

March 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
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Questions for Pastor...

Why is Easter a month before Passover this year?

That's a really good question, because it was during the Passover that Jesus was crucified. (And, typically Easter does come after Passover - usually within a week. But this year Easter is on March 31, and Passover isn't celebrated until April 22.)

Just a bit of background: God told the Israelites to celebrate the Passover beginning on the evening of the 14th day of the first month of their year. Each month for the Israelites began with a New Moon. That meant the evening of the 14th would always be a Full Moon, so Passover always starts with a full moon.

Since the Passover date is set by a full moon, that means it falls on a different day of the week each year. Whereas Christians have always celebrated Jesus' resurrection on a day of the week, Sunday, rather than on a specific date of a month.

Initially, every Sunday was designed to be a mini celebration of Jesus rising from the grave. (And that's still the reason we gather for worship every Sunday.) Eventually, Christians got the idea to celebrate Jesus' resurrection also on a yearly basis. But there was some disagreement as to which specific Sunday to do it.

Way back in 325 AD a church-wide council held at Nicaea decided on a specific formula for determining the date Easter would be celebrated throughout Christendom. It was set to always occur the first Sunday after a full moon (just like the day Jesus rose was the first Sunday after a full moon.). The Easter date was set as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox.

That means if the first full moon of Spring is the day after Spring begins, we have a very early Easter. If the first full moon of Spring falls four weeks after the day Spring begins we have a really late Easter.

Passover usually occurs sometime within the week prior to Easter due to both festivals keying off the full moon after the Spring Equinox - Passover



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starting with the full moon and Easter after the full moon. But this year the Passover occurs over 3 weeks after Easter. That's because folks who use a lunar calendar (where every month has 29+ days - same as the cycle of the moon) need to have leap month every so often in order to catch up. Whereas those who use a solar calendar only need a leap day every four years. 2024 is one of those years with an extra month, hence Passover occurs after Easter this year.

It can be a bit confusing, but the basic reason is that the Hebrew calendar is a lunar calendar based on the moon's revolution around the earth, and the calendar we follow (known as the Gregorian Calendar) is a solar calendar based on the earth's revolution around the sun.

But maybe the most important thing to remember isn't the date of Passover or the date of Easter. It's the fact that Jesus is the Passover Lamb who was sacrificed to save us from our sin, and rose back to life on Easter Sunday proving that God the Father did indeed accept Jesus' sacrifice as full payment for those sins! Please join us to celebrate both events!

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Sunday, March 10th...



"Thou shalt set the time one hour ahead, no more, no less. One hour ahead shalt the clock be set, and the setting of the clock shalt be one hour ahead . . .

Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00

Please join us for coffee and study of God's Word

Monthly Morning Women's Study:

March 13th @ 10:00 a.m.

All ladies are invited!

Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30

(Come at 6:15 for food.)



Lenten Devotion Services

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. March 6th, 13th, and 20th

LWML News...

Our next meeting and Bible study will be

Wednesday, March 13th @ 10:00 a.m.

All ladies of the church are welcome!

(Please bring a snack to share.)



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 Spring Rally: Will be at Redeemer in Willmar on Sunday, April 28th. Registration will begin at 1:30 with the Rally beginning at 2:00. Reverend Tim Renstrom will lead one of the devotion times. The speaker will be from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

LWML NORTH DISTRICT 31st BIENNIAL CONVENTION "Walking as Children of Light" will be held at Cragun's Resort and Convention Center June 3-5, 2024. KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Katie Schuermann "Light In The Lord". There will also be BREAKOUT SESSIONS, BIBLE STUDY, MITES IN ACTION, SPEAKERS, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP, ENTERTAINMENT, A MITE WALK, and SINGING. For more information visit LWML MN NORTH DISTRICT at: www.lwmlmnn.org

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Thot for a day: I just completed the two-day challenge: No coffee on February 30 and 31.

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Sunday School News...

Upcoming Lessons:

- March 3: "Jesus Clears the Temple Courtyard" - John 2: 13-22
- March 10: ""Light and Life" - John 3: 14-21
- March 17: "Jesus tells of His coming Death" - John 12:20-33
- March 24: Palm Sunday
- March 31: Easter Sunday (No Sunday School)

Bowling -

March 10, 2:00-4:00, Alley on Ash!

KIDS AND 1 FRIEND - PLUS TEACHERS - ALL BOWL FREE !!

(2 games of bowling, shoes, pizza and pop are included.)



EASTER CELEBRATION

4 KIDS!!!!

ALL KIDS ARE WELCOME!

Bring a friend!



Saturday March 23, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Living Word Lutheran Church

Story Time

Crafts

Games

Baby Animals

Egg Hunt (weather permitting)

Come join us! Free!!







Who Can You Invite To...

- **Bowling**

Sunday, March 10 @ 2:00pm
(At Alley on Ash in New London)
See details on the Sunday School page.



- **Easter Celebration 4 Kids**

Saturday, March 23 @ 10:00am
See details on page 5 in this Newsletter

- **"Maundy" Thursday**

Thursday, March 28 @ 6:30pm

On this night, Jesus set us the example of servanthood by washing His disciples' feet. After that He instituted the meal we know as "The Lord's Supper" which we will celebrate.

- **Good Friday - The 7 Last Words**

Friday, March 29 @ 6:30pm

Easter is just a "feel-good" story without Good Friday. We extinguish one candle for each of the seven last words Jesus spoke from the cross until all lights have been put out. Join us to be reminded why we call such a dark day "Good."

- **Easter** Sunday, March 31

Sonrise Worship: 7:01 am

We begin outdoors watching the sun rise (7:01 is actual sunrise time), then move to the sanctuary to finish celebrating the Greatest Event in History.

Easter Worship w/Communion 10:00am

We again celebrate the Greatest Event in all of History at our regular worship time with communion as the Feast of Victory

Pray about your invitations. Ask God to give you the words and opportunity. Offer to pick them up. (And if they don't accept your invitation, keep praying for them and for another opportunity.)

"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-VvIJEU22yCYxbhwjg/featured>

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Thot for a day: Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...it's about learning to dance in the rain.

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Confirmation News



- March 6, 13 & 20
Attend the Lenten Devotion @ 6:00

Remember to check the "PowerPoint Clicker" schedule.

Coming Soon...

Another chance to order Living Word apparel (hats, sweatshirts, etc...). Including some new designs!



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 February we thanked God for...

- Friends
- Law Enforcement and EMS workers

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

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!

Building Committee Update...

The committee has put together a preliminary layout for the new sanctuary. Watch for a drawing to be posted soon.

OUR NEXT BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday, March 5th @ 5:30 (Prior to Men's Study)

Youth Events...

11-12th Grade YOUTH:

11-12th Grade Bible Study group has the month "off," so they can attend the Lenten Services at church



7-8th Grade Youth

Next Board-Game Night: Wednesday, April 3rd

Planning has begun for attending...

Gathering Date: July 19—23, 2025

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



Soup & Sandwich Suppers...

PRIOR TO LENTEN SERVICES WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Everyone is welcome to come for good food and fellowship from 5:00-6:00 each Wednesday, followed by Lenten devotions. Please check the signup sheet for March 6th, 13th, and 20th to sign up to bring soup or sandwiches.

Thank You...

- To everyone who provides soup and sandwiches for our Lenten suppers!

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

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Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes and come out wrinkle free and 3 sizes smaller?

That for a day:

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Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in March on the normal First and Third Sundays (3rd & 17th) as well as Maundy Thursday (28th) and Easter Sunday (31st)



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.

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
- March Newsletters
- April—June 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>

Feb 4 "Jesus Begins His Ministry"

Feb 11 "The Marks of a Disciple: Love (But what is Love?)"

Feb 18 "The Marks of a Disciple: Abide in God's Word"

Feb 25 "The Marks of a Disciple: "Bear Much Fruit (of the Spirit)"

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. 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 2024

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!

Choir News...

Sings on Easter

Please practice with us after Sunday worship.



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Thot for a day: Sometimes I shock myself with brilliance of the stuff I say and do. Other times, I try to get out of the car with my seat belt on.

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Mark Your Calendars...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, March 14th @ 6:30 p.m.

Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

Building Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 5th @ 5:30 p.m. (Prior to Men's Study)

Upcoming Fellowship Outings...

Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate March Birthdays
at Zorbaz in Spicer

Tuesday, March 19th, @ 11:00



March Supper-Fellowship Outing:

Maundy Thursday at Church!

(Our regular outing at a restaurant will be back in April)

Let's Go Bowling

Sunday, March 10th—2:00—4:00

Alley on Ash / New London

\$14.00 per person

includes 2 games, shoes, pizza & pop



Its Time...

...to Start Planning

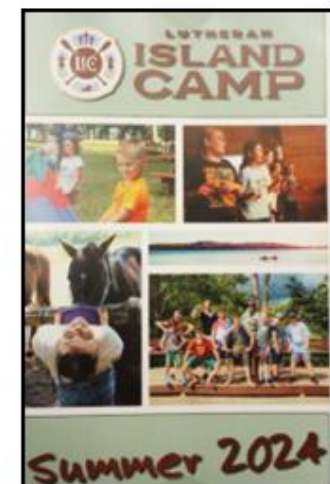
for Summer Camp !

Lutheran Island Camp

Summer 2024

brochures

are available at church



Email Wisdom...

An investment banker was at the pier of a small coastal village when a small boat with just one fisherman docked. Inside the small boat were several large yellow fin tuna. The banker complimented the fisherman on the quality of his fish and asked how long it took to catch them.

The fisherman replied, "Only a little while."

The banker then asked why didn't he stay out longer and catch more fish?

The fisherman said he had enough to support his family's immediate needs.

The banker then asked, "But what do you do with the rest of your time?"

The fisherman said, "I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, take a nap, stroll into the village with my wife each evening where I play guitar and sing with my friends. I have a full and busy life."

The banker scoffed, "I am a Harvard MBA and I could help you. You should spend more time fishing and with the proceeds, buy a bigger boat. With the proceeds from the bigger boat, you could buy several boats, eventually you would have a fleet of fishing boats. Instead of selling your catch to a middleman, you would sell directly to the processor, eventually opening your own cannery. You would control the product, processing and distribution. You would need to leave this small coastal fishing village and move to a big city where you will run your expanding enterprise."

The fisherman asked, "But, how long will this all take?"

To which the banker replied, "15-20 years."

"But what then?"

The banker laughed and said that's the best part. "When the time is right, you would announce an IPO and sell your company stock to the public and become very rich. You would make millions."

"Millions...Then what?"

The banker said, "Then you would retire. Move to a small coastal fishing village where you would sleep late, fish a little, play with your kids, take a nap, stroll to the village in the evenings with your wife where you could play your guitar and sing with your friends."

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Thot for a day: Trying to get my head around the fact that 'Take Out' can mean food, dating, or murder.

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Holy Week...

Also called 'Great and Holy Week,' or 'Passion Week,' Holy Week in the Christian year is the week preceding Easter. Holy Week has five days of special significance, which start on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, until Holy Saturday (Black Saturday), but doesn't include Easter Sunday. Did you know? The day commemorating Jesus' crucifixion and death, Good Friday, has been celebrated since 100 A.D. as a day of fasting? This means that Christians around the world have celebrated Holy Week and observed different services during the week for over 1,900 years!

Holy Week has names for the five special days in the week, beginning with Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday, which commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The following day is called Holy Monday when Jesus cursed the fig tree, sent out the merchants from the temple, and responded to those who questioned His authority. On Holy Tuesday, some observe Christ foretelling his own death.

The next day is called Holy Wednesday or Spy Wednesday, which remembers how Judas arranged the betrayal of Jesus with the chief priests, since he was a spy among the disciples of Jesus. Some churches celebrate Tenebrae (the Latin for 'shadows' or 'darkness') services especially on Spy Wednesday, where they gradually extinguish lit candles while reciting and chanting a series of readings and selected psalms. Holy Wednesday is then followed by the 'Triduum' of Holy Week — Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Deriving its name from a shortened form of the Latin word 'mandatum' meaning 'command,' Maundy Thursday (also called Holy Thursday) commemorates Christ's "new commandment" that his disciples love one another as He has loved them (John 13:34). Maundy Thursday also marks the Last Supper that Jesus shared with His disciples, His prediction of His death, His betrayal by Judas Iscariot, and His arrest at the Garden of Gethsemane. Maundy Thursday services also include an act of foot washing, commemorating how Jesus washed His disciples' feet as an act of service preceding His arrest.

Known as the most somber day for Christians, Good Friday remembers Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate, His death sentence, torture, crucifixion, death, and burial. Some Christians fast on Good Friday, while some avoid eating meat, and many attend a church service where they meditate on and venerate the cross of Christ. The Triduum of Holy Week concludes with Holy Saturday, the seventh day of the week, when Jesus rested in the tomb. On this day, Christians observe a late-night two-part Easter Vigil service. Jesus' resurrection on the eighth day, is celebrated as Easter, marking the beginning of the Easter week, and the season of Eastertide.

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Dates aren't one of those essential line items in the budget like food, housing, childcare, etc. You'll be fine without the weekly or monthly date night out on the town. However, if you go too long without spending intentional time with your partner, you will feel that and the long-term impact is a big one.



Here's the thing – you can totally do date night on a budget, and you should!

While expensive date nights might be something worth cutting from your spending, the idea of time spent with your partner should never be cut out of your priorities. There's always a way to fit that in. And, if you're thinking, sure, cheap dates get the job done, but they don't sound fun or feel special, just wait, the ideas we've got for you include something to make them a bit more magical.

1. Go on a picnic.

Depending on where you live, this might be an idea you can do now, or it may be one you put down for later this Spring. But the idea of packing a meal, going to a park, and replicating those romantic dinner vibes outside can be fun! Take it to the next level by making it a fancy picnic. Maybe its the outfits – get dressed up as if you were going to a 5-star restaurant. Or maybe its the dishes and setting – grab a nice tablecloth to put overtop the picnic blanket and pack a few nicer dishes to dine on instead of paper plates or plastic containers. Or maybe its the food itself – make a mock-tail ahead of time to pour into chilled glasses and enjoy a top tier charcuterie board.

2. Run errands.

This may sound expensive and boring, but hear us out. This won't actually cost you any more than the normal amount you'd spend on your weekly grocery shop and you may even "make money" if you've got returns to go back to a few stores. Plus, the fun part comes in if you decide to run these errands in a different city than you normally venture to. Pick a new grocery store or a new side of town to knock out these tasks and enjoy the novelty of a new area with each other.

3. Volunteer.

Giving your time and talent to a cause you both believe in can do a lot for your relationship. It can bring you closer and provide a reminder to find gratitude in your day to day lives. Many volunteer opportunities are not going to cost you anything and they bring a lot of value to the

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That for a day: May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.

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people you are helping. Invite couple friends to volunteer alongside you. Not only do you get to spend time with your partner, but your friends as well, and you may inspire some other couples to add dates back into their routine

4. Visit a museum.

Most cities have museums or exhibits that are free or donation based. If you live in a smaller community, consider a community or school play/concert to attend. This can still feel like you're getting out for a fun night, even if its free or cheap! You may learn something, experience art in a new way, or even support your local community depending on the direction you take this idea. A way to make this a bit more special or fun is to make it a surprise! Take the reins and plan this one out on your own. Get childcare set, figure out the schedule of when you need to leave, where to park, etc. Just tell your spouse the day of (or a day before if you know that they don't like last minute change of plans!).







5. Go on a walk.

A lot of us got really good at taking a walk around the neighborhood back in early 2020. However, if you've fallen out of the rhythm of going on walks with your partner, now is the time to bring this back! If you feel like its gone a bit stale seeing the same homes and same streets over and over, try a new area. Simply drive a neighborhood over or even find a park reserve. This is totally free and can easily become a new part of your routine. If you want to make it a bit more of a date, stop at a coffee shop on the way, or walk to one if its en route, and grab a treat. Hot chocolate, a latte, or even a pastry to snack on can be a relatively cheap way to make it feel fun.

Regardless of what you choose to do, continuing to go on dates is incredibly important for your relationship. Every couple is different and their dates will be too. The best thing we can remind you to do on your dates is focus on your partner. Truly take the time to live life with them and be present for the connection you're searching for.



March 2024 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	4	5 5:30 - BUILDING COMMITTEE 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION & CONFIRMATION	7	8 Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, March 3rd Sunday, March 17th Maundy Thurs, March 28th Easter Sun (10:00), March 31st 	9
10 BOWLING SUNDAY 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 2:00 - BOWLING @ Alley on Ash	11	12 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	13 10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION & CONFIRMATION	14 <i>Mission Ministry</i> 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	15	16
17 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	18 	19 11:00 - MARCH BIRTHDAYS at Zorbaz 6:30 - MENS STUDY	20 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION & CONFIRMATION	21	22  Kids EASTER Celebration	23 10:00 EASTER CELEBRATION 4 KIDS
24 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	24 	26 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	27 	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:30 - MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE w/Communion	29 GOOD FRIDAY 6:30 - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	30 
31 RESURRECTION SUNDAY 7:01 - SONRISE SERVICE 8:30 - 9:45 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST 10:00 - WORSHIP w/communion	April 1 	April 2 5:30 - BUILDING COMMITTEE 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	April 3 6:00 - CONFIRMATION GAME NIGHT	April 4	April 5	April 6

March 2024 - Daily Readings

This Month we continue our "100 - or so - Key Chapters of the Bible" readings.

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.

Mar 3 Use today to Worship and catch up on reading you missed

Mar 4 Mark 4 _____

Mar 5 Mark 5 _____

Mar 6 Mark 6 _____

Mar 7 Mark 9 _____

Mar 8 Mark 13 _____

Mar 10 Use today to Worship - then Come Bowling with us!

Mar 11 Romans 1 _____

Mar 12 Romans 3 _____

Mar 13 Romans 5 _____

Mar 14 Romans 7 _____

Mar 15 Romans 8 _____

Mar 17 Use today to Worship & catch up on readings you missed

Mar 18 Romans 12 _____

Mar 19 Galatians 1 _____

Mar 20 Galatians 5 _____

Mar 21 Philippians 4 _____

Mar 22 James 2 _____

Mar 24 Use today to Worship and catch up on readings you missed

Mar 25 Matthew 26 _____

Mar 26 Matthew 27 _____

Mar 27 John 15 _____

Mar 28 John 17 _____

Mar 29 John 19 _____

Mar 31 Use today to Worship - and Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection !

Apr 1 Matthew 28 _____

Apr 2 John 20 _____

Apr 3 John 21 _____

Apr 4 1 Corinthians 15 _____

Apr 5 Colossians 3 _____

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 11:15 after worship .Please join us when you can!



Usher Schedule

Mar 3	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Mar 10	
Mar 17	Joe Johnson & Pam Johnson
Mar 25	Jason & Levi Miller
M Thurs	Larry Levin & Jack Kuppich
Easter	

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

Elders

Mar 3, 10, 17	Scott & Steve
Mar 24, 28, 31	Duane & Kevin

Custodian

March -	Pam J & Linda V
April -	Tammy Miller

Nursery

(Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

Altar Guild

March	Mona Hjelle
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Power Point Clicker

Mar 3	Carter
Mar 10	Parker
Mar 17	Ella
Mar 24	Troy
M Thurs	Evelyn
Easter	Kjirsten

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Thot for a day: Two wrongs don't make a right. But three will get you back on the interstate highway.

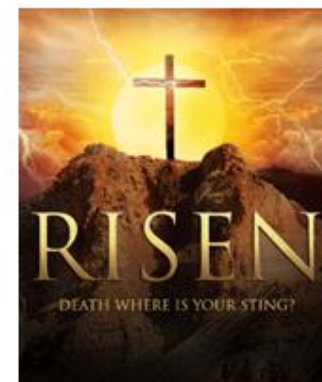
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Communion-Bread Maker

March 17	Parker
March 31	Carter

Accompanying Musicians

Mar 3	Sharon Willen
Mar 10	Scott Wachter
Mar 17	Open
Mar 24	Sharon Willen
M Thurs	Sharon Willen
G Fri	Scott Wachter
Sonrise	Scott Wachter
Easter	Open



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

Attend our Holy Week Services

and

Read 100 (or so) Key Bible Chapters

(Or listen to Pastor read them. He will text or email you a link to each day's recording)

Refresh your memory about God's work in His world through these basics of the Christian faith, from Creation to John's Vision of Heaven.

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

Seen on Church Signboards...

**The Greatest Message Ever Heard
Came From ...
...an Empty Tomb**

March Discipleship Verse...

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." 1 Peter 3:18

Email Humor...

Jerry Seinfeld Quotes

- If airline seat cushions are such great flotation devices, why don't you ever see anyone take one to the beach?
- Sometimes the road less traveled is less traveled for a reason
- A 2 year old is like having a blender that you don't have the top for.
- Would somebody please explain to me those signs that say, "No animals allowed except for Seeing Eye Dogs?" Who is that sign for? Is it for the dog, or the blind person?
- The human body is like a condominium. The thing that keeps you from really enjoying it is the maintenance.
- Dating is pressure and tension. What is a date, really, but a job interview that lasts all night?
- I will never understand why they cook on TV. I can't smell it. Can't eat it. Can't taste it. The end of the show they hold it up to the camera, 'Well, here it is. You can't have any. Thanks for watching.'

Quotes About Family

- By the time a man realizes that his father was right, he has a son who thinks he's wrong. - Charles Wadsworth
- A baby is a loud noise at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other. - Ronald Knox
- Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children. Now I have six children and no theories. - John Wilmott
- Behind every successful man stands a surprised mother-in-law. - Hubert Humphrey
- Middle age is having a choice between two temptations and choosing the one that'll get you home earlier. - Dan Bennett

Pastor is Planning a Membership Class...

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



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That for a day: Most people are so lazy, they don't even exercise good judgment.

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Support LCMS Disaster Response and Training by taking this survey



Are you interested in helping a community recover after a natural disaster and showing the love of Christ to people in need? Have you ever volunteered for a Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT)?

Your opinion can help LCMS Disaster Response and Training improve its organization and training of LERT volunteers so that they are ready to deploy when a natural disaster strikes. Please take a brief survey at lcms.org/lert-survey-congregation and let us know how you think we can improve LERT training and provide relief more effectively to natural disasters.

The more responses we receive, the better equipped LCMS Disaster Response will be in supporting LERT volunteers. We would appreciate receiving all responses by March 15. All responses are completely anonymous and confidential.

Thank you for your time and for your support of LCMS Disaster Response.

St Patrick's Day, March 17th...

May the sun shine warm upon
your face, The rains fall soft
upon your fields. And until we
meet again, May God hold
you in the palm of his hand.



Email Inspiration...

("Inspiration" to just say 'No' to requests for more toys)

- My kids started off as babies who found my Tupperware drawer much more fascinating than their toy box.
- The days I change the paper towel roll in the kitchen bring great excitement as they claim their new sword or telescope.
- Their current toys are only exciting when I either reorganize them/put them neatly away or when I start my garage sale pile.
- Who needs toys when jumping on my bed like the five little monkeys brings tears of laughter?
- They are content to look at the clouds and find shapes - most recently Caleb claimed he saw Thomas the Engine. Really, just shouted it out while in the car.
- To make one of them want to play with a toy, all I have to do is give it to the other one. Suddenly, that item becomes the best thing in the whole entire world.
- The days I mop the kitchen floor and move the chairs into the living room are cause for adventure as they build tents and "dark, dark rooms."
- A flashlight brings amusement to all for hours.
- And my personal favorite - the other day they literally fought over who got to play with the fly swatter. I really wish I was kidding.

Reasons Why My Children Do Not Need More Toys by Tammy Rosenfeldt



The Link...

FEBRUARY 2024 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

Ribfest 2024 planning has begun....AND WE WOULD LOVE YOUR HELP! We are currently looking for sponsors and silent auction item donations for the event.

Please save the date....Saturday, June 8, 2024....in the large city parking lot in New London (behind The Link).

The Food Pantry continues to see an increase in need. In January, The Link welcomed served 169 households- distributing a total of 9,053

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That for a day: It isn't easy to keep your mouth and your mind open at the same time.

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pounds of food.



Wildcat Backpack and Snack Pantry. The Link is currently serving 96 children each week from NL-S schools! This is an ability to supplement children's food for the weekend when they are not in school. The Link is also currently connecting 29 teachers with snacks for students in their classroom.

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 January, 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 14 families with much needed winter gear, furniture and other household necessities in January.

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: Rotating (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.

CURRENT NEEDS: Gently used winter gear and kids clothing, kid friendly food, monetary donations to support the increased need in The Food Pantry and Client Outreach.

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 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!

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 after April. 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 making 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.)



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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:

- The Holy Spirit's help abide in Jesus and grow the Spirit's "fruit"
- Asking God for His guidance about who to invite to any of the events or services on our "Who can you invite?" page.
- Thanking God for Jesus' death and resurrection!
- Asking God to open hearts and minds to Jesus during Holy Week!
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did - with sacrifice
- God's continued presence with Will & Harry's family & friends
- God's continued healing for all who have lost loved ones recently
- Asking God's guidance for our Building Committee
- 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 !
- 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

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/yxamw3r5>



Thot for a day: The opposite of isolate is yousearily.

Monthly Music Videos...

We have many great traditional Easter hymns and songs, but I thought I would share some of my favorite contemporary Easter season songs from the past few years.

- From Elevation Worship about 3 years ago, "Graves Into Gardens"
<https://youtu.be/KwX1f2gYKZ4>
- Cochrane & Co from 4 years ago "Grave" ...
<https://youtu.be/azcaS6c8muE>
- Charity Gayle released 2 years ago. "Thank You for the Blood" ...
<https://youtu.be/dhU-Omwg2rU>
- Zack Williams 4 years ago, "Empty Grave" ...
<https://youtu.be/NFxmPonKXkQ>
- Also from Elevation Worship 3 years ago, "Rattle" ...
<https://youtu.be/oRNFLM4VX3Q>
- Last year Rhett Walker released "Man On the Middle Cross"
<https://youtu.be/Ce5vYpRpK9U>
- From 6 years ago Crowder's "Ghost" ...
<https://youtu.be/9moCqVAF2ak>
- Last year Phil Wickham released "Sunday is Coming" ...
<https://youtu.be/TbDTXuTpO4>
- "Resurrection Power" is a classic by Chris Tomlin ...
<https://youtu.be/AxH8Q8ue65o>
- Molly Skaggs (yes, Ricky Skaggs' daughter) from about 5 years ago
"Ain't No Grave" ... https://youtu.be/nGncW_ueyHA
- Another Zack Williams song from last year is "Sunday's
Comin'" ... <https://youtu.be/ME7IUGNe9K8>
- "Living Hope" is another great Phil Wickham song ...
<https://youtu.be/u-1fwZtKJSM>
- About 9 years ago Matt Maher released "Because He lives" ...
<https://youtu.be/PBvU7arNhQs>
- "Nailed To The Cross" by Rend Collective 7 years ago ...
<https://youtu.be/GFLk6v7US3I>
- An older, but beautiful song from about 10 years ago by Kari
Jobe is "Forever" ... <https://youtu.be/huFra1mnlVE>

I'm sure that I am forgetting quite a few and have left off some favorites like "In Christ Alone", "Glorious Day", and "Love Ran Red", but this is a pretty good start on a song list.

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Thot for a day: My boss calls me "The Computer." Nothing to do with intelligence; I go to sleep if left unattended for 15 minutes.

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Story Behind The Song...

"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"

Of the thousands of churches across the world, you would only be able to walk past a few during the Easter season and not hear the congregation boisterously singing this tune. It was written by a man who wrote so many hymns that he himself would not be able to name half, and it sat as just another of his many works for many years. It wasn't until one significant change to the hymn caused it to explode in popularity and become an essential pick for the celebration of the risen Savior.

Charles Wesley was born in 1707 as the eighteenth child of Samuel and Susannah Wesley's overall nineteen. He was born premature, and was at first thought to be dead. But God had much in store for little Charles, and wouldn't allow death to take him just yet. It took a few unsure weeks, but baby Charles finally became healthy. It's a good thing too, because Charles Wesley went on to become the most successful hymn writer to ever live.

Charles Wesley was raised in a Christian home and was one of the founders of the "Holy Club" at Oxford. However, he always looked back to May 21, 1738 (when he was 30 years old) and the dramatic experience of divine grace on that day as his true conversion which stirred up within him the gift of sacred song.

Wesley's hymn writing can most accurately be described as an obsession. The number of hymns he completed varies from account to account, but most agree the number to be greater than 6,500, and some state as high as 8,989. A majority of his hymns were for the members of his Methodist church, and those members soon became known for their exuberant singing of the hymns Wesley brought to them.

In 1739, Charles Wesley and his brother John published a hymnal of 223

pages and 139 hymns entitled Hymns and Sacred Poems. There were fifty original hymns by Charles Wesley in this historic volume including "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." He wrote this hymn for the very first service at the original Wesleyan Chapel in London in 1739.

There have been some changes to the hymn over the years and the song you are most familiar with is likely different from Wesley's original composition. The hymn was first published in eleven 4-line stanzas and Wesley did not write the joyful "alleluias" at the end of each line. Those were added later to make the text fit the tune of "Easter Hymn" which had been published anonymously in *Lyra Davidica* in 1708. Being an Easter song, it was only logical to add 'alleluia' to the end of each line, for the word means 'Praise to the Lord.' Early Christians used it as a greeting on Easter with the now-familiar call and response: 'Alleluia! He is risen!' 'Alleluia! He is risen indeed!' On Easter Sunday these immortal words and this stirring tune are still sung in thousands of churches around the globe.

Although many hymnals feature a much shorter version of this hymn – often just four stanzas – versions of this hymn have been enthusiastically sung in Easter services for over 280 years. May it continue to be a blessing to you and your church as you celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday!

Here is the version that you are probably the most familiar with...

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!
Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!

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Thot for a day: The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off

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Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

King of glory, Soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, Thy pow'r to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

Its hard to pick a favorite video of this hymn, but I really like this a version from Chris Rupp...

https://youtu.be/_2xZ9Urag0

The traditional choir performance by the Tabernacle Choir at...

<https://youtu.be/F3ovKjE4d>

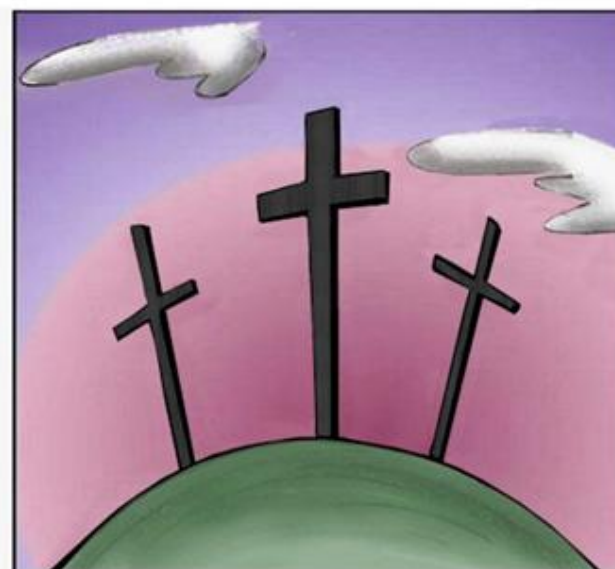
Finally here is a Veggie Tales version...

<https://youtu.be/2mJtQxRSTc4>

As a bonus video this month here is Cassandra and Callahan Star singing "An Easter Hallelujah"...

<https://youtu.be/ProfQys1eAo>

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



THE PERFECT MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

Don't give them what ask for, or what they deserve.. give them what they **NEED**. Peace, healing, grace, .. give them **SALVATION!**