

March 2018 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 for Pastor...

In Revelation 4:8 and 7:15 it says they praised God and served Him "day and night." But in Revelation 21:25 and 22:5 it says there will be no night. Which is it?



This question is an example of some of the questions that have come during one of our recent studies on the book of Revelation.

There are a couple of possible answers to that specific question.

1) In both chapter 4 and chapter 7 the apostle John is getting a glimpse into heaven. These glimpses are visions of heaven prior to the time Christ returns on The Last Day to bring an end to this world (sometimes called "Judgement Day"). Revelation 21 and 22 describe how Jesus will create the New Heaven and New Earth that everyone who follows Jesus will inhabit for eternity. It is on this New Earth that there will be no night, due to the fact that the light of God - who will be constantly visibly present - illumines the world. So, it is correct to say that prior to Christ's return we still have day and night, since it is only after His return that we are told there will be no more night.

2) The book of Revelation is the type of writing known as "apocalyptic literature." Apocalyptic writings make great use of symbolism, so saying "night and day" could simply be a symbolic way of saying "all the time" or "constantly."

The Book of Revelation is a very encouraging and comforting book that was written to give great hope and courage to Christians living in the midst of an anti-Christian world. And it's not the 'scary puzzle' many have made it out to be. I'd invite you to join one of our studies to find the hope and courage we need as Christians living in our times! Men's Study on Tuesdays at 6:30 or Sunday Morning Study at 9:00

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

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Who Can You Invite to...

1. **Any of our Bible Studies**
Everyone could use the help God has for us in His Word
2. **The Easter Celebration for Kids** - March 24 @ 10am
Find details about this event on page 21 in this Newsletter
3. **Maundy Thursday Worship** - March 29 @ 6:30 pm
We'll have our traditional 'ceremonial' foot washing and look at what Jesus taught in the Upper Room "on the night He was betrayed." Then we'll share communion.
4. **Good Friday - the Seven Last Words** - March 30-7 pm
Easter is just a "feel-good" story without Good Friday. We extinguish one candle for each of the seven last words Jesus spoke from the cross until all lights have been put out. Join us to be reminded why we call such a dark day "Good"
5. **Easter - We celebrate the Resurrection on April 1**
 - 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship - We begin outdoors watching the sun rise (7:00 is actual sunrise time), then move to the sanctuary to finish our celebration of the Greatest Event in History.
 - 8:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast - served following Sunrise service
 - 10:00 a.m. Communion Service - We again celebrate the Greatest Event in all of History at our regular worship time and share in communion as the Feast of Victory
6. **Our 3rd Annual Women's Retreat** - April 27-29
Find details about this event on page 6 in this Newsletter

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 for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study @ 9:00

Men's Study - Tuesdays @ 6:30

Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School: The Book of Revelation.
Please Join us - on Sunday Mornings at 9:00 or our Men's Study on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 -to learn the blessings God promises for reading



Daily Bible readings:

"New" Things -See pages 10 & 11 in this Newsletter

Women's Wednesday Evening Study:

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30

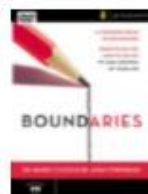
... will not meet during Lent, but will be back after Easter at the regular 6:30 p.m. time.

Moms' Study: Wednesdays @ 9:30 am

Boundaries

Uncover the secrets to cultivating the habit of setting and maintaining healthy boundaries that provide the framework for rich, productive relationships. Drawing on principles from the Bible, Boundaries nine interactive sessions can make a life-changing difference in all of your relationships.

Could you provide child care for the moms while they do the study?
Please talk to Pastor David. Thanks!



4-6th Grade Group

... will not meet the 1st Wednesday in March.

(But we'd love to have some parents or other folks volunteer to chaperone an event for our 4-6th graders some weekend in March. Talk to Pastor David if you could help. Thanks!)

Sunday School: See page 19 for information

the Living Word Women's Retreat April 27-29

"Reach Out - Impact Your World"

see page 6 of this newsletter for more details

An Open Invitation to Pray - Wednesdays @ 6:00pm

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people..." 1 Timothy 2:1

Living Word has a group of 'prayer warriors' who have been meeting informally for about a year on Wednesday evenings following the Apostle Paul's urging in the above passage.

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That for a day: The nice thing about living in a small town is that when you don't know what you're doing, somebody else always does.

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They start their meetings by looking at an example prayer in the Bible, then they have a time of prayer and praise - including silent time. The group has been expanding by word of mouth, but as we begin a new Christian Growth season, they would like to issue a formal invitation to everyone who has a heart for prayer to join them Wednesdays at 6pm. (Don't worry if you aren't able to attend every week.)

Email Humor...

Last night I was telling my kids about Jesus calming the storm in Mark chapter 4. I told them how Jesus and the disciples were all in a boat crossing a lake when a storm came up and threatened to sink the craft. Meanwhile, Jesus had fallen asleep in the back of the boat. So the disciples, fearing for their lives, went back and woke Jesus, hoping he could do something to save them. I told my kids, "Jesus woke up and said 'Quiet...'"

My son interjected, "I'M TRYING TO SLEEP!" before I could finish the sentence!

E-mail Wisdom....

Following Billy Graham's final New York crusade in 2005, he penned these words for inclusion in the final pages of a book which included three of his sermons:

"No matter what your problem is," he wrote, "if you and I could sit down and talk, I would want to tell you one great truth: God loves you, and He can make a difference in your life if you will let Him.

"God loves you so much that He sent His Son into the world to die for your sins. When we open our hearts to Christ, He forgives our sins and comes to live within us by His Holy Spirit. He also gives us strength for the present and hope for the future. This is the message of the Gospel—and this is the message you have read in this book."

Thank God For...

You've seen our sign board out by the road with the beginning of a sentence: "Thank God For..."
This past month we thanked God for...

- Ariana Olson Baptized into God's Family
- God's Unconditional Love
- Snowplow Folks

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



Mark Your Calendars...

2018 Women's Retreat

Friday night- Sunday , April 27th-29th.

" Reach Out - Impact Your World !"

Where: Koronis Ministries: Paynesville, MN

Cost: (Price includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals)

Dorm Room Style :

\$130.00 per person (Based on double occupancy)

Hotel room :

\$180.00 per person based on double occupancy.

RSVP: by April 10th to Violet Dauk or Tammy Miller

Money will be due by April 10th as well.

(Checks payable to Koronis Ministries)

This is open to all ladies, so invite some friends!!

Coming Wednesday, April 4 at 6 p.m.

Grace Johnson combines her skills as a potter and a storyteller to show how God has molded us, each His unique creation.

On Wednesday, April 4, Grace brings her potter's wheel and story to share with the **4-6th Grade Group** and Confirmation Class.

God has taken Grace and husband Bert all over the States to share their ministry and their Prophetic Art, Christian Prints, Christian Poetry and Christian Greeting Cards. "Behold as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand." Jeremiah 18:6



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.

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Thot for a day: : My husband and I'm married for better or worse... He couldn't have done better and I couldn't have done worse.

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Congratulations

- Ariana Grace Olson - baptized into the family of God on February 4

If you have someone you'd like to offer congratulations to, just email Pastor David with the info: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

MARCH NEWS

206 N. Main St. New London, MN 56273 | 320.354.5555 or 354.4198 | www.youarethelink.org
The Link Staff: Rhonda Ottem, Charity Grunwald & Shawna Roomling



March is MN FoodShare Month:

Minnesota FoodShare began its work in 1982 with a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The effort was so successful and the need was so evident, the March Campaign became a statewide program just one year later.

The largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together various community organizations, businesses, and faith communities to help stock nearly 300 food shelves statewide.

Minnesota FoodShare envisions a Minnesota where all residents have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. The March Campaign addresses these issues directly and we invite you to join our efforts and advocate for long-term solutions to food insecurity and poverty in our communities.

2017 March Campaign results:

280 food shelves participated
\$7,781,597 raised for food shelves
\$324,500 distributed to participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare FoodFund
4,748,756 pounds of food donated

You can help! Collect money, food or both. Cash donations allow The Link Food Pantry to stretch donations by purchasing food through Second Harvest Heartland.

Just the Basics:

The Link's annual "Just the Basics" Household Item and Toiletries Distribution is on Saturday, April 28, 2018, 9 am to 10:30 am at Cross Roads Methodist Church.

The Link is fundraising and collecting items for the event. Sponsor an item for \$300-\$500 by calling Charity.

Items still needed: Laundry soap, toilet bowl cleaner, liquid spray cleaner, disinfecting wipes, garbage bags, food storage bags, paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrushes, razors, baby wipes and feminine products.

Save the Date:

Sunday, June 10th, 2018: Rib Fest, new venue at Goat Ridge Brewing Co. Stay tuned for more details!

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

Food Pantry & Household Exchange Hours of Operation and Donations:

Tuesday: 9 am-3 pm
Thursday: 9 am-3 pm
3rd Wednesday:
4 pm - 7 pm

Revive + Redeem

Boutique / Thrift
New Hours:
Tuesday: 9am - 3pm
Thursday: 9am - 3pm
Special Weekend
March 9th, 10am-3pm
&
March 10th, 9am to 1pm

Tuesday's Table

March 6th: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church

March 13th: Evangelical Covenant Church

March 20th: Faith Lutheran Church

March 27th: Peace Lutheran Church

Food, Friends, Fellowship.

Miscellaneous Notes...

CHOIR...

Choir - It may take extra initiative and energy to be a choir member, but it just might be what you need to add to your life for Lent. We welcome new members. Rehearsals are the 3rd and 4th Sundays after coffee fellowship. Join us March 4th (extra rehearsal), March 18th and the 25th. We sing at the 10:00 service on Easter morning. Psalm 149:1 Sing a new song to the Lord; praise him in the assembly of his faithful people!

Keep a song in your heart, Leone



LC-MS Youth Gathering

... scheduled for July 11-15, 2019, in Minneapolis, at the Minneapolis Convention Center and U.S. Bank Stadium.



Held every three years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

We'll be having another information meeting for parents and students in March.

Start saving Toothpaste

for the Link's annual "Just the Basics" giveaway. Saturday, April 28th, 9am to 10:30am at Cross Roads Church



Victories for religious freedom

Stephanie Taub, counsel with First Liberty Institute, and KFUD host Kip Allen discuss five victories for religious freedom since Donald Trump was elected president of the United States.



Listen online at <https://blogs.lcms.org/2018/kfuo-audio-victories-for-religious-freedom> OR Pick up the latest copy of "Free to be Faithful" from the "Free Stuff" table at church



Connecting faith & finances for good.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Since 2010, over \$370 million has been distributed to thousands of churches, schools, and other non-profits just like yours through Thrivent Choice®. Through this program, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent donates mil-

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• **Thot for a day:** Try to remember that, with the exception of your parents and your children, most people will consider you an adult.

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lions of charitable outreach dollars each year.

We are excited to share, based on member recommendations, Living Word Lutheran Church received \$500 in charitable outreach funding in 2017. We hope this gift helped to further support your incredible work.



All 2017 Choice Dollars® have been made available for members to direct. Thrivent members, you have until March 31, 2018 to direct your 2017 Thrivent Choice Dollars.

Easter Lilies Welcome

If you would like to provide Easter lilies to decorate the

Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

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

- Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- Devotional books
- March Living Word newsletters
- March Daily Bible readings
- Jan - March Portals of Prayer - daily devotionals
- Pocket Calendar



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)

- Feb 4 "The simple solution to renewing your strength for life"
- Feb 11 "A friend is..."
- Feb 18 "In the battle against Satan, you need to surrender to win"
- Feb 25 "The pre-requisite for following Jesus"

Offering Envelopes Available for 2018

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.



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.

Living Word Directory... NOW AVAILABLE Online.

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

March 2018 - Daily Readings

We'll begin in John's gospel reading about events leading up to Jesus' death. We will finish with Holy Week event readings from Matthew's gospel. You'll notice one thing different about the readings this month: We've included readings on Sunday - just to get them all in by Easter!

Wk of Mar 4 Daily Readings Pre-Crucifixion events from John's Gospel

Mar 4	John 10:22-42	_____
Mar 5	John 11:1-16	_____
Mar 6	John 11:17-37	_____
Mar 7	John 11:38-44	_____
Mar 8	John 11:45-57	_____
Mar 9	John 12:1-11	_____
Mar 10	John 12:12-19	_____

Week of Mar 11 Daily Readings Pre-Crucifixion events from John's Gospel

Mar 11	John 12:20-36	_____
Mar 12	John 12:37-50	_____
Mar 13	John 13:1-17	_____
Mar 14	John 13:18-30	_____
Mar 15	John 13:31-38	_____
Mar 16	John 14:1-14	_____
Mar 17	John 14:15-31	_____

Wk of Mar 18 Daily Readings Pre-Crucifixion events from John's Gospel

Mar 18	John 15:1-17	_____
Mar 19	John 15:18-16:4	_____
Mar 20	John 16:5-16	_____
Mar 21	John 16:17-33	_____
Mar 22	John 17:1-6	_____
Mar 23	John 17:7-19	_____
Mar 24	John 17:20-26	_____

Wk of Mar 25 Daily Readings Holy Week Events From Matthew's Gospel

Mar 25	Matthew 21:1-11	_____
Mar 26	Matthew 21:12-17	_____
Mar 27	Matthew 21:33-46	_____
Mar 28	Matthew 25:1-46	_____
Mar 29	Matthew 26:31-75	_____
Mar 30	Matthew 27:1-32	_____
Mar 31	Matthew 27:33-66	_____

Easter	Matthew 28:1-10	_____
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March 2018 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 9:00 -ADULT STUDY-Revelation - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship	5	6	7 9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 5:30 SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION	8	9	10
11 STRYKAR AMPE BAPTISM 9:00 -ADULT STUDY-Revelation - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 5:30 WHIST FELLOWSHIP'	12	13 6:30 MEN'S STUDY: "Revelation"	14 9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 11:30 LWML @ Laurie Hanson's 1:30 SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION	15 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, March 4th Sunday, March 18th Maundy Thursday, March 29th 	
18 9:00 -ADULT STUDY-Revelation -SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship 11:45 CHOIR PRACTICE	19	20 6:30 MEN'S STUDY: "Revelation"	21 9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 5:30 SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION	22	23	24 10:00 EASTER CELEBRATION 4 KIDS
25 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 -ADULT STUDY-Revelation - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:45 CHOIR PRACTICE	26	27	28	29 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:30 MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP w/communion	30 GOOD FRIDAY 6:30 GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP	31 GOOD FRIDAY
April 1 RESURRECTION DAY 7:00 SONRISE WORSHIP 8:15 EASTER BREAKFAST 9:00 ADULT STUDY/ S.S. 10:00 EASTER WORSHIP w/communion	2	3 6:30 MEN'S STUDY: "Revelation"	4 9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 6:00 - PRAYER GROUP 6:00 - 4-6th GR. GROUP - CONFIRMATION (The Potter's Heart) 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY	5	6	7



Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net

Upcoming Schedules...

Fellowship Servers

Mar 4	Mike & Brooke Knutson
Mar 11	Marcia Welsh & Pam Johnson
Mar 18	Nancy Jo Wendy & Tammy Fuglie
Mar 25	Wendy R / Alicia S / Mary Lee M
Apr 1	Easter Breakfast - Youth
Apr 8	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Apr 15	Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
Apr 22	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
Apr 29	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen

Usher Schedule

Mar 4	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Mar 11	Larry Levin
Mar 18	Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson
Mar 25	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
M Thurs	Confirmation Students
G Fri	Brent & Lance Sawatzky
Apr 1	Jason & Noah Miller
Apr 8	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Apr 15	Brady & Andrew Sharp
Apr 22	Linda Dilley & Davis Rustad
Apr 29	Wally Abraham and Joe Johnson

Make A Meal Volunteers

March	Mona Hjelle & Linda Dilley
April	Violet Dauk & Bonnie Hansen

Elders

Mar 4/11	Jason Miller & Kevin Welsh
Mar 18/25/29	Keith Hanson & Ed Vegdahl

Apr 1/8	Joe Johnson & Jason Miller
Apr 15/22/29	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson

Custodian

March	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
April	Custodians needed

Seen on Church Signboard...

Never give the devil a ride.
He will always want to drive.

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That for a day: Just saw a little blurb mentioning a "plant-based" diet and realized that most of my food comes from plants --specifically Hostess, Frito-Lay, whoever makes Cap'n Crunch, Hershey's, etc.

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Acolyte (little brothers & sisters)

Mar 4	Zoe Rustad
Mar 11	Lexi Macik
Mar 18	Alex Meis
Mar 25	Carson Sawatzky
Apr 1	Addison Arends-Schmidt
Apr 8	Gage Dahl
Apr 15	Levi Miller
Apr 22	Eli Sharp
Apr 29	Alison Sarsland

Sunday School Helpers

Mar 4	Noah & Davis
Mar 11	Lance & Andrew
Mar 18	George & Ryland
Mar 25	Carson & McCartney

Apr 8	Noah & Davis
Apr 15	Lance & Andrew
Apr 22	George & Ryland
Apr 29	Carson & McCartney

Confirmation Parent Helper

Mar 7	Arends-Schmidt
Mar 14	Jaspersen
Mar 21	Knutson
Mar 28	Miller

Apr 4	Rustad
Apr 11	Sawatzky
Apr 18	Sharp
Apr 25	Arends-Schmidt

Altar Guild

Mar	Mona Hjelle
Apr	Nancy Jo Wendt

Nursery

Mar 4	Pam Johnson
Mar 11	Violet Dauk
Mar 18	Mona Hjelle
Mar 25	Laurie Hanson

Apr 1	Pam Johnson
Apr 8	Violet Dauk
Apr 15	Mona Hjelle
Apr 22	Laurie Hanson
Apr 29	Helper needed

Scripture Readers

Mar 4	Tammy Fuglie
Mar 11	Nykki Foshaug
Mar 18	Mona Hjelle
Mar 25	Sarah Olson

Apr 1	Kevin Welsh
Apr 8	Laurel Iverson
Apr 15	Tammy Wachter
Apr 22	Wendy Robbin
Apr 29	Linda Dilley

Accompanying Musicians

Mar 4	Sharon Willen
Mar 11	Scott Wachter
Mar 18	Scott Wachter
Mar 25	Pam Johnson

M Thurs	
G Fri	

Easter Sunrise	Scott Wachter
Easter 10:00	Sharon Willen
Apr 8	Scott Wachter
Apr 15	Pam Johnson
Apr 22	Scott Wachter
Apr 29	Scott Wachter

March Discipleship Verse...

Submit yourself then to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
James 4:7

Devotionals....

Two Choices of Devotionals for Lent:

(Both are available on the "Free Stuff" table)

Silent Witnesses

Did you ever wish that you could have been there at Jesus' passion? Imagine what it would be like:

- + to hear the crowds shout "Hosanna!" as Jesus rode into Jerusalem
- + to smell and taste the feast at the Passover
- + to see Jesus carrying His cross to Golgotha
- + to touch the nail-wounds in Jesus' hands when He rose from the dead



The men and women who were eyewitnesses of these events have left their testimony in the pages of the Gospels. In Silent Witnesses, we consider the objects, animals and places that played a part during key moments of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. We find them in the pages of the Gospels as well. Though they cannot speak, they can show us something of His love and mercy toward us.

Note: You can have this devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries emailed to you daily, or listen to an audio version, or even access with a phone app... details at <https://www.lhm.org/lent/>

"A Love That Never Dies"

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.



(Quantities limited)

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!" us something of His love and mercy toward us.

2018 January/February Newsletter

**Asia Calling:
Jastrams to Japan**

Read the latest newsletter
from the Jastrams at
<https://tinyurl.com/y7uforpn>

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That for a day: A wife's definition of retirement: Twice as much husband on half as much pay.

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Community Outreach...

If you are interested a tour to the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter, Rustad Tours has one all ready to sign up for. It is 6 days at the end of August and costs around \$1,000-\$1,100 per person. It looks like a lot of fun! If you think we need to plan one for our church, we would need about 25 people to commit to be able to book one. Please let me know what you think.

Thank you. Ruth Vegdahl

Meals on Wheels...

Fill-In Drivers Needed

During NL-S Spring Break & also Summer

Volunteer substitute drives will be needed while our wonderful student drivers get a much-needed Spring Break, March 26-30 and during the summer. If you are willing to take either the Spicer or New London delivery routes, please contact the Dethlefs Center 320-796-5208 to sign up for a day (or more). Routes take 30-45 minutes.



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...

- Protection for everyone at our schools
- Asking God to bring lots of kids to our Easter Celebration for Jesus
- A 'full slate' of attendees & volunteers for the National Youth Gathering
- Thanking God for all the kids in our church - and all we learn from them
- What to "give up" and what to "take up" during Lent this year.
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- Asking God to open hearts to the message of the Cross & Empty Tomb
- The Holy Spirit to work through our Holy Week services
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Asking God for great attendance at the Women's Retreat
- Courage to take a stand for Jesus at school and work.
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- God to embolden our Christian witness in our daily lives
- The Holy Spirit to continue to work through our Bible studies
- God to raise up leaders in our nation who seek His will
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

Email Inspiration...

MUD PUDDLES AND DANDELIONS

When I look at a patch of dandelions, I see a bunch of weeds that are going to take over my yard. My kids see flowers for Mom and blowing white fluff you can wish on.

When I look at an old drunk and he smiles at me, I see a smelly, dirty person who probably wants money and I look away. My kids see someone smiling at them and they smile back.

When I hear music I love, I know I can't carry a tune and don't have much rhythm so I sit self-consciously and listen. My kids feel the beat and move to it. They sing out the words. If they don't know them, they make up their own.

When I feel wind on my face, I brace myself against it. I feel it messing up my hair and pulling me back when I walk. My kids close their eyes, spread their arms and fly with it, until they fall to the ground laughing.

When I pray, I say thee and thou and grant me this, give me that. My kids say, "Hi God! Thanks for my toys and my friends. Please keep the bad dreams away tonight. Sorry, I don't want to go to Heaven yet. I would miss my Mommy and Daddy."

When I see a mud puddle I step around it. I see muddy shoes and dirty carpets. My kids sit in it. They see dams to build, rivers to cross and worms to play with.

It seems we are given kids not just to teach but also to learn from!

No wonder God loves the little children!!

"Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things."

I wish you mud puddles and dandelions...

APPLICATIONS FOR A HABITAT HOME NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Habitat for Humanity of West Central Minnesota is accepting applicants for two homes in the Willmar area. Persons interested in the Habitat's Homeownership Program can now apply through March 30th. To learn more about qualifying for a Habitat home and how to apply, go to www.habitatwcm.org or call 320-231-2704 or toll free at 1-877-926-6434.

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Thot for a day: My wife thinks I put football before marriage... even though we just celebrated our third season together.

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LWML News...

Mark your calendars for our next quarterly event, the spring salad luncheon on Saturday, May 12. The theme is "A Re-purposed Life."



Planning meetings are held on the second Wednesdays of each month at 11:30

March 14	hostess is Laurie Hanson
April 11	at church

MN North LWML Convention will be June 18-20, in Bemijidi. There are many hotels nearby. The theme is Forever Written in His Hands. If someone wants to fill a district office, nominations are due by May 15.

Sunday School...

We continue with "The Life of Jesus."

Mar 4	Jesus feeds 5000 people
Mar 11	The Disciples argue about who will be the greatest
Mar 18	Jesus forgives a woman
Mar 25	Jesus visits Mary and Martha
Apr 1	Jesus heals a crippled woman



+ **Daily Schedule** 9:00 Welcome, Opening & 'Talk about' Video
9:15-45 Lesson Time
9:45 Clean up & bathroom break

+ Teachers / Classes:

Pre-school to Kindergarten: Lara Dahl
1st & 2nd Grade Amanda Sharp
3rd & 4th Grade: Mona Hjelle Alana Frieht
5th & 6th Grade: Kari Sharp
Confirmation Students take turns serving as teacher assistant

+ **Rides are Available** Talk to Amanda or Pastor David

+ **Make sure to check out** our "Dig In @ Home" weekly wrap-up page. It's in the worship folder you receive at church each Sunday. EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE KIDS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL, there are great faith questions for all ages to ponder by yourself or talk about with your family on the way home from church or during the week over meals.

Opportunities to Serve...

Bring Soup or Sandwiches for Lenten Suppers

Soup Suppers will start serving at 5:30 every Wednesday during Lent. Please sign up at church if you can bring food or serve.

Chaperone a Fun Event for:

4-6th Graders or The Confirmation Group

We'd like to have a fun outing (somewhere within an hour drive) for each of these groups during the winter. If you could help with either group this month, please talk to Pastor David or Lyndsay Ampe.

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. **We are in need of custodians after March.**

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.

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.

We're looking for more Ushers

Please talk to Pastor David if you can serve once every other month.

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 Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle.

Food Shelf Reminder.

March is Food Shelf month. Grab some extra cans of food from your pantry or monetary donations are also accepted. Continue to support the New London Food Pantry.

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That for a day: Every problem is a new opportunity. If you think you can, you might. If you think you can't, you're right.

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Easter Celebration 4Kids...

Round-up the kids... for a very fun morning just for them!

Saturday, March 24, 2018 10:00 a.m.

Ages: 3yrs - Grade 4

The kids will find out "The Very Best Morning!" through Storytime, Craft, and Singing

The morning also includes Snack, Games and Egg Hunt (weather permitting).

So find some kids... yours, grandkids, neighbors and join in the fun!!!

Contact Mona 212-0069 for more info or if you would like to help out in any way!



Lent....

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

The devotion will be from 6:30 - 7:00
(Except Ash Wednesday which has a full worship service at 7:00)

Confirmation class will stay at 6:00

Women's Study takes a break during Lent

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

Story Behind The Song...

Just As I Am

A week after the passing of Rev. Billy Graham, it only seemed right to include the song sung at many of his rallies while people streamed forward to accept the invitation to repent of their sins and place their trust in Jesus.

Charlotte Elliott of Brighton, England was an embittered woman. Her health was broken, and her disability had hardened her. "If God loved me," she muttered, "He would not have treated me this way."

Hoping to help her, a Swiss minister, Dr. Cesar Malan, visited the Elliots on May 9, 1822. Over dinner Charlotte lost her temper and railed against God and family in a violent outburst. Her embarrassed family left the room, and Dr. Malan was left alone with her.

"You are tired of yourself, aren't you?" he asked. "You are holding your hate and anger, because you have nothing else in the world to cling to. Consequently, you have become sour, bitter and resentful."

"What is your cure?" asked Charlotte.

"The faith you are trying to despise" was Dr. Malan's simple reply.

As they talked, Charlotte softened, "If I wanted to become a Christian and to share the peace and joy you possess, what should I do?" she asked.

"You would give yourself to God just as you are now, with your fightings and fears, hates and loves, pride and shame."

"I would come to God just as I am? Is that right?"

Charlotte did come to God just as she was and her heart was changed that day. As time passed she found and claimed John 6:37 as a special verse for her. "... he who comes to me, I will by no means cast out."

Years later, her brother, Rev. Henry Elliott, was raising funds for a school for the children of poor clergymen. Charlotte wrote a poem that was printed and sold across England. The poem has since become the most famous invitational hymn in history. At her passing, her family found more than a thousand letters she had received from people expressing their gratitude for how the song had touched their lives.

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come!

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Thot for a day: At what age do you go from being disrespectful to your elders, to being someone who thinks "the young people today show no respect?"

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Just as I am poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, (Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down),
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
Lamb of God, I come!

Hymn story from Then Sings My Soul by Robert J. Morgan.

Editor's note: Watch Michael W. Smith perform this song at the Lying in Honor for Rev. Billy Graham... https://youtu.be/SPGSx_8GEHl

