



June 2023 Newsletter

**"Communicating the Love of Jesus"
Worship Service: 9:00 a.m.**

Living Word Lutheran Church

PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273
Located north of the New London Township Hall on Cty Rd 9 NE
Phone: 320-354-4637
Email: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net
Website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

Questions for Pastor...

Three "Can we..." questions:

Can we start gathering the offering during worship again? (Instead of just having a basket by the door)?

This question came up during our May Elders' meeting. Gathering offerings and bringing them to the altar during worship is a great way to remind us that God is the Giver of all that we have. It's a way of acknowledging that we aren't just giving money to support the congregation, rather we are presenting our offerings as a way of saying "Thanks" to God for everything He's given us.

We quit gathering offerings during worship three years ago as a covid precaution. Since those protocols are no longer in effect, we can certainly begin "passing the plate" during worship. This means we have a need for more ushers to gather the offering and bring it to the altar. It's a simple way for families (or spouses) to serve the Lord together. Please talk to me if you have any questions or just sign up at church.

Can we get After-worship Fellowship going again?

One of the other "ruts" we got into during covid was not getting together after service for coffee and conversation with other members of our church family. It's really tough to say much more than "Hi, how are you doing?" during "share the peace" time during worship. Having time to sit down after the Sunday service gives us a much better chance to connect with each other, so, yes, we will be having a dedicated time of fellowship after service.

Some of you had signed up quite awhile ago to bake cookies for fellowship time. We have "ready-to-bake" cookies you can take home to bake. Mona Hjelle volunteered to coordinate this after-service fellowship during the summer, so if you signed up to bake cookies, she may be checking with you soon.

Can I text or email people on a daily basis with a link to an audio recording of a daily reading/devotion?



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This was an "Is this possible?" type of question that I actually asked. In the sermon on May 21, I suggested making a conscious decision to spend 10-15 minutes a day growing your faith over the summer. (Kind of like I had to make a conscious decision to spend 15 minutes a day in my garden, watering and pulling weeds.) I thought it might help to get a Bible passage you can just click on and listen instead of having to look up one.

I think I figured out how to do this, so if you haven't signed up already for a daily audio reading, you can still do so! We'll be going through Jesus' parables during the month of June. They will also be listed on our Daily Readings page of the Newsletter as well as at livingwordlutheran.net

Thanks for asking!
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Spring Voters' Assembly...

... will be held after worship on June 4. The Spring Assembly is our annual election to fill Mission and Ministry positions. We will elect members to 2-year terms. (Current officers are in parentheses.)

Positions to be voted on:

Vice Chair	(Currently open)
Elders (two):	(Joe Johnson)
	(Currently open)
Christian Growth - Sunday School	(Mona Hjelle)
Congregational Outreach -	(Marcia Welsh)
Treasurer	(Steve Wulf)

Open positions that can be filled by MMT appointment:

Chair
Stewardship



Summer Worship Time:
9:00 a.m.

Began Memorial Weekend
and runs through
Labor Day Weekend
(September 3rd)

Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study

Is on break for the summer. Join us at 9:00 for worship and fellowship afterwards.

Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Does not meet during summer.
(Next study: September 13)

Evening Women's Study

Is on Summer Break.

Men's Study

Is on Summer Break, but ...

Everyone is encouraged to join us for a meal and devotion prior to our trap shooting evenings - even if you don't shoot!

Building Committee News...

Living Word Building-Feasibility Study should be in your mail soon!



Living Word Lutheran Church's leadership is exploring the feasibility of a capital campaign to fund Phase Two of our building plan (construction of a new sanctuary). All households will receive a letter in June inviting them to participate by completing a survey. Survey results will assist in determining if our church has the support and ability to fund this project at this time.

Mark Davy & Associates, a firm with 32 years of experience working with churches, has been hired to conduct the study. The primary areas of focus:

- Clarity and importance of our vision
- Living Word's strengths
- Areas of concerns that may affect a capital campaign
- Communication preferences of households
- Potential leadership and volunteers to conduct a successful campaign
- Financial support available

Please prayerfully consider participating when invited. Your feedback is important to determining next steps for our congregation. Thank you for your help in completing the questionnaire!

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Thot for a day: Compliment people. Magnify their strengths, not their weaknesses.

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Save The Date...

July 31 - August 3



Confirmation News...

Special Thanks to : Evelyn, Ella and Rya for helping with the Tuesday's Table community meal !!!



New Bible Study at Pastor & Violet's for those confirmed on April 30. Starts Wednesday, June 3 @ 6:30 (We'll meet the 1st & 3rd Weds. during summer)



Thanks to Sarah Olson
for leading us again this year!

Youth Events...

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH STUDY:

5:00 p.m. Wednesdays, June 14 & 28
at Freedom Center office (Becky's work-place)



+++

STUDY FOR THOSE CONFIRMED THIS YEAR:

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, June 7 & 21
at Pastor & Violet's home (5126 Co. Rd. 40 NE, New London)

Email Wisdom...

"Let your light so shine among others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

A little boy decided he wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of Root Beer and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie.

He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer.

Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

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?"

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That for a day: I visited my new friend in his apartment. He told me to make myself at home. So, I threw him out. I hate visitors.

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LWML News...



LWML will not meet in June, July and August. Our next meeting and bible study will be Wednesday, September 13th.

SHOES FOR MISSIONS:



A huge thank you to all who have donated! This is fund-raiser for Lutheran Island Camp. Please continue to bring your good used shoes, slippers, or boots to church. Collection tote is in the entry of the church.

LWML has Camp Scholarships

\$25 / Attendee (ages 8-14)

Please contact Bonnie Hansen at 796-5605 (LWML treasurer) for details.

If you would like more information on Lutheran Island Camp and the weekly camps (dates, cost, etc.) that are offered in 2023, there are brochures available at church, or

Find out more about camp at: www.islandcamp.org



Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the normal First and Third Sundays, **June 4th and June 18th.**



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.

"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-VvIJEU22yCYxbhwig/featured>

Mark Your Calendars...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, June 8 @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

MISSION
Ministry

Building Committee Meeting

June 29 @ 6:30



Baby Shower

for Daryl and Katie Wendroth
(expecting a baby boy)

June 11 @ Living Word 11:00 a.m.
Light lunch will be served and guys are welcome!!
(They are registered at Walmart)

Family Movie Night

Sunday, June 7th @ 7:00



July 27th

Fun at the Big Kahuna
More details to come...

June Fellowship Outing:



Supper at
Grandview Valley Winery
Thursday, June 22
at 6:00 p.m.

Please sign up at church.

Congregational Outreach...

Marcia would like to know how many people are interested in these possible summer fellowship outings:

- A Stingers Game
- Green Lake Cruise

She appreciates your feedback!

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Thot for a day: I don't understand why people have to "get ready for bed." I'm always ready for bed.

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Trap Shooting Fellowship 2023...

Kicks off with our only Saturday shoot of the season:

- Saturday, June 3 @ 12:00.

We'll have brats, hot dogs and a devotion prior to shooting

Then, every other Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m. June through August

- June 14
- June 28
- July 12
- July 26
- August 9
- August 23



Please join us - and bring a friend!

Women's Retreat...

"Hearing God Above the Roar of the World"

Held May 19-21. We had eleven ladies attend. We had a great studies, fellowship and spa-time (pictured).



Tuesday's Table

was held at Living Word -

May 30th



COMMUNITY DINNER

We served 80 people (and sent two takeout meals)!

A HUGE "THANK YOU" to Tammy Miller
for organizing our effort!

Thanks also to everyone
who brought food or helped in any way!

Thoughts for Father's Day...

Fatherhood was one of the first responsibilities God gave men.

Fatherhood was one of the first jobs God gave men. Immediately after creating Adam and Eve, God commanded them to "be fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:28) One of His primary purposes for marriage was offspring who would fill the earth with God's praise and glory. However, providing sperm for conception is merely the beginning of God's expectations for fathers. The Bible provides many points of guidance on what God's expectation is to be a good father.

Here are just a few verses that describe a father's role:

- **Psalm 103:13** – As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
- **Ephesians 6:4** – Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- **Proverbs 20:7** – The righteous who walks in his integrity— blessed are his children after him!
- **Colossians 3:21** – Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.
- **Proverbs 4:1-9** – Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. ...
- **Proverbs 13:24** – Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.
- **Proverbs 22:6** – Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.
- **3 John 1:4** – I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.
- **Psalm 127:3-5** – Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Ten Characteristics of a Godly Father

1. **A godly father knows God** – It should be without stating, but many men want their children to have a relationship with God but do not have that relationship themselves. Children model what

they see. So godly fatherhood begins within the heart of a man.

2. **A godly father loves and honors his wife** – it has been said that the best gift a father can give his children is to love their mother. Even if a man is divorced or single, he can still model respectful behavior towards his child's mother. Children imitate what they see.
3. **A godly father accepts responsibility for his children's spiritual training** – While providing financially for a family is an important responsibility for fathers (1 Timothy 5:8) it is not their only responsibility. A father must encourage Christian character in his children by his example as well as his words of instruction and the expectations of behavior he sets forth for and enforces with his children.
4. **A godly father is continually aware of his influence** – fathers may not realize it but everything they do is influencing their children. Words alone are not enough.
5. **A godly father models selfless service** – much of Jesus' earthly life was given to serving others. As followers of Jesus, we are to imitate that service (Matthew 20:28). Godly fathers figure out ways to involve their children in acts of service.
6. **A godly father is consistent** – nothing confuses children more than inconsistency, either in discipline or example. A father that is loving one minute and angry the next creates insecurity in his children.
7. **A godly father disciplines his children appropriately** – discipline is a part of child-rearing and should not be ignored or solely delegated to the mother. Hebrews 12:9-10 reminds us that earthly fathers disciplined us for our own good and our heavenly Father does the same.
8. **A godly father does not allow himself to be controlled by outside influences.** Addictions such as alcohol or drugs often create a home environment marked by insecurity, fear, and depression. Fathers that display addictive behaviors often teach their children to do the same.
9. **A godly father is a man under authority** – Due to his sinful nature, a man will fight to be his own boss. However, Jesus demonstrated that He was a Man under the authority of his heavenly Father. He readily gave credit to God for His successes and submitted Himself fully to the will of God.
10. **A godly father will lead** – the world is in desperate need of men who will lead wisely. Leadership is not domination or control. A leader is one who goes first. He sets the pace for the family by practicing what he preaches. He is on the lookout for dangers and takes initiative to protect his family from them. He is a man that his children can be proud of (Proverbs 17:6)

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 :

- Some of Elaine Abraham's books and doilies!
- June Newsletters
- July- September Portals of Prayer

Recorded videos of Sermons

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

<https://www.youtube.com/@newlondonlivingword8097/streams>

May 7 "The ultimate example of contentment."

May 14 "Haven't we seen this before?!"

May 21 "How to keep your faith growing over the summer."

May 28 "The Holy Spirit brings POWER! But power for what?"

Note: We also recorded the memorial service for Elaine Abraham.

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 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!

Amazon Smile Program

Living Word received \$11.90 from the Amazon Smile program for January 1 - February 20, 2023. NOTE: The Amazon Smile program was discontinued by Amazon on February 20. Thanks to everyone who donated to Living Word through this program!

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That for a day: Each of us is a mixture of dust and deity.

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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 HUGE 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 all EMS people
- Thanking God for all who gave their lives serving our country.
- Thanking God and asking His protection for all Armed Forces personnel
- The Holy Spirit's power to pull "weeds" of temptation out of your life
- Thanking God for dads.
- Asking God's blessing on our H.S. Youth fundraising efforts for their trip
- Asking God for good weather for the growing season.
- Asking God's guidance in completing the Building Study Questionnaire
- Thanking God for the freedom to attend worship
- Thanking God that His Word is Truth amidst the lies of the world.
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- Asking God for faith to stand for His Truth like Daniel's 3 friends did!
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Asking God to humble you, seek Him and repent (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- God's protection, guidance, wisdom & courage for government leaders
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan.

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/3vuwezre>

June 2023 - Daily Readings

Week of May 28 MORE PASSAGES ABOUT FISH

May 29 Luke 5:1-11 _____
 May 30 Luke 11:5-13 _____
 May 31 Luke 24:36-43 _____
 June 1 John 21:1-14 _____
 June 2 Genesis 1:26-28 _____
 June 3 1 Corinthians 15:35-41 _____

Week of JUNE 4 PARABLES ABOUT GROWING THINGS

June 5 Parable of the Sower. Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23 _____
 June 6 Parable of the Weeds. Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43 _____
 June 7 Parable of the Growing Seed. Mark 4:26-29 _____
 June 8 Parable of the Mustard Seed. Mark 30-34 _____
 June 9 Parable of the Barren Fig Tree. Luke 13:6-9 _____

Week of JUNE 11 PARABLES IN MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

June 12 Parable of the Lamp. Matthew 5:14-16 _____
 June 13 Parable of the Speck & the Log. Matthew 7:1-5 _____
 June 14 Parable of the Hidden Treasure & Pearl. Matthew 13:44-46 _____
 June 15 Parable of the Net. Matthew 13:47-50 _____

June 16 Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. Matthew 18:23-35 _____

Week of JUNE 18 PARABLES IN LUKE'S GOSPEL

June 19 Parable of The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:29-37 _____
 June 20 Parable of The Friend at Midnight - Luke 11:5-13 _____
 June 21 Parable of The Rich Fool - Luke 12:13-21 _____
 June 22 Parables of the Lost Sheep & Coin - Luke 15:1-10 _____
 June 23 Parable of the Father & Sons (Prodigal) - Luke 15:11-32 _____





Week of JUNE 25 MORE PARABLES IN LUKE'S GOSPEL

June 26 Parable of The Rich Man and Lazarus - Luke 16:19-31 _____
 June 27 Parable of The Persistent Widow - Luke 18:1-8 _____
 June 28 Parable of The Pharisee and The Tax Collector - Luke 18:9-14 _____
 June 29 Parable of the Shrewd Manager - Luke 16:1-15 _____
 June 30 Parable of the Ten Minas Luke 19:11-27 _____

Week of JULY 2 PARABLES FROM HOLY WEEK

July 3 Parable of Laborers in the Vineyard - Matthew 20:1-16 _____
 July 4 Parable of The Two Sons - Matthew 21:28-32 _____
 July 5 Parable of The Tenant Farmers - Matthew 21:33-45 _____
 July 6 Parable of the Marriage Feast - Matthew 22:1-14 _____
 July 7 Parable of The Ten Virgins - Matthew 25:1-13 _____

June 2023 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	29	30 6:00 TUE SDAY'S TABLE	31	1	2	3  Noon TRAP SHOOTING OPENER (w/ devotion & grilling)
4 9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	5	6	7 6:30 9-10TH GRADER'S STUDY @ Pastor & Violet's	8 <i>Mission Ministry</i> 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	9	10
11 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP 11:00 - WENDROTH BABY SHOWER 7:00 - JUNE MOVIE NIGHT	12	13	14 5:00 - H.S. BIBLE STUDY 6:00 - TRAP SHOOTING (w/devotion & grilling) 	15	16	17
18 FATHER'S DAY  9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	19	20	21 6:30 9-10TH GRADER'S STUDY @ Pastor & Violet's	22 6:00 JUNE OUTING: Grandview Winery	23	24
25 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	26	27	28  5:00 - H.S. BIBLE STUDY 6:00 - TRAP SHOOTING (w/devotion & grilling)	29 6:30 - BUILDING COMMITTEE	30	July 1

Lord's Supper Dates

- Sunday, June 4th
- Sunday, June 18th

Upcoming Schedules...

After-Worship Fellowship

Began May 28

We will have coffee / water
and cookies at 10:15 after worship during the summer.
Please join us when you can!



Usher Schedule

June 4	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
June 11	Jason & Levi Miller
June 18	Larry Levin
June 25	Volunteers needed

USHERS NEEDED

Since we have resumed gathering the offerings during worship, we are in need of more ushers to help with that. Please sign up at church if you could take a turn once ever month or so. Thanks!

Scripture Readers

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

Elders

June 4, 11	Joe & Duane
June 18 & 25	Scott & OPEN

Custodian

June -	Duane & Bonnie Hansen
July -	Available

Nursery

(Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

Altar Guild

June	Mona Hjelle
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Accompanying Musicians

June 4	Sharon Willen
June 11	Scott Wachter
June 18	Open
June 24	Pam Johnson

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Thot for a day: Hate it when I see an old person and then realize we went to high school together.

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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.

In May we thanked God for...

- Moms
- Elaine Abraham
- All EMS Workers
- All who gave their lives for our country
- All who serve in the Armed Forces
- Tuesday's Table

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

Seen on Church Signboards...

**Original Sin:
The first pre-existing condition.**

And it's still covered!

June Discipleship Verse...

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Note:

Our Discipleship Verses for the next six months will be the verses that our Confirmands chose as their Confirmation Verse on April 30. This month we have Will Dahl's verse.

A Minute for Families...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

6 Reasons to Have a Weekly Family Meeting

(Even if "family" is just two of you).



Did you have family meetings when you were a kid? Were they a regular occurrence or only when there was a crisis or situation that warranted it? Depending on your experience, your feelings about them might range from fond memories to dread. Family meetings don't have to be something tied to negative memories for your own family. Establishing a weekly family meeting can have a lot of great benefits for both individual members and the family as a whole. Here are 6 reasons to start one:

It's intentional time for the whole family to communicate.

Whether your family is big, small, or somewhere in between, communication that includes the entire family isn't going to be perfect. Chances are you might forget to let someone know about the plans for next weekend, or only half the family is on the same page about the new screen time rules. A regular meeting provides a standing chance for members to make sure everyone is in the know and no one is unintentionally left in the dark.

They build a sense of solidarity and belonging.

When you're all usually going in a million different directions for work, school, activities, hobbies, etc., that "family unit" feeling of connection can dwindle if you're not careful. While it's healthy for members to have separate interests, a regular family meeting can help balance out the sense of separateness with a consistent opportunity to reconnect as a family. While sitting down for a meal together every day serves a similar secondary purpose, you'll occasionally have a super hectic week where that doesn't happen as much as you'd like. The family meeting is a great backup to have in place.

They help the family navigate transitions.

Transitions are hard for couples and families alike. Whether it's a move to a new city, a change in family structure, or a new daily routine, a weekly meeting can help that often bumpy period of time go just a bit smoother. Members can share their worries, offer each other reassurance, or gain clarity that may help them get through the big changes you're facing together. It's also a great time to check in with each person on how they're doing or make any necessary adjustments as a family going forward.

You can get everyone's input.

If you have a family decision you'd like everyone to weigh in on, a fami-

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That for a day: You never realize how little self-control you have until you're sitting in front of chips and salsa.

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ly meeting is a great time to do it. Whether it's where to go on your next family vacation or what pizza toppings to get for your weekly pizza night, you'll conveniently have everyone in one place to share their thoughts and opinions on the matter – or even take a quick vote. You'll ensure everyone's voice is heard and no one is left out.

It's a chance to celebrate accomplishments and offer support.

There's no better time to call out things worth celebrating than when the whole family is present. Did someone make the honor roll or ace a big test? You or your spouse just finish up a big project at work? Give all the props, praise, and high fives. On the flip side, there will be times when family members are looking for encouragement, and this is an equally opportune time to offer that. A weekly meeting is like having a family cheering section for daily life, building members' confidence and providing support when they need it.

You can tailor it to your season of life.

You might be wondering: How old should our kids be when we start this? What if there's a wide range in age? What if we don't have kids? The great news is there is no right or wrong answer here. The key is to do what works for you and your family in your current situation. Make adjustments as you need to. This might mean the family meeting is actually just a weekly logistical check in for you and your spouse if you don't have children or they're still too young to actively take part. Or it could mean you set up a weekly video call with your parents and siblings instead. It might mean only some of your kids participate, or they only join for part of the meeting. Don't let worries of "doing it right" hold you back – just start one!

For many people, family meetings are associated with crisis, and it makes sense. When there's an intense family situation, it's usually the go-to way to get all hands on deck. However, making family meetings a regular, weekly occurrence turns it into a positive bonding experience.



"Yes, the disciples followed Jesus...
but not on Twitter."

The Link...

We would absolutely LOVE to get the local churches more involved at The Link (especially because we originated from the local ministerial).....and we currently have a HUGE need for help in the thrift store.... (especially on Saturday's) so, here's our idea:

Each church would take one Saturday (depending on how much interest will depend on how many Saturday's a year this would be....it could be as few as 4 Saturday's a year) to be in charge of volunteering at the thrift store. WE WOULD ONLY NEED 2 PEOPLE EACH TIME TO HELP! This would also be consistent so you would know when your church is assigned. (like Tuesday's Table).

We were thinking someone from each congregation could be in charge of finding the volunteers for your assigned Saturday and we would always have 1 person working here that has a key to open and close.

Each week, we would have something written on our chalk board that would say something like, "This week's shopping experience is brought to you by (church name).

So, basically, we need someone from each congregation to be "in charge", and depending on how many of you are able/willing to do this, depends how often this would happen.....

Please let me know if this is something your church would be willing to participate in. As soon as I know how many of you would be willing, I would have a better idea how many Saturday's we would need your church to participate! We would love to avoid the risk of closing the store on Saturday's as the sales income is a big part of our funding for our programs :)

With the increased in need for services, we also thought this would be a GREAT way to get word about The Link's services to those community members that might not know about us yet :)

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.



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Thot for a day: When it comes to giving, some people stop at nothing. (Think about it...)

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Email Humor...

A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on the magnet and what it does.

The next day in a written test, she included this question:

"My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I am strong and attractive. I pick up things. What am I?"

When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word "Mother."

+++

Eight-year-old Susie came home from school and informed her mother that today in class they had learned how to make babies. The mother, rather shaken by the development, called the teacher to complain.

After listening to the mother complain for a few minutes, the teacher responded, "Did you ask her to explain how it is done?"

"No," said the mother.

"Then ask her and call me back," replied the teacher.

"So how DO you make babies?" the mother asked her daughter.

Susie responded, "You drop the 'y' and add 'jes.'"

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Mixed Emotions

One youngster was explaining to another what "mixed emotions" meant.

"It's like watching the school burn down when your new catcher's mitt is in your desk," he said.



"If God wanted me to eat carrots, He wouldn't hide them underground!"

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.

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



Help Record our Worship Services...

that we livestream and later upload our YouTube channel (New London Living Word). Talk to Pastor David if you can help out with this - just 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 the back-wall table where you can put in your receipts.



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 from July—December Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to sign up or find out more details.



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 time.

On our last "Make-a-Meal Day" we made 20 more meals you can take to someone who needs.

We are in need of someone to coordinate a Meal-Making Day in June. If you could be that person, please talk to Marcia Welsh. Thanks!



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Thot for a day: People who ask, "Can I ask you a question?" Didn't really give me a choice, did ya there buddy?

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Host Families Needed for Foreign Exchange Students...

We need families - anywhere in America (so tell your friends and relatives) - who can host foreign exchange students!

Basic Requirements:

Your family doesn't have to be perfect, but it does need to be safe and loving! The student needs a clean bed and three meals per day. They can share a room with a sibling that is within four years of their age, or they can have their own room. Students come with their own spending money and insurance.

Please, consider opening your heart and home to welcome a great student from another country. They are interested in learning about American culture and improving their English. Students are ages 14 to 17 when they arrive in America! I know from experience, this is an opportunity that will be remembered forever!

Please, call Lori Sherod at 320-305-2495 or sherodlori@gmail.com to start the process!

Thank You...

...to everyone who helped in any way to make Tuesday's Table a success!

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

CHRISTMAS IN JUNE ???

June is a great month to purchase items for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!

(Plus, if you buy stuff now, that's one less thing for your "Christmas To Do" list later in the year!)

Congratulations...

- Eve Bajari and Taylor Maas on your engagement!

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

Email Inspiration...

UNKNOWN SOLDIER
By Deirdre Reilly

Although it is summertime now, one way to keep Christmas in your heart all year long is to remember the lessons of Christmas throughout the year. This brings me to recall something very special that happened to two men and three children, and bears repeating.

Very early in the morning last December, my husband and my eight year old son happened across a United States Army soldier on an exit ramp near the town where we live. It was a very cold Sunday morning, when frost lay on the ground and tree limbs were stark and twisted against a thick gray sky. Not too many other cars were out, and those who were out were hurrying to get somewhere, exhaust coming from each car in warm-looking puffs as they glided down the highway, frost still on the windshields. My husband and son were coming home from my son's 6 AM hockey game, and looking forward to getting breakfast out together and then returning home, where the rest of us lay dreaming.

As my husband approached the end of the ramp the soldier got out of his car, a grey Maxima that had broken down. The soldier was in full dress uniform, and was cold, and very young; early twenties, my husband guessed. My husband pulled over to see what he could do to help. The soldier needed a cell phone, he said – he was going to call his girlfriend to see if she could come and get him and his two daughters – his daughters were bundled into the cold car – and bring them back home to Derry, NH, where they lived.

My husband looked into the car and saw the soldier's four year old, dressed in her best party dress, and a baby, zipped up to her chin into her thick snuggly. The three of them had been on their way to a Christmas party at the Boston barracks when the car had chosen that time to die. At this point, the soldier was just trying to get home; the party had been given up on. The little girl grinned at my husband from the back seat, and I know he must have grinned back at her, too.

My husband moved the little girls into our car, where the four year old proceeded to become very interested in my eight year old – "she was patting me," he reported in a resigned way to me later, upon the retelling of their memorable morning – and the men talked about the young soldier's options. My husband told me that this young man was, to him, a soldier first – someone who already, with his young life, done much for us just by his service – but he was also a young man who still didn't have all the answers. We have a son of our own who is just a few

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That for a day: Maybe parenting wasn't easier a generation ago, but at least kids weren't using their voice-activated robots to fact-check their parents.

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years younger than this soldier who was sitting beside him. The soldier didn't have Triple A, and he had no one to call for help. As the baby stared, round-eyed, at them all, my husband offered his Triple A for a tow, and then offered to take the soldier and the children into Boston for the party. The soldier had decided to just try to get back home, and so they called for the tow and my husband offered to drive the three of them back to New Hampshire.

They chatted as they waited; my husband commented that the Christmas party sure was early, if they had been on the road at six in the morning, and the soldier commented that "the army does everything early." They all sat together, my family and his, and then headed up north after the tow truck came, the soldier's broken-down car following behind them.

There is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, guarded twenty-four hours a day with honor in Washington, D.C., but there is also the living Unknown Soldier, among us every day. Crippled by war, perhaps, or mentally ravaged by what he has seen in a country far away, or maybe just young, and needing a hand with the stuff of everyday life – they are here, with us right now. We are sometimes stymied by the American soldier – how do you begin to thank people who pick up a gun and say good-bye to everyone who matters and fly far away because they believe in protecting the country we all live in?



Sometimes, you give them a cell phone and your Triple A, and make sure their children are warm. My husband watched the uniformed soldier and his dressed-up little girls climb the steps of their big old three-family house, where toys dotted the yard and the frost was beginning to thaw and show the green underneath. My husband was reluctant to talk about this to me, downplaying the aid he had offered. But eight year olds sing like canaries. I think my husband feels that at the end of the day, it was just one dad helping another dad get his children home. And one man helping another, too, trying, through his actions to say thank you very much, Unknown Soldier, for all you have given up and gone through and laid down for all of us, even though to you, we are Unknown Americans.

Deirdre Reilly is humorist and columnist. This column first appeared in December 2007 in many Gatehouse News Service newspapers.

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Just For Fun...

People from the New Testament

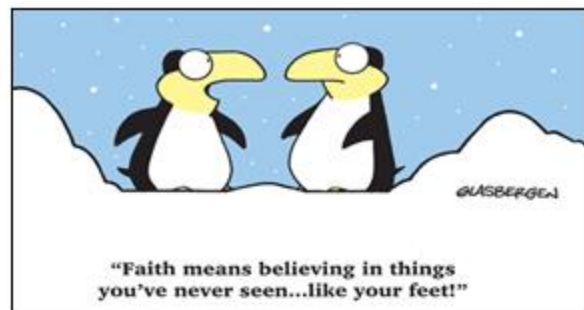
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Andrew	John	Mary	Simon
Aquila	John the Baptist	Matthew	Stephen
Barnabas	Joseph	Matthias	Tabitha
Barsabas	Judas	Paul	Thaddaeus
Bartholomew	Lazarus	Peter	Thomas
Cornelius	Luke	Philip	Timothy
Elizabeth	Lydia	Priscilla	Zacchaeus
James	Mark	Silas	Zebedee
Jesus	Martha		

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That for a day: The bravest thing you can do when you are not brave is to profess courage and act accordingly.

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Story Behind The Song...

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Some of the greatest hymns are derived from the worst tragedies. This month's song is such an example and is one of the best stories of unshakable faith.

'I Have Decided to Follow Jesus' is a Christian hymn originating from India. The lyrics are based on the last words of a man in Assam.

The late 1800's saw an evangelistic explosion in India. Entire provinces formally closed to the gospel were swept up a missionary movement perhaps unparalleled in history. Wales in particular sent hundreds of missionaries to Northern India, and they were joined by Indian evangelists, as well as missionaries from England, Australia, and the United States. This movement was remarkable for two reasons; first, it was led mostly by Indians themselves, and those men became national figures. Second, this missionary endeavor was focused on Northern India, which was firmly in the grips of the most oppressive forms of Hinduism. It was a place where the caste system was entrenched, and where headhunters ruled.

Into these hostile and aggressive communities, came a groups of missionaries spreading the message of love, peace and hope in Jesus Christ. Naturally, they were not welcomed. In the 1880's a Welsh missionary who had endured severe persecution finally saw his first converts in a particularly brutal village in the Indian province of Assam. A husband and wife, with their two children, professed faith in Christ and were baptized.

Angry, the village chief summoned all the villagers. He then called the family who had first converted to renounce their faith in public or face execution of the entire family. Moved by the Holy Spirit, the man said:

"I have decided to follow Jesus."

Enraged at the refusal of the man, the chief ordered his archers to shoot the two children. As both boys lay twitching on the floor, the chief asked, "Will you deny your faith? You have lost both your children. You will lose your wife too."

But the man replied:

"Though no one joins me, still I will follow."

The chief was beside himself with fury and ordered his wife to be killed. In a moment she joined her two children in death. Now he asked for the last time, "I will give you one more opportunity to deny your faith and live." In the face of death the man said the final memorable lines:

"The cross before me, the world behind me. No turning back."

He was shot dead like the rest of his family. But with their deaths, a miracle took place. The chief who had ordered the killings was moved by the faith of the man. He wondered, "Why should this man, his wife and two children die for a Man who lived in a far-away land on another continent some 2,000 years ago? There must be some remarkable power behind the family's faith, and I too want to taste that faith."

Later, in a spontaneous confession of faith, he declared, "I too belong to Jesus Christ!" When the crowd heard this from the mouth of their chief, the whole village accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

The formation of these words into a hymn is attributed to the Indian missionary Sadhu Sundar Singh. The melody is also Indian and with the title "Assam" after the region where the text originated. An American hymn editor, William Jensen Reynolds, composed an arrangement that was published in 1959 and became a regular feature of Billy Graham's evangelistic meetings in America and elsewhere, spreading its popularity.

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.

Tho' none go with me, I still will follow,
Tho' none go with me I still will follow,
Tho' none go with me, I still will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.

My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;
My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus,
My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus;
No turning back, No turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back.

Note from the editor:

Listen to the full story at <https://youtu.be/ALP9f4QVloA>

A great version by Brandon Lake of Bethel Music at...

<https://youtu.be/dp1xMhs5LmY>

And of course, a version by my favorite family bluegrass band, the Petersens at... <https://youtu.be/GdcXHM2VeaU>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



THE PARABLE OF THE SLEEPING SON - The kingdom of Heaven is like the son who depends on his dad to be his walking talking alarm clock rather than getting an alarm clock of his own. Mt 25:1-13ish