



August 2025 Newsletter
"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Summer Hours:
Worship Service: 9:00 a.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church

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

Questions for Pastor...

"Can I Use Your Article?"

It appears that you can find almost anything on the internet - including an article I wrote for a past Newsletter about Rally Day. Someone from a church in Tennessee emailed and asked if they could use it - with a few tweaks (I'm assuming they'll need to toss in "y'all" a few times :)) Anyway, since Rally Day is just over a month away, I thought I might as well print it again too. Here it is:



"What is Rally Day? It's just for kids isn't it?"

Taking the last question first: No, Rally Day isn't just for kids. It is for everyone in the church.

Now, I'll answer the first question, so you can see why it is for everyone.

Webster's Dictionary defines "rally" as:

- 1) a verb "to draw or call together for a common purpose"
- 2) a noun meaning "a renewal of energy in joint action"

During the summer, our many activities and vacations and events continually draw congregation members away from each other - especially on weekends.

Summer can also be a spiritually draining time. You start the summer with the good intentions of sticking to your Bible-reading schedules. Good intentions of worshiping regularly. Good intentions of listening to the Daily Devotion. But the reality is that summer's hectic schedules can easily derail us from those good intentions. By the end of summer, we need "a renewal of energy" when it comes to spiritual matters.

It's hard to renew your energy on your own. It's MUCH easier in a group. That's why we set aside one special day at the end of the summer to "rally" - to "draw together for a common purpose" - seeking the Holy Spirit's power to "renew our energy" for worship, for digging into God's

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Word, for praying, for serving, and for witnessing.

On Sunday, September 7, we will be "drawing together, renewing our energy for the common purpose" of growing in our trust in and obedience to Jesus Christ. We have special "rally" activities planned for both kids and adults starting during the Christian growth hour at 9:00. (And remember, the worship service goes back to 10:00 a.m. on Rally Sunday.)

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Editor's note... Yes, over 15 years of "Questions for Pastor" can be found on our website at <https://www.livingwordlutheran.net/questions.htm>

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

Read about (or listen to) some very important people in the Bible who are not exactly "household names." There are some excellent lessons we can learn from these people - and God's dealings with them. Readings are listed on our Daily Devotion Pages 14 & 15.

Pastor also records audio devotions based on these readings. You can find them on our website. Click on the "Readings" tab. OR Just tell Pastor to email or text the readings to you.

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in August on the normal First and Third Sundays (**August 3rd & 13th**)



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.

Confirmation News...

This fall our 6th and 7th graders start a new Confirmation group.

Parents' Meeting -
Wednesday, September 3 @ 6:00



From Sunday School...

Dear Members of Living Word Lutheran,

As of July 1, 2025 Meggie Ashburn is the church's Director of Christian Growth-Sunday School. Meggie and I have met a couple times this summer and have discussed the Sunday School program for the coming year.

There are some needs to be met:

1. There is a need for someone to teach the lower grades every other Sunday of the month. (Sunday's that Meggie is working.)
2. Each Sunday of the month there is a need for someone to teach the upper grades. That can be the same person each Sunday or co-teachers who divide the Sundays.
3. Also, one who can do the opening of Sunday School (every-other Sunday) with offerings and prayer requests that the kids have.

So the desire is to have a calendar that can be filled in for teaching lower and upper grades and for one to handle the opening. Meggie would have a laminated card with all passwords to the online teaching resources that are used.

It is understood that there are activities and life happenings that take place on weekends and that do not allow us to attend every Sunday. But if you are led with a desire to teach even one Sunday a month, that would be great!

I encourage you to contact Meggie with any questions about teaching and/or concerns you may have.

Meggie Ashburn contact number 320-212-3509

Thank you and God's blessings on the coming Sunday School year!

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That for a day: I like to make lists. I also like to leave lists on the kitchen counter and then guess what's on the list when I get to the store. Fun game.

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Vacation Bible School...

Vacation Bible School

August 18th-21st
Monday - Thursday 5:30-8:00
Everyone is Invited!
320-354-4637

Living Word Lutheran Church
16245 Co Rd 9 NE
New London, MN

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves." Colossians 1:13



SCHOOL KITS

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 18-21. Our Mission Project for it will be "Orphan Grain Train" School kits. I invite the congregation to also support this mission with eh kids! School supplies are already on the store shelved. Thanks!



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- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 backpack | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 ruler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 spiral notebooks | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 glue sticks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 pencils | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 pens | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 eraser |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 sheets of construction paper | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 package colored pencils (12 count) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 package crayons (24 count) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pencil sharpener |

Mark Your Calendar...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, August 14th @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT



BLOCK PARTY !

Saturday, August 9th,
from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.



LIVING WORD "RAD WHEELS" SHOW - If it has wheels, bring it. Trophy for Best of Show
Parking will be on the North Side of the Building

JENNIFER MARIE MUSIC 2:00-4:00PM

Fun upbeat and lots of worship music. Under a tent. BRING a Chair!

BLACK CHERRY SMOKEHOUSE FOOD TRUCK Noon -4:00

VENDORS

We still have room for Vendors! If you or someone you know has Crafts, Baked goods etc...to sell we supply the place. If you're a church member, no cost, but bring tables, chairs, anything you need. Open to non members as well. Their cost is \$10 and they supply their own tables, chairs, tent, etc.. If we supply the table and chairs cost will be \$25. Please share with friends and family!!

KIDS ACTIVITIES - Games, face Painting and more!

Something for everyone...Grab a Neighbor, Friend and families. This will be a well rounded event ... for All ages

Let Tammy Miller or Becky Sarsland know if you are interested. There is an ORANGE sign up sheet at church as well.

Send Off Get-Togethers...

"Sent Forth By God's Blessing"

♦ For Jim and Naomi Stinson:

Sunday, August 17

Potluck After Worship @ Living Word

Please join us as we send the Stinsons off to their new home in Hutchin son!

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That for a day: I received another letter from some lawyer yesterday. It had "Final Notice" written on the envelope. Good. They won't be bothering me anymore.

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Upcoming Fellowship Outings...



Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate August birthdays on
Tuesday, August 12th @ 11:00
at Zorbaz in Spicer

August Fellowship Outing

Thursday, August 21st @ 6:00
at Tequila Town Mexican Cuisine
(In Grove City)



Trap Shooting Fellowship 2025...

On:

Tuesdays, August 12th & 26th @ 6:15 p.m.

We'll have brats, hot dogs and a devotion @ 6:15
and start shooting @ 6:30



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



Summer Worship Time: 9:00 a.m.

(Runs through Labor Day Weekend)

Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study

Is on Summer Break
(Returns Rally Sunday, Sept 7th @ 9:00)



Men's Study

August 5th, 19th, & Sept 12th
at 6:30 p.m.



Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Will not meet in August
Next study: Wednesday, Sept. 10 @ 10:00 a.m.

Make-A-Meal Program...

Our July Meal Makers...

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.

National Youth Gathering News...

THANK YOU! To Everyone Who Helped Make This Possible

AND, Please Continue to Pray for God to Continue the Work He Began at the Gathering !



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That for a day: I went to the paint store to get thinner. It didn't work.

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Living Word's 2025 Goals Update...

- Continue the Make A Meal program.
We made more meals in July
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper
Tuesday, August 12th and Thursday, August 21st
- Continue the Birthday Card/Anniversary ministry
Ongoing
- Challenge every member to bring a guest this year
Be praying about who you can invite to join you
- 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!! **Will be held as part of our Block Party on August 9th**
- Chili Cook-Off **Held on January 18th**
- Host a Block Party or Community Festival in the Spring
Coming on August 9th
- Focus on the National Youth Gathering event for youth
7 youth attended the Gathering in July
- Coordinating with Redeemer, Willmar and St. John, Atwater to host joint youth events **a July event at Redeemer**
- Continue weekly Youth Gatherings
Starts up again in August and September
- Keep the church yard looking nice and continue to de-clutter the storage areas inside.
Ongoing

Remember to wear your Living Word Apparel...





News and resources on the intersection of religion and politics

The Summer 2025 Free to be Faithful® newsletter highlights important and relevant details on religious liberty issues that impact the rights of Christians to live faithfully.

In this issue, read about:

- Lutherans marching with tens of thousands of other pro-life supporters at the 52nd annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., in January.
- A fresh translation of The Magdeburg Confession now available from Concordia Publishing House. The original document was written four years after Martin Luther's death and defended his teachings and the separation of church and state.
- A reflection by the Rev. Dr. Christopher Thoma on what to do when the government is not upholding biblical morals and values.
- A Supreme Court case on behalf of a Christian counselor that challenges a law requiring her to support gender identity exploration.

<https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/free-to-be-faithful-newsletter-summer-2025>

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!



That for a day: I wish people came with a 30-second trailer so I'd know what I was getting myself into.

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 planning for raising funds.

We've had a generous challenge:

As soon as we raise an additional \$70,000 the "challenger" will donate \$100,000 !!!

Some pertinent figures (as of July 15):

"Challenge" Money Raised: \$65,000 (of \$70,000 needed)

Money in CDs and Building Account: \$115,000

A HUGE "Thank You" to everyone who has made a pledge !!!



Email Wisdom...

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

- He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, But he who doses his eyes to them receives many curses. Proverbs 28:27
- A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed without remedy. Proverbs 29:1
- A fool gives full vent to his anger; But a wise man keeps himself under control. Proverbs 29:11
- The rod of correction imparts wisdom, But a child left to himself disgraces his mother. Proverbs 29:15
- Where there is no revelation (from God), the people cast off restraint; But blessed is he who keeps the law. Proverbs 29:18
- Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than him. Proverbs 29:20
- An angry man stirs up dissension. And a hot-tempered one commits many sins. Proverbs 29:22
- A man's pride brings him low, But a man of lowly spirit gains honor. Proverbs 29:23
- Fear of man will prove to be a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe. Proverbs 29:25
- Every word of God is flawless, He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Proverbs 30:5
- Do not add to God's words, or He will rebuke you and prove you to be a liar. Proverbs 30:6

"For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

PROVERBS 2:6

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That for a day: Every problem is a new opportunity. If you think you can, you might. If you think you can't, you're right.

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Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LWML Meeting & Women's Study:

+++ Note: LWML will not meet in August +++

NEXT MEETING & BIBLE STUDY: September 10 @ 10:00 a.m.

SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

A huge thank you to all who have donated! This is an on-going 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.



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. That 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 difficult!!! 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.

August 2025 - Daily Readings

Our Summer Readings continue focusing on some...

More very important, but lesser known, people in the Bible.

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

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

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

WEEK OF AUGUST 3

Aug 4 Elkanah - 1 Samuel 1 _____

Aug 5 Hannah - 1 Samuel 1-2 _____

Aug 6 Eli - 1 Samuel 2 _____

Aug 7 Eli - 1 Samuel 3 _____

Aug 8 Hophni & Phinehas _____

WEEK OF AUGUST 10

Aug 11 Dagon - 1 Samuel 5 _____

Aug 12 2 Milk Cows - 1 Samuel 6 _____

Aug 13 Abinidab - 1 Samuel 7 _____

Aug 14 Ebenezer - 1 Samuel 7 _____

Aug 15 Lost donkeys - 1 Samuel 9 _____

WEEK OF AUGUST 17

Aug 18 Jonathan's Armor Bearer - 1 Samuel 14 _____

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

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

Aug 19 Eliab - 1 Samuel 16 _____

Aug 20 Jesse - 1 Samuel 17 _____

Aug 21 Abiathar - 1 Samuel 22 _____

Aug 22 Nabal - 1 Samuel 25 _____

WEEK OF AUGUST 24

Aug 25 Abigail - 1 Samuel 25 _____

Aug 26 Achish - 1 Samuel 28-29 _____

Aug 27 Abner - 2 Samuel 2-3 _____

Aug 28 Obed-Edom - 2 Samuel 6 _____

Aug 29 Michal - 2 Samuel 6 _____

WEEK OF AUGUST 31

Sept 1 Mephibosheth - 2 Samuel 9 _____

Sept 2 Uriah - 2 Samuel 11 _____

Sept 3 Nathan - 2 Samuel 12 _____

Sept 4 Absalom - 2 Samuel 14-15 _____

Sept 5 Ziba - 2 Samuel 16 _____

August 2025 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion and Youth Gathering Report 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	4	5 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6 6:00 YOUTH CANOE FLOAT	7 	8	9 Noon - 4:00 OUR 1st ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY !!!
10 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	11	12 11:00 - AUG BIRTHDAYS At Zorbaz 6:15 - TRAP SHOOTING	13	14 <i>MISSION Ministry</i> 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	15	16
17 9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 10:15 - STINSONS' SEND-OFF (Potluck)	18 VBS 5:30 - 8:00	19 VBS 5:30 - 8:00 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY (Work Project)	20 VBS 5:30 - 8:00	21 VBS 5:30 - 8:00 6:00 - Fellowship Sup. @ Tequila Town - Grove City	22	23
24 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	25	26 6:15 - TRAP SHOOTING	27 5:00 -7:00 (Leave after school) YOUTH PACK MEALS FOR "FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN"	28 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #00a0e3; color: white; text-align: center;"> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, August 3rd Sunday, August 17th </div>	29	30
31 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP NEXT SUNDAY: Worship is at 10:00	Sept 1 LABOR DAY	Sept 2 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	Sept 3 PARENT MEETINGS 6:00 - Confirmation Parents 7:00 - All Youth Parents	Sept 4	Sept 5	Sept 6 TOMORROW: Rally Sunday + Worship time returns to 10:00 + Sunday School begins (9:00) + Grandparents' Day (All Day)

Upcoming Schedules...

After-Worship Fellowship

We will have coffee / water and cookies at 10:15 after worship. Please join us when you can! ...and, if you can, please sign up to serve coffee and goodies some Sunday.



Usher Schedule

Aug 3	Jim & Torasie Larsen
Aug 10	Jason & Levi Miller
Aug 17	Pam Johnson & Linda Varmeter
Aug 24	Larry Levin & Jim Stinson
Aug 31	Gerry Butler & (Volunteer Needed)

USHERS NEEDED

We are still in need of more ushers to help collect offering. Please sign up at church if you could take a turn. Thanks!

Elders

Aug 3, 10	Duane & Scott
Aug 17, 24, 31	Dan & Steve

Custodian

August Volunteers needed—please

Children's Church

Parents can take children to the Pre-School room as needed

Altar Guild

August Mona Hjelle

Accompanying Musicians

August 3	Sharon Willen
August 10	Sharon Willen
August 17	Scott Wachter
August 24	Scott Wachter
August 31	Open



Seen on Church Signboards...

**Looking for the perfect gift?
You can find Him here.**

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That for a day: I thought I was a good person, but the way I react when people drive slowly in the left lane would suggest otherwise.

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Thank God For...

You've seen our sign board out by the road with the beginning of a sentence: "Thank God For..." Each week we'd like to change the ending of that sentence to encourage people who drive past to remember that God is the giver of all good things - especially things we take for granted.

In July we thanked God for...

- Chainsaws

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



SHEPHERD'S VOICE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
- JOHN 10:27 NIV

August Discipleship Verse...

Jesus said, "Everything is possible for the one who believes." Mark 9:23

Note: This is the third of six straight months where we use a confirmation verse as our Discipleship Verse. This month's verse is Parker Hjelle's confirmation verse.

Music Inspiration...

Christian artist Forrest Frank has often been featured in the Monthly Music Videos section of this newsletter. He has become a trailblazer in the Christian music crossover space. He's one of the few CCM artists to see huge chart success, multiple Dove Awards, Grammy buzz, a #1 hit on Billboard's Hot Christian Songs, and viral dance trend with "Your Way's Better," that has become a huge crossover hit on the non-Christian music charts.

His new song could be featured on this month's list, but the backstory behind the song is too good not to share.

In case you haven't heard, Forrest fractured both his L3 and L4 vertebrae taking a hard spill in his driveway while playing and skateboarding with his toddler son, Bodie. Here is the link:
<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/lCaB5wPylq4>

Big props to his transparency and sense of humor in the midst of it. Also, am I the only one who finds it both hilarious and encouraging that he played his song "Good Day" at the end of this video about his injury?

While his literal back was broken, he responded to a fan who asked, "How are you going to keep making music now?" with the most Forrest Frank answer ever: by writing a worship bop from bed...

<https://youtu.be/1HBZAQa7yk>

An amazing testament to faith in God. Setbacks don't mean stopping. And as cheesy as it is: no matter how hard you fall, God's got your back. Here is the official video of "God's Got My Back"...

https://youtu.be/BaDLebwD_g

FOLLOWUP... a few days after I wrote this article, this happened...

<https://www.instagram.com/hiforrest/reel/DMeOgS1JQw/> then

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/fe4VvllYgc?feature=share>

and then...

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/h6g9M4YcXn4?feature=share>

It started as a joke and will end up becoming a hit... "Lemonade" by Forrest Frank and the Figs... <https://youtu.be/gRGUOU0AIT4> Two songs in less than 2 weeks while laying in bed with a broken back. It's easy to see why Forrest has quickly become one of the most popular and successful Christian artists.



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That for a day: I think NASCAR would be much more exciting if, like in a skating rink, every 15 minutes someone announced it was time to reverse direction.

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From The Link...

IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S TIME TO START TALKING SCHOOL....

The 2025-26 school year is quickly approaching and we are looking for your support!

The Link will be doing a school supply/food drive from July 28-August 15!!!

The flyer below includes the different items we will be collecting during this time!!!!

All food donations for the Wildcat Backpack Program needs to be shelf stable. If you have any questions regarding any donations, please reach out at 320-354-5465 or email director@youarethelink.org.




SCHOOL SUPPLY & FOOD DRIVE

SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS & DONATE!

JULY 28-AUGUST 15

ITEMS NEEDED

24 PK OF CRAYONS- #2 PENCILS- PINK ERASERS- WASHABLE MARKERS- THIN DRY ERASE MARKERS- YELLOW HIGHLIGHTERS- PLASTIC POCKET FOLDERS (YELLOW, RED, BLUE, GREEN)- ROUND TIP SCISSORS- SCHOOL GLUE- GLUE STICKS- WATER COLOR PAINT- 4 PK PLAYDOUGH- KLEENEX- HEADPHONES (NO BLUETOOTH)- COLORED PENCILS- PLASTIC PENCIL BOX W/ LID- ZIPLOC BAGS (GALLON, QUART & SANDWICH SIZE)- DISINFECTANT WIPES- BLACK OR BLUE LOW ODOR BLUE DRY ERASE MARKERS- BLACK, RED & BLUE PENS- WIDE RULED SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS- COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS- BLACK FINE PT SHARPIES- EXPANDABLE FOLDER- DRY ERASERS- PENCIL POUCH- NOTECARDS- 5 SUBJECT NOTEBOOK- PAGE FLAGS- POST ITS- HAND SOAP- 3 RING BINDER- RULER- LUNCH BOX- SMALL PENCIL SHARPENER- WATERBOTTLES- TI 30XS MULTIVIEW SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR- TI-84 PLUS CE CALCULATOR

FOOD FOR THE WILDCAT BACKPACK PROGRAM:
INDIVIDUALLY PACKED:
CEREAL-BREAKFAST BARS- MAC-N-CHEESE CUPS- RAVIOLI CUPS- JUICE BOXES- FRUIT CUPS- SMALL BAGS OF CHIPS & CRACKERS- INDIVIDUALLY PACKED COOKIES

Online Monetary Donations:
www.youarethelink.org
Just write "Back to School" in the comment box

DROP-OFF LOCATION:

THE LINK
20 CENTRAL AVE. E
NEW LONDON

DONATIONS OPEN FROM
10:00AM - 3:00PM
TUES-WED-FRI
10-6 THURS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT!

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
- August 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>
We're really sorry! Our Livestream didn't work for July 6th or 13th. We changed internet providers, and the Livestream worked on the 20th and 27th - and, God willing, in the future! Thanks for your patience!

June 20 "What Jesus' first 'Miraculous Catch of Fish' was all about."
June 27 "Who gets to decide what is a spiritual "weed" (i.e. sin)?"

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!

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That for a day: I made a huge to-do list today. I just can't figure out who's going to do it.

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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:

- For God to continue giving comfort & peace to Jamie and Laurel
- For great weather and turnout for our Block Party, August 9th
- God to show you who you can invite to VBS or the Block Party
- God to open everyone's heart to accept your invitation
- Asking God to provide safe travel for everyone vacationing
- Asking God's continued blessing on our Youth Gathering folks
- Asking God's blessings on the Vegdahls, Fuglies and Stinsons in their new homes
- Asking God for good weather for the remaining growing season.
- For God to provide a smooth transition from summer to school.
- Asking God's guidance for our MMT as they plan for a new year
- Asking God for courage to follow where He guides
- For all those who are home-bound or in nursing facilities
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- 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)

How to make Date Night actually happen!

A regular, consistent date night sounds great on paper. But when it comes to actually following through, it might feel like there's always something that can stand in the way. Whether it's an unexpected last-minute event, your season of life, financial situation, or daily life obligations, you can usually come up with an excuse to skip date night.



But there's one important reason why you shouldn't: your marriage deserves the effort, and it benefits from the intentional quality time.

So let's try to make it easier for you. Here are 5 tips to help make date night happen.

1. Plan it in advance – and be open to spontaneity.

Sit down and pull out your calendars. Choose 3 dates in the next two months that will work. Put them in your phone. Add (multiple) reminders. Mark them on the family calendar. Create a sense of anticipation and excitement. At the same time, if an opportunity pops up out of the blue for last-minute date, don't be afraid to jump on it! Planning ahead is great for busy schedules, but sometimes nothing beats the fun of a spontaneous date.

2. Secure a sitter – and build in a backup plan.

It's not possible for everyone, but if you can, ask family members – your parents, siblings, or older nieces/nephews – or members of your congregation to see if they can watch the kids. List out the dates you need them and see which they can cover. If you live close to family, see if you can coordinate with your siblings and have the grandparents watch all the kids (which makes it a special night for the kiddos, too!). Or build a list of go-to trusted sitters and schedule with them in advance. Have a backup plan should the sitter fall through, like switching the day or time of your date, or even putting the kids to bed early and enjoying a date at home.

3. Think outside the box – and be okay with the usual.

It doesn't always have to be dinner and drinks in the evening. Redefine what makes a date to make them easier to fit into your weekly cadence. Try morning/day dates, driving dates, and at-home dates. The key is being fully present and able to focus on each other without distraction. At the same time, don't feel like you need to reinvent the

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That for a day: I lost my job at the bank on the very first day. A customer asked me to check his balance and I pushed him over.

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wheel every time either. If you've got a tried and true routine that's easy to execute with minimal planning, go for it!

4. Consider them mandatory – and go with the flow.

Mandatory means it's of the same importance as say, an important meeting at work or with your kid's teacher. Bottom line, try not to cancel it for frivolous reasons – like simply because it's raining or if you're just feeling kind of tired. There are obviously exceptions to this, but it's important that you're both committed to making it happen. Occasionally, a wrench will get thrown into your plans. Maybe the restaurant lost your reservation or the show you were going to see got cancelled. That doesn't mean you have to scrap the date entirely! Embrace that spontaneity and see where it takes you. You may end up having even more fun than you could have anticipated.

5. Make it a habit – and celebrate your effort.

The more dates you go on, the more it becomes just part of your routine. It will feel less like a hassle with lots of moving parts that need to fall perfectly into place and more like second nature. You'll know the days of the week that seem to work best, the ideal time for the sitter to arrive, and even discover some new favorite places to go. At the same time, don't forget to acknowledge the effort that you both put into making dates a regular part of your relationship. It's a testament to your commitment to each other and shows that you're both invested in the quality of your marriage. Be proud of yourselves and leverage this momentum to keep it up.

Regular date nights are a great way to strengthen your bond and nurture your friendship. We know it's unrealistic to think that you'll never have to cancel one. We also know that sometimes, life gets in the way and it's just simply not doable. But with a balance of intention, flexibility, and planning ahead, you can make date nights happen! And we know it'll be worth the effort.



Opportunities to Serve...

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 remaining 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.



Do You Have a Calculator That Prints?...

We need one to tally our Teal's receipts.

(We also need someone to take over the task of collecting the receipts and making a spreadsheet to turn in to Teal's.)



Please see Marcia if you can help with either of these. Thanks!

PRAYER PUPS By Jeffrey Smith



GOD CREATED EVERYTHING. READ GENESIS 1:1-2

www.prayerpups.com

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That for a day: An undertaker can be one of your best friends. He'll be the last one to let you down.

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E-Mail Humor...

'My grandson, Justin, returned from his first time in church and was asked how it went.

He said, "The music was nice, but the commercial was too long."

+++

There was a little old lady who came out every morning on her front porch, raised her arms to the sky and shouted, "Praise the Lord!"

Well, one day an atheist moved into the house next door. Over time, he became irritated at the little old lady. So every morning he would step out onto his front porch and yell after her, "There is no Lord!"

Time passes with the two of them carrying on this way every day. Then one morning in the middle of winter, the little old lady stepped onto her front porch and shouted, "Praise the Lord! Lord, I have no food and I am starving. Please provide for me, oh Lord!"

The next morning, she stepped onto her porch and there were two huge bags of groceries sitting there. "Praise the Lord!" she cried out. "He has provided groceries for me!"

The atheist jumped out of the hedges and shouted, "There is no Lord. I bought those groceries!"

The little old lady threw her arms into the air and shouted, "Praise the Lord! He provided groceries - and He made the devil pay for them!"

+++

A mom was making pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, Ryan 3. The boys started to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson:

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

"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>

Monthly Music Videos...

Some great new music from the month of July.

- Lauren Daigle just released what is destined to be a big hit, "Let It Be Hallelujah" ... <https://youtu.be/BvfPK0gCdUc>
- In close second for best of the month is "Left It In the River" by Jamie MacDonald... <https://youtu.be/wrVTX4x-HxY>
- "Of All The World" is from a St Paul, MN group, James Peterson and the Crusade. (They kind of remind me of another old MN band - PFR)... <https://youtu.be/B8mXdkH3i34>
- Not even officially released, "When A Cowboy Prays" is new from Brandon Lake... <https://youtu.be/5Tivf6Nr8YQ>
- Cochren & Co has great new song, "Always Summertime" ... <https://youtu.be/pHi-ntSYhnQ>
- "Hope's Gonna Find You" is new from Ellie Holcomb... <https://youtu.be/P11xALKLOVc>
- Irish Group, Rend Collective just released a new song, "Wild Love" ... <https://youtu.be/caOKFwwJzTY>
- The latest song from MercyMe is called "Heartbroken Hallelujah" ... <https://youtu.be/2pwbRG-J56Y>
- "God Is For Me" is a great song, just released by Terrian... <https://youtu.be/322R2acW3H0>
- "Learning To Love Myself" is new from Katie Nicole... <https://youtu.be/TI2vtUIEkoE>
- Joshiah Queen released another new song, "Clod and Fire" ... https://youtu.be/i0iN_pWJ1gc
- The latest song from Justin Gambino is "Wake Me Up" ... <https://youtu.be/UaZMUTAF4M>
- "Song of The Saints" is new from Phil Wickham... <https://youtu.be/NmrbS8pi6HU>
- Seph Schlieter released "Steady Love" ... <https://youtu.be/si5XGQ0b9tk>
- "Killed A Man" is a new song from Zack Williams... https://youtu.be/eYn_hQNcXZ4
- "The Love I Have For You" is new from Colton Dixon... <https://youtu.be/iBmrpm53JV0>
- Still releasing new music, Michael W Smith has "Your Love Is

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That for a day: I believe you should live each day as if it is your last, which is why I don't have any clean laundry because, come on, who wants to wash clothes on the last day of their life?

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A Flood" ... <https://youtu.be/naNaybcGZWM>

- "God Will Work It Out" is a new release from Naomi Raine... <https://youtu.be/fHQtr8LZKi8>
- You may not have heard of Gracie Binion, but I really like "Easy To Please" ... <https://youtu.be/hnfevs0r12o>
- Another promising newcomer, Maddie Jane released "Hello" ... <https://youtu.be/H1TZfEdHGBA>
- "Salvation Song" is a great song from Josh Baldwin... https://youtu.be/i0iN_pWJ1gc
- Finally, "How Good It Is" is another great song by Chris Tomlin... https://youtu.be/a_H4bNsmQvc

Story Behind The Song...

One of the best "stories behind the song" is about a hymn that is over 250 years old and is sung an estimated 10 million times each year... "Amazing Grace".

Written in 1772, the words for the beloved song were borne from the heart, mind and experiences of the Englishman John Newton. Knowing the story of John Newton's life as a slave trader and the journey he went through before writing the hymn will help to understand the depth of his words and his gratefulness for God's truly amazing grace.

Having lived through a rather unfortunate and troubled childhood (his mother passed away when he was just six years old), Newton spent years fighting against authority, going so far as trying to desert the Royal Navy in his twenties. Later, abandoned by his crew in West Africa, he was forced to be a servant to a slave trader but was eventually rescued. On the return voyage to England, a violent storm hit and almost sank the ship, prompting Newton to begin his spiritual conversion as he cried out to God to save them from the storm.

Upon his return, however, Newton became a slave ship master, a profession in which he served for several years. Bringing slaves from Africa to England over multiple trips, he admitted to sometimes treating the slaves abhorrently. In 1754, after becoming violently ill on a sea voyage, Newton abandoned his life as a slave trader, the slave trade, and seafaring, altogether, wholeheartedly devoting his life to God's service.

He was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1764 and became quite popular as a preacher and hymn writer, penning some 280 hymns, among

them the great "Amazing Grace," which first appeared in the Olney Hymns, printed by Newton and poet/fellow writer William Cowper. It was later set to the popular tune NEW BRITAIN in 1835 by William Walker.

In later years, Newton fought alongside William Wilberforce, leader of the parliamentary campaign to abolish the African slave trade. He described the horrors of the slave trade in a tract he wrote supporting the campaign and lived to see the British passage of the Slave Trade Act 1807.

The lyrics carry a much deeper meaning than a sinner's mere gratitude. Close to death at various times and blind to reality at others, Newton would most assuredly not have written "Amazing Grace" if not for his tumultuous past. And many of us would then be without these lovely words that so aptly describe our own relationship with Christ and our reliance on God's grace in our lives.

The song has been used at marches during the civil rights movement and gained popularity among those protesting the Vietnam War. Over the years, musicians and singers from Elvis Presley and Andrea Bocelli to Celine Dion, Aretha Franklin, Destiny's Child, Judy Collins and Leann Rhimes have performed this quintessential song. Even former President Barack Obama gave a powerful rendition during his eulogy for reverend and state senator Clementa Pinckney, a victim of the Charleston church shooting in 2015.

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease:

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Thot for a day: A fire hydrant has H-2-O on the inside and K-9-P on the outside.

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I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine.

And an often added verse:

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun

Literally thousands of performances to choose from, but I'll share my favorite family group, the Petersens...

https://youtu.be/J7M8_8NO2zQ

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

