

Let us then approach
God's throne of grace
with confidence, so that
we may receive mercy
and find grace to help
us in our time of need.

-Hebrews 4:16

May 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...

I heard the Building Committee is up and running again. What are they working on?

Re-starting our Building Committee was one of the 2022 Goals of the Elders' Team. Indeed, a committee has been formed and has met once in March and once in April. Our committee members are:



Lara Dahl, Joe Johnson, Dan Miller, Brady Sharp, Kevin Welsh, Steve Wulf with Pastor David as the Pastoral Advisor.

The Committee has addressed four basic topics to this point

#### CURRENT BUILDING NEEDS:

The Committee is checking on:

- Cost estimate to replace siding damaged by hail last year. (An
  estimate is needed in order to receive the remaining funds from the
  hail-insurance claim.
- Tightening loose screws on the metal roofing
- . The feasibility of replacing the latch mechanism on the front doors
- Installing lights that will illuminate the parking lot at night

#### CURRENT MORTGAGE LOAN: (Approx. remaining \$33.3K)

The Committee is checking into:

 The cost-savings of paying the mortgage off with funds currently in the Building Account vs. investing those funds in a CD.

#### ST JOHN'S ATWATER BUILDING OPPORTUNITY

The Committee was approached by St. John's Lutheran to see if we have any interest in the building they had used when they operated a K-8 school. The building would be available for \$1 and (obviously) would have to be moved. The Committee discussed possibility of utilizing the building

## Page 3

for use by our youth, but decided against pursuing the move due to the costs of moving, etc...

#### NEW SANCTUARY

The Committee is "Getting the ball rolling" on this by

- Researching lenders and current rates for building loans.
- Researching approximate building cost/square foot
- Contacting a capital fundraising person to come talk about their program.

They ask that you keep them in your prayers for God's guidance every step of the way, so that their decisions will lead to God receiving glory through people growing in their faith and by growing the numbers of people we reach for Jesus.

> Thanks for asking! Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

# Son'rise Service Easter Morning, 2022



# 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:

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



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

Wednesdays at 6:30

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...

#### Sunday School Lessons for May:

May 1 - "Saul's Conversion" Acts 9:1-20

May 8 - Mother's Day!!

May 15 - "Jesus and the Miracle of Fish" John 21:1-14

May 22 - Last Day of Sunday School! "Great Commission/Jesus Prepares to Leave" Matt. 28:16-20; John 13:31-35

#### Special Events on the Last Day of Sunday School (May 22):

+ We'll have a special appreciation for our teachers during worship

+ We'll celebrate the year with a Picnicwith games and Knockerball after the picnic!



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# Confirmation News...

 Be Sure to Check: The PowerPoint Clicker-Person Schedule... Each student will take a turn operating the "clicker" that changes the PowerPoint screens during Sunday Worship.



 We're on our regular schedule (6:15 Wednesday class) in May.

 We'll finish this year's classes this month with our Year in Review Test on May 17.

 Adopt-A-Highway - May 24. We need parents to help and drive.



# 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!

A HUGE "Thank You" to everyone who donated their services to be auctioned and everyone who supported our Youth by bidding!

We raised \$2550 at the Auction!!!

+++

Our youth will be taking on the Custodial duties at church during May, June, August and September!

Youth attending: Chap
Noah Miller,
Levi Miller,
Zoe Rustad,
Lexi Macik

Alison Sarsland.

Chaperones:

Becky Sarsland, Mike Macik Jason Miller.



# The Link...

#### APRIL 2022 UPDATES:

Things have been busy at The Link as The Food Pantry has seen an increased need as well as Client Outreach services. We also just

wrapped up MNFood Share where we raised 2,082 pounds of food and \$12,794. We have also been busy planning RibFest 2022!!!! RibFest has been scheduled for Saturday, June 11th and will take place in the large city parking lot behind The Link!!! We are excited to try out a new space and have access to our building at our finger tips! Stay tuned for more information

In March, The Food Pantry welcomed 12 new families, served 38 children, 81 adults and 22 seniors, 2697 pounds of food was distributed and 311.5 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches. Food Rescue also brought in 1805 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, 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.

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 March. 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.

The Community Revival Boutique and Thrift Store Volunteers Needed!!! We do have a specific need for regular Saturday volunteers (which could be anything from once a month to every Saturday). 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-

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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.

Volunteer Hours totaled 421 for the month of March! The work that is done at The Link and Community Revival would not be possible without the dedication to all of our faithful volunteers willing to give their time! Thank you is not enough....we are grateful to each and every one of you!!!

#### Tuesday's Table:

Tuesday's Table may be back soon. Talk of starting it up again is in the works. If you would like to participate this year, please let Ashley know.

#### 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.



# Community Outreach...

We are hosting an

"Emergency Workers Appreciation Day and Blessing"

Saturday, 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!

Everyone is encouraged to come and thank our emergency workers in person,

# Upcoming FUN Stuff...

• Hempker Zoo -June 11th





- Green Lake Cruise- June 26th
- Stingers' Game -July 24th

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

- + Reserved-Seat Game Ticket
- + All-you-can-eat Ballpark Buffet





Hinterland Vineyards - August 5th

• Big Kahuna -August 18th



Talk to Marcia for details on any of these outings!



#### **GAME NIGHT**

@ Larry Levin's Tuesday, May 10 @ 6:00

We'll shoot some pool and test out Larry's new shuffleboard table!

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# Mark Your Calendars...

#### Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, May 12th @ 6:30 p.m. Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

#### Spring Voter's Assembly

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

- Chairman Tim Geer
- Stewardship (Position open)
- Secretary Tammy Miller
- Trustee (position open)
- Elders (three): Steve Wulf, (two positions open)
- Christian Growth Youth (position open)
- Community Outreach (position open)

We need suggestions for people to fill the open positions. If you have members you'd like us to consider for either position, please give their names to an Elder or Mission and Ministry Team member.

#### **Building Committee**

Meets next on Thursday, May 26 @ 6:30

#### Trap-Shooting Fellowship 2022

Planning Meeting on Tuesday, May 3 @ 6pm.



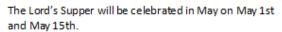
#### Adopt-a-Highway

Wednesday, May 25
We will leave from church at 6:00



We need drivers and a minimum of 8 people in order to complete the cleanup in an hour. Please sign up at church.

## Communion Notes...





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.

## Email Humor...

#### Old Tractor

A little girl was watching her daddy repair his tractor.

She asked her mother, "What happens to old tractors when they finally

Sighing, her mother answered: "Someone sells them to your father, dear."

\*\* Pastor's Note: You can easily substitute "cars," "trucks," or just about anything else for "tractors" in this funny :)

#### ..... Ice Fishing

A couple Congressmen from warmer climates loved to fish, so they wanted to try ice fishing.

They took off up to Minnes ota and found a nice, big frozen lake with a little bait shop nearby where they got all their tackle - including a sturdy ice pick.

About an hour later, one of them was back at the shop and bought another ice pick. In another hour the Congressman was back, and said, "We're going to need all the ice picks you got."

The bait man said, "Well, OK -- How are you doing out there?"

"Not very well at all," said the Congressman. "We don't even have the boat in the water vet."

#### Freezer Order

I have my own system for labeling homemade freezer meals.

Forget about calling them "Veal Parmigiana" or "Turkey Loaf" or "Beef Pot Pie."

If you look in my freezer you'll see "Whatever," "Anything," "I Don't Know," "Whatever's Easy" and, my favorite, "Food."

That way when I ask my husband what he wants for dinner, I'm know I'll have exactly what he wants!"

# "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

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# 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.

#### LWML MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT CONVENTION:

June 20-22nd at Courtyard by Marriot in Moorhead, Minnesota.

# Church Clean-up...

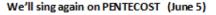
You can sign up to take on any of these "cleaning" projects. They can be completed any time that works for you (there won't be a designated "Clean Up Day").



CLEAN / ORGANIZE WEST FURNACE ROOM

## Church Choir...

Please join us for practice after worship on May 22nd and May 29th



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



#### 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/y6myavcw



# May 2022 - Daily Readings

We begin looking at God's work through people in difficult situations. We end with a week of readings about 40-day periods of testing God used to prepare people for something new and big!

y 1							
	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed						
y 2	Esther 1-3 (Esther, Mordecai & the Jews)						
/ 3	Esther 4-7 (Esther, Mordecai & the Jews)						
1	Esther 8-10 (Esther, Mordecai & the Jews)						
5	John 13-16 (Jesus preparing disciples for His death)						
6	Matthew 26-27 (Jesus' arrest, trial & death)						
y 7	John 20-21 (Jesus' Resurrection)						
	Philippians 4 (Keys to Peace and Joy)						
	300/13 #9#09010 w 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 4 1 1 1 1 1 4 1						
10							
	Genesis chs 37 & 39 (Joseph)  Genesis chs 40 & 41 (Joseph)						
11	Genesis chs 37 & 39 (Joseph)						
11	Genesis chs 37 & 39 (Joseph)  Genesis chs 40 & 41 (Joseph)						
11 12 13	Genesis chs 37 & 39 (Joseph)						
11 12 13 14	Genesis chs 37 & 39 (Joseph)  Genesis chs 40 & 41 (Joseph)  Genesis chs 42 & 43 (Joseph)  Genesis 44:1-46:7 (Joseph)  Genesis 49:29-33 & 50:15-21 (Joseph)						
11 12 13 14	Genesis chs 37 & 39 (Joseph)  Genesis chs 40 & 41 (Joseph)  Genesis chs 42 & 43 (Joseph)  Genesis 44:1-46:7 (Joseph)						

May 18	Acts 12:1-19 (The anger and Peter)
May 19	Acts 16:16-40 (The angel and Paul)
May 20	Acts 27:1-28:10 (Paul aboard ship)
May 21	Judges 6:1-7:24 (Gideon)
May 22	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
May 23	2 Kings 22:1-23:25 (King Josiah)
May 24	2 Chronicles 6:12-7:21 (The temple dedicated)
May 25	Psalm 103 ("Bless the Lord who heals your diseases")
May 26	Luke 2:1-21 (Joseph and Mary)
May 27	Matthew 1:14-2:23 (Joseph)
May 28	Acts 9:1-25 (Paul and Ananias)
May 29	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
May 30	Genesis 6-7 (40 days of rain)
May 31	Genesis 8-9 (40 days after land is visible post-flood)
June 1	Exodus 24 - 25:8 & 31:12-18 (Moses' 40 Days w/God)
June 2	Exodus 32 (Israel makes a Golden calf during Moses' 40 days)
June 3	Exodus 33-34 (Moses' 2" 40 Days with God)
June 4	Numbers 13-14 (40 Days exploring the Promised Land)

# May 2022 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	2	6:00 - TRAP SHOOT PLANNING 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6:15 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY @ Violet Dauk's	Lord's Suppe  Sunday, M Sunday, M	ay 1st	7 10:00 EMT BLESSING
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	9	10	6:15 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY @ Violet Dauk's	5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	13	14
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT BIBLE STUDY  10:00- WORSHIP w/Communion	16	17 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6:15 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY @ Violet Dauk's	19	20	21
22 LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - CHOIR PRACTICE & SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC	23	24 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6:00 - ADOPT-A-HIWAY 6:30 - WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY  @ Violet Dauk's	6:30 BUILDING COMMITTEE	27	28
29 SUMMER WORSHIP TIME BEGINS 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - CHOIR PRACTICE	30	31 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4

# 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

May 1 Wendy & Lonny Robbin

May 8 Open

May 15 Larry Levin

May 22 Open

May 29 Open

#### Scripture Readers

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

#### Elders

May 1, 8, Joe & Duane May 15, 22, 29 Jason & Ed

#### Custodian

May Living Word Youth June Living Word Youth

#### Nursery

( Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

#### PowerPoint Operator

May 1 Matti

May 8 Rya

May 15 Jonah

May 22 Will

May 29 Autumn

June 5 Alex

June 12 Carson

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Make A Meal Volunteers
May Linda Dilley

Mona Hjelle

Altar Guild

May

Accompanying Musicians
May 1 Sharon Willen

May 8 ScottWachter May 15 Pam Johnson

May 22 Open May 29 Open



Summer Worship Time: 9:00 a.m.

Begins Memorial Weekend, Sunday, May 29 (And runs through Labor Day Weekend)

# Congratulations to these 5-6th Graders who took their First Communion on Maundy Thursday:

Toby Arends-Schmidt Carter Foshaug Kjirsten Hansen Parker Hjelle Troy Sarsland Evelyn Wright



# Seen on Church Signboards...

Need a Sign That God Loves You?

Okay, Here It Is:

"God Loves You!"

# May Discipleship Verse...

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:16

# Thot for a day:

#### 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)!

# 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:

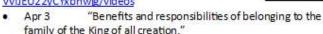
- Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- Today's Light Devotional Bible
- 100 or so Key Chapter Bible Reading Booklets
- The April—June Portals of Prayer are available

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





- Apr 10 "Having the right expectations are a key to life.
   Here's what we can expect from Jesus..."
- Maundy Thursday "What makes Communion such a "Big Deal"
- First Communion
- Good Friday "Jesus on the cross answered part of what we pray in the Lord's Prayer: Deliver us from evil."
- Easter "Why we can confidently say, Amen."
- Apr 24 "Recalling how God worked through the lockdown"

#### 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.

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# Page 19 Prayer...

#### Remember to use "The Prayer Force"

Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email (<u>pastor@livingwordlutheran.net</u>) 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!
- Thanking God for another Sunday School season and all the teachers, students and folks who brought the students
- Thanking God for all Emergency Workers and asking God to protect them, give them strength and wisdom
- 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.
- 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

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# A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Do you ever feel like you're failing in various aspects of marriage? If so, you're not alone. Marriage is hard. Sure, there are "best practices," but there's no instruction manual that lays it out step by step. So it can feel like you're floundering — making it up as you go and unsure whether you're getting anywhere. Are we doing this right?



We've got some good news for you. Sometimes things that feel like struggles or failures are actually successes in disguise. Curious about some examples? Read on.

#### Disagreeing with each other

You say beach, they say mountains. You say go out, they say stay in. If sounds like you and your spouse, that's okay! Being able to respectfully disagree with each other on both superficial and significant issues without progressing to a blowout fight is a good sign in your relationship. It means you both feel emotionally safe and secure enough to voice your thoughts and opinions without disrespect, judgment, or hurt feelings. When it comes to working through issues, this is an invaluable skill. Just make sure you're really listening to each other, too.

#### Calling each other out

"Hey, I really didn't appreciate that comment." When you're getting called out on something, it can feel like you're failing. Even if you're the one doing the calling out, it might feel like you're nagging or being critical. However, if you call each other out in a kind way that focuses on a behavior (instead of attacking each other personally) and you're able to respond to this feedback with minimal defensiveness, then you're definitely doing something right. It means you're not sweeping things under the rug where they accumulate and grow into a bigger conflict that pops up later. Instead, you deal with them in the moment, nipping resentment and complacency in the bud.

#### Doing things differently from everyone else

Maybe you're not following the "normal" timeline for marriage, or you don't share about your relationship on social media like it seems everyone else is. Perhaps you handle your finances or split your responsibilities in a quirky way. That's great! It means you're doing what feels right for you, your spouse, and your marriage. You're making decisions based on that, instead of what is expected, accepted, or works for others. Don't get discouraged if it feels like you're the odd couple out. No

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And yet again this morning, no one Royal Highness, here is your coffee two marriages are alike, so it follows suit that there's not a one-sizefits-all way it should be done.

#### Going to marriage counseling

Unfortunately, there can still be a stigma attached to marriage counseling, and that means couples often don't seek help until it's too late. Going to counseling does not mean you failed. In fact, if you've taken the proactive step to see a counselor early in your marriage, that deserves some major props. It shows you're both committed and invested in your relationship and that you're open to new ways of resolving issues. These are ingredients for marital success.

No one wants to feel like they're constantly struggling and making no progress. In marriage, that can be particularly discouraging. That's why it can be helpful to remember that even when it feels like you're doing things wrong or failing in some way, the opposite might actually be true. Dealing with issues head on, embracing your own path, and not being afraid to seek outside help might make things feel a little bumpy, but you can take heart that you're doing good things for your marriage.

# Thank you...

- to our National Youth Gathering attendees for covering custodial duties for the months of May, June, August and September!
- to everyone who supported our Youth by purchasing the services of someone at our "Labor of Love" auction. (We raised \$2550!)
- to everyone who volunteered to have their services auctioned!
- to this year's Sunday School teachers:

Meggie Ashburn Lara Dahl Mona Hjelle Carmen Macik Sarah Olson



- to all parents and grandparents who brought kids for Sunday School
- to our Altar Guild chair Mona Hjelle for placing the Easter Lilies in memory of loves ones lost this past year!

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

# Email Wisdom...

#### The Truth about Children

(Pay particular attention to the last one)

- Those who say they "sleep like a baby" haven't got one.
- A child will not spill on a dirty floor.
- An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.
- Be nice to your kids, since they will choose your nursing home.
- For adult education, nothing beats children.
- Having children will turn you into your parents.
- If you have trouble getting your children's attention, just sit down and look comfortable.
- Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.
- Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth.
- Summer vacation is a time when parents realize that teachers are grossly underpaid.
- The first sign of maturity is the discovery that the volume knob also turns to the left.
- . There are three ways to get things done:
  - 1) do it yourself
  - 2) hire someone to do it
  - 3) forbid your kids to do it
- . The best thing to spend on your children is . . . time!



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Page 23 Easter Celebration for Kids

# 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 May Make-a-Meal volunteer Linda Dilley 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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#### 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, Steve Wulf, 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!

# 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.

- Easter Celebration for Kids (Apr 9)
- First Communion
- Easter Worship
- Christ is Still Risen!

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

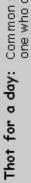
# Story Behind The Song...

This month I will present a song that is not a hymn, but is instead a much loved gospel folk song... Wayfaring Stranger.

This song has been around for over 200 hundred years blessing millions of Americans in both the secular and the religious world.

It is difficult if not impossible to pinpoint the exact origin of this North American folk song. Some historians have traced its genesis to the 1780s, others, the early 1800s. Depending on who you're talking to the song may be a reworked Black spiritual, a lifted native hymn, or even a creation of nomadic Portuguese settlers from the southern Appalachian region

The song, which features its singing protagonist contemplating better times with their family in the afterlife, first gained popularity at Appalachian revivalist sermons before slowly spreading westward with the pioneers. Though "Wayfaring Stranger" has remained a gospel constant



ever since, what has probably done more to solidify its place in the American musical tapestry is its constant rediscovery and renewal in the near-secular and popular musical worlds.

As with many folk songs, there are so many versions of this hymn floating around in America. It has been adopted by musicians of all sorts of backgrounds to present their message to the world.

In the 1940s, renowned actor and singer Burl Ives made "Wayfaring Stranger" one of his signature songs. By the hippie era late-1960s it was Joan Baez who introduced the free love set to the song. Next, Emmylou Harris turned it into a minor hit in 1980 and then The Man In Black himself, Johnny Cash, reclaimed it in 2000 during that magical late-career renaissance he had. In 2003, the song was featured in the award winning movie. Cold Mountain.

In the song's latest resurgence, British pop star Ed Sheeran has turned a near a cappella-and-vocal loops version of "Wayfaring Stranger" into a much-copied YouTube phenomenon.

With its evocative lyrics and magnetic melody it's hard to do "Wayfaring Stranger" wrong. After all, Sunday school teachers and folk festival third-stagers have been churning out entirely competent versions of the song for decades. That said, the best versions of "Wayfaring Stranger" can be so much more. When a musician captures that gravitas and world weary challenge just right it's like a lightning bolt right to the soul.

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger,
I'm trav'ling through this world below,
There is no sickness, toil, nor danger,
In that bright world to which I go.
I'm going there to see my father,
I'm going there no more to roam;
I'm just a going over Jordan,
I'm just a going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather o'er me, I know my pathway's rough and steep; But golden fields lie out before me, Where weary eyes no more shall weep. I'm going there to see my mother, She said she'd meet me when I come; I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.

I want to sing salvations story, In concert with the blood-washed band;

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I want to wear a crown of glory, When I get home to that good land. I'm going there to see my brothers, They passed before me one by one; I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.

I'll soon be free from every trial,
This form will rest beneath the sod;
I'll drop the cross of self-denial,
And enter in my home with God.
I'm going there to see my Saviour,
Who shed for me His precious blood;
I'm just a going over Jordan,
I'm just a going over home.

Editor's note: Sharing some of the versions mention in the article:

Burlives: https://youtu.be/S5sHrOTXXOs
Emmylou Harris: https://youtu.be/zt7viU91DTg
Johnny Cash: https://youtu.be/glbZAP8ASQ
Ed Sheeran: https://youtu.be/buAzVkcH4YI
And of course, my favorite bluegrass group...
the Petersens https://youtu.be/fn1MXtOukXU

Happy Mother's Day

