



July 2022 Newsletter

"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Worship Service: 9:00 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

# Questions for Pastor...

Do we each have a "Guardian Angel"?

This question came up in a recent Bible study when we read this passage from Acts 12:

- The night before Herod was to bring him to trial,
   Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound
   with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.
- Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell.
   He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he
   said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.
- 8. Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. 9 Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. 10 They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.
- 11. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen."
- 12. When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. 13 Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed. "Peter is at the door!"
- "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

An angel plays a major part in that event, but it was the last five words "It

#### Page 3

must be **his angel**" that prompted the question above. That sentence gives the impression that the Christians who'd been praying for Peter believed that Peter had a specific angel assigned to him.

Jesus' own comment in the following passage from Matthew 18 also leaves the impression that the kids He is referring to have angels that are assigned to them:

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that <u>their</u> angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."

Nowhere in the Bible is it specifically stated that we are limited to a single angel whose job it is to follow us everywhere - or that certain angels are limited in their assignments to just a single person. However, those two passages certainly do not rule out the idea that there are "guardian" angels.

So, the short answer is: "It's possible. But we can't say for certain."

Whether we have one or more assigned to us isn't the important thing. Maybe Hebrews 1:14 sums up what's really important to remember:

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Angels are sent at God's command to serve us in whatever way God knows we need. That tells us that it does no good for us to pray to angels, since they are sent at God's direction - not ours. But, you can certainly pray for God to send them! (And keep in mind that God always knows exactly what we need, when we need it, and how.)



The situation in the passage from Acts reminds us of another important truth we see pretty much every time angels are mentioned: They are extremely powerful beings - able to accomplish things that are humanly impossible! (I'm so thankful that the angels God sends to protect me

are powerful warriors and NOT the cute, chubby toddlers we see depicted on some Hallmark cards and paintings!)

Thanks for asking! Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

# Opportunities for Growth...

#### Sunday Morning Youth Study

Sundays @ 9:00 Bring friends!

#### Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Due to busy summer schedules, we will not meet during June July, and August.

#### Evening Women's Study

Is on Summer Break

#### Men's Study

Last Study of the Summer-Tuesday, July 5 @ 6:30 (Come at 6:00 for Brats, etc...) Who can you invite to join you?

### "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-VvIJEU22vCYxbhwjg/featured

# Confirmation News...

#### Swimming Outing - Saturday, July 9 @ Millers'

For the current class (those who completed 7th & 8th Grade) AND those who will be starting confirmation this fall (those who have completed 5th & 6th Grade)

#### Check: The PowerPoint Clicker-Person Schedule

Each student takes a turn operating the "clicker" that changes the PowerPoint screens during Sunday Worship.

#### Wanted...

#### PLAYGROUND TOYS NEEDED

We are in need of replacing some of our playground toys, like hot wheels or other small riding items. Items that are safe and in good working order could be donated or possibly found at garage sales.

#### Page 4 Page 5

paved with flat squirrels

9

The road

decision.

m

· wrong, make a decision.

Right or m

Be decisive. Right on who couldn't make

day:

0

fo

Thot

Womens

Bible

Study



# Sunday School News...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ...

#### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 15-17

Monday-Wednesday and concludes on Thursday the 18th with our "Big Kahuna" outing!



Living Word Lutheran Church invites kids from age 3 Years - 6th Grade to join us for

#### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!!

August 15 - 17th Monday- Wednesday 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.



The kids will see God's hand in Nature and Science! We will look at Why Water is important to life, Planting Seeds of Faith, God and Jesus is our Rock and Seeing God's love in Summer Storms and more!!

# Independence Day "Humour"...

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN To the citizens of the United States of America from Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

In light of your failure in recent years to nominate competent candidates for President of the USA and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective immediately. (You should look up 'revocation' in the Oxford English Dictionary.)

Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths, and territories (except Kansas, which she does not fancy).

We will appoint a Governor for America without the need for further elections. It will of course be someone of proper English lineage, such as Dame Judi Dench or Michael Caine, but most certainly not Simon Cowell.

Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire may be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

To aid in the transition to a British Crown dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

- 1. July 4th will no longer be celebrated as a holiday.
- 2. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'colour,' 'favour,' 'labour' and 'neighbour.' Likewise, you will learn to spell 'doughnut' without skipping half the letters, and the suffix '-ize' will be replaced by the suffix '-ise.' Generally, you will be expected to raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. (look up 'vocabulary').
- 3. Using the same twenty-seven words interspersed with filler noises such as "like' and 'you know' is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. There is no such thing as U.S. English. We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take into account the reinstated letter 'u'' and the elimination of '-ize.'
- 4. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using guns, lawyers, or therapists. The fact that you need so many lawyers and therapists shows that you're not quite ready to be independent. Guns should only be used for shooting grouse. If you can't sort things out without suing someone or speaking to a therapist, then you're not ready to shoot grouse.
- Therefore, you will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous than a vegetable peeler. Although a permit will be required if you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public.
- 6. All intersections will be replaced with roundabouts, and you will start

#### Page 6

# great. thatd there, living Stop plnoo g Ψ. today, house day: for

#### Page 7

driving on the left side with immediate effect. At the same time, you will go metric with immediate effect and without the benefit of conversion tables. Both roundabouts and metrication will help you understand the British sense of humour.

- The former USA will adopt UK prices on petrol (which you have been calling gasoline) of roughly \$10/US gallon. Get used to it.
- 8. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French fries are not real chips, and those things you insist on calling potato chips are properly called crisps. Real chips are thick cut, fried in animal fat, and dressed not with catsup but with vinegar.
- 9. The cold, tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not actually beer at all. Henceforth, only proper British Bitter will be referred to as beer, and European brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as Lager. South African beer is also acceptable, as they are pound for pound the greatest sporting nation on earth and it can only be due to the beer. They are also part of the British Commonwealth see what it did for them.

American brands will be referred to as Near-Frozen Gnat's Urine, so that all can be sold without risk of further confusion.

- 10. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as good guys. Hollywood will also be required to cast English actors to play English characters. Watching Andie Macdowell attempt English dialect in Four Weddings and a Funeral was an experience akin to having one's ears removed with a cheese grater.
- 11. You will cease playing American football. There is only one kind of proper football; you call it soccer. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which has some similarities to American football, but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full Kevlar body armour like a bunch of nancies).
- 12. Further, you will stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the World Series for a game which is not played outside of America. Since only 2.1% of you are aware there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable. You will learn cricket, and we will let you face the South Africans first to take the sting out of their deliveries.
- An internal revenue agent (i.e. tax collector) from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all monies due (backdated to 1776).
- 14. Daily Tea Time begins promptly at 4 p.m. with proper cups, with saucers, and never mugs, with high quality biscuits (cookies) and cakes; plus strawberries (with cream) when in season

God Save The Queen

#### 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 July—Sept Portals of Prayer are available mid-June in your mailbox or on the "free stuff" table.



Sermons can be found in on our Living Word YouTube channel (New London Living Word) at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VVIJEU22yCYxbhwig/videos



- June 5 "The Best Gift You Can Pray for God to Give"
- June 12 "A Great Example Dogs Set for Us!"
- June 19 "We Know We Should Be 'Holy' but Why?"
- June 26 "An Invitation from Jesus to Accept This Summer"

#### 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!

#### Page 8

Page 9

# Lutheran Island Camp...

# Charles Care

PRAYER

#### Has a FULL Summer Schedule !!!

The summer camp of the Minnesota North District congregations (like Living Word) is back in action with a full schedule this summer!

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

# 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:

- Our National Youth Gathering Attendees!
- Thanking God for His love in sending Jesus to die to set us free from sin!
- Thanking God for our Freedom (and all who serve to keep us free)!
- Thanking God for Roe v Wade being overturned!
- Healing for everyone who's had an abortion.
- Asking God's continued guidance for our Building Committee.
- Asking God to provide safe travel for all who are vacationing
- Thanking God for those elected in June to serve on our MMT.
- 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.
- 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)
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

# Thot for a day: "Normal" is just a setting

washing machine

m

8

### Mark Your Calendars...

#### Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, July 14th @ 6:30 p.m. Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

#### 5th—8th Grade Swimming Outing

SATURDAY, JULY9 (After Noon - Time TBA) at Miller's Bring a snack and a friend! Hot dogs and hamburgers are provided!

#### Trap-Shooting Fellowship 2022

We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of July with supper at 6:00 and shooting at 6:30



#### July Saturday Shoot:

July 23 Lunch at noon. Shooting from 12:30 - 1:30



REMINDER: Daily prizes!

Plus an end-of-the-year Grand Prize!

# **Building Committee...**

At our June meeting.

- We discussed the benefits of having a Feasibility Study conducted by Mark Davy and Associates. We will present this to the July MMT.
- We finalized details on investing \$40,000 of the Building Fund money in a 2-year CD @ 2 1/8% with Lutheran Church Extension Fund
- We reviewed an estimate for an electronic sign from Quick Signs
- We approved ordering 2 new entry doors for the building's south side.

We meet next on: Thursday, July 28 @ 6:30

#### Page 10 Page 11

-

serile

urily d

Wait, you're

your self.

You know you're serile when you start quoting don't know you're quoting yourself.

day:

for a

Thor

# Upcoming FUN Stuff...



- scheduled date.
- · Stingers' Game -July 24th

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

- + Reserved-Seat Game Ticket
- + All-you-can-eat Ballpark Buffet
- \*we need more people to sign up for the game & picnic



- Hinterland Vineyards
  - Saturday, August 6th



- Big Kahuna
- Thursday, August 18th

Talk to Marcia for details on any of these outings!

#### Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in July on the 1st and 3rd Sundays—July 3rd and July 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.



#### From the Lutheran Witness...

#### Celebrating our dependence

by Rosie Adle

Independence, Freedom, Autonomy, Self-determination, We salute these values as we wish our country another "happy birthday." And we don't just celebrate these priorities on a national level; they're personal, too. Our culture insists that we should strike out on our own, find ourselves, and define who we are. But what if all of this isn't as great as it sounds?

The flip side of independence is isolation. The flip side of freedom is friendlessness. The flip side of autonomy is every-man-for-himself.

So while we blow out the candles on dear USA's cake, we may revel in the fact that we are freer, more independent, and more autonomous than ever, but we should listen past the sparkling crackle of the fireworks to hear the booming truths of our time. We are more medicated for things like depression and anxiety than ever before. Illicit drug use and suicide rates continue to increase. We rack up debt not only as a nation but also as individuals. Our modern muskets are aimed, but the pursuit of happiness continues to feel like a hunt without a kill.

God did not create us for independence or autonomy. He created us to be His people, and this defines us. The freedom He grants is not the same as the world's "freedom."

In fact, our God is a triune God, and thus there is a community in the Godhead itself: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And we are created in God's image. When God created Adam, He said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him" (Gen. 2:18). God created Eve for Adam. He blessed mankind saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it" (Gen. 1:28). The first great commission is the apposite of independence — it is to create dependents. It also creates dependence, as family members are designed to rely upon one another.

Reading further, we see that the first humans to make a mad dash for autonomy weren't actually Americans. They were Adam and Eve, and it didn't go well for them. The deceiver tempted Eve to crave the wrong kind of freedom, to desire what God had forbidden. Adam sealed the self-defining deal and brought sin into the world. Freshly-fallen Adam and Eve were clothed in fur skins and sent off as colonists to a new world they wouldn't enjoy much on account of the cursed ground, thorns and thistles, pain and sweat.

Adam and Eve's attempt at "self-determination" did not live up to their

#### Page 12

AeM.

the

6

Got lost

steps.

my

Retraced

doing. I

saw. I forgot what I was doir I have no idea what's going

e, I s Now

I cam back.

Page 13

expectations. But God was merciful. The cure that God provided for Adam and Eve and their children was not "self-determination." but rather His own "re-determination" of them — and us — through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus.

This is the freedom found in Christ restoration to the divine community. The Holy Spirit is sent to guide us through the Son back to the Father. When we are baptized into God's name ("Father, Son and Holy Spirit") we are adopted into the heavenly family, along with all of the other saints. No longer independent. No longer self-determining or autonomous. Because of grace, we were then, and remain now, under God. That's worth celebrating!

#### Thank You...

If you have someone you'd like to offer thanks to, just email Scott at webmaster@livingwordlutheran.net

# The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



After reflecting on a national history of highs and lows., wars, victories, defeats, moments of national pride, and shames... Uncle Sam BURST INTO PRAISE, realizing the truth GOD'S GRACE IS OUR HOPE personally and as a NATION.

day: O for Thot

# July 2022 - Daily Readings

This month we accept Jesus' invitation to ""Come with me privately to an isolated place and rest a while." as we "get away" to spend time with Jesus reading the Gospel of Mark. We move to the Old Testament and read the book of Daniel to end the month.

July 3	Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior
July 4	Mark 1
July 5	Mark 2
July 6	Mark 3
July 7	Mark 4
July 8	Mark 5
July 9	Mark 6:1-29
July 10	Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior
July 11	Mark 6:30-56
July 12	Mark 7
July 13	Mark 8
July 14	Mark 9
July 15	Mark 10
July 16	Mark 11
July 17	Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior
July 18	Mark 12

July 19-	Mark 13
July 20	Mark 14:1-31
July 21	Mark 14:32-70
July 22	Mark 15
July 23	Mark 16
July 24	Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior
July 25	Daniel 1
July 26	Daniel 2
July 27	Daniel 3
July 28	Daniel 4
July 29	Daniel 5
July 30	Daniel 6
July 31	Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior
Aug 1	Daniel 7
Aug 2	Daniel 8
Aug 3	Daniel 9
Aug 4	Daniel 10
Aug 5	Daniel 11
Aug 6	Daniel 12

# July 2022 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 YOUTH GATHERING SEND-OFF  9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	4	5 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	Lord's Supple Sunday, J Sunday, J	uly 3rd	8	9 TBA 5th - Sth SWIMMING @ Miller's  NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING
9:00 - WORSHIP  NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING NATIONAL		12 YOUTH	6:00 TRAP SHOOT (With Brats, etc.).  GATHERING	14 Mission Mithistry  5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM  6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	15	16
9:00 - WORSHIP W/Communion  2:00 - GREEN LAKE CRUISE	18	19	20	21	22	NOON: TRAP SHOOT (with lunch)
9:00 - WORSHIP 4:00 - WILLMAR STINGERS PICNIC & GAME	25	26	6:00 TRAP SHOOT (With Brats, etc.).	28 6:30 BUILDING COMMITTEE	29	30
31 9:00 - WORSHIP	Aug 1	Aug 2	Aug 3	IN THE	De	

# 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!

#### Usher Schedule

July 6 Wendy & Lonny Robbin

July 10 Open July 17 Larry Levin June 24 Open July 31 Open

#### USHERS NEEDED AGAIN:

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

#### Elders

July 3, 10, Joe & Duane July 17, 24, 31 Steve

#### Custodian

Volunteers needed July Living Word Youth August

#### PowerPoint Operator

July 3	Will
July 10	Autumn
July 17	Alex
July 24	Kala
July 31	Carson

#### Page 18

question

m

wasn't

£

hope

and

I'll just laugh

ß

you,

couldn't hear

day

σ for Page 19

Nursery		Accompanying I	<u> Musicians</u>	
( Volunteers needed	- please	July 3	Sharon Willen	
talk to Mona H.)		July 10	ScottWachter	
		July 17	Pam Johnson	
Make A Meal Volun	teers	July 24	ScottWachter	
July Bonnie Han	sen	July 31	Open	
Altar Guild				

July Mona Hielle

# Spring Voter's Meeting....

... was held after worship on June 5. The Spring Assembly is our annual election to fill Mission and Ministry positions. We elected members to 2-year terms in the following positions:

Chairman - Tim Geer Vice Chair - (Position open) Stewardship (Position open) Secretary - Wendy Robbin Trustee - Lonny Robbin Elders Steve Wulf,

(two positions still open)

Christian Growth - Youth Violet Dauk & Sarah Olson

Community Outreach - Tammy Miller

Please thank these people for serving and keep them in your prayers!

# Seen on Church Signboards...

If we're not hungry for Jesus

It probably means we're TOO FULL . . . ( Of ourselves ! )

# July Discipleship Verse...



Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Romans 12:14

# Independence Day...

By Jason Inman from Life. Church

#### 4 Ways July 4th Can Be Like Freedom in Christ

July 4th reminds me of freedom in Christ. I promise, this isn't some smelly mixture of patriotism and Christianity. I just think there's some powerful imagery in Independence Day. Let me explain.

First, why does America celebrate the 4th of July? Something about apple pie, explosions in the sky, baseball games, and BBQ flames, right? No. On July 4, 1776, thirteen colonies in North America decided they were done



paying their taxes and over their allegiance to the King of England. Colonial leaders got together to write the Declaration of Independence and then sign it into being. The Revolutionary War had already begun, but this was a statement of unity and determination to gain freedom from England's rule. You might recognize this portion:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

- The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

#### So, here are 4 reasons July 4th reminds me of freedom In Christ.

- 1. It's a gift. For all living Americans, July 4th is a gift. We didn't earn it—we received it from the people who lived, led, and died to fight for it. Everyone who gets a gift has two questions. First, "Who is it from?" Second, "What does it do?" My freedom in Christ is from Jesus. I didn't earn it. He died for it. That's who it's from, but what does it do? Galatians 5:1 reminds me, it's for freedom we've been set free. What does my freedom do? Give more freedom. It's freedom for me, my marriage, my kids, my friends, my co-workers, and my neighbors. I was given this gift to share.
- It's a mid-war declaration. July 4, 1776 came only about a year after the revolutionary war began and about six years before it would finally end. Yet, it's the single most revered day of American history. This reminds me of battles we face. You may be fighting for your marriage,

#### Page 20

and

You just wait

procrastinating.

with

problem

ŝ

conquer

going to

뜶

really

day:

σ

for

Thot

Page 21

struggling financially, or just trying to raise godly kids. Either way, it may be time to make a mid-war declaration of your freedom in Christ.

- 3. It's a celebration of restoration. Remember apple pie, explosions in the sky, baseball games, and BBQ flames? All to celebrate liberty once lost—but now found. Humans love to celebrate finding lost things because we were made in God's image, and God parties big for restoration. Jesus told a story about this called the Prodigal Son. When the son came home, the Father killed his best cow and threw a party (<u>Luke 15:11-24</u>). Jesus even suggests angels celebrate in heaven when someone discovers freedom in Christ (<u>Luke 15:10</u>). And what happens when we all meet Jesus? A glorious supper (<u>Revelation 19:16-17</u>).
- 4. It's united. The Declaration of Independence was written by thirteen different colonies, but within the document, they are called "we." "We hold these truths to be self-evident ..." Jesus set you and me free as individuals, but we live out this freedom as His Church. One body with many parts (1 Corinthians 12:1-27). When your "I" becomes "we," it's amazing what we can accomplish.

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

Take Jesus up on His invitation:

"Come with me privately to an isolated place and rest a while." Mark 6:31

Get "away" with Jesus by reading through the Gospel of Mark this month! Take special note of the specific things Jesus has power over!

# Congratulations!...

2022 Grads!



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

#### Email Humor...

Note: This funny wasn't from Pastor David... but it could have been!

My wife claims I'm a baseball fanatic. She says all I ever read about is baseball. All I ever talk about is baseball. All I ever think about is baseball.

I told her she's way off base.

The Sunday school lesson for the day was about Noah's Ark, so the preschool teacher in our Kentucky church decided to get her small pupils involved by playing a game in which they identified animals.

"I'm going to describe something to you. Let's see if you can guess what it is. First: I'm furry with a bushy tail and I like to climb trees."

The children looked at her blankly.

"I also like to eat nuts, especially acorns."

No response. This wasn't going well at all!

"I'm usually brown or grey, but sometimes I can be black or red."

Desperate, the teacher turned to a perky four-year-old who was usually good about coming up with the answers.

"Michelle, what do you think?"

Michelle looked hesitantly at her classmates and replied, "Well, I know the answer has to be Jesus -- but it sure sounds like a squirrel to me!"

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?"

The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room."

A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy."

#### 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

http://tinyurl.com/5e2b8687



#### Page 22 Page 23

Sam

\$

ä

₩

get

ġ

and

ignore

listen,

multitasker.

m

٤

day:

#### LWML News...

#### LWML MEETING:

Due to busy summer schedules, LWML will not meet in May, June July, and August.

NEXT LWML MEETING: Wednesday, September 14th at 10:00a.m.

#### 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.

# 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 WEST FURNACE ROOM

#### Church Choir...

Is on summer break. Back in September!



# in all things

# Youth Gathering...

The <u>National Youth Gathering</u> is finally here!
- ON TO HOUSTON!

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this possible.

Please keep the Group in your prayers!

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

# A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Will you marry me? 'Til death do us part. I do. For better or for worse. In sickness and in health.

#### What do these phrases all have in common?

Well, we tend to associate all of them with commitment. While what they signify is important, at the end of the day, they're just words. Commitment can be present even without a formal ceremony or vows, and it can be absent even with those things. The game-changer is how you live out your commitment to each other—the actions and attitudes that reinforce the verbal expression. Here are

#### The obvious one - love, honor, and respect

five ways to show commitment.

This seems like a no-brainer. If it's something you do without even thinking about it, that's great! However, it's not uncommon to need a reminder every now and then. In those times, we make a choice to treat our spouse with love and respect even when we aren't necessarily feeling so loving toward each other. Intentionally loving each other, when you or your spouse are not at your best or when you're going through a tough season demonstrates the unconditional commitment that you expressed in your vows.

#### Investing in your relationship

This can take many forms. It could be doing premarital counseling or going to counseling even after you're married, It might be working on yourself to be a better spouse and supporting each other in doing so. It's prioritizing each other and your relationship through all the craziness that life throws at you. The general idea here is that you continue to put in the effort to grow together and strengthen your relationship, instead of becoming complacent. This shows that you care about the quality of your marriage just as much as the longevity.

#### Following through

It could be something as simple as calling when you said you would or completing a task you started. Or perhaps it's something bigger like working to become a better communicator or adjusting your spending habits to reach a financial goal. Whatever it may be, following through on the things you initiate is not only reflective of your ability to "walk the walk", it also shows your partner that their trust in you – and not letting them down – is important. Being dependable reinforces and strengthens this trust.

Page 24 Page 25

#### 25

#### Seeing the bigger picture during conflict

You're going to have conflict. But when you're committed to each other, that conflict is just a bump in the road on your bigger journey together – not a deal-breaker or something to be feared. You have a desire to work through it together, not just to get it over with, but for the better of your relationship in the long-term. Feeling secure in the fact that you're both all in, no matter what, can give you the perspective you need to resolve conflicts in more productive ways.

#### Showing commitment even when your partner isn't present

Commitment isn't just something you display when your partner is there to witness it. It also shows up in your actions around others. For example, instead of complaining about their negative qualities around your children, relatives, and friends, you hold each other in high regard and speak kindly of one another. Or you respect the privacy and boundaries of your relationship by not sharing private matters with others. Even when you're by yourself, you can live out your commitment by thinking of your spouse as you go about your day. Maybe you pick up their favorite dessert on your way home from work, or you turn down plans with a friend, because you know they wanted to spend some quality time together. Showing your commitment even when your spouse isn't present is a crucial part of living out your vows.

When we think about what goes into a strong marriage, our mind often goes to things like good communication or staying connected. And those things are very important. But underlying everything is commitment. We can express it through words, but our actions are what make it a sustaining force in our relationship.

# 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.

- Summer Worship Time (9:00)
- LIFE!
- National Youth Gathering Attendees!

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

That for a day: Always give 100%. Unless you're giving blood

#### Email Wisdom...

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison addresses the Supreme Court's Dobbs v. Jackson decision:

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Today is a monumental day, a day on which we simultaneously rejoice, pray, give thanks, lament, repent and weep. The Supreme Court reversed Roe v. Wade and returned the responsibility for protecting life to the states. "Held: The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; Roe and Casey are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives" (SCOTUS. Dobbs v. Jackson. 1).

"[The Lord] has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate" (Luke 1:52).

Today is also the Church's feast day, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. These two events are a happy convergence.

Today we celebrate the birth of the one who, before he was born, leaped in joyful Spirit-inspired confession when his mother met the mother of his unborn Lord. Today we take comfort in our Lord's unborn forerunner and in the unborn Savior. We also rejoice at the resounding victory for life in the United States. Many of us long doubted it would ever come. The Lord has had mercy upon us, even us, sinners all. even in these times.

Today we continue to speak out against the evil of abortion, which many will continue to practice and a dvocate in states bent on death. Many who have been misled by the father of lies and the culture of death greet this day with weeping and gnashing of teeth. Today we continue to sing that the Lord "has visited and redeemed his people" (Luke 1:68).

Today we pray for unborn children who remain unprotected in many states. Today, in many places, the abortion industry continues to kill unborn children and welcomes those from states where such killing is illegal. Today we take comfort that by the Lord's hand "we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us" (Luke 1:71).

Today we repent of our own lack of love for the least, the last and the lost, for mothers in need and families facing crises. Today we celebrate God's gift of the one He sent to "go before the Lord to prepare his

#### Page 26 Page 27

 $\sigma$ 

m

w

don't.

then

but

jogging,

going

I'm

ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins" (Luke 1:76–77).

Today we recommit to love all, unborn and born. Today we receive the sunrise from on high, "to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death" (Luke 1:79).

Today we proclaim: Repent and believe the Good News that Jesus Christ, conceived by the Spirit, formed in the womb and born of the virgin Mary, died and rose for sinners. That includes all of us. Today we give thanks for John who preached repentance and pointed to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

Today we lovingly invite all to listen to Jesus' call, "repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). If you have caused an abortion, the taking of life, there is forgiveness in Jesus! Don't be hardened in sin or advocate for more sins. Today you have hope in the One whose way John the Baptist prepared. Jesus is for sinners. Come join the rest of us forgiven sinners! Jesus is for you! You need not have a bad conscience! Repent and believe the Good News of God's love for you in Jesus.

Today we lament that the U.S. Supreme Court continues to deny the unborn the legally recognized right to life. Even though Roe v. Wade has fallen, states can still allow the killing of unborn children. Today we pray that more unborn will leap for joy in the womb, as St. John did.

Today, even as we rejoice, we weep that U.S. policy continues to promote abortion globally. Today we bend our knees in prayer.

O Lord, "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). The Lord preceded His Son, our Savior, with a forerunner. We pray that today's decision points ahead to the day when every state advances the cause of life and expands protections for unborn children.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Matthew C. Harris on
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

# For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. - 2 Timothy 4.3

Thot for a day: Every morning I announce the

# 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 July, October, November, & December. 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 July Makea-Meal volunteer Bonnie Hansen if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal.

#### We are also looking for a person to be the

<u>Make-a-Meal coordinator</u> - 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>

#### Page 28

know

they

over

take

the machines

that when

Alexa

8

"nok

"Thank

**Page 29** 

#### Custodian Volunteers Needed.

Pick Your Month for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian:

We are still in need of volunteers for...July, October, November and December. Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to sign up or find out more details.



Thanks to our National Youth Gathering attendees for covering the months of May, June, August and September!

# Story Behind The Song...

This July Fourth holiday, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," written more than 160 years ago in the early years of the Civil War, will be played by bands, marched to in parades, and, as it appears in 500 hymnals, will be sung in churches across the country.

Patriotic songs have the power to bring people together in a musical celebration of unity and love of country. But what do people sing when their country tears itself apart? That was the unhappy circumstance during the American Civil War, which lasted from 1861–1865. For four years, the fate of the country hung in the balance as two parts of America took aim at each other.

In 1860, American voters elected Abraham Lincoln as president. Although he personally hated slavery, Lincoln promised not to interfere with the slave system in southern states.

Most Southerners, however, were convinced his true goal was to end slavery and control the South. One by one these states seceded, or broke away, from the United States to form the Confederate States of America. As president, Lincoln felt duty-bound to fight to keep "the Union" together; the South vowed to fight for its independence.

In November 1861, a woman named Julia Ward Howe and her husband visited Washington, D.C. While there, Howe, a published poet, heard Union troops belting out a well-known marching song called "John Brown's Body," after the famous abolitionist, John Brown. A preacher standing with Howe encouraged her to write new lyrics to the tune.

"I replied that I had often wished to do so," Howe later wrote. "I...
awoke the next morning in the gray of the early dawn, and to my
astonishment found that the wished-for lines were arranging themselves in my brain. I lay quite still until the last verse had completed
itself in my thoughts, then hastily arose, saying to myself, I shall lose
this if I don't write it down immediately. I... began to scrawl the lines
almost without looking.... Having completed this, I lay down again and

# That for a day: I always:

fell asleep, but not before feeling that something of importance had happened to me."

That "something of importance" proved to be the words to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." In February 1862, she sold her poem to the Atlantic Monthly, a well-known magazine, for five dollars.+

It would prove to be one of the most influential publications in the history of the Atlantic Monthly. The "Battle Hymn" has inspired generations of activists.

For decades, listeners of evangelist Billy Graham's weekly radio program heard "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" during "The Hour of Decision."

On April 3, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rose to speak in support of striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee. "I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land," King announced. "And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man." And then he closed in his lyrical voice: "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." The next day he lay dying from an assassin's bullet. The last line that King ever spoke in public was from "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." It was a fitting finale to the life of a great American because the story of the "Battle Hymn" is the story of the United States.

The song is a hallowed treasure and a second national anthem. We have turned to it repeatedly in national crises. The "Battle Hymn" has inspired suffragists and labor organizers, civil rights leaders and novelists—like John Steinbeck in The Grapes of Wrath.

But most of all, the "Battle Hymn" is a warrior's cry and a call to arms. In the "Battle Hymn," there is no separation of church and state. The United States is a divine vessel propelled on the rough seas by the breath of God.

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

(Chorus)

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

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

#### Page 30

driving.

while

especially

믕

prevent

while

m

₽

ouce

short nap

1

day:

for a

Thot

Page 31

I have read a fiery gospelwrit in bumished rows of steel:
"As ye deal with my contemners, so with you my grace shall deal";
Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with his heel,
Since God is marching on. (Chorus)

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

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me.
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,[15]
While God is marching on. (Chorus)

Editor's note: No shortage of versions of this song, but one of my favorites is by Anthem Lights at <a href="https://youtu.be/9T-T4dCjWF0">https://youtu.be/9T-T4dCjWF0</a>
Here is a classic performance is by Johnny Cash with the Carter Family and the Statler Brothers at <a href="https://youtu.be/h23iFtcpkOU">https://youtu.be/h23iFtcpkOU</a>
BONUS MUSIC: To celebrate July 4th here are the Petersens performing the Star Spangled Banner <a href="https://youtu.be/mZA7r">https://youtu.be/mZA7r</a> DaCY

# The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

