



March 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

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 ?

Last month I began answering a few of the questions the Sunday School students had about heaven. This month I'll tackle a few more. (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 bullies on earth be bullies in heaven?"

This is an easy one: No! God tells us in Revelation 21:4 that the *"There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain because the old order of things has passed away."* All of those things are the result of sin, and there will be no sin in heaven - only forgiven sinners who had their sins wiped away through faith in Jesus who died and rose to forgive them. And those forgiven sinners will sin no more. In heaven there will be nothing to fear!

"Will people know us there?"

There are a couple things in God's Word that cause us to be able to say "Yes!" to that question. First, Jesus' disciples recognized Him after He had risen from the grave (just like all who believe in Jesus will do on the day He returns). Also, when Jesus gave the disciples a glimpse of the glory of heaven on the Mount of Transfiguration (recorded in Mark 9, Luke 9 and Matthew 17) they recognized Moses and Elijah even though they had never seen them before.

"What will we look like?"

Again, we get our answer from what Jesus looked like after He had risen



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from the grave. He was still recognizable as the same person the disciples had spent three years with. But, there was also something a little different about His appearance. He now had what the Bible refers to as 'a glorified body.' He had a physical body (you may remember He showed his disciples the nail holes and scars and also ate with them). But His physical body was now not subject to time and space constraints like ours are on earth. For example, Jesus now was able to enter a room without using the door. John (in chapter 20 of his gospel) tells how Jesus twice came and stood among the disciples who were gathered in a locked room. He didn't use the door. In His now 'glorified body' He didn't need to, He just appeared with them.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Ash Wednesday....

Ash Wednesday - traditional service of ashes

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday—
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



Sunday School News...

Class: 9:00 - 9:50

March Curriculum: "A Love that Never Dies"

March 5- "The Palm Branch Parade" Matt. 21:7-9
March 12- "Jesus Prays in Gethsemane" Matt. 26:39
March 19- "Peter's Shame and Jesus' Forgiveness" Matt. 26:69-75
March 26- "A Story of Two Crowns" Matt. 27:27-31 and John 12:23
April 2 - "The Biggest Love of All" John 15:13
April 9- "Jesus Lives" John 20:1-18

***** ATTENTION KIDS *****

During the month of March, we are going to donate items to the "new" Food Pantry here in New London!

Items they are seeking from kids--

Granola Bars

Fruit/Jello/Pudding Cups

Pretzels/Popcorn

Trail Mix

NON-FROSTED "Pop-Tarts"

Fruit Snacks (made w/fruit juice)

Birthday Kits (cake mix/frosting/candles)

Peanut Butter and Jelly

or any other healthy item!

We will weigh-in our donations every week and looking towards a 100# goal!! OR MAYBE SURPASS THAT!!! Bring them at the beginning of Sunday School hour and we will weigh and then put in a box. THANK YOU!

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING IN APRIL: BOWLING

at Alley on Ash (New London)

They have a special package of 2 games of bowling/shoes/pizza/pop. We'll go either April 23 or 30 (depending on which date works best for most).

Choir Notes...

Choir - It's not too late to be a part of choir for Easter Sunday. Rehearsals are following coffee fellowship the last two Sundays of the month. See you March 19th and March 26th. Hope to see you there.



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Thot for a day: An exceptional pilot uses his exceptional knowledge to avoid needing his exceptional skill.

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Opportunities for Growth...

Daily Bible readings:

(See pages 10 & 11 in this Newsletter)

Sunday Morning Study - 9:00

We're digging deeper into some of our Key Chapter readings



Men's Study- Tuesdays @ 6:30

1 Peter: "Living in a world opposed to Christ and Christians"

Women's Study- Wednesdays @ 7:00 (after Lenten devotion)

Confirmation - Wednesdays @ 7:00 (after Lenten devotion)

3-6th Grade Group - YMCA Outing, Monday, Feb 27

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.

"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!

New Project Connect Booklet...



Get a Grip! Managing Moods and Emotions

Is there a cure for the blues? It is said that "misery loves company, but that doesn't mean the company you keep loves your misery."

We all experience a range of emotions every day - the key is to keep our emotions from taking over our outlook on life. From emotional triggers to mood-busters, you will find this booklet brimming with strategies for managing your moodiness. Best of all, you'll discover how to find hope, peace and comfort... when you need it most!

Grab one of these new booklets for yourself or a friend from the Project Connect rack near Pastor's office.

Get To Know Your...

...Elder's Team: This month we'll introduce Elders Kevin Welsh, Mark Fuglie and Jason Miller. Next month we'll get to know Ed Vegdahl and Keith Hanson.



KEVIN WELSH

Family: Kevin is married to Marcia. They have a daughter, Mariah and son Noah (and a cat named Asia). Kevin also lists Chris (their adult foster-care guy) as part of the family.

Career/jobs: Kevin does construction work - building and remodeling homes. Marcia works at Mills Auto (Kevin calls her "THE Friendly Receptionist"). They also provide foster care for adults at their home.

What would you do if you didn't have to bring home a paycheck?
"Visit family. Muzzle-load hunt. Ice fish - in that order."

Hobbies/favorite things to do: "Muzzle load and ice fish."

A Bible verse or passage God's used in your life:

Luke 15:11-32 (The "Prodigal Son" parable). "I remember this from the time I was young. If you repent and truly believe in God He will welcome you back!"

Your vision for Living Word: "It has already started... we are growing in numbers!"

A Bible character that inspires you: "Paul. He used to kill Christians, then when he's in prison waiting to be killed for being a vocal Christian, he writes letters to encourage other Christians."

A 'Fun Fact' about you: (something most people don't know)
"I played rugby in college."



MARK FUGLIE

Family: Mark, Tammy, Allan, Emily.

Pets: Bear (dog), Callie, and Blackie (cats)

Job/Career: Senior software developer

What would you do if you didn't have to bring home a paycheck?

Snowmobile, Motorcycle, rebuild old tractors / cars, work in my garage building things.

Bible verse or passage that God's used in your life:

Emily's confirmation verse: "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my

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That for a day: Anybody who's busy pulling on the oars hasn't got time to rock the boat.

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word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." John 5:24

Hobbies / Favorite things to do: Visit with Family and Friends, Snowmobile, Motorcycle, work on projects in my garage.

Vision for Living Word: See it continue to grow and be a welcoming place for all to grow in the Word and support one another. See the church expand its facility by adding a Sanctuary.

A Bible character that inspires you: There are a couple that come to mind: Job - a model of persevering through lots of tough situations.

Jonah - I can relate to there being times I don't want to volunteer for something, but things work out well when I do it anyway.

Fun fact:: In first grade my brother and I were enjoying the a 'snow day' during a snowstorm by jumping off the barn roof into the snow. I was joking around pretending to be Superman and said, "Watch this: Superman's greatest landing." Unfortunately it wasn't! I landed wrong and broke my femur. My brother rolled me onto the toboggan and hauled me up to the house. When he went in, Dad asked, "Where's Mark?" My brother - not knowing how to tell dad about my leg (and how it happened) - said, "In the garage." To which dad replied, "Why isn't he coming in?" My brother finally said, "Umm. I don't think he can."



JASON MILLER

Family: Jason is married to Sarah and they have three children: Noah, Levi and Mikala. They also have two foster kids at the present time: Big Mike (18) and Baby Michael (1)

Job/Career: Field Representative Commercial Lines Underwriting for Verisk Insurance Solutions. We inspect commercial properties to give them an Insurance Rate for Insurance companies.

What you would do if you didn't have to bring home a pay check:
We would probably travel more and possibly take more kids in for foster care.

Hobbies: I enjoy Golfing, camping, fishing and hunting.

Bible verse or passage that God used in your life:

John 3:16 has always been a very important verse in my life and Easter is my favorite time of the year because of it. It amazes me that my God would give his Son up for me to bring me to his eternal kingdom. That is the ultimate sacrifice in my eyes for someone that is constantly letting him down.

My vision for Living Word: To continually have Christ based teaching and grow to the point where we can do more for the less fortunate people.

ple in our community. Foster care is in our hearts and we are always looking for ways to help those kids out there that need us. Keeping our small group ministry strong is also very important to keep our church connected to each other and keep our family atmosphere.

Bible Character that inspires me: This changes based on the seasons of my life; right now I think it is Noah because the ark built in Kentucky - it has been a large topic in our home. I think he and his family were pretty inspirational in the Bible, because they built it no matter what doubts were in their minds and no matter how many people were teasing them they trusted in God. To have a blind faith in God that doesn't separate you and probably made them closer as a family unit is amazing to me.

Fun Fact: As a high school student, some friends and I once drove up to Duluth to go skiing for a day. Due to it being Valentine's weekend (single at the time - didn't think of that) and a large hockey tournament taking place we couldn't find a hotel in the area. We ended up driving to Thunder Bay Canada to find a room to stay for the night. It was an interesting trip to say the least. That was the weekend I found out I was afraid of heights, so the skiing didn't go so well. It was a windy day and it was not a fun ride on the ski lifts. Needless to say I only made it down one hill.

3rd—6th Grade Group...

3rd-6th Grade YMCA Outing - Mon., Feb 27 !:

The 3rd-6th Grade group will have a special night at the Willmar YMCA on Monday, February 27 from 6-8 p.m. Pizza will be available from 5:30-6:00 in case your student won't have time to eat supper before. You can just bring your student to the "Y" or contact Becky Sarsland 320-429-1735 for a ride. Cost for the evening is covered.

Could You Lead / Organize 3-6th Grade Activities ?

The kids are in need of an individual (or team of people) who can head up the 3-6th Graders' weekly group gathering. If you have a heart for helping kids have fun getting closer to Jesus and each other, please pray about this. Talk to Youth Team Director Lyndsay Ampe or Pastor David for more details. Thanks!

Email Wisdom...

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on the door forever.

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Thot for a day: Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have, or sleep all you want.

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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 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 **Sixty in February!** Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week.



March 2017 - Daily Devotionals

DAILY READING PROGRAM: We continue our '100 - or so - Key Chapters of the Bible' readings.

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

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 _____

Mar 5 Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed

Mar 6 Leviticus 19 _____

Mar 7 Leviticus 25 _____

Mar 8 Numbers 11 _____

Mar 9 Numbers 13-14 _____

Mar 10 Numbers 20:1-21:9 _____

Mar 11 Numbers 22 _____

Mar 12 Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed

Mar 13 Deuteronomy 11 _____

Mar 14 Deuteronomy 28 _____

Mar 15 Joshua 3 _____

Mar 16 Joshua 5:13-6:27 _____

Mar 17 Joshua 24 _____

Mar 18 Judges 2 _____

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

Mar 20 Judges 6 _____

Mar 21 Ruth 1 _____

Mar 22 1 Samuel 1 _____

Mar 23 1 Samuel 8 _____

Mar 24 1 Samuel 16-17 _____

Mar 25 2 Samuel 11-12 _____

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

Mar 27 1 Kings 3 _____

Mar 28 1 Kings 8 _____




Mar 29 1 Kings 17-19 _____

Mar 30 2 Kings 2 _____

Mar 31 2 Kings 17 _____

Apr 1 2 Kings 25 _____

March 2017 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 26 9:00 ADULT STUDY - <i>Sunday School</i> 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Choir Practice 6:00 CARD FELLOWSHIP	Feb 27 5:30 3-6th Grade PIZZA @ YMCA 6-8:00 3-6th Gr @ YMCA	Feb 28 6:30 MEN'S STUDY 1 Peter	1 ASH WEDNESDAY  5:30 SOUP SUPPER 7:00 ASH WED. WORSHIP	2 <div> Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net </div>	3 Circuit Pastors @ St. John Montevideo	4
5 MEXICO MISSION RECAP 9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Sunday School Mtg	6	7 6:30 MEN'S STUDY 1 Peter	8 10:00 LWMIL Planning 5:30 SOUP SUPPER 6:30 LENT DEVOTION 7:00 -WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - CONFIRMATION	9	10 Women's Retreat sign-up deadline.	11
12 9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship	13	14 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MEN'S STUDY: 1 Peter	15 5:30 SOUP SUPPER 6:30 LENT DEVOTION 7:00 -WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - CONFIRMATION	16 MISSION <i>Ministry</i> 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	17 <div> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ash Wed, March 1st Sunday, March 5th Sunday, March 19th </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: 1 Peter	22 5:30 SOUP SUPPER 6:30 LENT DEVOTION 7:00 -WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - CONFIRMATION	23	24  women's retreat	25 Women's Retreat
26 9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 CARD FELLOWSHIP	27	28 6:30 MEN'S STUDY: 1 Peter	29 5:30 SOUP SUPPER 6:30 LENT DEVOTION 7:00 -WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - CONFIRMATION	30	31  6:30 FFAA Night	Apr 1

Upcoming Schedules...

Fellowship Servers

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

Apr 2 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
 Apr 9 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
 Apr 16 Easter Breakfast
 Apr 23 Gwen Ruchti / Ruth Vegdahl
 Apr 30 Mike & Brooke Knutson

Usher Schedule

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

Apr 2 Jason & Noah Miller
 Apr 9 Bo & George Arends-Schmidt
 Apr 16 Wendy & Lonny Robbin
 Apr 23 Brady & Andrew Sharp
 Apr 30 Linda Dilley & Davis Rustad

Make A Meal Volunteers

Mar Mona Hjelle & Laurel Iverson
 Apr Linda Dilley & Violet Dauk

Altar Guild

Mar Mona Hjelle
 Apr Nancy Jo Wendt

Elders

Mar 1 (Ash Wed) Ed Vegdahl & Mark Fuglie
 Mar 5 Jason Miller & Kevin Welsh
 Mar 19 Keith Hanson & Ed Vegdahl
 Apr 2 Mark Fuglie & Jason Miller
 Apr 13 (Maundy Thursday) Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
 Apr 16 Ed Vegdahl & Mark Fuglie

Accompanying Musicians

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

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That for a day: An optimist is someone who, when opportunity knocks, jumps for joy without noticing that it is knocking next door.

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Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

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

Apr 2 Carson Jaspersen
 Apr 9 Noah Miller
 Apr 16 Davis Rustad
 Apr 23 Lance Sawatzky
 Apr 30 Andrew Sharp

Custodian

March Wendy & Lonny Robbin
 April Custodian Needed

Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)
 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

Apr 2 Carson Jaspersen & Ryland Engler
 Apr 9 Mona Hjelle & Lance Sawatzky
 Apr 16 Noah Miller & George Arends-Schmidt
 Apr 23 Davis Rustad & McCartney Knutson
 Apr 30 Andrew Sharp & Carson Jaspersen

Scripture Readers

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

Apr 2 Nykki Foshaug
 Apr 9 Mona Hjelle
 Apr 16 Kevin Welsh
 Apr 23 Ruth Vegdahl
 Apr 30 Laurel Iverson

Confirmation Parent Helper

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

Apr 5 Arends-Schmidts
 Apr 8 Jaspersens
 Apr 13 Knutsons
 Apr 19 Millers
 Apr 26 Rustads

March Discipleship Verse...



I have loved you with an everlasting love.
 Jeremiah 31:3

Mark Your Calendars...

FFAA Night: Friday, March 31st
Recent FFAA Nights have included...

- + Court Whist cards (Dec)
- + Video and board games (Jan)
- + Bingo (Feb)

What will we think of next?! Come and find out on March 31st

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

Wednesday Lenten Devotions

Every Wednesday during Lent (March 8 - April 5) from 6:30 - 7:00. We will use the Psalms as the focus for our devotions - including those that prophesied of Jesus' suffering. And since "repentance" is the theme of Lent we will look at people in the Bible whose lives were changed by Jesus (to "repent" literally means to change your course and your mind).

Please come for soup and sandwich and stay for the devotion.

LWML News...

LWML - Planning meeting is scheduled for March 8th at 10:00 AM. Meeting will be held at church. All women are invited to come and be a part of planning for the upcoming events. All women are invited. See you there

New London Pantry is now accepting food donations. Thank you to everyone who brings in non perishable items. Last month 60# were donated. There is a purple box located near the front entrance at church for your items.

LWML Has Started 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.



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That for a day: if some people said what they thought, they'd be speechless.

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Lenten Devotional...



"A Love That Never Dies" - A Devotional For Lent

This 40-Day Devotional Prayer Journal follows Jesus' journey to the cross. Each day adds perspective on what was happening in society as well as in Jesus' ministry.

Daily reflection questions will help you personalize your Lenten journey and discover again the depth of Jesus' love.

Each day's reading presents a thought starter, space to write down reflections, and after the introductory week, a recommended reading from St. Matthew's Passion account.

You are invited to discover again "A love that never dies!"

Devotional Journals will be handed out at the Ash Wednesday worship and will also be available the Sunday following (Mar 5).

March...

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 March Make-a-Meal volunteers are Mona Hjelle & Laurel Iverson



Thank You !

Dear Living Word Lutheran Church,

Thank you for always welcoming us to your church. It was a privilege to worship our Lord together. We also enjoyed our time of fellowship afterwards, having great conversations with people with great food! What a privilege it also is to partner with you in proclaiming the love of Christ and furthering His kingdom. Praise God. Thank you for blessing us!

In Christ,
CTI 14:22

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
- March Living Word newsletters
- March daily Bible readings
- Jan - March Portals of Prayer - daily devotionals
- Family Devotion Books
- Christian Magazines



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 home page)



Sermons from this past month:

- Feb 5 - "Your Choice: Prove You are Right - Or Be a 'Shining Light'?"
- Feb 12 - "THE Greatest Thing a Friend Can Do."
- Feb 19 - "Be Holy" (start by loving others the way God loves them)

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.



MARCH NEWS



Chasity O'Leary, Director of Outreach & Volunteer Engagement • 320.354.5555 • outreach@youarethelink.org



It's Official:

The Link has officially moved! Come see us at 206 N. Main St, New London aka "the old clinic".

Thanks to the many volunteers, that painted, built shelves and helped us get ready for the opening of the Food Pantry. A special thank you to the Habitat for Humanity volunteers who managed to move The Link's offices in record time. Without their trucks, tools and strength, it would have been difficult to do.

The Food Pantry Opens:

The Link launched the Food Pantry on February 14th. The community "stocked the shelves" with over 2,100 pounds of food donations. The Food Pantry's goal is to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. The Pantry will provide key food items and a loving response to hunger.

Just the Basics:

The "Just the Basics" Distribution Event is still in need of congregations, community service organizations, businesses and community members to purchase and collect household and hygiene items. The distribution will be on Saturday, April 29th, 9am-10:30am at Cross Roads Community Church. Please contact Chasity or check our website at youarethelink.org if you are interested in making a donation, collecting an item or volunteering.

March is MN FoodShare Month:

In March, the Minnesota FoodShare Campaign brings together various organizations, businesses, and places of worship to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. The March Campaign is the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, having raised \$7.9 million dollars and 5.2 million pounds of food in 2016, the most successful campaign in their 34 year history. Donations of food and dollars are needed. Monetary donations can be mailed to PO Box 823, New London

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



The Link Food Pantry stocked and ready to go

Household Exchange & Food Pantry Hours:

*Mondays: 9am-3pm
Tuesdays: 12pm-6pm
Thursdays: 9am-3pm*

Food Pantry:

Key food items:

Bread, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, noodles and sauce, peanut butter, jelly, tuna; please contact Chasity at 354.5555 or stop in during hours of operation to make a donation of food.

"Just the Basics"

Collect an item:

*Deodorant
Tooth Brushes
Tooth Paste
Feminine Hygiene
Razors
Paper Towels
Detergent
Spray Cleaner
Dish Soap
Toilet Cleaner
Body Soap
Disinfectant Wipes*

Tuesday's Table

March 7th: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church
March 14th: Evangelical Covenant Church
March 21st: Faith Lutheran Church
March 28th: Peace Lutheran Church

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.*

E-mail Humor....

Crazy Warning Labels

A warning on an electric router made for carpenters cautions:
"This product not intended for use as a dental drill."

A warning label found on a baby stroller cautions the user to
"Remove child before folding."

A prescription of sleeping pills says,
"Warning: May cause drowsiness."

A snowblower warns, *"Do not use snowthrower on roof."*

An "Aim-n-Flame" fireplace lighter cautions,

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Thot for a day: Honk if you love Jesus! Text while driving if you want to meet him.

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"Do not use near fire, flame or sparks."

A cartridge for a laser printer warns, *"Do not eat toner."*

A household iron warns users

"Never iron clothes while they are being worn."

A cardboard car sunshield that keeps sun off the dashboard warns,
"Do not drive with sunshield in place."

A can of self-defense pepper spray warns users,
"May irritate eyes."

The Oldest Computer

The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve.

Surprise, surprise.

It was an Apple.

But with extremely limited memory.

Just 1 byte.

Then everything crashed.



A Mexico Mission Re-cap

Sunday, March 5

During Worship on Sunday, March 5, Ed and Ruth Vegdahl and Laurie Hanson will share about the Holy Spirit's work on their recent mission trip to help at an orphanage in Mexico. Invite some friends to come and hear about how God is working there.

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 working thru Ed, Ruth & Laurie on their mission trip
- Thanking God for all the kids in our church - and all we learn from them
- Thanking God for our Reset study
- Asking God to continue to help us find our Reset in Jesus daily
- Asking God for great attendance at the Women's Retreat
- Asking God to open your heart during Lent to changes He wants to make in your life.
- 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

Are you a caregiver for a loved one?

Are you feeling stressed out and alone? Powerful Tools for Caregivers, an educational program for family caregivers of older adults, will be held at Dethlefs Community Center in Spicer for 6 consecutive Fridays beginning March 24. The sessions meet for 90 minutes, from 9:30-11 am, and will provide you with self-care tools to reduce personal stress, communicate more effectively with family members and health care providers, deal with challenging situations, and reduce feelings of isolation. Class participants will receive a copy of The Caregiver Helpbook. Requested donation of \$10 to attend. Register by calling 796-5208 by March 13.

Story Behind The Song...

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

Isaac Watts is well known as a hymn writer. Our hymnal Lutheran Service Book contains no less than fourteen (!) hymns penned by Watts. Among those fourteen are "Joy to the World," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways," "O God Our Help in Ages Past" (highlighted last month), and "From All That Dwell Below the Skies."

As we enter the season of Lent - a time to reflect on our sin and all that Jesus went through to wipe our sin away - I thought it would be good to include one of Watts' songs that appears in the "Lent" section of our hymnal: "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed." (This is just one of three songs of his in that section.)

This hymn was originally published in the 1707 hymnbook Hymns and Spiritual Songs that contained songs and hymns Watts wrote in his late teens and early twenties! The original title was "Godly Sorrow Arising from the Sufferings of Christ."

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" played a major role in bringing another great hymnist to faith in Jesus. In 1851, Fanny Crosby, who was then 31 years old, attended a revival service at John Street Methodist Church in New York. She recalled, "After a prayer was offered they began to sing the grand old consecration hymn 'Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed' and when they reached the third line of the fifth stanza, 'Here, Lord I give myself away,' my very soul was flooded with celestial light." Crosby later penned many hymns including "To God Be the Glory."

Ponder the words of Watts' song:

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Thot for a day: Education is what you get when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get when you don't.

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Alas! And did my Savior bleed And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I.

Was it for crimes that I have done, He suffered on the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut His glories in;
When Christ the Mighty Maker died For man, the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness And melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'Tis all that I can do.

Editor's note: A nice a cappella version of this hymn at
https://youtu.be/TF_MxAU0dx0
A little more contemporary version at <https://youtu.be/3sB--oTILAM>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



GOD'S LOVE.. is a NATURAL HIGH!
As high as the sky is above the Earth, so
great is His love for those who respect him.
Ps 103:11