


Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



September 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...

What does it mean to "believe in" Jesus?

The appointed Gospel readings for worship on the Sundays in early August were from John chapter 6 - a conversation Jesus had with people who wanted to follow Him after He had fed 5000+ people on just five loaves of bread and two fish. The question above is one I asked after hearing Jesus say - several times in that chapter - that "believing in Him" was the key to being raised from the grave on the day He returns and living forever with Him.



It just seemed to make sense that if "believing in Jesus" is what enables us to receive the gift of eternal life He purchased for us by His death and resurrection, we REALLY need to know what it means to "believe in Him" (and what it doesn't mean).

In the book of James (chapter 2, verse 19) we are told, point-blank, that simply knowing in your head that Jesus is the one true God is not the same as "believing in" Jesus.

It's like I "know in my head" that George Washington was the one-and-only first president of our country. But that certainly isn't the same as saying I "believe in" George Washington.

"Believing *IN*" someone is a 'trust' or 'reliance' thing. If you "believe in" Jesus that means you put your trust in Him. You rely on Him. So naturally follows that in order to "believe in" Jesus you have to start with "believing" Jesus. In other words, you can't "believe in" Jesus and not believe what He tells you. If you "believe in" Jesus, you start by believing that what He tells you is the truth. You trust that what He says is right. Every time. You rely on fact that the way He says to do things is THE best way - always.

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So, it naturally follows that if "believing in" Jesus starts with simply "believing" what He says, the very first thing we need to know is *What did Jesus actually say?* If you are going to believe what He says, you really need to know what He has said (and what He hasn't said).

As the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 10:14, *"How can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard?"*

Knowing what Jesus actually said isn't as easy as it would seem. I've heard many people make comments like this: "I don't believe Jesus would...." and then they finish that sentence with a thought that actually contradicts something Jesus said. Or they may say, "I believe Jesus would...." and the rest of the sentence attributes some action to Jesus that He has said He would never do. But it's easy to just take the person's word for it instead of checking out what Jesus really did say. The result is that we end up believing something about Jesus that is simply wrong.

Our task is to be like the Christians from a town named Berea. The apostle Luke lifts them up as an example in Acts 17:11 where he writes, "Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

This month we kick off another Christian Growth Year with brand new Sunday School and Bible classes all designed to help us learn what Jesus really did say and do, so we don't go off and believe the wrong things about Him.

Our Men's, Women's and Sunday studies will kick off with the same 4-session study entitled, *"Journey from Unbelief to Faith."* In these classes we will see first-hand some of the things in our society that Satan uses in an attempt to keep people from "believing in" the one true God. And just as importantly, we will see how the Holy Spirit worked in their lives to overcome those obstacles and bring them to "believe in" Jesus. Because it is ultimately by the power of the Holy Spirit working through God's Word that any of us comes to "believe in" Jesus and then grow in that faith.

Please join us for one of these studies.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Summer Reading Program for Kids...

We are in the last leg of our New SRP4K program this summer. Here's a sampling of the books available - appropriate for all ages of Sunday School students - to check out from the library at church:



- Chronicles of Namia
- The Sugar Creek Gang
- The Case for Christ for Kids
- The Cul-de-sac Kids
- Arch Books



Look for these new books:

- BOXCAR CHILDREN 1-4 set;
- GIRL'S GUIDE TO MAKING REALLY GOOD CHOICES;
- BOY'S GUIDE TO MAKING REALLY GOOD CHOICES;
- TEN GIRLS WHO CHANGED THE WORLD;
- TEN BOYS WHO CHANGED THE WORLD;
- IF I COULD ASK GOD ANYTHING- AWESOME BIBLE ANSWERS FOR CURIOUS KIDS.



Each student earns points for books read (or books read to them) Older kids can earn points for reading to their younger siblings too. These points can be redeemed at the end of summer for special prizes!

E-Mail Humor...

A feisty 75-year-old woman had to call a furnace repairman. After a quick inspection the man put some oil into the motor and handed her a \$70 bill for labor.

"Labor charges!" she exclaimed. "It took you five minutes."

The repairman explained that his company had a minimum one-hour charge on every house call.

"Well, I want my remaining 55 minutes of labor," the lady responded, and she handed him a rake. The repairman spent the next 55 minutes in her yard bagging leaves.

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Hot for a day: A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

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Thanks...

VBS "THANK YOU"...

... to Coordinator Mona Hjelle.
... to all the Kids who attended.
... to all Parents and Grandparents who brought kids
... to Everyone Else who helped with VBS.

We had twenty-five kids who Discovered that Jesus gives Courage, Saves Us and Leads us to Love Everyone. We followed His example by filling backpacks with school supplies for needy kids

THANKS...

...for Supporting the Food Shelf! Thanks to everyone who has generously supported the New London Food Shelf through your donations! Donation amounts for August: 7 pounds plus a \$20 donation. Please continue to bring your donations on Food Shelf Sunday is September 13 (always the 2nd Sunday of each month). And thanks again for supporting this much-needed program!

THANKS!

...to everyone who helped with Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup last month.

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 Vacation Bible School!



Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week

Congratulations!

• Bryson & Shannon Wachter on your marriage August 22
Please email pastor@livingwordlutheran.net if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

Miscellaneous Notes...

Choir Choir Choir

Come and Join Our CHOIR

We will rehearse August 30th after coffee fellowship for singing in worship on September 6th . We'll also rehearse September 20th and 27th for singing on October 4th in worship.

(Rehearsals are @ 11:30 the 3rd and 4th Sunday of each month, and we will sing the 1st Sunday of each month.)



Summer - A Great Time to Begin Direct Deposit for Your Offerings Summer schedules frequently have



us out of town on the weekends. Direct-deposit can ensure your offerings are still supporting our mission while you are away. Thrivent Financial 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.

Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

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

- + Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- + Today's Light Devotional Bibles
- + September Living Word newsletters
- + Local coupons
- + September Today's Light daily Bible readings
- + July- Sept. Portals of Prayer- daily devotionals
- + Christian magazines & Videos



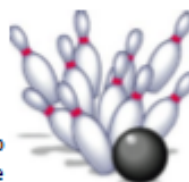
YOU CAN PLAY HANDBELLS

It's really not that difficult. If you can count, you can play! 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!



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 late October or early November. We are looking to field two mixed-doubles teams (4 people/team). Cost will be



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Hot for a day: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they are sticking to their diet.

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\$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

Our team took the Silver League regular-season championship this season. We didn't do so well in the playoffs - winning one of three games.



Thanks to everyone who played, to everyone who came and cheered, and to Bryson Wachter for once again being our

Mark Your Calendars...

RALLY SUNDAY - September 13

Sunday School Kicks Off a Brand New Year!

We will also award "Summer Reading Program 4 Kids" prizes

Mission & Ministry Team 2016 Planning Session

Thursday, September 17 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. Please bring 2016 Goals for your Team.

Men's BBQ Fellowship Night

Tuesday, September 2 @ 6:30

We'll bring summer to a close by grilling some brats and playing some games or just hanging out and visiting. Brats are provided. Bring a friend!

Joe Johnson & Allie Bratberg Invite You ...

To celebrate their marriage with them at their

After-Dinner Wedding Reception

8pm, Saturday, September 12

at the Darlene Bratberg barn

9420 Co Rd 4 NE, Atwater, MN

Bryson & Shannon Wachter Reception

at the Glacial Ridge Winery on Saturday, September 26th. It will be an open house reception from 1- 5pm and there will be tacos served along with many beverages (pop and water will be paid for, alcohol is up to the individuals) and there will be musical entertainment as well.



Another 'Pie & Ice Cream Social' is History !

With the sale of full pies at church, gross proceeds were over \$1000. (Not all expenses are in yet, so we don't have a 'net' figure as of today.

A big "shout-out" to all the people that assembled pies, baked pies and sold pies. This is a positive fundraising event every year, not only in income but as an outreach to the community!

**Bryson & Shannon Wachter
August 22nd, 2015**



That for a day: God loves us not according to how we do but according to who He is.

Dear Members of Living Word Lutheran Church,

I wanted to express our gratitude for the wedding shower that the church hosted for Shannon and me at the end of July. We know that there was a lot of planning that was involved and people gave their time and efforts to provide and organize food for the special event and the gifts that we received from various people at the shower were very thoughtful and will definitely be used and remembered for a long time. So to those of you who were involved in the planning and also to those who were in attendance that day as well as those of you who have supported us in any way, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I also wanted to let you all as members know that Living Word has always been dear to me and always will be. The members of Living Word have been and will continue to be my extended family no matter what life brings me in the future. I have known many of you for numerous years and have spent countless hours serving others in the name of Jesus. I have many fond memories and will always cherish the moments and the friendships that were created over the years. Living Word is the place where I started my faith journey and continued to grow in faith over the years. Nothing will ever take that away. Even though I am not a member of Living Word Lutheran Church any more I will still visit, be involved in the church community in any way that I possibly can, and will continue to stay in touch with the church and its members.

Everyone in the congregation and community is invited to help us celebrate when we arrive back in Minnesota as we are having a reception at the Glacial Ridge Winery on Saturday, September 26th. It will be an open house reception from 1- 5pm and there will be tacos served along with many beverages (pop and water will be paid for, alcohol is up to the individuals) and there will be musical entertainment as well. We would love to see all of you as our friends and family in Christ at this reception.

Friends in Christ always,
Bryson Wachter & Shannon Arnold

September 2015 - Daily Devotionals

TODAYS LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We Read Through the Bible, in Just 15 Minutes a Day. We continue our readings in the Old Testament then jump to a New Testament book for a change of pace at the end of the month. Record your insights on the lines provided.

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

Aug 30 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Aug 31 1 Kings 19:1-21 (19:1-18) _____

Sep 1 1 Kings 20:1-43 (20:1-21) _____

Sep 2 1 Kings 21:1-22:53 (21:17-29) _____

Sep 3 2 Kings 1:1-2:25 (2:1-18) _____

Sep 4 2 Kings 3:1-4:44 (4:8-37) _____

Sep 5 2 Kings 5:1-27 (5:1-15) _____

Sept 6 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Sept 7 2 Kings 6:1-7:20 (6:24-7:20) _____

Sept 8 2 Kings 8:1-29 (8:1-6) _____

Sept 9 2 Kings 9:1-10:36 (10:1-31) _____

Sept 10 2 Kings 11:1-12:21 (11:1-12:3) _____

Sept 11 2 Kings 13:1-14:29 (13:14-25) _____

Sept 12 2 Kings 15:1-16:20 (16:10-20) _____

Sept 13 Come the RALLY SUNDAY for the start of a new Christian Growth Year

Sept 14 2 Kings 17:1-41 (17:7-23) _____

Sept 15 2 Kings 18:1-19:37 (18:5-16) _____

Sept 16 2 Kings 20:1-21 (20:1-11) _____

Sept 17 2 Kings 21:1-26 (21:1-16) _____

Sept 18 2 Kings 22:1-23:37 (22:1-20) _____

Sept 19 2 Kings 24:1-25:30 (25:1-30) _____

Sept 20 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Sept 21 Micah 1:1-2:13 (2:1-13) _____

Sept 22 Micah 3:1-4:13 (4:1-13) _____

Sept 23 Micah 5:1-15 (5:1-4) _____

Sept 24 Micah 6:1-16 (6:1-8) _____

Sept 25 Micah 7:1-20 (7:18-20) _____

Sept 26 Nahum 1:1-3:19 (1:1-15) _____

Sept 27 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Sept 28 1 Corinthians 1:1-2:16 (1:1-24) _____

Sept 29 1 Corinthians 3:1-4:21 (4:1-21) _____


Sept 30 1 Corinthians 5:1-6:20 (5:1-13) _____

Oct 1 1 Corinthians 7:1-40 (7:1-24) _____

Oct 2 1 Corinthians 8:1-9:27 (8:1-13) _____

Oct 3 1 Corinthians 10:1-33 (10:14-33) _____

September 2015 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 30 9:00 Adult Study - Drive Thru History 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE	Aug 31	1 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MEN'S GRILLING	2 7:00 CONFIRMATION PARENTS MEETING	3	4	5
6 9:00 ADULT STUDY - DTH 10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper (Choir sings) 11:15 Fellowship	7 LABOR DAY	8 6:30 NEW MEN'S STUDY	9 Noon - WED NOON NEW STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 - NEWWOMEN'S STUDY	10	11	12 JOE JOHNSON & ALLIE BRATBERG Wedding 8:00 - After Dinner Reception
13 RALLY SUNDAY 9:00 NEWADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL Kick Off 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 6:30 NEW SrHigh Youth Study	14 	15 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	16 Noon WED NOON STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	17 5:30 COMMUNITY-OUTREACH TEAM 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM Annual Planning Meeting	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Lord's Supper Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday, September 6th • Sunday, September 20th </div>	
20 9:00 ADULT STUDY SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:30 SR HIGH YOUTH STUDY	21	22 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	23 Noon WED NOON STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	24	25	26 1:00-5:00 BRYSON/SHANNON Reception @ Glacial Ridge Winery
27 9:00 ADULT STUDY SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:30 SR HIGH YOUTH STUDY	28	29 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	30 Noon WED NOON STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	Oct 1	2	3
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net</p> </div>		

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Sept 6 Mona Hjelle
 Sept 13 Kevin Welsh
 Sept 20 Linda Dilley
 Sept 27 Jason Miller

Fellowship Servers

Sept 6 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
 Sept 13 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
 Sept 20 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
 Sept 27 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen

Oct 4 Mike & Brooke Knuts on
 Oct 11 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
 Oct 18 Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky
 Oct 25 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
 Nov 1 Becky Sarsland / Mary Raddatz

Usher Schedule

Sept 6 Kevin & Noah Welsh
 Sept 13 Jamie & Phil Iverson
 Sept 20 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
 Sept 27 Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter

Elders

Sept 6 Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
 Sept 20 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hans on

Altar Guild

Sept Nancy Jo Wendt

Make A Meal Volunteers

Sept Wachters & Nancy Jo Wendt

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Sept 6 Andrew Sharp
 Sept 13 Levi Miller
 Sept 20 Eli Sharp
 Sept 27 Lance Sawatzky

Accompanying Musicians

Sept 6 Sharon Willen
 Sept 13 Scott Wachter
 Sept 20 Pam Johnson
 Aug 23 Scott Wachter

That for a day: Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so.

Custodian

September Custodians needed

Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)

Sept 6 Mona Hjelle
 Sept 13 McCartney Knutson
 Sept 20 Gracie Geer
 Sept 27 Alana Friehl

Just For Fun...

Find the hidden Bible verse.

B	R	I	D	E	O	A	L	P	H	A	L	R	E	O	ALPHA
R	R	D	S	A	G	A	T	E	S	E	V	O	L	L	AMEN
I	M	I	G	E	R	S	P	E	E	K	F	B	I	E	ANGEL
G	H	T	M	O	R	N	I	N	G	E	Y	E	V	D	BEHOLD
H	B	D	M	L	E	V	O	E	L	S	C	S	S	I	BLESSED
T	P	M	L	R	E	Y	A	L	W	I	S	H	E	S	BRIDE
H	I	D	A	O	R	C	O	N	T	I	N	U	E	T	BRIGHT
I	H	H	N	E	H	W	I	C	T	A	S	T	H	U	BROTHERS
R	S	L	V	H	E	E	A	M	A	N	G	W	H	O	CONTINUE
S	R	E	H	T	O	R	B	L	E	S	S	E	D	W	DAVID
T	O	G	U	H	P	J	E	S	U	S	O	T	M	R	EVERYONE
Y	W	N	S	G	N	I	H	T	I	R	I	P	S	O	FELLOW
R	L	A	U	D	A	V	I	D	A	M	E	N	S	N	GATES
T	W	O	R	D	S	L	S	R	E	W	A	R	D	G	HOLY
I	N	Y	H	N	O	U	P	R	O	P	H	E	T	S	IMMORAL

September Discipleship Verse...



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom. Colossians 3:16



**Asia Calling:
Jastrams to Japan**

Hong Kong Nightscapes

www.lcms.org 888 THE LCMS

August 2015

This issue includes news about Dan's trip to Hong Kong earlier this year for which we didn't have space in previous months!

Kat-ar-ti-zo



Kowloon Walled City Park

Like a zipper

I thought Dan's trip to Hong Kong would be somewhat anti-climatic, coming on the heels of his first trip to Japan in forty years the prior month. NOT. When he called from Hong Kong that Memorial Day weekend, my siblings who were within earshot smiled, noting Dan's voice bursting with enthusiasm. Not only was Dan eager to share about the sights and sounds of Hong Kong ("They have an amazing light and sound show every night in the bay!"), but more importantly about what his work will be with his fellow missionaries and our partner church.

The theme for this Northern Asia LCMS workgroup meeting was *Fitted Together*, reminiscent of 1st Corinthians 1:10, "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters... that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought" (italics mine). "Kataritio," the Greek scholar told me, "fitted together - like a zipper!"

Two sides of the zipper: overseas

Dan gathered with other missionaries in Hong Kong who are also serving in Northern Asia, including those working strategically in the area. As a theological education facilitator, his task is to learn how he can support and facilitate what they would like to accomplish. Normal church planting does not fit within some governmental parameters, so they must have strategies that stay inside of them without compromising our mission to "teach all nations."

Dan also had an opportunity to make an initial acquaintance with the president of the Concordia Theological Seminary in Hong Kong. They look forward to future visits after our move to Tokyo when Dan will also meet with seminary faculty to learn how we can better share our rich theological resources in support of our sister church.



Concordia Theological Seminary President Rev. Dr. Stephen Ip and the Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram

Two sides of the zipper: stateside

Now that the three overseas trips have been completed, Dan's sole task is to establish a sustainable network of support for his work as a career missionary. At the end of July we made our first "missionary journey" across the border to Wisconsin. We were



Preservice preparation

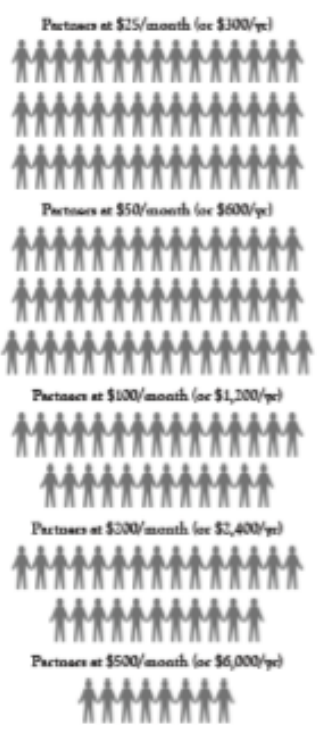
privileged to share with fellow LCMS congregation members the work Dan has been called to do and to have them join us as partners in the work.

Dan and I are frequently asked, "When will you be leaving?" Under the new Network Supported Missionary (NSM) model, missionaries must now rely on contributions designated to their specific missionary work. Once we have established a network through those contributions that is considered healthy enough to sustain us in the field for the long-term, we will receive the "green light" and begin preparations for a move to Japan.

A network that provides close to 90% in recurring gifts is optimal. You, dear friend, are "the other side of the zipper." We cannot do our work without you! Although the amount required (nearly \$200,000) is steep, if broken down into the categories illustrated on the right, we only need 145 sustaining partners. I will convert icons to green to represent sustaining partners on our blog "jastrams.me" in the next few weeks. I will include little church icons too for congregational support. In the meantime, if you would like to help us "go green," partner with us through one of several means noted below.

- +Online at the LCMS website: <https://www.lcms.org/network/jastram>
- +By mail - Gifts can also be sent to:
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63179-0089
(Checks payable to the The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, memo-line notation: "Jastram-Asia support.")
- +By phone: call 1-888-930-4438.

A NETWORK OF 145 STRONG



Support of another soul!

To be added to or removed from our mailing list, send an email to daniel.jastram@lcmsintl.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study (9:00)
"Drive Through History: The Holy Land"
Concludes September 6.



Today's Light Daily Readings:
See pages 10—11 of this newsletter

Men's Study - Tuesdays @ 6:30
Journey from Unbelief to Faith starts Sept 10

Wed. Noon Study -
Journey from Unbelief to Faith starts Sept 10

Wed. Evening Women's Study -
6:30 Wednesday evenings
Journey from Unbelief to Faith starts Sept 10

Mom's Study-
will start again Wednesday, Oct 7 @ 8:30a.m.
(childcare provided)

Summer Reading Program 4 Kids-
concludes Rally Sunday See details on SRP4K page 4

NEW Sr. High Youth Study
Sunday evenings 6:30- 7:30 Please join us starting Sunday, September 13. Friends are welcome too!
Lyndsay Ampe leads the study. Please call her 612-325-8960 with any questions or topic suggestions. THANKS!

Could You Host A Small Group Study This Fall?
One of our Core Values at Living Word is that making disciples (people who are committed to growing to become more like Jesus) happens best in small group settings. For example, it's easier for people to get connected to Jesus through small groups. It's easier to get to know other Christians in small groups. Caring happens best in small groups. With that in mind 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.

Confirmation Classes Begins Wed, September 9th @ 6:00
• For anyone in 6th Grade and above

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Hot for a day: I need not suffer in silence while I can still whimper, moan, and complain.

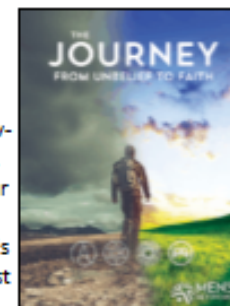
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- **Parents Meeting- Wednesday, Sept 3 @ 7pm**
We will cover what confirmation really is (and isn't) and choose a meeting time that works best for most.
Please contact Pastor David if you have a student who wants to begin confirmation classes but aren't able to attend the parent's meeting.

New Bible Study...

"The JOURNEY from unbelief to faith"

The passage from unbelief or antagonism toward God to faith in Christ as Lord and Savior is a road that's different for each person. In this study we will follow the stories of four individuals from widely different pasts who arrived at the same conviction: Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, and because He is they must tell others about it.



This four-session Bible study offers the viewpoints of four people who have made a remarkable journey. Theirs has been a pilgrimage from the outer edges of unbelief and apathy to a place where today Jesus Christ commands their heartfelt devotion. The road to faith was not easy for them, and many were the times when abandoning it seemed the preferred route to travel. Still, the persistence of the Holy Spirit's work in their lives brought about a different outcome, with an eternal transformation.

- With an upbringing marred by violence and abuse from her belligerent, alcoholic father, one woman's journey was set in motion by a record album.
- For one young man, an allegiance to evolutionary theory and science trumped any idea of the spiritual at work in his life, until he grasped the nature of faith.
- For an Orthodox Jew it was a lengthy apprenticeship-in the back row of a Christian church-that became for him a brand new kind of life.
- Finally, for a New Age stargazer, a woman deep into Eastern religions who charted other people's futures by astrology, it was an attempt to get Christianity out of her system that eventually won her over.

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.

Help Plan our Mexican Dinner

The annual Mexican Dinner is coming "just around the corner" in October (exact date to yet to be set). Please talk to Outreach Coordinator Amanda Sharp if you'd like to help in any way. Thanks!

Bring Food Shelf Items Every Second Sunday

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

Be "Custodian of the Month"

You (or your whole family) can sign up to provide the necessary cleaning for our church home. 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.

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.



Tuesday's Table in Sept:

Food. Friends. Fellowship.

September 1st: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church

September 8th: Evangelical Covenant Church

September 15th: Faith Lutheran Church

September 22nd: Peace Lutheran Church

September 29th: Hope Presbyterian Church

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

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.

After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand:

Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

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 a great turnout for Rally Sunday .
- For the Holy Spirit to help kids who don't know Jesus to discover Him as their Lord and Savior through Sunday School
- For God's guidance and angels' protection for all heading back to school
- For Safety in the final summer traveling and camping trips.
- For Sunday School Kids to grow through the Summer Reading Program
- For great weather for Joe Johnson & Allie Bratberg Wedding (Sept 12)
- Thanking God for a great summer growing season
- For God to work through the Today's Light program to strengthen faith
- For God to embolden our Christian witness in our daily lives
- For God to raise up leaders in our nation who seek His will
- For protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- For the mission and ministry of the ~~Jastrams~~ in Japan

Story Behind The Song...

"Thrive"

The idea for the upbeat and rejoicing title track came out of Casting Crown's lead singer/songwriter Hall's student ministry. "The songs always really start out with what we're teaching, and for years I've been using Psalm 1 in showing them what a believer looks like," he explained. "It says: 'Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season.'"

The concept was underscored during a family vacation in Gatlinburg, Tennessee when Hall looked at the trees near the river. "Their roots are exposed and you can feel them just doing everything they can to get to where the water is," he explained. "When I talk to families about how they are doing, they always say 'just surviving.' That is not the life that God designed for us to live.

"That's not saying that you're not going to have problems," Hall added. "None of the New Testament people had it easy. They all had troubles, some even at the expense of their lives. The book of joy, Philippians, was written from prison. Hard times are going to come, but God didn't put you here just so you could survive through hard times. He put you here to thrive, to dig in and to reach out.

"Hanging out with teenagers and families at my church you hear a lot about survival, 'if I can just... make it to the weekend, hang on until vacation, get through today, make it through this semester, survive this class... I'll be fine.'

"The more I hear that, the more I'm reminded by God's Word that I was not made to survive. We're not down here to get to tomorrow, we are here for today. We're here to bloom right now. It's so in our heads to get through the drudgery of where we are that we're missing what God has for us. In this record we talk about what it means to thrive. What it means to dig in your roots to know God and know yourself and then reach out to the world and love the world like Jesus did. You weren't made to survive. You were made to thrive!"

*Here in this worn and weary land Where many a dream has died
Like a tree planted by the water We never will run dry*

*So living water flowing through God we thirst for more of You
Fill our hearts and flood our souls With one desire*

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That for a day: If only the elderly had strength and youngsters had wisdom.

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Chorus:

*Just to know You and to make You known
We lift Your name on High
Shine like the sun made darkness run and hide
We know we were made for so much more Than ordinary lives
It's time for us to more than just survive We were made to thrive*

*Into Your word we're digging deep To know our Father's heart
Into the world we're reaching out To show them who You are*

*So living water flowing through God we thirst for more of You
Fill our hearts and flood our souls With one desire Chorus.*

*Joy unspeakable, faith unsinkable,
Love unstoppable, anything is possible (repeat 3x, then Chorus)*

*Hey! Woah, Woah, Woah, Woah
We were made to thrive!*

Editor's note: Watch Casting Crowns perform this song at:
https://youtu.be/a_0uczHvvlM

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



No, dear teammates, I still could be better but I'm focusing on that next punt. Forgetting past fumbles and striving for the goal of making the catch AND running the right direction this time. **Phil 3:13** (PSV)
pigskin standard version