



August 2021 Newsletter "Communicating the Love of Jesus"

~ Summer Hours ~
Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. (& Facebook Live)

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

Questions for Pastor...

Have you read all the Psalms?

This question came in our summer youth study during the session on the importance of being into God's Word daily.



I could've stopped with the simple, one-word answer:

"Yes," but I got the sense that they wanted a bit more detail. So I added,
"Some of them quite a few times. The Psalms are songs and like songs
today they were written about situations and express emotions that
people can relate to. Just like you find yourself listening to certain songs
over and over, it's the same way with the Psalms. Some of them just
seem to "strike a chord."

Of course that leads to questions like, "Which ones do you read over and over?" Here are a few that I gravitate to:

Psalm 1; Psalm 2, Psalm 8; Psalm 23; Psalm 32; Psalm 46; Psalm 100 Psalm 111, Psalm 119 (Yes, the longest one!); Psalm 121, Psalm 130; Psalm 141, Psalm 146, Psalm 148 and Psalm 150.

And then the natural final question:
"Which one is your favorite?" The
answer to that question varies from day
to day, but recently I find myself turning
to this Psalm quite often:

- Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
- 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.



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- 6 The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.
- 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
- 14 For he knows our frame; [a] he remembers that we are dust.
- 15 As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field;
- 16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.
- 17 But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,

and his righteousness to children's children,

- 18 to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.
- 19 The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.
- 20 Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!
- 21 Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!
- 22 Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

In case you're wondering it's Psalm 103.

Thanks for asking! Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the First and Third Sundays in August. (August 1st & 15th)

COMMUNING AT THE ALTAR HAS RESUMED:

We have resumed coming to the altar for communion! Those who are not comfortable coming to the altar should inform an Elder or Usher, and communion will be brought to you in your pew.

We have also transitioned away from the pre-packaged sets of wafer and wine back to the normal distribution of communion - with separate wafers and individual cups (as well as common cup for those who prefer).

Reminder: Gluten-free bread wafers are available for those who have gluten-sensitive conditions. You will find these wafers in a separate cup in the communion tray.



Worship continues at 9:00 through Labor Day Weekend. (We'll be back to 10:00 worship time on September 13th.)

A New Way to "Participate" in Worship

If you can't be here in person:

We have begun livestreaming the entire Sunday worship service on the Living Word Facebook group page. NOTE: You need to join the Living Word Facebook group in order to watch.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/131798513523470/

NFW:

We now have a YouTube channel with Sunday services being livestreamed at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VvIJEU22yCYxbhwjg

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Page 5 Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study:

Is on "Summer Break" until Rally Sunday in September Please join us for...

Wednesday Evening Women's Study

Is on Summer Break

Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Wednesday, August 11 @ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study & video entitled: "Forgive Us Our Debts"

All are welcome to attend

Men's Study

Is on Summer Break. But all the guys are encouraged to attend the Wednesday Night study on the Book of Acts

Wednesday Night "Church Nights"

Please join us for ...

MOVIES (August 25 @ 7:00)
 "Heaven is for Real"

"Heaven Is For Real" recounts the experiences of young Colton Burgo who has a near-death experience and claims to have see Heaven, Jesus, and many other experiences that a boy his age should not have known about relating to passed-away relatives and such.



BIBLE STUDY (August 4, 18 & Sept 1)
 Picnic supper @ 6:00 with study following
 Adult Study: The Book of Acts

 (video from the Visual Bible, then discussion)

 Youth Study: "Feed the Dog"

St John Atwater Invites us to their 150th Anniversary!

Please consider joining St. John Lutheran Church on August 15th as we celebrate 150 years! The day will begin at 9:30am with preservice music, worship follows at 10am. We are providing a meal to follow at 12:00pm. Following lunch, there will be music provided by local talent and memories shared by past pastors/teachers/students. Please RSVP for your meal by calling the office (320) 974-8984.

That for a day: No pressure, no diamonds.



The Link...

July 2021 Updates The Link has some exciting news! The dream of a new building is becoming a reality! Revive and Redeem and The Community Closet will official-

ly be combining as one Thrift Store and is moving to Midtown Plaza, 15 Main St. S in New London August 2nd. We are excited about this opportunity to be in downtown New London, in a larger, more accessible location. We hope this move will generate more revenue for The Link's mission. We will be starting to take donations at this location on August 3rd. Until we are more settled, we will only be accepting donations Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am-3pm. Please help us spread the word about our new location. We are praying for a smooth and easy transition to the new space and look forward to seeing more traffic.

In June, The Food Pantry welcomed 8 new families, served 34 children, 60 adults and 13 seniors. 2930 pounds of food was distributed and 630 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches.

The Wildcat Backpack Program is done for the school year, but we will continue to serve families as needed throughout the summer. If you know a family that could benefit from this program, please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

Senior Food Delivery- The Link volunteers have been out delivering some food to seniors in that benefit from not going out and about. If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about this program please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

The Link's Client Outreach program served 9 families in the month of June. Throughout the month, The Link was able to help with utility bills, rent payments, medical bills and gas for medical appointments. The Household Exchange Program also served 2 families in June by giving families in need dressers, dishes, curtains, bathroom rugs and other kitchen utensils.

Tuesday's Table:

Tuesday's Table continues to be cancelled until further notice.

We have begun to see an increase in need for The Food Pantry and our Client Outreach services since June hit. If you would like to donate to any of these programs specifically or to our general fund, please see below for more details.

Monthly Giving Opportunities:

The Link makes monthly giving a convenient option for our donors. You can set up online giving through The Link's website at www.youarethelink.org or directly through your bank. If you would like to make a one-time donation, you can send a check to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273 or via Venmo @The-Link-1. Please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555 or email her at ashley@youarethelink.org for more information.

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Email Humor...

'DAD' CHURCH JOKES

Ever heard of "Dad jokes"? "Dad jokes" are short, often punny, and oneliner jokes that are supposedly told by middle-aged or older men hence, the name.

Below are a few "Dad Jokes" with a biblical theme. We hope they at least make you smile:)

- Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?... He only had two worms.
- Who was the smartest man in the Bible? Abraham. He knew a Lot.
- What kind of person was Boaz before he got married? ... Ruthless!
- Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible? ... Samson. He brought the house down.
- Which servant of God was the worst lawbreaker in the Bible?
 Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.
- At what time of day was Adam created?... A little before Eve.
- Which Bible character had no parents?... Joshua, son of Nun.
- What animal could Noah not trust?... Cheetah
- Who was the straightest man in the Bible?... Joseph: Pharao made him a ruler

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OUR SPECIALS OF THE DAY INCLUDE MANNA IN A SMOOTH MANNA REDUCTION AS WELL AS TODAY'S FRESHLY COLLECTED MANNA SALAD TOPPED WITH THREE DIFFERENT SIZES OF MANNA AND, FOR DESSERT ... MANNA

That for a day: Do not believe in miracles...rely on them

Mark Your Calendars...

Mission & Ministry Team...

Meets: Thursday, August 5th @ 6:30 p.m.

(NOTE: We meet the 1st week this week due to VBS)

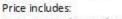
We still need suggestions for people to fill the Stewardship position. If
you have members you'd like us to consider, please give their name to

a Mission and Ministry Team member. Thanks!

Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

Big Kahuna Day

August 19th: Big Kahuna 5:30-8:00 \$16/person



pizza, pop and two ride tickets.

Also available: Dessert & cheese sticks! Please contact Marcia Welsh ASAP if you'd like to go (and haven't yet signed up)

Trap Shooting...



Tuesday, August 3rd @ 6:30

(Brats and devotion at 6:00)

Bring some shells and a friend

Youth Gathering...

The NEXT National Youth Gathering (2022 in Houston)



A HUGE "THANK YOU" to EVERYONE Who Helped With Our July 31 Fundraiser @ the Stingers' Game!

The Kingery Family Concert:

Has been cancelled due to Kingery Family scheduling conflicts.

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Vacation Bible School!

Come join us for "Lava, Lava, Luau"

We will see what God's Word says about Anger, Sadness, Jealousy, and Frustration and learn how to respond when others may be feeling those same emotions.

August 9 -12, 2021 Monday—Thursday 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Ages: 3 years to 6th grade

Info: Church 354-4637 Mona 212-0069

Mission Project

BS

*see more info on page 23



Radial for Research Workship

SCHOOL KITS

CONTENTS X 1 backpack ☐ 1 ruler 2 spiral notebooks 2 glue sticks X 2 pencils 1 scissors 2 pens ☐ 1 eraser X 10 sheets of 1 package colored construction paper pencils (12 count) ☐ 1 package crayons ☐ 1 pencil sharpener (24 count)

1. Stack flat items together. 2. Place all items inside school bag. 3. Close bag if applicable.

PLEASE NOTE

- Backpacks, drawstring athletic bags, or homemode tote bags are all acceptable
- We recommend leaving contents in the original packaging, but it is not received.
- No additions, deletions, or substitutions.
- . Do not add money, photos,
- Do not include forms with religious, camouflings.
- patriotic or military symbol • Pack only new or gently
- . Do not include plastic bags.
- It costs an average of \$11 to ship such box of kits. Please consider a donation to your local OGT branch to help with shipping.

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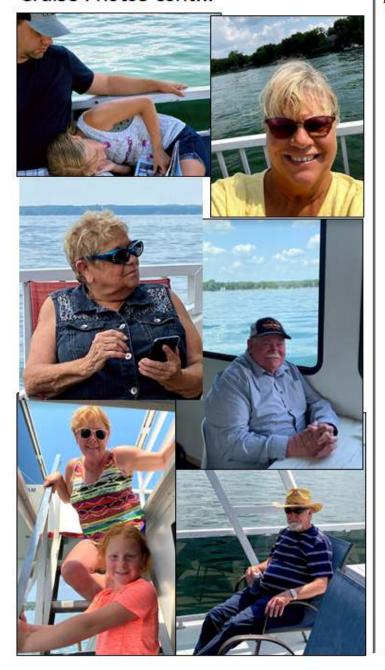


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Thot for a day:

Page 10 Green Lake Cruise Photos...

Cruise Photos cont...



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Mexican Fiesta: October 9 committee?



Community Outreach...

I'd like to have an initial TEAM meeting in August. Can you help with serving on the



Please contact Tammy by call/text 320-905-2434

Proceeds to go to help fund Live Nativity and other Outreach Items.



Living Nativity,

Sunday, December 5 **EVEN BIGGER and BETTER** Also looking for Committee to help plan.

Contact Tammy Miller 320-905-2434 or email: tammiller1

August 2021 - Daily Readings

This month after we finish Daniel we turn to some not-quite-so-familiar books from the Old Testament to finish our Summer Reading. Ezra, Nehemiah and Haggai each deal with Israel's return from Exile to resettle the Promised Land. Record insights from each day's reading on the lines provided. God will bless your reading!

Aug 1	Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior
Aug 2	Daniel 7
Aug 3	Daniel 8
Aug 4	Daniel 9
Aug 5	Daniel 10
Aug 6	Daniel 11
Aug 7	Daniel 12
Aug 8	Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior
Aug 9	Ezra 1
Aug 10	Ezra 2
Aug 11	Ezra 3
Aug 12	Ezra 4
Aug 13	Ezra 5
Aug 14	Ezra 6
Aug 15	Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior
Aug 16	Ета 7
Aug 17	Ezra 8

Aug 18	Ezra 9
Aug 19	Ezra10
Aug 20	Haggai 1
Aug 21	Haggai 2
Aug 22	Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior
Aug 23	Nehemiah 1
Aug 24	Nehemiah 2
Aug 25	Nehemiah 3
Aug 26	Nehemiah 4
Aug 27	Nehemiah 5
Aug 28	Nehemiah 6
Aug 29	Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior
Aug 30	Nehemiah 7
Aug 31	Nehemiah 8
Sept 1	Nehemiah 9
Sept 2	Nehemiah 10
Sept 3	Nehemiah 11 & 12
Sept 4	Nehemiah 13
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August 2021 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	2	6:30 TRAP SHOOTING (Brats @ 6:00)	6:00 Brats & Hot Dogs 6:30 Youth & Adult Bible Studies	5 Mission Withistry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	6	7
9:00 - WORSHIP	9 V A VBS 5:30 - 8:00	C A T O VBS 5:30-8:00	11 10:00 LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY N B I B L E VBS 5:30-8:00	12 S C H O O L VBS 5:30 - 8:00	13	14
9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	16	17	6:00 Brats & Hot Dogs 6:30 Youth & Adult Bible Studies	5:00 - LIVING WORD @ BIG KAHUNA	20	21
9:00 - WORSHIP	23	24	7:00 MOVIE NIGHT: "Heaven is for Real"	25	27	28
29 BACKPACK BLESSING SUNDAY 9:00 - WORSHIP W / Blessing of Backpacks	30	31	6:00 Brats & Hot Dogs 6:30 Youth & Adult Bible Studies	Sept 2	Sept 3 rd's Supper Sunday, Aug Sunday, Aug	just 1st

Upcoming Schedules...

After-Worship Fellowship

During the Summer: Coffee will be available before and after worship. Anyone is welcome to supplement the coffee by bringing cookies, fruit, etc...

In the Fall: We would like to re-start our after-worship fellowship after worship changes back to 10:00 (complete with coffee, juice, goodies).

BUT WE NEED SOMEONE TO COORDINATE THE EFFORT.

Here's what that would involve:

- + Putting together a rotating schedule of Fellowship Servers.
- + Reminding servers of their date to serve.
- + Making sure there are cups, plates, napkins, etc... to use.

If you could take on this ministry to our congregation, there are LOTS of folks who would be extremely grateful for your effort!

Usher Schedule

Since we are back to "normal" after covid restrictions, we are in need of ushers to greet people at the door as well as to usher people to the altar for communion.

Please sign up at church on the table by the door (you can choose which type of ushering you are interested in)!

Scripture Readers

NOTE: Pastor David will read the Scriptures in Worship until COVID restrictions are eased

<u>Elders</u>		Altar Guild			
Aug1	Duane & Jason	Aug	Mona Hjelle		
Aug 15	Ed & Joe	_	-		
Sept 5, 1	12 Keith & Duane	Accompanying Musicians			
Sept 19,	, 26 Jason & Ed	Aug 1	Sharon Willen		
		Aug8	ScottWachter		
Make A	<u>Meal Volunteers</u>	Aug 15	Pam Johnson		
Aug	Mona Hjelle	Aug 22	Carmen Macik		
		Aug 29	Open		
Nursery	!				
Aug 1	Pam Johnson	Custodian			
Aug8	Volunteer Needed	August	Available		
Aug 15	Mona Hjelle	September	Joe Johnson		
Aug 22	Violet Dauk	•			
Aug 29	Volunteer Needed				

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Lutheran Island Camp is Finishing Out The Summer in August !!!



Cleanlup

Scholarships ARE AVAILABLE!

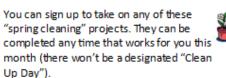
Check out the camp-schedule poster at church go to <u>www.islandcamp.org</u> for complete descriptions and pricing information.

The Living Word LWML has made a limited number of scholarships available. Talk to Pastor David for information!

Seen on Church Signboards...

NEED A LIFE - GUARD? OURS WALKS ON WATER!

Spring Clean-up...





- CLEAN / ORGANIZE EAST FURNACE ROOM
- CLEAN / ORGANIZE WEST FURNACE ROOM
- CLEAN / ORGANIZE STORAGE SHED
- ORGANIZE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS
- ORGANIZE NURSERY

August Discipleship Verse...

"Rejoice always, pray continuously, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Miscellaneous Notes...

Food Pantry Reminder

Please remember to bring your donations for the Food Pantry on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Place them in the purple container by the door at church. Thank to everyone for donating!



Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

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

- Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- Today's Light Devotional Bible
- 100 or so Key Chapter Bible Reading Booklets
- July—September Portals of Prayer

Sermons can be found in on our Living Word Facebook page at





July: 4 Why "FREE" is one of God's favorite words

July 18 Watch out for people God puts into your life

July 25 Mis-judging. The key to avoiding it!

Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2021

If you like to use dated envelopes for your offerings, we have them available. Just pick up a box of envelopes from under the mailboxes. Write down the # of the box you took. Thanks!

Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Living Word has the option of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account.

Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and muchneeded 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.

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Page 21 Prayer...

Remember to use "The Prayer Force"



Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email (pastor@livingwordlutheran.net) prayer requests to Pastor David for the Prayer Force prayer chain to include in their prayers. Thanks!

And an Invitation to Join our "Prayer Force"

Being a part of our prayer chain is a HUGELY important - and very simple - way you can serve God and His people! When a request to pray comes in, Pastor forwards it via text message (or email for those who don't have a cell phone). Then you simply include that request in your prayers. Text Pastor today and tell him "Yeah, I can do that!" Thanks!

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 PRAY for things like ... these VBS Prayers:

- That God would show you who you can invite to VBS
- God to open everyone's heart to accept an invitation to VBS
- God's guidance for all the VBS planning
- God to raise up all the volunteers we need for a great VBS
- Health and safety of all involved with VBS
- That all the children would leave VBS know that Jesus loves them
- That all the children would make a commitment at VBS to follow Jesus
- . That new families would join Living Word as a result of VBS

Also:

- Thank God for the rain we have received
- Ask God to continue to provide the rain needed for a great harvest
- Ask God for the power to develop the spiritual disciplines of a disciple
- Ask God to provide safe travel for all who are vacationing
- Ask God for His protection for all who work outside in the heat

Thank You from the Jastrams...

We are so happy to have you as part of our missionary team. Your support for LCMS mission work in Asia means a lot to us. Dan & Joan Jastram



Read the current newsletter at https://tinyurl.com/pf448mee

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Get To Know Our New Members...

Heather and Anthony Vermeulen

Where you were born and grew up - and school (s) graduated from: Anthony was born in Seattle, WA and grew up in Renton, Bothell and Kirkland WA. He graduated from Juanita High School and Central Washington University.

Heather was born in Walnut Grove, MN and grew up in Walnut Grove and Redwood Falls MN. She graduated from Redwood Falls High School and South Dakota State University.

Where you live now:

We live in Paynesville and Victoria MN

Job / Career:

Anthony works in Banking and Heather works in Manufacturing

Hobbies or things you like to do for fun:

We like to travel and complete home renovation projects.

A favorite Bible passage or story- and what makes it a favorite: We like the book of Acts, because of the way it sets the stage for the New Testament.

What God used to attract you to Living Word:

After visiting several local churches, God led us to Living Word due to its Bible based focus and traditional values.

A 'fun fact' - something about you that most people don't know.

Anthony - My Dad immigrated to the US from Holland when he was in high school and my great great grandfather started Johnson outboard motors.

Heather - Heather's great great grandfather was the first settler in Cottonwood county, MN

Congratulations...

· Alex and Zoe on your move back to Willmar!

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

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VBS News...

(More details than could fit on the separate VBS page)

Vacation Bible School will be held
August 9-12, Monday - Thursday 5:30 - 8:00. We will take 15
minutes to eat and then get started.

There are sign-up sheets at church for Volunteers help in Meals.

- C

Crafts,

Registration Table, etc.

LOTS of Volunteers are needed to make VBS a success!

+++

The Congregation is invited to participate in our VBS Mission Project. We will be putting together School Kits for "Orphan Grain Train".

Please see the "SCHOOL KITS" page.

Please put all the items from the "Contents" list in a bag and it bring it to the Church. (Backpacks, pencils and construction paper have been purchased.) Please pay special attention to the "Please Note" information on the right-side of "School Kits" page and follow accordingly. The Kits will be assembled by the children in the higher grades Thursday night of VBS (August 12).

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Also, on Sunday, August 29th during Worship Service we will have a special BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS- both of those that we fill during VBS and also for those of all the kids that will be returning to school. Children are encouraged to bring their backpacks that Sunday.

I WMI News...

LWML MEETING:

Wednesday, August 11th @ 10:00 a.m. We'll have a business meeting, followed by Women's Bible Study & video entitled "Forgive Us Our Debts"

T LWML

SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

This is a continuing fundraiser for Lutheran Island Camp. Please bring shoes, boots, slippers, sandals (in rubber banded pairs, or with shoestrings tied) to church, and place them in the SHOES FOR MISSIONS box near the entrance.

That for a day:

Confirmation 2021...

Confirmed June 13, 2021

Left to Right

- Alison Sarsland
- Gage Dahl
- Lexi Macik
- Pastor David
- Zoe Rustad
- Levi Miller
- Alexa Knutson

MORE CONFIRMANDS' FAITH STATEMENTS

Levi Miller:

I believe God the Father-

Created everything and that He is our Lord and sent His

Son to die for us and that I should put all my faith in Him.

I believe God the Son-

Has died for our sins and gave me everlasting life.

I believe God the Spirit-

Gives me all the faith, so I can believe in God.



What I believe about eternal life, how I will get into Gods kingdom-I believe that Jesus died for our sins and put God above all things.

What I believe about the difference God makes in my life on Earth: "All the difference in the world." He brings good in the world - without that good, the world would be really bad!

Why I want to "enlist" as a committed follower of Jesus even though I know Satan will be tempting me:

Because He created me and gave me life and helps me get through anything that comes along.

What I would like to do with my life (and talents) as a way of saying "thanks" to God:

Be an actor in Christian movies.

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Gage Dahl:

I believe God the Father...

Is the Maker of both heaven and earth, and everything invisible as well as visible.

I believe God the Son...

Is the only-begotten Son of God and is of one substance with the Father. I believe He was born of the virgin Mary and died under Pontius Pilate and rose again on the third day. I also believe that He will come again.

I believe God the Spirit...

Who is the Giver of Life and who proceeds from God; who spoke through the prophets and is worshiped with the Father and Son.

What I believe about eternal life, how I will get into Gods kingdom: I believe that I will get to heaven through belief in Jesus.

What difference has God made in my life here on earth?

I believe that God is present here on earth and will always be here to help me.

Why do I want to enlist as a committed follower of Jesus Christ even though I know Satan will be fighting me?

Because I know that Jesus will keep me safe.

What would I like to do with my life and talents as a way or saying thanks to God?

Be a good person - like be kind to other people - and let people know about God by telling them the good things about God.

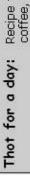
(Next month we finish our Faith Statements with Alexa's and Zoe's)

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski









The Free to be Faithful® newsletter highlights important and relevant details on religious liberty issues that impact the rights of Christians to live faithfully.

In the latest newsletter, read about:

- A lawsuit filed by an LGBT group that seeks to strip federal financial aid from college students for attending faith-based universities that espouse biblical beliefs on marriage, gender and sexuality;
- Critical race theory from a Lutheran perspective;
- A case going to the U.S. Supreme Court over Mississippi's Gestational Age Act, which protects pregnant mothers and unborn children by limiting abortions after 15 weeks; and
- A lawsuit against the dean of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission
 Diocese of Finland and a Finnish member of Parliament over the
 publication of a 2004 pamphlet espousing Lutheran views on sexuality and marriage.

Read the "Free to be Faithful" Newsletter at:

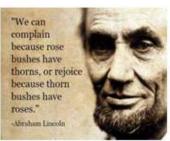
https://reporter.lcms.org/2021/free-to-be-faithful-summer-2021newsletter/

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

PRODUCTIVE COMPLAINING:

It sounds odd! Complaining doesn't usually get associated with being productive. But in the context of your relationship, complaining is actually preferable to the damage of criticism.



Renowned marriage researcher and therapist John Gottman has pinpointed what he calls the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse – four Page 27

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communication habits that can be predictive of divorce with a shocking 90% accuracy. You guessed it, one of the Horsemen is criticism.

Now for the good news: as we mentioned earlier, complaining is the healthier alternative to criticism. It helps ensure you're both making an effort and can be an antidote to complacency. Want to complain more productively? Keep these tips in mind:

Make it about a specific action or situation - not the person.

According to Gottman, the most damaging part of criticism is that it's an attack on your partner's character — who they are. If you're unhappy with who they are as a person, well, that's pretty hard to change. ("You're such a slob!") They're probably going to feel hurt or angry in response. In contrast, if you keep the complaint focused on a specific action or behavior, that's more easily fixable: "I tripped over your shoes by the door. Can you please put them away?"

Use "I/we" statements.

Minimizing the use of "you" can aid in avoiding the slippery slope into criticism. Speaking in first person makes it easier to take responsibility for your own feelings in the matter, such as, "Ugh, I'm feeling overwhelmed by this messy house!" Similarly, using "we" reinforces the mentality of being on the same team and working to improve something together: "We need to come up with a cleaning schedule."

Keep it in the here and now.

Randomly complaining about something your partner did last summer probably isn't the best use of your energy. What's done is done; they can't go back in time and undo it. If it's about a behavior that's still happening now, try to keep your complaint in the present context as well: "Honey, I'm still tripping over your shoes."

Be mindful of your tone.

So often, it's not what you say but how you say it that makes such a difference in the way it's received. Keep it light and playful. Maintain a sense of humor if you can. Being able to laugh together about your foibles is a bonding opportunity. Consider the difference between saying, "How about remembering the milk this time?" in a biting tone or jokingly sticking a post-it to your partner's head that says "Milk!"

While we're not condoning replacing positive affirmations with complaints, complaints in place of criticism can be productive instead of debilitating to the health of your relationship. It's a small tweak that can help you both feel less attacked – and more loved and supported – by your partner, opening the door to even more improvements in the way you communicate.

Opportunities to Serve...

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.

<u>Pick Your Month</u> for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian: You can choose any remaining month in 2021. Talk to our new Trustee, Steve Wulf, to sign up or find out more details. Thanks



Make A Meal

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 call Pastor David or our July Make-a-Meal volunteers Jamie & Laurel Iverson if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal.

We are also looking for a person to be the Make-a-Meal coordinator -

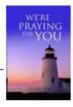
The coordinator is NOT responsible for making the meals, but rather notifies the meal makers when a meal is needed and then arranges for the meal to be delivered. If you could be that person, please talk to Pastor David. Thanks!



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.

Please contact pastor@livingwordlutheran.net with the address of someone you asked us to pray for who would be greatly encouraged by getting a card. 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



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port Living Word: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1513306
Our latest donation: Living Word Lutheran Church has been issued a \$15.12 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between January 1 and March 31, 2021.

Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.

Teal's Grocery gives a 1% rebate to eligible organizations. There's a box under



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the mail boxes where you can put in your receipts. Thanks to everyone who turned in Teals Receipts in 2020! We received back \$160 from 700 receipts!

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.

In July we Thanked God for ... Freedom
Parades
Air Conditioners

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence in August

Story Behind The Song...

Sweet Beulah Land

You may not be familiar with this song since it is rarely sung in churches, but I was reminded of it when in Branson last month attending a gospel concert by The Petersens. Sweet Beulah Land is the best known song referring to the land of Beulah to audience's today. The song focuses on heaven and how wonderful it will be.

The term Beulah comes from the King James Version of Isaiah 62:4; "Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate; but thou shalt be called Hephzibah and thy land Beulah; for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married."

Occasionally a single song brings acclaim and recognition to a composer. He writes a song that leaps ahead of all of his other compositions. Such was the case with Squire Parsons and his most famous song, "Sweet Beulah Land."

Squire Parsons was born in Newton, West Virginia, in 1948. He surrendered his heart to Christ at age 9 and began his song writing ventures 11 years later. He studied music at a West Virginia college where he majored in voice and bassoon. While still a student, he was employed as a bass soloist for Christ United Methodist Church, in Charleston, West Virginia. He later said that it was a wonderful experience because he was exposed to the Christian classics, which influenced some of his later writing.

Looking back to Squire's preteen years, while a member of the small church in Newton, he remembers a particular song his dad led the congregation in singing, "Is Not This the Land of Beulah?" The whole congregation seemed swept up in the song. That picture remained in young Parson's mind.

Squire said the following: "One morning, years later, as I was driving to my high school teaching job, my mind drifted back to a service in our little church. As I drove along I was humming the old song about 'Beulah Land,' which I had learned from the hymnal years earlier. As I topped one of the beautiful West Virginia mountains, I faced a brilliant sun in all of its glory. My thoughts continued to be about the singing in our little Newton church, but this time it was a different song - one that I had never heard or sung before." It was the chorus to what has become the increasingly popular song, "Sweet Beulah Land."

Squire added, "I traveled on to the school. It was early, and the students had not yet arrived. I found some paper and wrote the words and music to the chorus I had been given. I then wrote a single verse to go with the chorus. Five years went by before I wrote a second verse and recorded the song."

The song Sweet Beulah Land was written in 1973 and recorded by Squire in 1979. In 1981 it became a #1 song and was awarded Song of the Year by the Singing News Fan Awards. It has been recorded countless times by a multitude of artist including the Gaither Vocal Band, The Chuck Wagon Gang, Jason Crabb, and Lynda Randall among others.

This song is amazingly interesting in that some phrases are used, which seem paradoxical in nature - such as being homesick for a country to which I have never been before. Faith is a key element in this highly descriptive song - faith that we hold as we look toward heaven, faith that will end in sight. The name "Beulah Land" is a term we have used for many years and one that evokes happiness and sweetness in our hearts.

I'm kind of homesick for a country To which I've never been before. No sad goodbyes will there be spoken For time won't matter anymore.

Beulah Land I'm longing for you

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And some day on thee I'll stand There my home shall be eternal Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land

I'm looking now, just across the river To where my faith, shall end in sight There's just a few more days to labor. Then I will take my heavenly flight.

Beulah Land I'm longing for you And some day on thee I'll stand There my home shall be eternal Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land Beulah Land, oh it's Beulah Land Oh Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land

Editor's note: Since they reminded me of the song, watch the Petersen's performance at https://youtu.be/HjwJibYED30

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



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