



July 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 Website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

# Question FROM Pastor...

"What is the blaspheme against the Holy Spirit?"

This is a question that came up in a recent Sunday Morning study. It refers to the warning Jesus gave the Pharisees about the sin against the Holy Spirit in Mark 3:28-30 (also recorded in Matthew 12:31-37 and Luke 12:12).



"Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

The Pharisees' had accused Jesus of using satanic powers to heal a man who had been rendered mute by demons. Jesus first responded to their accusation by showing them the absurdity of their claim. He pointed out that if He were using Satan's power to cast out demons, then Satan would be fighting against himself. It was after exposing the foolishness of their accusation, that Jesus issued the warning listed above.

In all three Gospel accounts the term "blaspheme" is used to describe this sin against the Holy Spirit. Blaspheme means "to defame, seriously insult or slander" someone. The Jews would later bring this charge against Jesus, claiming that He was defaming or slandering God by claiming to actually be God.

Bible scholars have debated for 2000 years about the exact nature of this "unforgivable sin," so I won't claim to have the definitive answer. But, for me, something I mentioned about the Holy Spirit in the sermon on Pentecost Sunday seems to point us to the answer: "The Holy Spirit's main purpose is 'Faith in Jesus."

The Spirit works to...

- 1) Create faith in Jesus,
- 2) Strengthen and Preserve faith in Jesus once it is created
- 3) Empower us to live out our faith in Jesus in our actions
- 4) Empower us to share our faith in Jesus through our words.

# Page 3

The Spirit is "all about" faith in Jesus.

Given that truth about the Spirit, it would seem natural that the sin against the Holy Spirit would be rejecting the Spirit's work of faith in Jesus.

At the very end of Mark's gospel (16:16) we read, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." It would appear that the best definition of the sin against the Holy Spirit would be this "unbelief" that condemns.

Unbelief that Jesus is truly the Son of God and our only Savior from sin and only hope for eternal life.

I'll end by sharing what I consider the best comment I've ever heard about this "blaspheme against the Holy Spirit,": "If you are worried about having committed this sin, you can be sure that you haven't."

Thanks for asking Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

# LWML News...

LWML General meeting will be July 11th @ 6:00 PM. Bring an appetizer to share. Come for Bible Study, short business meeting and fellowship. All women are welcome to join.



Continue to support the New London Food Pantry. Leave your canned goods, or monetary donation in the purple tub by the front door. Thank you to everyone for remembering other folks who don't always have enough food to feed their families.

Watch for a sign-up sheet for the NL Music Fest at Neer Park August 19th. We will be having the pie booth and helpers to bake pies and man the booth that Saturday are needed. Set the date Saturday, August 19th.

### LWML Has a 'Tough Times' Fund

If you know someone who is going through some temporary financial difficulty and would be blessed to get a gas card or grocery card to use for these expenses, please talk to Pastor David. If you would like to donate to the fund, please talk to LWML treasurer, Nancy Jo Wendt. Thanks!

# Email Inspiration...

#### He Alone

by Joanna Gaines, co-author of The Magnolia Story

He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken. - Psalm 62:2

This verse is short, but oh my does it have so much power! There is a key word that is spoken here that is one to hold on to, the word "alone." He alone is our rock and salvation — not our family, not our job, not our power or ranking, but God alone. When I read this passage, the tight grip I have on the cares of life begins to loosen. Even death and life don't hold the weight they once did as I let this verse soak into my heart and mind.

No matter what happens, I will be okay.

As a mother, wife and businesswoman, I can tend to allow fear to creep in at times. I feel like if I mess up or don't work hard enough, the wheels could fall off. I have a firm grip on everything I love the most - in fear of losing something! This, in turn, starts a negative cycle that affects the ones closest to me.

But God is good, and His promises are true.

When I speak these words over and over, my soul finds peace and there is rest, and I can let go and trust Him.

Today, ask God to reveal areas in your life that have been a false foundation and salvation for your life. Write this verse down and when fear and lies creep in, speak the truth over your life and situation and let the peace of God set your soul free.

Original devotion by Joanna Gaines, co-author of The Magnolia Story, copyright Joanna Gaines

# Habitat Seeks Partner Family

Habitat partners with low to moderate income families to create homeownership opportunities. Habitat will be rehabbing a home in Willmar and is currently seeking a qualified family



to partner with. Applications are now being accepted through July 20. More details can be found on the poster by Pastor's office or by calling Habitat at 320-231-2704. Applications can be picked up at the Habitat office located at 2424 S 1st Street in Willmar.

# Page 4

Page 5

# Opportunities for Growth...

### Daily Bible readings:

(See pages 10 & 11 in this Newsletter )

## Men's Study - Tuesdays @ 6:30

Looking for a July Work Project

# Sunday Morning Study - 9:00

"How NOT be a Christian Atheist" -

Next Week: You believe in God - but you don't think He's fair

Wednesday Evening Women's Study—on Summer break

### Confirmation -

Finish up your '100 (or so) Key Chapters' We'll meet once a month over the summer. (In July we will have a fun event )

3-6th Grade Group - still in need of adult leaders

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

Sunday School: on Summer break

#### Bible Story Book / Video lending library:

We have over 100 books in the nursery that you can sign out to read with your children at home. We also have videos to sign out: Adventure in Odyssey (in the old VHS format)! Veggie Tales (dyd) and more!

# NEW Women's Daytime Study - Will start in August

Please talk to Pastor David if you are interested.

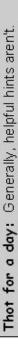
#### Vacation Bible School -

Mark Your Calendar: July 31-August 4

### JULY...

#### 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 July volunteers are: Wendy Robbin & Pam Johnson.



# 2017: The Summer of Serving...

On the way to help with our Men's Study June Work Project, I heard on the radio that this is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "The Summer of Love," that summer-long event in San Francisco in 1967 that popularized the hippie culture. That prompted me to wonder, "Wouldn't it be great if we could make 2017 "The Summer of Serving!" Serving others IS what Jesus calls His disciples (that's us) to do- and serving others has a whole lot more to do with "love" than long hair and tiedied shirts, etc...

To make "The Summer of Serving" a reality:

- Identify ways that you'd be willing to help someone out.
   If you didn't get a chance to do so during worship on June 25, take a moment to fill out the checklist below and bring it with you to church next time (or fill one out there).
- Keep your eyes and ears open for someone we could help (i.e. serve).
   Neighbors, friends, co-workers, relatives- anyone who needs something done and can't do it on their own.
- Contact our "Summer of Serving" coordinator Wendy Robbin (320-354-9049) or Pastor David (320-220-1816) with opportunities to serve.

Wendy has volunteered to develop a database of who can serve and in what capacities and will use that information to match people up with folks who need some help.

Small-job painting	Basic car maintenance e.g. oil chg.
Cleaning house	House sitting
Shopping for groceries, et	c Household fix-up
Feeding pets while owner	is gone Baby sitting
Lawn maintenance / mow	ring Weeding a garden
Tilling a garden	Raking leaves
Baking	Canning fruit / vegetables / jam
Driving to an appointmen	t Giving a ride to church or school
Cutting trees - not too big	Trimming trees / shrubs
Fixing	Helping organize garage, room, etc
Mending / sewing	Trapping varmints
Fixing a meal	Other:

# Page 6

idea

8

99

some

0

havi

they

but

real

a

not b

may

O

hear

È

Ξ

ices

The voi

day

0

for

Thot

Page 7

# Welcome New Members...

(Watch for "Get to Know Them" bios in upcoming Newsletters)



- Carroll & Donna Sarsland
- Mike & Carmen Macik and Lexi
- Phil & Jean Lungstrom
- Nate Lungstrom
- Hayley Lungstrom
- Derek & Sarah Olson
- Bryan & Meggie Ashburn, Isaac & Gabriel

# 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 All who serve to keep us free to serve God.

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

# Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

(inspired by Luke 11:9: "So I say to you, Ask and it will be given to you; Seek and you will find; Knock and the door will be opened to you")

Remember to take a time-out to be "impudent" and PRAY for...

- Thanking God for those beginning to serve in new positions on our MMT: Amanda Sharp, Ruth Vegdahl & Joe Johnson
- Thanking God for the Freedom of Religion in our country.
- Asking God to give our elected leaders courage to protect that freedom
- Protection for all Armed Forces personnel who serve to keep us free
- Especially those connected in some way to members of LW: Allan Fuglie, Jonathan Carter, Shawn Opien
- God to open our eyes to opportunities to serve this summer
- God to open our hearts to be willing servants
- God to raise up all the helpers needed for Vacation Bible School
- A great attendance at Vacation Bible School
- Asking God for safe travel for everyone over the summer.
- · Favorable weather for the growing season.
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- The Spirit's guidance and angels protection for all our elected officials
- God to keep strengthening faith thru our daily Bible readings
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

# Opportunities to Serve...

### Head up our Pie Booth at NL Music Fest

The LWML ladies have the pies all made. We just need someone to take it from there and schedule workers for the booth on Saturday, August 19 Please talk to LWML Chair Leone Quigley if you could be that person!

### 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

Pastor David would like to have the 4-6th graders meet a couple of times per month during the summer for fun activities and service projects. If you have a heart for helping kids have fun getting closer to Jesus and each other, please pray about this. Talk to Pastor David for more details. 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 July 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). "Grandparent-age" is great, so parents can have a break. 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.

### Help with Vacation Bible School

Check the VBS page for specific opportunities and how to sign up.

# Page 8

Page 9

# Email Wisdom...

#### COAL BASKET BIBLE

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson, who wanted to be just like him, tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?" The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water." The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" the old man said. "Look at the basket."

The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean. "Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. "You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out."

# New Project Connect Booklet...

<u>Parents of Prodigals</u> Ever since the first "prodigals" - in that first garden - where perfect love was broken the first time by "Rebellious Children" God teaches us forgiveness and reconciliation to apply in any parent-child relationship. Find it in the Project Connect rack by Pastor's office



something. me to 2 going 0 she sure Pretty again today.... birthday È me asked pharmacist The day: 0 for Thot

# July 2017 - 100 (or so) Key Readings

DAILY RE-DING PROGRAM: We conclude our '100 - or so - Key Chapters of the Bible' readings this month. Suring August we will read a chapter a day in the book of Proverbs (which has 31 chapters)

Just look for one main thing God has for you to learn in each reading, then write that down.

July 2	Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed
July 3	John 20
July 4	John 21
July 5	Acts1
July 6	Acts 2
July 7	Acts 4
July 8	Acts 8
July 9	Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed
July 10	Acts 9
July 11	Acts 12
July 12	Acts 16
July 13	Acts 17
July 14	1 Timothy 3
July 15	2 Timothy 3
July 16	Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed
July 17	Hebrews 11

July 18	Hebrews 12
July 19	James 2
July 20	1 Peter 2
July 21	2 Peter 1
July 22	1 John 4
July 23	Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed
July 24	1 John 5
July 25	Revelation 19
July 26	Revelation 20
July 27	Revelation 21
July 28	Revelation 22
July 29	Summarize your readings
July 30	Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed
July 31	Review your notes on the 100 Key Chapter readings
Aug 1	Proverbs1
Aug 2	Proverbs 2
Aug 3	Proverbs 3
Aug 4	Proverbs 4
Aug 5	Proverbs 5

# July 2017 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 ADULT STUDY - 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	8:15 CHURCH-LEAGUE SOFTBALL	Ford's Supple Sunday, J Sunday, J	uly 2nd
9 GABRIEL ASHBURN BAPTISM 9:00 ADULT STUDY - 10:00 WORSHIP w/baptism 11:15 Fellowship	10	6:00 LVVML Mtg	12	6:15 CHURCH-LEAGUE SOFTBALL	14	15
9:00 ADULT STUDY - 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship	Sign u directi	p to have this newsley to you by e-mail. Semail address to:	etter sent Send your meran.net	6:15 CHURCH-LEAGUE SOFTBALL	21	22
9:00 ADULT STUDY - 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship	24	25	5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	6:15 CHURCH-LEAGUE SOFTBALL	28	29
30 OLD-TIME GOSPEL SONG DAY 9:00 ADULT STUDY - 10:00 WORSHIP w/ Old-Time Gospel songs 11:15 Fellowship	31 VBS BEGINS! 5:30 - 8:30 SON-SPARK VBS	Aug 1 5:30 - 8:30 SON-SPARK VBS	Aug 2 5:30 - 8:30 SON-SPARK VBS	5:30 - 8:30 SON-SPARK VBS 8:15 CHURCH-LEAGUE SOFTBALL	Aug 4 5:30 - 8:30 SON-SPARK VBS	Aug 5

# Upcoming Schedules...

### Fellowship Servers

July 2 Gwen Ruchti / Ruth Vegdahl

July 9 Mike & Brooke Knutson

July 16 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson

July 23 Becky Sarsland / Mary Raddatz

July 30 Nancy Jo Wendt & Tammy Fuglie

Aug 6 Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky / Mary Lee Moore

Aug 13 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller

Aug 20 Mona Hielle / Elaine Abraham

Aug 27 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson

### Usher Schedule

July 2 Brady & Andrew Sharp

July 9 Linda Dilley & Davis Rustad

July 16 Wally Abraham and Joe Johnson

July 23 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer

July 30 Larry Levin &

Aug 6 Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson

Aug 13 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen

Aug 20 Brent & Lance Sawatzky

Aug 27 Jason & Noah Miller

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

July 2 Davis Rustad

July 9 Lance Sawatzky

July 16 Andrew Sharp

July 23 Gage Dahl

July 30 Levi Miller

Aug 6 Eli Sharp

Aug 13 Alison Sarsland

Aug 20 Zoe Rustad

Aug 27 Lexi Macik

#### Make A Meal Volunteers

July Wendy Robbin & Pam Johnson

August Jamie Iverson & Donna Peterson

#### Altar Guild

July Mona Hjelle August Nancy Jo Wendt

# Page 14

believe you.

he'll I

stars in the universe and

and he'll have

on it,

paint

wet

S

ha

bench !

300 million

there are

man

ற ற

Fill Hill

day

0

for

Thot

Sur

to touch it to make

Page 15

# Elders

July 2/9 Ed Vegdahl & Joe Johnson July 16/23/30 Jason Miller & Kevin Welsh

Aug 6/13 Keith Hanson & Ed Vegdahl Aug 20/27 Joe Johnson & Jason Miller

Scripture Readers

Accompanying Musicians

 July 2
 Mona Hjelle
 July 2
 Sharon Willen

 July 9
 Kevin Welsh
 July 9
 Sharon Willen

 July 16
 Laurel Iverson
 July 16
 Pam Johnson

 July 23
 Tammy Wachter
 July 23
 Scott Wachter

 July 30
 Wendy Robbin
 July 30
 Scott Wachter

 Aug 6
 Linda Dilley
 Aug 6
 Sharon Willen

 Aug 13
 Jason Miller
 Aug 13
 Scott Wachter

 Aug 20
 Mark Fuglie
 Aug 20
 Pam Johnson

 Aug 27
 Tammy Fuglie
 Aug 27
 Scott Wachter

### Custodian

July Custodian needed August Custodian needed

# Mission & Ministry Team Officers

Beginning 2-year terms on July 1, 2017

Vice Chair: Director of Education - Sunday School:

Congregational Outreach Director:

Elders:

Brady Sharp Amanda Sharp

Ruth Vegdahl Kevin Welsh

Joe Johnson Patty Wrobleski

Treasurer:

# July Discipleship Verse...

Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the

Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

Psalm 117

# 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
- July Living Word newsletters
- 100 (or so) Key Chapters in the Bible reading guide
- July—Sept Portals of Prayer daily devotionals
- Family Devotion Books
- Christian Magazines + tapes and DVD's
- Free to be Faithful update on Religious Freedom issues

### 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 livngwordlutheran.net\_home page)

Sermons from this past month:

June 4 - "The Main Purpose of the Holy Spirit"

June 11 - "Like Cramming a Huge Pillow into a Tiny Pill Box"

June 18— "The Prodigal Son Parable" - It's NOT about the son(s)

June 25- "The Summer of Love - Redefined!"

#### Offering Envelopes Still Available for Those Who Want

In response to some requests, we now have offering envelopes available for those who want to use them. They are on the table by the mailbox. Please write down the identifying number of the box you picked up. You can begin using them right away.

#### New in Your Mailboxes:

Monthly offering & ministry expense summary.

Our Mission and Ministry Team feels this is a good way to keep mem-

bers up to date on our financial stewardship.

#### Monthly Whist Card Fellowship...

Takes a Spring / Summer break and will return Offering in the Fall.

### Summer: 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



situation.

you have just before you fully understand the

that feeling

9

**GET FREE** 

JSTEN TO

Page 17

## Elders Available for Prayer After Worship

Each Sunday, after worship two members of the Living Word Elders' Team will be available near the altar to pray with you. Simply come up and tell them your request and they will bring that to the Lord in prayer for you.



### NEW 2017 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.

# Congratulations:

 Lance Sawatzky—for finishing all the confirmation assignments on time!

Please email <u>pastor@livingwordlutheran</u> if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

# Living Word Directory...

NOW AVAILABLE Online.

Email <u>pastor@livingwordlutheran.net</u> and he will send you a link to view the directory online.

# Sunday Morning Study...

How NOT to be a .... "Christian Atheist"

(Someone who 'believes in' God, but lives like He doesn't exist)



Each week we are challenged to ask (and answer) the question: "Am I putting my whole faith in God or still living as if everything was up to me?"

Upcoming sessions:

When you believe in God, but don't think He's fair
When you believe in God, but aren't sure He loves you.

when you believe in God, but a circ sale rie loves you.

When you believe in God, but put more trust in money.

When you believe in God, but pursue happiness at all costs.

When you believe in God, but don't want to 'go overboard' about Him.

Please join us at 9:00 every Sunday morning.



# Mark Your Calendars...

### Church-League Softball

Another Season is underway!

July 6 - 6:15

July 13 - 6:15

July 20 - 6:15

July 27 - 8:15

+ Set Up



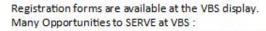
(Sunday, July 30)

All games are played on the Red field at Swansson Fields in Willmar

### SAVE THE DATE: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"SonSpark Labs"
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 31 - AUGUST 4

Meal from 5:30- 6:00 Son-Spark Labs VBS from 6:00 - 8:30



+ Register / Check In (Monday, July 31) + Clean Up (Friday, August 4) + Take Down Friday, August 4) + Games - Lead or assist (July 31 - August 4) + Meals- Make or serve (Pick a day) + Crafts - Lead or assist (July 31 - August 4) + Music - Lead (July 31 - August 4) + Classroom - Lead or assist (July 31 - August 4) (Sign up at the VBS display in the fellowship area)



# July 30: "Old Time Gospel Song Sunday"

June's "song of the month" His Eye is on the Sparrow, brought a suggestion about having a Sunday where we play and sing all sorts of 'old-time' Gospel songs. With that in mind, we've set Sunday, July 30 as "Old-Time Gospel Song Sunday" where we'll sing songs like this month's song of the month: There's Power in the Blood. We'd love to hear your suggestions for other old-time Gospel songs to include. You can give them to Pastor or Scott Wachter. Thanks



# Page 19

# In the News...

# Supreme Court delivers landmark ruling in favor of LC-MS church preschool



Praise God for this victory for religious freedom!

Below are excerpts from an article by Roger Drinnon in LC-MS Reporter Online

The U.S. Supreme Court handed down its ruling June 26 in the case of a Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod church preschool, determining 7-2 that the state of

Missouri's barring of the church from a government aid program was unconstitutional.

The case came about after Trinity was invited to apply for the 2012 Playground Scrap Tire Surface Material Grant Program to resurface its playground with recycled tire products to be provided by the supposedly neutral state program. After applying for the playground-resurfacing program, Trinity Preschool later was deemed ineligible for the state grant program solely because the preschool is operated by a church.

"The Supreme Court's decision today demonstrates the support of the principle that the government cannot treat religious organizations differently than other organizations just because of what we believe," echoed LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison. "Despite this case being about a preschool playground, a seemingly mundane and simple matter, this is a very big win for the fair and equal treatment of religious organizations."

Alliance Defending Freedom Senior Counsel David Cortman: "As the Supreme Court rightly found, unequal treatment that singles out a preschool for exclusion from such a program simply because a church runs the school is clearly unconstitutional."

Harrison said the Synod now will be looking more closely at the specifics of the high court's decision and its implications for religious liberty

Roger Drinnon (roger.drinnon@lcms.org) is director of Editorial Services and Media Relations for LCMS Communications

# smile We sults when est 9 the 늄 0 We mirror, B Ø O day σ for Thot

# Children's Ministry Reminders...

### Nursery:

We have a Nursery area in the East Classroom at the rear of the fellowship hall. You may take Pre-K children to the Nursery after the Children's Message (or at other times during worship as needed).

#### Children's Worship Bags:

These contain Bible story coloring pages and Bible story books. They are available for the older children to take back to their pew after the Children's Message.

### Bible Story Book / Video lending library:

We have over 100 books in the nursery that you can sign out to read with your children at home.

We also have videos to sign out: Adventure in Odyssey (in the old VHS format)!

New Video additions in DVD format:

+ Veggie Tales: All the Shows - Volume I (1993-1999)

+ Buddy Davis' Amazing Adventures: I Dig Dinosaurs

+ Buddy Davis' Amazing Adventures: Extreme Caving

+ Buddy Davis' Amazing Adventures: Swamp Man!

+ The Wild Brothers: Welcome to Our World + The Wild Brothers: Jewels of the Jungle

+ The Wild Brothers: Paradise Lost

#### We are looking for adult Nursery Helpers -

"Grandparent-age" is great, so parents can have a break.

Talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help in the Nursery once a month.

# 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 though a tough time.

# Page 20

rich.

truly

never

isn't is

who

he

and

90°r

ā

truly

ä

nev

S

ateful

IS gr

who

a)

Ī

day

O

for

Thot

# Page 21

# E-mail Humor....

The substitute Sunday School teacher was struggling to open a combination lock on the supply cabinet. She had been told the combination, but couldn't quite remember it. Finally she went to the pastor's study and asked for help.

The pastor came into the room and began to turn the dial. After the first two numbers he paused and stared blankly for a moment. Finally, he looked serenely heavenward and his lips moved silently.

Then he looked back at the lock, and quickly turned to the final number, and opened the lock.

The teacher was amazed. "I'm in awe at your faith, pastor," she said.

"It's really nothing," he answered. "The number is on a piece of tape on the ceiling."

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### Inner Peace

By following the simple advice I heard on a Dr. Phil Show, I have finally found inner peace.

Dr. Phil proclaimed the way to achieve inner peace is to finish all the things you have started.

So I looked around my house to see things I started and hadn't finished; and, before leaving the house this morning I finished off a package of Oreo's, a pot of coffee, the rest of the Cheesecake, some Saltines, and a box of Godiva Chocolates.

Dr. Phil was right... you have no idea how great I feel right now!



# Annual Peach Fundraiser

Now taking orders for July and August deliveries of Colorado peaches.

Order online: www.yfcminnesota.com

By Phone: 320.235.0119

Or stop in: 106 Litchfield Ave SW

Enjoy summers best peaches and feel good about it! All procedes support our programing for local youth.

# Story Behind The Song...

There's Power in the Blood

Since we will be having an "Old-time Gospel Song Sunday" later this month, I thought it was only fitting to take a look at the story behind one of those Gospel songs.

In Egypt, God's Old Testament people were redeemed (set free from captivity) when they sacrificed a lamb and applied its blood to their doorposts as the Angel of Death came through the land. We read in 1 Peter 1:18-19 that it is the blood Jesus ("the Lamb of God") shed on the cross for us that sets us free from captivity to our sin when we apply it to the 'doorposts' of our hearts through faith in Him:

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

The title of this song (and its oft-repeated refrain) drives home the truth that there is indeed amazing power in the blood of Jesus! The verses of the song remind us of other passages in God's Word that also highlight that power. For example, 1 John 1:7 which reminds us that the blood Jesus shed brings forgiveness of our sin when we confess them. And Revelation 12:11 tells us that our victory over Satan was accomplished by the blood of Jesus.

Lewis Edgar Jones wrote the text and also composed the tune for "There's Power in the Blood." Jones was born at Yates City, IL, on Feb. 8, 1865. Jones became active in YMCA work serving first as physical director in the YMCA at Davenport, IA, and then as general secretary in Ft. Worth, TX. He wrote hymns in his spare time. There's Power in the Blood is his most well-known.

Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Chorus: There is power, power, wonder working power
In the blood of the Lamb;
There is power, power, wonder working power
In the precious blood of the Lamb.

Would you be free from your passion and pride? There's power in the blood, power in the blood; Page 22

forgiveness

ā

complete

SO

ge

eni

reg

00

0

There

day

O

for

Thot

Page 23

Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide; There's wonderful power in the blood.

Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow? There's power in the blood, power in the blood; Sin stains are lost in its life giving flow. There's wonderful power in the blood.

Would you do service for Jesus your King? There's power in the blood, power in the blood; Would you live daily His praises to sing? There's wonderful power in the blood.

Editor's note: Going back a ways... Hear the classic version by the Sons of the Pioneers at <a href="https://voutu.be/29ep7Y0vP08">https://voutu.be/29ep7Y0vP08</a> or perhaps a more updated version by Selah at <a href="https://voutu.be/DnuQVGcR4P8">https://voutu.be/DnuQVGcR4P8</a>

# The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



After reflecting on a national history of highs and lows, wars, victories, defeats, moments of national pride, and shames. Uncle Sam BURST INTO PRAISE, realizing the truth GOD'S GRACE IS OUR HOPE personally and as a NATION.