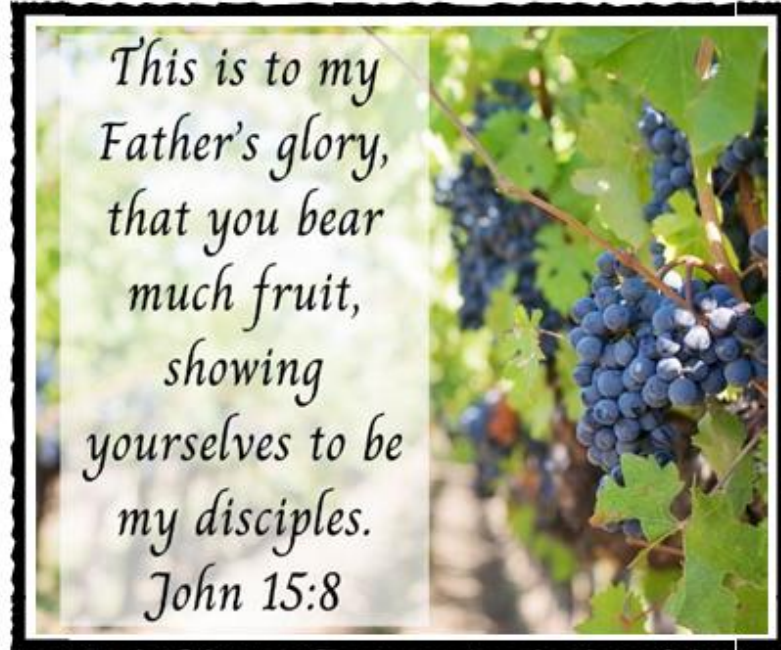


+

Living Word

Lutheran Church

LCMS



September 2024 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...

"How do you know if a dream is from God or just our wild minds?"

I received this question after we finished up our August devotions where we read all the dreams in the Bible.

Dreams pique our interest, because pretty much everyone has them, and a lot of times they are just plain "weird." It's natural that we want to make sense of them.

A few observations I had from the Bible readings about dreams:

1. I was surprised at how few dreams are actually recorded in the Bible. I even had to include several visions (things God showed people while they were awake) in order to get enough for 20 devotions.
2. All of the dreams came "out of the blue." In other words, they were initiated by God wanting to get someone's attention. They were not prompted by someone searching for answers from God.
3. A good number of the dreams were given to kings - mostly ones who were not even kings of God's people, (e.g. Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar)
4. Most of the dreams seemed to be of a warning nature, sometimes of an immediate threat (like for Joseph or the Wise Men), sometimes a future threat (like Pharaoh or Nebuchadnezzar).
5. Dreams were typically given at a major turning point in God's plan for His people - not simply a turning point in the recipient's life.
6. Both Daniel and Joseph who were able to interpret dreams gave credit to God, saying only He can interpret dreams.
7. People in the Bible who got messages from God in dreams often got more than one dream from Him. It seems He knew which people



Page 3

needed Him to communicate with them in dreams.

So, from what we see in the Bible, we can say that God does communicate through dreams, but does it very rarely. I would say the vast majority of the time we dream about things we encountered or thought during our waking hours.

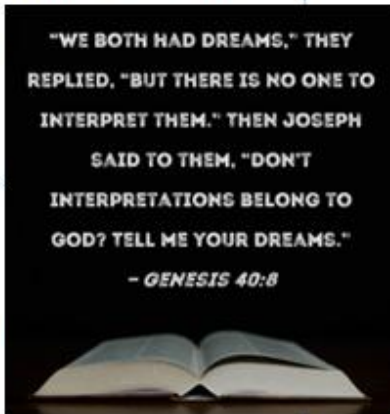
You may have seen people on YouTube (or elsewhere) claiming to be able to interpret dreams. They usually have "formulas" for their interpretations. For example, they might tell you that trees in dreams always represent "this kind of thing" while clouds in dreams represent "that kind of thing." Don't buy it!!! There were no symbols in the biblical dreams that always represented a certain thing.

One thing I have noticed, whether it was in the biblical dreams or people who have had dreams given by God today - they KNEW it was God talking to them through the dream. So, that tells me if we are wondering if a dream is from God or not - it's probably not! But, since "interpretations belong to God," ask Him to show you. If it truly came from God, He really does want you to know.

Finally, a personal experience: When I dream about people I haven't been thinking about, I will use that as simply a call to pray for that person. I'd encourage you to do that as well.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net



Fall/Winter/Spring
Worship Time: 10:00 a.m.
Resumes Rally Sunday, September 8
Sunday School @ 9:00
& Worship Service @ 10:00
(9:00 a.m. Worship ends September 1)

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
- September 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>

August 4	"We make our plans, but God determines our steps"
August 11	"What Are You Taking For Granted?"
August 18	"Following Jesus is Like Drag Racing - Seriously!"
August 25	"Walking With Jesus: Christian Life Simplified"

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 4

That for a day: The trouble with wishful thinking is that it's usually 99% wishful and 1% thinking.

Page 5

Mark Your Calendars...

Rally Sunday: September 8th

- Sunday School Classes Resume - 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Morning Bible Study Resume - 9:00 a.m.
- Worship returns to Fall/Winter/Spring Schedule! - 10:00 a.m.
- Grandparents' Day Brunch Following Worship



Mission & Ministry Team

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

Building Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 3rd @ 5:30 p.m. (Prior to Men's Study)

Upcoming Fellowship Outings...

Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate September Birthdays
at Giovanni's in Willmar

Tuesday, September 10th @ 11:00



September Supper-Fellowship Outing:

Thursday, September 19
5:30 - 8:00 at
"The Spot" in Belgrade

Trap-Shooting Fellowship 2024...

Our Final Evening Shoot of 2024:

Tuesday, September 17
@ 6:00 p.m.

We'll have brats, hot dogs and a devotion @ 5:30



Confirmation News

- Remember to check the "PowerPoint Clicker" schedule, and catch up on your Sermon Notes.
- Confirmation Parents' Meeting for returning 8-9th Graders: Wed, Sept. 4 @ 6:00
- 7-8th Confirmation class starts up again Sept. 11 @ 6:00



Pastor is Planning a Membership Class...

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



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!

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 August we thanked God for...

- FAIRS and 100-YEAR-OLD CARS !
- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL !
- TEACHERS and ALL SCHOOL STAFF !

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

Page 6

That for a day: There's a labor dispute at my office. The boss wants me to do some.

Page 7

Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study

Kicks off a new year on September 8th @ 9:00
Join us for coffee and God's Word

Monthly Morning Women's Study:

September 11th @ 10:00
All women are welcome!



Men's Study

Meets Tuesday
September 3rd, 10th, and 24th @ 6:30
(Come at 6:00 for food)

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

Come to church on Rally Sunday!
September 8 (10:00 a.m.)

Read about Jesus in the Old Testament

(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 pages 18-19

LWML News...


LWML Meeting & Women's Study:

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.



SCHOOL KITS

CONTENTS

- 1 backpack
- 2 spiral notebooks
- 2 pencils
- 2 pens
- 10 sheets of construction paper
- 1 package crayons (24 count)
- 1 ruler
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 scissors
- 1 eraser
- 1 package colored pencils (12 count)
- 1 pencil sharpener




ASSEMBLY

1. Stack flat items together.
2. Place all items inside school bag.
3. Close bag if applicable.


PLEASE NOTE

- Backpacks, drawing athletic bags, or homemade tote bags are all acceptable.
- We recommend leaving contents in the original packaging, but it is not required.
- No additions, deletions, or substitutions.
- Do not add money, photos, or personal notes.
- Do not include items with religious, camouflage, patriotic or military symbols.
- Pack only new or gently used items.
- Do not include plastic bags.
- It costs an average of \$11 to ship each box of kits. Please consider a donation to your local OGT branch to help with shipping.

Although well-meaning variations are tempting, please do not do this. It may result in heavy fines and/or the entire shipment being confiscated by customs officials.

Thank you for making a difference in these children's lives. Your love of your Savior, Jesus Christ, is seen with each kit packaged. May God continue to bless your life as you serve Him.



TEACHER KITS

CONTENTS

- 1 drawstring or tote bag
- 1 12-pack pencils
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 12-pack chalk
- 1 chalkboard eraser
- 4 highlighters
- 1 clipboard
- 1 adult scissors
- 1 ruler
- 2 red pens
- 4 pocket folders
- 4 sheets stickers (stars or smiley faces)




ASSEMBLY

1. Stack flat items together.
2. Place all items in bag.
3. Close bag if applicable.

PLEASE NOTE

- Chalk may be white or colored.
- We recommend leaving contents in the original packaging, but it is not required.
- No additions, deletions, or substitutions.
- Do not add money, photos, or personal notes.
- Do not include items with religious, camouflage, patriotic or military symbols.
- Pack only new or gently used items.
- Do not include plastic bags.
- It costs an average of \$11 to ship each box of kits. Please consider a donation to your local OGT branch to help with shipping.

Although well-meaning variations are tempting, please do not do this. It may result in heavy fines and/or the entire shipment being confiscated by customs officials.

Thank you for making a difference in these children's lives. Your love of your Savior, Jesus Christ, is seen with each kit packaged. May God continue to bless your life as you serve Him.

Revised 8-2-2023 Approximate cost to assemble: \$24.00

That for a day: My granddad always said, "When one door closes, another door opens." Lovely man. Terrible cabinet maker.

Sunday School News..

Sunday School starts up again at 9:00 a.m., September 8 !

Upcoming Classes:

- Rally Sunday Sep 8: Growing In God's Garden - Sunflower
- Sept. 15: Psalm 23:1 The Lord Is My Shepherd
- Sept. 22: Psalm 23:2 He Makes Me Lie Down
- Sept. 29: Psalm 23:3 He Leads Me
- Oct. 6: Psalm 23:4 I Will Fear No Evil
- Oct. 13: Psalm 23:5 I Am Special
- Oct. 20: Psalm 23:6 Goodness and Mercy



We will continue our VBS Mission Project for "Orphan Grain Train" through Rally Sunday, September 8th!

Youth Events...



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

- Next Parent Meeting: Wed., Sept. 4 @ 7:30 p.m.
- Current Fundraiser: "Grab an Envelope"



Choir News...

Will start practicing soon!



Youth Group...

August was a wonderful blur! I loved seeing the youth involved in so many different ways at church - from volunteering at VBS to participating in activities like Trapshooting and the Canoe Float. I especially loved getting to meet the youth's friends at these events. Their personalities sure come out when they are around "good friends."

September is jam packed with awesome opportunities. We will be offering weekly Youth Group activities this school year. The first Wednesday in September is the parent meeting - I would love to hear your ideas for how we can improve the Youth Group this year. The second Wednesday youth will get together and start creating a Faith Walk Journal, book marks, and utilizing tabs for our Bibles (please have them bring their Bible this week!) The next week we will plan to pack the Grad Baskets and finish our journals, and have some fun. The final week of September will be our first formal Bible Study. As always, friends are always welcome.

We are also doing our first inter-church event on Sunday, Sept. 29th. We are hosting a Cornhole Tournament and inviting the youth and parents from Redeemer and St. John's churches - both local LCMS congregations. I would love to see all of our youth and their parents playing and getting to know others of faith in our area.

That for a day: I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.

October will be here before we know it. I am hoping to take any interested youth to the Brandon Lake concert at the Xcel Center on Sunday, October 13th. Please let me know by Sunday, Sept. 8th if you are interested. The cost will be \$50 each.

God's Peace,
Becky



Becky Sarsland  

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHRISTIAN GROWTH - YOUTH DIRECTOR

320-429-1735
REBECCASARSLAND@GMAIL.COM
TIKTOK: LWLC.YOUTH
SNAP: LWLC YOUTH GROUP

AWESOME THINGS IN THE WORKS

MEETING

Cornhole Tournament
Sunday, September 29th
1:00PM at Living Word
Combined with families from Redeemer and St. John's
Sign up is now available for youth and their parents!

Bless Our Young Adults
Sunday, September 22nd
Join us Sunday, September 22nd for a special blessing for our new young adults - Gage and Eli! We will be putting together two baskets to give these young men. Families are welcome to donate things we wish we had as young adults - devotions, Tylenol, and anything in between.

Rally Sunday Grandparents Day!
Sunday, September 8th is Rally Sunday! That's basically when we start Sunday School and return to the 10am church service time. Confirmation and Youth Group formally begin that week. In honor of Grandparents, we are inviting them to church that Sunday as well! Come on out Saturday, Sept. 7th at 7pm to decorate a reserved parking spot for them!



Vacation Bible School 2024...



"A WALK WITH JESUS"
at
Living Word Lutheran Church
Vacation Bible School



Page 12

Thot for a day: The word "incorrectly" is spelled incorrectly in every dictionary.

Page 13

Prayer...

Remember to use "The Prayer Force"

Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email (pastor@livingwordlutheran.net) prayer requests to Pastor David for the Prayer Force prayer chain to include in their prayers. Thanks!

And an Invitation to Join our "Prayer Force"

Being a part of our prayer chain is a HUGELY important - and very simple - way you can serve God and His people! When a request to pray comes in, Pastor forwards it via text message (or email for those who don't have a cell phone). Then you simply include that request in your prayers. Text Pastor today and tell him "Yeah, I can do that!" Thanks!

Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

(inspired by Luke 11:9: "So I say to you, Ask and it will be given to you; Seek and you will find; Knock and the door will be opened to you")

Remember to take a time-out to PRAY for things like... these VBS Prayers:

- People you can invite to any of our upcoming studies or events
- For a great turnout for Rally Sunday & the start of Sunday School
- For the Holy Spirit to help kids who don't know Jesus to discover Him as their Lord and Savior through Sunday School
- For the Holy Spirit to work through the teachers of our classes
- Thanking God for a great turnout for Vacation Bible School
- God to continue to work through what we learned at VBS
- The Holy Spirit to bring growth through our Confirmation classes
- Asking God for continued good weather for the harvesting season.
- Asking God for His continued healing for Harry & Will's family
- Asking God's blessing on our Youth Gathering fundraising efforts
- 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-VvJEU22yCYxbhwjg/featured>

"Beauty to Ashes" event...

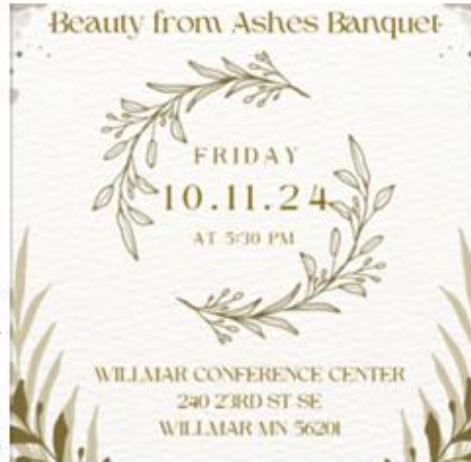
Anyone interested in attending Atlas of West Central MN's "Beauty to Ashes" event?

WE WANT TO INVITE YOU TO ATLAS' 8TH ANNUAL BEAUTY FROM ASHES BANQUET AT THE WILLMAR CONFERENCE CENTER ON OCTOBER 11, 2024!

WE ARE SO EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT JERRID SEBESTA WILL BE OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER THIS YEAR! FOR NEARLY A DECADE, JERRID SEBESTA HAS KEYNOTED IN FRONT OF 200+ AUDIENCES INSPIRING THEM TO LIVE WITH MORE URGENCY, LEAD WITH MORE DEDICATION AND GROW WITH MORE AUTHENTICITY. WE ARE BLESSED TO BE ABLE TO PARTNER WITH YOU TO TOUCH LIVES FOR CHRIST!

TICKETS ARE \$40 PER SEAT OR \$300 TO SPONSOR A TABLE OF 8

Contact Tammy Miller 320-905-2434 if interested in attending



Thank You...

- To ALL who served in some way to make VBS a Great success ! Meal makers, meal servers, those who donated food items, all my helpers in presenting the lesson, in crafts, music, games, playground helpers and especially to the parents/grandparents who brought their children! It was a great 4 days with all the kids and several new faces who we got to know! Mona
- Special Thanks to Mona Hjelle and Meggie Ashburn for organizing our VBS !

If you have someone you'd like to thank, please email webmaster@livingwordlutheran.net

Page 14

That for a day: Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.

Page 15

Email Humor

Phyllis Diller Quotes:

- You know you're old when someone compliments you on your alligator shoes, and you're barefoot.
- If you don't have wrinkles, you haven't laughed enough.
- I spent seven hours in a beauty shop... and that was for the estimate.
- A smile is a curve that sets everything straight.
- I'm at an age when my back goes out more than I do.
- The only thing my husband and I have in common is that we were married on the same day.
- My idea of exercise is a good brisk sit.
- If they [your children] write their names in the dust on the furniture, don't let them put the year.
- My cooking is so bad my kids thought Thanksgiving was to commemorate Pearl Harbor.
- You know what keeps me humble? Mirrors!
- I will never give up. I am in my 14th year of a 10-day beauty plan.
- In most states you can get a driver's license when you're sixteen years old, which made a lot of sense to me when I was sixteen years old but now seems insane.
- If my jeans could talk, they'd plead for mercy.



Lutheran Island Camp...

NEW FALL PROGRAM:

September 13-15

Parent/Child horse Camp \$225

This is offered to campers in 3rd-6th grade and their parents. Campers and parents will learn the basics of ground safety as well as how to steer



and ride their horses at a walk. Friday evening, campers and parents will enjoy s'mores after campfire. Saturday, campers and parents will spend the day at the ranch, which includes a fun horse related craft and riding out on the trails. No prior horse experience is required. Weight limit of 180lbs.

More info at www.islandcamp.org

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

If you're like most couples, you probably look forward to celebrating your wedding anniversary each year. And rightly so – another year of marriage is definitely something to toast to.

However, if you've been married for more than a few years, you've maybe found that wedding anniversaries are kind of like birthdays: at a certain point, it seems like only the big milestone years justify a big celebration; the in-between years sort of get downplayed or lost in the shuffle. But is 11 years of marriage any less of an accomplishment than 10? Not really, right?

Instead of falling into the habit of celebrating less as the years go by, we'd like to make the case for celebrating more. Why? Well, for starters, celebrations are opportunities to connect as a couple. The rituals and traditions that form out of regular celebrations become a touchstone in your relationship that strengthens your bond. Not only that, but celebrations help you focus on the positives – in life and in each other.

Unfortunately, you only have one wedding anniversary to celebrate every year, but it doesn't have to end there. Here are some unconventional anniversaries and occasions to consider adding to your celebration calendar.

Relationship milestones, big and small

Your relationship journey is more than just your wedding anniversary. Consider dates such as when you first met, your first kiss, your dating or engagement anniversary, the first time you said "I love you", or even making up from your first big fight.

Parenting-related milestones

Starting a family is one of the most monumental events you'll encounter in your life. The anniversary of becoming parents, getting all the kids out of diapers, becoming parents of teen drivers, or entering the empty-nest stage can all be worth recognizing in some form or another.

Financial achievements

Managing finances in marriage can be complicated and rife with conflict. So don't be afraid to enjoy the fruits of navigating this area successfully – things like the anniversary of your first big purchase together, paying off a big debt, or reaching a financial goal.

Lifestyle changes

If you've made any big lifestyle changes to benefit your health and well-



Page 16

That for a day: I'm in a very dark place right now. Not emotionally, just hiding in the closet from my kids.

Page 17

being, you know it's no easy feat. You likely had to support and encourage each other along the way, and that's something to be proud of. Maybe you mark the anniversary of when you both quit smoking, started your weight loss journey, or had a life-changing operation. Or this could even include a big move or career change that led to a slower, more balanced pace of life.

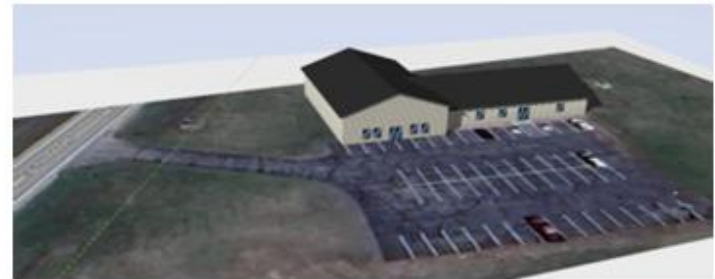
Special memories and silly stuff

That once-in-a-lifetime vacation or the one that was a disaster – both were equally memorable albeit for different reasons. Maybe you ran a marathon together and vowed never to do it again, but you commemorate the occasion every year. Or perhaps you're both lifelong fans of rival sports teams; you could celebrate the anniversary of a big win (or loss) or go all out when the teams play each other.

It might feel a little frivolous, and it's probably not practical to celebrate every single thing. But even just talking and thinking about your history together, reminiscing, debating over what happened and when is a fun way to connect and reflect on your journey. It's a way to carry your memories and past experiences with you as you create new ones.

Building Committee Update...

The committee is continuing to look 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. Here's a computerized drawing of what a 48'x70' sanctuary might look like attached to the west side of our current building.



Some pertinent figures (as of July 31):


- Remaining Balance of Mortgage on current building: \$11,200
- Balance in CDs dedicated to New Sanctuary: \$62,500

OUR NEXT BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING:

TUESDAY, September 3 @ 5:30 (Prior to Men's Study)

September 2024 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

September Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 10:15 - COFFEE FELLOWSHIP - DIRECTORY PHOTOS	2 LABOR DAY	3 5:30 - BUILDING TEAM 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	4 6:00 - CONFIRMATION PARENTS MEET 7:00 - ALL TEEN PARENTS 7:30 - YOUTH GATHERING MEETING	5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #f4a460; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, September 1st Sunday, September 15th </div>	6	7 Youth Decorate Parking Spots for Grandparents
8 RALLY SUNDAY & Grandparents' Day 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - RALLY SUNDAY SERVICE 11:15 - GRANDPARENTS' DAY BRUNCH	9	10 11:00 - CELEBRATE SEPT BIRTHDAYS @GIOVANNI'S 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	11 10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH BIBLE STUDY	12 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	13	14
15 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - SUNDAY SERVICE w/communion 11:15 - COFFEE FELLOWSHIP NOON - "Rustic Gardens" Outing	16	17 6:00 - TRAP SHOOTING 	18 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH GROUP	19 6:00 - FELLOWSHIP SUPPER @ "THE SPOT" BELGRADE	20	21
22 YOUNG-ADULT BLESSING DAY 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - SUNDAY SERVICE w/ YOUNG-ADULT BLESSING 11:15 - COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	23	24 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	25 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH	26 6:00 - YOUTH TEAM	27	28
29 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - SUNDAY SERVICE 11:15 - COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	30	Oct 1 5:30 - BUILDING TEAM 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	Oct 2 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH GROUP	Oct 3	Oct 4	Oct 5

September 2024 - Daily Readings

This Month we finish Promises found in the Bible and start readings about PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WHOSE LIVES POINT TO JESUS.

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

To receive these audio recordings daily, just email him: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

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

Sept 1 Use today to Worship (9:00 a.m.) - and catch up on readings you missed

Sept 2 James 1:5-6 _____

Sept 3 Philippians 4:6-7 _____

Sept 4 Romans 8:28, 37-39 _____

Sept 5 John 14:2-3, 2 Peter 3:3-9 _____

Sept 6 Romans 21:1-8 _____

Sept 8 Use today to Worship (10:00 a.m.) - and catch up on readings you missed

Sept 9 Genesis 3:15-21 _____

Sept 10 Genesis 4:1-12 _____

Sept 11 Genesis 6 _____

Sept 12 Genesis 14:7-20 _____

Sept 13 Genesis 22:1-14 _____

Sept 15 Use today to Worship and catch up on readings you missed

Sept 16 Genesis 37/ 50 _____

Sept 17 Exodus 12 _____

Sept 18 Exodus 16 _____

Sept 19 Exodus 32:20-32 _____

Sept 20 Exodus 33:7-11 _____

Sept 22 Use today to Worship - and catch up on readings you missed!

Sept 23 Leviticus 16:20-30 _____

Sept 24 Numbers 21:4-9 _____

Sept 25 Joshua 6 _____

Sept 26 Ruth 4 _____

Sept 27 1 Samuel 17 _____

Sept 29 Use today to Worship and catch up on readings you missed

Sept 30 2 Kings 4 _____

Oct 1 Psalm 23 _____

Oct 2 Daniel 3 _____

Oct 3 Daniel 7:9-14 _____

Oct 4 Jonah 1:17 _____

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

Sept 1	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Sept 8	Jason & Levi Miller
Sept 15	Pam Johnson & Linda Van Meter
Sept 22	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

Sept 1 , 8	Dan & Scott
Aug 18, 25	Steve & Duane

Custodian

Sept -	Duane and Bonnie Hansen
Oct -	AVAILABLE

Nursery

(Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

Altar Guild

September	Mona Hjelle
-----------	-------------

Power Point Clicker

Sept 1	Carter
Sept 8	Parker
Sept 15	Ella
Sept 22	Troy
Sept 29	Open

Accompanying Musicians

Sept 1	Sharon Willen
Sept 8	Scott Wachter
Sept 15	Sharon Willen
Sept 22	Scott Wachter
Sept 29	Open

Page 22

That for a day: I hate when I wake up for a glass of water in the middle of the night and eat a whole cheesecake.

Page 23

Who Can You Invite?...

Who Can You Invite to Rally Sunday (Sept 8) ?

- + Talk to God about them.
 - + Then talk to them about joining you.
- (Make sure to tell them you can pick them up!)



Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in September on the **First and Third Sundays (1st & 15th)**



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.

Seen on Church Signboards...

JESUS CHRIST 2024
Only Jesus Can Save This Nation

September Discipleship Verse...



*"This is to my Father's glory,
 that you bear much fruit,
 showing yourselves to be my disciples."*
 John 15:8

Outreach Fun At the Big Kahuna...



That for a day: If Earth was flat, cats would have pushed everything off it by now.





The Link...

July 2024 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

Greetings from The Link! It's hard to believe July is over and the start of school is on the horizon!

The Link continues to see a large need for food and other assistance as cost of living continues to make it difficult for families to make ends meet. If you are looking for ways to help, below is a list of our current needs:

CURRENT NEEDS: Gently used clothing for the Foster Stitches Program and for children returning to school, household necessities, any unexpired/packaged and labeled food. Monetary donations for The Food Pantry and Outreach services --Remember for every \$1 donated, The Link can purchase \$10 in food through Second Harvest. The Link is also looking for individuals with contracting and/or electrical knowledge, painting and other building maintenance needs.

The Food Pantry. In July, The Link served 189 households – including 324 adults, 204 children and 54 seniors -- distributing a total of 11,634 pounds of food.

Wildcat Backpack and Snack Pantry. The Wildcat Backpack Program will be starting up again at the end of August! If you are interested in sponsoring a child from the NL-S School District for the school year, please reach out to Ashley at 320-354-5465.

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 July, your donations were able to support 48 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 43 families with much needed furniture and other household necessities in June.

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!!!! In July, The Link's volunteers donated 370 hours of their time to ensure The Link's programs run smoothly! We are so grateful for their selfless service of helping those in need in our community!!! If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out! It is a great way to meet others in the community and create relationships—and the laughter is never short.

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

Page 26

Thot for a day: A perfectionist is someone who takes great pains, and gives them to everyone else.

Page 27

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 financially.

Donations made easy. You can set up online giving directly through your bank or by visiting The Link's website at 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! And remember..... **YOU ARE THE LINK!**

Email Wisdom...

Funny... but some wisdom to ponder...

A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten The red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, Naturally... I assumed you had stolen the car."

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.

We made meals to refill our supply in the freezer so...

Just go to the freezer at church and grab some meals for someone who could use them



That for a day: if you don't like my driving, don't call anyone. Just take another road. That's why the highway department made so many of them.

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, Torasie 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

Email Inspiration...

Finding Faith in the Midst of Trauma: Eva's Story by Simon Stout, Jews For Jesus, July 09 2024

Since the traumatic events of October 7, and the eruption of brazen antisemitism all over the world, our teams in Israel have been inundated with requests for God's Word. More than ever, our people desperately need life-giving hope. And praise God, seekers like Eva are finding that hope in Yeshua (Jesus).

The shock over kidnapped hostages who were forced to witness the murder of family members resounded around the world, but for people like Eva who actually knew some of the hostages, the pain and desperation were even more acute. In the midst of her turmoil, Eva reached out to order a copy of the New Testament. In fact, she asked for two copies: one in Hebrew and the other in her native language, Hungarian. Four days later, the hostages Eva knew were miraculously released, physically unharmed.

We sent Eva her Hebrew New Testament, but it took a while to get a Hungarian copy. Meanwhile, we forwarded Eva's information to Ildikó Hajdu, one of our colleagues who serves in Budapest, Hungary. Despite the nearly 2,000 miles between them, they quickly developed a close rapport. Six weeks and four or five phone conversations later, Eva invited Jesus into her heart. Praise God! And Eva's Hungarian Bible arrived in the mail the very next day! She keeps in regular contact with Ildikó and is excited to study God's Word with other Hungarian speakers.

Eva was born to Holocaust survivors in Budapest. When Eva was 10 years old, her father, a strict observer of Orthodox traditions, decided the family should make aliyah (move to Israel). She was miserable over having to leave Hungary and over her father's insistence on strict adherence to rabbinic law. Eva decided that she wanted nothing to do with his religion.

So, when tragedy struck ... she found herself hoping against hope that Jesus could help.

The move to Israel resulted in something her father would never have imagined: Eva became curious about Jesus. Christians were continually visiting the places where Jesus had walked and talked and performed miracles, and Eva found herself visiting these places and hearing the biblical accounts. She was deeply impressed by the kindness and compassion of Jesus. So, when tragedy struck on October 7, under the weight of unimaginable pain and fear, she found herself hoping against hope that Jesus could help.

Page 30

Thot for a day: You don't actually wash your hands. They wash each other and you stand there looking at them like a creep.

Page 31

Ildikó "happened" to contact Eva shortly after the hostages that Eva knew had been released. Together they praised God for this miracle. Then Eva began reminiscing about Budapest. It had been more than 65 years since her family had moved away, and it was a comfort and a joy for her to share her fond memories with another Hungarian. When Ildikó described her neighborhood in Budapest, Eva remembered almost every street and square in the area! Despite the long distance, Ildikó was clearly the right person to connect with Eva.

Eva was ready to learn more about the Jesus whom she was so drawn to as a child, and she especially appreciated being able to continue the conversation with her new Hungarian friend.

Ildikó says, "She was not far from receiving Jesus as her Savior. I really think it was her father's strictness that had attracted Eva to the mercy and grace of Jesus."

Teamwork and partnership are such an important part of our ministry. We receive orders for free New Testaments and other gospel literature through our Israeli website. We are so grateful for our team that handles online outreach, as well as our wonderful partner ministries who forward us requests that come in through their websites.

We hand deliver the New Testaments whenever possible, but due to the record number of requests, we are currently unable to meet each of these Jewish seekers in person. Yet, a simple phone call from one of our staff (even from another country) can make all the difference in the lives of Israeli seekers like Eva.

Please pray for Eva's physical and spiritual health as she navigates her new life in Messiah. Pray that God would reveal Himself to more Jewish seekers like Eva in extraordinary ways. And thank you for your partnership and your prayers and support that enable us to be part of God's work among the Jewish people in Israel and around the world at this crucial time.

(Names are changed to protect privacy.)

Living Word Apparel...



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

Monthly Music Videos...

August new music releases are a great mix of established CCM artists and up and coming new faces...

- Mac Powell (of Third Day fame) released a new song called "Good News" ... <https://youtu.be/S83v80li95U>
- A new version of an older song by Jason Crabb, Zack Williams, and Trace Adkins... "God Can Use A Broken Man" was written by Zack Williams in 2018 but was not released until Jason Crabb recorded it a years later... <https://youtu.be/v0gH0E70TuE>
- Jon Reddick released "Yield" ... <https://youtu.be/CEiYw6oRqKE>
- A new favorite from Cochren & Co is "Money Can't Buy" ... <https://youtu.be/KRD90Tn43p4>
- Anchor Hymns released a modern hymn called "Jesus Is" ... <https://youtu.be/2i5GCH-s2MU>
- Christian folk-pop band, The Gray Havens released "Anywhere" ... <https://youtu.be/V5fpXPKjskE>
- Unspoken just released "Never Running Out" ... <https://youtu.be/6vLPiLmWY7I>
- "Crowley" is a new song based on Psalm 119 by Sam Bowman... <https://youtu.be/1E1TEXL7N0>
- New artist, Megan Woods has a great debut single "The Truth" ... <https://youtu.be/8516H12E4AA>
- "Only One Way" is from another new artist, Petrina Pacheco... https://youtu.be/5XTpsm_dB5o
- From Sean Curran's debut album is "Same Jesus" ... https://youtu.be/RyQr4iTx2o?list=PL9kGGr-kTyHp0IAnq4_Hi_iLoM-BYmk0w
- "You Don't Leave Me" is a new single from Selah... <https://youtu.be/NkFGrH-L01U>
- "Letting Go For Dear Life" is a great new song from Tenth Avenue North... <https://youtu.be/ceNCx3nQP3o>
- Andrew Ripp released "Light of Heaven" ... <https://youtu.be/ffixFUPHs>
- Finally, not a new song but an inspiring live performance by Lauren Daigle of Joe Cocker's "You Are So Beautiful" ... https://youtu.be/a_gqYWdXbxc

Page 32

That for a day: The first rule of passive aggressive club is... You know what, never mind. It's fine.

Page 33

More Email Humor



Visitors to the zoo were surprised to see a cage labeled "Coexistence." Inside was a lion and some lambs.

One of the visitors asked the keeper how this was possible.

"Oh, it's not so hard," he replied. "You just keep adding a few lambs now and then."



Story Behind The Song...

"Just A Closer Walk With Thee"

Last Sunday Pastor Dave talked about walking with Jesus (hear the sermon at <https://youtu.be/x2KK5xCjy4?t=1981>), so it is appropriate that we feature the song "Just A Closer Walk With Thee".

The precise origins of this traditional hymn are unknown. The song gained national popularity in the 1930s, when African American churches sang it at musical conventions. By the 1940s, the hymn was featured at all night gospel singing rallies. The first known recording was made on October 8, 1941 by the Selah Jubilee Singers.

The widely held belief is that song predates the Civil War. Some personal African American histories recall "slaves singing as they worked in the fields a song about walking by the Lord's side."

The title and lyrics of the song allude to the Biblical passage from 2 Corinthians 5:7 which states, "We walk by faith, not by sight."

In 1885, "Closer Walk with Thee", which had a similar chorus, was published. Some music historians refer to this song as a folk song. The lyrics to "Closer Walk with Thee" was tributed to Martha J. Lankton and music by William Kirkpatrick. The song was passed down from generation to generation until it found a national audience in the 1930s.

In 1940, Kenneth Morris arranged and published the well-known version for the first time. He heard a performance in Kansas City by gospel musicians, Robert Anderson and R. L. Knowles. Mr. Morris ar-

ranged the music and added some lyrics for the version we know today.

Another version of how Mr. Morris came to hear of the song states: "While traveling between Kansas City and Chicago in 1940, songwriter Kenneth Morris got off the train to stretch his legs. While standing on the platform, he overheard a porter singing some of the words to "Just a Closer Walk with Thee". Not thinking much about it, Morris boarded the train and went on his way. The words and melody of the song kept repeating in his head and he knew he had to learn the rest of it. At the next stop, Morris got off the train and took the next train back to the previous stop. There he managed to find the porter and Morris persuaded him to sing the song while he copied down the words. Morris soon added to the lyrics and published it in 1940."

The song became popular during World War II. The words supply a message found in both the Old and New Testaments.

In 1944, the hymn was presented at the Baptist National Convention. Morris said at the time, "he arranged it from an old spiritual. It was a plantation song," he explains, "and I heard it and like it so I made an arrangement of it."

"Just A Closer Walk With Thee" became probably the most popular southern gospel song of the 20th century. The hymn has been translated into numerous languages and recorded hundreds of times by numerous artists over the years. Elvis Presley set sales records in 1956 with the hymn. Tennessee Ernie Ford made the charts with it. By the time the 1970s had ended, more than 100 recording artists had cut a record with this song.

The song gives hope for the weak in the strength of Jesus, when asking him to walk closely through this trial.

I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

CHORUS:

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Thro' this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?

Page 34

That for a day: You know you're getting old when you have to use a shopping cart at the pharmacy.

Page 35

None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.
CHORUS

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.
CHORUS

One of my favorite versions of this hymn is from the country group Alabama... <https://youtu.be/iPmJemdLGf8>

Another favorite is a bluegrass version by the Redwood Brothers...

<https://youtu.be/2vsulfDgoHw>

And I have to include the version by Jerry Lee Lewis...

<https://youtu.be/aTl8jhKAJDw>

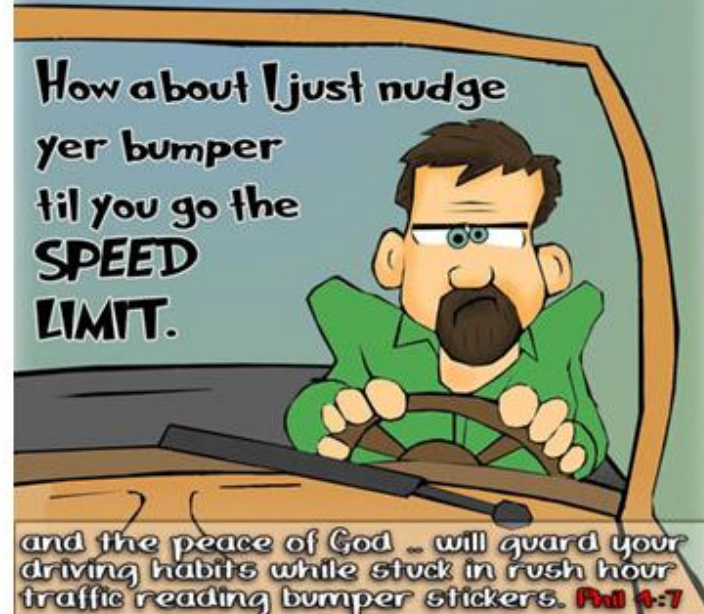
For a bonus, if you like great piano playing, Terry Miles is the best...

https://youtu.be/QSVoW_AQFbl

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

HONK IF YOU LOVE JESUS?

How about I just nudge
yer bumper
til you go the
**SPEED
LIMIT.**



and the peace of God ... will guard your driving habits while stuck in rush hour traffic reading bumper stickers. Paul 4:7