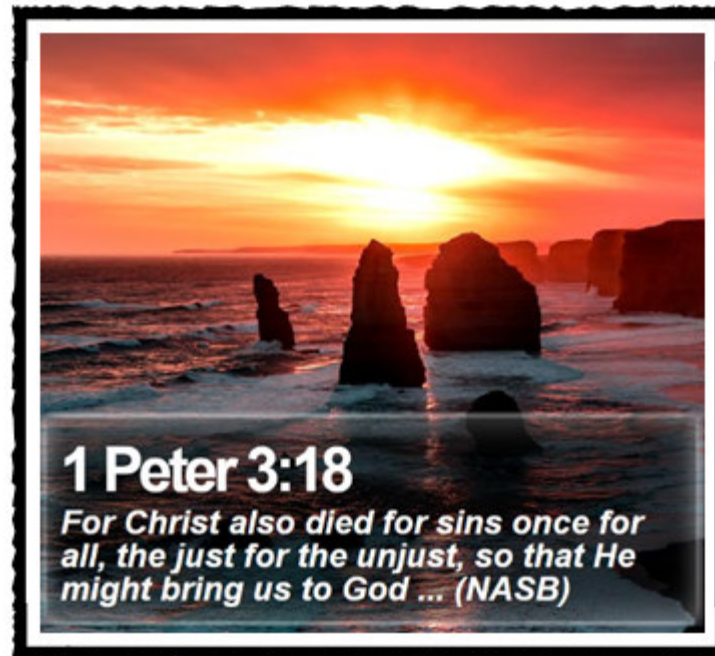



Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



April 2025 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...

Is the Bible literal or figurative?

Another great question from one of our confirmation students.

The answer: "Yes, and Yes." It contains mainly things that are meant to be taken literally. It also contains some things that are figurative.

This may come as a bit of a surprise. We know the Bible is 100% true, so we tend to think of all of it as "literally meaning what it says." But the Bible contains many different kinds of writings, not all of which are meant to be taken literally. Here's an example:

Jesus said, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26

That is NOT a literal statement. If it was literal, it would contradict Jesus' command "By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." John 15:35

In Luke 14:26 Jesus is using a common way of speaking called hyperbole (exaggeration to drive home a point). The point He wants to make sure everyone understands is that if you want to be His disciple, then HE has to be your number one priority in life. Even above family. We use hyperbole all the time in our own speech. For example, most of us have said at some point during a downpour, "It's raining cats and dogs." Thank God it never literally does that! We're speaking figuratively, exaggerating to make sure everyone knows that it is raining really hard!

The book of Proverbs is another example. Proverbs is mainly a collection of wise sayings. We need to keep in mind when reading the Proverbs that these sayings are "principles," not hard and fast "promises" that are literally true in every circumstance. A principle is a "rule of thumb," something that is true most of the time - but there are exceptions. I see such an exception as I'm writing this. A basic principle or rule of thumb is that if the temperature is above 32 degrees and moisture is coming



Page 3

down, it will be rain. That's true in general. But today we have an exception to that rule. Today it's snowing!

Finally, the whole Book of Revelation is what is termed "apocalyptic" literature. It's a type of literature that is filled with symbolism. For example, most numbers in Revelation are symbolic - they represent something other than the literal number. "10" is a number representing "completeness." "3" is a number that represents God (because God is 3 Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit). Therefore, 1000 years (10x10x10) represents "God's Complete Time" - however long that may be in literal years.

There is a problem, though. A big problem! Very often, people who don't want to believe the truths in the Bible treat things that ARE meant to be taken literally as though they are figurative or just parables. For instance, you will hear people say things like "Adam and Eve are not real people, they are merely symbols," or "Noah and the flood is just a parable - a made-up story designed to make a point," or "The six 'days' of creation really represent thousands of years." Well, no!!! Whenever those people and events are referred to elsewhere in the Bible, they are treated as real people and real events and actual days, not thousands of years. They are literal.

Distinguishing literal from figurative is one reason I often say that it's extremely important to know the context of a passage of Scripture. Does the author treat it as literal fact, or does he treat it as figurative (like when Jesus uses a parable)? We take the things written in the Bible as literal, unless the context or the type of literature indicates otherwise.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE AN EASTER PLANT ...

they may be brought Holy Week
and put on the back table.



Who Can You Invite?...

- **LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPERS:**
5:00 - Prior to each Lenten Devotion Service

Please sign up at church to bring either a soup or sandwiches on April 2 or 9 (or talk to Bonnie Hansen)



- **"MAUNDY" THURSDAY** **Thursday, April 17 @ 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.

We have a double celebration on this night as Austin Hjelle and Drew Dahl will be taking their first communion!

- **GOOD FRIDAY- The 7 Last Words** **Friday, April 18 @ 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, April 2**

• **Sonrise Worship:** **6:25 a.m.**

We begin outdoors watching the sun rise (6:25 is actual sunrise time), then move to the sanctuary to finish celebrating the Greatest Event in History

• **Easter Breakfast:** **7:45 a.m.**

• **Easter Worship w/Communion** **10:00 a.m.**

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.)



Page 4

That for a day: Q: Why is everyone so tired on April 1? A: Because they've just finished a 31-day March!

Page 5



Help us celebrate that our loan has been PAID IN FULL!
Cake and goodies to follow.

Confirmation Day...

Sunday, April 27 @ 10:00

Our youth who will be publicly professing their faith in Jesus that day:

- ◆ Carter Foshaug
- ◆ Kjirsten Hansen
- ◆ Parker Hjelle
- ◆ Ella Knutson
- ◆ Troy Sarsland
- ◆ Evelyn Wright



Smoke-Detector Battery Outreach...

We Have LOTS of Batteries left from

Our Annual Smoke-Detector Battery Giveaway

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



Mark Your Calendar...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, April 10th @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT



Building Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 8th @ 5:30 p.m. (Prior to Men's Study)

Women's Retreat...

November 14-16, 2025
At Green Lake Bible Camp



"The Truth that sets you Free"

Is God's Word still relevant today?

Come along with us as we journey through the Bible, learning God's Commandments, His truths and how Satan tries to distract us from the truth. Come and surrender your weekend and let us grow together!

The cost will be \$130.00 for 2-night's stay at the Medayto Lodge (GL Bible Camp - Spicer) and the Teachings, some crafts and a whole lotta fun with our fellow Sisters.

Invite a friend to come along on this Journey!
Questions? Talk to Violet or Tammy M

BLOCK PARTY !

Plans are underway! It will be held in August. Talk to Becky Sarsland or Tammy Miller if you have ideas or want to help.



It's Time to Start Planning for Summer Camp !

Lutheran Island Camp Summer 2025 brochures are available at church

That for a day: You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

Upcoming Fellowship Outings...



Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate April birthdays on Tuesday, April 15th @ 11:00 at Westwood Café in Spicer

April Fellowship Outing

Thursday, April 24th @ 6:00 at Greenwald Pub



UPCOMING: TWINS GAME

Saturday, June 7
1:10 Game time

You can choose which of three sections you'd like
Section 202 Wheelchair \$29.12
Section 202 \$30.15
Section 102 \$49.70

Ordering details at church!



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LWML Meeting & Women's Study:

Our next meeting and Bible study will be Wednesday, April 9th @ 10:00 a.m.
All ladies of the church are welcome!



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.

2025 LWML SPRING RALLY: "Growing in Grace" 2 Peter: 3:18

WHEN: Sunday, April 27th, 2025

WHERE: Nicolai Lutheran Church, Humphrey Drive, Canby, MN

REGISTRATION TIME: 1:30 pm. Fee: \$5.00

SPEAKER: 2:00 pm. Kathy Gifford, Wheaton, MN

INGATHERING: Prairie 5 Food Shelf (personal care products & food items (non perishable), cash donations

Lunch and fellowship to follow the business meeting.

Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study
Every Sunday @ 9:00
Join us for coffee and God's Word



Men's Study
Meets Tuesdays @ 6:30
(Come at 6:15 for food)
Study resumes January 7th



Monthly Morning Women's Study:
April 9th @ 10:00
Next Study: "WOMEN WITH JESUS AT THE CROSS AND THE TOMB".

We are in the time of the church year called Lent, when we remember the suffering, death, and burial in preparation for the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This Bible study focuses on the women who were present when Jesus was crucified on Calvary and later at His tomb. All ladies are invited!

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in December on the normal **First and Third Sundays (April 6th & 20th)** as well as **Maundy Thursday (April 17th)**



Reminders:

- Wine - is in the two outer rings of the individual-cup tray
Grape Juice - is in the inner ring of the individual-cup tray
- **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.
- 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.

Choir News...

...Will begin practicing soon (after Sunday service) for singing on Easter. Everyone is welcome to join.



Page 8

Thot for a day: Beware of a new Amazon scam. My husband ordered me some expensive jewelry but motorcycle parts came instead! Thankfully, they fit his bike.

Page 9

Sunday School News..

Sunday School Lessons:

Just a glimpse ahead of what we will study in Sunday School:

- April 6: "A Most Precious Gift" Luke 12:1-8
- April 13: Palm Sunday "Praise Parade" Luke 19:28-40
- April 20: Easter Sunday- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- April 27: The Ascension "Up, Up and Away" Acts 1:1-11
- May 6: Pentecost- Acts 2 and John 14:7,16-17,25-27
- May 13: Mother's Day
- May 20: Last Day of Sunday School
"Jesus, King of Kings" Rev. 17:14

Living Word Directory...

Thank you for all the cooperation and participation to get the Directory finalized! Orders are in and should be ready in a couple of weeks.

If there is more interest we can look at placing another order in six months. Thanks! Tammy M



Austin Hjelle & Drew Dahl
will take their
First Communion
during the
Maundy Thursday service
April 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation News

- Attend the Lenten Devotion Services (6:00 p.m. April 2 and 9)
- Class after Lenten Services (6:45 - 7:30)
- Don't forget to bring your items for Easter Breakfast
- Individual interviews with Pastor week of April 20.
- CONFIRMATION DAY - APRIL 27 !!!
- Remember to check the "PowerPoint Clicker" & Communion Wafer schedules.



E-Mail Humor...



The new pastor at a country church had some exciting ideas for the future. At the elders meeting he presented his vision with great energy and passion. The senior elder then called for a vote. All 12 elders voted "NAY"; only the pastor voted "AYE."

The pastor was crestfallen, but just at that moment the clouds darkened, thunder rolled, and a streak of lightning burst through the window and struck the table at which they were sitting, throwing the pastor and all the elders to the ground.

As they all got up and dusted themselves off the senior elder said, "Well, that's twelve votes to two then."

Jill was discussing the various aspects and possible outcome of her insurance policy with her agent.

During the discussion, she asked, "Suppose I take out life insurance on my husband today and tomorrow he dies? What will I get?"

The agent eyed her suspiciously and replied, "Probably 20 to life."

Building Committee Update...

Check out the new computerized drawings on the table by the entry door at church.



The Committee is in the process of getting a preliminary blueprint drawn up as well as a preliminary "ballpark" estimate of cost.

Some pertinent figures (as of February 28th):

- Remaining Balance of Mortgage on current building: **ZERO !!!**
- Balance in CDs dedicated to New Sanctuary: **\$70,000+**

OUR NEXT BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday, April 8th @ 5:30 (Prior to Men's Study)

Thot for a day: Despite what some people think, since the world is 71% water that is NOT carbonated, one could accurately say that it's technically flat.

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

1. Attend Wednesday Lenten Services

(6:00 - 6:40 p.m. April 2 & 9)

Our Lenten Devotions will tackle this question:

"I know Jesus died and rose.

But what does that mean for my life right now?"

2. Read About Jesus Dying and Rising

Jesus is God in human flesh, so if you want to get to know God, get to know Jesus. The last three weeks of April our Daily Readings focus on the verifiable, historical events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection - and their meaning for us today!

Pastor makes an audio recording of the Daily Readings along with a devotion based on them. He can text or email you a link to each day's recording. Just ask.

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

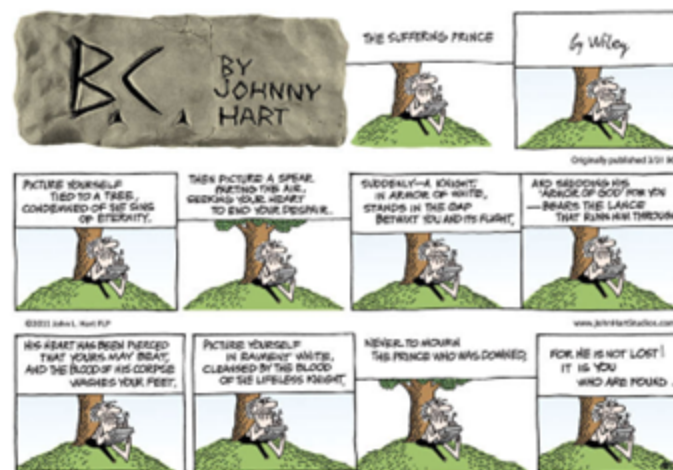
3. Attend our Holy Week Services

April 17 - Maundy Thursday/First Communion - 6:30

April 18 - Good Friday - 6:30

April 20 - Easter SonRise - 6:25

Easter Communion Service - 10:00



Email Wisdom...

From God's Book of "Practical Wisdom for Everyday" (Proverbs)

- How much better to get wisdom than gold; to choose understanding rather than silver. Proverbs 16:16
- Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18
- Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD Proverbs 16:20
- Better a dry crust with peace and quiet, than a house full of feasting with strife. Proverbs 17:1
- Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam, so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out. Proverbs 17:14
- A friend loves at all times, a brother is born for adversity. Proverbs 17:17
- A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22
- A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. Proverbs 17:27
- The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it, and they are safe. Proverbs 18:10
- He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD. Proverbs 18:22
- A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense. Proverbs 19:11
- Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD. Proverbs 19:14



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That for a day: You know how they throw the ball into the crowd after winning? They don't allow that in bowling. I know that now.

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An Easter Parable...

A young boy was walking down a street carrying a bird cage with two small ordinary birds. The boy passed a man along his path at which point the man questioned the boy, "Son where did you get those birds?". The boy answered, "I bought them at a yard sale. The people were moving and decided to sell the birds".

"How nice" the man said. The man further inquired, "So you like birds, well enjoy your new pets".

"Oh they're not my pets" said the boy, "and I really don't like birds" the boy continued.

"Well", said the man "why did you buy them?".

"Oh I am going to tease them, pull out their feathers, you know, have some fun with them" the boy said.

The man disturbed by what the boy intended to do asked, "How much did you pay for them?". "Five dollars." the boy exclaimed.

At which point the man said, "Will you sell them to me for twenty dollars?". "Sure, but that's a lot of money for just a couple of dumb birds", the boy said rather excitedly. The man without hesitation bought the birds from the young boy. As they were departing the young boy asked, "What are you gonna do with those dumb old birds anyway?" The man answered, "When I get home I am going to open the cage and free them so that they can fly high." "Why would you pay twenty dollars just do that? They're just a couple of dumb birds", the boy said unbelievably. "Well I don't see them as just a couple of dumb birds I see them as they were meant to be, free and flying high" the man said.

We do not know if the man's words effected the young boy or not. But what we do know is that a couple of ordinary birds found a new freedom that day and lived the rest of their lives as their maker intended them.

Sometimes parables speak powerful truths! The mystery of Easter can never be fully grasped though human understanding alone. But, what we can know is a love so deep that it enter human form, suffered and died, to pay the price for our freedom.

The price has been paid, which enables us to enter a divine realm and be raised with Jesus Christ! Christ is Risen! Indeed! We are freed from the torments of sin and death. Love makes us soar high and free. That's what God intends us to be!

April 2025 - Daily Readings

This Month we finish the passages where God speaks to us through the **book of Philippians**. Then we turn to readings about **Jesus death and resurrection**.

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.

WEEK OF MARCH 30: GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH PHILIPPIANS . . .

Mar 31 **Philippians 3:1-11** _____

Apr 1 **Philippians 3:12-16** _____

Apr 2 **Philippians 3:17-4:1** _____

Apr 3 **Philippians 4:2-3** _____

Apr 4 **Philippians 4:4-9** _____

WEEK OF APRIL 6: EVENTS LEADING UP TO JESUS' CRUCIFIXION

Apr 7 **The Lord's Supper - Matthew 26:17-30** _____

Apr 8 **Jesus Prays - Matthew 26:36-46** _____

Apr 9 **Jesus Arrested - John 18:1-11** _____

Apr 10 **Peter's Denials - Luke 22:31-34, 54-62** _____

Apr 11 **Jewish Trial - Matthew 27:57-68** _____

WEEK OF APRIL 13: EVENTS OF GOOD FRIDAY

Apr 14 **Conversation with Pilate - John 18:28-38** _____

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

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

Apr 15 **Pilate Sentences Jesus - John: 29-19:16** _____

Apr 16 **Jesus Crucified - Luke 23:26-36** _____

Apr 17 **The Thief on the Cross - Luke 23:38-43** _____

Apr 18 **Jesus Dies - Matthew 27:45-56** _____

Apr 19 **Burial and Guard Posted - Matthew 27:57-66** _____

WEEK OF APRIL 20 WITNESSES OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

EASTER **John 20:1-8** _____

Apr 21 **Matthew 28:1-10** _____

Apr 22 **Luke 24:15-35** _____

Apr 23 **Luke 24:36-49** _____

Apr 24 **John 20:24-31** _____

Apr 25 **1 Corinthians 15:5-8** _____

WEEK OF APRIL 27 RESULTS OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

Apr 28 **John 11:20-27** _____

Apr 29 **1 Corinthians 15:12-23** _____

Apr 30 **1 Corinthians 15:51-58** _____

May 1 **Colossians 3:1-10** _____

May 2 **1 Peter 1:3-9** _____

April 2025 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 30 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	Mar 31	1 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	2 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION 6:45 - CONFIRMATION	3	4	5
6 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP 2:00 - PASSION of CHRIST Movie	7	8 5:30 - BUILDING TEAM 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	9 10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 3:30 - 1 st COMMUNION PREP 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION 6:45 - CONFIRMATION	10 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	11	12 10:00 MEAL MAKING
13 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - MORTGAGE BURNING !!!	14	15 11:00 - APRIL B-DAYS @ WESTWOOD 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	16	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY & FIRST COMMUNION 6:30 - MAUNDY THURS SERVICE w/ 1 st COMMUNION	18 GOOD FRIDAY 6:30 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	19
20 RESURRECTION SUNDAY 6:25 - SONRISE SERVICE 7:45 - EASTER BREAKFAST 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	21	22 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	23 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	24 6:00 - APRIL SUPPER OUTING - GREENWALD PUB	25	26
27 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - CONFIRMATION WORSHIP 11:15 - CAKE for CONFIRMANDS	28	29 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	30	May 1	May 2	May 3

Lord's Supper Dates

- Sunday, April 6th
- Maundy Thursday, April 17th
- Easter Sunday, April 20th

Upcoming Schedules...

After-Worship Fellowship

We will have coffee / water and cookies at 11:15 after worship .Please join us when you can! ...and, if you can, please sign up to serve coffee and goodies some Sunday. Thanks!



Usher Schedule

Apr 6	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Apr 13	Jason & Levi Miller
Apr 20	Pam Johnson & Linda Vanmeter
Apr 27	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

Apr 6, 20	Steve & Duane
Apr 17, 20 & 27	Scott & Kevin

Custodian

April -	Dan & Tammy Miller
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Children's Church

Apr 6 -	Alison Sarsland
Apr 13 -	Violet Dauk
Apr 20 -	Sarah Olson
Apr 27 -	Levi Miller



Power Point Clicker

Apr 6	Carter
Apr 13	Parker
Apr 20	Ella
Apr 27	Confirmation Day



Communion Bread Maker

Apr 6	Carter
-------	--------

Altar Guild

April	Mona Hjelle
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Thot for a day: Golf can best be defined as an endless series of tragedies obscured by the occasional miracle.

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Accompanying Musicians

Apr 6	Sharon Willen
Apr 13	Scott Wachter
Maundy Thursday	Sharon Willen
Good Friday	Scott Wachter
Easter Sunrise	Scott Wachter
Easter 10:00	Sharon Willen
Apr 27	Scott Wachter



Living Word Directory...

Thank you for all the cooperation and participation to get the Directory finalized! Orders are in and should be ready in a couple of weeks.

If there is more interest we can look at placing another order in six months. Thanks! Tammy M

"Participate" in Worship from home...

If you can't be here in person: Watch on our YouTube channel with Sunday services being livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VviJEU22yCYxbhwig/featured>

Seen on Church Signboards...

**To Fix Everything...
+ Dad Used Duct Tape
+ Mom Used Band-Aids and Kisses
+ JESUS USED NAILS !**

April Discipleship Verse...

"Christ died for sin, once for all, the Righteous for the unrighteous to bring you to God." 1 Peter 3:18

Basic LERT Training...

Redeemer Lutheran Church,
Willmar MN

May 3, 2025

9:30 AM -- 4:00 PM

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Willmar is hosting a Basic LERT training is on Saturday, May 3, 2025, 9:30am to 4:00 pm. Congregations are encouraged to send a group of people to this training so that you can continue as a LERT-trained team when you get back home.

The cost is \$35 per person and payable at the event. This includes all materials, refreshments and lunch. Checks payable: "MN North District-LERT training".

We need a minimum of 12 pre-registrations TEN DAYS PRIOR to the event or the event may be cancelled. Walk-ins are permitted but materials cannot be guaranteed.

Learn more about LERT or register for the training online at the LCMS website: www.lcms-lert.org

Any questions, contact: Rev. John Beck who is one of our District Disaster Response Coordinators and LERT Trainers, by email john6beck@gmail.com or phone (320) 249-4012.



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That for a day: A dead end is just a good place to turn around.

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 March we thanked God for...

- Friends

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



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Living Word's 2025 Goals Update...

- Continue the Make A Meal program.
We Make More Meals this month on April 12
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper
Tuesday, April 15 and Thursday, April 24
- Continue the Birthday Card/Anniversary ministry
Ongoing
- Challenge every member to bring a guest this year
Be praying about who you can invite to Holy Week Services
- Create a Visitors Table (Coffee, giveaways along with church and prayer ministry info)
Check out our new "Visitors (and members) Coffee Cart"
- Initiate the "Prayer D-Fence" Program
(Adults "adopting" a kid to pray for, send cards etc...)
Currently looking for a coordinator
- Start a Prayer Ministry - with people praying for/with others after the Sunday Service
Began in January
- A Concert!! (Summer...outdoor)
- Chili Cook-Off **Held on January 18th**
- Host a Block Party or Community Festival in the Spring
Coming in August
- Focus on the National Youth Gathering event for youth
7 youth are signed up to attend in July
- Coordinating with Redeemer, Willmar and St. John, Atwater to host joint youth events
- Continue weekly Youth Gatherings
on break during Lent
- Keep the church yard looking nice and continue to de-clutter the storage areas inside.
Ongoing

Remember to wear your Living Word Apparel...



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
- April 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>

Mar 2 "Jesus is God. So what?!!"

Mar 9 "Satan Tempts us with bad solutions to good needs"

Mar 16 "Stops on the way to the Cross: Jesus gets the 'opposition snowball' rolling downhill."

Mar 23 "Stops on the way to the Cross: Two responses to Jesus. 'Deep gratitude' and 'Nothing special.' Which is yours?"

Mar 30 "Stops on the way to the Cross: Lessons from Zacchaeus"



Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Living Word has the option of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account .

Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.

Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2025—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!

Page 22

That for a day: just because you're smart does not mean that the other guy is stupid.

Page 23

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:

- Thanking God for Jesus' death and resurrection!
- Asking God to open hearts and minds to Jesus during Holy Week!
- Thanking God for 1st communion for Austin Hjelle and Drew Dahl
- Thanking God for the faith of our Confirmands
- Thanking God for enabling us to pay off our mortgage!
- Asking God's continued guidance for our Building Committee
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did - with sacrifice
- For God's peace, comfort and direction for all who lost loved ones
- For all those who are home-bound or in nursing facilities
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Safe travel (and good weather for traveling)
- 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 !
- 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

After-Worship Prayer Ministry



We're looking for a few more people who have a passion for praying!!! We meet a few minutes after church to pray with and for each other.

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

4 Fresh Ways to Approach Household Chores

We call them household chores – not household fun activities – for a reason. They often feel like the main obstacle standing between us and what we really want to be doing. Plus, they're constant. As soon as you finish one round of chores it's time to start up another. If it feels like you and your spouse can never get ahead, you're not alone. Not only do they add work to your individual plates, but when you're not aligned on how to handle them, it can strain your marriage as well. If you need to breath some new life into this area, keep reading.

1. Focus on your current needs.

You probably feel the pressure to do it all, and there's always something to be done. But that is overwhelming, unsustainable, and frankly not very realistic. Instead, figure out which chores are most crucial and make the most sense for the season of life you're in right now. Prioritize those. Everything else can wait, or they can be bonus tasks to complete when you have a little extra time or capacity. For example, if you've got a newborn or toddlers at home, keeping a spotless home isn't going to be the best use of your time and energy. Instead, you might focus on keeping up with laundry, or only scrubbing the high traffic areas. If you're able, consider paying for services to take care of certain chores for you, even just for a short time. This option can be just the reprieve you need to prevent burnout. It can also give you breathing room to get yourself in a better position to take the responsibilities back on yourself.

2. Stick to a schedule.

If a large part of your struggle is managing what to do and when, create a schedule. (If you need an example or template, the internet is chockfull of them.) Tailor the schedule to meet your needs and preferences. The beauty of a set schedule is you don't have to devote mental energy to remembering what you need to do each week – it's all planned out for you. Once it's established, you can make it part of your routine, and plan your day accordingly. For example, if you know you clean all the floors on Saturday mornings, you and your spouse can incorporate this into your plan for the day without much effort.

3. Get the whole family involved.

If you've got children who are old enough to take on some household responsibilities, then make it a family affair. You can get creative with how you assign tasks each week – maybe drawing from a chore jar,

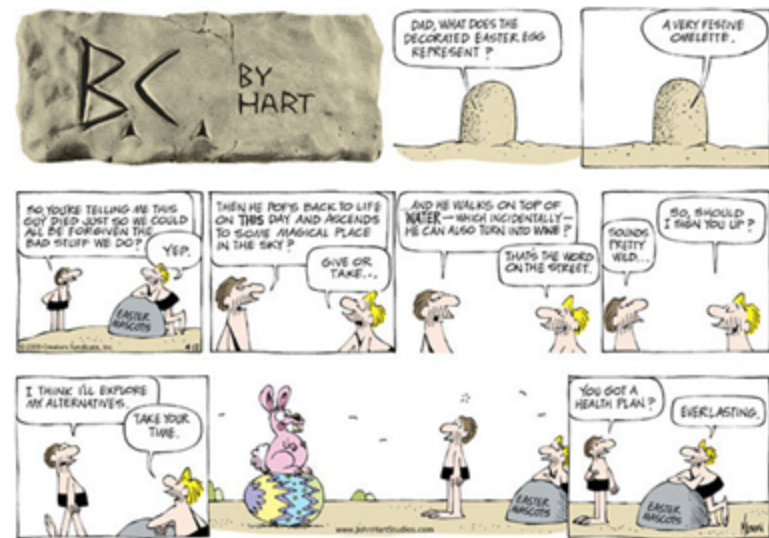


creating a rotation, or even tying it to the results of your family game night. Not only is it a great way to model responsibility and teamwork for the kids, more hands means less work for you and your spouse and faster completion overall. Consider combining this option with a schedule and fun weekly tradition. For example, everyone does their chores Saturday morning, and then you all head out for family brunch afterward.

4. Work smarter, not harder.

We typically think of chores as separate tasks we have to get done outside of (or in addition to) the more enjoyable things we actually want to do – and that's what makes them feel like such a drag! So what if you found ways to incorporate chores into the things you're already doing? For example, if you're outside playing with the kids in the evening, you might as well take out the trash bins for tomorrow's pickup while you're at it. Lounging on the couch and listening to a podcast? Maybe fold that basket of laundry while you listen. Cooking dinner? Why not pack the kids lunches while the kitchen is already a mess? These are small additions, but they can have a cumulative effect of increasing your efficiency while saving you time – it just takes a little forethought.

While these things might not all be brand new concepts to everyone, hopefully one of these ideas will spark a wave of motivation to tackle those chores in a new way. After all, they're not going anywhere – but switching things up might be the energizing boost you need when they're weighing you down.



Opportunities to Serve...

Help With Children's Church

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.

For any month after May in 2025...

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...

Join us Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m. to make meals.

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.



Please grab some meals from the freezer at church and take them to someone who's going through a tough time.

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That for a day: I got myself a Senior GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

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Email Inspiration...

Once upon a time there was a bunch of tiny frogs who arranged a running competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower.

A big crowd gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants. The race began but no one in the crowd really believed that the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. You heard statements such as:

"Oh, WAY too difficult!!"

"They will NEVER make it to the top."

"Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!"

The tiny frogs began collapsing. One by one, except for those who, in a fresh tempo, were climbing higher and higher.

The crowd continued to yell, "It is too tough!!! No one will make it!"

More tiny frogs got tired and gave up. But one continued higher and higher and higher. He just wouldn't give up!

At the end everyone else had given up climbing the tower. Except for the one tiny frog who, after a big effort, was the only one who reached the top!

All of the other tiny frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it. A contestant asked the tiny frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach the goal.

It turned out that the winner was deaf.

Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible.'



Thank You...

- To everyone who provided soup and sandwiches for our Lenten suppers!
- To Lee and Joe Johnson for plowing our snow

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

Monthly Music Videos...

Lots of great new music this month. Here are some of my picks.

- “No Greater Love” is a new song by Chris Tomlin written for the upcoming movie he is producing, “The Last Supper”... <https://youtu.be/EGffrc0CUYA>
- Matt Maher has a great new song is called “Wait”... <https://youtu.be/sn23l2-AP7w>
- Winner of The Voice 2020, Todd Tilghman has released “Holy Place” ... <https://youtu.be/K6Xs-LpliEk>
- Speaking of The Voice alumni, Blessing Offor has a new song, “Lift Me Up”... <https://youtu.be/TtLtl1f9R8g>
- Independent artist, Josiah Queen released a great song, “Yesterday Is Dead”... <https://youtu.be/Jljs5487pbc>
- “Discover God” is the latest release from Stars Go Dim https://youtu.be/ZZmoK_iVFCY
- New Artist Arielle Nichole just released “Brand New”... <https://youtu.be/x0ErmYTQ8AA>
- The latest song from Ben Fuller is called “Deeper Still”... <https://youtu.be/ce458KbuTLc>
- Another new artist is Elaina Smith. Her new song is “Love Like No Other”... <https://youtu.be/A809ht7-b5l>
- “Simply Jesus” is new from Aaron Williams with Chelsea Plank... https://youtu.be/Ev_W5vBRoaA
- TAYA has released a new song, “Simple Phrase”... <https://youtu.be/U8jcAWJyzmM>
- Worship leader, Mack Brock released “Beloved”... <https://youtu.be/h2k4JvMapfs>
- “More Than Anything” is the latest song from Stephen McWhirter... <https://youtu.be/VlB9eb1N70Q>
- Sanctus Real has a new release called “The Difference”... <https://youtu.be/J3VNw2SSkNo>
- Another new song from Seph Schlueter “Turn It To Praise”... <https://youtu.be/8EPGgJPB-Ls>
- My favorite family bluegrass band, The Petersens released an original song, “Goodness of the Lord”... <https://youtu.be/M42bldoshTD>

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That for a day: I believe we should all pay our tax bill with a smile. I tried -- but they wanted cash.

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- TobyMac has another hit with “Heaven On My Mind”... <https://youtu.be/fHBBxWg3Yxs>
- “When God Closes Doors” if a new song by Jordana Bryant... <https://youtu.be/ia42bVwzHZw>
- Multi-Dove Award winner, Aaron Shust just released a new song, “Authority”... <https://youtu.be/D0uu2pGl-kU>
- Finally, to announce their first album in six years, *Let It Begin*, Big Daddy Weave released a new song, “I’ve Just Seen To Much”... <https://youtu.be/5abqIOfl8VM>

Story Behind The Song...

Easter is arriving soon and I wanted to feature a great Easter hymn known by two titles... “Low In The Grave He Lay” or “Christ Arose”.

This hymn was inspired by the story of the angel at the empty tomb of Jesus who said to the frightened women who had come to the tomb, “He is not here; he has risen.” Luke 24:6 NIV

Robert Lowry was born in Philadelphia in 1826. As a teen, he was active in teaching Sunday school, as well as serving in the choir of his church. He had been a Christian since he was seventeen years old, and became a well known preacher serving churches in New York and New Jersey.

The text was written and the tune was composed in 1874. He had moved to preach at the First Baptist Church in Lewisburg, PA, where he also served there as a professor at Bucknell University.

One evening Robert was having his nightly devotions and was thinking about the events associated with Christ’s death and resurrection. It was spring, near Easter Sunday, and Lowry was reading the account of Jesus’ death and resurrection. He had read it a hundred times before, yet something about this time opened his eyes to the significance of the event.

He soon found himself sitting at a small pump organ in the parlor of his home. In a very spontaneous fashion, Lowry penned the words and music for the song that echoed in his mind. Many of his hymns like this one were composed on that small organ as he would pump with his foot.

The hymn was only one of more than 500 hymns written by Robert Lowry, who also edited over twenty hymnals. He said, “I am always

amazed at how quickly some of our favorite hymns were written". This one was no exception.

Other hymns you may be familiar with that he wrote were "Nothing But The Blood of Jesus", "Shall We Gather at the River", and "I Need Thee Every Hour". Many of the hymns written by Lowry became very popular and have been used and sung at evangelistic revivals and in churches all over the world.

Dr. Lowry considered his position as a preacher to be his main purpose and primary occupation and his music ability as a hymn writer/composer to be secondary. He couldn't deny the success of his hymns, but delivering sermons was much more important to him. Music to him was a "side issue," an "efflorescence," and writing a hymn ranked far below preparing and delivering a sermon. Yet almost a century later his hymns remain a potent force in many gospel gatherings.

Looking back almost 150 years, and in one of God's mysterious ways, Lowry is better remembered for his hymns, and his sermons are mostly forgotten.

Low in the grave He lay
Jesus my Savior!
Waiting the coming day
Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! (He arose)
He arose! (He arose)
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed
Jesus, my Savior!
Vainly they seal the dead
Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! (He arose)
He arose! (He arose)
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Death cannot keep his prey

That for a day: The trouble with Sunday drivers is, they don't drive any better during the week.

Jesus, my Savior!
He tore the bars away
Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! (He arose)
He arose! (He arose)
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

You've probably never heard of the Crescendudes, but here is a great version of this hymn... <https://youtu.be/ZKuMIPS7vJE>

Bonus song this month is a new mashup of Trust In God & Blessed Assurance by Caleb & Kelsey with Genavieve Linkowski...
https://youtu.be/eUE_frAgS4

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



and the Temple Curtain split from top to bottom. **Mt 27:51** leaving some temple priests in denial with the signs of the day, **AND..** the temple insurance policy **DID NOT** cover supernatural acts of God.