospel?

We are talking about the "heard" part of it, not the acceptance. This means the other 90% hasn't heard the Gospel yet!

When we meet God, He's not going to ask us the following kind of questions. Did you attend a church built by a missionary in the 18th/19th century? Did you attend a mega church?

Nope. I'm going to be accountable for all that I have been provided/blessed with by Him. I've been given much. I'll be asked much. He's going to ask me, What's your part in sharing the good news? Did you make use of the talents that I blessed you with for my glory? Did you do the "Christian" things with the right attitude?

Are you available for God to fill up the 90%?

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...

- Thanking God for the great summer weather
- Thanking God for bringing lots of kids to Vacation Bible School
- Thanking God for another successful Pie & Ice Cream Social
- Asking God for good weather for our Rally Sunday hayride/campfire
- Thanking God for the lives changed by Project24 in Kenya.
- Thanking God for our Sunday School teachers.
- Asking God for His Spirit to work through our new Bible studies
- Asking God for a great year of learning for kids returning to school
- For continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- For the discipline to simply listen to Jesus and do what He says
- A continuing overturn of laws that restrict our religious freedom
- Opportunities to "be Jesus" to someone where you live, work or play
- For the safety and boldness of Christians in Syria and Iraq

Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study (9:00) - Join us for our current study: Jesus' Miracles: What can we learn from them?

Weekly Bible readings:

After a break for summer, September is the time to "get growing again." Growing in our knowledge of, love for and trust in God

Audio recordings of the readings can be found at our website

Men's Study:

Tuesdays at 6:30—starting on September 9th
"NEW Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School"

Mom's Study

Starts again Wed., Sept 3, at 9:30am
(Childcare is provided)

Divine Design: 40 Days of Spiritual Makeover will lead you through an alteration of attitude by transforming your heart.

NEW Study for Working Moms/Women:

Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm—Starts Sept 10th
"Divine Design" - see explanation above

Wed. Noon Study

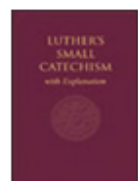
Starts again Wed., Sept 3
"Divine Design" - see explanation above

Confirmation

Will meet on Saturdays at 10:30 to study the 6 Chief Parts of Luther's Small Catechism

4-6th Grade Youth Group

NEW This Year : We'd like to expand the group meeting times from once a month to once a week - possibly Wednesday evening. We will have a 4-6th Grade Parents Meeting, Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30pm to make plans.



LWML News...

- Remember to bring your food shelf donations on Sunday, Sept 14
- Thanks to Everyone who helped in any way with the Pie and Ice Cream Social !



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.

Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

Here's just a sampling of what you'll find :

- Project 24 savings banks (to help with our VBS mission project)
- Today's Light Bibles to take home or give to someone who needs a Bible.
- Portals of Prayer - daily devotionals
- September Living Word newsletters
- Religious Freedom info from *Focus on the Family*
- Magazines - like *The Lutheran Witness*
- Pens
- Local Coupons
- Gospel tracts & booklets

OUTDOOR-MOVIE NIGHT

The Sequel

Friday, September 12 @ 8:00pm

"God's Not Dead"

Our first "Outdoor Movie Night" last month was a great success, and we got to put our popcorn maker to good use. With that in mind, we decided to hold one more before the weather turns cold. "God's Not Dead" was out in theaters this spring and packs an encouraging message for Christians and seekers alike. Bring a blanket, your family and some friends. Popcorn is provided!



Sept. 2014 - Daily Devotionals

This month we read the final book of the Old Testament, then after Rally Sunday begin a series of readings designed to help us make a concerted effort at GROWING in our faith and becoming more like Jesus. After the Holy Spirit has brought us to place our trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He works to grow our faith with the goal that we become evermore like Jesus.

Record your insights from these chapters on the lines provided.

Audio Recordings of the Readings may be streamed from www.livingwordlutheran.net

Wk of Aug 31 Daily Readings: Nehemiah (final chapter) & MALACHI

Sept 1 (No reading - Labor Day)

Sept 2 Nehemiah 13 _____

Sept 3 Malachi 1 _____

Sept 4 Malachi 2 _____

Sept 5 Malachi 3 _____

Sept 6 Malachi 4 _____

Wk of September 7 Daily Readings How to Grow Spiritually

Sept 8 John 15:1-8 _____

Sept 9 2 Timothy 3:12-17 _____

Sept 10 Romans 5:1-5 _____

Sept 11 Romans 12:1-8 _____

Sept 12 1 Peter 2:1-3 _____

Sept 13 2 Peter 3:14-18 _____

Wk of September 14 Daily Readings How to Grow Spiritually - Pt2

Sept 15 Hebrews 5:11-6:3 _____

Sept 16 Ephesians 1:15-21 _____

Sept 17 Ephesians 3:14-19 _____

Sept 18 Colossians 2:6-10 _____

Sept 19 Colossians 3:1-11 _____

Sept 20 Colossians 3:12-17 _____

Wk of Sept 21 Daily Readings Following Jesus

Sept 22 John 13:12-17 _____

Sept 23 Philippians 2:5-11 _____

Sept 24 Matthew 7:24-29 _____

Sept 25 1 John 2:1-6 _____

Sept 26 1 Peter 2:19-25 _____

Sept 27 Luke 19:1-10 _____

Wk of Sept 28 Daily Readings The POWER of God's Word

Sept 29 Isaiah 55:10-11 _____

Sept 30 Romans 1:16-18 _____

Oct 1 Hebrews 4:12-13 _____

Oct 2 1 Peter 1:22-15 _____



Oct 3 Psalm 119:9-16 _____

Oct 4 Psalm 148:1-6 _____

Daily Readings Available in Audio

...on our website www.livingwordlutheran.net.

September 2014 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 31 9:00 Adult Study 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	1 LABOR DAY 	2 SCHOOL STARTS 5:00-dark Guys' Work Project	3 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 4-6th Parents Mtg	<div> Lord's Supper Dates In June: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, September 7th Sunday, September 21st </div>		6 10:30 Confirmation Parents Mtg. RALLY SUNDAY TOMORROW !!
7 RALLY SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Study - SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 POTLUCK DINNER 12:30 HAYRIDE (w/ campfire after)	8 	9 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "NEW Stuff they didn't teach me in Sunday School"	10 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 NEW: Working Moms Study	11	12 8:00 OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT "God's Not Dead" (Popcorn provided)	13 10:30 Confirmation
14 9:00 Adult Study: Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Elders' Team	15	16 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "NEW Stuff they didn't teach me in Sunday School"	17 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 NEW: Working Moms Study	18 7:00 MCCL's Fall Tour	19	20 10:30 Confirmation
21 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	22	23 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "NEW Stuff they didn't teach me in Sunday School"	24 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 NEW: Working Moms Study	25 5:30 Community Outreach Team 6:30 Mission & Ministry Team	26	27 10:30 Confirmation
28 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 3:30 4-6TH GRADE GROUP	29	30 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "NEW Stuff they didn't teach me in Sunday School"	Oct 1 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 NEW: Working Moms Study	Oct 2	Oct 3	Oct 4 10:30 Confirmation

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

Sept 7 Phillip Iverson
 Sept 14 Kevin Welsh
 Sept 21 Linda Dilley
 Sept 28 Mark Fuglie

Oct 5 Tammy Fuglie
 Oct 12 Terrell Abbott
 Oct 19 Duane Hansen
 Oct 26 Eve Bajari

Fellowship Servers

Sept 7 Rally Sunday Potluck
 Sept 14 Wendy Robbin / Alida Sawatzky
 Sept 21 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
 Sept 28 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller

Oct 5 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
 Oct 12 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
 Oct 19 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
 Oct 26 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson

Usher Schedule

Sept 7 Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
 Sept 14 Wendy & Lonny Robbin
 Sept 21 Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp
 Sept 28 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer

Oct 5 Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle
 Oct 12 Kevin & Noah Welsh
 Oct 19 Jamie & Phil Iverson
 Oct 26 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weffen

Altar Guild

September Nancy Jo Wendt
 October Mona Hjelle

Make A Meal Volunteers

September Pastor David & Linda Dilley
 October Violet Dauk & Julie Bajari

Custodian

September Wendy & Lonny Robbin
 October Custodians needed

That for a day: I'm not a procrastinator. I just wait until the last minute because I will be older, and therefore wiser. It's strategic.

Elders

Sept 7 Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
 Sept 21 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
 Oct 5 Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
 Oct 19 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson

Nursery

Sept 7 Mona Hjelle
 Sept 14 Eve Bajari
 Sept 21 Gracie Geer
 Sept 28 Michelle Johnson

Oct 5 Mona Hjelle
 Oct 12 Eve Bajari
 Oct 19 Gracie Geer
 Oct 26 Michelle Johnson

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Sept 7 Noah Miller
 Sept 14 Andrew Sharp
 Sept 21 Levi Miller
 Sept 28 Eli Sharp

Oct 5 Lance Sawatzky
 Oct 12 George Arends-Schmidt
 Oct 19 Carson Jaspersen
 Oct 26 Noah Miller

Accompanying Musicians

Sept 7 Sharon Willen
 Sept 14 Scott Wachter
 Sept 21 Pam Johnson
 Sept 28 Scott Wachter

Oct 5 Sharon Willen
 Oct 12 Scott Wachter
 Oct 19 Pam Johnson
 Oct 26 CTI (Carpenter's Tools group)

September Discipleship Verse...

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience"
 Colossians 3:12

Mark Your Calendars...

Guys Work Project

Moving Dirt!

Tuesday, September 2
from 5:00 - dark



We are going to spread the black-dirt from the pile around, rake it and plant some grass. Bring a shovel, garden rake, pickup truck, wheelbarrow or just show up.

Mission & Ministry Team

2015 Planning Session

Thursday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m.

We will set out our Strategic Ministry Plan for the coming year and craft a budget proposal. We'll start by revisiting last year's plan, and make necessary revisions and adjustments. Then we will add new plans and goals for the coming year. The planning session is for all Mission and Ministry Team members.

OUTDOOR-MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, September 12th

See page 9 for more information

Rally Sunday - September 7

See page 6 for more information

Congratulations!

- Becca Dauk on your graduation from college
- Bryson Wachter on your engagement to Shannon
- Linda Dilley on your new grandson, Evan Ryan
- Jason and Sarah Miller on renewing your Marriage Vows

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

REMEMBER...

We Have New *Today's Light* Bibles

- 1) For our Bible Studies
- 2) To take home or give to someone.

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



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Thot for a day: Vacation: A time when parents realize that teachers aren't paid enough.

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The LINK...

Link Newsletter, September 2014

Looks like it is back to school time for many! Time to resume the school, church and activity schedules. I, too, am heading back to school and changing my career path. I have resigned as the Link Director and am providing part-time staffing and support in the transition until staff can be hired and trained. I will treasure the relationships that I have formed with many and I am excited to see how this new change will invigorate the work of the Link, moving the mission and vision forward in new and exciting ways.

Tuesday's Table

Food, Friends, Fellowship, 6 PM each week.

Sept. 2nd: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church
Sept. 9th: Evangelical Covenant Church
Sept. 16th: Faith Lutheran Church
Sept. 23rd: Peace Lutheran Church
Sept. 30th: Hope Presbyterian

Recently, I received an email from someone that was struggling to meet the demands of school supplies and tennis shoes for her child. She wrote:

"Today, I got up and thought: how am I going to shop for my son's school clothes, gym shoes, school supplies, backpack, lunches and

athletic fees? All I want is for us to be okay. I never wanted to be rich or have a lot of money or furniture, which you know I don't hardly have. All I have been doing is stressing out if I can pay rent next month, pay for food, necessities and my car. Do I let that bill go so I can buy him what he needs to start school? I'm tired of doing this and I need a change. So, today I asked God once more if he could please give me a sign of what he wants me to do. Where do I go from here? I can't keep doing this to myself and my son. I am literally making myself sick and need some peace. I am waiting to hear back from him...."

With the help of the Link and the generosity of our local churches, funders, businesses, community groups and community members, heavy burdens like these are lightened. The Link was able to provide gifts cards to help with some school necessities. God is good.

Link contact information:

thelink@faithspicer.org ▼ 310 Medayto Drive, Spicer, MN 56288
▼ 320.796.2522

Upcoming opportunities to support the Link Community Choir Concert to benefit the Link:

An Evening of Worship and Song.

Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church, Spicer
Sunday, November 23, 2014 at 7 pm
Free will offering to support the Link

Opportunities to Serve...

Help With Our Nursery

We need volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-4 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help out.

Serve After-Worship Fellowship Snack

We are looking for more folks to take a turn at serving snacks for fellowship time after worship.

Food Shelf Sunday—September 17th

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

Spread Out Our Black-Dirt Pile

If you have a shovel and wheelbarrow, please talk to Pastor. He's organizing guys to transfer our dirt from the pile to the driveway edges and new playground area - Tuesday, September 2. Thanks!

Help Plan our Mexican Dinner

After a couple years off, the annual Mexican Dinner is back! We will have short planning meetings after worship each Sunday from September 7 until the dinner in October (exact date to yet to be set)

Be Part of Our Community Outreach Team

Outreach Coordinator Amanda Sharp will be hosting a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 25 for anyone interested in being on the team - or just finding out what it's about. Please talk to Amanda if you have any questions. Thanks!

Be "Custodian of the Month" this Fall

October, November and December are still available. You (or your whole family) can sign up to provide the necessary cleaning for any of these months. A check-list of duties is posted by the mail-boxes.. Please consider being a part of this service. Talk to Wendy or Lonny Robbin if you have questions or to volunteer yourself or your family.

Suggest a "Thank God For" Message...

You've seen our message board by the road with the beginning of a sentence, "Thank God For..." Each week we want to change the ending of that sentence to encourage people to remember that God is the Giver of all good things - especially things we often take for granted. Last week we thanked God for The 'Dog Days' of Summer - and Dogs! Tell Pastor how you'd finish the sentence this week.

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That for a day: You are not finished when you lose. You are finished when you quit.

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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!

More Opportunities to Serve This Fall...

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.

Provide Foster Care with Lutheran Social Service

Lutheran Social Service is actively recruiting families in your area who would have interest in becoming a foster parent. **Do you have room in your heart and home for a child who is in transition and needs a safe, supportive home in which to live and grow?** There is need for a few good homes in this area. We need homes for all ages of kids, that need temporary homes, long term and permanent homes/adoptive homes. Please call Foster Care Coordinator Brooke Rustad at 320-235-5411 or email at brooke.rustad@lssmn.org to get more information

Volunteer with MOPS

New London Mother of Pre-Schoolers (MOPS) is looking for volunteers who feel called to minister to small children and show them the love of Jesus through play, crafts and Bible stories. While volunteers are ministering to children, their moms are encouraged through fellowship, devotions, small groups and speakers. Volunteers are needed the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings of each month (September 9 - May 12), from 9:15 to 11:45am (regularly, once a month or as a sub). If interested please contact Emily Groschens at 612-735-0772 or mrsjoegro@gmail.com or Kelsey Steffensen, 320-444-2538 or kelseysteffensen@gmail.com. We're also seeking to hire a Mop-pets Volunteer Coordinator. Job description and application available by contacting Emily or Kelsey. Thank you!



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 #10 Limit Unproductive "Screen Time"

"Screen time" is defined as "spending time on anything with a video screen." Included in that definition would be: television, 'smart' phones, computers, tablets, video games.

"Unproductive" is defined as "Anything not necessary for school, work or the necessities of running a home."

The author of the Daily Dozen says, "What works for many people is to keep track of how much unproductive screen time that they spend. Then slowly start changing that behavior by adopting two behaviors that are equally important:

1. Re-investing some of that time into more productive recreational time -e.g. A hobby, Talking with a loved one, Playing with the kids (maybe helping reduce their screen time), Reading/listening to God's word, Praying, Exercising
 2. Trying to use the rest of the unproductive screen time little more productively. E.g. Exercising while you watch TV
- Take this test: "I use _____ minutes of unproductive screen time daily." (We have a strong tendency to underestimate this time, so have a spouse or close friend check your answer for accuracy.)

Then answer this:

"I want to reduce that by _____ minutes daily. And replace those minutes with _____."

Thanks!

- To Coordinator Mona Hjelle and Everyone Else who helped with VBS. We had twenty-five kids who learned about the compassion and kindness of Jesus, and followed His example by supporting orphans in Kenya through Project 24! They raised \$1300 (The kids will find out as part of a guessing game on Rally Sunday)
- To co-chairs Pam Johnson & Laurel Iverson and Everyone Else who helped make our Annual Pie & Ice Cream Social a success. We sold around fifty pies (up from our previous average of forty) and brought in \$1300 (before expenses).

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That for a day: You only have one childhood. It may as well last your entire life.

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Story Behind The Song...

How Great Thou Art

"How Great Thou Art" is a Christian hymn based on a Swedish poem written by Carl Gustav Boberg (1859-1940) in Sweden in 1885. The melody is a Swedish folk song. It was translated into English by British missionary Stuart K. Hine, who also added two original verses of his own composition. It was popularized by George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows during the Billy Graham crusades. It was voted the United Kingdom's favourite hymn by BBC's Songs of Praise. "How Great Thou Art" was ranked second (after "Amazing Grace") on a list of the favorite hymns of all time in a survey by Today's Christian magazine in 2001.

The inspiration for the poem came when Boberg was walking home from church near Kronobäck, Sweden, and listening to church bells. A sudden awe-inspiring storm gripped Boberg's attention, and then just as suddenly as it had made its violent entrance, it subsided to a peaceful calm which Boberg observed over Mönsterås Bay. According to J. Irving Erickson:

Carl Boberg and some friends were returning home to Mönsterås from Kronobäck, where they had participated in an afternoon service. Nature was at its peak that radiant afternoon. Presently a thundercloud appeared on the horizon, and soon sharp lightning flashed across the sky. Strong winds swept over the meadows and billowing fields of grain. The thunder pealed in loud claps. Then rain came in cool fresh showers. In a little while the storm was over, and a rainbow appeared.

When Boberg arrived home, he opened the window and saw the bay of Mönsterås like a mirror before him... From the woods on the other side of the bay, he heard the song of a thrush...the church bells were tolling in the quiet evening. It was this series of sights, sounds, and experiences that inspired the writing of the song.

According to Boberg's great-nephew, Bud Boberg, "My dad's story of its origin was that it was a paraphrase of Psalm 8 and was used in the 'underground church' in Sweden in the late 1800s when the Baptists and Mission Friends were persecuted." The author, Carl Boberg himself gave the following information about the inspiration behind his poem:

"It was that time of year when everything seemed to be in its richest colouring; the birds were singing in trees and everywhere. It was very warm; a thunderstorm appeared on the horizon and soon thunder and lightning. We had to hurry to shelter. But the storm was soon over and the clear sky appeared.

"When I came home I opened my window toward the sea. There evidently had been a funeral and the bells were playing the tune of 'When eternity's clock calling my saved soul to its Sabbath rest.' That evening, I wrote the song, 'O Store Gud.'"

British Methodist missionary Stuart Wesley Keene Hine first heard the Russian translation of the German version of the song while on an evangelistic mission to the Carpathian Mountains in Ukraine, near the Polish border, in 1931. Upon hearing it, Hine was inspired to create his English paraphrase known as "How Great Thou Art". According to Michael Ireland, "Hine and his wife, Edith, learned the Russian translation, and started using it in their evangelistic services. Hine also started re-writing some of the verses --- and writing new verses (all in Russian) --- as events inspired him."

One of the verses Hine added was the current third verse:

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.*

Michael Ireland explains the origin of this original verse written by Hine:

When the Hines arrived in the village and approached Dmitri's house, they heard a strange and wonderful sound: Dmitri's wife was reading from the gospel of John about the crucifixion of Christ to a houseful of guests, and those visitors were in the very act of repenting. In Ukraine this act of repenting was done very much out loud. So the Hines heard people calling out to God, saying how unbelievable it was that Christ would die for their own sins, and praising Him for His love and mercy. They just couldn't barge in and disrupt this obvious work of the Holy Spirit, so they stayed outside and listened. Stuart wrote down the phrases he heard the Repenters use, and (even though this was all in Russian), it became the third verse that we know today.

Evangelist Billy Graham indicated:

"The reason I like 'How Great Thou Art' is because it glorifies God. It turns Christian's eyes toward God, rather than upon themselves. I use it as often as possible because it is such a God-honoring song."

**O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

**Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!**

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Thot for a day: You never realize how boring your life is until someone asks what you like to do for fun.

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**When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: (Refrain)**

**And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin: (Refrain)**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!**

Editor's note: This is my mother's favorite hymn. Her favorite version was the one made famous by George Beverly Shea. <http://youtu.be/dsEscUUNMAU>, but my favorite would have to be a newer recording done by Carrie Underwood & Vince Gill <http://youtu.be/pLLMzr3PFgk?list=RDpLLMzr3PFgk>

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**