Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS

November 2026 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
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Questions for Pastor...

"What does 'bless' mean?"

There are lots of words we use in church - and words we find in the Bible - that we use so often, it's just assumed that everyone knows what they mean. Words like "redeem" and "atone" and "righteousness" to name just a very few.

There's a spot on the confirmation students' "Sermon Notes" sheet where they can write down words they heard in the service that they don't understand. "Bless" was one of the recent words. The specific reference was to the benediction (there's another word!) that I speak over the congregation at the end of the service,

The benediction uses the same words God told Aaron to use in blessing the people in Number 6:24-26.

"The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

The Hebrew word that we translate as "bless" literally means "to give the ability for success." When God blesses us, He is giving us the good things He knows we need for a successful life. Three things are mentioned in the rest of the blessing:

1. His favor (His face 'shining' on/smiling over us),
2. His grace (giving good things we don't deserve), and
3. His peace (that comes from knowing we have been made right with Him by His grace - through Jesus' death.)

Those probably aren't the three things we would list as the top three keys to a successful life, but God is the One who knows what makes for a

successful life.

That may be a bit detailed, so to keep it simple, just remember this: "When God 'blesses' us, that means He gives us good things." (Which we often call "blessings.")

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Remember to vote on Tuesday...

I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

Philippians 1:23

"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-VvlJEU22yCYxbhwjg/featured

Mark Your Calendar...

Mission & Ministry Team
Thursday, November 12th @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT
This month we finalize the 2027 Goals and Budget

Fall Voter's Assembly
Sunday, November 22nd (after worship)
We approve goals and budget for 2027

November Fellowship Outings...

Celebrate Birthdays:

Tuesday, November 10th @ 11:00 a.m.
Westwood Café
in Spicer

Fellowship Supper:

Thursday, November 19th @ 6:00 p.m.
Mi Rancho Viejo
In Kerkhoven

Operation Christmas Child...

DEDICATION SUNDAY November 15th !

The congregation and the children are invited to participate in "Operation Christmas Child". Dedication Sunday for this mission will be Sunday, November 16, with brochures, boxes and labels provided at church.

Deadline for the boxes to be brought back to church, will be Wednesday, November 18th. If you need more info, go to www.samaritanspurse.org

Thank you for partnering with Samaritans Purse, as we share God's love with children around the world.

New Member Class...

Please let Pastor know if you're interested in finding out more about Living Word, and he will schedule another Membership Information Class.

Thot for a day: It's better to grow old with a sense of humor than to grow old with no sense at all.

Thanksgiving Eve Service...

Wednesday,
November 25
@ 6:30 p.m.

A special Thank-offering will be collected:

God commanded the Israelites to come to the temple once a year for a joyful celebration of the blessings God provided in the harvest. This harvest festival was called The Feast of Weeks.

Then celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you. Deuteronomy 16:10

With that in mind we will come together on Thanksgiving Eve for a special joyful celebration of the blessings God has provided us. We're each encouraged to bring a special freewill offering in proportion to how God has blessed us this past year.

Please pray about your Thank-offering proportion. Use the special Thank-Offering envelope to make your Thank-Offering. (Your yearly Thank-Offerings can be given any Sunday, if you are not able to attend the Thanksgiving Eve service.)

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."
King David in 1 Chronicles 29:14

Thanksgiving Pie Fellowship...

Thanksgiving Pie
(and other desserts)
After Thanksgiving Eve Service

We are serving pie (pumpkin, etc.) and other desserts after the Thanksgiving Eve service.

A sign-up sheet will be posted for those who wish to help serve, or bring a pie or dessert. Thanks!

Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Bible Study
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
Please join us for coffee and study of Genesis

Men's Study
"The Gospel of Mark"
Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
(no study on Election Day, Nov 3rd)
(Join us for pre-study meal at 6:15)

Monthly Morning Women's Study:
Wednesday, November 11th @ 10:00
The Bible Study will be "Serve in Christ's Love".
All women are invited!

Confirmation News...

- **6-7th Confirmation classes:**
  6:00 p.m. Each Wednesday
  (except for Thanksgiving Eve)

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

Prepare for Thanksgiving by reading passages about Giving Thanks

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

Opportunities to Serve...

Custodian Volunteers Needed.
Pick Your Month for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian.
November & December are available.
Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to find out more details.

Anyone Interested in Helping with Altar Guild ?
Please talk to Mona Hjelle to get more info. Thanks!

Thot for a day: If you have a difficult task, give it to a lazy person. They will find an easier way to do it.

Living Word's 2026 Goals Update...

- Continue the Make A Meal program.
  We will make more meals in November
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper
  November 10th—Birthdays
  November 19th—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 worship or one of our fellowship outings.
- Enlist Youth and Young Adults to help with our "Visitors (and members) Coffee Cart"
  Confirmation students will help with this
- 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
  Spring 2027
- Host Tuesday's Table
  Done on September 29th
- Chili Cook-Off
  Held on Friendship Sunday, February 15th
- Host another Block Party or Community Festival
  This will depend on our building project
- Continue growing our active Youth numbers
  Youth Director needed
- Offer support and encouragement to the Parents of Youth
  Ongoing
- Keep the church yard looking nice and maintain interior repairs
  Ongoing
- Parking Lot maintenance
  After the Building Project is complete
- Encourage participation in Sunday School
  Sunday School began Sept 13th

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
- November Newsletters
- Oct-Dec 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

Oct 4 - "Stop with the excuses and just do what God says!"
Oct 11 - ""Lessons from Shadrak, Meshak and Abednego"
Oct 18 - "Jesus' Victory Gives Us Freedom to Enjoy the Game
Oct 25 - "Some Basic- and really important - truths from God"

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.
October—December issue
Are in Mailboxes and on the Table by the Door

Thot for a day: Do you give as much energy to your dreams as you do to your fears?

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://livingwordlutheranlcms.blogspot.com/

LWML...

LWML News:
Wednesday, November 11th, at 10:00 a.m. at church. The Bible Study will be "Serve in Christ's Love".

SHOES FOR MISSIONS:
A huge thank you to all who have donated! This is an on-going fund-raiser for Lutheran Island Camp. Please continue to bring your good used shoes, slippers, or boots to church. Shoe collection box is under the mailboxes at church.

E-mail Wisdom...

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

Where there is strife, there is pride,
but wisdom is found in those who take advice. Proverbs 13:10

Whoever scorns instruction will pay for it,
but whoever respects a command is rewarded. Proverbs 13:13

Walk with the wise and become wise,
for a companion of fools suffers harm. Proverbs 13:20

The wise fear the Lord and shun evil,
but a fool is hotheaded and yet feels secure. Proverbs 14:16

It is a sin to despise one's neighbor,
but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy. Proverbs 14:21

A heart at peace gives life to the body,
but envy rots the bones. Proverbs 14:30

Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker,
but whoever is kind to the needy honors God. Proverbs 14:31

A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1

Better a little with the fear of the Lord
than great wealth with turmoil. Proverbs 15:16

A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict,
but the one who is patient calms a quarrel. Proverbs 15:18

All a person's ways seem pure to them,
but motives are weighed by the Lord. Proverbs 16:2

Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and he will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:3

Thot for a day: Life isn't measured by the number of birthdays but by the events that fall between them .

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in October on first and third Sundays **(Nov 1st & 15th)** and on Thanksgiving Eve **(Nov 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.

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 donated and pledged !!!

The BUILDING TEAM met with an architect about specific design plans last month. They have approved the architect's revisions and are waiting the "okay" from the structural engineer.

Thank You...

- A HUGE "Thank You" for your generous gifts and encouraging words on Pastor (and Wife) Appreciation Sunday! We so appreciate our Living Word church family!!! Pastor David & Violet
- To Everyone who helped with our Smoke Detector Battery Giveaway

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

About Thanksgiving...

Is Thanksgiving A Christian Holiday?

By Christian Hunt

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. I love family and friends coming together and sharing a big meal. I actually enjoy spending the day in the kitchen stuffing and roasting the turkey with a football game running in the background. As we sit down to enjoy the feast, the day's theme strikes home for me. I have so much to be thankful for: a happy and healthy family, a humble home, a wonderful church, lots of friends, and all our needs being met. But after the hustle and bustle of reaching this moment, it's time to thank God for his provision and blessings. I have to take a deep breath before offering to pray. All the preparation and activity can distract me from the main point: we've taken this day as a nation to focus on thankfulness and gratitude and, as Christians, specifically, our thanksgiving to God.

Since 1863, Thanksgiving Day has been a national holiday in the United States. God calls his people to live thankful lives all the time, but our forebears decided to establish one day each year to emphasize giving thanks as a nation. Since it's a federal holiday, some might ask, "Is Thanksgiving a Christian holiday?" The answer to that question is a definite "yes and no." Yes, on the one hand, because giving thanks to God for his blessings and provision was the stated purpose of the holiday declared in 1863. But, on the other hand, no, because Thanksgiving Day is not part of the traditional liturgical calendar like Christmas and Easter. From that perspective, it is a secular holiday despite its remaining Christian overtones, and perhaps a majority of families in the U.S., whatever their relationship with God, still "say grace" before the Thanksgiving meal.

In any case, Thanksgiving does have deep roots in Christianity. And at the end of the day, as we slip into our food comas, we're free to make our Thanksgiving Day celebrations as Christian as we like.

It was in 1863, during the American Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln, responding to a letter from Sarah Hale, a famous author and editor (who had penned the nursery rhyme Mary Had a Little Lamb), proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day:

I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged.... (Proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln, October 3, 1863).

Thanksgiving Day has been observed annually in the U.S. since 1863. Perhaps even before 1863, Thanksgiving drew people back to their homes to gather with family. It quickly became customary to generously give at that time of year so that those who were less well off "can have a nice Thanksgiving."

Days of thanksgiving were proclaimed so that the whole community would pause for the express purpose of giving thanks to God. As the custom grew and became more widely observed, the primary purpose of expressing gratitude to God remained the focal point of the tradition. Starting with Abraham Lincoln, U.S. presidents have issued an annual proclamation of Thanksgiving inviting the nation, either directly or indirectly, to give thanks to God for our nation's prosperity all together as a people.

The Bible encourages Christians to live their lives in a posture of thanksgiving:

Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:18b-20).

So, is Thanksgiving a Christian holiday? Yes and no. Thanksgiving Day is a civic holiday that arose from a custom transplanted to North America by European Christians, including the Puritans and the Pilgrims. Likely inspired by the trauma and triumph of the Pilgrim settlers and a genuine desire to give thanks as a whole community, the practice of thanksgiving days grew until there was a strong movement in the mid-1800s to make Thanksgiving a national day for giving thanks to God for his great provision and many blessings.

Thanksgiving is as Christian as we make it. For me, that means pausing amid the preparations to focus my gratitude on God. It means inviting my family and guests to participate in the corporate aspect of giving thanks. I don't hang too much on the prayer before the meal; no matter how thankful they are, everyone is ready to eat. After everyone has been served and has tasted their food, we talk about what we're grateful for during the meal. We don't put anyone on the spot; we just share as we feel led. Some families worship together, do Bible readings, read a quick devotion, or have a time of prayer. We may each thank our loving God in whatever way he moves us.

Thot for a day: My wife asked me why I did not treat her like I did when we first started dating, so I took her to a movie, we went out to eat dinner and then I dropped her off at her parent's house.

Thot for a day: Banks should do a better job of keeping their ATMs filled. This is the fifth one I've been to that says "Insufficient Funds."

Email Inspiration...

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument.. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop.

Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt..

The customer turned back and entered the barbershop again and he said to the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! That's what happens when people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! That's what happens when people do not go to Him and don't look to Him for help. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

November 2026 - Daily Readings

We conclude **the Book of Acts, spend a week on a very short Old Testament book, then finish with readings about gratitude and giving thanks.**

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 NOV 1 - **THE BOOK OF ACTS - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus**

Nov 2 **Acts 26:1-32**

Nov 3 **Acts 27:1-44**

Nov 4 **Acts 28:1-10**

Nov 5 **Acts 28:11-22**

Nov 6 **Acts 28:23-31**

WEEK OF NOV 8 - **A short, but powerful Old Testament Book - HABAKKUK**

Nov 9 **Habakkuk 1:1-4**

Nov 10 **Habakkuk 1:5-11**

Nov 11 **Habakkuk 1:12-2:1**

Nov 12 **Habakkuk 2:2-20**

Nov 13 **Habakkuk 3:1-19**

WEEK OF NOV 15 - **PASSAGES ABOUT GRATITUDE**

Nov 16 **Psalm 100**

Nov 17 **Psalm 95:1-7**

Nov 18 **1 Chronicles 19:10-13**

Nov 19 **2 Corinthians 9:7-15**

Nov 20 **Philippians 4:4-7**

WEEK OF NOV 22 - **PASSAGES ABOUT GRATITUDE**

Nov 23 **Colossians 3:15-17**

Nov 24 **1 Thessalonians 5:18-18**

Nov 25 **Mark 6:35-44**

Nov 26 **Luke 17:11-19**

Nov 27 **Revelation 7:9-12**

WEEK OF NOV 29 - **THE BOOK OF ESTHER**

Nov 30 **Esther 1**

Dec 1 **Esther 2**

Dec 2 **Esther 3**

Dec 3 **Esther 4**

Dec 4 **Esther 5**

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

November 2026 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	2	3 ELECTION DAY EXERCISE YOUR FREEDOM: VOTE! (No Men's Study, so you can vote)	4 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	5 **Lord's Supper Dates** • Sunday, November 1st • Sunday, November 15th • Thanksgiving Eve, November 25th	6	7
8 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 -WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	9	10 11:00 - CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS @ Westwood Cafe' 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	11 10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	12 Mission & Ministry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	13	14 9:00 - MEAL-MAKING 1:00 - BABY SHOWER for GRACIE GEER
15 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	16	17 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	18 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	19 6:00 FELLOWSHIP OUTING @ Mi Rancho Viejo Kerkhoven	20	21
22 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 -FALL VOTERS' ASSEMBLY 11:45 - LIVE STRONGER LONGER	23	24 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	25 6:30 THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE w/communion	26 THANKSGIVING DAY 	27	28
29 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	30	Dec 1 - 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	Dec 2 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 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

Nov 1	Jim & Torasie Larson
Nov 8	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Nov 15	Larry Levin Gerry Butler
Nov 22	Pam Johnson & Linda Van Meter
Thanksgiving Eve	Ushers needed
Nov 29	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

Nov 1, 8, 15	Scott & Duane
Nov 22, 25, 29	Dan & Kevin

Custodian

November	CUSTODIANS NEEDED

Altar Guild

November -	Mona Hjelle

Accompanying Musicians

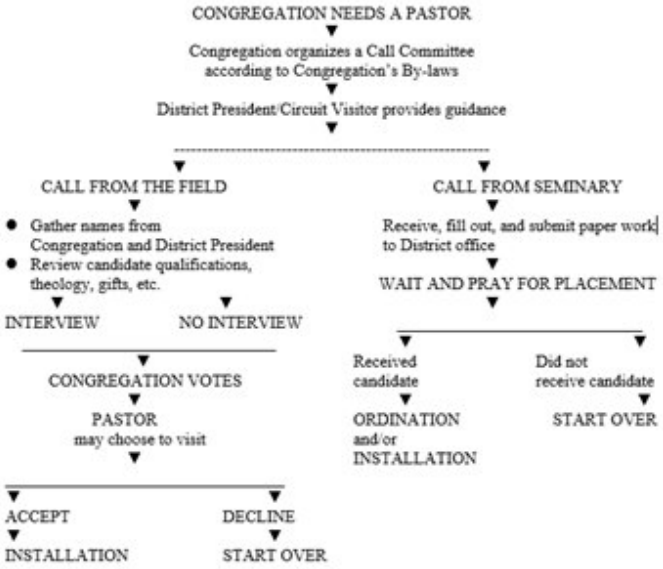
Nov 1	Sharon Willen
Nov 8	Scott Wachter
Nov 15	Sharon Willen
Nov 22	Scott Wachter
Thanksgiving Eve	Open
Nov 29	Open

PowerPoint clicker operator

Nov 1	Maya
Nov 8	Catherine
Nov 15	Drew
Nov 22	Isaac
Nov 29	Brekkyn

Thot for a day: You're getting old when you don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along.

The Call Process...



THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!
TRUST THE LORD! THE LORD WILL PROVIDE A PASTOR

VERY IMPORTANT: PROTECT CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL OF PASTORS' PAPERWORK

Seen on Church Signboards...

DON'T LET THANKSGIVING BE JUST A DAY... MAKE IT A LIFESTYLE

November Discipleship Verse...

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17

Email Humor...

If I Did Not Have Dogs...

- I could walk around the yard barefoot in safety.
- My house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated.
- All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture, and cars would be free of fur.
- When the doorbell rings, I could get to the door without wading through dog bodies who beat me there.
- I could sit on the couch the way I wanted, without taking into consideration how much space several fur bodies would need to get comfortable.
- I would not have strange presents under my Christmas tree, "like dog bones, stuffed animals, or have to answer to people why I wrap them.
- I would not be on a first-name basis with three vets.
- The most used words in my vocabulary would not be: "out," "sit," "down," "come," "no," "stay," and "leave him/her/it ALONE".
- My house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby gates or barriers.
- My pockets would not contain things like poo bags, dog treats, and an extra leash.
- I would no longer have to spell the words B-A-L-L or F-R-I-S-B-E-E or W-A-L-K or C-O-O-K-I-E-S.
- I would not have as many leaves INSIDE my house as outside.
- I would not look strangely at people who think having their ONE dog ties them down too much.
- I'd look forward to spring and the melting of the snow instead of dreading "mud season".
- I would not have to answer the question "Why do I have so many dogs?" from people who will never have the joy in their life of knowing they are loved unconditionally by something as close to an angel as they will ever get.

Thot for a day: A sign in the restroom said: Employees Must Wash Hands, I waited and waited, but I finally just washed them myself.

Make-A-Meal Program...

Please Join Us to Make Meals to restock our Make-a-Meal Freezer:

Saturday, November 14 @ 9:00 a.m.

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!

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 November we thanked God for...

- **Johanna Maas Baptized into God's Family**

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

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)

Around the Community...

Thot for a day: Thanksgiving is great because people tend to speak less when their mouths are full of food.

Around the Community...

The Bible, Simplified... ☺

GENESIS

God: Alright, you two, don't do the one thing. Other than that have fun.
Adam & Eve: Okay
Satan: You should do the thing.
Adam & Eve: Okay
God: What happened?
Adam & Eve: We did the thing.
God: Guys...

THE REST OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

God: You are my people and you should not do the things.
People: We won't do the things.
God: Good..
People: Oops, We did the things.
God: Guys...

THE GOSPELS

Jesus: I am the Son of God, and even though you have done the things, the Father and I still love you and went you to live. Don't do the things anymore.
Healed People: Okay. Thank you!
Other People: We've never seen him do the things, but he probably does the things when no one is looking.
Jesus: I have never done the things.
Other People: We're going to put you on trial for doing the things.
Pilate: Did you do the things?
Jesus: No.
Pilate: He didn't do the things.
Other People: Kill him anyway.
Pilate: Okay.
Jesus: Guys...

PAUL'S LETTERS

People: We did the things.
Paul: Jesus still loves you, and because you love Him, you have to stop doing the things.
People: Okay

PAUL'S LETTERS PART II

People: We did the things again.
Paul: Guys...

THE REVELATION

John: When Jesus comes back there will be no more people who do things. In the meantime, stop doing the things.

Thot for a day: If the grass is greener on the other side, maybe there's more manure.

Congregational Outreach...

Supper at Jim & Naomi's

Congratulations...

...Johanna Kora-Paige Maas on your baptism into the family of the Triune God, October 25. (Johanna is the daughter of Eve Bajari and Taylor Maas.)

Please email pastor@livingwordlutheran.net if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Morning Marriage Habits that Set the Tone

Oh no, you slept through your alarm! You leap out of bed and have ten minutes to get yourself out the door. You glance outside – it's pouring. Traffic will be worse than usual, and that means there's no time to grab a bagel for the road or even find your umbrella. You're hungry, frazzled, and now soaked – this is not a great start to the day.

Sometimes, the way you start your day can lay the groundwork for the rest of it – for better or for worse. And when you think about it, this applies to your marriage, too. If you want to set a positive tone between you and your spouse as you each go about your day, here are 4 habits to adopt.

1. Greet each other warmly.
Maybe you're not a morning person, so you have a tendency to communicate through grunts and grumbles after you wake up. Maybe you are an early bird, but you still need your coffee before you're running on all cylinders. Whatever the case, be intentional about making your first interaction of the day a loving one. Maybe it's a hug and asking your spouse how they slept, or perhaps it's bringing your non-morning-person spouse coffee in bed. It could even be as simple as putting in the effort to thank them with words and a smile instead of those grumbles.

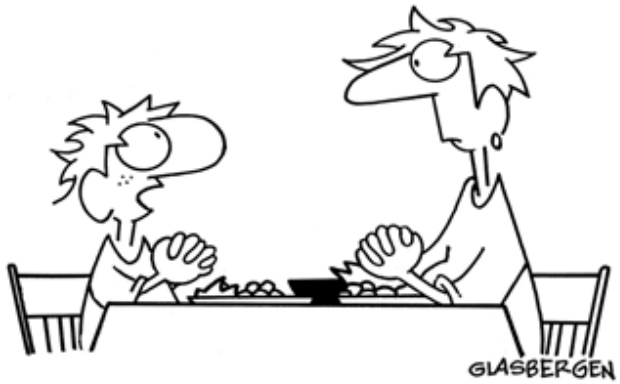
2. Agree on a general game plan for the day.
Keeping your marriage strong often means connecting over more than just day to day logistics. That being said, taking time to communicate about what's going on that day can help uncross any wires that may have potentially caused friction or inconvenience later on. Over breakfast, run through any big things you have going on, appointments or activities, any arrangements/logistics that are not typical, whether one of you will be home later than usual, etc. It's a simple way to ensure the day runs smoothly while also helping you feel united in taking on the day (particularly if it's a really hectic one).

3. Prioritize connection over the fight.
If you had a fight the night before, things might not be resolved the next morning. Whether you're both still processing your feelings or you went to bed angry (that's okay), things can often feel distant, cold, or awkward between you the next morning. It's easy to let this dynamic dictate your morning together, leading to silence or stilted interactions. Instead, give each other a signal that says, "I love you. We'll talk later." Whether it's stating the words verbally or via body language (a hand on their shoulder, a long hug before heading out the door), you'll both feel more at ease through the day than if you were to start off with cold disconnection. Plus, extending an olive branch in this way can set you on the path to faster repair when you reunite at the end of the day.

4. Establish a goodbye ritual.
Much research has shown that rituals have an overwhelmingly positive effect on marriage. They create and nurture connection, shared meaning, and a sense of stability in your bond. They act as constant relational touch points that help you stay tethered to each other and your unique identity as a couple – in the midst of your busy lives. So whether it's a kiss, a silly phrase you coined years ago, or an over-the-top high-five as you head to separate cars, don't discount the power of a small goodbye ritual. It's a simple way to boost your sense of connection and start your day off on the right foot.

The way you and your spouse start your morning together sets the tone for everything that follows – how you feel about each other throughout the day, how you handle whatever gets thrown at you, and how you reconnect when you're back together again. These habits don't require much time or effort, but it creates a baseline of positivity and connection that will ripple throughout your marriage.

Thot for a day: If you don't want anyone to get your goat, don't let them know where you have it tied.



"If God wants me to be thankful for vegetables, why did He make them taste like vegetables?"

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:

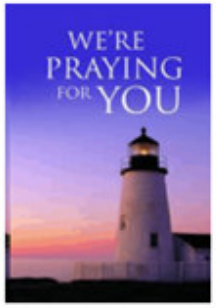
And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18

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.

Thot for a day: If I'm counting right, it's been 'one of those days' for three years now.

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 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...

- Asking God's direction for our Pastoral Call Committee
- Asking God's continued guidance for our Building Committee
- Asking for courage to follow where God guides -trusting He will provide
- Asking for God's direction as you cast your ballot on November 3
- Asking God to raise up people to fill our open MMT positions.
- Asking God's guidance for our MMT as they plan for a new year
- Safety - and continued good weather - during hunting and harvesting
- Thanking God for the amazing Fall weather and colors
- People you can invite to Thanksgiving Eve worship or any of our fellowship activities
- Thanking God for all Veterans and those who currently serve
- An "Attitude of Gratitude" everyday - not just on Thanksgiving Day
- Safe travels over the Thanksgiving holiday
- Asking God to open people's eyes to see that Jesus is what they need
- 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
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- Thanking God that His Word is Truth amidst the lies of the world.
- 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

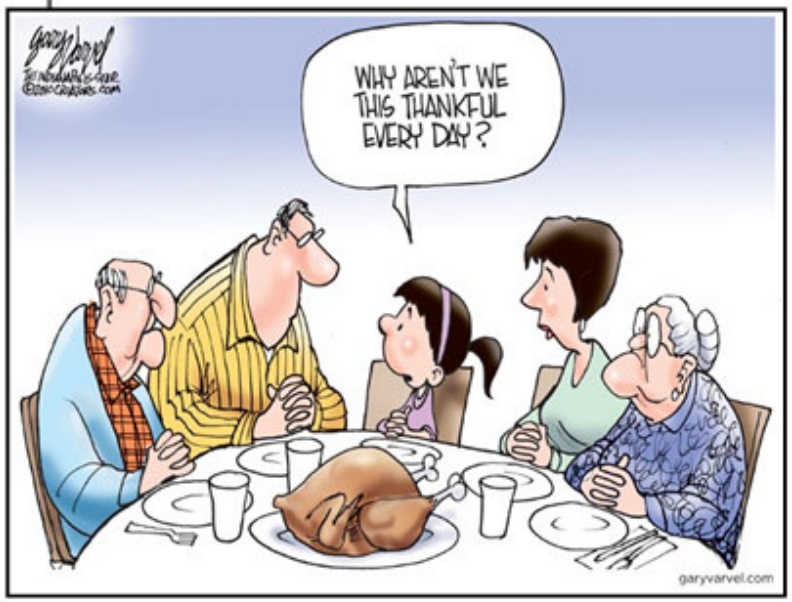
Monthly Music Videos…

Here are some of my favorite new songs in October…

- "A Million Chances" by Jamie MacDonald & Tori Kelly… https://youtu.be/5l11uny5ARk
- "Breathe In, Breathe Out" by Caleb & John… https://youtu.be/i1VSAmTRaa0
- "Road Less Traveled" by Joe L Barnes… https://youtu.be/chzqaLGPvuM
- "Won't Miss A Moment" by Francesca Battistelli… https://youtu.be/2GVSwle1EQc
- "Beautiful Life" by Switchfoot… https://youtu.be/5oDhtokeYzw
- "Days Like These" by Sanctus Real… https://youtu.be/h9xaSL-koJo
- "Living Miracle" by Megan Woods… https://youtu.be/9vE-JifWagw
- "Bones" by Colton Dixon… https://youtu.be/X5s8N7v8iGg
- "Changing" by Brandon Lake… https://youtu.be/Xp9nePU7zfU
- "God I Don't Know" by Kutless… https://youtu.be/TmJ35neDPds
- "Falls Through" by Ben Fuller… https://youtu.be/uX7hOECljqw
- "Damascus Road" by Josiah Queen… https://youtu.be/DD5Jjx58Iqg
- "Hold The Line" by Church Friends… https://youtu.be/pQC5ercibp4
- "Gotta Have It" by After Grace… https://youtu.be/aYC6Hpp5NMw
- "Heaven Here I Come" by We The Kingdom… https://youtu.be/EBv_IQo12HM and " I Won't Forget"… https://youtu.be/CHW0ykgqcgU
- "A Bigger Picture" by Lady A… https://youtu.be/jRYt128tha4
- "Man On The Middle Tree" by Madalyn Rae… https://youtu.be/7GTBqS9daPM
- "Whoop The Devil" by Destin Dumais… https://youtu.be/Ai9akMqK46s
- "Thank You For My Whole Life" by CAIN… https://youtu.be/UZe83RtVtss
- "That's When" by Laura Williams… https://youtu.be/OYPsBcaMpsk
- "My Hope Is In Jesus" by The Afters… https://youtu.be/31Fb6aqwsK0
- "Wild Love" by Jordan St. Cyr… https://youtu.be/xAScEfOh6Bk

Thot for a day: 95% of people are bad at math! Luckily, I'm in the other 10%.

- A couple by Josh Baldwin—"How Many Hallelujah's"… https://youtu.be/ZdblH335QI4 and "All My Life"… https://youtu.be/36R-QofzQGI
- "Different Story" by Zach Williams & Christian Hohn… https://youtu.be/tkhPj7XbnQ8
- "Never Gonna Deserve You" by NeedToBreathe & Evan Honer… https://youtu.be/zmViydFloyU
- "Past The Gates" by NeedToBreathe & Anne Wilson… https://youtu.be/XnWHFIRc-I4
- "Just That Good" by Kristian Stanfill & CAIN… https://youtu.be/WY9Jm-Jd994
- A couple by Lost & Found—"My Everything"… https://youtu.be/uTzkFqKWEEw and "Sound Of Freedom:… https://youtu.be/UFqJf2jFDH8
- "If Jesus Lived In My Hometown" by Jordan Rowe… https://youtu.be/KQmEyCN5GeM
- "Unshaken" by Forrest Frank & Hulvey… https://youtu.be/adBy8mwoRsM
- "We're Letting Hope In" by Jason Lovins Band… https://youtu.be/kJxEffRdrf4
- "By God" by HARDY… https://youtu.be/S-SEOUi8GAw



Story Behind The Song...

Not every hymn starts out as a hymn. "Let All Things Now Living" is such an example. Katherine K. Davis wrote the first stanza in the 1920s and didn't write the second until 1939 when it was published as a choir anthem with a descant under the pseudonym of John Cowley. This hymn features images from the Old Testament. The first stanza calls for praise to God because He made us and has promised to provide for us. The journey for the Christian ultimately ends in heaven with the Lord. In the second stanza, believers join with all of God's creation, "To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!" Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. (Psalm 150:6)

Katherine K. Davis was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1892 and eventually settled in New England. During the 1920s, she taught singing and piano in several private schools in Massachusetts and eventually in Pennsylvania. By 1930, when she was only 38, her health began to fail; she then turned all her efforts into composing. She published more than 800 choral and instrumental pieces, many of which have been used by choirs in churches and schools through the decades.

By 1977 failing eyesight made it very difficult for her to continue composing. In March of 1980, she began to set some of Isaac Watts' verse to music, calling the collection "Songs Abound." As the songs were being prepared for printing, she passed away. The last words she set to music were those of Isaac Watts: "Then let our songs abound, And ev'ry tear be dry; We're marching through Immanuel's ground To fairer worlds on high."

"Let All Things Now Living" is most popular during the Thanksgiving season. It is a perfect song to store in our hearts to frighten away our adversaries. In it we call all creation to join us in giving thanks to Yahweh, who guides, protects, and sets His love upon us. In verse 2 we see that the sun, stars, mountains, and oceans obey Him and proclaim His sovereign deity and that we should unite with them! Such beautiful truths to incorporate into our family rhythms and echo off the walls of our homes throughout this month.

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the creator triumphantly raise.
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished

Thot for a day: And so ends another week without me becoming unexpectedly rich.

As forward we travel from light into light.

His law he enforces, the stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a Song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"

One of my favorite performances of this hymn is by Michael Card...
https://youtu.be/oogqO4osaZM

Happy Thanksgiving!

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson