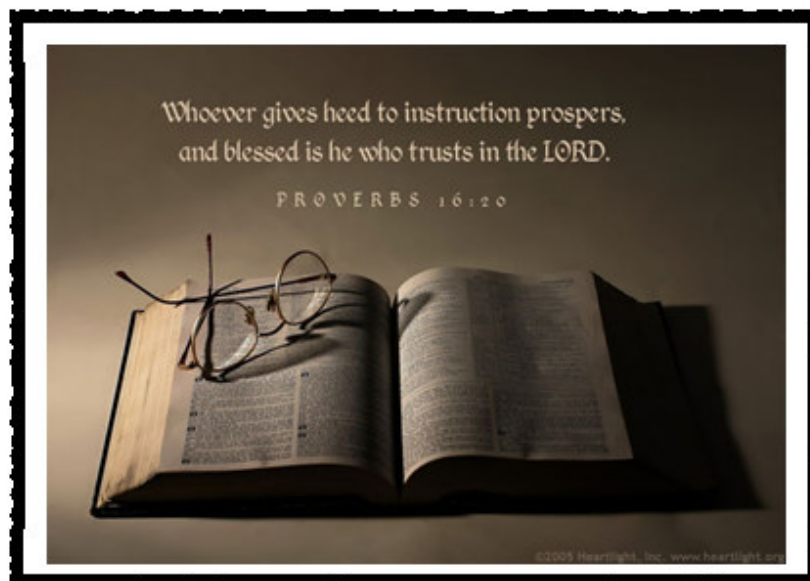


Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



October 2026 Newsletter
"Communicating the Love of Jesus"
~Hours—starting September 13th~
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
Email: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net
Website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

Questions for Pastor...

"What do you think we should do?"

Many of you know that Chloe, our daughter Becca's 13-year-old Golden Retriever-Lab, died a few weeks ago. Probably a week after that Becca called with the above question. Becca and Tom had been searching for a Golden Retriever-Lab mix puppy to help fill the void left by Chloe's passing. (They have another Golden Retriever, Lola, who had only known life with Chloe and was quite "lost" without her.) They had found a puppy that fit the bill - AND it was in Minnesota, something they had not expected.

After listening the them describe the situation with the puppy and Lola, my answer was:

"When I have a big decision - like this - to make, one thing I do is look for signs. It appears you have a bunch of signs pointing in the direction of getting this pup. When it seem the signs are there, before I make the decision, I do what you just did and run it past someone I trust to give me unbiased advice. And then, if it still looks positive, I will pray something like, 'Father, this is the direction I'm heading in, but if that's not a good direction, please put up a road block that even I can't get over or around.'" (My tendency - like most people's - is to ignore roadblocks that God puts in my way when it's something I want to do, so He's got to make the roadblock an impenetrable one!) Then I told them, "I have seen God put those kinds of roadblocks up a few times."

When the puppy people said they could actually deliver the dog to The Cities, (meaning Becca and Tom wouldn't have to make the 8-hour round trip to SW Minnesota) they took that as another positive "sign," and put money down to reserve the pup.

A day before the scheduled delivery, the puppy gal called and told Becca and Tom that her mom had given the pup to some other folks - and those folks wouldn't give it back after learning of the ~~mixup~~!



Page 3

After their shock and huge disappointment subsided a bit, they said, "Seems like God put up one of those roadblocks you talked about." I was really glad they viewed it that way!

About a week later - after Becca and Tom had found and purchased another Golden in Fargo - the puppy person from SW MN called them and said, "The folks who got your puppy said they'd give it back if you still want it."

Wow! Some things are so bizarre that you couldn't make them up if you tried!

But hidden in that bizarre incident was actually a very important message: Not only had God put up a roadblock to getting that first pup, He had now let them see the reason: He'd actually prevented them from getting a "bad" dog. (There's no way anyone would have given up a "good" dog after just a week.)

Bottom line: That whole situation struck me as a good example of steps to take when you have a decision to make:

- Take some time.
- Look for signs pointing one way or the other.
- Check with someone you trust to give you their unbiased view.
- And finally, ask God to put up a road block if it's not His will. He will do that. (And make sure you don't try to "drive around" His roadblock. That NEVER ends well!)

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net



Mark Your Calendar...

Mission & Ministry Team

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



October Fellowship Outings...

Celebrate Birthdays:

Tuesday, October 27th @ 11:00 a.m.
Spicer American Legion

Fellowship Supper:

Thursday, October 15th @ 6:00 p.m.
Potluck at Jim & Naomi Stinson's
In Hutchinson



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.



Trap Shooting Fellowship...

Thanks for a great year!



Page 4

Who has time to worry about tomorrow when there are so many bridges to burn today?

That for a day:

Page 5

Operation Christmas Child...



Operation Christmas Child kicks off Sunday, October 4th and will run through Sunday, November 15th ending with the "Blessing of Boxes" during worship service.

Brochures and boxes will be available at church.

Battery Outreach...



Our Annual
Smoke-Detector Battery
Giveaway

Saturday, October 31, from 10 - noon

Please join Pastor and the confirmation students in our annual community service project of handing out free smoke-detector batteries to folks who live near the church. (It's really fun to see the looks on people's faces when they find out that instead of asking for something, we are giving them something.)

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. Thanks to Randy and Mary Raddatz for cleaning October

Help Ruth Vegdahl pack for moving on October 13th and/or 14th. Please contact Ruth if you have and questions or can help. Thanks!
Ruth's Cell Number: 952-261-9387

Anyone Interested in Helping with Altar Guild?

Please talk to Mona Hjelle to get more info. 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 of Oct 6th)
(Join us for pre-study meal at 6:15)



Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Wednesday, October 10th @ 10:00

The Bible Study will be "When Service Isn't Sparkly, Learning from Jesus's Interruptions". All women are invited!

Confirmation News...

- **6-7th Confirmation classes:**
6:00 p.m. Each Wednesday
- **Smoke-Detector Battery Giveaway -**
Saturday, October 31 from 10 to noon.
- **Thanks to Highway Cleanup Crew**



"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-VvJfEU22yCYxbhwig/featured>

Page 7

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
October 27th—Birthdays
October 15th—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
Fall 2026
 - 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
- October 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>

- Sept 6 - "Rest. Everyone Needs It. Jesus Has It!"
- Sept 13 - "One Final Sonflower Sermon"
- Sept 20 - "God's Will Always Has a TIMING Aspect"
- Sept 27 - "What Jesus Meant Calling Himself "The Son of Man"
- Oct 4 - "Stop with the excuses and just do what God says!"

Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

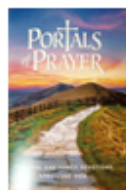
Living Word has the option of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, 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



Page 8

That for a day: Middle age is when it takes longer to rest than to get tired.

Page 9

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...

LWML News:

Wednesday, October 7, at 10:00 a.m. at church.

The Bible Study will be

"When Service Isn't Sparkly, Learning from Jesus's Interruptions".



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...

STRENGTH AND COURAGE

It takes strength to be firm.
It takes courage to be gentle.

It takes strength to stand guard.
It takes courage to let down your guard.

It takes strength to conquer.
It takes courage to surrender.

It takes strength to be certain.
It takes courage to have doubt.

It takes strength to fit in.
It takes courage to stand out.

It takes strength to feel a friend's pain.
It takes courage to feel your own pain.

It takes strength to hide your own pains.
It takes courage to show them.

It takes strength to endure abuse.
It takes courage to stop it.

It takes strength to stand alone.
It takes courage to lean on another.

It takes strength to love.
It takes courage to be loved.

It takes strength to survive.



Thank You...

- To everyone who helped with Tuesday's Table, and to Pam and Tammy for organizing the event.
- To everyone who helped with our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup

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

Page 10

Thot for a day: I would imagine if you could understand Morse code, a tap dancer would drive you crazy.

Page 11

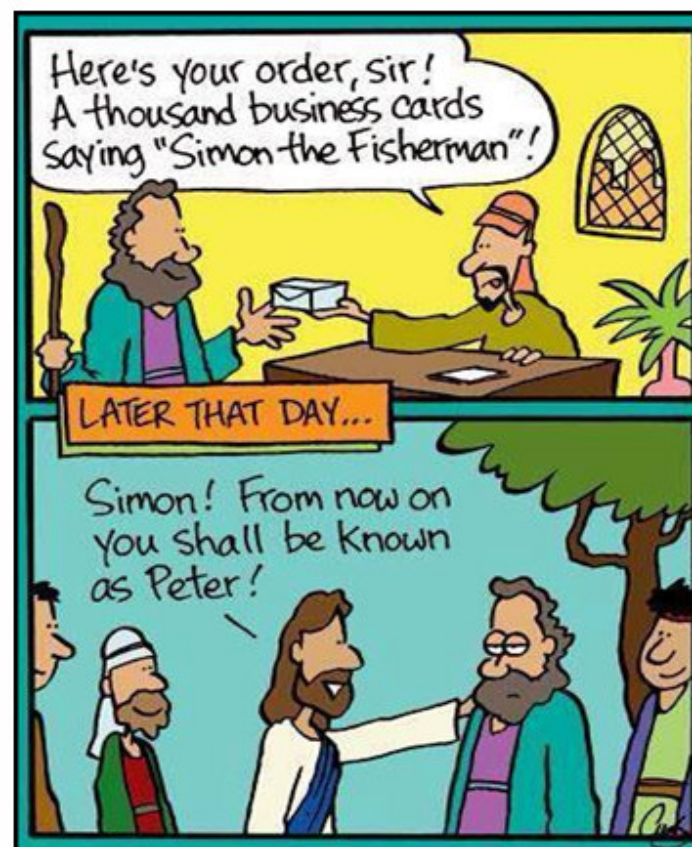
Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in October on third Sunday (October 18th)



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.



Should We Celebrate Halloween?...

It's that time of year again—and it's one of the most controversial holidays for Christians. Is Halloween a satanic holiday that glorifies death, witchcraft, and Satan, or is it something that Christians can participate in?

We can't give a one-size-fits-all answer, but we can give some guidelines for Christians to consider for this and other occasions.

We shouldn't assume all cultural practices are acceptable for Christians, so it makes sense for us to examine Halloween to see whether it fits with our faith. People who practice various types of witchcraft and Satanism tend to like Halloween, and we don't want to be lumped in with them. Some people also use Halloween costumes as an excuse to wear far less clothing than they normally would. The celebration of violence, sensuality, witchcraft, and darkness is certainly something we should want to distance ourselves from.

However, just because the world celebrates something in an ungodly way doesn't mean that there isn't a way for Christians to take that observance and honor God with it. To see whether that's possible or not, we need to think carefully and go through several aspects of the holiday.

First, it should be obvious that if God's Word explicitly forbids something, Christians can't do it. The Bible forbids attempting to communicate with the dead, witchcraft, and worshipping Satan. So clearly, you can't go to a séance or Ouija party for Halloween. This may also extend to the sort of costumes you wear for Halloween (though it should be noted that depicting the devil as a red guy with horns and cloven hoofs is a Christian mockery of Satan!).

However, God's Word doesn't have anything to say about candy and dressing up like a princess (as long as you're a female!). So how do we navigate those parts of Halloween?

Different people have different conscience issues. Some people partake of things freely, while others have scruples against it. Paul's message about those things is pretty clear—the people who partake shouldn't look down on those who don't and vice versa. He says in Romans 14:

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and

Page 12

That for a day: I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.

Page 13

gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. (Romans 14:5–7)

This adds an important element—the reason why a Christian is free to choose different options for an issue of conscience is that it is possible to glorify God by participating or abstaining.

So can Halloween glorify God? Well, what other day of the year do people come to your house looking for a small gift? You might purchase a pack of tracts and hand them out with candy (hopefully the good kind!). You never know how God might use the seeds you sow in this way.

Also, Christians are commanded to fellowship together. Lots of churches put together alternative “harvest” or “Reformation” events around Halloween where kids can wear fun costumes, play games, and get candy. These can also be great community outreaches!

If you don't celebrate Halloween—and that's a valid choice!—perhaps have a fun activity planned with your family so children don't feel “left out.” Celebrating the Reformation is a great alternative because Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenburg church on October 31, 1517.

On October 31 and throughout the year, we should want to glorify God with our choices. That means being mindful of what God's Word has to say, listening to our own conscience, and making decisions that make Christ the center of that day—even on Halloween!

**ARE YOU
FALL  WEEN
JESUS?**
MATTHEW 4:19

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 page

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



Update From The Link...

Help Us Fill Backpacks & Brighten Futures!

Back-to-school season is here, and for many families, it brings excitement... but also financial stress. Together, we can help ensure every child starts the school year with the supplies they need to learn, grow, and succeed!



IF SHOPPING ISN'T YOUR THING, YOU CAN ALSO DONATE MONETARILY BY:

- -CLICKING THE "DONATE" BUTTON ON OUR WEBSITE—
www.youarethelink.org
- -MAILING A CHECK TO PO BOX 823, NEW LONDON, MN 56273 AND PUT "SCHOOL SUPPLIES ON THE MEMO;
- -VIA VENMO @THE-LINK-1 AND PUT "SCHOOL SUPPLIES" IN THE COMMENTS

Thank you for helping us create a community where every child has the opportunity to start the school year ready to learn.

Page 14

Thot for a day: Nobody's a complete idiot. There are always some parts missing.

Page 15

Email Humor...

Technically, Moses was the first guy to ever download data from the cloud onto a tablet.

What did God say to the church janitor who used paint thinner to make the paint for the sanctuary walls go further?

"Repaint! And thin no more!"

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.

One Sunday a pastor found several letters awaiting him. He opened one and found it contained the single word, "Fool."

Quietly and with much seriousness he shared the letter with the congregation and announced, "I have known many an instance of a person writing a letter and forgetting to sign his name, but this is the only instance I have ever known of someone signing his name and forgetting to write the letter."



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.



October 2026 - Daily Readings

We conclude **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 OCT 4 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

- Oct 5 Acts 19:1-11 _____

Oct 6 Acts 19:12-22 _____

Oct 7 Acts 19:23-27 _____
"
Oct 8 Acts 19:28-41 _____

Oct 9 Acts 20:1-12 _____

WEEK OF OCT 11 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

- Oct 12 Acts 20:13-24 _____

Oct 13 Acts 20:25-31 _____

Oct 14 Acts 20:31-35 _____

Oct 15 Acts 21:1-16 ____- _____

Oct 16 Acts 21:17-26 _____

WEEK OF OCT 18 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

- Oct 19 Acts 21:27-36 _____

- Oct 20 Acts 21:37-22:22 _____

Oct 21 Acts 22:23-29 _____

Oct 22 Acts 22:30-23:11 _____

Oct 23 Acts 23:12-22 _____

WEEK OF OCT 25 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

- Oct 26 Acts 23:22-35 _____

Oct 27 Acts 24:1-21 _____

Oct 28 Acts 24:22-27 _____

Oct 29 Acts 25:1-12 _____

Oct 30 Acts 25:13-27 _____

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 _____

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

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

October 2026 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept 27 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	Sept 28	Sept 29 6:00 - TUESDAY'S TABLE at L.W.	Sept 30 No Confirmation	1 Lord's Supper Dates • Sunday, October 18th	2	3
4 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD KICKOFF 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00- WORSHIP No communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	5	6	7 10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	8 MISSION Ministry 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	13 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	14 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	15 6:00 FELLOWSHIP OUTING @ Stinson's in Hutch	16	17
18 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00- WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	19	20 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	21 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	22	23	24
25 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	26	27 11:00 - CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS - 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	28 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	29	30 	31 10:00 - noon ANNUAL SMOKE-DETECTOR BATTERY OUTREACH

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

Oct 4	Jim & Torasie Larson
Oct 11	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Oct 18	Larry Levin Gerry Butler
Oct 25	Pam Johnson & Linda Van Meter

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

Oct 4, 11	Scott & Duane
Oct 18, 25	Dan & Kevin

Custodian

Oct -	Randy & Mary Raddatz
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Altar Guild

October -	Mona Hjelle
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Accompanying Musicians

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

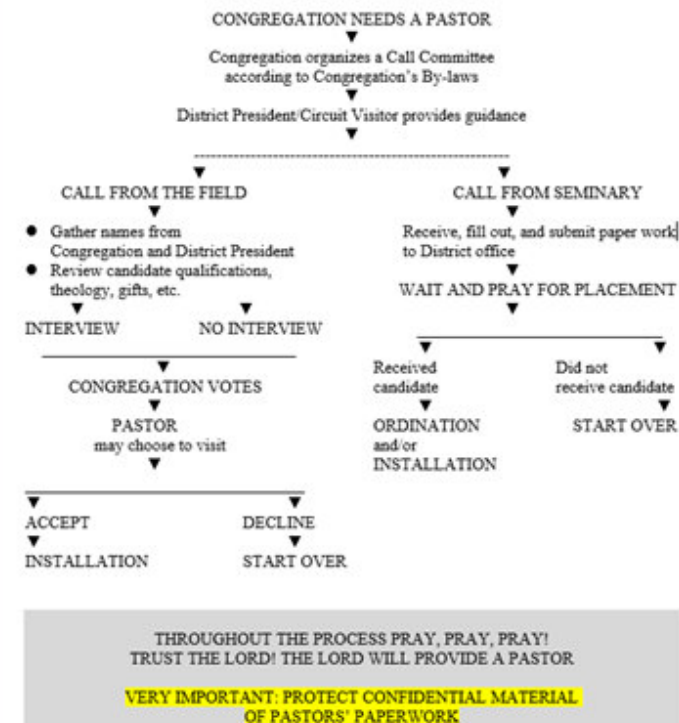


Mission & Ministry Team...

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)

The Call Process...



Seen on Church Signboards...

**Seasons Change
But
Jesus Christ Remains the Same**

October Discipleship Verse...

*"Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers
And blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD".*

Proverbs 16:20



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 October we thanked God for...

- Fall
- Tuesday's Table

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



The Free to be Faithful® newsletter offers updates on religious liberty issues that impact the rights of Christians to live faithfully.

In the Fall 2026 issue, read about:

- An amicus brief the LCMS has joined, filed against the state of Colorado for barring the access of Denver Catholic schools to "universal" state benefits meant for all Colorado schools, public and private;
- A final appeal filed by Finnish parliamentarian Päivi Räsänen, a Lutheran who was convicted in March for expressing biblical teachings on marriage and sexual ethics in a 2004 booklet;
- The fight for freedom of conscience for doctors in New York, who are being required to begin the assisted suicide bureaucratic process for patients who request the measure, without any exception made for physicians morally opposed to such a request;
- The concerns caused by the "streamlining" of religious faith codes in the military, which now identify religious affiliations as disparate as the LCMS, ELCA, WELS and ELS simply as "Lutheran"; and
- The retirement of the Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz as executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty.

Read the newsletter at <https://tinyurl.com/57y9bdd4>

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!



ATLAS of West Central MN
invites you to our 10th annual
Beauty From Ashes Banquet

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026
AT 5:30PM
WILLMAR CONFERENCE CENTER
240 23RD ST SE, WILLMAR

JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP, HOPE, AND CELEBRATION AT THE ATLAS ANNUAL BANQUET. ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL, HEAR POWERFUL TESTIMONIES OF LIVES TRANSFORMED THROUGH GOD'S LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS, AND CELEBRATE THE INCREDIBLE WAYS HE IS WORKING THROUGH ATLAS TO BRING HOPE, HEALING, AND RESTORATION TO OUR COMMUNITY. TOGETHER, WE'LL REFLECT ON WHAT GOD HAS DONE, SHARE THE VISION FOR WHAT'S AHEAD, AND DISCOVER HOW, THROUGH HIS GRACE, WE CAN CONTINUE MAKING AN ETERNAL IMPACT. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN TOUCHING LIVES FOR CHRIST, AND WE WOULD BE HONORED TO HAVE YOU JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENING.

SILENT AUCTION: 5:30 PM
DINNER & PROGRAM: 6:00 PM
TICKETS: \$40 PER PERSON
TABLE SPONSOR (8 GUESTS): \$300

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SEAT BY RETURNING THE ENCLOSED RSVP CARD WITH YOUR PAYMENT IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, OR CALL 320-441-2250 TO PAY BY PHONE. TOGETHER TOUCHING LIVES FOR CHRIST!

ATLAS
OF WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Open House
COME SEE WHAT YOUR
SUPPORT HAS HELPED BUILD!



NOVEMBER 6, 2026
3-6 PM

420 14TH ST SE,
WILLMAR

Thot for a day: Some drink at the fountain of knowledge. Others just gargle.

FALL
HARVEST FESTIVAL

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
7730 NORTH SHORE DRIVE, SPICER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10th
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

- Morning Coffee & Rolls
- Soup/Chili & Sandwich Lunch
Pie and Bars
- Bake Sale
- Crafts
- Garden Produce/Plants
- Seasonal Décor
- Books/Puzzles/CD's/Games/DVD's



Email Inspiration...

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd."

I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on. As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up, and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes.

My heart went out to him. So I jogged over to him, and as he crawled around looking for his glasses, I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, "Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives." He looked at me and said, "Hey thanks!" There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude.

I helped him pick up his books and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to private school before now. I would have never hung out with a private school kid before, but we talked all the way home, and I carried his books.

He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play football on Saturday with me and my friends. He said yes.

We hung out all weekend, and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him. And my friends thought the same of him. Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!" He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor, and I was going for business on a football scholarship.

Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak.

On graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those

Page 26

That for a day: Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.

Page 27

guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than me and all the girls loved him! Boy, sometimes I was jealous. Today was one of those days. I could see that he was nervous about his speech, so I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey, big guy, you'll be great!" He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. "Thanks," he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat and began. "Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach-- but mostly your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story." I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. "Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable."

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize its depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture, you can change a person's life.

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Thanks to David Betz

11-18-2005

JUST LOOK AT HIM ... HE TOTALLY THINKS
HE'S GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

5 Tips to Avoid "Stress Spillover"

There's a crisis within your extended family. It has you feeling overwhelmed and anxious, and you snap at your spouse out of nowhere. A close friend is going through a rough time. Supporting them has left you emotionally spent, and you have nothing left in the tank for your marriage. Impending layoffs at work make every day feel tense and uncertain; when you come home it's hard to be fully present.



Stress often originates from external sources and situations. You might think you can compartmentalize it, but the reality is it often spills over into your marriage. While it's impossible to avoid the curveballs life throws at you, there are ways you can minimize the negative effects on your relationship. Here are 5 tips:

1. Prioritize physical well-being.

When you're not getting enough sleep, staying active, or adequately fueling your body, it's hard to feel and perform at your best. That means you're probably not going to handle stress in the most productive ways either. Do what you can to prioritize your health – it doesn't have to be a sweeping lifestyle change. Think small, sustainable tweaks – going to bed 30 minutes earlier, adding more veggies to your diet, or taking a short evening walk. You might be surprised how big of an effect these seemingly minimal changes can have on the way you feel – both physically and mentally.

2. Pay attention to how stress affects you – and what helps relieve it.

Sometimes your body lets you know you're stressed out even before your mind does. Maybe your neck and shoulders start knotting up or you get a migraine that lasts for days. Perhaps you have a hard time focusing or you find yourself unusually impatient with the kids. It might seem obvious, but often we don't give much thought to these small signals. Once you learn to recognize the ways stress manifests in your body, you can then figure out the things that ease it. Whether it's going for a run, spending time in nature, having quiet time to meditate or pray, or spending quality time with your spouse, explore what works for you.

Page 28

That for a day: No matter how hard you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery

Page 29

3. Communicate with your spouse.

When external stressors are getting to you, you might try to bottle it up and keep it from your spouse. You might have good intentions – to avoid causing unnecessary stress for your partner. But when you share what you're going through, you're providing context that can help them support you better. Instead of taking offense if you're a little snippy or more distracted than usual, they're more likely to respond with empathy and understanding. Maybe they take the kids out for a couple of hours so you can recharge, or they order in from your favorite restaurant to lift your spirits. You and your spouse are a team, and that means shouldering external stressors together.

4. Establish boundaries.

Stress spillover becomes the norm when boundaries are lacking – whether interpersonal, work-life balance, etc. For instance, if that friend who's going through a hard time is spending hours at your house every day, cutting into the time you typically spend with your spouse, that's going to directly impact your marriage. If you're taking work calls at all hours even when it's not crucial to your job, that tension will inevitably spread into your home environment, leaving you feeling even more burnt out. Creating boundaries around your time, space, and marriage means limiting how much these outside factors have access to these valuable parts of your life. That might be having a hard stop on anything work-related after a certain time or telling your friend you can't accommodate their visits at all hours. It's not always easy taking these steps, but can be worth it when it comes to protecting your marriage.

5. Be mindful of where you invest your energy.

When something is stressing you out, it's normal to worry and ruminate on it. You might expend vast amounts of your physical, emotional, or mental energy trying to manage or resolve the situation. You're left feeling drained, with little energy left to put into the things that might actually be more important. Learn to let go of the things beyond your control and instead focus on the things you actually have power over. For example, you may not be able to do anything about that high-maintenance relative causing drama, but you can choose how you respond to them. You can't prevent the layoffs at work, but you can try to perform your best, update your resume and put feelers out for new positions to help you feel more prepared.

These tips won't eliminate stress, but they can help you weather it without taking it out on each other. When you and your spouse learn to handle outside pressures as a team, your relationship becomes a refuge from stress – instead of being damaged by it.



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!



GOD'S DE-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.

Page 30

That for a day: Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

Page 31

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!

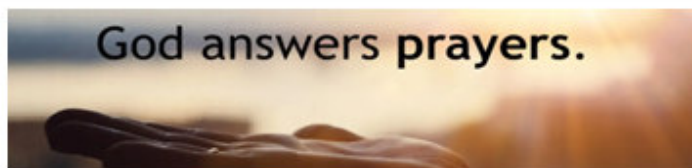
Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

(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'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 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
- 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

God answers prayers.



Monthly Music Videos...

Here are some of my favorite new songs in September...

- "Why Would I" by Brandon Lake... <https://youtu.be/wbgiuOPZYsk>
- "The Stone Is Rolled" by Josh Baldwin... <https://youtu.be/wJUyp45f7Ws>
- "Something Good Is Coming" by Carly Ann Taylor... <https://youtu.be/uzXUx2Ck30Y>
- "He Hasn't Healed You Yet" by Caleb & John... <https://youtu.be/FJZ38ZDdh4>
- "My Victory's Coming" by CAIN... <https://youtu.be/LbNXkp368SU>
- "Flowers on a Stone" by Drew Baldridge... <https://youtu.be/LM9XoRgf4DI>
- "The Most Beautiful" by for King & Country... https://youtu.be/kz6Bi345_go
- "Sunday Morning" by Franni Cash... <https://youtu.be/xtYqtNNJLCo>
- "All We Sinners" by Crowder... <https://youtu.be/-1nrkX71sSA>
- "Home Again" by Lost & Found... <https://youtu.be/i5WPNgeEFZw>
- "I Know God Knows" by Michael Orr... <https://youtu.be/bEccSQUKYRE>
- "Missin' Peace" by Church Friends... <https://youtu.be/NiVyDKPJ-9k>
- "Runaway Heart" by Rend Collective... <https://youtu.be/DmN-UDXOY4w>
- "I Know I'm Loved" by Cade Thompson... <https://youtu.be/pBdOk2t1D2M>
- "Can't Apologize" by NeedToBreathe... https://youtu.be/k7ND4Y_b_rs
- "Heaven and Earth" by We Are Messengers... <https://youtu.be/QtbQwDpadHQ>
- "Permission" by Rachael Lampa... <https://youtu.be/Xq1w5Ut-MGE>
- "Used To Be" by Jamie MacDonald... <https://youtu.be/w4i38FSgCZw>
- "High Above It All" by Matt Maher... <https://youtu.be/nKGWz5YIhQI>
- "All In" by the Seph Schlueter... https://youtu.be/D_wzsr9ITVY
- "All Saints" by Cory Ashbury... <https://youtu.be/JNCZH3ncrIU>
- "I Won't Forget" by We The Kingdom... <https://youtu.be/VLNFe8Oskwv>



Page 32

That for a day: Some people are like blisters. They don't show up until the work is done.

Page 33

- "When I See You" by Josiah Queen... https://youtu.be/GyMt2_r27nE
- "Over and Over Again" by David Leonard... https://youtu.be/hBl_E24sWd8
- "He's So Worthy" by Danny Gokey... <https://youtu.be/ZswPVtRRxoY>
- "Remember the Day" by Stephen Curtis Chapman... https://youtu.be/UEhC_ViepTc
- "Come Meet The Man" by Lily Hooten... <https://youtu.be/mXtti2d6728>
- "Road Less Traveled" by Joe L Barnes & Seph Schlueter... <https://youtu.be/YqXcykS0Epk>
- Matthew West just released a new album, *Jesus Is King*. Here are some of the new songs...
 - "Younger Me"... <https://youtu.be/rgR0CPp06eE>
 - "Back To Jesus"... <https://youtu.be/MGX2S4xU3CM>
 - "The Good Fight"... https://youtu.be/oDgu2C_BEWw
 - "Don't Give Up On Me".... <https://youtu.be/IEByQSWHv04>
 - "Heaven Will Tell".... <https://youtu.be/3tTHgsVvolv>

Story Behind The Song...

Civilla Martin was born in Nova Scotia in 1866. Her song, "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" is one of the most influential and often-recorded gospel hymns of the 20th century.

Martin was the daughter of James N. and Irene Harding Holden, and was a schoolteacher with modest musical training. Together with her husband, Walter, they often wrote gospel songs for revival meetings.

The song was obviously inspired by Matthew 6:26: "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Civilla Martin describes how the hymn was born:

"Early in the spring of 1905, my husband and I were sojourning in Elmira, New York. We contracted a deep friendship for a couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle—true saints of God. Mrs. Doolittle had been bedridden for nigh twenty years. Her husband was an incurable cripple who had to propel himself to and from his business in a wheelchair. Despite their afflictions, they lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew

them. One day while we were visiting with the Doolittles, my husband commented on their bright hopefulness and asked them for the secret of it. Mrs. Doolittle's response was simple: 'His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.' The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Dr. Martin and me.

She thought this would be a perfect idea for a poem. She jotted down the idea and by the end of the day, had completed "His Eye is On The Sparrow". The next day she mailed the poem to Charles Gabriel, a famous composer of gospel songs, who wrote a tune for it.

The song gained in popularity in the mid-20th century, largely championed by legendary gospel singer Ethel Waters, who sang it frequently during Billy Graham Crusades. Other notable versions include recordings by Shirley Caesar, Marvin Gaye, Kirk Franklin & the Family, Mahalia Jackson, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Dottie West and Barbara Mandrell.

The hymn remains an enduring standard, with a famous 1993 rendition by Lauryn Hill and Tanya Blount in the film *Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit* introducing the song to modern audiences

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,

I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

Here is the Lauryn Hill and Tanya Blount version...

<https://youtu.be/k7Pk5YMkEcq>

A great version by BYU Noteworthy...

<https://youtu.be/0YXQYaeiaSg>

My favorite may be one by Jennifer Hudson...

<https://youtu.be/kBXe56NJw-s>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

