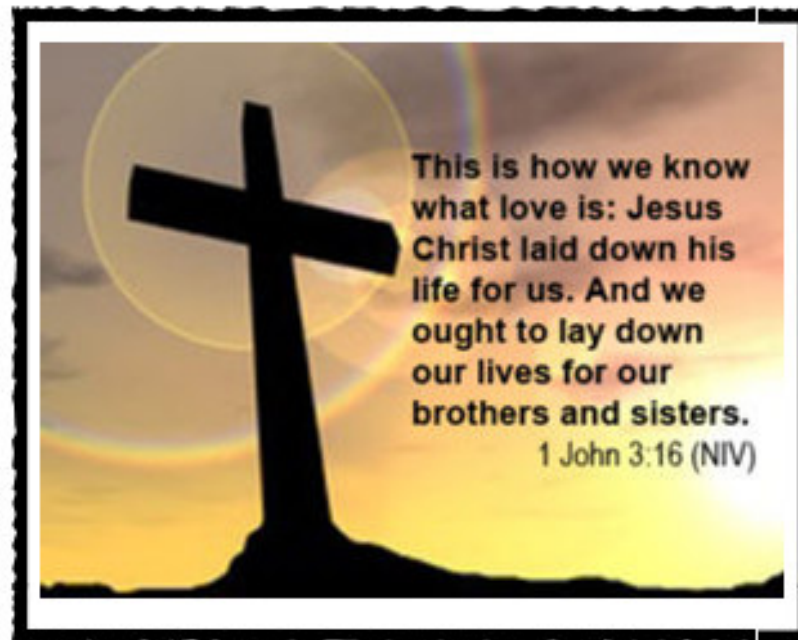



Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



February 2025 Newsletter

"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Who Can You Invite...

to join you for :



Friendship Sunday - February 9th

Friendship Brunch includes Chili & Soup, etc.. served by the Living Word Elders after worship.



Bingo after the meal.

Bingo prizes donated by these businesses:
(Please thank and support them.)

- Byron and Mona Hjelle
- Perkins Lumber
- Hanson Tire and Lube
- Little Crow Resort
- A & W
- Walt's in Willmar
- Spicer Super Stop
- Sweet River Café
- Krupke Chiropractic
- Teals Grocery



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

Mark Your Calendar...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, February 13th @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT



Building Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 4th @ 5:30 p.m. (Prior to Men's Study)

Women's Retreat...

November 14-16 2025
At Green Lake Bible Camp
More details to come



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That for a day: My em ail password has been hacked again! That's the third time I've had to rename the dog.

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Upcoming Fellowship Outings...



February Supper-Fellowship Outing
Thursday, February 6th 6:00—8:00
At Shady's in Paynesville.

Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate February birthdays on
Tuesday, February 18th @ 11:00
at Perkin's Restaurant (Willmar)



Lefsa Making

Saturday, February 15th @ church
The folks who helped us make lefsa last year
have offered to help again this year if any-
one is interested.
Please let Marcia know if interested.

Bowling @ Alley on Ash

February 23rd from 2:00 to 4:00
\$16 per person gets you:
2 games, shoes, medium pizza and pop
(Sunday School Kids will be free)
Come and bowl or just come to watch
and enjoy some pizza.



Twins Game - June 7th.



We need to know who wants to go so tickets can be
ordere d. (If we have 20 or more we can save 12
percent.)

I'm thinking of sitting in the legendary area where
the food and drinks are free, but if someone has a
better idea I'm open! Seats start at 34\$ and go up to 94\$

Please contact Marcia if you are interested.



Chili Cook Off

Thank you to all who participated in the Chili Cook off!
6 competitors and over 40 people attended along with 3
judges !!!

Fellowship Photos...

Page 6



Dinner Theater
at the
Chanhassen



Page 7

January Supper-
Fellowship at
Max's on the Green



Opportunities for Growth...



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

Monthly Morning Women's Study:
February 12th @ 10:00
All ladies are invited!



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

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in December on the normal First and Third Sundays (February 2nd & 16th)



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 our next event. Everyone is welcome to join.



Thank You...

...to whoever replaced the flag!

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

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Thot for a day: In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

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Sunday School News..

Sunday School Lessons:

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

- February 9: Friendship/Valentines Sunday-
(kids make Valentines for shut-ins)
- February 16: "I AM the Door" John 10:1-10
- February 23: "I AM the Good Shepherd" John 10:11,14
- March 2: "I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life" John 14:6
- March 9: "I AM the Light of the World" John 8:12
- March 16: "I AM the True Vine" John 15:1,5
- March 23: "I AM the Resurrection and the Life" John 11:25

Hope Pregnancy Center Fundraiser...

BABY BOUTIQUE wish list.

CHECK OUT OUR MUST HAVE LIST ON OUR BABY REGISTRY FOR MORE IDEAS!

STAFF FREQUENTLY UPDATE THE LIST AS OUR NEEDS CHANGE

♥ babylist
Baby Registry

NEW Items only eligible for donation.

Thank You
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

In honor of Sanctity of Human Life, Living Word Lutheran and the women of LWML invite you to join us in donating NEW item's to Hope Pregnancy Center's Baby Boutique. Now until March 2nd, there will be a "Pack-an-Play" set up at church for you to bring your donations. Thank you for your support!!

Hope PREGNANCY CENTER

Confirmation News

Classes Resume

Wednesdays @ 6:00 (Pizza @ 5:45)



Remember to check the "PowerPoint Clicker" & Communion Wafer schedules.

E-Mail Humor...

THE GRANDMA TEST

I was out walking with my 4-year-old granddaughter. She picked up something off the ground and started to put it in her mouth. I took the item away from her and I asked her not to do that.

"Why?" my granddaughter asked.

"Because it's been on the ground. You don't know where it's been, it's dirty, and probably has germs," I replied.

At this point, my granddaughter looked at me with total admiration and asked, "Grandma, how do you know all this stuff? You are so smart."

I was thinking quickly, "All Grandmas know this stuff. It's on the Grandma Test. You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Grandma."

We walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but she was evidently pondering this new information. "Oh...I get it!" she beamed, "So if you don't pass the test, you have to be the Grandpa."

"Exactly," I replied.

+++

At a wedding ceremony, the pastor asked if anyone had anything to say concerning the union of the bride and groom. Everything quickly turned to chaos when a woman carrying a child started walking towards the front.

Everybody was surprised, shocked, and the bride even fainted. The pastor asked the woman if she had anything to say.

The woman replied, "Sorry. We can't hear in the back."

Directory Update...



A sample will be ready this week!

(Price and Order Sheet as well)

Thanks!

That for a day: As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of ... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

The newsletter cover features a teal background with a large white fish symbol in the center. The fish symbol has a small cross on its left side. Above the fish, the text "LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH" is written in a small, white, sans-serif font. Below the fish, the title "PARENTS OF TEENS NEWSLETTER" is written in a large, white, serif font. Underneath the title, the date "FEBRUARY 2025" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. In the top right corner, there is a logo for "LWC YOUTH" with a stylized fish icon. The main body of the newsletter is white with black text. It starts with a greeting "Hi Everybody!" followed by a list of church events and activities for the month of February, including Friendship Sunday, a Youth Connect Event, a Well Breakfast Club, and a LERT Disaster relief training event. It ends with a sign-off "As always, thanks for sharing your kids with me." and the name "Becky Sarsland".



AWESOME THINGS IN THE WORKS



LERT Volunteers



LERT Disaster Response Training (Lutheran Early Response Team)

Saturday, **May 3rd** there is a LERT disaster response training held at Redeemer Church in Willmar. It is scheduled from 9am-3pm. Lunch and snacks will be provided, as well as all training materials. This is open to all ages, but those age 14 plus can earn certification as an LCMS volunteer.

High School age youth are encouraged to participate in LERT training and deployment. Youth must obtain their parent/guardian's permission to participate in training and deployments. LERT-trained youth must deploy with LERT-trained adults - so parents and other congregation members are strongly encouraged to attend as well.

Living Word Youth will cover the registration fee. Talk to Becky if interested.

St. John's Youth Connect

St. John's Church in Atwater invites our youth to join them (and Redeemer's youth) for an afternoon of pizza and games. The fun goes from noon until 2pm and is free.



February

2025



1 - 2nd Installment Due for National Youth Gathering attendees (\$500)

- 2 - 10am Church with Communion - Carter is the Slides clicker
- 2 - 6:30pm Night of Worship at Community Christian School
- 5 - 6pm Confirmation
- 5 - 7pm Youth Group - Bible Study
- 6 - 6pm Congregation Supper @ Shady's in Paynesville

- 9 - 10am Church - Parker is the Slides clicker
- 9 - Friendship Sunday! Bingo and Fellowship after church service
- 12 - 6pm Confirmation
- 12 - 7pm Youth Group
- 13 - 7:15am The Well Breakfast Club @Peace Church
- 15 - Lefse Making with Duane and Deb RSVP to Marcia

- 16 - 10am Church with Communion - Ella is the Slides clicker
- 17 - 7pm Youth Team Meeting on Zoom
- 18 - Carter's Birthday!!!
- 18 - 11am Birthday Lunch @ Perkin's - all are welcome
- 19 - 6pm Confirmation
- 19 - 7pm Youth Group

- 23 - 10am Church - Troy is the Slides clicker
- 12-2 Youth Connect - Pizza & Games @ St. John's in Atwater
- 23 - 2-4pm Bowling \$16 per person, sign up with Marcia
- 26 - 6pm Confirmation
- 26 - 7pm Youth Group
- 27 - 7:15am The Well Breakfast Club @Peace Church
- 28 - Alexa's Birthday!!!

March 2025



2 - 10am Church with Communion, Carter is slides clicker
5 - Ash Wednesday, Church service

9 - 10am Church, Parker is slides clicker
12 - Lent, Church service

16 - 10am Church with Communion, Ella is slides clicker
17 - 7pm Youth Team Meeting on Zoom
19 - Lent, Church service

23 - 10am Church, Troy is slides clicker
26 - Lent, Church service

30 - 10am Church, slides clicker is open



AMAZING THINGS YOUTH HAVE DONE

Helped Make-A-Meal

Helped with worship music in our community!

Slides clicker at church

THANK YOU!

Tammy for organizing the chili cook-off!

Levi for making chili for the cook-off!

Ella, zoe, Levi, Kala for helping with Make-A-Meal



Email Wisdom...

From Our Readings in God's Book of "Wisdom for Everyday" (Proverbs)

- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6
- Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. Proverbs 3:7-8
- Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10
- Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you" — when you already have it with you. Proverbs 3:27-28
- Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10
- Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs. Prv 10:12
- A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. Proverbs 11:25
- Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid. Proverbs 12:1
- The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. Proverbs 12:26
- Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin. Proverbs 13:3



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Thot for a day: Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling, and I'm alive.

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Outreach News...

Community Festival / Block Party Spring, 2025 -

Talk to Tammy Miller if interested in being on planning Committee or if you have ideas!!!



LWML Meeting & Women's Study:

Our next meeting and Bible study will be
Wednesday, February 12th @ 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.

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02-15-2013

JESUS STOPPED BY AND NOBODY LOVES MORE THAN HIM, BUT BEFORE YOU GET JEALOUS OR ANYTHING YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT IT IS FOR YOU TOO

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

When You Can't Let It Go !

We've all been there. Your spouse commits a seemingly small offense – maybe a comment comes out wrong, they make an inconvenient mistake, or show a lack of consideration – and you just can't let it go. You ruminate and stew and dwell on it. Just when you've almost forgotten about it, you think about it again and a fresh wave of emotion arises. Even if you know logically that it's not a big deal, something keeps you holding on. You just can't let it go.

You don't want to feel this way – angry, annoyed, or resentful towards your spouse for something you know is inconsequential. So what's going on? Often, it's tied to a deeper issue. Here are four things to reflect on when you find yourself in this situation.

What am I actually feeling?

Right off the bat, you're probably irritated, annoyed, or mad. But if you dig a bit deeper past those surface emotions, you might find they're a symptom or result of something else – maybe feeling hurt, vulnerable, unseen, or even unloved. When you can get to the root of your reaction and uncover your true emotions, you're better able to reflect on the following questions.

Is it hitting on a personal trigger?

Everyone has issues or topics that they're sensitive about. They can stem from childhood, past experiences or trauma, unresolved conflicts, or other emotional and mental struggles. While the source can vary greatly, they usually all have one thing in common: they elicit some kind of reaction when they're touched upon. And this might be the very reason why you're having such a hard time moving past this minor offense. It's normal to have an emotional reaction to these things, and learning about this part of yourself is an ongoing process. When you're able to take a step back and recognize when something is hitting a hotspot, you'll feel more in control of your response.

Is it tied to a past hurt?

Sometimes small annoyances feel much bigger because they're tied to past hurts or conflicts within your relationship with your spouse. Let's say they completely forgot to ask you how your huge work presentation went. It seems like an innocent mistake, and you know they were not intentionally trying to hurt you. But you had a major conflict



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Thot for a day: Felt uncomfortable driving into the cemetery. The GPS blurted out, "You have reached your final destination."

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about how you've shown support to each other in the past. You both invested a lot of emotional energy into working through it, and so it stings that much more when there's a perceived regression. You have a history together, and that means today's actions are tied to past issues, even if you've largely resolved them. It adds a layer of complexity to our emotional responses that we can't always control.

Is there something I need to communicate to my spouse?

We've talked a lot about expectations on this blog and the massive effect they can have on your marriage – particularly when they're unmet. One of the most common reasons for unmet expectations? They haven't been communicated. If you find yourself stewing over something they did, reflect on whether you're reacting to an expectation you had that they failed to meet. Then ask yourself – did I communicate this expectation to them? If you can't recall or are unsure, there's a good chance you didn't. Take responsibility for that. You can be disappointed that your expectations weren't met, while also recognizing that your spouse didn't have a fair opportunity to meet them. Being honest about your feelings and owning your part of the situation is a good way to start the conversation.

Emotions are tricky. Your head can tell you one thing (It's not that big of a deal! I shouldn't be this mad!), but that doesn't stop the feelings from bubbling up. And when it starts having a negative effect on your relationship in the form of resentment or unnecessary conflict, that's a problem. Sometimes a little self-reflection is all you need to sort out a seemingly disproportionate emotional response so that you let it go.

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 blue-print drawn up as well as a preliminary "ballpark" estimate of cost.



Some pertinent figures (as of January 31st):

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

OUR NEXT BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday, March 4th @ 5:30 (Prior to Men's Study)

February 2025 - Daily Readings

This Month we read passages where **“God Shows Us How to Love”**
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 FEB 2: God shows how to love in . . .

- Feb 3 Genesis 1 _____

- Feb 4 Genesis 1 _____

- Feb 5 Genesis 1 _____

- Feb 6 Genesis 2 _____

- Feb 7 Genesis 2 _____

FEB 9 Bring Someone to FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY Today

- Feb 10 Genesis 2 _____

- Feb 11 Genesis 3 _____

- Feb 12 Genesis 3 _____

- Feb 13 Genesis 3 _____

- Feb 14 Genesis 3 _____

WEEK OF Feb 16 - God Shows How to Love in , , ,

- Feb 17 Exodus 3 _____

- Feb 18 Exodus 3-4 _____

- Feb 19 Exodus 7 / 12 _____

- Feb 20 Exodus 13 _____

- Feb 21 Exodus 14 _____

WEEK OF FEB 23 God Shows How to Love in . . .

- Feb 24 Exodus 16 _____

- Feb 25 Exodus 20 _____

- Feb 26 John 1 /3 _____

- Feb 27 John 2 _____

- Feb 28 John 6 _____

WEEK OF MAR 2 God Shows How to Love in . . .

- Mar 3 John 13 _____

- Mar 4 John 15 _____

- Mar 5 John 19 _____

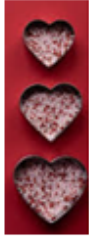

- Mar 6 John 20 _____

- Mar 7 Revelation 21-22 _____

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

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

February 2025 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	3	4 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	5 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH GROUP	6 6:00 - FELLOWSHIP @ SHADY'S in PAYNESVILLE	7	8
9 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - FRIENDSHIP WORSHIP 11:15 - FRIENDSHIP BRUNCH Noon - BINGO	10	11 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	12 10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH GROUP	13 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	14 	15 10:00 - LEF SA MAKING
16 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/communion	17 7:00 - YOUTH TEAM ZOOM	18 11:00 - FEB B-DAYS @ PERKINS 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	19 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH GROUP	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ff69b4; padding: 5px;"> Lord's Supper Dates • Sunday, February 2nd • Sunday, February 16th </div>	21	22
23 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP NOON - YOUTH CONNECT 2:00 - BOWLING @ ALLEY on ASH	24 MN NORTH	25 DISTRICT CONVENTION	26 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH GROUP	27	28	Mar 1
Mar 2 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/communion	Mar 3	Mar 4 5:30 - BLDG TEAM 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	Mar 5 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30 - ASH WED. SERVICE w/Communion 	Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8

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

Feb 2	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Feb 9	Jason & Levi Miller
Feb 16	Pam Johnson & Linda Vanmeter
Feb 23	Larry Levin & Jim Stinson

Elders

Feb 2, 16	Scott & Kevin
Feb 9, 23	Duane & Dan

Custodian

February -	Randy & Mary Raddatz
March	Open

Children's Church

Feb 2 -	Alison Sarsland
Feb 9 -	Violet Dauk
Feb 16 -	Sarah Olson
Feb 23 -	Levi Miller



Power Point Clicker

Feb 2	Carter
Feb 9	Parker
Feb 16	Ella
Feb 23	Troy



Communion Bread Maker

Feb 19	Carter
Mar 2	Kjirsten

Altar Guild

February	Mona Hjelle
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Accompanying Musicians

Feb 2	Phyllis Schultz
Feb 9	Scott Wachter
Feb 16	Sharon Willen
Feb 23	Scott Wachter



March 2	Sharon Willen
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Thot for a day: Telling someone to calm down is like baptizing a cat.

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!

"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-VvIJEU22vCYxbhwjg/featured>



Seen on Church Signboards...

BE MINE !!!

Love, Jesus

February Discipleship Verse...

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."

1 John 3:16



FEB. 6, 2025

LCMS.ORG

A letter from President Harrison about LIRS and LCMS RSOs ...

Dear Saints of the LCMS,

Grace and peace in Jesus!

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:15–23)

As many of you are aware, General Mike Flynn (retired) publicly took to task Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and several other Lutheran social ministry agencies for receiving large federal grants for work with immigrants. That got the attention of Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). I was surprised at the dollar amounts involved. The post on X accused LIRS and the other agencies bearing the name Lutheran of “money laundering.” I am writing to provide you with some facts about this complex and confusing situation.

The LCMS is a law-abiding and patriotic church body. We don’t invite or support illegal immigration. We don’t say much to or about the government. We don’t have government contracts. Not one. We leave issues of government to our 1.8 million members and 5,700 active pastors, who act in the civil realm according to their Christian

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That for a day: You're only as pretty as you treat people

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consciences as good citizens. We have spoken as a body to certain issues. The Bible and reason teach us that the unborn have the God-given right to life (Luke 1:39–45). The government has no right to infringe upon religious freedom, including the free exercise of religion. “Thoughts are tax free!” said Martin Luther. All our people are trained from Sunday school and catechism class, and every Sunday sermon, to be good citizens and advocate for just laws, punishment for evildoers and mercy for those in need. Specific views on the details of how the government is involved in this are left to the individual as a citizen.

The LCMS uses legal means to fight for First Amendment rights when those rights are under attack. We have suffered formal legal action and much more as we have watched as DEI philosophy (formally rejected by our church body along with white supremacy) has pervaded nearly every aspect of government activity, even as the U.S. government has burgeoned beyond all ethical and rational propriety, in effect stealing the future from our children. We’ve been inundated with government attacks on those First Amendment rights. This subjects us to anxiety in the workplace, fear and lack of promotion in the military, and constant attacks at public schools and universities for merely following the Bible and sound reason on matters of sex. Our children are subjected to coercion at public schools. Millions of fellow Lutheran saints around the globe are chagrined at U.S. embassies and programs preoccupied with LGBTQ issues in their many different countries, as this program has been carried out globally.

The LCMS loves all people. We believe “the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). We are sinners loved by Christ. And Christ bids us, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 19:19). When our congregations, pastors and people come into contact with individuals who are not legally in the U.S., particularly when such individuals find themselves in our churches, we welcome them. We tell them about Jesus’ forgiveness. We also always urge and often assist them in doing the right thing, that is, becoming legal residents. The LCMS is officially pro-immigrant. Our church was founded by German immigrants.

The LCMS is no longer part of LIRS. At its inception, LIRS assisted with the resettlement of many Europeans suffering the devastation of WWII. We still have many people in our church who were children in the late 1940s and early 1950s, who were resettled in the U.S. by LIRS in partnership with our local congregations. They are eternally grateful. That partnership happened again in a remarkable way in the 1970s with many southeast Asians in the wake of the Vietnam War. LIRS was at one time officially related to a number of

American Lutheran church bodies, with specific board positions reserved for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and LCMS representatives. As the ELCA wandered away from the clear biblical teachings on sexual morality, this and other intersections of the ELCA and the LCMS (such as Lutheran Disaster Response, institutional chaplaincy, military chaplaincy, Lutheran World Relief and so on) became ever more challenging. As LIRS secularized, it hired a non-Christian, Hindu person to serve as president and CEO. The agency reorganized to become fully independent of its former partner church bodies. This diminished Lutheran identity is reflected in its new name, Global Refuge. For the past five years, the LCMS has provided no funding to LIRS and has provided no official representation on the board.

The post-WWII push within the LCMS toward one Lutheran church body in America that precipitated the disastrous events of the Concordia Seminary Walkout in 1974 brought the LCMS into the Lutheran Council USA, and into various cooperative agencies. Lutheran World Relief likewise became and remains a rebranded independent entity apart from the LCMS. Like LIRS, it does charitable work as a government contractor. There is no specifically Christian content, no sharing of the blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins.

More than a decade ago, I was part of an LCMS delegation that attended what would be our last Committee on Lutheran Cooperation meeting at the ELCA headquarters in Chicago. The ELCA bishop prayed, avoiding “Father” and “Son” in his prayer. I told him that we would no longer meet. Among other things, including the ELCA’s teachings and statements on sexuality, I told him, “I’m no longer sure we are praying to the same God.” It is difficult enough to carry out what we call “cooperation in externals” (for instance, doing mercy work together without church fellowship for the benefit of people in need) when we no longer agree on what the Gospel is. It is impossible when we can’t even agree on what the Law is.

The LCMS grants special status to certain agencies as Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs). Like LIRS, we have no ownership of, governing authority over or hand in the financial management of such agencies. They are independently audited. Some of the organizations on the list circulated by Flynn for public scrutiny are LCMS RSOs and at the same time retain affiliation with the ELCA. Because of the public uproar over Flynn’s post, many of our LCMS people are asking for a review of these RSOs. Rightly so. We are following up on these concerns. To maintain RSO status in the LCMS, an agency must agree to “[respect] and ... not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod.” In short, our RSOs are not to give themselves over to ELCA doctrine and practice.

That for a day: It’s frightening to wake up one morning and discover that while you were asleep you went out of style.

Let me just note (and this is NOT an official position of the LCMS): I’m personally pleased with DOGE. The federal government is bloated beyond all rational limits. It can’t fund its activities without accumulating debt. And it’s failing in its basic tasks. Christians believe the government should protect its citizens, maintain just laws, prosper marriage and family, and punish criminals. I think the government is failing across the board. The bigger government becomes, the more it meddles in what should not be its business at all, such as promoting faddish, unscientific philosophies of sex and family to the detriment of those who in good conscience cannot agree — and never will agree no matter the coercion.

I’m sure that General Flynn meant well with his muckraking, but he misses the mark in two ways. First, though I do not agree philosophically with every operational aspect of LIRS, if there is something legally amiss, the blame falls squarely upon the federal government. LIRS — and even our own LCMS RSOs — simply does what the government asks and pays for them to do.

During his first term, President Trump and the First Lady visited one of the LCMS RSOs currently under scrutiny. The president wanted to ensure that the institution would be a place to deliver outstanding care to unaccompanied minors. That agency has been quietly doing this work since that visit. They take the work with profound seriousness and love. They did not and do not deserve the broad brush of disdain brought upon them.

Second, our immigration laws are a mess. I can safely say our LCMS people are all for removing criminal bad actors from this country. Caesar “beareth not the sword in vain” says St. Paul (Rom. 13:4). There are indeed millions who have broken federal immigration law. That is wrong. It is also true that millions have been enticed and encouraged to enter illegally into this country by contradictory American voices at all levels: federal, state and local. I cannot but be sympathetic to their plight. At the same time, a well-regulated border, sound immigration policy, and welcoming space for persecuted refugees are all fundamental parts of a God-pleasing answer to the question: Who will contribute to this marvelous and blessed American experiment?

Blessings to you all.

In Christ,

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison
President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
St. Louis

Wonder Why?...

(from Mikey's Funnies)

Sometimes, we wonder why friends keep forwarding jokes to us without writing a word, maybe this could explain:

When you are very busy,
but still want to keep in touch,
guess what you do --
you forward jokes.

When you have nothing to say,
but still want to keep contact,
you forward jokes.

When you have something to say,
but don't know what,
and don't know how,
You forward jokes.

To let you know that
you are still remembered,
you are still important,
you are still loved,
you are still cared for,
you are still wanted,
guess what you get?
A forwarded joke from me.

So dear friend, next time if you get a joke, don't think that I have just sent you a joke, but that I have thought of you today and wanted to send you a smile.



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That for a day: My wife asked me why I was doing the dishes while sitting down. Told her it's because I can't stand doing it.

Living Word Apparel Or-

...have arrived! Pick yours up January 5th.



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Living Word's 2025 Goals Update...

- Continue the Make A Meal program.
We made more meals on January 25th
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper
Thursday, Feb 6th & Tuesday, Feb 18th
- Continue the Birthday Card/Anniversary ministry
Ongoing
- Challenge every member to bring a guest this year
Friendship Sunday (Feb 9th) would be a great day
- Create a Visitors Table (Coffee, giveaways along with church and prayer ministry info)
Looking for a coordinator
- Initiate the "Prayer D-Fence" Program
(Adults "adopting" a kid to pray for, send cards etc...)
- 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
- 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
next event, Sunday, Feb 23rd
- Continue weekly Youth Gatherings
Each Wednesday @ 7:00
- Keep the church yard looking nice and continue to de-clutter the storage areas inside.
Ongoing

Thank You from the Jastrams..

Our hearts are full of gratitude to you, our dear readers, for your prayers and support of LCMS mission work here in Japan. Thank you so much! Dan & Joan Jastram

Read the current newsletter at:

<https://tinyurl.com/8cjpnpam>



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
- February Newsletters
- January-March 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>

- Jan 5 "An Example in Goal-Keeping From the "Wise Men"
- Jan 12 "How We Are Like Puppies (And how to fix that)"
- Jan 19 "Jesus' 1st Miracle: Reveals His Power to Change Anything"
- Jan 26 "We Need Each Other - God Designed It That Way"

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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Thot for a day: The way to achieve inner peace is to finish the things we have started. Today I finished a Krispy Kreme, 2 bags of potato chips and a chocolate cake. I feel better already ...

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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 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:

- Asking God for His guidance on who to invite to Friendship Sunday
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did - with sacrifice
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Safe travel (and good weather for traveling)
- For God's peace, comfort and direction for all who lost loved ones
- Asking God's continued 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 !
- 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.

Talk to Tammy Miller if interested

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!



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 January we thanked God for...

- **Caregivers** (It was too cold to go out and change the sign) 😊

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

Why Valentines Day Matters...

(from Dare to Be Different Ministries)

Everywhere you look, love seems to be in the air. Red and pink hearts adorn every store, and it's as if the world runs on chocolates and roses. But if you find yourself barely tolerating your partner, feeling less than cherished, you might be asking, "How can I enjoy Valentine's Day when I don't feel loved?" It's a fair question.

If your life feels burdened by your spouse's betrayal, addiction, or behavior patterns that never seem to improve beyond a day, Valentine's Day might look more like, "Well, we stayed married for another day. Hooray!" Let me just say — that's something to celebrate.

Yes, love is easier when it's reciprocated: when they do the little things, like the laundry or a kiss on the cheek, alongside the bigger gestures of respect, empathy, and commitment. But any love story worth telling is built on forgiveness, patience, and unconditional love.

This kind of love says, "I choose you, through the good times and the bad, when it's easy and when it feels like you're tearing out a piece of my heart." This reflects what Jesus did for us: "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans

Thot for a day: If it wasn't for Valentine's Day we wouldn't have any candy holidays between Christmas and Easter.

5:8).

Marriage, as the Bible shows us, is about undeserved, all-in love. So, this Valentine's Day—if you choose to embrace it—can be an opportunity to honor your spouse who may be difficult to love or who perhaps doesn't "deserve it" right now.

What might it look like to honor your spouse when marriage feels hard?

Ask God to show you what He would have you give to your spouse that would mean the most to Him. And this may not be something you can wrap or put a bow on. It might mean giving your all to this relationship.

Perhaps it's giving up a habit that divides you, the one you know you don't want to let go of. Maybe it's about choosing forgiveness.

What kind of hard, gritty heart-work could God be asking of you toward your spouse?

Write Your Own Personal Greeting Card

Express your commitment to your spouse, no matter the challenges you've faced together. Here's an example:

"It's been a tough season for us. But that's even more reason to remind you that I believe in us. I choose us. I'm devoted to you and our marriage in both the good and the hard times. I choose to love you for life."

You might even include a small gift card to a coffee shop or their favorite restaurant with a message: "Let's spend some time remembering how good we are together."

Invest in Your Relationship

Great marriages don't just happen; they're built. Consider setting aside time for real conversations, understanding, and forgiveness. Maybe it's a commitment to a monthly date night for the next six months, marked on the calendar to show you're serious.

Or perhaps it's finally booking that weekend getaway, coordinating the details, and making it clear that this is just the start. Tell them, "This is a down payment. I'm committed to working on us, because we're worth it. You're worth it. And I believe in a God who's bigger than anything we're going through."

I hope this encourages you as we enter a season of celebrating Valentine's Day, loving those near and dear to us—the way God does.

May you enjoy the richness of God's grace and love this Valentines Day and always.

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 March and any month after April 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...

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.

Thanks to Everyone Who Made Meals on January 25 !!!



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

That for a day: The value of a dog is its constant reminder of how much fun it is to act idiotic.

Email Inspiration...

WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING

- When you thought I wasn't looking you hung my first painting on the refrigerator, and I wanted to paint another.
- When you thought I wasn't looking you fed a stray cat, and I thought it was good to be kind to animals.
- When you thought I wasn't looking you baked a birthday cake just for me, and I knew that little things were special things.
- When you thought I wasn't looking you said a prayer, and I believed there was a God that I could always talk to.
- When you thought I wasn't looking you kissed me good-night, and I felt loved.
- When you thought I wasn't looking I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt--but that it's all right to cry.
- When you thought I wasn't looking you smiled, and it made me want to look that pretty, too.
- When you thought I wasn't looking you cared, and I wanted to be everything I could be.
- When you thought I wasn't looking - I looked . . . and wanted to say thanks for all those things you did when you thought I wasn't looking.



Ways to Show Your Spouse You Love Them...

(Start by not forgetting Valentine's Day!)

From "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Wife and Kids" and "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Husband and Kids"

Husbands:

- Call your wife during the day ... ask her out for dinner & a movie.
- Bring home some flowers - not just on Valentine's Day
- Think of how you've hurt your wife with your words: Ask for-giveness!
- Serve your wife breakfast in bed - make her feel like "Queen for a Day"

Wives:

- Sit next to your husband in the car or truck - like you did when you were dating. (If you have bucket seats, then sit next to him on the couch and watch a movie together.)
- Thank your husband (in front of the kids) for something he did today
- Plan a vacation - where he wants to go.
- Write "I love you" on a post-it note where he'll see it (or text him).

Husbands & Wives together:

- Write down three or four things you love about your spouse. Then take time to share those with each other.
- Get out the wedding album or watch the video together

Ways to Show Your Kids You Love them:

- Send them a text thanking them for something they did or said.
- Next time you go to the store, bring back a surprise (e.g. a favorite snack)
- Read them a favorite story
- Tell them a favorite memory from when they were younger.
- Tell them you are sorry when you acted impatiently with them.
- If they don't live at home, call them up - just to say "Hi."
- Fix a meal with their favorite foods
- Ask them to help you with an important project around the house

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Thot for a day: I'm terrified of elevators and I'm taking steps to avoid them .

Page 39 | The Link...



DECEMBER 2024 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

THE FOOD PANTRY



In December, The Food Pantry served **184 households** served- including 321 adults, 193 children and 45 seniors-distributing a total of 12,231 pounds of food!

CLIENT OUTREACH and HOUSEHOLD EXCHANGE

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 December, your donations were able to support **111 families** by helping with medical bills and prescription cost, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic household needs including clothing, winter gear, dishes and furniture!

WILDCAT BACKPACK AND SNACK PANTRY

The Wildcat Backpack Program is again providing students from NLS for the weekend. Currently, there are **131 students** benefitting from this program! If you would like to sponsor a child for the year, please call Ashley at 320-354-5465



The **Snack Pantry** is currently providing snacks for over 30 teachers at NLS to distribute to their students throughout the school day.



TUESDAY'S TABLE

A free community meal the 1st Tuesday of the month: Our Lady of the Lakes (Spicer), 2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant (New London), 3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran (Spicer), 4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran (New London), 5th Tuesday: Crossroads Community Church (Spicer).

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; Donate financially-

Remember for every \$1 donated, The Link can purchase \$10 in food through Second Harvest.

CURRENT NEEDS:

Household essentials and gently used clothing;
Food: Kid-friendly food (corn dogs, chicken nuggets, french fries, pizza,
Monetary donations.

Donations made easy



Monthly giving at the 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!

Monthly Music Videos...

Lots of great new music this past month...

- Sidewalk Prophets has a new album coming out soon. They have released several new songs that will be on the album...
"Father Let It Be" https://youtu.be/rIBYEXd66_c
"Hurt People" <https://youtu.be/H8lj1vivyf24>
"Come To Jesus" <https://youtu.be/MeOfqi9Sx1E>
"Unbelievable" <https://youtu.be/RuBggPqBAXA>
- We The Kingdom has a great new song is called "You Bless Me"... <https://youtu.be/nixtzTAOlpc>
- "Words We'll Sing Together" is a new song from Seph Schlueter... <https://youtu.be/HIC2SV04pFo>
- An artist you probably don't know, George Case released a song called "Down Every Road"... https://youtu.be/zDG7jBeB_RM
- "God Did It" is the latest release from Micah Tyler... https://youtu.be/_O6Pv03ip0A
- Ryan Ellis just released "Calling On Heaven"... <https://youtu.be/kJMGK2RDvFM>
- A great song by David Leonard is "Just Jesus"... <https://youtu.be/yKtIK4CsEUc>
- New indie artist, Layla Capri released "Beautiful Plan"... <https://youtu.be/KQVUuWpluf8>
- "Preach" is a new song by Ryan Stevenson... <https://youtu.be/wrsfhouHlsw>
- "Resurrection Hope" was just released by Aaron Williams... <https://youtu.be/Lk86nSKeu9c>
- Over 20 years of music from Sanctus Real, new release "On The Mend"... <https://youtu.be/mkybAFRs8T8>
- TAYA (from United Worship & Hillsong) released "Worship"... <https://youtu.be/xQnP4pTgmAs>
- This is already frequently heard on the radio, but MercyMe released "Oh Death"... <https://youtu.be/zptFkmnCLP8>
- Also getting air time is "Kind To Myself: from Tenth Avenue North... <https://youtu.be/D4RSSUxMOvQ>
- Finally, keeping with our theme of love this month, "Jesus Loves" from Zack Williams... <https://youtu.be/2sl7cJP2VNg>

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That for a day: If you're only as old as you feel, how am I still alive at 150?

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Story Behind The Song...

Valentine's Day is coming soon and our Daily Devotions are featuring God's love, so I thought our song this month should be on the same theme... "Jesus Loves Me"

"Jesus Loves Me" is one of the most well known songs of our time. Most of us learned it as children, it's sang in Sunday school classes, and is known world-wide.

Anna Warner was born into a wealthy New York family, quite familiar with the upper class. When she was just a young girl, however, Anna's mother died and her father lost most of his fortune in the Panic of 1837. This forced them to move out of the city.

Their new home was a run down farmhouse from the days of the American War for Independence. The location of the farmhouse would eventually prove to be guided by God's hand. You see, it was on Constitution Island, only a little ways from the West Point military academy. Anna's uncle, Thomas Warner, was the chaplain for West Point. This would be important later on in her life.

Anna and her sister, Susan, were heavily burdened with the state of the family finances. They decided to begin writing stories and poems, in order to earn money to help out. Their writing grew in popularity very quickly.

Susan would go on to write over thirty novels, many of which were widely read and even translated into at least three different languages. Likewise, Anna would write thirty-one novels. Her most famous novel being, Say and Seal.

In this book was a short little song she wrote entitled, Jesus Loves Me. One of the characters in the book, a Sunday school teacher, sings the song to comfort a child who is dying. The song's popularity spread rapidly.

Somewhere around this time, Anna began helping her uncle host Bible studies for the cadets at West Point. She would provide refreshments for the gatherings, while her uncle taught the Word of God. Eventually, Anna and Susan started writing hymns for each new Bible study session.

But of all the songs they wrote to share with the cadets, Jesus Loves Me became the most well loved. It became a tradition, with each new class of cadets, that they would teach it to them before any other song. And while the cadets trained, they were reported to have sung Jesus Loves Me.

Even after their uncle passed away, Anna and Susan continued to share Jesus' love with the cadets at West Point. Neither of them married, but they adopted the young men of West Point as being the children they never had.

For over forty years, the sisters impacted the lives of the West Point cadets. It is impossible to know just how many of the young cadets came to know Christ as their Savior as a result of the Warner sisters and the Sunday School song they came to love so much.

When they passed away, both sisters were buried with military honors because of the profound impact they had on West Point and its soldiers. To this day, they are the only civilians buried in the West Point cemetery.

Of the many stories about this hymn, one of the most memorable came from the Swiss-German theologian Karl Barth (1886–1968). At the close of a series of lectures near the end of his life at the University of Chicago Divinity School a weary Barth agreed to respond to questions at the conclusion of the lectures. The seminary president posed one, "Of all the theological insights you have ever had, which do you consider to be the greatest of them all?" The great scholar meditated for a few moments then answered "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so!"

Within a year after the sisters' novel *Say and Seal* was published, the noted hymn writer William Bradbury read Miss Warner's poem. He decided this literary treasure needed a melody.

Mr. Bradbury endeavored to write music for children's hymns so that they could understand the truths of God's Word. How can children know that Jesus loves them? Miss Warner's poem declares that they can know because the Bible says so! The Bible is God's Word—the infallible, reliable foundation of truth.

Mr. Bradbury added a chorus, set all the words to music, and published the hymn. Soon children all over the country were singing it. Christian missionaries carried it overseas. Since 1861, people of many nations in many languages, have sung this truth: "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so!"

Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

That for a day: You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start now to change the ending.

Jesus loves me he who died
heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. [Refrain]

Jesus loves me—loves me still,
Though I'm very weak and ill;
From his shining throne on high,
Comes to watch me where I lie. [Refrain]

Jesus loves me—he will stay
Close beside me all the way.
Then his little child will take
Up to heaven for his dear sake [Refrain]

It's hard to feature such a well know song, but here is a great version by Stephen McWhirter... <https://youtu.be/ZpailgRZv4I>

Happy Valentine's Day

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

