


Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



April 2020 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...

Is this it?! Are we in the end times?
What does Revelation say?



I'm guessing the person who asked me this isn't the only one wondering this same thing!

It's natural to wonder about such things when facing an extremely difficult situation unlike anything we've ever seen in our lifetime - especially when you consider the fact that the coronavirus doesn't just affect us in the United States, but it has impacted pretty much the entire world!

The pandemic is serious enough in itself, but it certainly hasn't helped that a number of media outlets seem bent on doing everything they can to scare the daylight out of us. (One of my friends refers to the daily update he gets from his favorite channel as "The Daily Freakout!")

My answer to the question in a word (or three): "I don't know."

That's actually a pretty safe answer, considering what Jesus said:

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matthew 24:36) "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." (Matthew 24:42-44) And "Therefore, keep watch because you do not know the day or the hour" (of the last day when Jesus will return.) (Matthew 25:13)

Since Jesus plainly said that no one will know the time when He returns, the book of Revelation could not have been written with the purpose of satisfying our natural curiosity about when The End is coming! So, I wouldn't put a lot of stock in the "TV preachers" who claim to have figured out, for example, the identity of "The Beast" or "the false prophet" or who tell you with absolute certainty that we are in the End Times.

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Revelation was actually written with the purpose of encouraging those who are being persecuted for their faith. The main message of Revelation is this: "Priority #1 is hanging onto your faith in Jesus - no matter what - because Jesus wins, and so does everyone who perseveres to The End with faith in Him!"

"Always be ready!" is the point Jesus was making when He told His disciples that no one will know when The End is coming. Be ready - with your faith placed firmly in Jesus - because The End will come unexpectedly, like thief in the night.

So, the better question for us to answer is this one: "How do we stay ready - how do we keep our faith strong?"

Jesus gave us the answer in John chapter 15 where He used an illustration from the vineyard. He said, "I am the Vine, you are the branches." He went on to say that branches that "abide" in Him will bear much "fruit" and those branches that don't "abide" in Him end up withering and dying. In other words, when we "abide" in Him (stay connected to Him) we stay ready with a strong faith in Him. The best way I know to "abide" in Jesus is by "feeding" on His Word.

With that in mind I picked some Bible readings for us to read or listen to (I'll record them and have them available at livingwordlutheran.net). I picked passages that show God's power at work saving His people - often in unusual ways and when the situation seems hopeless. Passages that give us hope, remind us God is in control and can make amazing things result from situations we never would have chosen. You can find those passages listed on the "Abiding in Jesus while you Stay at Home" on page 13.

Thanks for Asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski

How to help fight the Coronavirus:

1. Regularly wash your hands.
2. Faithfully fold them in prayer.
3. Repeat vigorously.



Easter Update...

Easter Sunday Worship :

While the "social distancing" guidelines won't permit us to worship together inside our building, our Elders' Team came up with an idea for us to worship together in our cars in the parking lot on Easter!



We will - God willing! - make available a live-streaming video that you can watch/listen to on your smartphone. We are also looking into the possibility of having live audio available over an FM radio station. We plan to also record the Easter service and have it available on our website for those who aren't able to worship with us in your car.

We decided, given the unusual situation this year, that it would be best to have just one Easter service and to hold it at 9:00 a.m. Next year, when everything is - God willing! - back to normal, we will again be able to have both a Sunrise service as well as our usual communion service at 10:00 a.m. (And have them both inside the building!)

Good Friday: An opportunity to come and pray.

We will have the church building open for individuals and families to come in and pray from 10:00 a.m. - Noon and also from

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. In order to stay within the "social distancing" guidelines, we ask that only two families be in the building at any given time. We will have two separate areas where you can pray. We will also have available a page with suggestions of things you can include in your prayers.

Email Wisdom...

"I encourage you: Use this time at home to get back in the Word. Read our Bibles and spend time with our families.

... with all the great people in this country praying daily, we will get through this and get back to a place that's stronger and safer than ever!"

Mike Lindell (the "My Pillow" founder)
at one of the President's coronavirus briefings.

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That for a day: This time last month, we were upset because the pizza delivery was five minutes late.

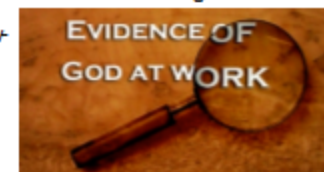
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How Have You Seen God....

How Have You Seen God Working Through This Situation?

One of our "Abide in Jesus" readings takes us through the story of Joseph. Even though his brothers had tried to kill him and ended up selling him into slavery, Joseph saw God's hand in what happened. He said this: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good."

That's a great reminder that whatever Satan tries to use for harm (like the coronavirus and resulting "Stay at Home" orders) God can turn around and use for good purposes.



One of the good - actually "great" - things I see happening as a result of the coronavirus is people turning to God - and back to God! For example, both the President of our country and the Governor of our state declared a Day of Prayer. What an amazing thing! Something that just a couple months ago would have been absolutely "unthinkable." Yet, here they are pointing us all to God!

Below are a few other "How I've seen God working" comments I've received. Please text or email me with how you've seen Him working!

- "Our neighbors come and check to see how we are and if we need anything."
- "We aren't taking anything for granted."
- "I see people realizing how important it is to gather together for worship - we don't appreciate things until they are taken away from us!"
- "We don't just say 'grace' before meals anymore. Now we pray for other stuff too."
- "I find myself thanking God more often throughout the day for small things."
- "I see lots of families out walking and biking together."
- "People on both sides of the political aisle are working together - at least sometimes."

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



The Link...

Hello everyone!

I just wanted to let all of you know how we are doing at The Link during the COVID-19 emergency. The Evangelical Covenant Church and Kay made the decision to close the thrift store on Monday. This was for the safety of the volunteers and to follow the social distancing restrictions.

Ashley and I both have The Link phone lines forwarded to our personal cell phones so that we can always be available as panic for some sets in. Ashley is using a phone to complete the intake process for the client services and financial outreach program.. She is making payments on behalf of them via online or over the phone.

We have made changes to how we serve families with food by using the window in the food pantry to communicate with people. The Link puts together the food that they request in a box which is then outside for them. We ask that families wait in their vehicles if someone is at the window in order to follow the social distancing guidelines.

We are expecting a food delivery on Tuesday so we know that we have food coming. We have been seeing new families and had at least 5 new ones this week. I can only assume it is going to continue to increase.

We delivered the backpacks to the school on Monday so that all of the kids would get them before schools closed. We put a note in each bag encouraging people to come to get food at The Link. I also talked to Trish Perry about the possibility of putting bags together and having them go on the buses that are delivering the meals to kids. As restrictions keep changing on an hourly basis, Ashley and I are doing the best we can to meet all needs.

I have received several calls from people in the community and business owners asking what The Link's biggest needs are right now. I answer with one word...MONEY! Why? Well with money we can take \$1 and purchase \$10 worth of food and that is very important right now. With money we can help people who are in a financial crisis. It also keeps people from going to the store to buy food to bring to us. That just puts everyone at risk and defeats our efforts. We are be-

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Thot for a day: Feels like we're only 3-4 weeks away from learning everyone's real hair color.

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yond blessed to live and serve this community. I am so thankful to have all of the churches support The Link.

I will be participating in a virtual Zoom meeting on Monday with a group of community leaders of Kandiyohi County to get updated information, resources and to discuss the issues and needs of the people The Link serves.

Thank you,
Chasity Omodt
Executive Director

206 N. Main St., PO Box 823
New London, MN 56273
320.354.LINK
<http://www.youarethelink.org/>

Tuesday's Table Update...

The Lions as a National Organization has ordered not to hold meeting or events until further notice so they are cancelling tuesdays table for next week at Faith, at OLOL on the 7th and no TT at ECC on the 14th.

Thank you all! We hope everyone is doing as well as they possible can be at this time. Prayers to all!

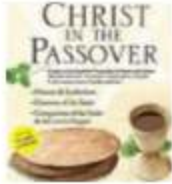
Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

(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 and PRAY for...

- God's guidance on what to "give up" and "take up" during Lent.
- The Holy Spirit's power to actually make those changes.
- People you can invite to any of our studies, events or worship
- Great attendance for Christ in the Passover on March 31
- Asking God for great attendance at the Women's Retreat
- Asking God for His power to contain the spread of the coronavirus
- Thanking God for the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of our Sunday School and Confirmation students
- For the Holy Spirit to work through the teachers of our classes
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- God's protection, guidance, wisdom & courage for gov't leaders
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Courage to take a stand for Jesus at work AND school
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

Mark Your Calendar...



"Christ in the Passover"
Has been re-scheduled for next year:
March 22, 2021

Re-scheduled...

For November

Women's Retreat 2020:

"Unfading Beauty"



Email Inspiration...

A lecturer when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, "How heavy is this glass of water?"

Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g.

The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem.

If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance

In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, As the burden becomes increasingly heavy, We won't be able to carry on."

"As with the glass of water, You have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden."

"So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work down. Don't carry it home You can pick it up tomorrow."

"Whatever burdens you're carrying now, Let them down for a moment if you can.

So, my friend, Put down anything that may be a burden to you right now. Don't pick it up again until after you've rested a while."

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That for a day: People are freaking out about toilet paper shortages and I'm over here like "I'm good, I bought a pack of gum at CVS."

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Email Humor...

Prayer for the Times
(used in the 3/29/20 message at www.livingwordlutheran.net)

One Sunday morning at a small southern church the new pastor called on one of the older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed.

The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour either. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven.... I just love biscuits!

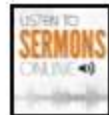
The deacon didn't stop there. "Lord," he said, help us realize when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After you get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen."

Miscellaneous Notes...

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)



03-01-20 "40 Days 'Til Something Big"

03-08-20 "One thing to give up in order to trust God more."

03-15-20 "Bible passages to help us get through this."

03-22-20 "Growing in Faith By telling how you've seen God working"

03-29-20 "I Hate Lard... and Things Aren't Always What They Seem"

"Living Word" Sweatshirt Update

Our sweatshirt orders have been delayed due to the coronavirus. As soon as the shirts are available, we will notify everyone who placed an order.

Thanks for your understanding!



Wisdom from the Internet...

This story seems to be appropriate for our troubling times. Things are never as bad as they seem and they're never as great either. Maintaining our perspective on things helps us overcome adversity even if we struggle.

"When it rains it pours. Maybe the art of life is to convert tough times to great experiences: we can choose to hate the rain or dance in it." — Joan Marques

We choose to dance in the rain; or in this case, drink the coffee.

The Story of the Carrot, Egg, and Coffee Bean

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water. In the first, she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and the last she placed ground coffee beans.

She let them sit and boil without saying a word. In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee into a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see?"

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

She brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. She then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, she asked her to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled, as she tasted its rich aroma.

The daughter then asked, "What's the point, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity... boiling water – but each reacted differently. The

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Thot for a day: If you bought 30 rolls of toilet paper, then you owe your church 3 rolls. Tithing is not cancelled.

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carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But, after being through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked the daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I?

Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity, do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after death, a break up, a financial hardship, or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and a hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you.

When the hours are the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate to another level?

How do you handle adversity?

ARE YOU A CARROT, AN EGG, OR A COFFEE BEAN?




Would you rather be the carrot, the egg, or the coffee bean?

Online Giving....

You can still easily set up a giving program for Living Word. You can give online on our website at <http://livingwordlutheran.net/donate>


Or put an app on your phone to set up your one-time or weekly giving. Directions are below...



Giving to your church is as easy as 1-2-3


Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to download for FREE.

1) Search




- Enter church name or tap Find Churches. Slide left to mark your search.
- Select your church.
- Your selected church will be displayed as your default church.
- Tap Give Now.

2) Select




- Choose a fund and a given amount or enter another amount.
- Select Add to add another fund or more forward to the payment information.
- Tap to enter your card or bank account information.


3) Submit



- Review your donation summary then select Complete Donation.




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Create




- It only takes a few minutes to create an account with an email address and password.
- You'll have the option to log in using the Touch-ID fingerprint feature or a PIN.

Manage




- Tap the menu icon to manage personal information, change password, review donations or update/add payment methods.

Schedule




- Next time you donate, tap Select Frequency to create a recurring weekly, to events, monthly or annual donation to the fund of your choice.
- Note: Your church determines frequency options.

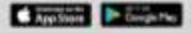
Review



- From the menu, go to Recurring Donations to view or delete any scheduled donation made through the GivePlus app.
- Or, select Giving History to review your past GivePlus donations.



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April 2020 - Daily Readings

"Abiding in Jesus" While You "Stay at Home"

April 6	Esther 1-3	(Esther, Mordecai & the Jews)
April 7	Esther 4-7	(Esther, Mordecai & the Jews)
April 8	Esther 8-10	(Esther, Mordecai & the Jews)
Maundy Thursday	John 13-16	(In the Upper Room)
Good Friday	Matthew 26-27	(Jesus' arrest, trial & death)
Easter Sunday	John 20-21	(Jesus' Resurrection)
April 13	Philippians 4	(Keys to Peace and Joy)
April 14	Genesis chs 37 & 39	(Joseph)
April 15	Genesis chs 40 & 41	(Joseph)
April 16	Genesis chs 42 & 43	(Joseph)
April 17	Genesis 44:1-46:7	(Joseph)
April 20	Genesis 49:29-33 & 50:15-21	(Joseph)
April 21	2 Chronicles 19:1-20:30	(King Jehoshaphat)
April 22	2 Kings 6:8-23	(Elisha and his servant)
April 23	Acts 12:1-19	(The angel & Peter)
April 24	Acts 16:16-40	(The angel & Paul)
April 27	Acts 27:1-28:10	(Paul aboard ship)
April 28	Judges 6-7:24	(Gideon)
April 29	2 Kings 22:1-23:25	(King Josiah)
April 30	2 Chronicles 6:12-7:14	(The Temple dedicated)
May 1	Psalms 103	("Bless the Lord who heals your diseases")

On Our Website...

In addition to our weekly messages and past sermons, we are featuring some devotion choices on the Living Word Lutheran Website...

- You can access the daily devotion at LCMS North District featuring various pastors in our district at <http://http://livingwordlutheran.net/lcms.htm>
- We also have the Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotion for this Lenten season at <http://http://livingwordlutheran.net/lmh.htm>
- Finally we feature a link to a great library of music videos for Easter . The link is on our front page of the Living Word Lutheran website.

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 for:

Romans 8:28

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence during April



Seen on Church Signboards...

**Jesus washed away our sins...
But you still need to wash your
hands - often!**

Hot for a day: First time in history we can save the hum an race by laying in front of the TV and doing nothing. Let's NOT mess this up!

More Email Humor...

When a mother saw a thunderstorm forming in mid-afternoon, she worried about her seven-year-old daughter who would be walking three blocks from school to home. Deciding to meet her, the mother saw her walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed.

Glimpsing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining enthusiastically, "All the way home, God's been taking my picture!"

On Monday a certain little daughter was very naughty, so her mother told her she couldn't go to the Sunday School picnic on Saturday.

For the next few days the girl's behaved so nicely the mother changed her mind and said she could go to the picnic after all. Surprisingly, the child's reaction was one of gloom and unhappiness.

"What's the matter?" asked her mother. "I thought you'd be glad to go to the picnic."

"It's too late," said the little girl. "I've already prayed for rain!"

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

April Discipleship Verse...

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

From the Jastrams...



Dear Fellow Sojourners,

Our spirits groan. What words can convey how deeply we feel about the challenging days that you now face and that lie ahead in the coming weeks during this pandemic? Our thoughts turn constantly to our country, the United States, the church, our loved ones and you, our supporters and dear partners in mission. I have restarted this newsletter a number of times. Each time I return to it, the news seems so old and now, perhaps will seem trivial to you, our reader. But, we do want to communicate with you, so I won't rewrite it once again, because I'm afraid then it won't get out at all then! I want you to know that even as all your missionaries here in Asia are feeling ever more acutely the distance from family, churches, and supporters during the pandemic, wishing we could be near you; do know that we draw you close as we bring you before God's throne of grace in our prayers.

When we last communicated with you at the beginning of March—a lifetime ago as it almost seems for all of us—we had told you about Dan's slated trip to the States, scheduled March 9th for network support building in Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin, which was to last about two or three months. That is not how it panned out.

A QUICK TURN AROUND...BUT NOT IN THE USUAL SENSE

How it unfolded:

March 5th: Still in Tokyo, Dan receives guidelines about international travel restrictions for missionaries: travel to Japan at level 2 (caution if in high-risk category). Since Dan is planning to leave Japan, he is granted permission to travel to the US. Dan secures St. Louis seminary guest lodging.

March 6th: Disconcerting news from our telecare team in St. Louis—they are having great difficulty scheduling *any* appointments after nu-

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That for a day: You can walk around Walm art and eat grapes and nobody bothers you, but as soon as you eat a rotisserie chicken, here comes security.

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merous attempts. (People are leery of visitors from Japan.) Dan lines up car rental for three months.

March 7th: An early report of February's gifts reveals an outpouring of support that moves us into the black. Thanks be to God! Dan decides that even if he is unable to schedule congregational visits (remember, nobody was talking about lockdowns or shelter in place at that time), one-on-one visits could still be an option. (Network support still needs to expand for the long-term.) Scheduling would be much easier while in the States. Dan packs.

March 9th: Dan heads to the airport; planes are crowded, but he arrives in the States in the evening without a hitch; no Covid-19 screening delays in his connecting flights. Instead of heading to the seminary, he is driven to a hotel, though; venue for the workshop moved from the International Center to the hotel because of Covid-19 fears.

March 11th – March 13th: Three full days of workshop sessions on network building. Plans made for presentations on the 14th. On the 13th, however, I call Dan. "I think you need to come home NOW." (Trump had declared a national emergency; I worry he will not have a return flight if he delays.) Dan confers with synodical leaders and all are in agreement. Time to head back; a flight is expeditiously arranged. Now the plan is for Dan to continue effective mission work back in Japan and continue mission support building long-distance.

March 14th – March 15th: Dan leaves St. Louis from an eerily near-empty airport to arrive to a similarly near-empty Tokyo airport. And then hops on the train home to a much-relieved wife!

LIFE AND WORK BACK IN TOKYO

Everything is still in constant flux, as I am sure you can relate. Dan initially turned to some Japan-related work he was eager to move forward on. He got in touch with several Japanese pastors, made plans to visit and discuss projects that are in the works. (No travel restrictions here in Japan yet.) Days later, these domestic travel plans had to be cancelled after the Office of International Mission strongly (and wisely) recommended all missionaries who were in a high risk category to shelter at home. Dan changed gears and now is busy with much non-travel work, which includes a slew of funded Asia mission projects that need attention (getting Lutheran resources out to those who are *most eager* to receive them—when that time comes once again, and it will, God-willing), as well as extra responsibilities related to supporting team missionaries during this pandemic.

OUR OTHER LOMS MISSIONARIES IN ASIA

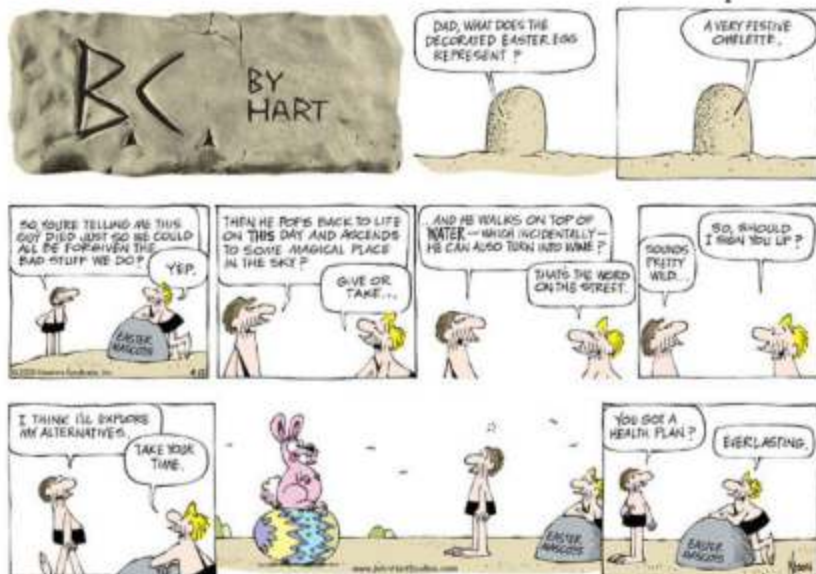
The impact of this pandemic on our missionaries vary greatly depending on their location. In Taiwan, for instance, the response to the pandemic has been highly effective and cases are low thus far; before South Korea contained the spread and numbers sky-rocketed, life was extra stressful. And in Sri Lanka, missionary families must have their food delivered as they are under strict 24-hour curfew conditions. No matter our location, however, what is common to all is a desire to stay the course, despite the current trials and tribulations. Some of us, who were slated to return to the States—many this summer for missionary re-connects—have had those visits postponed indefinitely. We are all thinking of ways to stay connected (or make new connections!) long-distance, under these new realities.

PRAYERS

Now more than ever, our daily devotions and morning hymn-singing bring us strength and comfort. We encourage you during this time of difficulty to stay close to God's Word, also. You may find Psalm 91 especially comforting during these times. We ask that you also please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Your servants in Christ,
Dan and Joan Jastram

Happy Easter!



Just For Fun...

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 289

Matt 25:23-46

F A T H E R P B L E S S E D B
L I F E F W R R R S T A O G H
H A P P I N E S S O D R S Y T
I N M K R C P N B G T R U Z E
J D I I E O A D K E L H O A E
L N R I N Y R Y O U E T E L T
G E V E R E E L F O F N T R O
T E A O H D D H A E G W H S S
D I L S L P T S E N Y O G H T
M G S R T I E D I A R S I A N
A O O I A R T H D U V E R R E
S W R F V R S R S S E E T E L
T R V A U A I E R O M A N E A
E N N T N N O I T A E R C L T
R T H G K D E R E H T A G T Y

The Parable of the Talents

BEEN BLESSED
DRINK BROTHERS
FEED CREATION
FIRE ETERNAL
GLORY FAITHFUL
GOOD FATHER
KING GATHERED
KNEW GOATS
LAZY GNASHING
LEAST HAPPINESS
LIFE HEAVENLY
LORD MASTER
MINE PREPARED
MORE RECEIVED
SHARE RIGHTEOUS
SOWN SERVANT
TEETH SHEPHERD
TRUTH TALENTS
VISIT WORLD

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2018 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

If you are looking for more puzzles and games to keep occupied during this time at home may we suggest the following:

Bible Word Games has crosswords, wordsearches, and many other types of puzzles and even kid activities: <http://biblewordgames.com>

DLTK Bible has puzzles, word searches and many activities for kids including printables and coloring pages. <http://www.dltk-bible.com/>

Bible Puzzles also has a large variety of quizzes, puzzles, and games to help learn more about the Bible. I particularly like trying to figure out the dingbats... <https://biblepuzzles.com/>

Opportunities to Serve...

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

We'd like to send out a card or two each week to people we prayed for during worship. How you can help: Simply tell Pastor David 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 him with that person's address. It truly is a simple way to brighten the spirits of someone who's going through a tough time.

We are currently in need of a volunteer to mail the cards. If you could help, talk to Pastor David.

Donate to Living Word when you order from Amazon



Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon.com purchases to Living Word. Use this link to have your purchases support Living Word:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1513306>

Our latest donation: Living Word Lutheran Church has been issued a \$40.36 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity from Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2019.

Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.



Teal's rebate in the amount of \$103.66 for 2019 was received and deposited into the building fund. Thank you to all who gave your receipts. Keep them coming!

Teal's Grocery gives a 1% rebate to eligible organizations. There's a box under the mail boxes where you can put in your receipts.

New Music of the Month...

Don't have any new songs to share this month, but because of Easter being upon us I thought I would share a few fairly new songs that you may have not heard.

First is "Empty Grave" from Zack Williams. This video was recorded after his tour was cancelled by ~~Covid~~ 19. Watch at <https://youtu.be/oSw7bmqFwP8>.

Next is a song published in 2019 from Cochrane & Co called "Grave". Watch at <https://youtu.be/azcaS6c8muE>.

Finally, some more traditional Easter songs compiled in a medley in an incomparable style by Anthem Lights. Enjoy this at <https://youtu.be/f26P1ftbCCo>

Story Behind The Song...

Easter Song

It is the right time of year to feature this "older" contemporary Christian song that I am sure most of you have heard or sung. "Easter Song" is a song written by Annie Herring

Annie Herring (born Annie Ward, September 22, 1945) was a pioneer of what was called *Jesus music* in the 1960s, now known as Contemporary Christian Music (CCM). She was largely self-taught and grew up singing with her family around the piano. She was part of the trio, 2nd Chapter of Acts, which also included her brother Matthew Ward and sister Nelly (Ward) Greisen. Anne did most of the song writing and sang lead and harmony. Singer Pat Boone noticed the group and was instrumental in their receiving an MGM recording contract for two singles in 1972-73. The group survived until 1988, when each member went his or her own way. Annie continued writing, recording, and singing as a solo artist. I

"According to Annie, Easter Song came about in the spring, around Easter time. She was sitting in front of the piano, and she said to Jesus, 'You know, Father, I would really like to have a present.' He answered her, 'All right, here's a present.' And He gave her Easter Song

"The Easter Song" faithfully tells the story of Jesus' resurrection from the Gospels, especially from Matthew 28:5-7, the events of that Sunday morning, and the great joy that resulted in Jesus' followers. The music is filled with excitement, anticipation and joy.

When she wrote "Easter Song", Herring believed that the song should be sung by a choir, not by herself and her two siblings, who comprised 2nd Chapter of Acts. One day Herring sang it for a friend, Jimmy Owens, thinking he might be able to use it in one of the musicals he was writing. Owens knew that the song was for 2nd Chapter of Acts to sing, and convinced Herring that the group should record it.

Unfortunately, 2nd Chapter of Acts' band didn't share Jimmy's vision, and the drummer complained that he didn't hear any drums in that song at all. Buck Herring, Herring's husband, wouldn't take "no drums" for an answer, and told the drummer firmly to just play something, anything. The drummer put a different beat to the song, taking it once and for all out of the realm of a choral piece, and into the litting rhythm. Then another friend, Michael ~~Q~~martian, added the energetic keyboards that has given the intro the title of "the single most recognizable intro in contemporary Christian music"

It has been said that the opening introductory measures of "Easter

Song" are the most recognizable of any introduction in all of contemporary Christian music.. In 1998 CCM Magazine named "Easter Song" as the number four Christian song of all time.

The beginning of the song links two great biblical truths: "We can be born again" and "Christ is risen from the dead." The middle provides the Easter morning details: After the earthquake and the angel rolling back the stone, the angel, now sitting atop the stone, tells the Marys, "He is risen. Quickly go and tell his disciples that Jesus Christ is no longer dead." The ending is a great hymn of celebration, "Joy to the world, he is risen! Alleluia!"

Hear the bells ringing
They're singing that you can be born again

Hear the bells ringing
They're singing Christ is risen from the dead

The angel up on the tombstone
Said He has risen, just as He said
Quickly now, go tell his disciples
That Jesus Christ is no longer dead

Joy to the world, He has risen, hallelujah
He's risen, hallelujah
He's risen, hallelujah
Hallelujah

Hear the bells ringing
They're singing that you can be healed right now
Hear the bells ringing, they're singing
Christ, He will reveal it now

The angels, they all surround us
And they are ministering Jesus' power
Quickly now, reach out and receive it
For this could be your glorious hour

Joy to the world, He has risen, hallelujah
He's risen, hallelujah
He's risen, hallelujah, hallelujah

The angel up on the tombstone
Said He has risen, just as He said
Quickly now, go tell his disciples

That for a day: Some people aren't shaking hands because of Coronavirus. I'm not shaking hands because everyone is out of toilet paper.

That Jesus Christ is no longer dead

Joy to the world, He has risen, hallelujah
He's risen, hallelujah
He's risen, hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah

Editor's note: Here the original version by the 2nd Chapter of Acts at <https://youtu.be/8ClwvRJMmZY>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 1Pe 5:7

