

February 2023 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's your 'Life Verse'?"

I had to "wing it" a little with the answer to this question, since I wasn't exactly sure what a "life verse" was. (And the answers I found when I "googled" it were all over the board.) The meaning I attached to "life verse" is this: A verse that I keep coming back to over and over again. A verse that helps me remember some aspect of God that I frequently need to be reminded of.

Three verses popped into my head at the time. The first was my confirmation verse:

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last." John 15:16

My confirmation pastor chose that verse for me, and it was very prophetic. At the time I was confirmed, there is no way that I would have chosen to become a pastor. But God had indeed chosen me for that ministry, and put all kinds of experiences and people into my life to lead me in that direction.

The second verse is one that has been a great reminder:

Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart (have courage) I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Jesus never sugar-coats what life will be like. He always tells us what we can expect, so that when it happens we don't lose faith. And, boy, can we expect trouble! It will come. To everyone. More often than any of us would like. But when it comes we should always remember that Jesus has power over any trouble. That means He has the power to get us through it - and make something good come from it!

The final one is a verse I talked about in a recent sermon. It's from the Proverbs which I've referred to as "God's practical wisdom for everyday life." We have decisions to make literally every day, and this verse is the perfect guide for those decisions - big or small:

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"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

As I mentioned in the sermon, when we have decisions to make we tend to ask the wrong questions. Questions like, "Can we afford this?" "What are other people doing?" "Do I feel like doing this?" "What will 'they' think of us if we do this?" "Will this be easy - or make my life easier?" The answers to all those questions could be summed up as "Leaning on our own understanding," and God has point-blank told us NOT to do that.

This passage is a reminder that the ONE question to answer is:

"Is this something God wants me/us to do?"

Pray and ask Him (as a first-response, not a last resort). If God wants you to do it, He will provide everything necessary to accomplish it.

Thanks for asking! Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net



Ash Wednesday begins the 40-day season of Lent. This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 22. 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 Friday.

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 6:30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday

Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sunday mornings at 9:00
Join us for coffee and God's Word!

Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Wednesday, February 8th @ 10:00 a.m. All women are invited to join us!

Evening Women's Study

Wednesdays @ 6:30 at Violet Dauk's home



Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30 Who can you invite to join you?

Small Group Study...



Coming during Lent:

"I Can Only Imagine"

(Based on the movie)

We are looking for people willing to host a small group study at your house (or a coffeehouse or ???).

It's a great opportunity to invite friends or relatives. Pastor will go through the study with the hosts in January, then you will host your own study during Lent.

Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions or would like to host a study. Thanks!

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/yzcbay5x

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Sunday School News...

During the months of February and March (not including Friendship Sunday) the Sunday School teachers will be teaching on "The Ten Commandments".



The Ten Commandments show us how God want us to behave. We don't always follow them as we make too many mistakes. But the more we seek Jesus the more we will be able to keep those commandments that He has given us.

High School Youth...

BIBLE STUDY:

This month we're going to be "on the drive" to Buffalo to the Remedy Drive Concert (they played at the national Youth Gathering).

Saturday, February 11. Meet in church parking lot at 2:00. Concert is at 4. We'll grab some food on our way home.

All youth are invited. But the sooner I know the sooner I can secure their ten dollar ticket!

CIY (Christ in Youth) MOVE EVENT:

Fly to Maryland July 24, Return July 31,

Early bird registration deadline: February 21. I would like to know who is committed to going by February 21. Baseline cost is expected to be around \$1300 bucks.



Fundraising:

We are planning three big fundraisers to help offset the cost:

- Egg My Yard- We partnered with the Link in New London to hopefully donate eggs to the 75-90 local families who utilize their food pantry weekly. If people don't want to have their own yards or grandkids yards Easter- egged, they could donate to a family in need.
- 2) Mr Bs Chocolates. We will be re-running this fundraiser for Mother's Day.
- Sunset Dinner: We will be selling high-dollar meal tickets (\$100), and the kids are going to host a nice supper for the donors.

Fmail Wisdom...

(From our January readings in Proverbs)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. Proverbs 3:7-8

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"when you already have it with you. Proverbs 3:27-28

A friend loves at all times. and a brother is born for a time of adversity. Proverbs 17:7

Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly. Proverbs 14:29

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. Proverbs 11:25

Whoever derides their neighbor has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue. Pr 11:12

Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you. and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God. Proverbs 30:8-9

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Proverbs

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Who Can You Invite?

Friendship Sunday (Feb 12)

Includes Chili & Soup, etc... served by the Living Word Elders after worship.

Bingo after the meal.

Pray about your invitations. Ask God to give you the words and opportunity. Then ask them to come with you. Offer to pick them up. (And if they don't take you up on your invi-



tation, keep praying for them and for another opportunity to invite.)

Confirmation News...

Confirmation classes:

Wednesday,

6:00 - 6:50 p.m. for 6-7th Graders 7:00 - 7:50 p.m. for 8-9th Graders



Please check the Parent Helper Schedule

Parents take turns helping out at class

Also Check: The PowerPoint Clicker-Person Schedule

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

LWML News...

LWML MEETING:

Wednesday, February 8th at 10:00a.m. All ladies of the church are welcome to join us!



SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

A huge thank you to all who have donated!



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.

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Mark Your Calendars

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, February 9th @ 6:30 p.m. Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

Building Committee

Next meeting: Thursday, February 23rd @ 6:30

Community Outreach News...

Women's Retreat

"HEARING GOD ABOVE THE ROAR OF THE WORLD"

Friday May 19-Sunday May 21st (Until noon)

Come and join the 2023 Women's Retreat!!! Checkin at 11:00 Friday May 19th and will have a free day to enjoy the community of Hutchinson MN! I will plan an outing for that day for those that want to join in, otherwise we will start the "Official" retreat at 6:00 PM that

The price for the weekend is \$150.00 per person, based on double or triple occupancy. (We do need 12 people to make this happen at this

Price includes the bible studies, fellowship, make and takes and of course a good time! Growing closer in your relationship with Jesus is FREE!! Hope to see you there!!

Questions? Ask Violet or Tammy Miller

Live Nativity Rescheduled for April 1st

(That's NOT an April Fool's joke!)

Living Nativity...from The Manger to Easter.

(This is to replace the Living Nativity that was cancelled in December due to the weather.)

Saturday April 1st from 2:00-4:00. We still need LOTS of "Characters!!" There will be speaking parts (read, not memorized) Volunteers needed to dress parts, serve for traffic guidance, help with refreshment tables and we will still have a petting zoo! Do you have or know someone that can bring tame animals for human interaction?

TowBridge Zoo will still bring the camel and other animals!!

Call or text Tammy at 320-905-2434 if you can help or have questions. Sign up at church by the entry door as well.

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Email Inspiration... Page 9

JOY IN THE JOURNEY

In a remote village in Central America the word got out among the peoples of the region that one of the American missionaries that had served this country for many years was about to return to the US to live our the remaining years of her life.

The nationals desired to honor her for her years of service with a public time of appreciation. News of the event went to all parts of the country in which the missionary was known to the people. One very old and very poor man walked to the ceremony over mountainous terrain for 4 days to bring his gift to the missionary.

The gift consisted of 2 coconuts, but it was all the man had. The missionary recognized the man as coming from the remote village in the

"Brother, I cannot believe that you would walk so far to present me with this gift," said the missionary to the man.

His response?

"Long walk part of gift.

Bingo Prizes Needed

(We'll play Bingo after Friendship Brunch on February 12).

- + Sweet River Cafe
- + Perkins Lumber
- + Walt's Car wash
- Coffee and More
- + Laurie Hansen's (model) car collection,
- + Kevin Welsh Construction

Please let Marcia know if you have any prizes you could add. Thanks!

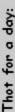
Church Choir...

Practices After Worship February 5 and 12

We'll sing February 19 and on Ash Wednesday.

Please join us as we practice for singing. (The only requirement is the ability to "make a joyful noise.")

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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:

- LOTS of things for kids to take home!
- Extra Smoke Detector Batteries !!!
- February Newsletters
- Portals of Prayer

Recorded videos of Sermons

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



- Jan 1 "A Lesson from 'Good King Wenceslas'"
- "So, you 2023 to be a year you were known as 'wise."
- "More evidence that God's plans aren't always our plans'
- "Jesus calls us to be disciples, but what does that mean?"
- Jan 29 "Jesus tells how to make God smile at you!"

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 congre-

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 2023

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!

We STILL have extra batteries

from our outreach!

Please pick some up for your family - and to give to neighbors and friends - from the "Free Stuff" table at church.



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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 for His guidance about who to invite to Friendship Sunday
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did with sacrifice
- Thanking God for things like furnaces that work & cars that start!
- 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!
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Safe travel (and good weather for traveling)
- Asking God's continued guidance for our Building Committee.
- 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
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan.



NEW Make-A-Meal Program...

One of the best (and simplest) ways to share Jesus' love is by making a meal for someone who is going through a tough

On "Make-a-Meal Day" our meal-making gals made 20 meals (soup and cookies). They are in the freezer at church ready to grab and take to someone you know who could use a meal.

They even have a card attached

If you have any questions, please check with Marcia, otherwise, just grab a meal from the freezer at church and make someone's day!

What's day O for hot

February 2023 - Daily Readings

We continue reading 120 of the most important accounts in the Bible We've listed the readings that are found in **Know the Bible Now** (KTBN). You can also do the readings from your Bible. Simply read the chapters listed in parentheses. Record your insights from on the lines provided

NOTE: If you'd rather listen to the readings, Pastor has recorded them. You can find the link to the recordings on our website at the bottom of the home page. livingwordutheran.net

	KTBN pg 240 Jesus Teaches Nicodemus (John 3)
	KTBN: pg 242 Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John 4)
	KTBN: pg 244 Jesus Rejected at Nazareth (Luke 4)
	KTBN: pg 246 Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man (Mark 2)
ee	KTBN: pg 248 The Sermon on the Mount (Mathew 5-7)ek of FEBRUARY 12 KTBN: pg 250 Jesus Calms the Storm (Mark 4)
ee	KTBN: pg 248 The Sermon on the Mount (Mathew 5-7)
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	k of FEBRUARY 12 KTBN: pg 250 Jesus Calms the Storm (Mark 4) KTBN: pg 252 Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughref (Mark 5)

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Feb 22'	KTBN pg 264 The Good Samaritan (Luke 10)
Feb 23	KTBN pg 266 Jesus Heals a Blind Man (John 9)
Feb 24	KTBN pg 268 The Good Shepherd (John 10, Psalm 23)
We	ek of FEBRUARY 26
Feb 27	KTBN: pg 270 Jesus Raises Lazarus (John 11)
Feb 28	KTBN pg 272 The Prodigal Son (Luke 15)
Mar 1	KTBN: pg 274 Jesus Heals Ten People (Luke 17)
Mar 2	KTBN: pg 276 Jesus and the Little Children (Mark 9-10)
Mar 3	KTBN: pg 278 Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19)
We	ek of MARCH 5
Mar 6	KTBN pg 282 Jesus Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21)
Mar 7	KTBN: pg 284 The Widow's Coins (Mark 12
Mar 8	KTBN: pg 286 The Lord's Supper (Luke 22)
Mar 9	KTBN: pg 288 Jesus in the Garden (Matthew 26)
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Feb 21 KTBN pg 262 Jesus Sends the 72 (Luke 10)

February 2023 - 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	30	31 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	1 6:00 -6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00- 8-9th CONFIRMATION	2	Church Clean Up	10:00 "Throw Away Day" (Church i Clean Up)
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion YOUTH - Remedy Drive Concert	6	7 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	8 10:00 LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 -6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00- 8-9th CONFIRMATION	9 Mission Winistry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	Lord's Supper Dat Sunday, Februar Sunday, Februar Ash Wednesday	ry 5tjh ry 19th
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - VALENTINE'S BRUNCH Noon - BINGO	13	14 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	15 6:00 -6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00- 8-9th CONFIRMATION	16	17	18
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	20	21 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY YOUTH - CYL MOVE Registration	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30 - ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP w/communion	6:30 -BUILDING COMMITTEE	24	25
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY	27	28 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	Mar 1 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - Lenten Devotion 6:30 - Confirmation Classes	If you can't be here in nel with Sunday servi	I Worship from I person: Watch on our vices being livestreamed a e.com/channel/UCG9eU-featured	/ouTube chan- it

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

Feb 5 Wendy & Lonny Robbin

Feb 12 Open

Feb 19 Larry Levin & Chuck Weflen

Ash Wed Open

Feb 26 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

Confirmation Parent Helpers

	6-7th grade	8-9th grade
Feb 1	Foshaug	Foshaug
Feb 8	Hjelle	Dahl
Feb 15	Knutson	Meis
Feb 22	Ash Wednesda	ly
Mar 1	Sarsland	Miller

Elders

Feb 5, 12	Joe & Duane
Feb 19, 22, 26	Steve & Scott

Custodian

Feb Randy and Mary Raddatz

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PowerPoi	nt Operator	Make A Meal Volunteers		
Feb 5	Carter	See "New Make-a-Meal Program"		
Feb 12	Alex	Page for details		
Feb 19	Ella	1 6 7 6		
Ash Wed	Evelyn	Altar Guild		
Feb 26	Troy	Feb Mona Hjelle		
Communi	on Bread Maker	Accompar	ying Musicians	
Feb 5	Alex	Feb 5	Sharon Willen	
Ash Wed	Autumn	Feb 12	Scott Wachter	
		Feb 19	Sharon Willen	
Nursery		Ash Wed	Open	
(Volunte	ers needed - please	Feb 26	Pam Johnson	

Seen on Church Signboards...

Lent = Spring Training

Easter = Opening Day



talk to Mona H.)

"Throw Away Day"

Saturday, February 4

10:00 a.m.

Come, help us de-clutter!

February Discipleship Verse...

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

John 15:8

A Minute for Couples...



(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)
Ways to Get Out of a Marriage "Funk"

When you think of prioritizing your marriage, what comes to mind? Raise your hand if date nights and quality time is your gut response. Don't get us wrong; it's a great answer. Continuing to date each other and devoting intentional time to connect is crucial to nurturing intimacy and friendship. However, this isn't the only way. There are otheroften underrated—ways to prioritize your marriage every day.

1. Set boundaries.

Boundaries protect your marriage from external factors that have the potential to disrupt or damage the equilibrium of your relationship. You might set boundaries on how much time you devote to things or people outside your relationship to ensure your don't become disconnected and drift apart. Similarly you might create boundaries that help you manage the amount of physical, mental, or emotional energy you expend to ensure you have enough left in the tank for your spouse and relationship. Or you may establish boundaries that protect the privacy of your relationship by agreeing upon what's okay to share with others and what should stay between the two of you. While boundaries are not always absolute, they provide a baseline that helps you put your marriage first — or return to it if things have gotten out of balance.

2. Consult with each other.

When you're married, the way you make decisions changes. Suddenly you have your spouse – and your marriage – to consider. Choices that used to only affect you now have a direct or indirect impact on your marriage as well. While trivial decisions don't necessarily require checking in, bigger decisions or ones that have affect your life together definitely do. Consulting with each other first is a great way to show consideration for your partner, allowing you to hear their input and perspective. If it differs from how you see the situation, you have the chance to get aligned in a way that puts your marriage first.

3. Address issues head on.

It's not always easy dealing with conflict in marriage. It can be uncomfortable, awkward, and just plain hard. After all, it often requires you to let your guard down and take responsibility for your triggers, feelings, actions, some of which you might not feel great about. The more comfortable choice is to avoid facing the problem. Of course, your relationship will eventually experience the negative effects of sweeping issues under the rug. Not to mention the fact that working through conflict in a healthy way often leads to feeling more connected as a couple. That's why addressing conflicts in a timely manner is essentially putting

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your marriage first.

4. Remember that you're a team.

It seems simple enough, but in the midst of a disagreement or conflict, it's easy to feel like it's you against your spouse. Unfortunately, if you let this feeling lead you, you might end up making choices or acting in ways that are not putting your marriage first. On the other hand, leaning into a team mentality helps you approach problems in a more collaborative way. You'll be more open to your partner's perspective and in a mindset to compromise, which means you're much more likely to reach a resolution you're both happy with.

Prioritizing your marriage might seem like something you always have to strive for, and in some ways that's true. Putting in the effort and keeping it at the front of your mind are key to avoiding complacency. However, it's also possible to weave the mindset throughout your relationship by remembering to do these simple things. They may seem pretty basic, but their positive impact on your marriage can be HUGE.



In the latest newsletter, read about:

- The unlawful addition of abortion and abortion counseling to the medical benefits package of the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- The Supreme Court case 303 Creative v. Elenis, which contests a Colorado state law that denies free speech to artists;
- Information about the Respect for Marriage Act;
- The importance of protecting parental rights to direct the upbringing, education and care of their children;
- Information on the attacks by Jane's Revenge on pregnancy centers and churches; an
- Information on Toward a More Perfect Union, a new book by Timothy Goeglein.

Read newsletter:

resources.lcms.org/newsletters/free-to-be-faithful-winter-2023-newsletter/



The Link...

January 2023 Updates

2022 brought big change as we said goodbye to our Executive Director, Chasity Ommodt. Chasity served The Link as the Outreach Director for 6

years before becoming the director in 2019. She moved with her family to sunny Arizona, but continues to provide support and answer questions to ensure a smooth transition. We miss her, but wish her the best on her new adventure and know her passion and love for The Link will always remain and her connection to our community will always be strong.

In 2022, The Link was able to serve 60 families with common household needs with our **Household Exchange Program**. The Household Exchange program takes in donations to provide families when they are getting back on their feet.

On average throughout 2022, **The Food Pantry** served 64 households monthly (including, on average, 95 adults, 52 children and 25 seniors) and distributed a total of 40,481 pounds of food. The need of food has increased significantly the past couple months, requiring The Link to increase their food budget to meet the needs of the people served.

The Wildcat Backpack Program is currently serving 84 children. Each week, students from the NL-S High School pack the bags and deliver them to each school to ensure our students nutritional needs are met on the weekends when they are not in school. If you know a family that could benefit from this program, please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555 or Vicki Mickelson at NLS schools at 320-354-2252 ext. 2607.

The Link's **Client Outreach** program served 86 families in 2022 by helping with medical bills, utility bills and rental payments. This program also connected families with financial resources outside of The Link to help with bigger bills and necessities, including housing for homeless families. With the communities support, we were also able to help 78 families with our Christmas Joy program.

Tuesday's Table: Tuesday's Table is officially back! The schedule is as follows: 1st Tuesday of the month: Our Lady of the Lakes (Spicer), 2std Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant (New London), 3std Tuesday: Faith Lutheran (Spicer), 4std Tuesday: Peace Lutheran (New London), 5std Tuesday: Rotating (call 320-354-5555 for more information)

As always, a HUGE THANK YOU to those who have donated food and/or monetarily and to those who have prayed for and with us here at The Link! With the increased need for food and in client outreach, we are asking for your continued support- financially and prayerfully.

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Volunteer Opportunities: In 2022, our amazing and dedicated volunteers put in over 4620 hours to keep our programs running smoothly. If you are interested in volunteering (on-call or on a more consistent basis), there are many opportunities available. Please call Ashley at 320-354-5555 for more information! Our wonderful volunteers are the center of our mission and we could not do what we do without them. Many relationships have been built through volunteering (there is never a lack of laughs and fun with them and their support in and outside of The Link is something we are forever grateful for.)

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 ash-ley@youarethelink.org for more information.

After-Worship Fellowship

COOKIE-BAKING SCHEDULER NEEDED



We have cookies to ready to bake, and volunteers to bake them. All we need is someone to come up with a baking schedule and let the bakers know when it's their turn to bake. Pretty easy!

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

A Reminder to Wear Your "Living Word" Sweatshirts (and caps)

Not only are they warm (and look really "cool") but they could also be a conversation starter when people ask things like, "And where is Living Word located?"





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.

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.

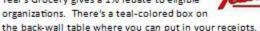
We are currently in need of a volunteer to mail the cards. If you could help, talk to Pastor David



that we livestream and later upload our YouTube channel (New London Living Word). Talk to Pastor David if you can help out with thisjust one Sunday a month. (Hint: It's really not difficult - even Pastor figured it out!)

Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.

Teal's Grocery gives a 1% rebate to eligible organizations. There's a teal-colored box on





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

Living Word has been issued a \$13.92 donation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1st and September 30, 2022.

Custodian Volunteers Needed.

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

We are still in need of volunteers for any month after February. Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to sign up or find out more details.



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Ways to Show your Spouse You Love Them...

(Start by not forgetting Valentine's Day!)

From "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Wife and Kids" and "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Husband and Kids"

Husbands:

- Call your wife during the day ... ask her out for dinner & a movie.
- Bring home some flowers not just on Valentine's Day
- Think of how you've hurt your wife with your words: Ask for-
- Serve your wife breakfast in bed make her feel like "Queen for a Day"

Wives:

- Sit next to your husband in the car or truck like you did when you were dating. (If you have bucket seats, then sit next to him on the couch and watch a movie together.)
- Thank your husband (in front of the kids) for something he did
- Plan a vacation where he wants to go.
- Write "I love you" on a post-it note where he'll see it (or text

Husbands & Wives together:

- Write down three or four things you love about your spouse. Then take time to share those with each other.
- · Get out the wedding album or watch the video together

Ways to Show your Kids You Love Them...

- Send them a text thanking them for something they did or said.
- Next time you go to the store, bring back a surprise (e.g. a favorite snack)
- Read them a favorite story
- Tell them a favorite memory from when they were younger.
- Tell them you are sorry when you acted impatiently with them.
- If they don't live at home, call them up just to say "Hi."
- Fix a meal with their favorite foods
- Ask them to help you with an important project around the house

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Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in January on the normal First and Third Sundays, February 5th and 19th, as well as on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.



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Reminders:

- 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.
- 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.

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 thingsespecially things we take for granted.

In December we thanked God for...

- Folks Who Plow Snow
- Caregivers

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

Email Humor...

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

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Two guys walking on the beach found an old brass lamp. The first guy immediately started rubbing it and, sure enough, a Genie popped out! Before he could say anything at all, the Genie turned him into a crab.

The other guy was horrified and shouted, "Oh my gosh! Why did you do that??"

The Genie said, "Aww, he just rubbed me the wrong way."

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An actual conversation a friend had with her son:

Mom: "Eat your breakfast."

Son: "Why?"

Mom: "You want to grow up to be super smart, don't you?"

Son: "No. I want to grow up to be like daddy."

Congratulations...

 Skylar & Dana Wachter on the latest addition to your family: Rhett Anthony

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

Story Behind The Song...

We are featuring a new song this month that you may have heard recently on the radio. In honor of Valentine's Day we are going to showcase a song written last summer by Crowder and Dante Bowe (of Maverick City Music)... "Jesus Really Loves Us" The song was written last minute (the Sunday before the scheduled album release) for Crowder's Milk & Honey album. It was released as a single on the radio in June of 2022.

The song developed, from a simple voice memo between Dante and David Crowder during the pandemic, to become a banner song that's currently being played on radio stations everywhere.

Crowder says, "There hasn't been a song I've been around in a while that has hit me like this one does. It focuses on the great love our God has for us, a love strong enough to see us through the storms of life," the hitmaker shares. "I hope it reminds you that no matter what you're facing, you're not alone. We often hear that God loves us, but if we look at all He has done for us, we see that God REALLY loves us."

"God Really Loves Us" is a welcomed call home to the roots of the Christian faith. The intimate solo piano that leads listeners into the song is coupled with the simple and raw lyrics that paint the bare Truth that

That for a day: My

Jesus is a friend to us. A friend that sticks closer than a brother, in fact. These tender reminders align the listener with the sometimes forgotten reality that, while God is King, Jesus is also our closest, most steadfast companion. The same comfort that we feel in engaging our closest friends with our mistakes, experiences, and thoughts because we know they will accept us is the same confidence we should take into our relationship with Jesus.

As Crowder builds the anthem from an intimate piano ballad into a swelling prodamation, Dante Bowe and Maverick City enter the second verse and join in the declaration with a unity that inspires the listener to sing along. As the chorus swells with voices and organs, listeners are grounded in the simple, foundational Truth that we are not alone. It is because God really, truly does love us that we can have an intimate relationship with Him. It's because He really does love us that we will never find ourselves forsaken by Him. It's these simple Truths that comfort our souls in our biggest moments of darkness and are also the pieces of comfort we tend to forget the quickest.

"God Really Loves Us"

I've got a friend
Closer than a brother
There is no judgement
Oh how he loves me
I've got a friend
And He is my strength
He is my portion
With me in the valley
With me in the fire
With me in the storm
Let all my life testify

CHORUS: Hallelujah

We are not alone

God really loves us, God really loves us

Hallelujah

Oh praise, my soul

God really loves us, God really loves us

His mercy's enough
His grace is sufficient
So come if you're needing
Forgiveness or healing
His mercy's enough
Oh, and this is our hope

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The cross it has spoken Death is no more Christ is the Lord Oh, this is our hope

CHORUS:

What a Father What a Friend What a Savior He is What a Father What a Friend What a Savior He is (Jesus)

Editor's note: Watch the official performance by Crowder and Dante at https://youtu.be/yG-Y9bWICw8

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

