

**February 2017 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](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)  
Website: [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://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 is heaven like ?

January's Sunday School lessons made a connection between video games and God's Word. The last lesson was titled "Game Over." It reminded us that every game has an end, and that when the game is over, you start a new game. Life on earth is like that. It will end for all of us at some point. The lesson went on to point out that the "New Game" for everyone who trusts in Jesus is *Eternal Life*. It's the one 'game' that will never end.

The Sunday School lesson about eternal life gave rise to a bunch of questions from the students. Below are just a few, along with the answers.

(Keep in mind that we don't know the answers to all our questions about eternity, because God hasn't told us all that we want to know about this "new game" called Eternal Life. He has, however, told us all that we need to know.)

Will we be on clouds?

*Thankfully, no! I don't know anyone who is really looking forward to floating on clouds and strumming harps as people in heaven are often depicted as doing. I'm not sure where this idea came from. Possibly from passages (e.g. Matthew 26:64) where Jesus talks about the fact that He will return 'on the clouds of heaven.'*

*Revelation 21:1 tells us that when Jesus returns God will create a 'new heaven and a new earth.' Then it goes on to briefly and symbolically describe the new earth that believers will live on for eternity.*



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What will this new earth be like?

*The word 'new' used in Revelation 21:1 actually tells us a lot. It means 'new' as in "Restored to its original, new condition." It would be similar to describing a formerly-rusted-out '57 Chevy as "Restored just like new."*

*That means we can look to the original earth as described in Genesis 1 and 2 (before sin came in and messed it all up) for clues about the restored earth.*

Will there be animals there?

*Yes. There were LOTS of animals on the earth God originally created. In the Old Testament book of Isaiah (e.g. 11:6-9), the restored earth is also described as a place where the animals will all get along with each other and with us humans.*

Will we have jobs to do?

*Yes. Genesis 2:15 tells us that Adam had the job of working in and taking care of the Garden of Eden. Work was not a curse that resulted from sin. Work is a good thing and part of God's original design. One of the consequences of sin was that work then became difficult and painful.*

*That's probably enough for now. Next month we'll look at some more of the students' questions, like "Will bullies on earth be bullies in heaven?" and "Will people know us there?" and "What will we look like?"*

Thanks for asking  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

## We Prayed For You...

Remember to use our "We Prayed for You" program...

In 2016 we started a new prayer ministry where we send out a card or two each week to people we prayed for during worship. Nancy Jo Wendt is our card sender.

How you can help: Simply tell Nancy when you feel that someone you asked us to pray for would be greatly encouraged by getting a card. Then just call, email or text Nancy with that person's address. It truly is a simple way to brighten the spirits of someone who's going through a tough time.





## Opportunities to Serve...

### Tell us who could use a "We Prayed for You" card.

Tell Pastor or Nancy Jo Wendt when someone you asked us to pray for would be greatly encouraged by getting a card. Then just give us their address.

### Help Out With the 3rd - 6th Grade Group

Please talk to Violet (320-220-0344) if you could help out once-a-month or so by doing something with the kids that you really enjoy (e.g. ice fishing, snowmobiling, baking, building stuff, etc...) THANKS!

### Be "Custodian of the Month"

You (or your whole family) can sign up to provide the necessary cleaning. A check-list of duties is posted by the mailboxes. Please consider being a part of this service. Talk to Trustee Jamie Iverson if you have questions or to volunteer yourself or your family. Custodian still needed for April through December.

### 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.

### Bring Food Shelf Items Every Second Sunday

The women of our LWML collect canned and dry goods the second Sunday of each month.

## Thank You!

To everyone who brought shoes, socks, etc... for Ed, Ruth Vegdahl and Laurie Hanson to share with the folks on their mission trip to Mexico!

Please also keep Ed, Ruth and Laurie in your prayers. They leave on February 12.

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That for a day: If at first you don't succeed, try looking in the waste basket for the directions.

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## Opportunities for Growth...

### Daily Bible readings:

(See pages 10 & 11 in this Newsletter)



### RESET Studies:



- Sunday Morning (9:00 at church)  
Week 4 next Sunday
- Sunday Evening (6:30 @ Millers)  
Week 3 this evening
- Tuesday Eve Men's Study (6:30 @ church)  
Week 4 This Tues
- Wed. Eve Women's Study (6:30 @ church)  
Week 3 This Wed.

Confirmation Class - Wednesdays @ 6:30

3-6th Grade Group - Parents meet Feb 5. @ 6:30

H.S. Youth Study - Every other Sunday @ noon

Sunday School: 9:00 every Sunday morning

Possible New Daytime Study: Please talk to Pastor David if you would be interested in a morning or noon study during the week.

**COMING IN MARCH:** *"What Does the LC-MS Believe?"*

This serves as a Membership Course for those interested in finding out about membership at Living Word. Talk to Pastor for details. Thanks!

## E-mail Wisdom...

Theodore Roosevelt

*"If a man is not familiar with the Bible, he has suffered the loss which he had better make all possible haste to correct."*

*A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.*

C. S. Lewis

*"If I find in myself a desire the world cannot fulfill, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."*



## Get To Know Your...

**...Confirmation Students** concludes this month. This month we 'get to know':

**Ryland Engler** - Ryland is 13 years old and in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade at NL-S. His parents are Steph and Todd. He has three siblings, a sister, Ashtunne, and two brothers - Zach and Zack.



Ryland has three dogs (Max, Sammy and Elle) and a cat (Bubbles). He lists as his favorite things to do: "Hunting, fishing and lovin' every day!" (Which many of you will also recognize as a country song by Luke Bryan)

His favorite food is pizza and favorite class in school is Study Hall. He doesn't participate in any 'extra-curricular' school activities, but does get in a lot of hunting and fishing.

Ryland says that an important thing he's learned in confirmation is "God is my dad." Aside from Jesus, Ryland lists "Luke" (the writer of the gospel that bears his name as well as the book of Acts) as his favorite person from the Bible.

**Andrew Sharp** - Andrew is 13 years old and in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade at NL-S. His parents are Brady and Amanda Sharp. He has three younger siblings: Eli, Jonah and Anna. His middle name is Michael - after his grandpa Sharp.



Andrew has two pets - Luna (a bird) and Lucy (a dog). Andy lists bowling and watching TV as things he really likes to do. (He's in a bowling league and is a finalist in a competition to go to a state-wide tournament.)

Mashed potatoes are atop Andrew's list of favorite foods, and Media Arts is the class in school he likes best.

Andrews says that a really important thing he's learned in confirmation is "Don't listen to the devil. He's bad!" When asked who - other than God - he'd list as his favorite person from the Bible Andrew picked Abraham (only because Pastor said he had to choose someone

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Thot for a day: Letting go takes less energy than holding on. And yet it is harder.

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other than the Holy Spirit - since the Spirit is God).

**George Arends-Schmidt** - George is 12 years old and also in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade at NL-S. His parents are Mary Arends and Bo Schmidt. George has



three younger siblings: Addison, Toby and Josie.

George has lots of animals at his place, but listed two dogs as his pets: an Australian Shepherd named Sam and an Irish Wolfhound named Aylish. He really likes to play the football video game *Madden* (and is our resident Packer fan "Aaron Rodgers is the best quarterback in NFL history.")

George says that his favorite food is the Nachos he gets at school, and that his favorite class at school is English ("the one

that isn't boring.") Bowling is an extra-curricular activity George participates in.

George says that the most important thing he's learned in confirmation is that "Jesus is sensational! (Because He died for us and rose from the grave.)" His favorite person - other than Jesus - in the Bible would be Moses.

**Carson Jaspersen** - Carson is 13 years old and in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade at Willmar. His parents are Angie and Nate Jaspersen. Carson has one older brother, Travis.



Rex the dog is Carson's pet. He really likes to play video games (Carson, not Rex) and lists *Dead Rising* as his favorite.

Carson loves bacon and said "the bus ride home" was his favorite thing about school. That gives you a glimpse into his great, dry sense of humor. As to an actual class, Carson chose, "Gym" as the one he likes most. When asked about extra-curricular activities he said, "I hit 720 degrees in Instaswaps." You'll have to ask him exactly what that is.

"You have to trust God," is an important thing Carson has learned in confirmation. He said God is his favorite person in the Bible, but since the question said "other than God" his second choice would be Moses.



## Who Can You Invite?...

### To Friendship Sunday? February 12

As always, our annual "Friendship Sunday" is a great opportunity to invite some friends to come and meet Our Greatest Friend - Jesus !

Special Friendship Sunday Events:

- Worship celebrating our Greatest Friend
- VALENTINES BRUNCH after worship (prepared & served by the men of Living Word)

Fish Fry	Swedish Meatballs
Potatoes/Onions	Bread
Cole Slaw	Milk / Juice / Coffee
Ice Cream (with lots of toppings!)	
- SLEDDING AT SIBLEY PARK after Brunch (Pray for snow !)

Talk to God about your friends. Then talk to your friends about God (simply invite them to join you for worship & brunch!)

### Ash Wednesday - traditional service of ashes

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday.  
This year on March 1.

Ashes symbolize our mortality, humility and need for repentance before God. In ancient times people showed their grief over sin and repentance by putting on sackcloth and covering themselves with ashes. Ashes also suggest a need for cleansing- which comes to us through the blood of Christ that was shed for us on the cross.

During Ash Wednesday worship, ashes are applied to the foreheads of all worshipers in the form of a small cross. Join us at 7:00 p.m., March 1st.

### Lenten Soup & Sandwich Suppers...

Each Wednesday during Lent we will provide a soup and sandwich supper prior to the Lenten devotion.

- Supper will be served from 5:30—6:20  
(Except Ash Wednesday when supper concludes at 6:50)
- The devotion will be from 6:30 - 7:00  
(Except Ash Wednesday which has a full worship service at 7:00)
- Classes and studies will begin at 7:00  
(Except Ash Wednesday where worship replaces classes/studies)

Please sign up if you can provide soup or sandwich any of the Wednesdays

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Thot for a day: Nostalgia is like a grammar lesson: present tense and past perfect.

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## Calling Interested Members!

As attendance here at Living Word continues to grow, so does our obvious need for additional space. The Mission and Ministry Team has discussed our options and believes that looking into beginning PHASE 2 of our expansion is needed.

That means....

We are looking for members who are interested in being involved on our **Phase 2 Building Committee**. Just like our Phase 1 Committee, the Phase 2 Committee will have five members. We are seeking to fill this committee with people who possess many different specialties and skills including financial, organizational, interior vision and construction background just to name a few.

So, we ask you to please commit this to prayer. And, if you feel God is calling you to be involved, or you have someone in mind that you think would be a great addition to the team, please provide any names to the Congregational President, Tim Geer, via his church mailbox.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please don't hesitate to contact one of the MMT members (Tim Geer, Brady Sharp, Jamie Iverson, Lyndsay Ampe, Kari Sharp, Mona Hjelle, Amanda Sharp, Linda Dilley, Pastor David) or one of our Elders (Mark Fuglie, Keith Hanson, Jason Miller, Ed Vegdahl or Kevin Welsh).

This is a very exciting time for our congregation, and we feel so blessed to start this process. Matthew 16:18 - (after Peter had confessed Jesus as Messiah and Son of God) *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*



## 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 **The Polar Plunge**. Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week.

## February 2017 - Daily Devotionals

DAILY READING PROGRAM: We finish our RESET study weekly themes, then move into the '100 - or so - Key Chapters of the Bible' readings. Just look for one main thing God has for you to learn in each reading.

Jan 29 **RESET Week # 3**      **Reset My Voice**

Jan 30 Psalm 71:14-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 31 Philippians 2:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 1 Matthew 1:18-25 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 2 Psalm 141:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 3 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 4 Acts 4:1-22 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 5 **RESET Week # 4**      **Reset My Hands**

Feb 6 Galatians 5:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 7 James 2:14-26 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 8 Romans 10:9-15 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 9 Exodus 14:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 10 Psalm 46 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 11 Luke 10:38-42 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 12 **This Week We Begin our "100 - or so - Key Chapters of the Bible" readings**

Feb 13 Genesis 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 14 Genesis 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 15 Genesis 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 16 Genesis 6-8 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 17 Genesis 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 18 Genesis 11:1-10 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 19 **Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed**

Feb 20 Genesis 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 21 Genesis 18-19 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 22 Genesis 22 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 23 Genesis 25 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 24 Genesis 37 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 25 Genesis 49:29-50:26 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 26 **Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed**

Feb 27 Exodus 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 28 Exodus 12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

Mar 1 Exodus 16 \_\_\_\_\_



Mar 2 Exodus 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Mar 3 Exodus 32 \_\_\_\_\_

Mar 4 Exodus 34 \_\_\_\_\_



# February 2017 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 29 9:00 ADULT STUDY - "Reset" <i>Sunday School</i> 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Choir Practice 6:00 "RE SET" Study @ Millers'	30	Jan 31 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "Reset"	1 6:30 Confirmation Parents' Update 6:30 -3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Gr. GROUP 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY "Reset" 6:45 - CONFIRMATION	2 <div>           Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to:  <a href="mailto:newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net">newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net</a> </div>	3	4
5 9:00 ADULT STUDY - "Reset" SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Sunday School Mtg 6:00 "RE SET" Study @ Millers'	6	7 6:30 MEN'S STUDY: "Reset"	8 6:30 3-6th Gr. Group Parents' Update 6:30 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY "Reset"	9	10 Circuit Pastors @ Redeemer Willmar	11
12 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 FRIENDSHIP BRUNCH 1:00 SLEDDING AT SIBLEY 6:00 "RE SET" Study @ Millers'	13 	14 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MEN'S STUDY: 6:30 LWML "Heart Smart"	15 6:30 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Gr. GROUP 6:30 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY	16 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	17 <div> <b>Lord's Supper Dates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday, February 5th</li> <li>Sunday, February 19th</li> </ul> </div>	18
19 9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE	20	21 6:30 MEN'S STUDY:	22 6:30 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Gr. GROUP 6:30 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY	23	24	25
26 9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:30 CARD FELLOWSHIP	27	28 6:30 MEN'S STUDY*	Mar 1 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 SOUP SUPPER 7:00 ASH WED. WORSHIP 	Mar 2	Mar 3	Mar 4

## Upcoming Schedules...

### Fellowship Servers

Feb 5 Mike & Brooke Knutson  
Feb 12 Friendship Sunday Brunch  
Feb 19 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson  
Feb 26 Becky Sarsland / Mary Raddatz

Mar 5 Nancy Jo Wendt & Tammy Fuglie  
Mar 12 Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky / Mary Lee Moore  
Mar 19 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller  
Mar 26 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham

### Usher Schedule

Feb 5 Wendy & Lonny Robbin  
Feb 12 Brady & Andrew Sharp  
Feb 19 Linda Dilley & Davis Rustad  
Feb 26 Wally Abraham and Joe Johnson

Mar 5 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer  
Mar 12 Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson  
Mar 19 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen  
Mar 26 Brent & Lance Sawatzky

### Make A Meal Volunteers

Feb Donna Peterson & Jamie Iverson  
Mar Mona Hjelle & Laurel Iverson

### Altar Guild

Feb Nancy Jo Wendt  
Mar Mona Hjelle

### Elders

Feb 5 Mark Fuglie & Jason Miller  
Feb 19 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson

Mar 1 (Ash Wed) Ed Vegdahl & Mark Fuglie  
Mar 5 Jason Miller & Kevin Welsh  
Mar 19 Keith Hanson & Ed Vegdahl

### Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Feb 5 Lance Sawatzky  
Feb 12 Andrew Sharp  
Feb 19 Gage Dahl  
Feb 26 Levi Miller

Mar 5 Eli Sharp  
Mar 12 Alison Sarsland  
Mar 19 Zoe Rustad  
Mar 26 George Arends-Schmidt

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That for a day: I am not as good as I should be. I am not as good as I could be. But thank God I'm better than I used to be!

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### Custodian

February Wendy & Lonny Robbin  
March Wendy & Lonny Robbin

### Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)

Feb 5 Mona Hjelle & Lance Sawatzky  
Feb 12 Noah Miller & George Arends-Schmidt  
Feb 19 Davis Rustad & McCartney Knutson  
Feb 26 Andrew Sharp & Carson Jaspersen

Mar 5 Ryland Engler & Mona Hjelle  
Mar 12 Lance Sawatzky & Noah Miller  
Mar 19 George Arends-Schmidt & Davis Rustad  
Mar 26 McCartney Knutson & Andrew Sharp

### Scripture Readers

Feb 5 Laurel Iverson  
Feb 12 Tammy Wachter  
Feb 19 Wendy Robbin  
Feb 26 Linda Dilley

Mar 5 Jason Miller  
Mar 12 Mark Fuglie  
Mar 19 Tammy Fuglie  
Mar 26 Becky Sarsland

### Accompanying Musicians

Feb 5 Sharon Willen  
Feb 12 Scott Wachter  
Feb 19 Pam Johnson  
Feb 26 Scott Wachter

### Ash Wed

Mar 5 Sharon Willen  
Mar 12 Scott Wachter  
Mar 19 Pam Johnson  
Mar 26 Scott Wachter

### Confirmation Parent Helper

Feb 8 Arends-Schmidts  
Feb 15 Jaspersens  
Feb 22 Knutsons

Mar 1 Millers  
Mar 8 Rustads  
Mar 15 Sawatzkys  
Mar 22 Sharps  
Mar 29 Engler

## February Discipleship Verse...



*"This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him."*  
1 John 4:9



## Email Inspiration...

### Use ME?!?!?

The next time you feel like God can't use you, just remember...

- ~ Joseph was spoiled - and hated ~~for~~ it by his siblings
- ~ Moses had a stuttering problem
- ~ Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
- ~ Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
- ~ David committed adultery and murder
- ~ The disciples fell asleep while praying
- ~ Martha worried about everything
- ~ The Samaritan woman was divorced (more than once)
- ~ Abraham was too old
- ~ Isaac was a daydreamer
- ~ Jacob was a liar
- ~ Leah was not attractive looking
- ~ Gideon was a coward
- ~ Elijah was suicidal
- ~ Rahab was a prostitute
- ~ Jonah ran from God
- ~ Naomi was a widow
- ~ Job went bankrupt
- ~ John the Baptist ate bugs
- ~ Peter denied Christ
- ~ ~~Zaccheus~~ was too small
- ~ Paul was too religious
- ~ Timothy had an ulcer
- ~ Lazarus was dead!

This quote from Mike ~~Yaconelli~~ seemed apropos after that list: *"The power of the Church is not a parade of flawless people, but of a flawless Christ who embraces our flaws. The Church is not made up of the whole people, rather of the broken people who find wholeness in a Christ who was broken for us."*

### February...

#### 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 February Make-a-Meal volunteers are Donna Peterson & Jamie Iverson. Thanks!

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That for a day: People get nostalgic about a lot of things they weren't so crazy about the first time around.

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## Mark Your Calendars...

**FFAA Night:** Friday, January

"Fun For All Ages Nights" are not just for summer any more! We will be hosting the FFAA nights on the last Friday of every month. That's February 24th this month.

### 3rd - 6th Grade Group - Parent Meeting

Parent update meeting: Wednesday, Feb 5 @ 6:30.

We'll talk about some new scheduling and activity ideas.  
(The kids will not meet that night)

### Ladies, Save the Date: March 24-26

Our 2nd Annual Women's Retreat will be held that weekend. Mark your calendars. It will be a time of fun and growth!

"Connecting Our Hearts to God's - through Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship"

Cost for 2 nights and 5 meals:

Dorm: \$126/person

Sunrise double occupancy (like a hotel room): \$170/person

RSVP by March 10 to Violet Dauk or Tammy Miller

## Sunday School News...

**Class:** 9:00 - 9:50

February Curriculum: "CANDY BARS"

Feb. 5 "Crunch" Crossing the Red Sea Exodus 13:20-14:29

Feb. 12 "Butterfinger" Jesus Anointed Luke 7:36-50

Feb. 19 "Milky Way" Noah's Ark Genesis 7:6-18, 8:15-22

Feb. 26 "Almond Joy" Jesus Heals 10 Lepers Luke 17:11-19

March Curriculum: Lenten Series "A Love that Never Dies"

March 5 "Palm Branch Parade" Matt. 26:39

## Choir Notes...

Rehearsals for February are the 19th and the 26th after coffee fellowship. Choir sings the first Sunday in March.

Then we will start rehearsing for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Join choir now to be a part of the Easter music.





## Miscellaneous Notes...

### 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
- February Living Word newsletters
- February daily Bible readings
- Jan - March Portals of Prayer - daily devotionals
- Family Devotion Books
- 2017 Calendars



### Winter: A Great Time for Direct Deposit Your Offerings

Bad winter weather may keep you away, but 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 Jason Miller for more details.

### Sermons Now Available in Audio on our Website

<http://livingwordlutheran.net/sermons.htm>

(Or just click on "New Sermons Online" at the bottom of the [livingwordlutheran.net](http://livingwordlutheran.net) home page)



Sermons from this past month:

- Jan 1 - The Magi - What made them wise?
- Jan 15 - Reset - We all need one. Jesus is the Reset button.
- Jan 22 - Reset Your Heart -  
Putting Jesus back into the default "Trust in" position.
- Jan 29 - Reset Your Head -  
You Are What You Think (choose to 'change the channel')



## LWML News...

"HEART SMART" Celebrate Valentine's Day with LWML

Meet at church Tuesday February 14th @ 6:30 PM

- Wear RED
- Bring an appetizer to share
- Bring a home made valentine to exchange
- Bring ideas for 2017

All women are invited. See you there

That for a day: Everybody talks about apathy, but no one does anything about it.

## FEBRUARY NEWS



Chasity Ommodt, Client Services and Community Engagement • 320.796.2522 • [outreach@youarethelink.org](mailto:outreach@youarethelink.org)



### We are Moving:

...offices that is! The Link is hoping to be moved at the end of January and have the Food Pantry operational by Feb. 1st. Rhonda and Chasity are relocating their offices from Faith Lutheran Church to the Community Outreach Building (formerly ALCM Clinic). Now, The Link's Household Exchange, Food Pantry and client services and outreach program will be under one roof. The community is welcome to stop by for a tour or to drop off donations.

### Tuesday's Table:

Thank you to the congregations, volunteers and businesses that host Tuesday's Table each month. Without them, this community meal would not be possible. In 2016 almost 7,500 meals were served! What an impact on many local households.

A special thank you to Our Lady of the Lakes, Evangelical Covenant Church, Faith Lutheran Church, Peace Lutheran Church, The Open Door, Living Word, Knights of Columbus, New London and Spicer Sunrise Lion's Club, O'Neil's and Jennie-O.

### Just the Basics:

The Link will be preparing for the annual "Just the Basics" event. This is a household item and toiletries distribution that is made possible by the generous donations and support of congregations, volunteers, Prairie Woods Elementary and service agencies! Please mark your calendar for Saturday, April 19th from 9am to 10:30am at Cross Roads Community Church. Please share this event with anyone in need or interested in making a donation or volunteering.

### Your Support:

Thank you for your generous support. So far The Link has received \$11,709 towards our fundraising goal of \$25,000 for the Food Pantry.

Donations can be made to: The Link, PO Box 823, New London, MN 56273 with "food pantry" in the memo. Please contact Chasity or Rhonda with any questions.

**Our mission: Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other.**

### Stock the Pantry:

**Key food items:**

Milk, eggs, bread, cereal, canned fruits & vegetables, noodles and sauce, peanut butter, jelly, tuna; please contact Chasity at 796-2522 to make a donation of food.

### Just the Basics:

**Sponsor an item:**

Shampoo & Conditioner  
Deodorant  
Tooth Brushes  
Tooth Paste  
Feminine Hygiene  
Razors  
Paper Towels  
Kleenex  
Toilet Paper  
Detergent  
Spray Cleaner  
Dish Soap  
Toilet Cleaner  
Disinfectant Wipes  
Body Soap

### New Address:

206 Main St. N  
PO Box 823  
New London, MN  
56273



Tuesday's Table at Evangelical Covenant Church

### Tuesday's Table

Feb. 7th: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church

Feb. 14th: Evangelical Covenant Church

Feb. 21st: Faith Lutheran Church

Feb. 28th: Peace Lutheran Church





### A Call to Prayer

Marriage. Life. Religious liberty. They are all deemed “controversial in the public square, buzz words for “Don’t talk about this at the neighborhood party” or, “Stick to discussing the weather and sports just to be safe”.

And yet each topic matters. Fundamentally, they matter because people matter. And people matter to us as Lutherans because they matter to Jesus.

We teach about these issues, we communicate and catechize about them, and we work to establish offices because we desire to bear witness to Christ, even in the public square, even in a culture where people don’t want to hear about Him.

#### Remaining faithful

This month, as our nation prepares to swear in a new president, we ask you to join with your fellow LCMS Lutherans in prayer for our churches, for our members, for our country, for her elected leaders. That, of course, is your joy and challenge in this intensely politically charged atmosphere: to remain faithful, to stay the course, to pray!

Our Lord hasn’t left you alone to be a voice for His gift of marriage or to speak for the value of the lives He creates. He remains with you. He is not absent. He is still at the helm, the head of the body, still leading, still guiding.

As you pray, know that as Christians we are together bearing witness to Christ in and by all that we do, speaking truth in the public square, at our own kitchen tables and over our backyard fences, remaining firm in the faith. And we trust that God in His perfect time and way will work all things for His good!

*Holy Father, as Your People, we turn to You, our only refuge in every need. You see how confused and concerned our nation is. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy!*

*Show us the path forward that we, our elected leaders and those who have authority over us may be faithful in the vocations you have given us to do. Cause us to be uncompromising witnesses to Your will and Your ways, both in our homes and in the public square.*

*Help us to proclaim in Christ the gift of forgiveness for every sin we*

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That for a day: A pessimist is someone who, when opportunity knocks, complains about the noise.

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*have committed, every time we have not spoken the truth in love, every instance where we have remained silent. Give us a voice to speak for the unborn, the joy to lift up the gift of marriage, and the willingness to speak on behalf of people of faith who are, even now, persecuted for their faith in You.*

*We have no right to ask this, save through the merits and meditation of Him whose blood atones for the sin of the whole world, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

#### How can I get involved?

- Watch for insight from President Harrison. A special mailing from President Harrison will be headed your way soon, and you won’t want to miss it.
- Keep on top of the issues. Email [freetobeforthful@lcms.org](mailto:freetobeforthful@lcms.org) to get the latest on the Synod’s Free to Be Faithful work as well as the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty.
- Pray! Print out a copy of the above prayer as a reminder to pray for the president, elected leaders and the nation.
- Learn more. Visit [lcms.org/lcrl](http://lcms.org/lcrl) to learn about the Synod’s work to establish an office in Washington, D.C.

### 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...

- Asking God to continue to work through the ‘Reset’ studies
- Asking God to ‘Reset’ our hearts to trust in Him instead of ourselves
- Asking God to ‘Reset’ our minds by filling them more with His Word
- Asking God to ‘Reset’ our words - seeking to ‘Be a Light’ not just ‘Right’
- Who to invite to Friendship Sunday.
- God to open their hearts to accept the invitation.
- The Holy Spirit’s work through Ed, Ruth and Laurie on their mission trip Safety for Ed, Ruth, Laurie and all the rest on their mission trip.
- Thanking God for all the kids in our church - and all we learn from them
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- The Spirit’s guidance for all our elected officials
- God to keep strengthening faith thru our daily Bible readings
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan



## Story Behind The Song...

### "Forever"

Chris Tomlin has written music for most of his life, but his style changed radically when he started leading worship. "I write a lot of songs," he says of his song-writing style, "but not many ever make it to the recording stage. That's because I'm always asking the question 'Would people want to sing this?'"

"Forever," is a song that echoes a line repeated often in the Psalms: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." The song took four years to complete, has become one of those songs that people definitely want to sing again and again.

"Every time we went into the studio to record something," Chris remembers, "I would bring that song in hopes that someone else would be able to come up with a chorus. I write a lot of patches of songs and then collaborate with someone else to finish them out. With this song it never happened, and it just didn't feel complete. Then one day, four years later, it just came. I was sitting there and singing, 'Forever God is faithful, forever God is...' and I couldn't come up with the next word. Then our bass player's wife, Janet, stuck her head in the door and said 'strong.' And just like that, it clicked."

Chris insists that, just like John the Baptizer, we should all decrease so Christ can increase. "The larger our platform becomes, the more intentionally we have to focus on the heart of our calling: to introduce people to God and show them his glory."

Chris states that it still thrills him to see people in worship and to hear them singing the song. "I'm so used to being a teacher—teaching people my songs, that it still blows me away that people know it so well,"

"The gift God has given me is to write things that are simple and connect with people really quickly," says Chris. "When God is the focus of something people are drawn to it. That's what I want myself and my songs to be a part of." He's quick to point out that the credit and glory belongs to God. "I have to keep asking myself the question, 'How is this going to bring God glory? How am I going to use this to bring God glory?'"

Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King  
His love endures forever  
For He is good, He is above all things  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise, Sing praise

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That for a day: Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

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With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm  
His love endures forever  
For this life that's been reborn His love endures forever  
Sing praise, Sing praise  
Sing praise, Sing praise

CHORUS: Forever God is faithful  
Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us  
Forever

From the rising to the setting sun  
His love endures forever  
By His grace we will carry on  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise, Sing praise  
Sing praise, Sing praise

Editor's note: A live version of Chris singing "Forever" at  
<https://youtu.be/tPhftBoXSRU>

## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



### THE GROUND HOG DAY PSALM

Even though I walk through the valley WHERE I SEE MY SHADOW.. I will not fear 6 more weeks of winter. Psalm 23:4ish