



May 2015 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...

I don't understand how there can be a God when I see all the death and suffering in the world.

That's actually a comment, not a question. But it seems to me that underlying the comment is the hopeful search for an answer affirming that there indeed *is* a God as well as some kind of explanation for the rotten stuff that happens - especially death.

'Suffering and death' is one of the unfortunate and inescapable facts of life on this earth. And the pain - physical and emotional - that results from this fact of life should not be glossed over or taken lightly. It is real, and it hurts and often doesn't seem to make sense.

With that in my mind, let me start with this "final test" question I gave to the confirmation class:

Bad things that happen in the world are proof that:

- a) God doesn't exist
- b) Satan is real
- c) sin has very devastating consequences
- d) b & c

The correct answer is "d."

The problem is that our 'world' tries to tell us that the answer is "a"! But there's something deep down inside of us that says, "*That can't be right.*"

And that "deep down feeling" would be correct! The Bible shows us that there *are a couple of things* in each of our lives that point us to the fact that "a" can't be right - that there really is a God:

1) Creation. When we look at the created world around us it *naturally*



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leads us to conclude that there has to be a Creator who put it there. (Just like when you see a *painting*, you inherently know there had to be a *painter* who is responsible for the existence of that painting.)

2) Our Conscience. The fact that we have this 'built-in' moral compass telling us that certain things are right and certain other things are wrong, shows us there has to be a moral God who placed innate sense of right and wrong in our minds and hearts.

It's when we allow for the truth of both "b" (Satan) and "c" (sin), then all the rotten stuff that happens actually begins to make sense.

Many times in the Bible we read that God is a God of "compassion." The word "Compassion" literally means "*To suffer with.*" We don't often think about this aspect of God, but when we suffer, He truly does "suffer with" us. That's because death was never part of His intent for mankind. Adam and Eve were created to live forever. But when they disobeyed God and sinned ('disobeying God' is a good definition of sin) they brought death into the world - *just as God had warned them would happen if they disobeyed!*

God clearly tells us (Romans 6:23) *The wages of sin is death.* In other words, sin always 'pays off' with death. If there were no sin - disobedience to God - there would be no death. No suffering.

But God tells us in Ecclesiastes (3:11) that, in addition to our conscience, He has placed something else in our hearts: "Eternity" - an in-born, natural desire for something better than a life marred by sin. A longing for a return to the days without sin and death. We have an inner yearning for "the good old days in the Garden of Eden." God *also* has a longing for those days - days when He and the human beings He created out of the dust of the ground and breathed His own breath into would live together in perfect harmony forever!

So, God in His infinite wisdom, came to Earth in the person of Jesus to take the eternal punishment for our sin in our place. Talk about "compassion!" God doesn't just suffer *with* us, He suffered *in our place!*

John 3:17-18 makes it plain: "*God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*"

Our disobedience to God is what places us in the "condemned" category. We have no one to blame but ourselves. Motivated by

His unconditional love, God sent Jesus to take our punishment, and promises that everyone who trusts that Jesus truly is God's Son and is our only Savior will spend eternity in with Him on a restored earth where there will be "No more death or mourning or crying or pain."

If you haven't come to the point of repenting of sin and putting your trust in Jesus, here's an invitation to do that. When you do that Jesus' words from John 5:24 will apply to you: *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.* And, if you still have questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call and talk.

One thing to keep in mind, when it comes to life on this earth, "None of us gets out of here alive!" As a result of sin in the world, death will come to each of us. But there is also an eternity waiting for us where there will be no death or suffering.... forever! God wants each of us to spend that eternity with Him, and Jesus purchased our ticket in. Everyone who repents of their sin and trusts in Jesus can look forward to that perfect eternity - like a light at the end of a tunnel!

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

'99 Envelope Challenge' UPDATE

As you know, our 99 Envelope Board is a fund-raising effort to raise money to replace the yearly mission funding we have been receiving from our District (We began with 99 envelopes on the board - each with a dollar amount from \$1 to \$99. If we fill all envelopes we'll raise \$ 4950.)

To date: 49 envelopes have been taken and filled with \$2704 !
THANKS !

If you haven't taken an envelope yet.. please prayerfully consider taking one from the board and filling it with the dollar amount listed on the envelope. You may simply place it in the offering plate any Sunday.

A Tax-Refund suggestion: If each of us gave 10% of our tax refund we'd likely fill the rest of the envelopes and get a good start on another hundred envelopes!

(Please keep in mind that The 99 Envelope Board Challenge is in addition to your regular offering, so take an envelope off the board only if you are able to fill it with money would be over-and-above your regular offering.)

Rev. Dr. Daniel and Dr. Joan Jastram serve the Lord as career missionaries through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in northern Asia, based in Tokyo, Japan and will be giving a mission presentation at Living Word on July 5



"Here am I... send me!"

LEARN • PRAY • GIVE • TELL • SEND • GO • CELEBRATE

My personal support for: **Rev. Dr. Daniel and Dr. Joan Jastram**

- Pray daily for **Daniel and Joan** and how you can support their ministry.
- Tell others about **Daniel and Joan's** ministry and other opportunities to serve.
- Give securely online at www.lcms.org/jastram or fill out the form below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

A recurring gift of \$ _____ for the duration of Daniel and Joan's service.
(Please choose a payment method below.)

An annual pledge commitment of \$ _____ each month for the next 12 months
(You will be contacted in one year to consider renewal of your pledge. Please choose a payment method below.)

I would like to make my monthly gifts by:

- Check
- Automatic withdrawal (Please include a canceled check.)
- Credit card (Please provide information below.)

A special gift of \$ _____
 My check is enclosed. (Designate for **Jastram-Asia** support on memo line.)
 Please charge my credit card:

Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____

Type:    

Name on Card: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Questions? Call 888-843-5267 or send an email to mission.giving@lcms.org.

Make checks payable to and mail to:
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
P.O. Box 790089 • St. Louis, MO 63179-0089

Gifts received for LCMS missionaries are deposited in an account restricted for the support of eligible missionaries. Any gifts received in excess of a missionary's requirement for a given year are held for that missionary until needed. Should a missionary's service conclude for any reason, the funds remaining in the restricted account will be transferred to one or more eligible LCMS missionaries who most closely fulfill the restrictions of the original gift. With documented donor permission, a restricted gift can also be utilized to support missionary-related work authorized by the LCMS. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Acct # A10998-69386

Miscellaneous Notes...

Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans sponsors Simply Giving, a direct-deposit program that you can set up to have offerings automatically transferred from your bank account to the Living Word's general fund. Please see Stewardship Chair Jason Miller for more details.



Coming on June 9 - Living Word hosts Tuesday's Table

There will be a brief planning meeting after worship on May 10 for everyone interested in helping.

Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

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

- NEW: Fruit of the Spirit tote bags
- Today's Light Bibles
- April - June Portals of Prayer - daily devotional
- May Living Word newsletters
- 2015 Lutheran Island Camp schedules
- NEW Lutheran Women's Quarterly magazines

BELLS ANYONE??

We have the opportunity to form a Bell Choir to play for worship. Please talk to Jason or Sarah Miller if you'd like to be a part of it!

NEW 2015 Lutheran Island Camp brochures available

All Parents of students received one in your mailbox. Extras are available on the "Free Stuff" table. Scholarships are available to help with the cost. Just ask.

Choir News

Choir will be taking a short break for the summer. Watch the Newsletter for rehearsal dates when we start back up.

Thanks to everyone who has been a part of the Choir Ministry this year!

Audio Bibles for Military & Families

If you would be interested in helping promote here at Living Word a program to raise funds to help get audio Bibles into the hands of Armed Forces personnel and their families, please talk to Pastor David. Thanks!



Church-Bowling League

Plans are in the works to form a church-bowling league this fall at the New London Bowl. The league will run for 16 weeks and begin

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That for a day: There are no shortcuts to any place worth going.

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late October or early November. We are looking to field two mixed-doubles teams (4 people/team). Cost will be \$11/person for each week. This will be a handicap-league, so everyone can compete on the same level. Please talk to Brady Sharp if you would like to bowl or have question. Thanks!

Church-League Softball

Another Season starts on Thursday, May 14
Come and cheer on your team at the Swanson Fields on Willmar Avenue in Willmar
Please talk to Bryson Wachter if you would like to play.



Adopt-a-Highway Saturday, May 9



We will leave from church 10:00

We need a minimum of 8 people in order to complete the cleanup in an hour. Sign up at church.

Coming in June..

RibFest - Sunday, June 14
(Living Word will have a team !)



Congregation Invited...to Confirmation Open Houses

Sunday, May 3

Gracie Geer - from noon to 3:00pm

At her home in New London
(16889 Hwy 23 NE, New London)

Alana Friehl - from 12:30-2:00

At Lions' Park in Spicer

THANKS...

...for Supporting the Food Shelf! Thanks to everyone who has generously supported the New London Food Shelf through your donations!

Donation amounts: March - 32 pounds

April - 52 pounds

Please continue to bring your donations on Food Shelf Sunday (always the 2nd Sunday of each month). And thanks again for supporting this much-needed program!

... to Everyone Who Brought Toothpaste ...For The Link's "Just the Basics" Giveaway ! !

District Convention Highlights...

- Rev. Don Fondow was re-elected to another 3-year term as District President.
- Pres. Don Fondow spoke Tuesday afternoon. He spoke on how the abandonment of absolute truth has led to chaos and disorder in the world. He pointed us to the absolute Truth who was made incarnate for us, lived and was crucified. This Man rose again and gained our salvation. This is Truth. It is undeniable. The knowledge of this Truth is a gift from God through the Holy Spirit. Pres. Fondow encouraged us to continue to continue speaking this Truth to the world with vigor. As there is no other name under heaven given by which we must be saved, we must share this Truth no matter the challenges. The reality of our salvation compels us speak Truth to those around us. Though times change, our God does not and has promised to be with us to the end of the age, and He is the same yesterday, today and forever. This is our privilege and honor, to share in this Truth and message. It is the power of God for salvation to all who believe.
- Dr. Raabe, Professor of Hebrew at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, led daily devotion based on the Prophet Isaiah. He compared ancient Zion's desire to become like the nations around them to the desire of today's Church to be like the world. A desire that is born out of pride, self-reliance and the worship of other gods. There is constant temptation to find peace in alliances (compromises) with the world when the only true refuge is in Yahweh. Just as God's people were destroyed when they trusted in alliances of this world, so the Church will fall if she trusts the world. However, trusting in the True God and built on the Rock who is Christ, the Church cannot fail for Christ has promised and will defend her. Zion's story is a stark reminder of this truth for us today.
- Dr. Adam Francisco, Associate Professor of History and Political Thought at Concordia University, Irvine, CA, serves as the Convention Essayist. He began with an informative discussion on "worldview." - the lens through which people interpret and perceive reality. Worldview determines what a person holds as "truth" - what a person assumes to be true about reality and how he perceives his experiences and the world. His final presentation focused on Christian apologetics, the practice of defending the claims of Christianity. He stressed the importance of being able to articulate and defend our faith in a world that is increasingly un-Christian.
- We heard from several missionaries including Rev. Dan Jastram

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That for a day: A mother can touch a whole generation just by loving her own child well.

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and wife Joan who will be speaking here at Living Word on July 5, about their mission to bring the gospel to Asia. **See prayer info for the Jastrams elsewhere in this Newsletter.**

- We voted to identify 2015 as the "Year of Ministry to Children" The convention voted overwhelmingly to place a special emphasis on ministering to children in our congregations with more information and resources to come out of Parish Life and Nurture [PLaN] to help our people carry out this focus.
- We voted to "Encourage the State of Minnesota to alter its education funding guidelines to avoid biasing parents against choosing a Christian school for their child(ren)."
- We voted to "Investigate the Possibility of a Legislative Advocate" to the Minnesota Legislature. One of the convention delegates, who has served in our state legislature for 33 years, highlighted the need for a full-time advocate to keep religious freedoms and issues in front of our state representatives on a daily basis.
- Project 24 (to help build 24 orphanages in Kenya) has received \$97,404.72 to date from district congregations.
- The Orphan Grain Train collected 45 boxes of new socks and undies as well as 30 boxes of quilts and 3 boxes of pillow case dresses.

These are just a few highlights of the convention. A complete review can be found at the Minnesota North District <http://mnndistrict.webplus.net>

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...

- For our Supreme Court justices to seek God's wisdom in their decisions
- God's continued power working in our Confirmands Alana & Gracie
- Moms - that they would have God's energy, wisdom and heart.
- Thanking God for those who died serving our country
- God to work through the Today's Light program to strengthen faith
- For increased trust that God will continue to provide
- For protection and boldness is witness for all persecuted Christians
- For the ability to love unconditionally and sacrificially

May 2015 - Daily Devotionals

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We Read Through the Bible, in Just 15 Minutes a Day. We continue our readings in the Old Testament. Record your insights on the lines provided.

(In parentheses are verses to focus on if you are short on time that day)

Readings are available in audio at livingwordlutheran.net

May 3 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

May 4 Deuteronomy 7:1-26 (7:1-15) _____

May 5 Deuteronomy 8:1-20 (8:6-20) _____

May 6 Deuteronomy 9:1-10:32 (10:12-21) _____

May 7 Deuteronomy 11:1-12:32 (12:1-12) _____

May 8 Deuteronomy 13:1-18 (13:1-5) _____

May 9 Deuteronomy 14:1-15:23 (15:12-18) _____

May 10 - Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

May 11 Deuteronomy 16:1-17:20 (17:14-20) _____

May 12 Deuteronomy 18:1-19:21 (18:15-22) _____

May 13 Deuteronomy 20:1-21:23 (20:1-9) _____

May 14 Deuteronomy 22:1-23:25 (22:1-4) _____

May 15 Deuteronomy 24:1-22 (24:18-22) _____

May 16 Deuteronomy 25:1-26:19 (26:1-19) _____

May 17 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

May 18 Deuteronomy 27:1-26 (27:1-10) _____

May 19 Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (28:1-14) _____

May 20 Deuteronomy 29:1-29 (29:1-15) _____

May 21 Deuteronomy 30:1-20 (30:11-20) _____

May 22 Deuteronomy 31:1-30 (31:1-13) _____

May 23 Deuteronomy 32:1-52 (32:1-43) _____

May 24 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

May 25 Deuteronomy 33:1-29 (33:1-5,26-29) _____

May 26 Deuteronomy 34:1-12 (34:1-6) _____

May 27 Joshua 1:1-18 (1:1-9) _____

May 28 Joshua 2:1-3:17 (2:1-24) _____

May 29 Joshua 4:1-5:12 (4:1-24) _____

May 30 Joshua 5:13-7:26 (6:1-17) _____

May 31 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

June 1 Joshua 8:1-9:27 (9:1-27) _____

June 2 Joshua 10:1-43 (10:1-14) _____

June 3 Joshua 11:1-12:24 (12:7-24) _____

June 4 Joshua 13:1-15:63 (14:6-15) _____


June 5 Joshua 16:1-17:18 (17:7-18) _____

June 6 Joshua 18:1-19:51 (19:49-51) _____

Daily Readings Available in Audio

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

May 2015 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Study - Sunday School 10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship Confirmation Receptions 6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV	4	5	6 noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	7	8	9
		6:30 MEN'S STUDY		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, May 3rd - Confirmation Sunday Sunday, May 24th - The Festival of Pentecost </div>		10:00 ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
10 FOOD SHELF SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Study - Sunday School 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 TUESDAY TABLE MTG 6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV	11	12	13 noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	14  TBA CHURCH-LEAGUE SOFTBALL begins	15	16
						11:00 - CRAFTING / SCRAPBOOKING DAY
17 SUNDAY SCHOOL FINALE 9:00 Adult Study: Sunday School 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Pot-Luck Lunch 6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV	18	19	20 noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	21	22	23
				TBA CHURCH-LEAGUE SOFTBALL		
24 PENTECOST 9:00 Adult Study 10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper 11:30 Fellowship	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27 noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	28 5:30 COMMUNITY-OUTREACH TEAM 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM TBA CHURCH-LEAGUE SOFTBALL	29	30
31 9:00 Adult Study 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship	June 1	June 2 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	June 3 noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	June 4	June 5	June 6
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net </div>		

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

May 3	Confirmands
May 10	Tammy Wachter
May 17	Wendy Robbin
May 24	Bryson Wachter
May 31	Scott Wachter
June 7	Becky Sarsland
June 14	Mona Hjelle
June 21	Kevin Welsh
June 28	Linda Dilley

Fellowship Servers

May 3	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
May 10	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
May 17	Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
May 24	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
May 31	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
June 7	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
June 14	Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky
June 21	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
June 28	Becky Sarsland / Mary Raddatz

Usher Schedule

May 3	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
May 10	Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle
May 17	Kevin & Noah Welsh
May 24	Jamie & Phil Iverson
May 31	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
June 7	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
June 14	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
June 21	Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp
June 28	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer

Elders

May 3	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
May 17	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
June 7	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
June 21	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson

Altar Guild

May	Nancy Jo Wendt
June	Mona Hjelle

Make A Meal Volunteers

May	Gracie Geer & Laurel Iverson
June	Pastor David & Linda Dilley

That for a day: Instead of John I call my bathroom Jim. It sounds better when I say I go to the Jim first thing every morning.

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

May 3	Carson Jaspersen
May 10	Noah Miller
May 17	Andrew Sharp
May 24	Levi Miller
May 31	Eli Sharp
June 7	Lance Sawatzky
June 14	George Arends-Schmidt
June 21	Davis Rustad
June 28	Carson Jaspersen

Accompanying Musicians

May 3	Sharon Willen
May 10	Scott Wachter
May 17	Pam Johnson
May 24	Scott Wachter
May 31	Scott Wachter
June 7	Sharon Willen
June 14	Scott Wachter
June 21	Pam Johnson
June 28	Scott Wachter

Custodian

May	Custodian needed
June	Custodian needed

Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)

May 3	Mona Hjelle
May 10	McCartney Knutson
May 17	Gracie Geer
May 24	Michelle Johnson
May 31	Helper needed
June 7	Mona Hjelle
June 14	McCartney Knutson
June 21	Gracie Geer
June 28	Michelle Johnson

May Discipleship Verse...

“For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” Acts 4:20

Opportunities to Serve...

A Great Month 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: Laurel Iverson and Gracie Geer

Help with Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up

Saturday morning, May 9. @ 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.

Please Fill Out One of our New Talent / Service Sheets

They can be placed in the offering plate or given to our Stewardship Chair Jason Miller. Thanks!

Be "Custodian of the Month" For June

You (or your whole family) can sign up to provide the necessary cleaning for May. A check-list of duties is posted by the mailboxes. 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.

Read Scripture in Worship

Please talk to Pastor David if you can take a turn once every couple of months reading our New Testament and Old Testament Scriptures.

Serve After-Worship Fellowship Snack

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

Help With Our Nursery

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

Congratulations!

- Skylar & Dana Wachter on the birth of your daughter Maya Pearl (4/25)
- Gracie Geer and Alana Friebl on your confirmation (5/3)

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

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Thot for a day: Man cannot live by bread alone. He also needs a roll of duct tape and a can of WD-40.

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E-Mail Humor (or maybe Wisdom)...

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

One day on the way home from church a little girl turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the preacher's sermon this morning confused me."

The mother said, "Oh! Why is that?"

The girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?"

"Yes, that's true," the mother replied.

"He also said that God lives within us. Is that true too?"

Again the mother replied, "Yes."

"Well," said the girl. "If God is bigger than us and he lives in us, wouldn't He show through?"

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. **Last week we thanked God for Our Confirmands - Gracie & Alana.** Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week.

Spring Voters' Assembly

The April 26 Spring Voters' Assembly elected

- Vice Chair - Brady Sharp
- Treasurer - Patty Wroblewski
- Congregational Outreach - Linda Dilley
- Christian Growth - Education - Mona Hjelle
- Elder - Mark Fuglie

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

What Love means to a 4-8 year old... A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds: 'What does love mean?' The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined...

'When my grandmother got arthritis , she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore.. So my grandfather does it for her all the time , even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.'

Rebecca- age 8

'When someone loves you the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.'

Billy - age 4

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.'

Chrissy - age 6

'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.'

Terri - age 4

'Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him , to make sure the taste is OK.'

Danny - age 7

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.'

Bobby - age 7

'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.'

Nikka - age 6

'Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.'

Tommy - age 6

'Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.'

Elaine-age 5

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.'

Chris - age 7

'You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.'

Jessica - age 8

The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife.

Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard , climbed onto his lap, and just sat there.

When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, 'Nothing , I just helped him cry.'



Dear Member,

Our church is planning a very special outreach event for our community this fall called an *Old-Fashioned Country Fest*. The exact date will be forthcoming. On that day we will invite our neighbors and friends to join us for a one day outdoor festival here on our church grounds. It will provide our church with an opportunity to meet with those in our community over free fun, food, and fellowship. The theme for the event is an *Old-Fashioned Country Fest*, a theme that young and old will enjoy. We will turn our church campus into a festive place like our ancestors enjoyed years ago at the county fair, rally day, or fall church festivals.

The day will allow visitors to come and go as they please. It will be filled with exciting venues for young and old alike. Some of the things we are planning include:

An old-fashioned outdoor morning worship service.

A great free box lunch

A main stage that will be used for singing events, art and craft presentations, etc.

A craft area for the children to make fun crafts to take home.

Plenty of games throughout the day for the children (like sack races and a fishing pond), for the teens (like watermelon seed spitting and pie eating), and for the adults (like cow milking, bingo and checkers.)

We may even include a dunk tank, and an old-fashioned "hymn sing".

We will also be looking for volunteers who can demonstrate some old-fashioned skills such as quilt-making, crocheting, basket weaving, ice cream making, rug hooking, pumpkin carving, candle making, saw painting, etc.

As you can imagine, this will be a rather ambitious project for our church, however we are confident that many of you will come forward to volunteer your time, talents, and donations. Undoubtedly we will need the help of our children, youth, and adults working together to help make this a great success.

We are confident that this one-day event will give our church an opportunity to meet and greet the community and to share with them the joy that we have in our Lord and Savior. It will give us an ideal avenue to provide the living message of the "one thing needful."

Please continue to watch for announcements and requests, and remember to keep this outreach project in your prayers.



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(Received this week on the eve of the Supreme Court hearings regarding whether or not to make Gay Marriage a national law.)

THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE AND THE RIGHT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: REAFFIRMING A SHARED WITNESS
An Open Letter from Religious Leaders to All in Positions of Public Service

Released April 23, 2015
Dear Friends:

At this significant time in our nation's history with the institution of marriage before the United States Supreme Court, we reaffirm our commitment to promote and defend marriage—the union of one man and one woman. As religious leaders from various faith communities, we acknowledge that marriage is the foundation of the family where children are raised by a mother and a father together. Our commitment to marriage has been expressed on previous occasions, including the Letter of Shared Commitment and Letter on Marriage and Religious Liberty. This commitment is inseparable from affirming the equal dignity of all people and the necessity of protecting their basic rights.

The state has a compelling interest in maintaining marriage as it has been understood across faiths and cultures for millennia because it has a compelling interest in the well-being of children. Every child has a mother and a father, and every child deserves the opportunity, whenever possible, to be raised by his or her own married mother and father in a stable, loving home. Marriage as the union of a man and a woman is the only institution that encourages and safeguards the connection between children and their mother and father.

Although this connection cannot always be realized and sustained—and many single parents, for example, are heroic in their efforts to raise their children, it is in the best interests of the state to encourage and uphold the family founded on marriage and to afford the union of husband and wife unique legal protection and reinforcement.

The redefinition of legal marriage to include any other type of relationship has serious consequences, especially for religious freedom. It changes every law involving marital status, requiring that other such relationships be treated as if they were the same as the marital relationship of a man and a woman. No person or community, including religious organizations and individuals of faith, should be forced to accept this redefinition. For many people, accepting a redefinition of marriage would be to act against their conscience and to deny their religious beliefs and moral convictions. Government should protect the rights of those with differing views of marriage to express their beliefs and convictions without fear of intimidation, marginalization or unwarranted charges that their values imply hostility, animosity, or hatred of others.

In this and in all that we do, we are motivated by our duty to love God and neighbor. This love extends to all those who disagree with us on

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this issue. The well-being of men, women, and the children they conceive compels us to stand for marriage as the union of one man and one woman. We call for the preservation of the unique meaning of marriage in the law, and for renewed respect for religious freedom and for the conscience rights of all in accord with the common good.

Sincerely Yours:
Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison
President, Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
(among signers from 30 other national church bodies)



Link Newsletter, May 2015

We are so joyful for the beautiful April weather! Dare I say that spring is finally here? I saw a picture on facebook yesterday of kids wading in the lake! There was even one family brave enough to water skill! Yes it is warm, but not that warm yet!

On March 31st Tuesday's Table was sponsored by the New London and Spicer Lions Club. To say that it was a huge success is an understatement! What a wonderful group of people to serve with! You know what they say... "Where there's a need there's a Lion"! Well that held true for our free community meal, without the Lions, there would not have been a 5th Tuesday's Table in March!

As of today we are still collecting items for the "Just the Basics" event. We are very pleased with all of the donations coming in and the support of our community! We are amazed with all of the people who would like to volunteer during the event as well! It is sure to be a success!

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



Spicer Sunrise Lions

**Save the Date for The Link's 2nd Annual Ribfest at the Glacial Ridge Winery on Sunday, June 14th from 2-6 pm.
Fun, family-friendly event with great music!**

Warm blessings to you,
Chasity Ommott,
Director of Client Services
and Community Engagement
thelinkservices@faithspicer.org
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 2-6 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."

Meet Our Newest Members...

In March we welcomed a new group of members to our congregation. This month we have the first of a series short bios as they introduce themselves. You will find the rest of the new member bios in the June Newsletter.

Larry Levin

I was born in Kandiyohi County and grew up on a farm ten miles SW of Atwater. I lived on that farm with my parents for 42 years. Then I bought a house in Atwater. My parents sold the farm the next day and moved in with me! My mom died in 1998 and dad in 2001. In 2005 I married Barb Mossberg and moved three miles east of New London.



I work at QC Supply in Willmar (formerly Gillis Ag) where I've been warehouse manager for the past twelve years. I will have worked there a total of 26 years come this November.

I found my first Indian arrowhead when I was 12 years old and I'm still looking! In 1991 I was introduced to fossil hunting 40 miles west of the Missouri River in South Dakota. When I married Barb she told me I could turn her basement into a museum for the great things I've unearthed. But it wasn't big enough, so I built another building (32'x60') north of the house. I should have made it bigger!!! (The basement of the house is now my 'Man Cave.') As you drive east of New London on County Road 40, when you see two dinosaurs on the north side of the road - that's where we live. Everyone from Living Word is invited out to see my museum.

My favorite part in the Bible is right at the beginning where it tells us that God created the earth and everything in it. When you come to the museum you will see lots of His works. He really made some awesome creatures and rocks. God really has an 'eye' for beautiful things.

Some friends of mine told me about the "Living Word" church a couple years ago. I've always liked a smaller church. After coming to the church on Sunday mornings for worship I heard about the Tuesday night Bible Study for guys. Even though I wasn't a member Pastor Dave said I could join them whenever I could. It's been

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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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almost two years since I first started attending.

There are two reasons I became a member of Living Word. 1) The very friendly people and 2) Pastor Dave!

I've learned a lot about the Bible in the last two years, but I've come to realize there is a whole lot more I need to hear. GOD IS GOOD!

Larry
12050 Co Rd 40 NE
Spicer, MN 56288
320-354-8820

Mary Lee Moore

I was born in Tyler, MN; grew up in Balaton, MN; and then lived/worked in Minneapolis, MN.

I moved back to Balaton in 1979 and have worked for the City of Balaton since July 28, 1986 – Deputy Clerk-Treasurer until December, 1993 – City Clerk-Treasurer from December, 1993 until present.

I am a "tried and true" Minnesota Vikings fan. Hobbies include reading, writing prose/poetry, sewing – especially making patchwork quilts and doing embroidery, and creating a variety of crafts/homemade projects.

I have been blessed with two daughters, Alicia Sawatzky and Katrina Fortune; two sons-in-law, Brent Sawatzky and Nick Fortune; two grandsons, Lance and Carson Sawatzky; and Nick & Katrina are expecting their 1st child in September, 2015. I also have a very close and loving extended family.

I will be retiring in August, 2015 and moving into/renting a house that Brent & Alicia own in Kerkhoven, MN. Once retired/moved, I will be going to Montana in September to spend time with the Fortunes and my new grandchild.

My favorite Bible passage: Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* I am inspired by this verse because of my daughter, Alicia Sawatzky.

God used the Sawatzky and Robbin families to bring me to the Liv-



ing Word Lutheran Church. My faith has been strengthened by the love of family/friends and the belief that, "If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it."

The Sarsland Family - Cody, Becky, Alison and Troy

Becky was born in Alexandria, started Kindergarten at NL-S, met Cody in first grade, and never looked back. She grew up in the house that her parents built in New London. Cody was born in Willmar and lived in the



house his parents built, also in New London. They both went to Ridgewater College for the first two years. Becky continued her social work degree in Marshall. Cody competed nationally in welding, enjoyed it, and made a career out of it. He currently instructs welding at Ridgewater College. Becky worked as a social worker after college, and quit to become a full time Mom and Wife four years ago. Their daughter, Alison, is now in second grade, and their son, Troy, is four (and a half).

Their favorite thing to do as a family is play with their pets. They have a big, gentle, yellow lab named Duke who loves to go on walks, three cats and 14 laying hens. Two chickens are broody and sitting on fertilized eggs, so they may have some additions to their coop next week. Cody is an avid hunter, Becky likes to garden, Alison just learned to play Uno, and Troy likes anything/everything with wheels.

Becky's favorite Bible passage at the moment is Philippians 4:5 "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near." and her favorite Christian song lyrics at the moment are from "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love." <Maybe she just needs the constant reminder with two little children of God running around>. Cody's favorite passage is Psalm 121 - The Lord is our Protector.

God used the Mom's Bible Study, WITH childcare, to bring Becky into Living Word. The kids tried Sunday School here and LOVED it. Their excitement eventually roped Cody into coming. He also respected the values of this church and the pastor, and the rest is history :)

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That for a day: You don't have to attend every argument you're invited to.

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Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study (9:00)

"The Mormons: Who they are, what they believe - and what difference does it make to us!



Today's Light Daily Readings:

See pages 10—11 of this newsletter



Wed. Noon Study -

NEW: "Twelve Women of the Bible"

Wed. Evening Women's Study - 6:30

"Let It Go!"



Men's Study - Tuesdays at 6:30

"Drive Through the Holy Land"

concludes Wed. May 5.

Men's Study will meet once-a-month during the summer on the first Tuesday of each month.



Confirmation:

Meets April 11th & 25th

4-6th Grade Youth Group - Every Wednesday at 6:30pm

HS Youth Group - 1st & 3rd Sundays at 7:00pm



Financial Peace University -

Sundays @ 6:00pm

Sunday School - Wraps up the year on May 17.

Could You Host A Small Group Study This Spring?

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 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.

When there is nothing left but God, that's when you find out that God is all you need.

Story Behind The Song...

"Awesome God"

This is one of the songs our Confirmands - Gracie Geer and Alana Friehl - chose for their confirmation day, so I thought it would be an appropriate time to take a look at "the story behind the song."

"Awesome God" is a contemporary worship song written by Rich Mullins and first recorded on his 1988 album, *Winds of Heaven, Stuff of Earth*. It was the first single from the album and rose to the number one spot on Christian radio and quickly became a popular song of praise sung in Christian congregations. Its title is inspired by the truth that a humbling sense of "awe" is the response when we contemplate the power, authority, and mercy of our ever-present God. Due to the popularity of the song it became Mullins' signature song.

The website dedicated to Mullins and his recordings lists these Scripture passages as those that are incorporated in the lyrics: Genesis 1:1-5, Genesis 19:24, Deuteronomy 10:17 Psalm 145, Isaiah 52:10, Habakkuk 3:1-19 Romans 2:23-26, Second Peter 1:5-9, Revelation 22:7

It is said that the song originated when Mullins was driving late at night by himself in a pick-up truck somewhere between Tennessee and Missouri. He was on his way to a youth concert in Colorado and was having trouble staying awake. Rich found himself envisioning an imaginary "hellfire and brimstone" preacher, the kind that bellow short, sharp proclamations about God to their congregation. He rolled his window down and started shouting these statements into the night, trying to stay awake. Line by line Rich yelled the phrases of what was to become this song. He committed those lines to memory until he got to the venue and found a piano and taught the kids "Awesome God."

Mullins did not consider the song to be one of his best. In an interview with *The Lighthouse Electronic Magazine* in April 1996, he said:

You know, the thing I like about Awesome God is that it's one of the worst-written songs that I ever wrote; it's just poorly crafted. But the thing is that sometimes, I think, that when you become too conscientious about being a songwriter, the message becomes a vehicle for the medium. This is a temptation that I think all songwriters have. I think a great songwriter is someone who is able to take a very meaningful piece of wisdom - or of folly or whatever - and say it in a way that is most likely to make people respond. But, what you want them to respond to is not how cleverly you did that; what you want them to respond to is your message.

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That for a day: When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

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When He rolls up His sleeves He ain't just putting on the ritz
(Our God is an awesome God)
There's thunder in His footsteps And lightning in His fists
(Our God is an awesome God)
And the Lord wasn't joking When He kicked 'em out of Eden
It wasn't for no reason That He shed His blood
His return is very close And so you better be believing that
Our God is an awesome God

Chorus: Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power, and love
Our God is an awesome God

And when the sky was starless In the void of the night
(Our God is an awesome God)
He spoke into the darkness And created the light
(Our God is an awesome God)
Judgment and wrath He poured out on Sodom
Mercy and grace He gave us at the cross
I hope that we have not Too quickly forgotten that
Our God is an awesome God

Editor's note: A live performance of this song by the late Rich Mullins at: https://youtu.be/MJL_bChITIO

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Prayers to anyone besides the One True God of our Bibles provides less hope than a rescue message in a bottle. **Mt. 7:7-8, 21:22, Is 30:19, I Jo 5:14-15**