

### June 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...

How does God guide us?

This is a question that came from one of our confirmation students. It also seems quite timely, since the theme of last Sunday's message was "When you follow where God guides, He always provides."

Well, if God always provides when you follow His guiding, it IS really important to know where He's guiding.

God guides us in various ways, and the one place you can be sure that it's God guiding you (as opposed to your own desires directing you) is in His Word. We would all do well to think of the Bible as "God's Guidebook for Life"

Our problem is, we are tempted to think "I know most of what's in the Bible- well, at least the major stuff." So we feel like we don't really need to check with the Guidebook. That's a huge mistake! Just because we read it once - or at least some of it- in Confirmation class, doesn't mean we actually remember what's in it. Listen to the Apostle Peter:

"So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory..." 2 Peter 1:12-13

There really is no substitute for refreshing your memory by reading a little bit of the Guidebook on a daily basis. The more you read it (or listen to it), the more you will instinctively know what God guides you to do and not do!

I got a firsthand lesson in the importance of a guidebook when we went to Ireland. Last month's trip to Ireland was the second time we've been there. The first time I studied a detailed guidebook that gave me ideas about things to pack, things to leave home, things to do - and not do, things to see as well as many Irish differences to be aware of. I was constantly reading the guidebook in preparation for the trip - as well as on the trip. But this second time, I figured, "I don't need any guidebook to tell me about Ireland! I've been there once. I know all about it."

Unfortunately, I didn't remember a tenth as much as I thought I would. It

### Page 3

seemed like this time around I was in a constant state of "not knowing" what to do or where to go or how to get there. Guess what I did when we got home. I picked up the guidebook and read about all the things I did wrong. This trip would have been SOOOO much easier if I had just read the guidebook again - before going instead of after coming home!

There really is no substitute for being "into" God's Guidebook when trying to figure out where He's guiding you. The Guidebook will give you the general principles to consider when trying to figure out which path to take. But sometimes you will come upon two different paths that both follow God's principles. What do you do then?

Well, the Guidebook tells us:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." James 1:5

Want to know which way God is guiding you? Just ask Him! (In my experience you might also want to include a prayer for Him to open your eyes to see His answer, since we tend to look only for the answer we want.) And, when you get the sense that God is leading you in a certain direction, another good prayer to pray is this one:

"I want to do Your will, Father. I'm going to head in this direction, so please put up a roadblock - so big that even I can't get around it - if this really is not where you want me to be going."

God does use things that happen in our lives to guide us. He puts people and situations in our path to give us direction. He also "closes doors" and puts up roadblocks to indicate that it's time for a different direction.

Finally, God works through other Christians to point us in a certain direction. Don't be afraid to ask someone you know - someone who spends a lot of time in God's Guidebook - to tell you what they see in the situation that has you puzzled about which direction to head.

Hopefully, that helps you to discern the direction God is guiding.

Thanks for asking Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net



Summer Worship Time: 9:00 a.m.

(Runs through Labor Day Weekend)

### Confirmation News...

We will meet again on Wednesday, June 4 to do our Adopt-a-Highway service project.



We also need parents to drive and help.

### Sunday School News..

ON SUMMER BREAK...

Mona is retiring from her position as Sunday School director. Please take time to thank her for all the years of tireless service !!!

Please also pray for God to raise up someone to take over the position, Thanks!

### Highway Cleanup





We need drivers and a minimum of 8 people in order to complete the cleanup in an hour. Please sign up at church.

Ice Cream after we're done!

### 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.

### Page 4

and deity

dust

amixture

8 4

day:

### Page 5

### Congratulations...

#### 2025 Graduates:

- Alexa Knutson
- Lexi Macik
- Levi Miller
- Zoe Rustad
- Alison Sarsland



Way to go! God be with each of you!

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





Pics from May 25 Blessing for Graduates

Not pictured is Zoe Rustad



### Mark Your Calendar...

#### Mission & Ministry Team

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



### Building Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 3rd @ 5:30 p.m. (Prior to Trap Shooting)

### BLOCK PARTY !

#### August 9th @ Living Word

Plans are underway ...

Looking for crafters, and goods to sell.

You can sell your wares, we supply the place.

If you're a church member, no cost to be there but bring tables, chairs anything you need for the day.

Open to non members as well then the Cost is \$10 and you supply your own tables, chairs, tent. Whatever you need to sell. If we supply the table and chairs it will be \$25. Please share with friends and fami-Iv! Time will roughly be 12:00-3:00.

Looking for someone to take on a car show event ... I do have someone that will guide the process!!

#### Advertising? Any other ideas?

We want this to be a well rounded event ... for All ages WE NEED HELP!!!

Talk to Becky Sarsland or Tammy Miller if you have ideas or want to

### You're Invited...

Join us in celebrating Alexa Knutson's graduation at her Open House Party!

Date: Sunday, June 8 2-5 pm

Location: Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center

Come and enjoy some food, fellowship and fun as we honor Alexa's

achievement.

Time:

### Page 6

blood.

giving l

you're

Unless

100%.

give

always

8

ğ

#### Upcoming Fellowship Outings... Page 7



#### Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate June birthdays on Tuesday, June 3rd @ 11:00 at Perkins Restaurant in Willman

#### June Fellowship Outing

Thursday, June 19th @ 6:00 at Mi Rancho Viejo Mexican Bar & Grill In Kerkhoven



### Trap Shooting Fellowship 2025...

Kicks off:

Tuesday, June 3@ 6:00 p.m.

We'll have brats, hot dogs and a devotion @ 6:00 and start shooting @ 6:30

Then, every other Tuesday @ 6:00 p.m. June through August

June 3rd & 174th July 1st. 15th. & 29th August 12th & 26th



### 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 togeth-

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

Whatever day: σ ᅡᅄ

### Opportunities for Growth...



#### Sunday Morning Bible Study

Is on Summer Break (Due to Worship Service Summer hours)



#### Men's Study

June 10th & 24th @ 6:30 (w eat at 6:15) Then every other Tuesday through the summer.



#### Monthly Morning Women's Study:

June 11th @ 10:00
"Bearing Life's Burdens... Together"
Note: We will not meet in July or August

### Communion Notes...

NOTE THE CHANGEFOR THIS MONTH: The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in June on the normal First and Third Sundays (June 1st & 15th)



#### 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.

### A Christian Music Bonus...

Nashville's iconic Grand Ole Opry welcomed the 12th Annual K-LOVE Fan Awards on May 25, 2025. You can watch the entire program with your favorite artists and some great music on TBN+.



https://www.tbnplus.com/m/fCGf6ROk/tbn?r=3Q96UHYo&play=1 (You will need to log in, but a subscription is free)

### Page 8

your parents

유하

realize

8

begin '

Š

older when

getting (

You know you're right, after all.

day:

σ

Page 9

### Living Word's 2025 Goals Update...

Continue the Make A Meal program.

We made meals this month on April 12

- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper Tuesday, June 3rd & Thursday, June 1th
- Continue the Birthday Card/Anniversary ministry
   Ongoing
- Challenge every member to bring a guest this year

Be praying about who you can invite to Holy Week Services

 Create a Visitors Table (Coffee, giveaways along with church and prayer ministry info)

Check out our new "Visitors (and members) Coffee Cart"

 Initiate the "Prayer D-Fence" Program (Adults "adopting " a kid to pray for, send cards etc....)

Currently looking for a coordinator

 Start a Prayer Ministry - with people praying for/with others after the Sunday Service

Began in January

- . A Concert!! 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 are signed up to attend in July

- Coordinating with Redeemer, Willmar and St. John, Atwater to host joint youth events
- Continue weekly Youth Gatherings

We have 2 speakers in May

 Keep the church yard looking nice and continue to de-clutter the storage areas inside.

Ongoing

Remember to wear your Living Word Apparel...









### E-Mail Humor...

'Tis the season for "No School" and Golf, so a funny for each...

#### A GOLF FUNNY

Isn't golf a wonderful game? I still get upset over a bad shot. But it's silly to let the game get to you. When I miss a shot I think what a beautiful day it is. Then I take a deep breath. That's what gives me the strength to break the dub. - Bob Hope

#### SCHOOL FUNNIES

(Sorry, they're real close to "Dad" jokes)

Father: How were the exam questions?
 Son: Easy.

Father: Then why look so unhappy?

Son: The questions didn't give me any trouble, just the answers!

- Where was the Magna Carta signed?
   At the bottom!
- What did you learn in school today?
   Not enough, I have to go back tomorrow!
- Q: Why did the music teacher need a ladder?
   A: To reach the high notes.
- Q: What's the worst thing you're likely to find in the school cafeteria?

A: The food!

- Teacher: "Why are you late on the first day of school?"
   Student: "I saw a sign that said, 'School Ahead: Go Slow."
- Knock, knock. Who's there? Broken pencil. Broken pencil who?
   Forget it. It's pointless.
- Why is 2 + 2 = 5 like your left foot? It's not right.

A teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs to her dass. She came to the part of the story where the first pig was trying to gather the building materials for his home. She read, "And so the pig went up to the man with the wheelbarrow full of straw and said: 'Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?"

The teacher paused then asked the class: "And what do you think the man said?"

One little boy raised his hand and said very matter-of-factly, "I think the man would have said, "Well, what do ya know?! A talking pig!"

### Page 10 Page 11

To hold cows together.

cowhide?

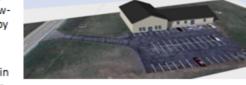
₽

greatest worldwide use

ĝ

### 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 and additional \$70,000 the "challenger" will donate \$100,000!!!

Some pertinent figures (as of May 27):

"Challenge" Money Raised: \$15,000 (of \$70,000 needed)
Money in CDs and Building Account: \$98,000+

#### OUR NEXT BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday, June 3rd @ 5:30 (prior to Trap Shooting)

### 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 May we thanked God for...

- Our Confirmands: Carter, Kjirsten, Parker, Ella, Troy & Evelyn
- All Who Gave Their Lives for Our Freedom

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

### 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!

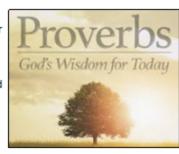


That for a day: What's

### Email Wisdom...

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

- Humility and the fear of the LORD Bring wealth and honor and life. Proverbs 22:4.
- Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it Proverbs 22:6
- A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.



Proverbs 22:9

- Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint Proverbs 23:4
- Listen to your father who gave you life, And do not despise your mother when she is old. Proverbs 23:22
- Buy the truth and do not sell it, Get wisdom, discipline and understanding.
   Proverbs 23:23
- If you say, "But we knew nothing about this,"
   Does not He who weighs the heart perceive it?
   Does not He who guards your life know it?
   Will He not repay each person according to what he has done?
   Proverbs 24:12
- Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when he stumbles, do not let your heart rejoice, For the LORD will see and disapprove and turn His wrath away from him.

  Proverbs 24:17-18
- Do not testify against your neighbor without cause, or use your lips to deceive.
   Do not say, "I'll do to him as he has done to me; I'll pay that man back for what he did." Proverbs 24:28-29
- Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone. Proverbs 25:15

### Page 12 Page 13

else

something

a W E

something,

clean

Φ

₫

Every 1

about this:



#### LWMLMeeting & Women's Study:

Our next LWML meeting and Bible study, will be Wednesday, June 11th, at 10:00 a.m., at church. The Bible study is entitled "Bearing Life's Burdens...Together" (pp 20-21 of The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly, summer edition).

All women of the church are welcome to attend.

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

#### 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.



### Spring Voters' Assembly...

... is coming June 8 The Spring Assembly is our annual election to fill Mission and Ministry positions. We will be electing members to 2year terms in the following positions:

Vice Chairman	-	
Stewardship-		
Treasurer-		Steve Wulf

Elders (two): Dan Miller and Kevin Welsh

Christian Growth - Sunday School

Congregational Outreach- Marcia Welsh

We need suggestions for people to fill the Sunday School, Vice Chair and Stewardship positions. If you have members you'd like us to consider for either position, please give their names to an Elder or Mission and Ministry Team member. Thanks!

### Choir News...

...Will begin practicing soon (after Sunday service) for singing on Pentecost (June 8th). Everyone is welcome to join.



That for a day:

## June 2025 - Daily Readings

Our Summer Readings will be about some...

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 emailhim: <a href="mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net">pastor@livingwordlutheran.net</a>.

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

	WEEK OF JUNE 1
June 2	Cain - Genesis 4
June 3	Ham - Genesis 9
June 4	Shem - Genesis 9
June 5	Melchizedek - Genesis 14
June 6	Hagar - Genesis 16
	WEEK OF JUNE 8
June 9	Abimilech - Genesis 20
June 10	Isaac's Servant - Genesis 24
June 11	Rebecca - Genesis 24
June 12	Spotted Sheep - Genesis 30
June 13	Reuben - Genesis 37
June 16	WEEK OF JUNE 15:   Judah - Genesis ??

Recordings of the Daily Readings can also be found on our website at: https://www.livingwordlutheran.net/devotions.htm

June 17	Aaron - Exodus 4	
June 18	Miriam - Exodus 15	
June 19	Jethro - Exodus 18	
June 20	Bezalel & Oholiab - Exodus 31	
	WEEK OF JUNE 22	
June 23	Nadab & Abihu - Leviticus 10	
June 24		
June 25	June 23 Nadab & Abihu - Leviticus 10  June 24 The Scapegoat - Leviticus 16  June 25 Unnamed Blasphemer - Leviticus 21  June 26 Caleb - Numbers 13  June 27 Korah, Dathan & Abiram - Numbers 16	
June 26		
June 27		
	WEEK OF JUNE 29	
June 30	Balaam - Numbers 22	
July 1	Zelophehad - Numbers 24	
July 2	Phinehas - Numbers 31	
July 3	The Prophet - Deuteronomy 18	
July 4	Achan - Joshua 7	

# June 2025 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP - CHOIR PRACTICE	2	3 11:00 - JUNE BIRTHDAYS @ PERKINS 6:00 - TRAP SHOOTING	6:00 - ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY (CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT)	Lord's Supper D Sunday, June 1 Sunday, June 1	st	7 10:00 - 1:00 Lexi Macik Grad Party 1:10 TWNS GAME OUTING
8 PENTECOST  9:00 - WORSHIP  10:15 - FELLOWSHIP - SPRING VOTERS' ASS'Y  2-5:00 - Alexa Knutson Grad Party	9 10:00 BLOCK PARTY PLANNING	10 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY	12 MISSION Winistry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	13	Noon - 3:00 Zoe Rustad Grad Party
9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	7:00 - YOUTH TEAM	6:00 - TRAP SHOOTING	18	6:00 - FELLOWSHIP SUPPER @ MI RANCHO VIEJO	20	Noon-8:00 Levi Miller Grad Party
9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	23	6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	25	26	27	28
9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	30	July 1 6:00 - TRAP SHOOTING	July 2		JULY	July 5

### 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. Thanks!



#### Usher Schedule

June 1 Jim & Torasie Larsen June 8 Jason & Levi Miller

June 15 Pam Johnson & Linda Vanmeter June 22 Larry Levin & Jim Stirson

June 29 Gerry Butler & (Volunteer Needed)

### **USHERS NEEDED**

Since we have resumed gathering the offerings during worship, we are in need of more ushers to help with that. Please sign up at church if you could take a turn. Thanks!

#### **Elders**

June 1, 8 Dan & Steve June 15, 22, 29 Steve & Duane

#### Custodian

June- Pam J & Linda D

#### Children's Church

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

#### Altar Guild

June Mona Hjelle

#### Accompanying Musicians

June 1 Sharon Willen
June 8 Scott Wachter
June 15 Sharon Willen
June 22 Scott Wachter
June 29 Scott Wachter



### Page 18

ä

profess courage

8

are not brave is

The bravest thing you can do when you

act accondingly

day:

σ

Page 19

ISLAND CAMP Summer 2025

### It's Time to Start Planning for Summer Camp!

Lutheran Island Camp Summer 2025 brochures are available at church

### "Participate" in Worship from home...

If you can't be here in person: Watch on our YouTube channel with Sunday services being livestreamed at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VvIJEU22yCYxbhwjg/featured">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VvIJEU22yCYxbhwjg/featured</a>

### Seen on Church Signboards...

Too Hot to Keep Changing Sign...

Jesus - Good Sin - Bad

Details (and free AC) Inside

## June Discipleship Verse...

The LORD is my Light and my Salvation whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the Stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27:1

Note: This is the first of six straight months where we use a confirmation verse as our Discipleship Verse. This month's verse is Carter Foshaug's confirmation verse.

### Email Inspiration...

Here's an easy way to remember the days honoring those who serve in our Armed Forces:

- Armed Forces Day is for those still in their uniform.
- Veteran's Day is for those who hung up their uniform.
- Memorial Day is for those who never got out of their uniform.



EAGLE BASE, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Army News Service, May 22, 2002) -- It was raining "cats and dogs," and I was late for physical training. Traffic was backed up at Fort Campbell, Ky., and was moving way too slowly. I was probably going to be late and I was growing more and more impatient.

The pace slowed almost to a standstill as I passed Memorial Grove, the site built to honor the soldiers who died in the Gander airplane crash, the worst redeployment accident in the history of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Because it was close to Memorial Day, a small American flag had been placed in the ground next to each soldier's memorial plaque.

My concern at the time, however, was getting past the bottleneck, getting out of the rain and getting to PT on time. All of a sudden, infuriatingly, just as the traffic was getting started again, the car in front of me stopped. A soldier, a private of course, jumped out in the pouring rain and ran over toward the grove.

I couldn't believe it! This knucklehead was holding up everyone for who knows what kind of prank. Horns were honking. I waited to see the butt-chewing that I wanted him to get for making me late.

He was getting soaked to the skin. His BDUs were plastered to his frame. I watched as he ran up to one of the memorial plaques, picked up the small American flag that had fallen to the ground in the wind and the rain, and set it upright again. Then, slowly, he came to attention, saluted, ran back to his car, and drove off.

I'll never forget that incident. That soldier, whose name I will never know, taught me more about duty, honor, and respect than a hundred books or a thousand lectures.

That simple salute -- that single act of honoring his fallen brother and his flag -- encapsulated all the Army values in one gesture for me. It

Page 20 Page 21

said, "I will never forget. I will keep the faith. I will finish the mission. I am an American soldier."

I thank God for examples like that. And on this Memorial Day, I will remember all those who paid the ultimate price for my freedom, and one private, soaked to the skin, who honored them.

### From The Link...



SCAN FOR TICKETS

A funfilled day of:

-Delicious ribs & pie

-Live entertainment

(Raffle drawing for 2-adirondak chairs & table

from 3 Sisters)

town from 11-3.

3pm-6pm.

-Family friendly activities

-Silent Auction & Raffle

-Porchfest music around

-Live music on the Gossman

stage (by Goat Ridge) from

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!!!
RIBFEST, JUNE 7, 2025

VISIT MINI. YOUARETHELINK. ORG
TO ORDER ON OUR MEBSITE
ONLINE OR IN PËRSON AT THE LINK AND
COMMUNITY REVIVAL BOUTIQUE AND THRIFT

\$60 VIP TICKET

10-punches for 10 rib samples

2-Drinks offered by Alley on Ash & Goat Ridge 1-Piece of Pie

1- Voting Ticket



5-punches for 5 rib samples

1-Piece of Pie

1- Voting Ticket



#### A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS!!!!



Goat Ridge Brewing, Lit Mothtion, Fischer Laner Sye Center, West Central Sanitation, Kahnnoom's, Krapker Chimpractic, Lak Affect & Hyberl Brokshole, him fitness, Manoon Sile, Iswan & Country Sire, Dooley's Hernimum, Lab's Committing, Dahme Stanies, No., Magalif Financial, Concentle Bank, Sai Funding, Deep Frenze, Casky Concrete



day: It's bad luck to be superstitious.

hot

### 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
- June Newsletters
- April—June Portals of Prayer
- Lutheran Island Camp brochures
- 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

- May 4 "Lessons learned from Jesus in how He deals with 'Doubting' Thomas"
- May 11 "The Good Shepherd Serves" "Breakfast on the Beach!"
- May 18 "Knowing Jesus is Alive Drives Out Fear!"
- May 25 "When You Follow Where God Guides He Always . . . "

#### 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 muchneeded donation consistency for our congregation.

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

#### Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2025—If you like to use dated envelopes for your offerings, we have them available. Just pick up a box of envelopes from under the mailboxes. Write down the # of the box you picked up. Thanks!

#### Page 22 Page 23

not thinking

you're

then

new,

something

stati

χon

when

crazy

you're not called g enough.

Ψį

### Prayer...

#### Remember to use "The Prayer Force"

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



#### And an Invitation to Join our "Prayer Force"

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

#### Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

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

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

- Thanking God for our Graduates and asking God's guidance
- Thanking God for Summer and safety in summer travels
- Thanking God for all EMS workers
- Thanking God for all who gave their lives serving our country.
- Asking God's protection for all Armed Forces personnel
- Thanking God for dads.
- Thanking God for the freedom to attend worship
- Asking God's blessing on our Youth Gathering attendees
- Asking God for good weather for the growing season.
- Asking God's continued guidance for our Building Committee
- Asking God for courage to follow where He guides
- For God's peace, comfort and direction for all who lost loved ones
- For all those who are home-bound or in nursing facilities
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- 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

### 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.

day: σ ş Thot

### A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Marital Decisions: How do you determine how much say family has?



As a couple, you and your spouse will face countless decisions. From the minor yet incessant "What's for dinner?", to momentous yet infrequent ones like "Should we move for this job?" The choices you'll have to make together fall on both ends of this spectrum, and everywhere in between.

Sometimes the choice is easy. One or both of you have the knowledge that's necessary to make a smart and informed decision. Other times, it's not so cut and dry. Maybe you and your spouse are new homeowners facing some unavoidable repairs. Neither of you has much experience or insight on the topic, but your father-in-law is a contractor. How much should his opinion weigh in your decision? Or perhaps you have a very dose relationship with your parents and like to consult with them on most of your bigger decisions. How much say do they get? How much is too much? What factors complicate these dynamics? What should your end goal be?

#### Letting outside perspectives in

It's totally normal to seek input, opinions, expertise, and recommendations from outside sources, whether it's for big decisions or to simply get another perspective. For example, maybe you want to make sure that the repair estimate you got isn't totally out of line, or you're thinking about going back to school so you get some insight from a sibling who took a similar path. Typically, you can incorporate this input into the discussion with your spouse without much thought and still make a joint decision you both feel good about. But sometimes it gets more complicated...

#### Complicating factors

We haven't called it out explicitly in this post, but you may have noticed – the examples all involve family members. Not so coincidentally, family dynamics are often the culprit when it comes to making marital decisions more complicated. The relational ties, past hurts and conflicts, and unspoken family rules can make the line between "helpful advice" and "unquestioned directive" rather fuzzy. Is there an aspect of money involved, i.e. accepting financial assistance from parents? This can add a twist of complexity on top of everything else. Unsurprisingly, all of this can cause issues in your marriage if you're not aligned on how to handle it. As an exercise, reflect on how you might navigate the following scenarios or a similar one in your own life:

A) Your contractor father-in-law has strong opinions on your home

Page 24 Page 25

repairs, and your spouse has always deferred to him on these things, just going along with whatever he recommends. You're not comfortable having him dictate everything house related. Sure, he knows what he's talking about, but you'd like to make the decisions as a team instead of just doing what your father-in-law says. How do you break from this dynamic?

B) You just got offered an amazing job in a different state. You currently live near your parents, who you're very close to and whose opinions hold a lot of weight. They don't want you to move away, citing that you could get a similar job here. Your spouse thinks they're holding you back, and you admit you agree, but you're worried about hurting them. How much should their feelings factor into your decision?

C) Your parents and your fiance's are paying for a large portion of your wedding. Everyone wants a a big celebration, except for you two. Who gets the final say?

#### The takeaway

At the end of the day, the decisions within your marriage are yours and your spouse's to make. While outside input can be helpful, your spouse's opinion is the one that should matter most. This doesn't mean that you can't consider others' advice, just that you should ultimately be deciding as a team. You might end up going with your father-in-law's advice after all, but only after you've gotten aligned and arrived at that result together. Of course, this is easier said than done.

If it seems like external opinions are becoming intrusive and causing conflict when trying to make decisions with your spouse, that might be an indication of a boundary-related issue that needs further exploring. For example:

Do you need to have a conversation with family members about giving more space and respect to your marriage and making decisions as a couple? Do you need to set more boundaries?

Do you or your spouse need to work on prioritizing each other's input over other family members?

Does money or accepting help financially affect your relationship with family? Does this change the weight of their input? Are you aligned on this? If not, are you able to pinpoint the root of your disagreement?

Having close ties with family is often a blessing, but this can complicate decision-making in your marriage, especially when family dynamics are complicated in their own right. You might find that these questions only scratch the surface of sorting them out, but it's a good place to start. When you prioritize each other though all the external noise, you'll be better able to recognize potential boundary issues and get aligned on how to solve them.

hugged she ß istakes, Ε þer embrace should she wife É 함 day: σ for Thot

Ε

### Opportunities to Serve...

#### Help With Children's Church

We need a couple more volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-6 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help.

#### Remember to use our "We Prayed for You" program...

We'd like to send out a card or two each week to people we prayed for during worship.

We are currently in need of a volunteer to mail the cards. If you could help, talk to Pastor David



#### Help Record our Worship Services . . .

that we livestream and later upload our YouTube channel (New London Living Word). Talk to Pastor David if you can help out with this - just one Sunday a month. (Hint: It's really not difficult - even Pastor figured it out!)

#### Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.

Teal's Grocery gives a 1% rebate to eligible organizations. There's a teal-colored box on the back-wall table where you can put in your receipts.

#### Custodian Volunteers Needed.

#### For any month 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.

### Make-A-Meal Program...

#### Our Latest Meal Making Crew..



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.

### Page 26 Page 27

beautiful

place

ake a

É

Others

place.

beautiful

m

ğ

people look

0

### News from The Link...

### MAY 2025 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

# The Link

#### THE FOOD PANTRY

In April, The Food Pantry served 227 households - including
377 adults, 185 children and 77 seniors-distributing a total of 12,560 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 April, your donations were able to support 142 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 144 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).

#### SAVE THE DATE: RIBFEST 2025-JUNE 7TH 2PM-5PM

We are currently looking for silent auction items. If you would like to donate a basket OR monetarily, please contact Shawna at 320-347-1047

### 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!

That for a day: Som

### Monthly Music Videos...

So many great songs this month it was hard to narrow down.

- My pick for best of the month is "I Made It" by CAIN. I predict you will soon hear this everywhere... https://youtu.be/iX-FfvtX4Ow
- . Tenth Avenue North is back with a new song, "Running With You In The Dark"... https://voutu.be/CWE8Qg58MHU
- "JESUS" is a new song from Matt Crocker that we should be singing in church... https://youtu.be/XUEluXYNjyc
- Big Daddy Weave is releasing their first new album in 6 years called "Let It Begin". "Have Your Way" is one of the new songs... https://youtu.be/F WkNphl4KA
- "This Hallelujah" is worship with a great Southern rock feel from CJ Prather... https://youtu.be/7Px8iaDaMng
- . Forrest Frank seems to be on this list every month. His new song is "Home"... https://youtu.be/qLa4fJAskBY
- . The latest song from Cory Ashbury for Father's Day is called "Dream I Never Had" ... https://youtu.be/R3Sd-ijSdvl
- "Look At God" is a great song, just released by Rhett Walker... https://youtu.be/5mEj-c2gmUw
- Shane & Shane released the title song for a new film called "Light of The World"... https://youtu.be/QKsYKxvgXbg
- . 15 year old newcomer Josh Grove released "One true Savior"... https://youtu.be/NrtCjtMGRdA
- The latest song from Ryan Stevenson is "Blinded"... https://youtu.be/Nd86bE9anJo
- "Homesick for Heaven" is another great song from Phil Wickham... https://youtu.be/BzJMZom6NBs
- Jason Gray released "I'm Gonna Let It Go"... https://youtu.be/tBJiAzmHF9k
- · "Won't Start Now" is a new song from Seph Schlueter... https://youtu.be/ydntDW4kv U
- "The Morning" is another beautiful song from Blessing Offor... https://youtu.be/5kOtzsV-iI4
- In case you missed it on Mother's Day, Steven Curtis Chapman released "Speed of Love"... https://voutu.be/k64suD2ZVYs

Page 28

Š

Page 29

Math 8 that relate out song lyrics If you can't handle me randomly blurting just said, we can't be friends. day:

σ

Thot for

- Another new Brandon Lake song, "SEVENS"... https://youtu.be/kHL-RMxvM20
- "Fences" is a new release from Andrew Ripp... https://voutu.be/2mxUONRsC9o
- Take a trip back to the 80's with "Upside Down" by Switch... https://voutu.be/VOCla8mu1VE
- Josiah Queen released "Two Wooden Beams"... https://voutu.be/NYhnmpsognI
- Finally listen to "At The Heart of It" by Benjamin William Hastings... https://youtu.be/6GeLRzzsOzU

### Story Behind The Song...

Since Father's Day is a couple weeks away I thought this would be a great hymn to feature... plus, it is one of the few Swedish hymns that I know of... "Children of the Heavenly Father".

Among certain people groups or denominations, there are occasions that demand a particular hymn. Indeed, not to sing that song would be considered at best a serious oversight and at worse an offense. On Reformation Sunday, Lutherans will sing "A Mighty Fortress". For Swedes and many churches of Scandinavian descent, a baptism or funeral would be incomplete without singing the beloved "Children of the Heavenly Father" ("Trygarre kan ingen vara") by Lina Sandell.

Karolina "Lina" Sandell was born on October 3, 1832 in Fröervd, a small town in the Småland province of Sweden. Her father was a Lutheran pastor sympathetic to the growing pietist movement and raised Lina in a faith that emphasized the grace and warmth of God. At the same time, she received an excellent liberal arts education from her father and brother-in-law, learning to read and write in Swedish, Norwegian, French, German, and English. Throughout her life, she wrote over 2000 hymn texts and poems (earning her the title the "Fanny Crosby of Sweden") and worked as an editor at the Evangelical National Foundation, a mission organization within the Lutheran Church of Sweden.

With such a prolific career, it is surprising to discover that her most popular hymn – "Children of the Heavenly Father" – was written quite early in her life, perhaps as young as seventeen!

Lina wrote the words to this humn while seated on the branch of a large ash tree that stood in the parsonage yard. From that spot on warm summer evenings she could listen to the content twitter of the birds as they hid in their nests among the green leaves, and from there she could watch the stars as they began to appear. Her impressions fortified the biblical concepts of the security of God's children."

And it is the "security of God's children" that serves as the central theme around the song's lyrics. The bosom of the "heavenly Father" serves as a "refuge" where children are nourished and protected from evil by the "mighty arms" of God. The last two stanzas build on this theme of protection by boldly confessing that nothing can separate children from their God (Rom. 8:38-39), a God who will never forsake God's children (Deut. 31:6).

When tragedy strikes, some people allow it to destroy them, but Lina's faith saw her through tragedy. Her grief gave her music a new depth and sensitivity. In addition to the severe illnesses she suffered throughout her life, by the age of 28 she had lost her sister to tuberculosis, her father to drowning (which she helplessly witnessed on a boat in in Lake Vättern), and finally her mother to a prolonged illness. Even her marriage to businessman Carl Oscar Berg was marred by grief, as she endured the collapse of her husband's business and the birth of a stillborn baby girl, their only child. In light of such suffering, what remains in the ashes is a song that serves as a bold confession of faith similar to the cry of Job that she paraphrases in the final stanza: "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (1:21).

Sandell portrays a God whose "mighty arm" protects and spares, but it also the God who gathers children safely into God's bosom, evoking the biblical image of the mother hen gathering chicks under her arms (Luke 13:34).

When Sandell died in 1903 at the age of 71, thousands came to attend her burial in Stockholm. Like so many Swedish funerals before and after, the choir began to sing "Trygarre kan ingen vara." Spontaneously, the swelling congregation joined in to sing together of the God whose love is so great that "neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever."

There are more verses, but these are the four verses most often sung:

Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather; nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish;

### Page 30

would

back,

you

text

plnoo

cats

### Page 31

in his holy courts they flourish. From all evil things he spares them; in his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever; unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.

Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh; his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

Here is a performance by the Concordia Choir... because it's Concordia and its in Moorhead, MN and my son went to college with some of these people performing... <a href="https://youtu.be/- NazFGLYyo">https://youtu.be/- NazFGLYyo</a>

## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

