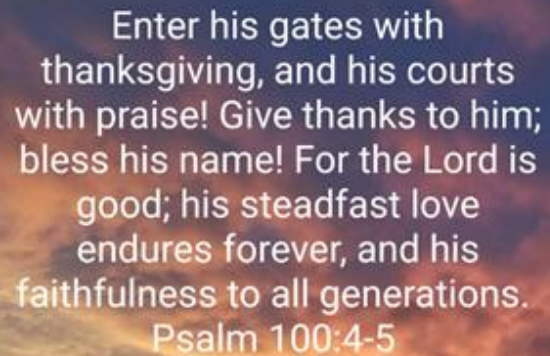




**Living Word**  
**Lutheran Church**  
LCMS



Enter his gates with  
thanksgiving, and his courts  
with praise! Give thanks to him;  
bless his name! For the Lord is  
good; his steadfast love  
endures forever, and his  
faithfulness to all generations.  
Psalm 100:4-5

**July 2024 Newsletter**

**"Communicating the Love of Jesus"**

**Summer Hours:  
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](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)  
Website: [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net)

## Questions for Pastor...



What does that mean?

This is a question that came up in Confirmation class when we were going through the Lord's Prayer. It actually came up a few times.

The first word that got puzzled looks was "art," as in, "Our Father who ART in heaven..." This wasn't surprising. I've heard stories about younger kids who, after hearing this prayer in church, thought that God's name was Art.

Of course, I explained that "'Art' is the 500-year-old Shakespearian English word for 'is.' So, today we would say, 'Our Father who IS in heaven.'" Naturally, the next question was, "Why don't we just say 'is' then?" Great question! It's not as though the Bible was written in Shakespearian English or that anyone talks that way anymore. If we were actually going to be true to the language the New Testament was written in, we would be saying the prayer in Greek.

The questions kept coming as we went on to "hallowed be Thy name." I told them that "hallowed" was, again, the old Shakespearian way of saying "holy." (I would venture a guess that most people have only a vague idea of what "holy" really means too.)

Here again, I'd heard a cute tale of a youngster who told his friend that he was going to church to see Howard. The friend had no idea who Howard was, so the little boy said, "God, of course! You know, 'Our Father who art in heaven, Howard be your name.'"

Then there were the questions about "Thy" and "Thine." (Your and Yours).

Maybe you have the same idea that I came away with, "Why do we keep praying the Lord's Prayer using these old words that no one uses any longer, words that many people - not just young people - don't understand?" (Our hymnal does include a modernized option that leaves out "art," "Thy" and "Thine." But still has "hallowed.")

Thanks for asking  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

Thank you  
Very much

Dear Living Word Church —  
There are no words that express the depth of appreciation felt when a loving community reaches out to help.  
Thank you so much for the amazing meals that Ginnie Iverson delivered!!!  
We feel so loved. Teri Frass

## Living Word Apparel...



Remember to wear your t-shirts and hats...

  
**Summer Worship**  
Sundays at 9 a.m.

Summer Worship Time:  
9:00 a.m.  
Begins Memorial Weekend  
Sunday, May 26  
(And runs through Labor Day  
Weekend)

## Email Humor...

### Milton Berle Quotes:

- You can lead a man to Congress, but you can't make him think.
- My doctor told me that jogging could add years to my life. I think he was right. I feel ten years older already.
- My wife and I have a perfect understanding. I don't try to run her life, and I don't try to run mine.
- Folk who don't know why America is the Land of Promise should be here during an election campaign
- Money can't buy you happiness. It just helps you look for it in more places.
- In Washington, a person gets up to speak and doesn't say a thing, and the other representatives disagree with him for three hours.
- I bought my kid an educational toy to help him make it through life. No matter how you put it together, it's wrong.



## Page 4

That for a day: The older I get, the more I understand why roosters scream to start their day.

## Smoke-Detector Battery Outreach...



We Have LOTS of Batteries left from Our Annual Smoke-Detector Battery Giveaway

A great time to change your smoke detector battery is when you change your clocks on March 10th.

Please take some from the "Free Stuff" Table for your family and friends!

## Community Outreach...

We are looking for people interested in organizing and helping with a Living Word float in the...

**New London Waterdays Parade**  
Saturday July 20th

Contact: Mona Hjelle



## Page 5

## Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in June on the normal **First and Third Sundays (7th & 21st)**



### 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.

## Youth Events...

### 11-12th Grade YOUTH:

11-12th Grade Bible Study group meets every other week.



### 7-8th Grade Youth

Will meet once in Jul for our foosball tournament!

### Planning has begun for attending...

As of now we have 8 youth planning to attend.

Gathering Date: July 19—23, 2025

Youth, 14-19 years of age by the Gathering Date



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

### Read about Dreams in the Bible

(Or listen to Pastor read them.)

He will text or email you a link to each day's recording)

You'll find the readings listed on our Daily Readings page

## Choir News...

Will be back in the fall!



## Pastor is Planning a Membership Class...



Please talk to him if you are interested in finding out about membership at Living Word.

## Page 6

### From MN North District...

"(Jesus) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant."  
 Philippians 2:6

Dear saints of the Living Word family  
 I thank God for all of you. By God's grace you have continued the mission of New Life + Shepherd of the Hills to give the gifts of Christ to sinners! Keep fighting the good fight of the faith as the word never comes back void (Isaiah 55:10-11)

I wanted to personally thank you for your prayers + financial support of the MN North District all these years. Your generosity has helped assure that our 147 congregations / 27 schools stay faithful to God's inerrant word, care for our workers, + fervently serve others in the name of Christ. "O LORD keep us steadfast in your →

That for a day: I will no longer be "growing old," I'll be "going for a high score." Who's with me?

## Page 7

Word. Amen"  
 Part of my calling as District President is to visit all 224 ministers in our district every three years. I look forward to visiting you in the near future.

In Christ (1 Tim 1:15)  
 Rev. [Signature]



## 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 June we thanked God for...

- SUMMER !
- JETT MAAS - BAPTIZED INTO GOD'S FAMILY

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

## Church Directory...

We are starting to compile information and photos for the CHURCH DIRECTORY!

If everyone supplies a photo and the following information you will make this task so much simpler.

If you do not have a photo of your family/yourself, Torasia will take your photo for you after church. (She will have her camera available to do that after each service in July.)

Below is the info we would like to include:

Name (Names) Please include Dates of Birth and Anniversary date as applicable
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
Address _____
_____
Telephone _____
_____
Email Address _____
_____
(Information is voluntary, we will not sell your information but will use it strictly as a way to communicate)
If you want to email this information along with a photo, you can email to cabbage_12@hotmail.com

## Page 8

That for a day: What if oxygen is actually killing us, and it just takes 75-100 years to work?

## Page 9

## Opportunities for Growth...



**Sunday Morning Bible Study**  
Is on Summer Break.  
Will resume in September

**Monthly Morning Women's Study:**  
Is on Summer Break—Next Study will be September 11th.



**Men's Study**  
Meets Every-other Wednesday For the Summer  
July 10th @ 6:30  
(Come at 6:00 for food)

Movie Night @ 7:00 on the 24th

## Save The Date for...



**August 19-22**

5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

"A Walk With Jesus"

## LWML News...

LWML will not meet in June, July, or August.  
Our next meeting and Bible study,  
will be Wednesday, September 11th, at 10:00  
a.m., at church



### 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 CONVENTION RECAP

Pam Johnson and Marcia Welsh will give a summary of the convention they attended during worship on June 30.

## 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 :

- Kid's books
- July Newsletters
- July-September Portals of Prayer
- Smoke Detector batteries

### 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>

June 2	"Take Time to be Holy: Speak Often With God"
June 9	"Powerful Prayers to Have in Your 'Back Pocket'"
June 16	"How to Stay Ready for Jesus' Return"
June 23	"Memorable Days Teach Us Valuable Lessons"

### 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.

### Donation Reminder

While we love donations of items for the church, we have very limited storage. If you have an item you think we need, there is a procedure: Please contact Tammy Miller 320-905-2434 before you donate!



## Page 10

That for a day: You can learn many things from children...like how much patience you have.

## Page 11

## Mark Your Calendars...

### Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, June 11th @ 6:30 p.m.

Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

### Building Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 10th @ 5:30 p.m. (Prior to Men's Study)

## Upcoming Fellowship Outings...

### Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate July Birthdays

at El Tapatio in Willmar

Tuesday, July 9th @ 11:00



### July Supper-Fellowship Outing:

Thursday, July 18th — 6:00

@ The Eagle's Nest in Regal

## Trap-Shooting Fellowship 2024...

Every other Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m.

We'll have brats, hot dogs and a devotion @ 6:00 and start shooting @ 6:30

- July 3
- July 17
- July 31
- August 14
- August 28



## Building Committee Update...

The committee is looking into the feasibility of attaching the new sanctuary to the front (west side) of the existing building in order to be able to provide overflow seating for large services. Please continue to pray for God's guidance for them!

# Independence Day...

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

By Jason Inman

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

First, why does America celebrate the 4th of July? Something about apple pie, explosions in the sky, baseball games, and BBQ flames, right? No. On July 4, 1776, thirteen colonies in North America decided they were done paying their taxes and over their allegiance to the King of England. Colonial leaders got together to write the Declaration of Independence and then sign it into being. The Revolutionary War had already begun, but this was a statement of unity and determination to gain freedom from England's rule. You might recognize this portion.



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

—The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

## 4 Reasons July 4th Reminds me of Freedom In Christ

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

ly kids. Either way, it may be time to make a mid-war declaration of your freedom in Christ.

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

## Email Inspiration...

A man was walking down the beach at sunset. As he walked along, he saw another man in the distance. He noticed this man kept leaning down, picking up something and throwing it out into the water, again and again. As he approached even closer, he noticed that the man was picking up starfish that had been washed up on the beach. He was throwing them back into the water, one by one.



Puzzled, he approached the man and said, "Good Evening. I was wondering what you are doing."

"I'm throwing these starfish back into the ocean. You see, it's low tide and all these starfish have been washed up onto the shore. If I don't throw them back into the ocean, they'll die up here from lack of oxygen."

"But, there must be thousands of starfish on this beach. You can't possibly get to all of them. And don't you realize this is probably happening on hundreds of beaches all up and down this coast. Can't you see that you can't possibly make a difference?"

The man bent down and picked up yet another starfish, and threw it back into the ocean. With a smile he replied, "Made a difference to that one!!!"

## A Minute for Couples...

### 4 Communication Mistakes We Make When Stressed

You missed an appointment you'd been waiting on for months, because the car is acting up again. You just got a call from your son's school about some behavior issues, and—oh look, the dog threw up on the carpet. ARGH! You're feeling overwhelmed and stressed, to say the least. Now, your spouse walks in looking serious and wants to talk.



Let's hit pause here for a second. What do you think happens next? It's probably pretty safe to assume that you aren't in the best state of mind for a serious conversation with your partner. In fact, here are four communication mistakes we tend to make when we're stressed out or overwhelmed.

#### 1. We lose control of our tone and body language.

It's not what you say, but how you say it, right? When you're stressed out, anxious, or overwhelmed, you're probably feeling a little amped up. This makes it harder to control the nuances of striking just the right tone or aligning your non-verbal language with your verbal. Your words themselves might be harmless enough, but your impatient tone, exasperated sigh, or defensively crossed arms send a prickly message that might make your spouse shut down.

#### 2. Our listening skills deteriorate.

Communication isn't just about talking; the other side of the coin is being a good listener. And a major part of being a good listener is giving your full attention. That means avoiding not only external distractions like your phone, but also internal distractions like an overstimulated mind. Your partner is telling you about a problem with a co-worker; meanwhile, your mind is in a completely different place, maybe running through a to-do list or puzzling out a solution for the dilemma that's causing your own stress.

#### 3. We have a low capacity for empathy.

When you're dealing with your own stuff mentally, it takes a lot of effort and intention to put that aside and respond empathetically to your spouse, especially if they're coming to you with issues that seem to be adding to your stress. Without empathy, we tend to criticize or judge, which can often lead to more conflict.

#### 4. We jump to conclusions.

A bad mood can affect how we interpret the words and actions of our partner. When your mind feels cluttered and overstimulated, it can have a similar effect. They make an innocent comment, and in response you get overly defensive or assume they're not speaking with the best intentions. Instead of really listening and seeing the whole picture, you've al-

## Page 14

That for a day: The manger is the Bible's way of showing us that holiday travel has always been rough

## Page 15

ready decided why they said what they did. Unfortunately, jumping to conclusions and making assumptions about our spouse's intentions often results in conflict.

#### A realistic solution:

When you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, it's normal to feel like you're not at your best. That doesn't mean we can't strive to get better at handling our own emotions and working to improve our communication. Realistically though, no one is perfect. We're going to get caught up in emotion from time to time, and our communication skills might suffer as a result. Having the self-awareness to know when that is happening and being able to communicate that to your spouse can often go a long way in preventing the interaction from taking a negative or hostile turn. That might sound like, "I'm sorry I snapped at you. I'm feeling very stressed out about work and not in a great frame of mind to talk right now. Let me decompress for a few minutes and I'll come find you." This not only lets your partner know that you're not angry with them, it also gives them the opportunity to support you—bonus points if you can tell them what you need, whether that's a hug or some alone time.

It seems simple enough, but good communication is hard to master even under the best conditions. Throw in some mental and emotional hurdles, and things can get even more complicated. But the reality is, you're going to face periods of stress or an occasional crisis. Understanding how that affects your communication is the first step in preventing your marriage from taking the brunt of it.

## Confirmation News



Remember to check the "PowerPoint Clicker" schedule, and catch up on your Sermon Notes.









We normally have a couple family service projects that we are not able to do this year: Adopt-a-Highway (due to construction on MN 23) and Tuesday's Table (all the available dates were spoken for). So... we have some other options for service projects you and your student can participate in together:

- Help with our Waterdays Parade float (July 20)
- Help with Vacation Bible School (August 19-22)
- Volunteer as Church cleaner once a week for a month. (July, August, September, November and December are available. It usually takes roughly an hour a week)

Please let Pastor David know which of these you and your student would like to help with. Thanks!



# July 2024 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 30 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	1	2 	3 1:00 - VBS Planning 6:00 - TRAP SHOOTING 	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 	6	
7 9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP & DIRECTORY PHOTOS	8	9  11:00 - CELEBRATE JULY BIRTHDAYS @ EI TAPATIO	10 5:30 - BUILDING TEAM 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	11 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	12	13
14 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP & DIRECTORY PHOTOS	15	16	17 1:00 - VBS Planning 6:00 - TRAP SHOOTING 	18 6:00 - FELLOWSHIP OUTING @ EAGLE'S NEST REGAL 	19 	20 11:00 NL WATER-DAYS PARADE OUTREACH
21 9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP & DIRECTORY PHOTOS	22	23	24 7:00 - MOVIE NIGHT	25 	26	27
28 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP & DIRECTORY PHOTOS	29	30	31 1:00 - VBS Planning 6:00 - TRAP SHOOTING	Aug 1	Aug 2 <div style="border: 2px solid black; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px;">                         Lord's Supper Dates                          • Sunday, July 7th                          • Sunday, July 21st                     </div>	Aug 3

# July 2024 - Daily Readings

This Month we finish PRAYERS and start on DREAMS found in the Bible.

Pastor records the readings (along with devotions based on the readings).

To receive these audio recordings daily, just email him: [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net).

NOTE: Email or text Pastor with questions you have on something you read.

June 30 Use today to Worship & catch up on readings you missed

July 1 Matthew 6:5-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 2 Matthew 26:36-42 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 3 Ephesians 1:15-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 4 Ephesians 3:14-21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 5 Colossians 1:9-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 7 Use today to Worship and catch up on readings you missed

July 8 Genesis 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 9 Genesis 28:10-22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 10 Genesis 31:1-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 11 Genesis 31:22-30 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 12 Genesis 37:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 14 Use today to Worship - and catch up on readings you missed!

July 15 Genesis 40:1-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 16 Genesis 41:1-40 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 17 Judges 7:1-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 18 1 Kings 3:1-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 19 Daniel 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 21 Use today to Worship and catch up on readings you missed

July 22 Daniel 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 23 Daniel 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 24 Matthew 1:18-25 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 25 Matthew 2:1-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 26 Matthew 2:13-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 28 Use today to Worship - and catch up on readings you missed

July 29 Matthew 2:19-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 30 Matthew 27:19-26 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 31 Acts 9:10-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Aug 1 Acts 10:9-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Aug 2 Acts 16:6-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Recordings of the Daily Readings can also be found on our website at:

<https://www.livingwordlutheran.net/devotions.htm>

## Upcoming Schedules...

### After-Worship Fellowship

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



### Usher Schedule

July 7	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
July 14	Jason & Levi Miller
July 21	Pam Johnson & Linda Van Meter
July 28	Larry Levin & Jim Stinson

### **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. Thanks!

### Elders

July 7, 14	Steve & Duane & Kevin
June 21, 28	Kevin & Dan

### Custodian

July -	Available
--------	-----------

### Nursery

( Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

### Altar Guild

July	Mona Hjelle
------	-------------

### Power Point Clicker

July 7	Carter
July 14	Parker
July 21	Ella
July 28	Troy

### Accompanying Musicians

July 7	Sharon Willen
July 14	Scott Wachter
July 21	Sharon Willen
July 28	Scott Wachter

That for a day: Some of your best memories can come from some of your most foolish decisions.

## Spring Voter's Assembly...

...on June 2nd. The Spring Assembly elected the following members to 2-year terms in the following positions:

Chairman	Joe Johnson
Stewardship -	open
Secretary -	Wendy Robbin
Trustee -	Lonny Robbin
Elders (three):	Steve Wulf, Duane Hansen, Scott Wachter
Christian Growth - Youth	open
Community Outreach -	Tammy Miller

The MM appointed Becky Sarsland to fill the Youth position



*Seen on Church Signboards...*

**BE THE REASON  
FOR SOMEONE TO BELIEVE  
THAT GOD IS GOOD**

## July Discipleship Verse...



*"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him and bless His name! For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations"*

Psalm 100:4-5



## The Link...

### May 2024 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

RIBFEST 2024 has come to an end and was nothing short of amazing! We were able to raise just under \$30,000 to help your neighbors in need! The weather was perfect, the

ribs and pie were delicious and the support we received was absolutely breathtaking. I wish we could thank each and every one of the people individually who helped make it possible.....but that would take days. So much planning and preparation goes into making the day run smoothly and we could not do it without our dedicated (and amazing) volunteers, the rib teams and pie team, our gracious sponsors, the silent auction donors, and each and every one of you that came out to enjoy the day!!!! We are so humbled and so grateful to this amazing community for doing what they do best.....helping their neighbors in need!!!

**The Food Pantry.** In May, The Link served 194 households - distributing a total of 11,323 pounds of food.

**Wildcat Backpack and Snack Pantry.** The Wildcat Backpack bags are available through the summer to those in need if families would like to pick them up at The Link each week.

**Client Outreach.** Each month, The Link is able to provide support to a number of families facing hardships, such as (but not limited to): job loss, chronic illness, unexpected change in family dynamics and increase in the cost of living. In May, your donations were able to support 19 families by helping with medical bills, gas, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic needs. Household Exchange. The Household Exchange Program was able to provide 81 families with much needed furniture and other household necessities in May.

**Tuesday's Table.** A free community meal the 1st Tuesday of the month: Our Lady of the Lakes (Spicer), 2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant (New London), 3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran (Spicer), 4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran (New London), 5th Tuesday: Crossroads Community Church (call 320-354-5555 for more information).

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?** Pray for the Link and the community--Help us spread awareness by talking about The Link to your friends and family and sharing on social media-- Donate unexpired food items to the food pantry or organize a food drive-- Volunteer at the thrift store or in the food pantry-- Donate your gently used clothing and household goods- (all proceeds kick back into The Link's programs -- or Donate

## Page 22

That for a day: I've got stained glass windows in our house. Stupid pigeons.

## Page 23

financially.

**CURRENT NEEDS:** Gently used clothing and household necessities, any unexpired/d/packaged and labeled food. Remember for every \$1 donated, The Link can purchase \$10 in food through Second Harvest.

Donations made easy Monthly giving at The Link is convenient. You can set up online giving directly through your bank or by visiting The Link's website at [www.youarethelink.org](http://www.youarethelink.org) by scanning the QR code. You can also mail your donation to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273, drop off your donation in person or leave your check in the drop box outside of The Link's door at 20 Central Ave E, New London. Questions? Contact Ashley at 320-354-5555. Thank you for your support! YOU ARE THE LINK!



### 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/yc5rb4uh>



### Congratulations...

- Jett Otto Maas on your baptism into the family of God on June 23rd!

Please email [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net) if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

### Its Not Too Late...

...for Summer Camp !  
Summer 2024  
brochures  
are available at church



## 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. Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to sign up or find out more details.



## Make-A-Meal Program...

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



Meals are in the freezer at church - waiting for you to grab and take to someone.



That for a day: The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

## Welcome Jett...



## More Email Humor...

A group of Canadians was traveling by tour bus through Holland.

As they stopped at a cheese farm, a young guide led them through a process of cheese making, explaining that goat's milk was used.

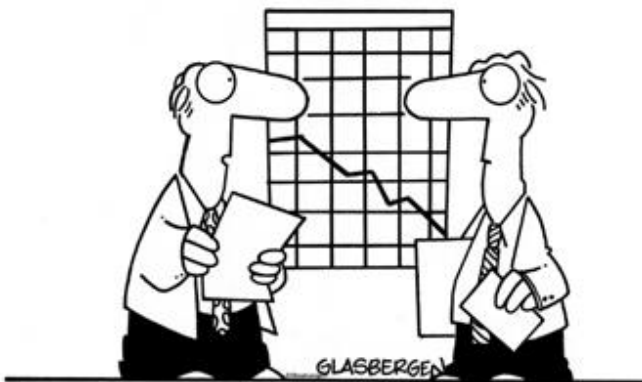
She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing. These were the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produced, she explained.

She then asked, "What do you do in Canada with your old goats that aren't producing?"

A sly old gentleman answered, "They send us on bus tours."

## Prayers...

A "We're Praying For You": card we recently received from another congregation...



**"How much would it cost to add God to our board of directors?"**

## Page 26

**That for a day:** If someone has a mid-life crisis while playing hide & seek, do they automatically lose because they can't find themselves?

## Page 27

## Prayer...

### Remember to use "The Prayer Force"

Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email ([pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto: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:

- Thanking God for the freedom to attend worship
- Thanking God for freedom to live out our faith in your daily lives
- Thanking God for Jesus dying to set us free from sin!
- Thanking God for all who serve to keep us free!
- Asking God to provide safe travel for everyone vacationing
- Thanking God for those elected in June to serve on our MMT
- Asking God to raise up volunteers for our Waterdays Parade.
- Asking God for His continued healing for Harry & Will's family
- Asking God's blessing on our Youth Gathering fundraising efforts
- Asking God for good weather for the growing season.
- Asking God's continued guidance for our Building Committee
- Thanking God that His Word is Truth amidst the lies of the world.
- Asking God for faith to stand for His Truth like Daniel's 3 friends !
- 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, wisdom & courage for government leaders
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan and the Int'l Lutheran Council

### "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-VvJEU22vCYxbhwig/featured>

## Monthly Music Videos...

More new songs in June. Here are some favorites:

- You've probably already heard this on the radio, but at the beginning of the month, CAIN released a new hit called "Friend In Jesus"... [https://youtu.be/\\_1D5C0kid2g](https://youtu.be/_1D5C0kid2g)
- The latest song from Ryan Stevenson is "Sails"... <https://youtu.be/6VHYRECaRsU>
- "God Is Good" is a great new song from Chris August... <https://youtu.be/5Qrk2ubC7iw>
- You may not have heard of George Case, but "What More Could I Want" is a great new release... <https://youtu.be/7Q4nBG9EoGO>
- "Where My Joy Comes From" is the latest release from Unspoken... [https://youtu.be/g3nUAXV\\_D1w](https://youtu.be/g3nUAXV_D1w)
- New artist, Layla Capri just released "Walk With Me"... <https://youtu.be/LzJ7gQK7apY>
- Chris Ekiss is another new artist who just released "Ain't That Like Jesus"... <https://youtu.be/LNB7TeWfhVs>
- "Praise God For That" is a new song from Jordan Feliz... <https://youtu.be/SNNz4qrYtik>
- A great new song from Austin French is "Broken Home"... <https://youtu.be/FYPdQVEl6bQ>
- "You Hold Onto Me" is the latest from Stephen McWhirter... <https://youtu.be/9tKe9K7Qe78>
- Anne Wilson teamed up with Lainey Wilson on "Praying Woman"... <https://youtu.be/xSoKDv3XVul>
- "Neverland" is a new release from Brandon Heath... <https://youtu.be/84GhdDis0nl>
- TobyMac has a new song called "Nothing Sweeter"... <https://youtu.be/hEdwE0obsUg>
- Inspired by Psalm 23, Meredith Joy Keller released "Not Alone"... <https://youtu.be/NKwEwQm1oQw>
- Worship group, Lakewood Music has released "Oh How Worthy"... <https://youtu.be/LCPSSLgsokc>
- If you missed it live a couple weeks ago, watch the K-Love 2024 Fan Awards show. It is a great couple hours of music... <https://youtu.be/ulJLfQebwhw>

## Page 28

**That for a day:** If you get an email with the subject "Knock Knock," don't open it. It's a Jehovah witness working from home.

## Page 29

## Story Behind The Song...

Sometimes the impact of some written words to influence and change lives for God can not be anticipated at first glance.

At the age of 23, George Beverly Shea (1909 – 2013) had a hard decision to make. He could accept a job offer in a secular singing position in New York City, with a great salary and wide respect; or he could continue singing in churches and on Christian radio programs.

George Beverly Shea was known for his booming baritone voice. He ministered alongside Billy Graham and Cliff Barrows, often singing right before Graham stepped to the podium. One of his best-known songs was, "I'd Rather Have Jesus."

Mr. Shea was born in Winchester, Ontario, Canada. He had the advantage of good musical training early in life. In his early years, he had his share of lucrative offers from this world.

Shea had been singing since he was a young man in the Wesleyan Methodist churches, where his father was a minister. He was forced to leave college and work in an insurance office as a young man, due to the family's financial needs. However, that did not stop him from singing. He continued to sing in churches and for Christian radio programs. This practice led to the unexpected offer of an audition in New York City. He was offered a substantial salary and wide recognition for this secular singing position. Shea prayed long and hard while making this difficult decision, but he thoughtfully turned them down to become a singing servant for our Savior.

Bev Shea's mother often would leave poems and quotes around the house that she collected, in order to spiritually guide him. "I was living at home with my parents, continuing to work at Mutual Life Insurance and studying voice. Going to the piano one Sunday morning, I found a poem waiting for me there. I recognized my mother's handwriting. She had copied the words of a poem by Mrs. Rhea F. Miller, knowing that I would read the beautiful message, which speaks of choice."

This is how George Beverly Shea tells the story himself: "The poem was written by a lady named Rhea Miller. Mother thought it to be a very wonderful poem and wanted me to read it. She then asked me to try my hand at writing a melody for the verses." He was immediately impressed with the words and so "deeply moved" that he began to compose music for the lines. "I began to play as a melody came to me. It seemed to fit the lyrics and so I began to sing, for the first time, I'd Rather Have Jesus."

That same day, he sang the song in his father's church service. As the people in the church listened to George's deep voice sing out "I'd Rather Have Jesus, than silver or gold," little did they know that the song was destined to become one of the most well-known of all recent Christian hymns.

Beginning with Billy Graham in 1944, George Beverly Shea carried the Gospel in song to every state in the Union and to every continent of our world. "I first met Bev Shea while in Chicago when he was on Moody Radio," declared Mr. Graham. "As a young man starting my ministry, I asked Bev if he would join me. He said yes and for over 60 years we had the privilege of ministering together."

When Bev Shea signed with RCA Victor, "I'd Rather Have Jesus" was chosen to spotlight their new singer.

Bev Shea commented, "Over the years, I've not sung any song more than I'd Rather Have Jesus, but I never grow weary of Mrs. Miller's heartfelt words."

He allowed these words to guide and direct him as a young man, and we are better off for it. Otherwise he may never have teamed up with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Crusades and shared such a powerful message with the world in song.

Since George Beverly Shea turned down a lucrative offer to become a secular singer, it is fitting that this song became his most used song. This hymn is a testimony of his life.

"I'd Rather Have Jesus" became his musical "theme song" for audiences around the world.

George Beverly Shea yielded his talents and his life to the service of Christ at a very early age. He realized that in this life only what is done for Christ has any lasting value. It is because of this that his singing has been a blessing around the world.

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;  
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;  
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands.  
I'd rather be led by His nail pierced hand

Chorus:  
Than to be the king of a vast domain  
Or be held in sin's dread sway.  
I'd rather have Jesus than anything  
This world affords today.

I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause;

That for a day: The officer said, "You drinking?" I said, "You buying?" We just laughed and laughed... now I need bail money.

I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;  
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame.  
I'd rather be true to His holy name [Chorus]

He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom;  
He's sweeter than honey from out the comb;  
He's all that my hungering spirit needs.  
I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead [Chorus]

The original classic version by George Beverly Shea...

<https://youtu.be/oHG-o2eGzM4>

A great updated version by CCM artist Jason Crabb

[https://youtu.be/1a\\_vAZAV1lw](https://youtu.be/1a_vAZAV1lw)

**BONUS SONG:** Discover the country gospel songs of Anointed Family like "If Jesus Wrote A Country Song"...

<https://youtu.be/dmil2gIFjdY>

Happy Independence Day!

