

# **April 2022 Newsletter**

"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Sunday School: 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

# Ouestions for Pastor...

I don't understand...

There's a section on the "Sermon Notes" page the confirmation students use where they can list things they didn't understand about the Bible readings or sermon. Below are some of the things they wrote and my answers.



"Why do ashes symbolize sin?" (From our Ash Wednesday service)

Since ancient biblical times wearing sackcloth and covering oneself with ashes and/or dust was a sign of humble repentance. When pleading with the LORD to spare the righteous people who lived in Sodom, Abraham said. "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes..." (Genesis 18:27) He was referring to his humble standing before God as a human being whom God had created out of dust, (ashes being a form of dust). The ashes are more a symbol of the result of our sin: We will all die and return to the dust from which we were formed. We apply the ashes to our foreheads in the form of a cross as a reminder that it is only Jesus' death on the cross that saves us from the eternal consequences of our sin and enables us to rise from our graves to live with Him forever!

### "Why is Satan trying to tempt Jesus?" (From Luke 4:1-13)

If Satan can entice Jesus to cave in to his temptations, then Jesus would be sinning by disobeying God. If Jesus were to sin. He would be no better than the rest of humanity, and thus unable to take our punishment for sin, since He'd have sin of His own to suffer for. In short, Satan is attempting to totally derail God's plan to save us!

"I can't understand why, when you do something bad, you get something good." (From a sermon on "Mercy" which means "Getting something good when you deserve something bad.")

It's hard for me to understand how God can show us mercy too! But thank God (literally) Mercy is one of His basic character traits! God offers us eternal life in His Kingdom when, because of our sin, what we deserve

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is a life eternally separated from Him. God is able to do this because, Jesus took the punishment for our sin. We accept that mercy when we put our trust in Jesus.

"It's hard for me to understand that God can be everywhere all the time."

Me too! This highlights one of the important truths about God: Because He is God and we are not, there are naturally going to be things about Him that we just are not capable of understanding. We can't understand his "ever-presence," simply because we can't be everywhere at one time. It's a great reminder for us that God is so much greater than we are that there are always going to be things about Him that we can't grasp. And that's a good thing! If we were able to understand everything about God, that would mean He's no better/bigger/greater than us. And I definitely don't want a god who is no better than I am!

> Thanks for asking! Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net



# Easter Flowers are Welcome!

Just bring them to church,

and the Altar Guild will take care of placing them. Thanks!

# "Participate" in Worship from home...

If you can't be here in person: Watch on our YouTube channel with Sunday services being livestreamed at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VvIJEU22vCYxbhwig/featured



# Opportunities for Growth...

### Sunday Morning Study:

Sunday mornings @ 9:00
"The Radical Teachings of Jesus"
Please join us for coffee and God's



Word as we look at just how Jesus' teachings turned the first-century world upside down (and have the power to do the same in your world)!

### Sunday Morning Youth Study

Sundays @ 9:00 Bring friends!

### Monthly Morning Women's Study:

April 13th @ 10:00 a.m. Video and study. All are welcome.



### Evening Women's Study @ 6:30

Meets THURSDAY, March 31

then... back to Wednesdays starting April 20

Violet Dauk will host the study at her home (5126 Co Rd 40 NE, New London). Violet will also host a time of prayer prior to the study at 5:45 for anyone who wants to come and pray.

### Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30 (Come at 6:00 for Brats, etc...)
Who can you invite to join you?

# Sunday School News...

- April 3: "Mary Anoints Jesus" John 12:1-
- April 10: Palm Sunday "Hours Before His Death" Luke 22:14-17; 23:1-56
- April 17: Easter Sunday "The Empty Tomb" John 20:1-18
- April 24: "Jesus Appears to Disciples" John 20:19-31
- The kids are encouraged to bring their Bibles to SS and Youth Study as we will be using them in class.
- Mark your calendars for April 9th for Easter Celebration 4 Kids!!: "WAKE-UP IT'S EASTER".
   Volunteers are going to be needed. Please talk to Mona if you can help with planning or on April 9

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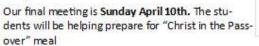
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# Confirmation News



- The remainder of Lent, the 6:30 Lenten Devotion serves as confirmation class
- Also Check: The PowerPoint Clicker-Person Schedule... Each student will take a turn operating the "clicker" that changes the PowerPoint screens during Sunday Worship.
- We'll be back to our regular schedule (6:15 Wednesday class) on April 20

### Preparation for First Communion...





The students will have their first communion during the Maundy Thursday service on April 14 @ 6:30. Please talk to Pastor David if you have questions.

# Youth Gathering...

The NEXT National Youth Gathering (2022 in Houston)

Alison Sarsland.



Our Current (really simple) Fundraiser: "The Envelope Board"
Our "Envelope Board" (found at the back of the sanctuary) is filled with envelopes numbered from 1 to 144 tacked to a bulletin board.

The fundraiser works this way: Whatever number is on the envelope, that's the amount you put in the envelope as your donation for the Youth Gathering Trip. It really is that simple!

Our NEXT (and biggest) fundraiser: "Labor of Love" Auction Sunday, April 24 - After worship

Bid on one of the youth (or adult participants) to help you with Spring Cleaning, Planting, Yard Work, Whatever!

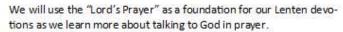
Youth attending:	Chaperones:		
Noah Miller,	Becky Sarsland,		
Levi Miller,	Mike Macik		
Zoe Rustad,	Jason Miller.		
Lexi Macik	11		

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# Lenten Services...

### LENTEN DEVOTIONS

"Lord, teach us to pray." Wednesdays at 6:30



### LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS:

Prior to the Lenten Devotions from 5:30-6:20 March 30 and April 6





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LORD TEACH US TO PRAY

### Page 7 Who Can You Invite?...

- Easter Celebration for Kids Saturday, April 9 @ 10:00am (More details on the Easter Celebration 4 Kids invitation )
- "Christ in the Passover" Sunday evening, April 10 @ 6:00pm Liz Goldstein from Jews for Jesus will present how the Old Testament festival of Passover points ahead to- and is ultimately fulfilled by - Jesus! The presentation is followed by a meal that includes traditional Passover foods like lamb.
- Maundy Thursday (First Communion) Thursday, April 14 @ 6:30pm We'll look at the example Jesus set for His disciples (us) "on the night He was betrayed." Then we'll share communion. It will be a special evening for our 5-6th Graders who will take their first communion!
- Good Friday The Seven Last Words Friday, April 15 @ 6:30pm Easter is just a "feel-good" story without Good Friday. We extinguish one candle for each of the seven last words Jesus spoke from the cross until all lights have been put out. Join us to be reminded why we call such a dark day "Good."
- Easter Sunday, April 17 Sonrise Worship: 6:31am We begin outdoors watching the sun rise (6:31 is actual sunrise time), then move to the sanctuary to finish celebrating the Greatest Event in History.

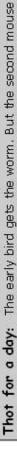
Easter Worship w/Communion 10:00am We again celebrate the Greatest Event in all of History at our regular worship time and share in communion as the Feast of Victory

# Communion Notes...

OLY The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in April on Maundy Thursday-April 14, as well as on the normal First and Third Sundays - April 3rd & Easter Sunday April 17th

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.

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.



gets early



# Christ in the Passover

An Exploration of Passover, the Last Supper, & Your Communion Experience

### At Living Word

Sunday, April 10 Presentation @ 6:00 p.m. Meal following.

Please sign up at church, so we know how many to plan the meal for. Thanks!









### #ChristInThe Passover

### 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/mrybb8ew

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will accept your ideas much more readily said it first.

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# Mark Your Calendars...

# Mission & Ministry Team...

Thursday, April 7th @ 6:30 p.m. Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

# Upcoming FUN Stuff...



Thursday, April 21 @ 6:00 p.m.

Trip to Greenwald Pub

### Sunday, July 24: Stingers' Game

Picnic begins at 4:05 (Game @ 5:05)

+ Reserved-Seat Game Ticket

+ All-you-can-eat Ballpark Buffet

(Sign up at Church or call Marcia Welsh 320-796-6840)

### Dates TBA for:

- Green Lake Cruise
- Hinterland Vineyards
- Hempker Zoo
- Big Kahuna

(Sign up at church if interested in any of these)
Talk to Marcia for details on any of these outings!

# Community Outreach...

We are hosting an

"Emergency Workers Appreciation Day and Blessing"

May 7th 10:00 at Living Word

If you know of someone who serves as a: First Responder, EMT, Firefighter

or in Law Enforcement

please extend an invitation to them!

That for a day:

People w Franklin

# Church Choir...

Please join us for practice after worship

We'll sing on Easter @ 10:00 Worship

(Willingness to make a "joyful noise" is the only requirement)



# Church Clean-up...

You can sign up to take on any of these "cleaning" projects. They can be completed any time that works for you (there won't be a designated "Clean Up Day").



- CLEAN / ORGANIZE EAST FURNACE ROOM
- CLEAN / ORGANIZE WEST FURNACE ROOM

# Congratulations...

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

# Email Humor...

I was out walking with my then 4-year-old daughter. She picked up something off the ground and started to put it in her mouth. I asked her not to do that.

"Why?"

"Because it's been laying outside and is dirty and probably has germs."

At this point, she looked at me with total admiration and asked, "Wow! How do you know all this stuff?"

"Uh," I was thinking quickly, everyone knows this stuff, "Um, it's on the Mommy test. You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Mommy."

"Oh."

We walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but she was evidently pondering this new information.

"I get it!" she beamed. "Then if you flunk, you have to be the Daddy."

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# LWML News...

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### LWML MEETING:

Wednesday, April 13th, 2022 @ 10:00 a.m. We'll have a brief business meeting, followed by Bible Study. All ladies of the church are welcome.

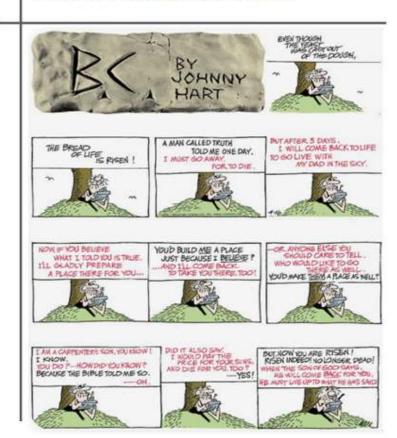


### SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

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.

### LWML MONTEVIDEO ZONE SPRING RALLY:

Sunday April 24th, 2022 2:00 P.M. at St Luke Lutheran Church, Wood Lake. See brochure on bulletin board for more details.



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# April 2022 - Daily Readings

We conclude our examples of types of prayers, then move to Jesus' Crucifixion/Resurrection

Week of March 27	PRAYERS OF PRAISE
Psalm 103	
Ephesians 1:3-14	
1 Peter 1:3-9	
Revelation 7:9-12	
Luke 1:68-79	
V6 (1 - 12 (12)	
John 11 & 12	ts Leading up to Jesus' Crucifixion from John's Go
John 11 & 12 John 13 John 14	
John 11 & 12 John 13 John 14 John 15	
John 11 & 12  John 13  John 14  John 15  John 16	
John 11 & 12  John 13  John 14  John 15  John 16  John 17	
John 11 & 12  John 13  John 14  John 15  John 16  John 17  Week of April 10 H	

pr 13	Matthew 25:1-46	
pr 14	Matthew 26:31-75	
pr 15		
pr 16		
	Week of April 17	WITNESSES OF JESUS' RESURRECTION
ster	Matthew 28:1-10	
r 18	Matthew 28:8-10, 16-20	
r 19	Mark 16:9-11	
r 20	Luke 24:15-31	
r 21	John 20:19-31	
r 22	Luke 24:50-51, Acts 1-2	4
23	1 Corinthians 15:5-8	
	Week of April 24	RESULTS OF JESUS' RESURRECTION
r 25	John 11:20-27	
r 26	1 Corinthians 15:12-23	
r 27	1 Corinthians 15:51-58	
r 28		
- 20	Colossians 3:1-10	
1 29		

# April 2022 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - CHOIR PRACTICE	Mar 28	Mar 29 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	Mar 30 5:30-6:20 SOUP SUPPER 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION (Also serves as	Mar 31 6:30 BUILDING COMMITTEE 6:30 WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY		
3 HAILEY HANSEN BAPTISM  9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY  10:00 - WORSHIP W/Communion  11:30 - BAPTISM LUNCHEON	4	6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6 5:30-6:20 SOUP SUPPER 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION (Also serves as confirmation class)	@ Violet Dauk's  7 Mission Ministry  5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM  6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	8	9 10:00 EASTER CELEBRATION 4 KIDS
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT BIBLE STUDY  10:00- PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP  6:00 - CHRIST in the PASSOVER	11	12 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	10:00 LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY	14 MAUNDY THURSDAY  6:30 WORSHIP W/Lord's Supper & FIRST COMMUNION	15 GOOD FRIDAY 6:30 WORSHIP	16 GOOD FRIDAY
17 RESURRECTION SUNDAY 6:31 -SONRISE Worship 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	18	19 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6:15 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY @ Violet Dauk's	6:00 - GREENWALD RESTAURANT OUTING	22	23
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT BIBLE STUDY  10:00 - WORSHIP  11:15 - "LABOR of LOVE" AUCTION	25	26 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6:15 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY @ Violet Dauk's	28	29	30

# Upcoming Schedules...

### After-Worship Fellowship

We've had requests to re-start our after-worship fellowship time (complete with coffee, juice, and maybe even goodies).

### COORDINATOR NEEDED

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!

USHERS NEEDED AGAIN:

Since we are back to "normal"

after covid restrictions, we are

in need of ushers to greet peo-

ple at the door as well as to

usher people to the altar for

table by the door (you can

you are interested in)!

Please sign up at church on the

choose which type of ushering

communion.

### Usher Schedule

Wendy & Lonny Robbin Apr 3

Apr 10 Open

M. Thurs Open Good Fri Open

Apr 17 Larry Levin

Apr 24 Open

### Scripture Readers

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

restrictions are eased

### Elders

Apr 3, 10 Joe & Duane Apr 14 (Maundy Thursday), 17, 24 Jason & Ed

### Custodian

Wendy & Lonny Robbin April Volunteer Needed

### Nursery

( Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

### PowerPoint Operator

Mar 27 Alex Meis

Apr 3 Rya Sharp

Apr 10 Will Dahl

Apr 14 Open

Apr 15 Open

Easter Sonrise Open

Easter 10:00 Autumn Foshaug

Apr 24 Kala Miller

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May 1 Carson Sawatzky

Accompanying Musicians

Make A Meal Volunteers

Mona Hjelle

April Mona Hjelle

Apr 10 M. Thursday Pam Johnson Scott Wachter G. Friday

Altar Guild

Apr 17 Sonrise: ScottWachter

Sharon Willen

ScottWachter

10:00-TBA

Apr 24 Pam Johnson

# Simple Ways to Give Your Spiritual Life a Lift...

Apr 3

Come to:

April

"Christ in the Passover" and Our Holy Week Services.

See Newsletter pages 7 & 8 for more info...

# Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Seen on Church Signboards...

Searching for More than Eggs this Easter? Join Us on the Journey!

# April Discipleship Verse...



For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. 1 Peter 3:18

# 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:

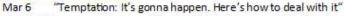
- Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- Today's Light Devotional Bible
- 100 or so Key Chapter Bible Reading Booklets
- The April—June Portals of Prayer are available

in your mailbox or on the "free stuff" table.

### Recorded videos of Sermons

Sermons can be found in on our Living Word YouTube channel (New London Living Word) at





Mar 13 "Are we getting near 'The End'? What Jesus would tell us"

Mar 20 "A parable that shows what we can expect of God - and what He expects of us."

Mar 27 "Another parable that shows what we can expect of Godand what He expects of us."

### 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 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.

### Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2022

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 picked up. Thanks!

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# Page 19 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:

- · Thanking God for Spring!
- Asking God for His guidance about who to invite to Easter Worship
- Asking God to open hearts and minds to Jesus during Holy Week!
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did with sacrifice
- Asking God for quick and peaceful end to the conflict in Ukraine
- Thanking God for the freedom to attend worship & Sunday School
- Thanking God that His Word is Truth amidst the lies of the world.
- God to show you opportunities to Share His Love in Practical Ways.
- Asking God for His power to bring healing to our nation in all ways!
- Asking God to humble you, seek Him and repent (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- God's protection, guidance, wisdom & courage for government 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

# That for a day: Lemi

# A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

How's your day going? Maybe everything's going your way. The sun's shining, you hit all green lights on your commute, got great feedback from your boss on a big project, and tonight is date night. Or maybe it's been one of those days - can anything else go wrong? You overslept, spilled your entire mug of coffee, and snapped at your spouse, all before leaving the house - and it didn't get any better from there.

We've all been there. A bad day – or even just a bad start to your day - can throw you off entirely, affecting not only your own mood and wellbeing, but your relationship with your spouse as well. One bad day here and there seems harmless, but if we're not aware of the way we handle them, negative patterns can begin to take hold. So how can you prevent a bad day from coming between you? Here are five tips to consider.

### 1. Examine your work-life balance.

Work is a common cause of stress. If you find that you're carrying bad days at work into your home life, take a look at whether your work-life balance is out of whack. Do you need to set some new boundaries? Is there a way to incorporate some transition or buffer time between work and home? This can give you space to decompress from your work day and ease into a more relaxed mindset, consciously leaving bad work vibes behind for the time being.

### 2. Take a time-out.

Sometimes you might be feeling overwhelmed and unable to interact with your spouse or family in a way you feel good about. In times like this, the best thing might be to simply give yourself time-out, if you're able. Go for a walk alone or retreat to a quiet part of your house, but let your spouse or family know you just need a few minutes to clear your head. Take a few deep breaths and try to gain some quick perspective.

### Allow do-overs.

You might snap at your spouse, make an unnecessarily snide comment, or be overly critical simply because you're grouchy from a bad day. Even as the words are coming out of your mouth, you know it's not really what you want to say or how you want to say it. All is not lost. Ask for a do-over, or a fresh start. "I'm sorry, that's not how I wanted to talk to you. Can I start over?" It might seem cheesy, but it shows your partner that your true intentions were not to hurt them, and that you want to put in the effort to

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repair any potential damage. If you're on the receiving end, give your spouse this chance to right the ship. Instead of feeling at odds with each other all day, it becomes a moment of connection.

### Exercise emotional intelligence.

Understanding your emotions is the first step in learning to manage and regulate them. Instead of pushing them down or denying strong feelings, let yourself feel and acknowledge them, and begin to figure out what helps you neutralize them. Maybe that's getting outdoors or going for a run when you're stressed, anxious, or irritable. Perhaps journaling helps you get out frustrations in a way that feels cathartic. On the other side, use your empathy skills if you sense your spouse has had a bad day. Maybe you offer a hug instead of asking why they didn't fill up the car with gas or bringing up that contentious topic.

### 5. Learn how you can support each other.

Have a conversation about how you can handle bad days together. How can you signal to each other that you're having a bad day? How can you communicate what you need? Is there a certain way you'd like to be supported on those days? It may seem like kind of an odd conversation to have, but it can prevent a lot of misunderstandings and hurt feelings down the road.

A bad day every now and then is a normal part of life. How we handle them is what makes all the difference. By learning to manage our emotions productively and prioritize basic relationship skills, you can make a bad day an opportunity for connection instead of driving a wedge between you.

### REVERENDEUN COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



THE WATER TO WINE MIRACLE ALSO MADE FOR AN EXCELLENT APRIL FOOLS DAY PRANK

# Email Inspiration...

Jeremy was born with a twisted body, a slow mind and a chronic, terminal illness that had been slowly killing him all his young life. Still, his parents had tried to give him as normal a life as possible and had sent him to St. Theresa's Elementary School.

At the age of 12, Jeremy was only in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy irritated his teacher. One day, she called his parents and asked them to come to St. Teresa's for a consultation.

As the Forresters sat quietly in the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students!"

Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here."

Doris sat for a long time after they left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read or write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Oh God," she said aloud, "here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared with that poor family! Please help me to be more patient with Jeremy."

From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loudly enough for the whole class to hear. The other children snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Wh-Why, that's very nice, Jeremy. Now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it

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back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

Yes, Miss Miller!" the children responded enthusiastically - all except for Jeremy. He just listened intently, his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their Math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arms. "That's my egg, Miss Miller." she called out.

The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that is new life, too" Little Judy smiled proudly and said. "Miss Miller, that one is mine."

Next Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that the moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom. "My Daddy helped me!" he beamed.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty! Surely it must be Jeremy's, she thought, and, of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another.

Suddenly Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "but Jeremy - your egg is empty!" He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty too!"

Time stopped. When she could speak again. Doris asked him, " Do you know why the tomb was empty?"

"Oh yes!" Jeremy exclaimed. "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then his Father raised him up!"

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away.

Three months later Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.

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# 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: We are still in need of volunteers for May & June Talk to our Trustee, Steve Wulf, to sign up or find out more details.

### 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 April Make-a-Meal volunteer, Mona Hjelle 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.

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



### Operate our new Video Camera . . .

to record the worship service that we livestream and later upload our YouTube channel (New London Living Word). Talk to Pastor David if you can help out with this - at least one Sunday a month. (Hint It's not difficult!)

### Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.

Teal's Grocery gives a 1% rebate to eligible organizations. There's a teal-colored box on the back-wall table where you can put in your receipts.

### Donate to Living Word when you order from Amazon

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible <a href="mailto:smile.amazon.com">smile.amazon.com</a> purchases to Living Word. Use this link to have your purchases support Living Word: <a href="https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1513306">https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1513306</a>

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Jack Today I looked like of them. ₹ no one. and makeup and saw no or saw all the people I know. hair fixed up my to the Shining

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# Page 25 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.

Thank God... It's Spring!

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence in April.







# Story Behind The Song...

As I started looking for a song story this month, I thought that this would be easy... After all, there are more songs written about Easter than any other historical event except for Christmas. There are so many great Easter songs, but as I went back in the Song Story archive, I found that many of the familiar ones have already been written about in previous newsletters, such as "Because He Lives," "Christ Arose," "Glorious Day," "I Know My Redeemer Lives," "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today," even "Easter Song" just to name a few.

So today's featured song is one that we don't commonly hear... "Near The Cross". Written in 1869 by Fanny Crosby.

Fanny J. Crosby was the author of over 8,500 gospel songs. Though

blind at 6 weeks of age, Crosby began composing texts at age 6. She later became a teacher at the New York School for the Blind, where

she was a student. A friend of several presidents, Crosby became one of the most important advocates for the cause of the blind in the United States.

The famous evangelist Dwight L. Moody was said to have asked Crosby the following question toward the end of her life: "If you could have just one wish granted, what would it be?"



Fanny J. Crosby

Moody expected her to ask for sight. Sensing
this she is said to have replied, "If I could have one wish, I'd wish that
I might continue blind the rest of my life." Moody was taken back and
asked, "How can you say that?" Crosby was said to have responded,
"Because, after being blind for all these years, the first face I want to

see now is the face of Jesus."

We often sing songs about being at the cross of Jesus, however we are told that few of his followers actually stayed by the cross while he was dying. Most of those who were nearby were those that mocked him or Roman soldiers involved with the execution. John 19 tells us that Mary, the mother of Jesus, and his disciple John were at the cross. They are the only ones mentioned.

Though an instrument of cruel punishment and torture, the Cross is a source of a "healing stream" and a place where "the bright and morning star sheds its beams" on us. The most important sentiment of this hymn is that we stay close to Christ. Crosby calls to Jesus to keep her "near the cross" and therefore within his love and grace.

"Near the Cross" is one of Crosby's most loved hymns.

Jesus, keep me near the cross; There a precious fountain, Free to all, a healing stream, Flows from Calvary's mountain.

Refrain: In the cross, in the cross,

Be my glory ever,

Till my raptured soul shall find

Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, Love and mercy found me, There the Bright and Morning Star Shed its beams around me.

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Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Brings its scenes before me; Help me walk from day to day, With its shadows o'er me.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, Hoping, trusting ever, Till I reach the golden strand Just beyond the river.

Editor's note: Here is a great version by my favorite group, The Petersens. Watch at https://youtu.be/Gf\_wlFwBIMc

You may not be familiar with this group, but here is a beautiful version by the Ruppe Sisters at https://youtu.be/q4KHbdkivy0

# The Back Pew - Jeff Larson HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! EH!

The Traditional Canadian Easter Greeting