

Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no one else,
for there is no other name under
heaven given to men by which we
must be saved."



August 2026 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...

Questions about retiring...

Why are you retiring?

Ecclesiastes 3:1 pretty much answers that:
"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

36 years ago there were lots of signs indicating that it was time to begin studying for the pastoral ministry. 32 years ago, God directed me to begin that ministry at Shepherd of the Hills in New London. Then it came time to plant a new congregation, New Life, in Spicer. Followed by a time to bring Shepherd of the Hills and New Life together as one congregation, Living Word. Then it came time for a new building. Now, the time is near for a dedicated sanctuary. And there are lots of signs pointing to the need for a younger pastor to lead Living Word into the next phase of its ministry.

When are you retiring?

The end of this year. The current plan is to have the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service be my last service.

Are you moving?

Interestingly, this is the question I've gotten more than any other. We have no immediate plans to move, but our hope is to eventually move somewhere nearer to our kids.

What are you planning to do?

As I mentioned in a sermon a couple weeks ago, my kids have it all planned out for me: I can be an usher at Twins games during the summer and an usher at Wild games during the winter. And during the day I can be a "courtesy car" driver at a Chevy dealership. You know, the person who delivers a loaner car to people's homes and picks up their Corvette to bring to the shop for an oil change. Unfortunately, I envision problems coming up with that job: Customer: "Hey! This Corvette has 150 more miles on it than when you picked it up!" Me: "Oh, that's



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because it's my policy to give every car an extensive test drive - just to make sure everything works as it did when you drove it off the showroom floor. Like, does it still go from 0 to 60 in 4 seconds? (Rest assured, it does!)

As for realistic plans that I have. Our house and land have plenty of things that need work, so that will keep me busy for quite awhile. I'm going to keep recording daily devotions. At some point, I will probably do some fill-in preaching - but not right away. Violet has been my "behind the scenes" assistant for the past 32 years, now it's my turn to return the favor and help her in her new venture of creating fabric and surface designs from her artwork.

How do we go about looking for a new pastor?

Our District President, Rev. Brady Finnern, will be here this Thursday, August 6, at 6:00 p.m. to explain the steps in the process of calling Living Word's next pastor. Everyone is invited to attend that meeting. President Finnern said he wants to keep the meeting fairly brief, so roughly a 7:00 p.m. ending time.

If you aren't able to attend this Thursday's information session, here is a summary from our Circuit Visitor, Rev. David Tilney:

"President Finnern will have one meeting with the congregation in the beginning (August 6). Then, for the most part, the Call Committee will work with me (Rev. Tilney). The vacancy pastor will provide pastoral care to the congregation. They are welcome to contact either of us at any time."

Rev. Tilney will be on vacation during August, but can be reached after that at his cell 218-206-5825 or by email: dmtilney@hotmail.com

Rev. Tilney referenced a "vacancy pastor." This is typically a retired pastor or pastor from a nearby congregation (or a combination of the two) who will lead worship and classes and attend meetings. I've been in contact with a retired pastor who lives in New London, Rev. Terry Bramsted, about the possibility of serving as Living Word's vacancy pastor. He is currently serving a vacancy in Fair Haven, but is hopeful they will have received a full-time pastor by the time we need a vacancy pastor.

Please don't hesitate to keep asking questions whenever they come up.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Mark Your Calendar...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, August 13th @ 6:30 p.m.

Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

Call Process Meeting

With our District President, Brady Finner

Thursday, August 6th @ 6:00

All members are invited to attend.



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August Fellowship Outings...

Celebrate Birthdays:

Tuesday, August 4th @ 11:00 a.m.

Mariscos tacos el Viejon

913 Highway 71 NE, Willmar



Movie Night

Wednesday, August 12th

7:00—9:00 PM

Movie: "Me"

Fellowship Supper:

Thursday, August 20th @ 6:00

At Queen Bee's

121 James St W., Paynesville



**Queen Bee's
Bar & Grill**

Would anyone be interested in a **Wellness Program**?

The class is called "Living Stronger Longer".

It involved a motivational speaker named Marcus McCleery. He weighed 400 lbs. in 2009 and lost over 200 lbs. He wants to share his story with us if we will have him!

Please sign up at church.

Trap Shooting Fellowship 2026...

Every other Tuesday in Summer:

@ 6:30 p.m. (Come early to eat at 6:15)

This month: Tues, Aug 11th & Aug 2th



That for a day: In my experience, adulthood is mostly piling up stuff on surfaces and then eventually having to clean those surfaces.

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Tuesday's Table...

Living Word will be hosting Tuesday's Table on Tuesday, September 29th (a fifth Tuesday).

We will need food for approximately 100 people. We will also need help for Tuesday afternoon set up and serving on Tuesday evening as well.

If you are interesting in helping in any way, please contact Tammy Miller at 320-05-2434. Thanks.



**TUESDAY'S
TABLE**
COMMUNITY, FOOD
& FELLOWSHIP

Altar Guild...

Anyone Interested in Helping with Altar Guild ???

Please talk to Mona Hjelle to get more info. Thanks!



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 :

- "Answers in Genesis" magazines
- Kid's books
- August Newsletters
- July-Sept Portals of Prayer
- Hand-Made Crosses to hang on your wall

And if you - or your kids- don't have a Bible, please take one from the Coffee Cart.



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>



- July 5 "Jesus gives us ultimate freedom. Exercise it!"
- July 12 "Point people to Jesus - by being different: Trust God when everyone else is worried."
- June 19 "Point people to Jesus - by generously sharing the gifts He's given you."
- June 26 "God calls us to simply trust that He knows what He's doing - even when we don't understand."

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. 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 office.



Portals of Prayer.

July—September issue
Are in Mailboxes and on the Table by the Door



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Thot for a day: If one teacher can't teach all the subjects why do they expect one student to learn all subjects?

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Living Word Phone App...

We are working on a phone app for the church. It should make it easier to view videos, events, and share notices and information. You are welcome to install the app and try it out. Go to wherever you get your phone apps (Google Play, Apple Store, etc.) and download the **Our Church Body** app, sign up as a member, and search for Living Word Lutheran Church. Your membership will need to be approved, but once that is done you can look around and try out the features that have been activated.

We are still in the process of getting everything set up, but please check the app out and let us know what you think about it.



Living Word Blog...

Have some spare time? Check out the Living Word Blog. This site was started in 2012 and became very active during the COVID period. It has recently been revived for posting articles, devotions, music, and general topics of Christian interest.

Look over some of the recent posts and check out anything that may be of interest to you.

<https://livingwordlutheranlms.blogspot.com/>



LWML News:

LWML will not meet in August
Next meeting on September 9th @ 10:00 a.m.

SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

A huge thank you to all who have donated! This is an on-going fundraiser for Lutheran Island Camp. Please continue to bring your good used shoes, slippers, or boots to church.



For more photos visit the Living Word Facebook page...
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131798513523470>



Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study
On hiatus for the summer.



Men's Study
"The Gospel of Mark"
6:30 p.m.
Wed Aug 5th & Tues Aug 18th
(pre-study meat at 6:15)



Monthly Morning Women's Study:
Is on break for the summer.
Next Study on Wed, September 9th @ 10:00

Confirmation News...

Our 6th and 7th graders will be studying the Basics of Christianity this year.



Parents' Meeting - Wednesday, September 2 @ 6:00

Yep, it's been hot!



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Thot for a day: Dear God: I have a problem. It's me

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Living Word's 2026 Goals Update...

- Continue the Make A Meal program.
We made more meals on June 20th
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper
August 4th—Birthdays
August 20th—Fellowship Supper
- Continue the Birthday Card/Anniversary ministry
Ongoing
- Challenge every member to bring a guest this year
Pray about who you can invite to join you for any of our June Fellowship Outings
- Enlist Youth and Young Adults to help with our
"Visitors (and members) Coffee Cart"
- Initiate the "Prayer D-Fence" Program
(Adults "adopting" a kid to pray for, send cards etc....)
Prayers began in June praying for the young people they have been assigned
- Enlist younger members to help with the Building Project
Summer 2026
- Host Tuesday's Table
Coming September 2026
- Chili Cook-Off
Held on Friendship Sunday, February 15th
- Host another Block Party or Community Festival
This will depend on our building project
- Coordinating with Redeemer, Willmar and St. John, Atwater to host joint youth events
Ongoing
- Continue growing our active Youth numbers
- Offer support and encouragement to the Parents of Youth
Ongoing
- Keep the church yard looking nice and continue to de-clutter the storage areas inside **Ongoing**
- Parking Lot maintenance
After the Building Project is complete
- Encourage participation in Sunday School
3rd Graders got Bibles on March 22nd



Update From The Link...



What a few weeks it has been at The Link!

Our hearts are full as we look back on everything that's happened recently.

First, **Ribfest 2026** was an incredible success! Even with the summer heat, our community showed up in a big way, helping us raise an amazing \$36,274.03 to support The Link's mission. We simply couldn't do it without our sponsors, rib teams, volunteers, silent auction donors, in-kind supporters, and everyone who joined us for the day. Your generosity, time, and encouragement make a lasting difference for the families, children, and seniors we serve. Thank you for making Ribfest another unforgettable success!

We've also reached an exciting milestone in our **Building Renovation Campaign**. Since launching in November 2025, your incredible support has helped us raise \$354,759.35! While the cost of renovating an older building has increased due to a few unexpected surprises, your generosity gave us the confidence to begin construction. We'll continue raising funds to help cover the remaining costs, but we're thrilled to finally see this long-awaited project become a reality.

As soon as Ribfest ended, our volunteers rolled up their sleeves once again—this time to move our entire food pantry to its temporary home in Spicer. Thanks to an amazing team of volunteers, the move went remarkably smoothly, allowing us to continue serving families without interruption.

On June 22, we opened our temporary location in the former **MAC Hardware building in Spicer**. We are incredibly grateful to MAC Hardware for providing us with a welcoming space to continue serving our community during renovations.

Construction officially began on July 6, and we're excited to see the transformation already taking shape. If you've driven by, you've probably noticed a few changes! We can't wait to share the finished space with you and continue serving our community in a building that better meets the growing needs of our neighbors.

None of this would be possible without you. Whether you've volunteered, donated, attended an event, prayed for our mission, or simply shared our story, **YOU are The Link**. Thank you for walking alongside us as we continue creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to one another.

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Thot for a day: Being a functional adult every single day seems a bit excessive.

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Summer Worship Time: 9:00 a.m.
Runs Through Labor Day Weekend
 (Worship returns to 10:00 a.m. on September 13)

Thank You from the Jastrams..

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

Read the current newsletter at:

<https://tinyurl.com/3e7c9d5x>



(See Luke 15)

10-18-2013

YOU ALL SAY I SHOULD TAKE BETTER CARE OF MYSELF IF I WANT PEOPLE TO RESPECT ME, YET WHO'S THE FIRST CALF THAT THE PRODIGAL SON WANTS TO SEE AS SOON AS HE CAME HOME? NOT YOU DUDES, THAT'S WHO!

Building Committee Update...

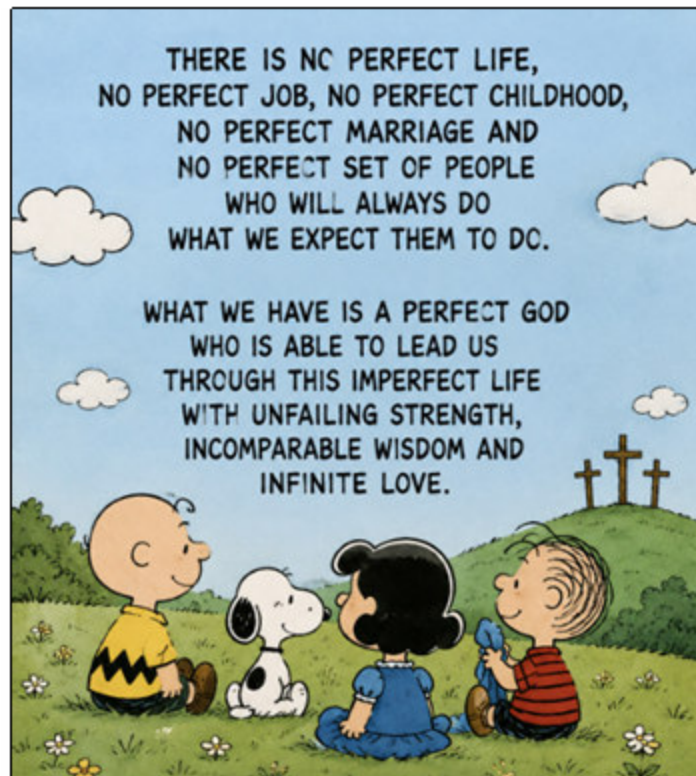
Check out the new computerized drawings on the table by the entry door at church.

Money in CDs and Building Account: \$267,000

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

The BUILDING TEAM met with an architect about specific design plans last month. They should have the architect's recommendations back and will be reviewing them on Tuesday, August 4 at 6:00 p.m.

If you have suggestions for the Committee to consider, please talk to a Committee Member (or just come to a meeting)!



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Thot for a day: If you ever walk by my house and you hear yelling, it's not really yelling. It's motivational speaking for those who can't listen.

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Email Humor...

A wealthy old lady decides to go on a photo safari in Africa and takes her faithful pet dachshund along for company. One day, the dachshund starts chasing butterflies and, before long, discovers that he is lost.

Wandering about, he notices a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the obvious intention of having lunch. The dachshund thinks, "OK, I'm in deep trouble now!" Then he notices some bones on the ground nearby, and immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat.

Just as the leopard is about to leap, the dachshund exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard. I wonder if there are any more around here." Hearing this, the leopard halts his attack in mid-stride and a look of terror comes over him. The leopard slinks away into the trees and says to himself, "Whew! That was close. That dachshund nearly had me."

Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection, so he takes off after the leopard. But the dachshund sees him heading after the cat and figures something must be up.

The monkey soon catches up with the leopard, spills the beans and strikes a deal with the leopard. The leopard is furious at being made a fool of, and says, "Here monkey, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine."

The dachshund sees the leopard coming toward him, with the monkey on his back, and thinks, "What am I going to do now?" Instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet. Just when they get close enough to hear, the dachshund says, "Where's that monkey? I sent him off half an hour ago to bring me another leopard!"

...who knew dachshunds were that smart?

"Participate" in Worship from home...

If you can't be here in person: Watch on our YouTube channel with Sunday services being livestreamed at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VvIJEU22yCYxbhwig/featured>

August 2026 - Daily Readings

We continue our **Summer Reading: The Book of Acts** - a Manual for all believers.

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 AUG 2 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

Aug 3 Acts 8:4-8 _____

Aug 4 Acts 8:9-25 _____

Aug 5 Acts 8:26-38 _____

Aug 6 Acts 8:39-40 _____

Aug 7 Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs _____

WEEK OF AUG 9 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

Aug 10 Acts 9:1-9 _____

Aug 11 Acts 9:10-19 _____

Aug 12 Acts 9:20-31 _____

Aug 13 Acts 9:32-42 _____

Aug 14 Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs _____

WEEK OF AUG 16 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

Aug 17 Acts 10:1-8 _____

Aug 18 Acts 10:9-16 _____

Aug 19 Acts 10:17-23 _____

Aug 20 Acts 10:24-48 _____

Aug 21 Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs _____

WEEK OF AUG 23 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

Aug 24 Acts 11:1-24 _____

Aug 25 Acts 11:25-30 _____

Aug 26 Acts 12:1-18 _____

Aug 27 Acts 12:19-25 _____

Aug 28 Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs _____

WEEK OF AUG 30 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

Aug 31 Acts 13:1-12 _____

Sept 1 Acts 13:13-43 _____

Sept 2 Acts 13:44-52 _____

Sept 3 Acts 14:1-7 _____

Sept 4 Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs _____

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

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

August 2026 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 2 9:00 - WORSHIP with Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	3	4 11:00 Celebrate AUG BIRTHDAYS @ Mariscos tacos, Willmar 6:00 - BUILDING COMMITTEE	5 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6 6:00 - CALL-PROCESS MEETING w/DISTRICT PRES.	7	8
9 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	10	11  6:30 - TRAP SHOOTING	12	13 3:00 - CHESS CLUB 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	14	15
16 9:00 - WORSHIP with Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	17	18 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	19	20 6:00 FELLOWSHIP OUTING @ Queen Bee's Paynesville	21	22
23 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	24	25  6:30 - TRAP SHOOTING	26	27	28	29
Lord's Supper Dates - Sunday August 2nd - Sunday, August 16th						
30 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	31	Sept 1 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	Sept 2 6:00 - CONFIRMATION PARENTS MEETING	Sept 3	Sept 4	Sept 5

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.



Usher Schedule

Aug 2	Jim & Torasie Larson
Aug 9	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Aug 16	Larry Levin Gerry Butler
Aug 23	Pam Johnson & Linda Van Meter
Aug 30	(Ushers Needed)

USHERS NEEDED

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

Elders

Aug 2, 9	Scott & Duane
Aug 16, 23, 30	Dan & Kevin

Custodian

August -	Pam Johnson
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Altar Guild

August -	Mona Hjelle
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Accompanying Musicians

Aug 2	Sharon Willen
Aug 9	Scott Wachter
Aug 16	Sharon Willen
Aug 23	Scott Wachter
Aug 30	Scott Wachter



Opportunities to Serve...



Custodian Volunteers Needed.

Pick Your Month for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian.

All months after August are available.

Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to find out more details.

Thanks to Pam Johnson for taking August

Mission & Ministry Team...

We need suggestions for people to fill the open Mission and Ministry Team positions listed above. Please pray about filling one of them yourself or talk to our MMT members about someone you see whom God has prepared for one of these positions. Thanks!

- Vice Chair (OPEN)
- Stewardship- (OPEN)
- Elders: (ONE OPEN)
- Christian Growth - Youth (OPEN)

Make-A-Meal Program...

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

Please grab some meals from the freezer at church to take to someone who needs to know Jesus cares!



Seen on Church Signboards...

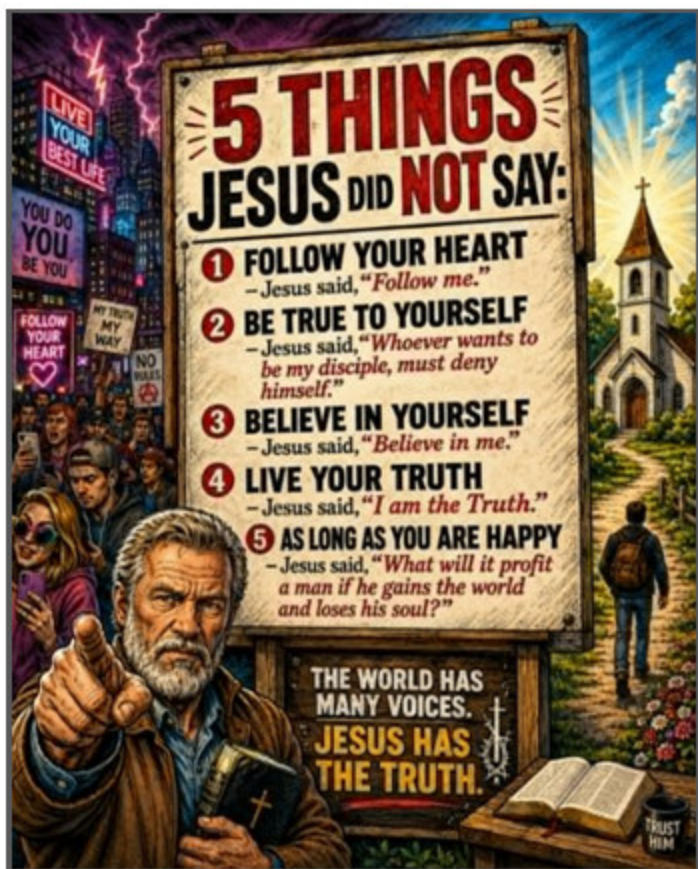
LIFE CAN BE A PUZZLE

LOOK HERE FOR THE MISSING PEACE

August Discipleship Verse...

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."
Acts 4:12

Email Wisdom...



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

Read God's Manual for Believers (Book of Acts)

(It's chock-full of examples of how the Holy Spirit empowers believers for life as a Christian)

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

You'll find the readings listed on our Daily Readings pages 16 & 17

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Thot for a day: Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.

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More E-mail Wisdom...



If you are interested in finding out more about Living Word or about becoming a member, please let Pastor know - and which of the possible dates work for you.

Possible dates and times:

Thursday evening: 6:00 - 8:30 OR Saturday morning: 9:30 - noon

Thank God For...

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

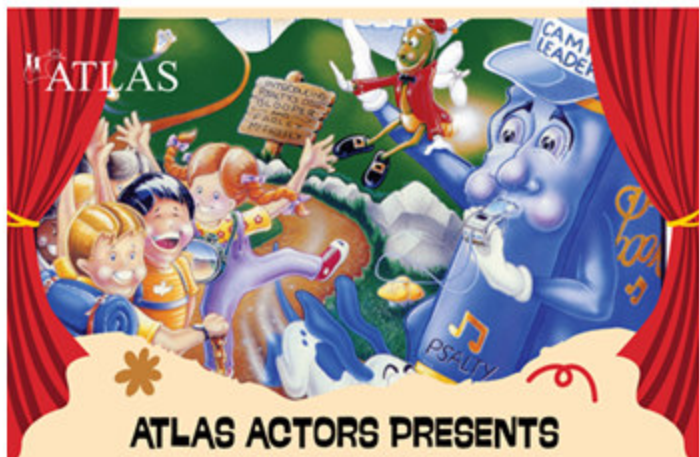
In July we thanked God for...

- 250 Years of Freedom in the USA
- Parades and Fireworks
- VBS

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



Around the Community...



**ATLAS ACTORS PRESENTS
PSALTY'S CAMPING ADVENTURE**

Explore performance, storytelling, and stage creativity in a dynamic group setting. Kids ages 6-14
Open to performers and creatives of all levels.

ACTING * LEARNING * FUN

Upcoming Sessions:
AUGUST 10-21 MON-FRI 2-5PM

Performance held on August 21. All practices and performance will be held at Community Christian School in Willmar.

Register at: atlaswcmn.org/events OR by calling 320-441-2250

Tuesdays
7/14-8/4

Time: 5PM-9PM
Location: Robbins
Island Regional Park
Cost: Free to attend

Rockin' Robbins

Rockin' Robbins is a summer concert series featuring live performances from regional bands and headlining musical acts. In addition to the music attendees can enjoy food vendors, family activities, and a dedicated kids zone with inflatables and a climbing wall. The atmosphere is relaxed and community-oriented, bringing together families, music fans, and local residents for evenings of outdoor entertainment.

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That for a day: You don't realize how old you are until you sit on the floor and then try to get back up.

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KANDIYOHI COUNTY FAIR

Kandiyohi County Fair
August 5-8th, 2026

Come enjoy the contests, food, singing, food, dancing, food, races and other grandstand entertainment and, of course, the food!

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

2026 New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run

Join us for the 40th Anniversary New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run
August 5-8th, 2026

<https://antiquecarrun.org/>



Spicer Community Wood Fired Pizza Oven



The Giving Oven at Faith Lutheran Church
310 Medayto Drive
Spicer, 56288

Quality woodfired pizzas baked Wednesday nights in June, July and August. Sharing the profits with local non-profits who help us make these summer nights possible.

Wednesdays in August
4:30 to 7:00

<https://spicercommunitywoodfiredpizza.com/>

Email Inspiration...

Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favorite pier.

Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. The glow of the sun is a golden bronze now.

Everybody's gone, except for a few joggers on the beach. Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts...and his bucket of shrimp.

Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier.

In no time, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering and flapping wildly. Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, 'Thank you. Thank you.'

In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave. He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place.

When he finally turns around and begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs, and then they, too, fly away. And old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home.

If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem like 'a funny old duck,' as my dad used to say. Or, to onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp.

To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportantmaybe even a lot of nonsense.

Old folks often do strange things, at least in the eyes of Boomers and Millennials.

Most of them would probably write Old Ed off, down there in Florida ... That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better.

His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero in World War I, and then he was in WWII. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a

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That for a day: If life is unfair to everyone, doesn't that actually make it fair?

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life raft.

Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger and thirst. By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were or even if they were alive.

Every day across America millions wondered and prayed that Eddie Rickenbacker might somehow be found alive.

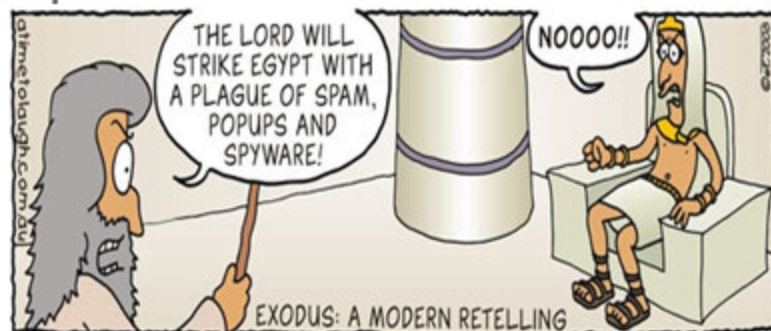
The men adrift needed a miracle. That afternoon they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle.

They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his military cap over his nose. Time dragged on. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft...suddenly Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull!

Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal of it - a very slight meal for eight men. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait....and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued after 24 days at sea.

Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first life-saving seagull... And he never stopped saying, 'Thank you.' That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude.

Reference: (Max Lucado, "In The Eye of the Storm", pp...221, 225-226



A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Celebrating the Small Steps in Marriage

We often talk about appreciating the little things – the sound of your kids laughing, your favorite comfort meal, or a hug from your spouse after a long day. What's harder to notice? The small things we pass by when our sights are set on something bigger. A rainbow is beautiful, but what if there was a pot of gold at the end of it? Would you still take time to appreciate the colorful path leading up to the treasure?

Marriage is a work in progress. Ideally, you and your spouse are continuously working to keep your relationship strong, growing together both as individuals and as a couple. Striving to be your best is admirable, but are you acknowledging the small markers of progress along the way? Let's explore some examples and why it's important.

Household management -

Keeping your household running smoothly can feel like trial and error. Things might be working well in one area, while issues pop up in others. This might result in one or both of you deciding it's time to try a new way of doing things. Let's say the laundry situation at your house feels inefficient and never-ending. Clean clothes never get put away in a timely manner, dirty stuff is scattered throughout the house, and there's no rhyme or reason to when laundry gets done. You and your spouse agree to try a new system, which will require mindful effort from both of you. A few days into the trial run, you notice your spouse doing their best to incorporate some of the changes you talked about. You could say nothing. Or you could make a point to acknowledge their effort – that you see it and appreciate that they're trying their best, especially if you know it's not their typical way. Now think about if the tables were turned, with your spouse providing meaningful acknowledgment of your effort. It feels good, right? You may not have completely solved the laundry problem, but you're working as a team to get there – that deserves recognition.

Working on your relationship -

Imagine you've been feeling a little disconnected from each other lately. After a good discussion, you decide you want to work harder at sharing emotions and having conversations that go deeper than just practical logistics. Soon after, you notice your spouse asking you more inquisitive questions and seeming more emotionally present when you're spending time together. In addition to reciprocating the effort, you can let them know how much it means that they're invested in



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That for a day: It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

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your marriage and showing that through their actions. This type of relationship work is ongoing throughout your marriage. While you'll have seasons when things are going great, there's not really an end point – making acknowledgment of progress along the way all the more important.

Goals -

Whether you're on a personal mission to improve your health, are saving money for a new car, or you're working toward the next big step in your career, there's a good chance you're working to reach a goal in some area of your life. Achieving what you set out to do is no walk in the park. Most of the time, it requires persistence and discipline, and you'll probably hit some roadblocks along the way. Maybe it's logging a new personal best while training for a marathon or hitting a certain amount of money saved. While these might not be your end goal, taking a moment to celebrate reaching mini goals or markers of progress along the way has a way of buoying you along when you're struggling. It gives you a little boost of motivation to keep going.

We can't deny that it's exhilarating and satisfying to reach a goal. But the truth is, the time you spend "in progress" typically outweighs the time you spend at the finish line, so why not appreciate the scenic overlooks along the way? When it comes to your marriage, acknowledging these small steps shows you see and appreciate each other's effort and reinforces your team mentality. Leaning into this positive perspective sparks gratitude and bolsters resilience, helping you weather the hard times and making the good times all the more sweet.

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in August on the first and third Sundays (Aug 2nd & 16th)



Reminders:

- Wine - is in the two outer rings of the individual-cup tray
Grape Juice - is in the inner ring of the individual-cup tray
- **Gluten-free bread wafers are available** for those who have gluten-sensitive conditions. You will find these wafers in a separate cup in the communion tray.
- Those who are not comfortable coming to the altar should inform an Elder or Usher, and communion will be brought to you in your pew.



Prayer D-Fence...

The Prayer D-Fence is Up!

Prayer D-Fence is our new ministry of praying for the Kids, Youth and Young Adults of our congregation.

Prayer is one of the powerful weapons (along with His Word) that God has given us to fight Satan and his temptations:

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18

Last month Prayer D-Fence coordinator Tammy Miller matched up pray-ers with the young people they will be praying for.

Thank You So Much to Everyone on the D-Fence!

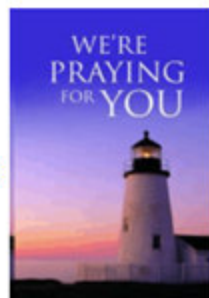


We Prayed for You...

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.



After-Worship Prayer Ministry



We have people who will pray with you or for you after Sunday service. They gather for prayer near the piano, just meet them there.

Also, we're always looking for a few more people who have a passion for praying!!! Talk to Tammy Miller if interested.

Prayer Force...

Remember to use "The Prayer Force"

Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email

(dvdauk@tds.net) prayer requests to Pastor David for the Prayer Force prayer chain to include in their prayers. Thanks!



And an Invitation to Join our "Prayer Force"

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

Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

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

Remember to take a time-out to PRAY for things like...

- Asking God to continue to build the faith of all the VBS kids
- Thanking God for everyone who brought kids or helped with VBS
- Thanking God for Summer - and asking for safety in summer travels
- Asking God's direction as we begin our pastor search
- Asking God's continued guidance for our Building Committee
- Asking for courage to follow where God guides -trusting He will provide
- God to show you who you can Invite to any of our Fellowship Events
- God to open everyone's heart to accept your invitations
- Asking God to raise up people to fill our open MMT positions.
- For God to provide a smooth transition from summer to school.
- Asking God for continued good weather for the growing season.
- Asking God for healing for all who have lost loved ones.
- Asking God's wisdom and guidance for your decisions (BIG and small)
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did - with sacrifice
- Asking God to open people's eyes to see that Jesus is what they need
- For all those who are home-bound or in nursing facilities
- 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 Hope Pregnancy Center in Willmar
- The ministry of House of Hope - Madagascar
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

Monthly Music Videos...

Too many new songs to list them all. Here are my favorites...

- "Life" by Peter Burton... https://youtu.be/UezLDS_G_sU
- "What If I Told You" by for King & Country... <https://youtu.be/4TtDIYU9s>
- "Grace Happened" by Micah Christopher... <https://youtu.be/7BP9JrGQpGO>
- "Narrow" by Cade Thompson... <https://youtu.be/V6IDMKZVcMw>
- "How To Forgive" by Band Reeves... <https://youtu.be/H0it2ihE85w>
- "When I Pray" by Tate Butts... <https://youtu.be/vayKaejiwPM>
- "Back To Jesus" by Matthew West... <https://youtu.be/2eIN7UvgMlg>
- "My Hope" by Caleb & John... <https://youtu.be/p3H2EV9sQKs>
- "Room For You" by We Are Messengers... <https://youtu.be/BITUy5mYY>
- "Only Ever" by Cory Ashbury... https://youtu.be/f9G_NI3Hv0Y
- "Blame Jesus" by Drew Parker with Steven Curtis Chapman... <https://youtu.be/WtMgWmslqM>
- "The Real Thing" by Danny Gokey... https://youtu.be/f0vmq4ZV_E4
- "Eve Of A Mirade" by the Afters... <https://youtu.be/QbEFil2I3sY>
- "Everyday Hallelujah" by Phil Wickham... <https://youtu.be/t3kJTeuMmac>
- "Through the Fire" by Jason Crabb... <https://youtu.be/7YrTbS5uoMc>
- "Maker's Mark" by Anne Wilson & Dre Baldridge... <https://youtu.be/mpLQ2irNGyw>
- "Wild Ones" by Unspoken... <https://youtu.be/sN072IUgPOE>
- "Bye, Bye" by Seph Schlueter... <https://youtu.be/N1ksmIX7KNQ>
- "Home Again" by Julie Poe, Reagan James Broome, Lost & Found... <https://youtu.be/-w4fcicB74s>
- "Promised Land" by Drew & Ellie Holcomb and NeedToBreathe... <https://youtu.be/fdthZEz89q4>
- "Different Kinda Love" by Ryan Steven son... <https://youtu.be/5-sKvv8Nak>
- "Praise The Lord Forever" by Phil Wickham and Pat Barrett... <https://youtu.be/kF-7DlzE8JA>

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Thot for a day: I ate a kid's meal at McDonald's today. His mom got really angry.

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- "One Direction" by Lost & Found... <https://youtu.be/TzvcHQQx2Bs>
- "The Day Is Coming" by David Leonard... <https://youtu.be/Q0uH5A1ggVw>
- "Me and Jesus" by Anne Wilson... <https://youtu.be/miVaggoGXAo>
- "Buy A Bible For A Boy" by Cody Johnson... <https://youtu.be/H03J62wIAOQ>
- "Never Gonna Die" by Crowder... <https://youtu.be/pacid0oAuXg>
- "Spirit Of The Living God" by Josh Baldwin... https://youtu.be/6iQ6BXT0r_g
- "The War I'm In" by Sanctus Real... <https://youtu.be/aledEL5Arfs>
- "Amazing!" by Elevation Rhythm & Josiah Queen... <https://youtu.be/30lZMGp7KQl>
- "Road Less Traveled" by Joe L Barnes & Seph Schlueter... <https://youtu.be/FilBg8xaD3U>
- "The Real Thing" by Frannie Cash... <https://youtu.be/tiOf3XNng>
- "Green Pastures" by Leanna Crawford... https://youtu.be/mN6_A_6q_ME
- "Different Story" by Christian Hohn... <https://youtu.be/Ujnd9XWh8w0>
- "Lord It Feels Good" by Toby Mac... <https://youtu.be/aTGfoWWSU68>



Story Behind The Song...

"Nearer My God To Thee" was written by Sarah Flower Adams, who was born in Harrow in England in 1805. Her father was the editor of quite a radical newspaper—he even got arrested for some of the things that were published. So maybe this explains why she had such a way with words, being surrounded by words growing up.

Adams wrote this song at the request of her minister, Reverend W. J. Johnson Fox, who approached her sister Eliza and her to write some songs for their church. He was compiling a new hymnal to be used for their congregation, and there were a few gaps in the hymnal that he wanted to fill. So he asked for their help—not only to compile it (because Eliza was a particularly good musician) but to write some new songs to be used.

One day, as they were doing this, the minister said to these ladies that

he was struggling with a sermon. He couldn't find a fitting song to go with the sermon that he was writing, and his theme was from Genesis 28—the story of Jacob having a dream of the ladder going between heaven and earth, with the angels going up and down on the ladder. So Eliza said to her sister Sarah, "Why don't you write something? Why don't you go look at this text and write something that would be fitting to put in the hymnal?" She did exactly that. She went and spent a long time studying the text closely. When she was done, she wrote this song—all five verses that we know now.

The song quickly became popular in the Unitarian congregation that she was a part of, and that's where the controversy comes in. Because she was part of a Unitarian church, unitarians believe that God is not three in one. They say there's one God because God said that clearly in the Old Testament. Jesus was His Son but not one with Him in any sort of divine way, and the Spirit is not a separate entity but the spirit is part of God.

But if you look closely at the words, there's nothing there that doesn't make sense to the normal Christian. Sure, it lacks words about Jesus—that doesn't mean you can't sing it. So most churches began to sing this one, and it's had a deep impact on people's lives.

In fact, the US President William McKinley, who was assassinated in 1901, loved this song, and it is said that as he lay there dying, he whispered these words: "Nearer, my God to Thee." The song was then played at his funeral.

The most famous story associated with this hymn comes from the day the Titanic sank in 1912. Survivors have claimed that as the final section of the big boat started to sink into the water, the band started to play—and they started to play this tune. Haunting story. Some people don't believe it; other people swear by it.

Sarah Flower Adams died at the age of 43. She died a few years after writing it, after a brief illness. But her words go on through this hymn that endures because it's very deep and very powerful and, very comforting.

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
still all my song shall be,
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,
darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
yet in my dreams I'd be

nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

There let the way appear, steps unto heaven;
all that thou sendest me, in mercy given;
angels to beckon me
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Then, with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise,
out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
so by my woes to be
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Or if, on joyful wing deaving the sky,
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,
still all my song shall be,
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

The classic performance by the great Anne Murray...
<https://youtu.be/e8aVmvQkU8>

