



Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



May 2025 Newsletter
"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

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

Living Word Lutheran Church

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

Questions for Pastor...

What is Eternal Life?

This is a great question from one of our confirmation students. It's a great question, because it's a question that we are tempted to answer, "Well, that's easy. It's a life that lasts forever." But there's a lot more to the answer than just the "everlasting" part.



Listen to how Jesus actually defined eternal life in the first three verses of John chapter 17. (Notice He doesn't even mention the "forever" part.)

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

First, we see something that's really good to be reminded of:

Eternal life is a gift. It is not something earned. Jesus "purchased" that gift for us when He took the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross. Of course, as with any gift, this one does you no good unless you open it. Trust in Jesus is how we open that gift!

In Luke 10:25 we also read:

*On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.
"Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

That religious scholar compared eternal life to an inheritance. An inheritance is something given to you - a gift.

Did you notice that Jesus didn't define "eternal life" as a quantity of time the life lasts? Rather, He defined it in terms of the quality of that life. Eternal life is a life that possesses the quality of knowing God and His Son Jesus.

But this "knowing" isn't like you "know," for example, George

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Washington. You "know" facts and biographical details about George, but you don't really know him. You've never spent any time with him. In fact, you can never really know him, because he's not alive any longer. The best you can hope for is to know some things about him.

The "knowing" Jesus refers to in John 17 is comparable to how you would "know" a best friend or a close family member. You "know" them, because you have a close relationship with them. You spend time with them. You know what they like. You know what they are like. You know what they believe. You know their plans and dreams. You know what they think of you. You know them!

This shows us something important about "eternal life." You don't have to wait until you die in order to be given it! Your eternal life begins when you "know" God and His Son Jesus. In other words, when you have a loving, trusting relationship with them. And, unlike George Washington, you are able to get to know God the Father and Jesus, because they aren't dead in a grave somewhere. They are alive!!!

By the way, that eternal life does last forever. It's just that the forever part isn't the most important part. Knowing God is.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net



Summer Worship Time: 9:00 a.m.

**Begins Memorial Weekend
Sunday, May 25**

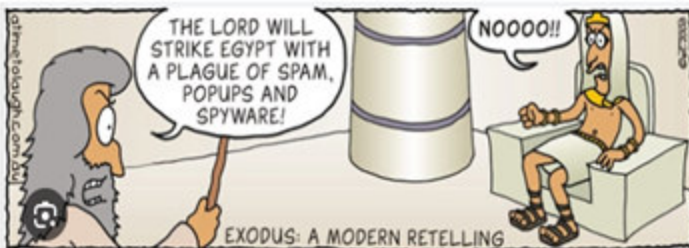
(And runs through Labor Day Weekend)

Confirmation News...

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



Our 2025 Confirmands:



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That for a day: Your behavior is what you believe; all the rest is just talk.

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Confirmation Verses...

Carter

Psalm 27:1

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

Kjirsten

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Parker

Mark 9:23

Jesus said, "Everything is possible for the one who believes."

Ella

Isaiah 40:31

Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.

Troy

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Evelyn

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people He said, "I Am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life

Congratulations...

- Carter Foshaug, Kjirsten Hansen, Parker Hjelle, Ella Knutson, Troy Sarsland and Evelyn Wright on your public commitments of faith in Jesus on Sunday, April 27 !!!

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

Mark Your Calendar...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, May 8th @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

Building Committee Meeting

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

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 2-year 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!

Women's Retreat...

November 14-16, 2025
At Green Lake Bible Camp

"The Truth that sets you Free"

Is God's Word still relevant today?

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

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

Invite a friend to come along on this Journey!

Questions? Talk to Violet or Tammy M



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That for a day: A lot of women say their husband never listens to them. I am proud to say I have never heard my wife say that.

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Upcoming Fellowship Outings...



Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate May birthdays on
Tuesday, May 20th @ 11:00
at Coop's Corner in Belgrade

May Fellowship Outing

Thursday, May 15th @ 6:00
at Sweet River Café in New London
They are opening in the evening especially for us, so let's have a great turnout!



WE'RE GOING TO A TWINS GAME

Saturday, June 7 1:10 Game time

You can choose one of three sections to sit:

Section 202 Wheelchair \$29.12

Section 202 \$30.15

Section 102 \$49.70

Ordering details at church!



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



BLOCK PARTY !

August 9th

Music by singer/songwriter Jennifer Marie.

<https://www.jennifermariemusic.com/>

Games, food and more!



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

Opportunities for Growth...



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



Men's Study
Study resumes May 27th @ 6:30
Then every other Tuesday through the summer.



Monthly Morning Women's Study:
May 14th @ 10:00

Communion Notes...

NOTE THE CHANGE FOR THIS MONTH: The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in December on the normal **First and LAST Sundays (May 4th & May 25th)**



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.

Sunday School News..

A glimpse ahead of what we will study in Sunday School:

May 6: Pentecost - Acts 2 and John 14:7,16-17,25-27
May 13: Mother's Day
May 20: Last Day of Sunday School
"Jesus, King of Kings" Rev. 17:14

~Mona will be 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!

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That for a day: I find that a duck's opinion of me is very much influenced over whether or not I have bread.

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Living Word's 2025 Goals Update...

- Continue the Make A Meal program.
We Made more meals this month on April 12
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper
Tuesday, May 20th and Thursday, May 15th
- Continue the Birthday Card/Anniversary ministry
Ongoing
- Challenge every member to bring a guest this year
Be praying about who you can invite to Holy Week Services
- Create a Visitors Table (Coffee, giveaways along with church and prayer ministry info)
Check out our new "Visitors (and members) Coffee Cart"
- Initiate the "Prayer D-Fence" Program
(Adults "adopting" a kid to pray for, send cards etc...)
Currently looking for a coordinator
- Start a Prayer Ministry - with people praying for/with others after the Sunday Service
Began in January
- A Concert!! (Summer...outdoor)
- Chili Cook-Off **Held on January 18th**
- Host a Block Party or Community Festival in the Spring
Coming 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...

The Sunday school lesson for the day was about Noah's Ark, so the preschool teacher in church decided to get her small pupils involved by playing a game in which they identified animals.

"I'm going to describe something to you. Let's see if you can guess what it is. First: I'm furry with a bushy tail and I like to climb trees."

The children looked at her blankly.

"I also like to eat nuts, especially acorns."

No response. This wasn't going well at all!

"I'm usually brown or grey, but sometimes I can be black or red."

Desperate, the teacher turned to a perky four-year-old who was usually good about coming up with the answers.

"Michelle, what do you think?"

Michelle looked hesitantly at her classmates and replied, "Well, I know the answer has to be Jesus -- but it sure sounds like a squirrel to me!"

ACTUAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXCUSE NOTES

- ◆ "Jerry was at his grandmother's yesterday, and she did not bring him to school because Jerry couldn't remember where the school was."
- ◆ "Ronnie would not finish his work last night. He said his brain was too tired of spelling."
- ◆ "Eric hurt his knee in a karate tournament over the weekend. He won his age group, but was in too much pain to do his math assignment."
- ◆ * "Amy did not do her homework last night because we went out to a party and did not get home until late. If she is tired, please let her sleep during recess time."
- ◆ Henry stayed home because he had a stomach ache from eating too much frosting."
- ◆ "Diane was late on Wednesday. She fell asleep on the bus and was taken back to the bus yard."
- ◆ "Tommy wasn't in school yesterday because he thought it was Saturday."

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Thot for a day: When God made me, He grinned and said, "This'll be fun."

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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 March 31):

Money in CDs and Building Account: \$80,000+

OUR NEXT BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday, June 3rd @ 5:30 (No meeting in May)

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 April we thanked God for...

- Austin Hjelle & Drew Dahl - First Communion
- Jesus' Resurrection
- Jesus is STILL Risen
- Evelyn, Troy, Ella, Parker, Kjirsten & Carter - Professing Faith in Jesus

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

Smoke-Detector Battery Outreach...

We Have LOTS of Batteries left from

Our Annual Smoke-Detector Battery Giveaway

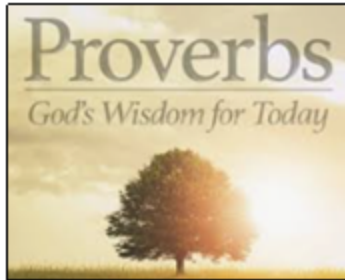
Please take some from the "Free Stuff" Table for your family and friends!



Email Wisdom...

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

- He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD And He will reward him for what he has done.
Proverbs 19:17
- Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.
Proverbs 19:21
- Wine is a mocker and beer is a brawler, whoever is led astray by them is not wise. Proverbs 20:1
- It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel. Proverbs 20:3
- Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the LORD and He will deliver you. Proverbs 20:22
- All a man's ways seem right to him, But the LORD weighs the heart. Proverbs 21:2
- To do what is right and just, is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice. Proverbs 21:3
- The plans of the diligent lead to profit, as surely as haste leads to poverty. Proverbs 21:5
- He who guards his mouth and his tongue; keeps himself from calamity. Proverbs 21:23
- There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD. Proverbs 21:30
- The horse is made ready for the day of battle; but victory rests with the LORD. Proverbs 21:31
- Rich and poor have this in common, the LORD is the maker of them all. Proverbs 22:2



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That for a day: I swear the me that buys groceries and the me that actually cooks are two entirely different people.

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More Email Humor...

A young family moved into a house next door to a vacant lot. One day a construction crew turned up to start building a house on the empty lot. The young family's 4-year-old daughter naturally took an interest in all the activity going on next door and started talking with the workers.

She hung around and eventually the construction crew more or less adopted her as a kind of project mascot. They chatted with her, let her sit with them while they had coffee and lunch breaks, and gave her little jobs to do here and there to make her feel important.

At the end of the first week they even presented her with a pay envelope with a twenty dollar bill in it. The little girl took this home to her mother, who said all the appropriate words of admiration and suggested that they take her first pay to the bank and open an account with it.

When they got to the bank the teller was equally impressed with the story and asked the little girl how she had come by her very own pay check at such a young age. The little girl proudly replied, "I've been working with a crew building a house all week."

"My goodness gracious," said the teller, "and will you be working on the house again next week too?"

"I will if those useless idiots at the lumber yard ever bring us the @#&% wood," replied the little girl.

Pastor Dave always says we tend to become like the people we associate with...



LWML Meeting & Women's Study:

Our next meeting and Bible study will be
Wednesday, May 14th @ 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.



May 2025 - Daily Readings

This Month we finish the readings about **the results of Jesus resurrection**. We also go back to finish our readings in **Philippians**. The rest of the month we focus on the **Name of God and Jesus "I Am" sayings**.

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 APRIL 27 RESULTS OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

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

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

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

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

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

WEEK OF MAY 4: GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH PHILIPPIANS . . .

May 5 **Philippians 4:10-13** _____

May 6 **Philippians 4:14-20** _____

May 7 **Philippians 4:21-23** _____

May 8 **Mystery Devotion** _____

May 9 **Mystery Devotion** _____

WEEK OF MAY 11: GOD REVEALS HIS NAME

May 12 **God reveals His name to Moses** _____

May 13 **God commands us to honor His name** _____

May 14 **God defines His character** _____

May 15 **Jesus first applies God's name to Himself** _____

May 16 **Jesus says because He's God, we needn't fear** _____

WEEK OF MAY 18: JESUS' "I AM" SAYINGS

May 19 **Jesus says "I Am the Bread of Life"** _____

May 20 **Jesus says, "I Am the Light of the World"** _____

May 21 **Jesus says, "I Am the Gate"** _____

May 22 **Jesus says, "I Am the Good Shepherd"** _____

May 23 **Jesus claims to be "I Am" (Yahweh)** _____

WEEK OF MAY 25 JESUS' "I AM" SAYINGS

May 26 **Jesus says, "I Am the Resurrection and the Life"** _____

May 27 **Jesus says, "I Am He"** _____

May 28 **Jesus says, "I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life"** _____

May 29 **Jesus says, "I Am the True Vine"** _____

May 30 **Jesus again says, "I Am He"** _____

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

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

May 2025 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 27 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	Apr 28	Apr 29 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	Apr 30 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	1	2	3
4 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	5	6	7 7:00 - YOUTH GROUP	8 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	9	10
11 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	12 7:00 - YOUTH TEAM	13	14 10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - YOUTH GROUP	15 6:00 - FELLOWSHIP SUPPER @ SWEET RIVER	16	17
18 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	19	20 11:00 - CELEBRATE MAY B-DAYS @ COOPS CORNER	21 7:00 - YOUTH SPEAKER: Ali Hofjen - House of Hope	22	23	24
25 GRADUATE BLESSING & SUMMER WORSHIP TIME 9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 10:15 - CAKE for GRADS	26	27 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	28 7:00 - YOUTH SPEAKER: Martha J.	29	30	31

Lord's Supper Dates

- Sunday, May 4th
- Sunday, May 25th

Upcoming Schedules...

After-Worship Fellowship

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



Usher Schedule

May 4	Jason & Levi Miller
May 11	Jim & Torasie Larsen
May 18	Pam Johnson & Linda Varmeter
May 26	Larry Levin & Jim Stinson

USHERS NEEDED

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

Elders

May 4, 11	Dan & Steve
May 18, 25	Duane & Scott (18) & Kevin (25)

Custodian

May-	OPEN
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Children's Church

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

Power Point Clicker

May 4	Carter
May 25	Troy



Altar Guild

May	Mona Hjelle
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Accompanying Musicians

May 4	Sharon Willen
May 11	Scott Wachter
May 18	Sharon Willen
May 25	Scott Wachter



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Thot for a day: Some people look for a beautiful place. Others make a place beautiful.

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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 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UJCG9eU-VvJEU22yCYxbhwig/featured>

Choir News...

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



Seen on Church Signboards...

**OLD-SCHOOL SIGN
OLD-SCHOOL THEOLOGY
(JESUS IS LORD)**

May Discipleship Verse...

"In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

1 Peter 3:15

Email Inspiration...

Jeremy was born with a twisted body, a slow mind and a chronic, terminal illness that had been slowly killing him all his young life. Still, his parents had tried to give him as normal a life as possible and had sent him to St. Theresa's Elementary School.

At the age of 12, Jeremy was only in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy irritated his teacher. One day, she called his parents and asked them to come to St. Teresa's for a consultation.

As the Forresters sat quietly in the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students!"

Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here."

Doris sat for a long time after they left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read or write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Oh God," she said aloud, "here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared with that poor family! Please help me to be more patient with Jeremy."

From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loudly enough for the whole class to hear. The other children snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Wh-Why, that's very nice, Jeremy. Now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life.

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That for a day: No one should live by the early bird policy until learning whether they classify as a bird or a worm.

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Do you understand?"

Yes, Miss Miller!" the children responded enthusiastically - all except for Jeremy. He just listened intently, his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them. That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their Math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arms. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out.

The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that is new life, too!" Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine."

Next Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that the moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom. "My Daddy helped me!" he beamed.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty! Surely it must be Jeremy's, she thought, and, of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another.

Suddenly Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "but Jeremy - your egg is empty!" He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty too!"

Time stopped. When she could speak again, Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?"

"Oh yes!" Jeremy exclaimed. "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then his Father raised him up!"

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away.

Three months later Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.

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
- May 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>

Apr 6 "Stops Along the Way to the Cross: Raising Lazarus"
Apr 13 "Kids Know 'Jesus' is the Answer. What's the question?"
Maundy Thursday "Why Communion is a such a Big Deal"
Good Friday "We know Jesus died for us, but why did He have to?"
Easter "We all know Jesus rose, but what does that teach us?"
Confirmation "What It Looks Like to Stay Connected to Jesus"



Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

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

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

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

Offering Envelopes

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

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That for a day: why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?

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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:

- Thanking God for the faith of our Confirmands
- Asking God to help you live remembering Christ is STILL Risen!
- + Thanking God for moms.
- Asking God for His healing for Loretta Schlick after John's passing
- Thanking God for all who gave their lives serving our country.
- Asking God's blessing on our Youth Gathering attendees
- Asking God for good weather for the planting and growing season.
- Asking God's continued guidance for our Building Committee
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did - with sacrifice
- For God's peace, comfort and direction for all who lost loved ones
- For all those who are home-bound or in nursing facilities
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Thanking God that His Word is Truth amidst the lies of the world.
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- Asking God for faith to stand for His Truth like Daniel's 3 friends !
- Asking God to humble you, seek Him and repent (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- God's protection, wisdom & courage for government leaders
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

After-Worship Prayer Ministry



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

A Minute for Couples...

(From the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Breaking the Habit of Making Excuses

Excuses, excuses. Everyone makes them from time to time, but no one really wants to be known as the person who always has an excuse. It can come off as immature, irresponsible, or defensive— not a good look. While making excuses gets you off the hook in the short-term, doing it habitually can prevent you from growing, evolving, or reaching your full potential in the long run— and it can have the same effect on your marriage.

Excuses can show up in different forms. We might make them for ourselves or for others. Typically we think of them in the context of actions or behaviors— why we did or didn't do something, or for being or not being a certain way ("It's just the way I am.") Similar to defensiveness, making excuses is a defense mechanism that we use to protect ourselves from feeling inadequacy, criticism, shame, or guilt. Also like defensiveness, it can inhibit conflict resolution and perpetuate complacency, ultimately preventing you from being the best spouse you can be.

So what can you do if making excuses is driving a wedge between you and your spouse? Here are some steps to take.

1. Work on your self-awareness.

Increasing self-awareness means learning more about yourself— including your triggers, insecurities, key personality traits, communication style, and how you deal with conflict. When you understand these things about yourself, you'll have more insight into when and why you tend to make excuses. What are some ways to become more self-aware? Keep a journal— it's a great outlet for self-reflection, stress, anxiety, or difficult emotions, and can give you a way to look back on emotional and behavioral patterns. Or take an assessment— from personality tests to strength/weakness finders to your thinking style and so much more, self-assessments can provide insight into what makes you tick in all aspects of your life.

2. Get comfortable with yourself.

Gaining a better understanding of your strengths helps build your self-confidence, which in turn helps you feel more comfortable facing and accepting your shortcomings. It's hard to hear or experience uncomfortable or unflattering truths about ourselves, right? There are often involuntary emotions that bubble up, like defensiveness, anger, shame, and vulnerability. Get comfortable sitting with those feelings;



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That for a day: If your eyes hurt after you drink coffee, take the spoon out of the cup.

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understand that your flaws don't define you. Once you're able to exercise this level of emotional maturity, it lays the groundwork for responding to constructive criticism and feedback in productive ways— and that means fewer excuses.

3. Reflect on your contribution to the problem— and own it.

When you're fighting with your spouse, the natural response is to focus on what they've done, while rationalizing your own actions. As an exercise, try flipping that script: reflect on what you've done to contribute to the conflict, and view their actions through an empathetic lens. Fight the urge to make excuses for yourself. Instead, own up to your mistake and take responsibility for it. Apologize if necessary and ask forgiveness. Consider what you can do better next time.

4. Create emotional safety for each other.

Similar to defensiveness, the tendency to make excuses can be a two-way street. If one or both of you feel like you're going to be judged, shamed, or criticized for admitting your mistakes, you're more likely to want to defend yourself instead. So work on creating a sense of emotional safety for each other to be vulnerable. This might mean being very mindful of your tone or how you're bringing up a topic with them. What you say matters, but so does how you say it. It might also mean resisting the urge to interrupt or reply with a counterpoint or criticism.

Making excuses can be just an occasional tendency that everyone succumbs to now and then. But when it becomes your go-to defense, it can prevent you from being able to work through issues, have vulnerable conversations, and resolve conflict in a healthy way. All of these things are vital to growing together, and that's why working on these steps can greatly benefit your marriage— no excuses!



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 April Meal Makers...



One of the best (and simplest) ways to share Jesus' love is by taking a meal for someone who is going through a tough time.

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

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That for a day: At the rate things are changing, anyone nostalgic for the "good old days" is yearning for last week.

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News from the Link...



APRIL 2025 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

THE FOOD PANTRY

In March, The Food Pantry served **214 households** - including 369 adults, 180 children and 62 seniors-distributing a total of 11,917 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 March, your donations were able to support **66 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 **141 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!

Monthly Music Videos...

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

- My pick for best of the month is "If It Were Up to Me" by Ben Fuller with Carrie Underwood... <https://youtu.be/YT8kyYOgWYI>
- Another great collaboration (that you probably won't hear on Christian radio) is "Bar Named Jesus" by Adam Doleac and Thomas Rhett... <https://youtu.be/ouNDkd7pFVA>
- "Arms Around the Sun" is new from Michael W Smith... https://youtu.be/63laC_A_WWk
- "Where Would I Be" is the debut song from new artist, Peter Burton... <https://youtu.be/h9gePir11ic>
- "Outrun You" is from the brothers in Band Reeves (kind of a blend of Shane & Shane with Florida Georgia Line)... https://youtu.be/lfW9H_T-CLM
- Forrest Frank is quickly becoming the King of Christian dance music. His new song is "Celebration" ... <https://youtu.be/1ORWOJaF9yU>
- The latest song from Cory Ashbury is called "Good For Nothing" ... https://youtu.be/CLhFVs_jzC4
- "Stranger No More" was just released by two of my favorites: Big Daddy Weave and Zack Williams... https://youtu.be/zgX_BqFaGbY
- "Just Jesus" is new from David Leonard and Stephen McWhirter... <https://youtu.be/wRJqZ3vilco>
- Melanie Penn released a song that should become an Easter classic, "Roll That Stone Away" ... <https://youtu.be/acQ4S-HLDNc>
- George Case released "The Only Things That Last" ... https://youtu.be/Qi6TNCNYF_o
- "Give Me Jesus" is the latest song from Hope Darst... <https://youtu.be/havTBIPe2tc>
- Justin Gambino released his first single in two years, "Just Like Jesus" ... <https://youtu.be/66Xu8ZDtB9Y>
- Franni Cash (formerly of We The Kingdom) released a new single, "Wildflowers" ... <https://youtu.be/FN2uPGcd7UQ>
- "What A Love" is the latest from Jon Reddick... <https://youtu.be/buKMXGUYZB0>

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That for a day: The most efficient labor-saving device is still money.

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- "Not Today if a new song from rising Artist, Haley Jones... <https://youtu.be/x5HRshvcCws>
- Tasha Layton just released "Thank You Isn't Enough" ... <https://youtu.be/n5X0R27TQRk>
- New artist Michael Monroe released "I Trust You" ... <https://youtu.be/2hW3BA-yWhM>
- "Testify" is new from Joel Vaughn... <https://youtu.be/kt790zOZdxU>
- Finally, for a change, Christian artist Megan Danielle released a cover of a Jelly Roll song, "Grace" ... <https://youtu.be/uWPC2eb4SYw>

Story Behind The Song...

"I'll Fly Away" is likely the most recorded gospel song of all time. Since its publication in 1932, the song has been recorded by thousands of artists and has sold millions of copies. Today there exist over 5,000 licensed recordings of the song, according to the I'll Fly Away Foundation (yes, that exists), and it has been recorded in countless languages. As it has been for innumerable musicians and music listeners, "I'll Fly Away" has been a treasure of life for me. Not only do I love hearing all its different permutations (from early folk recordings to hip hop renditions in the past decade), but I even confess to singing the words and melody on occasion. I am by no means anything of a singer, but the song is simply so powerful that I truly believe you become more free by singing it.

The man who wrote "I'll Fly Away," Albert Edward Brumley, was born and raised in rural Spiro, Oklahoma before attending the Hartford Musical Institute in Hartford, Arkansas in 1926. Three years later, he returned to Rock Island, Oklahoma (just a few miles from his birthplace) to help his family plant and pick cotton.

Anyone who has performed any bit of farm work understands the intense physical and mental labor involved, so there can be no doubting this quote of Brumley's: "Actually, I was dreaming of flying away from that cotton field when I wrote 'I'll Fly Away.'" Brumley says that as he worked he was "humming the old ballad that went like this: 'If I had the wings of an angel, over these prison walls I would fly,' and suddenly it dawned on me that I could use this plot for a gospel-type song."

The song Brumley described was "The Prisoner's Song" which Johnny

Cash cites as the first country song to ever sell a million records. It was an additional three years later when Brumley worked out the rest of the song, paraphrasing one line from the secular ballad to read, "Like a bird from prison bars has flown" using prison as a metaphor for earthly life.

Brumley continued working on the song until 1931. Finally, in the fall of 1932, the Hartford Music Company published the piece in their songbook *The Wonderful Message*. Brumley has stated, "When I wrote it, I had no idea that it would become so universally popular."

Brumley wrote many popular songs including, "Jesus, Hold My Hand", "Turn Your Radio On", "I'll Meet You in the Morning", and "This World Is Not My Home".

"I'll Fly Away", to its core, is gospel music. The Christian-influenced lyrics rely heavily on the image of departing life, which is full of suffering, and joining God in the afterlife. The words brim with joy, turning the stereotypical fear or sorrow of death completely on its head. In "I'll Fly Away," the prospect of death is a bright one. Because of the prominent lyrics, the vocal element is essential to Brumley's hymn, as is the case with many gospel songs. Finally, the addition of harmony, through individual singers, full choirs, or instrumental accompaniment, round out the piece with that communal spirit reminiscent of church singing.

"I'll Fly Away" is a song, like many traditional spirituals, intended to be sung by anyone and everyone.

Some bright morning when this life is over I'll fly away
To that home on God's celestial shore I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh glory I'll fly away, in the morning
When I die, Hallelujah by and by I'll fly away

When the shadows of this life have gone I'll fly away
Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly I'll fly away

I'll fly away, fly away, oh glory I'll fly away, in the morning
When I die, Hallelujah by and by I'll fly away

Oh, how glad and happy when we meet I'll fly away
No more cold iron shackles on my feet I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh glory I'll fly away, in the morning
When I die, Hallelujah by and by I'll fly away

Just a few more weary days and then I'll fly away
To a land where joys will never end I'll fly away

That for a day: Why do banks charge you a "non-sufficient funds fee" on money they already know you don't have?

I'll fly away, fly away, oh glory I'll fly away, in the morning
When I die, Hallelujah by and by I'll fly away

I'll fly away

It's not stretching the truth to talk about how many recordings of this song exist... From Johnny Cash - <https://youtu.be/uA4JyAONdI> to Bob Marley— <https://youtu.be/MxlzX52-Ajw>
From Alabama— <https://youtu.be/grV3zPU7kdc>
to Allison Krause on the movie "Oh Brother, where Art Thou" - <https://youtu.be/7097C8yKJRA> .
From classic Chuck Wagon Gang—<https://youtu.be/n76Ec8BLBu0>
to Jars of Clay - <https://youtu.be/UEGLGFbPM-8> . Even a new rap version from artist Forrest Frank—<https://youtu.be/bXeDCTNzqI8>
But, my favorite is still probably the mashup from Crowder—
<https://youtu.be/JJ9T6d13zTs>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

