

July 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
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Question for Pastor...

Why do we have baptism and confirmation ?

One of the assignments I gave the confirmation students was to list as many questions as they could think of about God, the Bible, what we believe, why we believe it, why we do certain things, etc...

The above question is one that came out of that assignment.

The most basic answer for that question is this:

Both baptism and confirmation are simply ways of following Jesus' command to "Make disciples."

A 'disciple' is a someone who 'believes in' another person to such a degree that they make a commitment to following that person (in this case, Jesus) with the purpose of learning from that person - having ultimate the goal of becoming more like that person.

After Jesus rose from the grave He commissioned the eleven disciples (as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20) to go and make more disciples the world over saying:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus listed "baptizing" as the first step in the disciple-making process.

The second step is the life-long process of teaching those who are baptized about the things Jesus said - and that we need to follow (obey) everything He said. The confirmation classes that lead up to Confirmation Day are designed to give a good, solid foundation of the things Jesus taught.

Confirmation Day itself is a chance to publicly declare your faith in Jesus,



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following what He commanded and promised in Matthew 10:32: "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven." The Apostle Paul summed it up this way in Romans 10: "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

Thanks for Asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Coming Soon...

This New Addition to Our Playground:

It includes an enclosed spiral slide, a double slide, a single slide, monkey rings, 2 swings, a trapeze set, a climbing wall, two towers, a sandbox area underneath, and an adjustable height bridge under the monkey rings.

Thanks to everyone who donated to our Playground Fund and to Carroll & Donna Sarsland for traveling to Cokato to check it out and negotiate the purchase!



We also need 4-5 guys willing to travel with us to Cokato to disassemble the unit and bring it back to church. Please talk to Pastor David or Keith Hanson if you could help with that. Thanks!



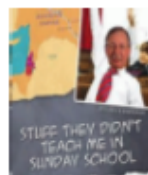
**Men's Group
Work Project**

Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study @ 9:00

Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School: The Book of Revelation.

Please Join us - on Sunday Mornings at 9:00



Daily Bible readings:

The Resurrection-See pages 10 & 11 in this Newsletter

MEET FOR PRAYER -

WEDNESDAYS @ 6 p.m. at church

God tells us (Philippians 4:6) *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition present your requests to God."*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 13th—16th

Confirmand's Faith Statements...

Faith Statements by our Confirmands (and their confirmation verses)

GEORGE ARENDS-SCHMIDT

Ephesians 1:17-20

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

What I believe about God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

I believe God the Father.... Made the world; sent His Son to die for us, and is forgiving, loving and all-powerful

I believe God the Son Died for me to save us from our own sin, so we could have the gift of eternal life

I believe God the Spirit Is God's gift ... and helps us to grow in our faith in Jesus ... and points us in the right direction in life ...and to heaven

What I believe about eternal life - how I will get to heaven: By believing in Jesus - knowing that He is the only way to heaven.

What I believe about the difference God makes in my life here on earth. Gives me hope - He's always there when I'm struggling.

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That for a day: A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.

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Why I want to "Enlist" as a committed follower of Jesus Christ: I want to do my best to do what Jesus wants me to do, so I can live a happy life and be happy in my eternal life in heaven

What I would like to do with my life as a way of saying "thanks" to God: Make time just to pray and worship Him

Why I want to get confirmed: I want to get confirmed, because Jesus made a commitment to me.

RYLAND ENGLER

Psalm 32:8

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

What I believe about God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

I believe God the Father.... Made the earth and gave us all life.

I believe God the Son Jesus died on the cross for us and lives to help people

I believe God the Spirit Brought me to faith in Jesus and watches over us.

What I believe about eternal life - how I will get to heaven: Believe in Jesus and you will have eternal life.

What I believe about the difference God makes in my life here on earth. He gives me hope and always sends me in the right direction.

Why I want to "Enlist" as a committed follower of Jesus Christ: There will be things in life that will hurt you. God will heal you and keep you going in the right direction!

What I would like to do with my life as a way of saying "thanks" to God: I like helping people out by doing what I can for them.

Why I want to get confirmed: He's done good things in my life. He followed me. I will follow Him back.

CARSON JASPERSEN

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light to my path.

What I believe about God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

I believe God the Father.... Created everything and has a good plan for everything

I believe God the Son Died to pay for my sins and forgives them.

I believe God the Spirit Gives me the faith in Jesus that I need to live now and eternally

What I believe about eternal life - how I will get to heaven: By believing in Jesus and asking His forgiveness for my sins.

What I believe about the difference God makes in my life here on earth. He is in charge, and that means I do what He says.

Why I want to "Enlist" as a committed follower of Jesus Christ: Because He will give me strength for life and I will go to heaven when it's over

What I would like to do with my life as a way of saying "thanks" to God: Keep believing in Him and going to church

Why I want to get confirmed: To feel good - and I want to be with Him forever.

McCARTNEY KNUTSON

Titus 3:5

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit

What I believe about God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

I believe God the Father.... Created everything from nothing in six days. He shows mercy and grace to the undeserving and loves each and every one of His children.

I believe God the Son Endured torture and death, so that our sin is paid for. He rose from the grave showing us that He truly is God.

I believe God the Spirit Guides us in our daily lives. He is there when we need someone to lean on or need help making difficult decisions.

What I believe about eternal life - how I will get to heaven: I will get to heaven by believing in Jesus Christ

What I believe about the difference God makes in my life here on earth. In my earthly life God is my foundation and rock. Without Him I wouldn't be standing here today.

Why I want to "Enlist" as a committed follower of Jesus Christ: I want to join Jesus' army, so that I may defend and spread the truth - the Word of God!

What I would like to do with my life as a way of saying "thanks" to God: In an attempt to say "Thanks" for everything God has done for me, I will pursue a happy life and do everything to honor Him!

Why I want to get confirmed: To be closer with Jesus and to grow in my faith.

***We will have the rest of the Confirmand's Faith Statements in the August newsletter.*

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That for a day: Background and circumstances may influence who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

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Congratulations...

- Scott & Tammy Wachter on the Birth of your grandson Jase !
- Alana Friebl on your graduation from High School !
- Dan & Tammy Miller on your new home !

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

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. This past month we thanked God

- Our Confirmands !
- Jesus - Who leads us home !
- Summer !

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



Mark Your Calendars...



Tuesday's Table

will be at Living Word - July 31

We still need at least two more people to plan the event. Please talk to Pastor David if you can help.

COMMUNITY DINNER

Other ways you can help:

Sunday, July 29 after worship:

- Move pews
- Set up tables / chairs

Tuesday afternoon / evening

- Bring Food
- Prep food
- Set plates, etc... at tables
- Make coffee
- Serve food
- Greet people
- Clean up
- Move pews back

Thank You for serving the Lord, by serving others !!!



Vacation Bible School...

August 13th - 16th

Living Word Day @ Big Kahuna

Sign Up for Fun !!!

Congregational Outreach Director Marcia

Welsh has been working with the folks at Big

Kahuna to host a "Living Word Fun Day." We

need at least 20 people to sign up (and can have up to 60!) and we have the fun park to ourselves for a whole two hours!!!

Cost will be: \$22 for Adults

\$16 for 16 & under

Please sign up at church (Bring friends!).



The Annual Golf Outing is Back !!!

After a few years of "mulligans" we will again be

having a Living Word (and friends) golf outing at

Valley Golf in Willmar on Saturday, August 25.

Tee off at 10:00 a.m. & the back room is reserved

for us to hand out PRIZES and do some grilling afterward!



TRAP-SHOOTING FELLOWSHIP

July 11 & 25

(every 2nd & 4th Wednesday during summer months)

We begin with Brats and a devotion at 6:00.



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Thot for a day: I saw a sign that said "Watch for children" and I thought, 'That sounds like a fair trade.'

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Community Outreach...

Water Days Parade Outreach



• The next event is the New London Water Days Parade. Our registration for the parade has been received by New London. We have 375 Arch books (children's Bible stories) to give away. Thrivent provided funds for about 1/3 of the books.

We have Thrivent T-Shirts and will have all our volunteers sign in to give Thrivent participation information.

Mike Knutson has again generously offered to pull his trailer for the parade with his restored John Deere tractor.

- We will have a float planning meeting after worship on July 15th.

All are welcome to attend. We will promote our Vacation Bible

School.

- We will meet the morning of July 21st to decorate the float and to walk in the parade. Again, all are welcome. You can ride on the float if walking is not a good option for you.

Ruth Vegdahl



Relay For Life...

... is a fun-filled event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of your American Cancer Society. Everyone is welcome as there are fun activities for all ages!

When someone is diagnosed with cancer, it impacts everyone – mothers, daughters, fathers, sons, grandparents, neighbors, and friends. It is a terrible, destructive disease that wreaks havoc on the lives of those we love and care about, and something must be done to stop it.

That's why on July 20th, our community will come together at the 25th Annual Relay for Life of Kandiyohi County to help the American Cancer Society save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer. As a part of our community, we would be honored to have you help us in this fight.

There are many options to get involved: start a team, join a team, help fundraise, volunteer at the event or just have fun while attending the event and supporting the Relay for Life of Kandiyohi County.

More information on the event can be found on Facebook by searching Relay for Life of Kandiyohi County or by going to the website at <http://www.relayforlife.org/kandiyohimn> Please contact Tanya Rosenau at 320-295-2177 or jolene1982@hotmail.com if you'd like to become involved in this year's 25th Annual Relay for Life of Kandiyohi County.

July 2018 - 5 Minute Daily Readings

After our readings on Freedom, we begin our "Summer Reading" - short books of the Bible you can read in a week (or so) by just reading a chapter a day. Record your insights as you read. God will bless your reading!

Readings this week focus on **FREEDOM**

July 1 Use today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed last week

July 2 1 Corinthians 8:9 _____

July 3 1 Peter 2:11-16 _____

July 4 Romans 8:1-4 _____

July 5 John 8:31-36 _____

July 6 Luke 4:14-21 _____

July 7 2 Corinthians 3:17-28 _____

Wk of July 8 Readings this week: **RUTH - Loyalty in Action; JOEL - Repent!**

July 8 Ruth 1 _____

July 9 Ruth 2 _____

July 10 Ruth 3 _____

July 11 Ruth 4 _____

July 12 Joel 1 _____

July 13 Joel 2 _____

July 14 Joel 3 _____

Wk of July 15 Readings this week **NAHUM & JONAH - God deals with Nineveh**

July 14 Nahum 1 _____

July 15 Nahum 2 _____

July 16 Nahum 3 _____

July 17 Jonah 1 _____

July 18 Jonah 2 _____

July 19 Jonah 3 _____

July 20 Jonah 4 _____

Wk of July 21 Readings this week: **ESTHER - No Coincidences with God**

July 21 Esther 1 _____

July 22 Esther 2 _____

July 23 Esther 3 _____

July 24 Esther 4 _____

July 25 Esther 5 _____

July 26 Esther 6 _____

July 27 Esther 7 _____

Wk of July 28 Daily Readings **ESTHER; MALACHI - Q & A from God**

July 28 Esther 8 _____

July 29 Esther 9 _____

July 30 Esther 10 _____

July 31 Malachi 1 _____

Aug 1 Malachi 2 _____

Aug 2 Malachi 3 _____

Aug 3 Malachi 4 _____

July 2018 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 ADULT STUDY - 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 	5	6 <div> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, July 1st Sunday, June 15th </div>	7
8 RILEY JOHNSON BAPTISM 9:00 ADULT STUDY - 10:00 WORSHIP w/Baptism 11:15 Fellowship	9	10	11 11:00 LWML @ Leone's 6:00 - PRAYER GROUP 6:00 -TRAP FELLOWSHIP	12	13 	14
15 9:00 ADULT STUDY - 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 WATER DAYS PLANNING	16	17	18 6:00 - PRAYER GROUP	19 MISSION Ministry 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	20	21 Water Days Outreach TBA FLOAT DECORATING 11:00 PARADE OUTREACH
22 9:00 ADULT STUDY - 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 "TUESDAY'S TABLE" FINAL PLANNING	23	24 	25 6:00 - PRAYER GROUP 6:00 -TRAP FELLOWSHIP	26	27	28
29 9:00 ADULT STUDY - 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Tuesday's Table Set Up	30	31  6:00 TUE SDAY'S TABLE @ Living Word	Aug 1	Aug 2	Aug 3 <div> Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net </div>	Aug 4

Upcoming Schedules...

Fellowship Servers

July 1 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
 July 8 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
 July 15 Mike & Brooke Knutson
 July 22 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
 July 29 Gwen Ruchti / Ruth Vegdahl

Aug 5 Nancy Jo Wendt & Tammy Fuglie
 Aug 12 Leone & Kerry Quigley
 Aug 19 Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky / Mary Lee Moore
 Aug 26 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller

Usher Schedule

July 1 Brady & Andrew Sharp
 July 8 Linda Dilley & Davis Rustad
 July 15 Wally Abraham and Joe Johnson
 July 22 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
 July 29 Larry Levin

Aug 5 Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson
 Aug 12 Derek & Sarah Olson
 Aug 19 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
 Aug 26 Brent & Lance Sawatzky

Make A Meal Volunteers

July Pam Johnson & Donna Peterson
 August Jamie and Laurel Iverson & Mona Hjelle

Elders

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

Aug 5/12 Ed Vegdahl & Kevin Welsh
 Aug 19/26 Keith Hanson & Joe Johnson

Custodian

July Miller family
 August Custodians needed

Seen on Church Signboard...

"Tithe if you love Jesus!
 (Anyone can honk.)"

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Thot for a day: Optimist: a person who figures that taking a step backward after taking a step forward is not a disaster...it's more like the cha-cha.

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Altar Guild

July Mona Hjelle
 Aug Nancy Jo Wendt

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters)

July 1 Alison Sarsland
 July 8 Zoe Rustad
 July 15 Lexi Macik
 July 22 Alex Meis
 July 29 Carson Sawatzky

Aug 5 Addison Arends-Schmidt
 Aug 12 Gage Dahl
 Aug 19 Eli Sharp
 Aug 26 Levi Miller

Nursery

(more volunteers needed...)

July 1 Pam John
 July 8 Violet Dauk
 July 15 Mona Hjelle
 July 22 Laurie Hanson
 July 29 Gwen Ruchti

Aug 5 Pam John
 Aug 12 Violet Dauk

Aug 19 Mona Hjelle
 Aug 26 Laurie Hanson

Scripture Readers

July 1 Sarah Olson
 July 8 Kevin Welsh
 July 15 Laurel Iverson
 July 22 Tammy Wachter
 July 29 Ruth Vegdahl

Aug 5 Wendy Robbin
 Aug 12 Linda Dilley
 Aug 19 McCartney Knutson
 Aug 26 Jason Miller

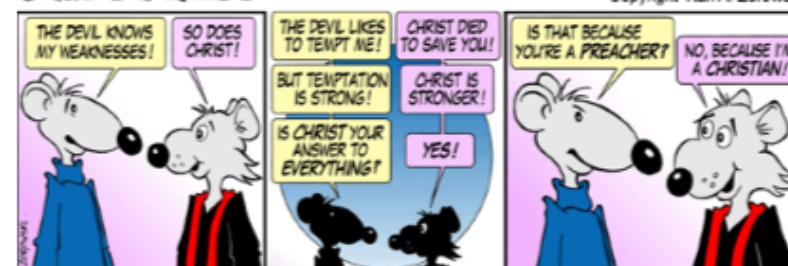
Accompanying Musicians

July 1 Sharon Willen
 July 8 Scott Wachter
 July 15 Pam Johnson
 July 22 Scott Wachter
 July 29 Scott Wachter

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

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



July Discipleship Verse...

"So I say live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."

Galatians 5:16

Miscellaneous Notes...

Food Pantry Reminder

The Food Pantry continues to supply needed food to local families. Please remember to bring food items to church. The second Sunday each month is delegated as Food Sunday at Living Word. Look for the purple tote box to put your donations in.

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 Bible for adults
- Kids' drinking cups
- Bible Activity Booklets for Children
- July Living Word newsletters
- July Daily Bible readings
- Christian Magazines



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)

June 3 Lessons from gardening on getting rid of 'spiritual weeds'
 June 10 A Chapter to Permanently Etch into your Memory
 June 17 How to have "Good Soil" that produces much fruit
 June 24 A Major Cause of Sin to Uproot from Your Life

NEW Project Connect Booklet: "Live the Six"

In this booklet you will find practical, down-to-earth strategies for taking the Gospel of Jesus to the streets, sharing it with all those exotic people we meet - like our neighbors, our friends, classmates & co-workers! Pick up your FREE copy in the Project Connect rack.

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.

Get to know the Bible better. Even your kids will love this! Go to mnnlms.org right now (you can even do it on your phone) - click on the "Bring It Home" link, watch the video and sign up for more info on the link. Bring It Home is coming to Living Word this fall!



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That for a day: Stupidity is like nuclear power. It can be used for good or evil. But you still don't want to get any on you.

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Living Word Directory... NOW AVAILABLE Online.

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

Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Just a reminder that there is an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.

Fun at Camp.



LWML...

Here are some pics from one of our fun pie-making days!



+ Planning meeting will be at Leone Quigley's on July 11th at 11 a.m.

+ Thank you to all who have helped make pies and get them into the freezer in preparation for the New London Music Fest on August 18th. We will need volunteers to bake pies the day before, to set up, serve during the event and clean up.

+ We are planning a fall event that will probably be on a Saturday morning in October.

Opportunities to Serve...

Chaperone a Fun Event for:

4-6th Graders or The Confirmation Group

We'd like to have a fun outing (something within and hour's drive) for our 4-6th Grade Youth Group in July. Please talk to Pastor David or Lyndsay Ampe if you could help. THANKS!



Custodians Needed for August & September

If you or your family could serve as church custodians either of these months, please talk to Jamie Iverson. Thanks!

Help With Our Nursery

We need a couple more volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-6 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help out.

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.

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. Our July Make-a-Meal volunteers are Donna Peterson and Pam Johnson.

Help Move & Install Our New Playground Equipment

Talk to Pastor David or Keith Hanson if you can help. THANKS!

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 With Our TUESDAY'S TABLE Event on July 31.

Talk to Pastor David this week if you could be part of our planning group. Or check the list elsewhere in the newsletter for other ways you can help - then sign up at church! THANKS!

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That for a day: If you teach children that they descend from monkeys, you shouldn't be surprised when they behave like them.

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Volunteers and Vendors wanted!

The New London WaterDays committee is searching for people to help with the festival activities on Friday evening (July 20th) and all day Saturday (July 21st) of WaterDays. If you are interested in helping, please email newlondonwaterdays@gmail.com or call Stephanie at 320-220-1504 to get on the volunteer list. They are also looking for vendors for the Vendor Market on Saturday from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. Applications can be found on www.newlondonwaterdays.com under the event registration tab. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the committee at the information above.

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 the faith of our Confirmands
- God to continue to grow their faith in preparation for the 2019 NYG
- Thanking God for all who serve to keep us a free nation
- Thanking God for the daily freedoms we often take for granted
- Thanking God for Supreme Court decisions upholding religious freedom
- Protection for farmers and construction workers
- Protection for all summer travelers
- Thanking God for all who gave their lives in service to our country
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- 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...

John is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!" He was a natural motivator.

If an employee was having a bad day, John was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation. Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"

He replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life! I choose the positive side of life."

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested.

"Yes, it is," he said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live your life."

I reflected on what he said. Soon thereafter, I left the company we worked at to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that he was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a communications tower. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, he was released from the hospital with rods placed in his back.

I happened to run into him about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?"

I declined to see his wounds, but I did ask him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place.

"The first thing that went through my mind was the well-being of my soon-to-be born daughter," he replied. "Then, as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked.

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Thot for a day: I'M UP! If you're expecting bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, go catch a squirrel.

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He continued, "...the paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'he's a dead man.' I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me," said John. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. 'Yes,' I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Gravity!'"

Over their laughter, I told them, "I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead."

He lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully.

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:34).



UPDATE:

Registration for the 2018 National Lutheran Youth Workers Conference CLOSING JULY 1

Dates: July 8-11, 2018

Registration: \$375.00

Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Each #NATIONAL18 adult registration provides for a complimentary adult leader registration for the 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering.

For more information and the link to register, please visit

<https://calendar.lcms.org/event/2018-national-lutheran-youth-workers-conference/>

Adult Leader Webinars:

Gathering Webinar – Setting Up a One Year Gathering Plan

Monthly Gathering webinars will be held on the first Thursday of every month. Join us from 12 – 1 pm (CST) with Gathering planners and Adult Leaders from across the country. With just over a year until #NYG2019, Cassie Moore (DCE), John Hoffman (DCE) and Anne Franklin discuss the ins and outs of Gathering planning and answer your questions. Download the 12 Month Gathering Planning Timeline to follow along with the webinar conversation.

Date: Thursday, June 7 Time: 12 – 1 pm (CST)

Register:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/2615260498825/WN_hNWn8uW3SIOZWwC2kSq72A

Story Behind The Song...

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Some trust in chariots and horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. Psalm 20:7

To have implicit trust in God's faithful aid and protection is never easy in times of danger or strife. Yet even in the midst of our nation's terrible Civil War, a remarkable woman named Julia Ward Howe proclaimed her confidence in God's triumphant power in this inspiring text.

Deeply anguished at the growing conflict between the two sections of the country, Mrs. Howe watched troops marching off to war singing, "John Brown's Body," a song about a man who had been hanged in his efforts to free the slaves. Julia felt that the catchy camp-meeting tune should have better words. In a desire to phrase her own feelings about the dreadful events of the time, she "scrawled the verses almost without looking at the paper." The national hymn first appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly Magazine* in 1862, as a battle song for the republic. Before long the entire nation became inspired by her text and united in singing the new words with the old tune.

Mrs. Howe's hymn has been acclaimed through the years as one of our finest patriotic songs. At one time it was sung as a solo at a large rally attended by President Abraham Lincoln. After the audience responded with loud applause, the President, with tears in his eyes, cried out, "Sing it again!" It was sung again. And after more than 150 years, Americans still join in proclaiming "Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on!"

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is tramping out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

Chorus: Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps—
His day is marching on. (Chorus)

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That for a day: which came first the chicken or the various things that taste like chicken?

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He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgement seat.
Oh, be swift my soul to answer him; be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on. (Chorus)

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me.
As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free,
While God is marching on. (Chorus)

Editor's note: As sung by the United States Army Chorus
<https://youtu.be/gkklUsV36f4>
Or listen to moving version by Whitney Houston at
<https://youtu.be/aSvH4s-4sCQ>

Sweltering in the Spirit...

