



March 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

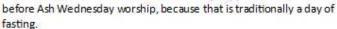
Email: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net Website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

Questions for Pastor...



What does the Bible say about Ash Wednesday and Lent?

Good question! It came after I had mentioned that it would be best not to have a soup supper



The short answer (really short!) is: Absolutely nothing.

Here's what the Christian Cyclopedia has to say about the origins of both:

From early days Easter was preceded by a period of preparation called Lent (which means "spring"), a period of penitential reflection. The custom of fasting (self-denial or "giving something up") during this time was started at an early date, but the length of the fast varied. Finally, the fast was extended to 40 days (excluding Sundays), based on the 40-day period of the Lord's temptation as recorded in Matthew 4:2. Ash Wednesday (so called from the custom of daubing the foreheads of worshipers on that day in a sign of penitence and human mortality) has been the 1st day of Lent since around the 6th century.

It's easy to get the idea that, just because "we always do it that way," that, somehow, it must have been commanded by God. In reality, there are lots of things we do in church that are human traditions that are (here's a new word for you): adiaphora. It comes from a Greek word that means "middle things." Things neither expressly commanded nor forbidden by God. In other words, ceremonies that fall under the category of Christian liberty.

We are not commanded to observe Lent. Rather, we choose to observe as a way to ensure that we never forget just how much Jesus gave up for us. We observe Lent to make sure we never forget why Jesus chose to give up His very life: Our sin.

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Ash Wednesday is patterned after passages in Joel chapter 2, Jonah chapter 3, and Luke chapter 10 (among others):

Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the Lord your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly." Joel 2:12-15

Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, but on sackcloth. Jonah 3:4-5

Jesus refers to the ashes associated with fasting and repentance:

"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes." Luke 10:13

So, while neither Lent nor Ash Wednesday are commanded in the Bible, they can be helpful traditions reminding us of the need for humble repentance and following in Jesus' footsteps of self-denial.

Thanks for asking! Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

"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.voutube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VVIJEU22yCYxbhwjg/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:

March 9th @ 10:00 a.m. Video and study. All are welcome.



Evening Women's Study @ 6:30

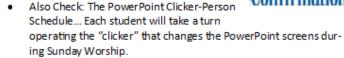
Meets two THURSDAYS during Lent March 17 and March 31 Violet Dauk will host the study at her home (5126 Co Rd 40 NE, New London). Violet will also host a time of prayer prior to the study at 5:45 for anyone who wants to come and pray.

Men's Study

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

Confirmation News

- Class meets Wednesday Mar 2 at 6:15
- The remainder of Lent. the 6:30 Lenten Devotion serves as confirmation class



Preparation for First Communion...

Our second meeting is Wednesday, March 23 for 5th & 6th Grade students. The students will have their first communion during the Maundy Thursday service on April 14. Please talk to Pastor David if you have questions.



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Sunday School News...



- March 6 "Temptation of Jesus" Luke
- March 13 "Jesus' Sadness for Jerusalem" Luke 13:31-35
- March 20 "Repent and Bear Fruit" Luke 13:1-9
- March 27 "Parable of the Lost Son" Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
- April 3 "Mary Anoints Jesus" John 12:1-8
- 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

The Baby Bottle Fundraiser for Hope Pregnancy Center concludes on til February 27, 2022 with matching funds through LCMS "MILLION DOLLAR LIFE MATCH."

Youth Gathering...



The NEXT National Youth Gathering (2022 in Houston)

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!

We have roughly \$5500 in our Youth Gathering account with a total needed by July 2022 of \$12,000.

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

Ash Wednesday...



Ash Wednesday begins the 40-day season of Lent. This year Ash Wednesday falls on March 2. Ashes symbolize humility, remorse over sin and repentance. Many times in the Old Testament we read about people who put on sackcloth and covered themselves in ashes to show their grief over sin and their desire to repent and turn back to

God. Ashes also suggest a need for cleansing, particularly the cleansing we celebrate at the end of Lent by the blood Jesus shed on Good Fri-

During our Ash Wednesday worship we each have a time to record our sins on a piece of paper. The confirmation students take those papers out and burn them, then they return with the ashes that are applied to our foreheads. This serves as a visual reminder that Jesus has taken our sins to the cross and paid for them there!

Please join us for worship at 7:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday

Lenten Services...



LENTEN DEVOTIONS

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

We will use the "Lord's Prayer" as a foundation for our Lenten devotions as we learn more about talking to God in prayer.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS are back !!!

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

March 9,16,23, 30 and April 6

If you would like to help by providing a soup or sandwich for any of these dates, there's a sign-up sheet at church. Or you can call Laurie Hanson @ 320-894-7075



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Mark Your Calendars...

Mission & Ministry Team...

Thursday, March 10th @ 6:30 p.m. Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

Who Can You Invite?

 Easter Celebration for Kids Saturday, April 9 (More details under "Sunday School News")

"Christ in the Passover" Sunday evening, April 10 Liz Goldstein from Jews for Jesus will again present how the Old Testament festival of Passover points ahead to - and is ultimately fulfilled by - Jesus! The presentation will follow a meal that includes the traditional Passover foods such as lamb.

Maundy Thursday (First Communion) Thursday, April 14

Friday, April 15 **Good Friday**

Easter Sunday, April 17

Communion Notes...



The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in March on Ash Wednesday - March 2, as well as on the normal First and Third Sundays - March 6 and 20.

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.

Church Mice







BUT EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE





The Link...

February 2022 Updates

January was a quieter month for The Link, which has been nice to settle and get into a routine. We are now planning for MN Food-

Share month, which starts February 28 and runs through April 10th.

The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over 18 million dollars to March Campaign participating food shelves throughout the state via the Minnesota FoodShare FoodFund. This fund includes donations secured year-round from corporations, individuals, foundations, and businesses. 100% of donations received by Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign go into the FoodFund and are distributed to March Campaign participating food shelves. For more information on the Minnesota FoodShare, visit www.mnfoodshare.org.

The Community Revival Boutique and Thrift Store Volunteers Needed!!! We are in need of more volunteers!!! The Store hours are Wednesday-Friday 10am-3pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer on a regular basis in a fun, fast paced environment, please contact Shawna at 320-347-1047 or stop in during store hours. We have a lot of different jobs available from sorting and pricing donations to opening the store and running the till.

Donations of clothing and most household items are being taken Wednesdays-Fridays 10-3 and Saturdays from 10-2 (or by appointment). Please call if you have any questions about when/where to drop off items and if there is a need for any of your bigger household items.

In January, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 9 new families, served 31 children, 75 adults and 20 seniors. 2814 pounds of food was distributed and 341 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches. Food Rescue also brought in 2561 pounds of food from Cashwise and ALDI. We are currently also in need of more Food Pantry volunteers for Thursday afternoons. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in volunteering 12-2:30 any Thursdays available, please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555.

The Wildcat Backpack Program- Each week, 2 kids from the High School come pack backpacks and deliver them to each school. So far, there are approximately 50 kids that are utilizing this program weekly. If you would like to donate any food for this program or if you know someone that would benefit from utilizing the program, please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555 for more information.

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Senior Food Delivery- The Senior Food Delivery program is designed to deliver food to anyone that is homebound. 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 and Household Exchange programs served 8 families in the month of January. Throughout the month, The Link was able to help with utility bills, gas for medical appointments and furniture items such as beds, living room furniture, kitchen appliances, dishes and dining room furniture for families just getting back on their feet.

Tuesday's Table:

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

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.



Thot for a day: By re little

Church Choir...

Please join us for practice after worship February 27



(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 WEST FURNACE ROOM



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when it got stepped on? Nothing - but it let out a little

Church

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Inspiration from the Internet...

Bob and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team. The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the 9th inning with two outs. They continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate whose name was Love. Love swung at the first pitch and hit a single because Love never fails.

The next batter was named Faith, who also got a single because Faith works with Love. The next batter up was named Godly wisdom. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass: Ball one. Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked because Godly wisdom never swings at what Satan throws.

The bases were loaded. The Lord then turned to Bob and told him He was now going to bring in His star player. Up to the plate stepped Grace. Bob said, "He sure doesn't look like much!" Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace.

Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen. But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by. He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on the ground; then it continued over the fence for a home run!

The Lord's team won. The Lord then asked Bob if he knew why Love, Faith, and Godly Wisdom could get on base but could not win the game. Bob answered that he did not know why. The Lord explained, "If your love, faith and wisdom had won the game you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, faith and wisdom will get you on base,...but only My Grace can get you home. My Grace is the one thing Satan cannot steal.

Community Outreach...

We are looking to do a community-involved "blessing" of some kind in April or May. We've been thinking about a "Blessing of our Emergency workers" or something similar. We're trying to find what seems appropriate to these times in our community in which we can bless those that bless us.

Ideas? Any one interested in assisting the effort?

Please contact Tammy Miller 320.905.2434 (Text, call or talk to me in church)

March 2022 - Daily Readings

Our Midweek Lenten Devotions are focused on the request: "Lord, teach us to pray,"

Beginning the first full week of March we will read examples of types of prayers from the Bible.

Week of Feb 27 Daily Readings

eb 28	John 19	
ar 1	John 20	
ar 2	John 21	
ar 3	Joel 1	
ar 4	Joel 2	
ar 5	Joel 3_	
	Week of March 6 Daily Readings Pray	vers of Intercession
ar 7	Genesis 18:20-33	
ar 8	Exodus 32:11-13, 31-32	
ar 9	Daniel 9:4-19	
ar 10	John 17:6-26	
ar 11	Ephesians3:14-20	
ar 12	Colossians 1:9-12	
	Week of March 13 Daily Readings Pray	vers of Gratitude
ar 14	1 Chronicles 29:10-20	
ar 15	Relevation 11:15-19	

Mar 16	John 11:38-44	
Mar 17	Psalm 118	
Mar 18	Psalm 138	
Mar 19	Daniel 2:19-23	
	Week of March 20 Daily Readings	Prayers of Confession
Mar 21	Ezra9:5-15	
Mar 22	Nehemiah 1:4-11	
Mar 23	Psalm 51	
Mar 24	Psalm 130	
Mar 25	Psalm 38	
Mar 26	Psalm 143	
	Week of March 27 Daily Readings	Prayers of Praise
Mar 28	Psalm 103	
Mar 29	Ephesians 1:3-14	
Mar 30	1 Peter 1:3-9	
Mar 31	Revelation 7:9-12	
Apr 1	Luke 1:68-79	
Apr 2	Psalm30	

March 2022 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - CHOIR PRACTICE	Feb 28	1 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	2 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:15 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP w/ communion	3	Ash Wedn Sunday, N Sunday, N	esday—March 2 Iarch 6th
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	7	6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	9 10:00 LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 5:30-6:20 SOUP SUPPER 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION (Also serves as confirmation class)	5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	11	12
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	14	15 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	16 5:30-6:20 SOUP SUPPER 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION (Also serves as confirmation class)	6:30 WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY @ Violet Dauk's	18	19
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	21	6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	5:30 - 1* Communion Class 5:30-6:20 SOUP SUPPER 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION (Also serves as confirmation class)	24	25	26
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	28	29 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	5:30-6:20 SOUP SUPPER 6:30 -LENT DEVOTION (Also serves as confirmation class)	6:30 WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY @ Violet Dauk's	April 1	April 2

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-

Please sign up at church on the

choose which type of ushering

table by the door (you can

you are interested in)!

ple at the door as well as to

usher people to the altar for

communion.

Joe & Duane

Jason & Ed

Usher Schedule

Ash Wed Open

Mar 6 Wendy & Lonny Robbin

Mar 13 Open

Mar 20 Larry Levin

Mar 27 Open

Scripture Readers

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

Elders

Mar 2 (Ash Wed), 6, 13

Mar 20, 27

Joe & Duane Apr 3, 10

Apr 14 (Maundy Thursday), 17, 24 Jason & Ed

Custodian

March Wendy & Lonny Robbin April Volunteer Needed

Nursery

(Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

PowerPoint Operator

Ash Wed Will Dahl

Mar 6 Rya Sharp

Mar 13 Jonah Sharp

Mar 20 Kala Sharp

Mar 27 Alex Meis

Mar 20 Kala Sharp

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attention

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Make A Meal Volunteers

Mar Jamie & Laurel Iverson

Accompanying Musicians Ash Wed Open

Mar 6 Sharon Willen

Altar Guild Mar 13 Scott Wachter Mar Mona Hielle

Mar 20 Pam Johnson

Mar 27 Open

Thank You...

- To all the guys who helped with Friendship Sunday meal
- To Joe Johnson for keeping our parking lot plowed
- To Wendy & Lonny for being Custodians in February
- To the Confirmation students for operating the PowerPoint in
- To Laurie Hanson for organizing the Lenten Soup Suppers
- To Marcia Welsh for another great Bingo day

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

Seen on Church Signboards...

Don't Have a Prayer? Free Refills Inside I

March Discipleship Verse...



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests Philippians 4:6 to God.

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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 :

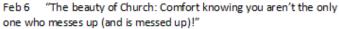
- Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- Today's Light Devotional Bible
- 100 or so Key Chapter Bible Reading Booklets
- The Jan-March Portals of Prayer are available in

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

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



Feb 13 "Why Jesus is your best friend - and what you can do about it!"

Feb 20 "Forgiveness: What it is- and what it isn't!"

Feb 27 "Why all four Gospels tell of this mountaintop event!"

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:

- Asking God to show you what He'd have you "give up" (or take up) for Lent
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did with sacrifice
- Thanking God for getting us through the worst of winter.
- 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.
- Asking God for the faith to stand for His Truth like Daniel's 3 friends did!
- 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

Thot for a day:

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Having kids changes your relationship.

It's probably not the first time you've heard this, and you've probably have experienced it yourself. We often hear about the negatives – how you have so much less time and energy to focus on each other, how easy it is to become disconnect-



ed, how if you're not careful you can end up like roommates instead of spouses. Yes, these things are a reality for many couples at some point, but fortunately, it's not the whole story. There are a lot of positive ways that your relationship changes when you become parents, too. Let's explore some ways it can bring you closer.

A shared purpose solidifies a team mindset.

If you already felt like a team before kids and/or you understand the importance of acting as a team in parenting, then adding a new member to your family can strengthen that mentality even more. You'll learn to play to your individual strengths as you juggle the load of new responsibilities and adjust the old ones. On a deeper level, you might feel a strong sense of unity and purpose in nurturing, protecting, and raising your children to the very best of your ability. It's a humbling, sometimes overwhelming realization, but it can also strengthen the bond between you and your spouse.

You'll need to get on the same page.

If there were some issues you didn't see eye to eye on before kids, you may have been able to agree to disagree and leave it at that. But you'll likely find that parenthood sort of forces you to get aligned, at least on the big issues. Whether it's family boundaries, rules and discipline, spirituality, or where they'll go to school, you'll need to have conversations about the contentious topics you'd previously put off. In doing so, you might find that you're actually more aligned than you thought. Or you may need to be creative in coming to a compromise and gain a better understanding of each other's perspectives.

You'll be vulnerable with each other.

With your first child, you and your spouse are entering unfamiliar territory. You'll face physical, mental, and emotional challenges both individually and as a couple. Maybe you've always been really independent, and now you find yourself needing more help; maybe you're usually pretty stoic, and now you're feeling all the feelings. You grow closer by allowing yourselves to be vulnerable with each other—giving yourself and your partner permission to break down, struggle, cry, or whatever you need to do. And it doesn't end when you're out of the

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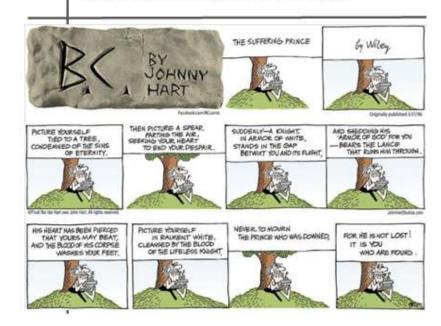
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hazy newborn stage. As your kids grow, you'll both face new experiences alongside them—worrying like crazy when they break a bone, adjusting to their growing independence as teenagers, and eventually sending them out on their own. Staying open and honest with each other about your worries, fears, or anxieties about parenting keeps you connected throughout the journey.

You'll support each other in new ways.

You've probably supported each other in many areas of life — through job searches, tough financial times, health issues, the list goes on. Parenting is another aspect of your relationship that thrives when you both feel supported by each other. However, it's not always easy figuring out what that looks like when you're both dealing with new physical and emotional demands. It will be a learning process, and you'll need to be flexible, as you figure out what you need from each other in this new chapter of life. You'll get practice in communicating your needs and responding to your partner's while adapting to change, which builds relationship resilience.

Becoming parents transforms your relationship, and that transformation is dynamic. You'll experience ups and downs (even at the same time), and it can all seem a bit out of your control – but it doesn't have to be. With a bit of awareness and intention, you and your spouse can ultimately strengthen your bond throughout the various stages of parenting (yes, even those sleep-deprived newborn days!)



Fmail Wisdom...

DANCING WITH GOD

When I meditated on the word Guidance, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing.

When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and ierky.

When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another.

It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully.

The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

Then my eyes drew back to the word Guidance.

When I saw "G": I thought of God, followed by "U" and "I."

"God, "u" and "j" dance."

God, You and I dance.

As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead.

Let's DANCE!

***Editor's note: This kind of reminds me of a great Chris Tomlin song: "God's Great Dance Floor" https://youtu.be/IX5139rmgGw

Request From LCMS...

Do you know any young man who would make a great pastor?

How about someone who would be a great Lutheran school teacher, deaconess or DCE?

Jesus gives His church people who work full time in service to the Gospel. He told us to pray for such workers. The LCMS continues to pray, and has begun Set Apart to Serve (SAS), an intentional effort to encourage young people to consider church work as their career. Your opinion can help improve SAS. Please fill out a brief survey at lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve-survey by March 15, and let us know how you think SAS can be beneficial to your congregation. Thank you.

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Email Humor... Page 23

MISINTERPRETATIONS

- ~ When my twin daughters were young, I taught them to say the Lord's Prayer before going to bed. As I listened outside their door, I could hear them say, "Give us this steak and daily bread, and forgive us our mattresses."
- ~ My son, who is in nursery school, said, "Our Father, who art in Heaven, how didja know my name?"
- ~ I remember thinking it said "Give us this day our jelly bread."
- ~ When I was younger, I believed the line was "Lead a snot into temptation." I thought I was praying for my little sister to get into trouble
- ~ When my husband was 6 years old, he thought the Apostles' Creed said "He suffered under a bunch of violets." The real words were "under Pontius Pilate." but at that age, he didn't know better. To this day, we still snicker in church whenever the Apostles' Creed is read.
- ~ I recall reading something years ago about the Pledge of Allegiance. Some child thought it began, "I led the pigeons to the flag."
- ~ When I was little, I often wondered who Richard Stands was. You know: "I pledge allegiance to the flag. And to the republic for Richard Stands."
- ~ When my older brother was very young, he always walked up to the church altar with my mother when she took communion. On one occasion, he tugged at her arm and asked, "What does the pastor say when he gives you the bread?" Mom whispered something in his ear. Imagine his shock many years later when he learned that the pastor doesn't say, "Be quiet until you get to your seat."

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 sen-



tence to encourage people who drive past to remember that God is the giver of all good things - especially things we take for granted.

- Finally, the last week of February:
- "Thank God it's finally warm enough to change the sign!"

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

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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 March & April. 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 March 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.

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 smile.amazon.com purchases to Living Word. Use this link to have your purchases support Living Word: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1513306

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Story Behind The Song...

Living Hope

We are going to switch things up and talk about a fairly new song this month... "Living Hope". This song is appropriate as we reflect on what Jesus has done for us as we enter this season leading to Easter.

"Living Hope" is a song by American contemporary Christian musician Phil Wickham. The song was released as the lead single from the album of the same name on March 30, 2018. Wickham cowrote the song with Brian Johnson (of Bethel Music), and collaborated with Ed Cash (of We The Kingdom), and Jonathan Smith in the production of the song.

The song was written via text messages. Johnson sent a voice memo for the melody, with the two sending their ideas back and forth until it was finished.

Wickham describes what the track means to him in a video, "Brian Johnson (Bethel Music) and I started writing a song over text. Over the course of a month or so, we threw lyrics and voice memos back and forth. As we continued writing, every new line felt like a victory. The result of all of those text messages was 'Living Hope.' I remember both of us feeling that something special had been given to us. After we finally landed on the third verse – again, all through text message – there was a pause. I saw those three little dots that come up when you know someone else is writing, and Brian simply said, 'dude, this is amazing.' God has rescued us from a place that we could never have rescued ourselves. Our future was death, but Jesus came in and brought life – a living hope – into our souls and into our lives. I love singing the truth of 'Living Hope,' and this song has already become an anthem at both of the churches where we lead. I hope anybody who gets to hear it not only sings along, but their hearts' cling to it as well."

Watch this video of Phil at https://youtu.be/YhMf5gotNeQ

"Living Hope" is based on scriptures... He is holy, innocent, and undefiled and He rose again according to the power of an indestructible life (Hebrews 7:16, 26). He came forth from the grave once and for all, never to die again (Romans 6:9). This is our confidence. This is our hope.

It begins with a scene of desperation; it depicts the place you and I were in when we were dead in our sin. It's a place that is real. It's separation. It's loss. It's in many ways hopeless...a stark contrast which is brilliantly shattered by the Living Hope. Worship is a place of remembrance and reminding ourselves that Christ has saved us from something truly devastating. Something so great, it would separate us from

day: You're getting old when you don't care where have to go along.

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God if we had not turned towards Christ. What then unfolds throughout the song is the realization of the finished work of Jesus. What constitutes this hope? ...boundless grace and great mercy. Christ steps down from His exalted place to become the lowest of the low. He takes our place out of obedience to the Father. Because of His sacrificial act, He is exalted (Philippians 2:9). Hymn-like in its design, "Living Hope" does speak of grace but it packages it within the context that Jesus didn't go to the cross for nothing. The third verse of this song is like declaring Easter morning all over again. When hell thought that the end was in sight, that Christ was dead and buried and no more, the Roaring Lion appeared. We, by default, share in His resurrection.

LIVING HOPE

How great the chasm that lay between us How high the mountain I could not climb In desperation, I turned to heaven And spoke Your name into the night Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness Tore through the shadows of my soul The work is finished, the end is written Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such boundless grace? The God of ages stepped down from glory To wear my sin and bear my shame The cross has spoken, I am forgiven The King of kings calls me His own Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever Jesus Christ, my living hope

[Chorus]

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me You have broken every chain There's salvation in Your name Jesus Christ, my living hope Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me You have broken every chain There's salvation in Your name Jesus Christ, my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise Your buried body began to breathe Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion

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in my says, Declared the grave has no claim on me Then came the morning that sealed the promise Your buried body began to breathe Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion Declared the grave has no claim on me Jesus, Yours is the victory, whoa! [Chorus]

Jesus Christ, my living hope Oh God, You are my living hope

Editor's note: Here is the official video of this song by Phil Wickham. Watch at https://youtu.be/u-1fwZtKJSM

This song has been sung by many artists. One of my favorite versions is by the group, This Hope at https://youtu.be/II7xK55x6fM

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



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