

# Living Word

## Lutheran Church

LCMS

August 2011 Newsletter



**"Communicating the Love of Jesus"**

**Worship Hours:**

**Christian Growth Hour: 8:45 a.m.**

**Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.**

# Living Word Lutheran Church

Located on the West of Spicer on County Rd 10  
in old Prairie Meadows building  
PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273  
Phone: 320-796-0742  
Website: [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net)

What we aim to do:

**Make disciples for Jesus - as we go, wherever we go.**

What we aim to be:

**A joyful, caring, Christ-centered family of God.**

## Question-for FROM Pastor...

This month I am going to interrupt our normal "Question For Pastor" schedule with a Question *From* Pastor:

*Let's say the government made it illegal to possess a Bible and the authorities showed up to take yours. You decided to tear out just one page to keep, hide and read. Which page would you tear out? i.e. "What chapter, passage or story would you want to make sure to never forget?"*

In a recent sermon, I told how I would answer that question when I said, "I'd make an attempt to keep and somehow hide the whole Gospel of John, but if I could have just *one* page.... I'd keep the one that has Romans chapter 8 on it. In worship this month I am doing a sermon series on the messages in that chapter that led me to choose it.

In case you missed, here are the first two:

1. There is NOTHING you can do - and nothing that has been done to you - that can cause God to stop loving you. Nothing. (Romans 8:35-39)
2. God has the power to make ANYTHING bad you have done - and anything bad that has been done to you - work out for your ultimate good. Anything. (Romans 8:28)

During worship in August we will highlight more "*I really need to remember that*" kind of messages from God in Romans chapter 8, but I'm curious about what page you would tear out to keep - and why. You can email your answer to me at [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

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(A couple answers I've received so far are Genesis 1; Revelation 20-22; Ephesians 3-4). I'll include your answers to this "*What page would you tear out and keep?*" question in upcoming Newsletters.

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

## Sharing the Love of God In Practical Ways...

### Immediate Need for Children's Church Leaders

Two of our leaders are heading off to school and coordinator Mona Hjelle is still recovering after her car accident. This means we are in immediate need of Children's Church Leaders. The only pre-requisite is a love for Jesus and for His kids. You read a Bible story or Object Lesson, take prayer requests from the kids and lead them in prayer; and do an activity with the kids that reinforces the lesson. Lessons are provided. You simply show up and lead. Please talk to Pastor David if you could help lead Children's Church once every 6 weeks or so.

### Need for More 'Make a Meal' Volunteers

We frequently have people going through difficult circumstances who could use a meal. Can you fix one for someone? We are updating our list of "Make-A-Meal" volunteers. Let Pastor know if you could occasionally fix a meal for someone. Thanks!

### Habitat for Humanity

needs volunteers for the following projects...

General construction continues on the new office building on the corner of Litchfield Ave. and 7th Street SW in Willmar. Volunteers of all experience levels are welcome to join the crew working mornings from 8-12 Monday through Thursday. Looking for a group opportunity? Call us to set up your own construction day!

Paint crews are needed for afternoon and evening shifts on Saturday, August 6, and August 8-12. Sign up as an individual or gather a crew and get ready for some fun group service! To sign up, call the Habitat office at 320-231-2704.

## E-mail Inspiration...

### SLOW DANCE

Have you ever watched kids  
On a merry-go-round?  
Or listened to the rain  
Slapping softly on the ground?

Ever followed a butterfly's  
erratic flight?  
Or gazed at the sun  
into the fading night?

You better slow down.  
Don't dance so fast.  
Time is short.  
The music won't last.

Do you run through each day  
On the fly?  
When you ask 'How are you?'  
Do you hear the reply?

When the day is done  
Do you lie in your bed  
With the next hundred chores  
Running 'round through your head?

You'd better slow down  
Don't dance so fast.  
Time is short.  
The music won't last.

Ever told your child,  
We'll do it tomorrow?  
And in your haste,  
Not notice his sorrow?

Ever lost touch,  
Let a good friendship die  
'Cause you never had time  
To just call and say, "Hi"

You'd better slow down.  
Don't dance so fast.  
Time is short.  
The music won't last.

When you run so fast  
To get to 'somewhere'

## Page 4

That for a day: Aspire to inspire before you expire.

## Page 5

You miss half the fun  
Of just getting there.

When you worry and hurry  
throughout every day,  
It's like an unopened gift  
You've just thrown away.

Life is not a race.  
Do take it slower  
Enjoy the music  
Before the song is over.

### E-Mail Wisdom... (received via e-mail)

*Coming out of church, Mrs. Peterson asked her husband, "Do you think that Johnson girl is tinting her hair?"*

*"I didn't even see her," admitted Mr. Peterson.*

*"And that dress Mrs. Hansen was wearing," continued Mrs. Peterson, "Really, don't tell me you think that's the proper costume for a mother of two."*

*"I'm afraid I didn't notice that either," said Mr. Peterson.*

*"Oh, for heaven's sake," snapped Mrs. Peterson. "A lot of good it does you to go to church."*

Makes you stop and think.... "Why do I go to church?" In our heads we may know the right answer to that question, but in our hearts... what other motivations creep in?

### God's graffiti

by Tim Bertram





## The LINK Update...

**News from The Link August 2011**

*Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other.*

### From the director...

I want to share some good news with you and offer a challenge!

**The good news** is that The Link has received word from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans that we are the recipients of a \$5000 Economic Outreach Bridge grant in recognition of the significant impact being made via our outreach service programs. This grant is also in recognition of the fine efforts The Link has made to respond to the current economic conditions and still find a way to continue to provide important services.

### The challenge is this:

Be a part of supporting your community and helping people meet their basic needs through the work of The Link!

We have the opportunity to earn an additional \$10,000 challenge grant. For each dollar donated between June 30, 2011 and Sept. 30, 2011, The Thrivent Foundation will supplement by 50 cents up to \$10,000. For example, if our donors collectively donate \$20,000, we will receive an additional \$10,000 grant.

We want to earn the maximum amount possible. That means **we need to raise \$20,000 by the end of September!**

**Send donations** c/o of The Link's fiscal host, Faith Lutheran Church, 310 Medayto Dr, Spicer, MN 56288. Designate your check for The Link.

If you have any questions or concerns contact Naomi Mahler, the director at 320-796-2522 or flc\_naomi@tds.net

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**Thot for a day:** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they are sticking to their diets.

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We can do this if we all work together! We are happy to receive donations in any amount – it all adds up! If you are at all considering a financial gift to The Link, make it before the end of September! Please don't wait until the end of the year!

In gratitude for your support,  
Naomi Mahler, Director The Link



Find The Link on Facebook!

### TUESDAY'S TABLE

Join us Every Tuesday night at 6pm!

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tues @ Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues @ Evangelical Covenant, NL
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues @ Faith Lutheran, Spicer
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tues @ Peace Lutheran, NL
- 5<sup>th</sup> Tues @ Hope Presbyterian, Spicer



Tuesday's Table is a great way to enjoy some fellowship and conversation, take a night off from cooking and meet some new neighbors!

**August Special Back-to-School Haircuts!**



Free Haircut Vouchers will be available for school age children at each Tuesday Table Meal in the month of August. Limited supply available, first come first serve.

### You can help with our Support of Heidy

We have committed to \$32/month to help pay for basic needs and Christian education opportunities for Heidy. Donations may be placed in the "Heidy" box on the usher table at church.

Thank you!



## Upcoming Events...

### SUNDAY SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday, August 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Are you interested in helping us have an exciting Sunday School program that excites the students and helps them learn about God in fun ways they'll remember? Please join us **Tuesday, August 9** at 6:30 for a planning meeting.

This meeting is for parents, teachers, past teachers and everyone who has a heart for our kids learning about Jesus. THANKS!

### Luncheon in honor of Marion Dilley's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Sunday, August 14 after Worship

Please plan to help Marion celebrate her special day.

### LWML Retreat August 12-14

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League Retreat will be at Lutheran Island Camp. The theme is "Thy Word Is a Lamp unto my Feet." Join us for Bible study, music, an inspiring speaker, fellowship and fun. Registration forms are at [www.lwmlmn.org](http://www.lwmlmn.org); click on Events, then MN North LWML District Retreats. (You do not need to be an LWML member to come to the retreat.)

### Saturday, August 20: Pie & Ice Cream Social

(In conjunction with NL Music Fest on the 20th)

Please talk to Pam Johnson if you can assist our annual outreach by....

- \_\_\_ Donating ingredients (flour, shortening and fresh/frozen fillings:
  - \_\_\_ Blueberries
  - \_\_\_ Cherries
  - \_\_\_ Rhubarb
  - \_\_\_ Peach
- \_\_\_ Donate cans of pop or bottles of water to sell at the booth (Donations can be placed in the cooler at back of church)
- \_\_\_ Help at the booth (Saturday, August 20)
- \_\_\_ Make Pies (Group pie-making date to be announced)
- \_\_\_ Bake Pies
- \_\_\_ Set Up and Take Down on the 20th

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Thot for a day: Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.

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### Strategic Planning Weekend: Aug 27-28

Led by Rev. Michael Ruhl, the Executive Director of Training for the Center for U.S. Missions, LC-MS

Leaders of Living Word will be meeting with Pastor Ruhl to craft a 1-3 year vision for Living Word - and a plan for making that vision become a reality.

### Tues., August 30 - Confirmation Parents Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Parents will learn about the confirmation instruction plan for the coming year.

### Family Camping Outing

Date (and place) To Be Determined:

Talk to Linda Dilley if you have ideas for this. Thanks!

## Your Input is Needed

... to help us determine fellowship opportunities to offer.

Congregational Outreach Director Linda Dilley is putting together a survey of possible activities/events/outings where Living Word members can get together and have a fun day/evening/weekend.

## Thanks !!!

- To Laurel Iverson for organizing our parade outreach and to everyone who helped make it a successful time of sharing the love of Jesus.
- To Bryson Wachter for organizing our youth lock-in and to everyone who helped with it.

If you have someone you'd like to thank for serving, please email their name and how they served to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

## August- Daily Devotionals

We continue our "Summer Reading" series with major characters God worked through in the Old Testament. He did powerful things through these people, yet they were human and sinful just like us. Record what you learn from their stories.

July 31 Summer Reading ... ELIJAH

Aug 1 1 Kings 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 2 1 Kings 18 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 3 1 Kings 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 4 1 Kings 21 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 5 2 Kings 1:1-17 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 6 2 Kings 2:1-18, Matthew 17:1-13 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 7 Summer Reading: ELISHA

Aug 8 2 Kings 2:19-3:27 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 9 2 Kings 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 10 2 Kings 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 11 2 Kings 6-7:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 12 2 Kings 7:3-8:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 13 2 Kings 13:10-20 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 14 Summer Reading: JOB

Aug 15 Job 1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 16 Job 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## "Old Testament People"

Aug 17 Job 31 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 18 Job 32-33 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 19 Job 38-41 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 20 Job 42 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 21 Summer Reading: SOLOMON

Aug 22 2 Samuel 12: 24-25; 1 Kings 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 23 1 Kings 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 24 1 Kings 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 25 1 Kings 4:20-5:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 26 1 Kings 7:51-9:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 27 1 Kings 10- 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 28 Summer Reading... JOSEPH

Aug 29 Genesis 37 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 30 Genesis 39 \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 31 Genesis 40-41 \_\_\_\_\_

Sept 1 Genesis 42-43 \_\_\_\_\_

Sept 2 Genesis 44-46:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Sept 3 47:1-12, 49:29-50:26 \_\_\_\_\_

# August 2011 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 31 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	Aug 1	2  6:00 Men's Group	3 9:30 Moms' Study  Noon Bible Study	4  8:15 - Softball Playoff 9:15 - Softball Playoff	5	6  5:30 Summer Saturday Worship
7 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum 10:00 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	8	9  6:30 SUNDAY SCHOOL PLANNING MTG. (For parents, and everyone interested in helping out kids grow in faith)	10 9:30 Moms' Study  Noon Bible Study  6:30 LWML	11	12	13  3:30 Strohbeen - Knutson Wedding  5:30 Summer Saturday Worship
14 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum 10:00 Worship 11:15 LUNCHEON TO HONOR MARION DILLEY ON HER 90 <sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY	15	16  6:00 Men's Group 7:15 Elders Mtg	17 9:30 Moms' Study  Noon Bible Study	18  7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	19  5:30 Sharp - Williams Wedding	20  Noon PIE/ ICE CREAM OUTREACH @ NL Music Fest  5:30 Summer Saturday Worship
21 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum 10:00 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	22	23	24 9:30 Moms' Study  Noon Bible Study	25	26	27  8:30 STRATEGIC PLANNING WEEKEND - session 1  5:30 Summer Saturday Worship
28 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship  noon STRATEGIC PLANNING WEEKEND - final session	29	30 7:00 Meeting for Parents of Confirmation Students	31 9:30 Moms' Study  Noon Bible Study	Sept 1	Sept 2	Sept 3

## Upcoming Schedules...

### Scripture Readers

Aug 7 Kevin Welsh  
 Aug 14 Carolyn Rossow  
 Aug 21 Linda Dilley  
 Aug 28 Mark Fuglie

Sept 4 Tammy Fuglie  
 Sept 11 Tammy Wachter  
 Sept 18 Duane Hansen  
 Sept 25 Scott Wachter

### Fellowship Servers

Aug 7 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson  
 Aug 14 Wendy Robbin / Stacy Olson  
 Aug 21 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie  
 Aug 28 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller

Sept 4 Elaine Abraham / Mona Hjelle  
 Sept 11 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson  
 Sept 18 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen  
 Sept 25 Marcie Welsh / Pam Johnson

### Children's Church Schedule

Aug 7 Emily Fuglie  
 Aug 14 Mikayla Geer  
 Aug 21 Carolyn Rossow  
 Aug 28 Mariah Welsh

Sept Leaders Needed

### Usher & Greeter Schedule

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
Aug 7	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer	Bryson W
Aug 14	Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle	Laurel I
Aug 21	Kevin & Noah Welsh	Bonnie H
Aug 28	Jamie & Phil Iverson	Lu K
Sept 4	Brady Sharp & Wally Abraham	Bryson W
Sept 11	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weffen	Laurel I
Sept 18	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter	Bonnie H
Sept 25	Troy Hansen & Brandon Sharp	

\*Fill-in Greeter Bonnie Hansen 796-5605

### Elders

Aug 7 Jason Miller & Troy Hansen  
 Aug 21 Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp

Sept 4 Jason Miller & Troy Hansen  
 Sept 18 Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp

## Living Word Softball...

We finished our season on August 4. It was a good season. We took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the regular season, winning six and losing two.

Thanks to everyone who played:

Pastor David,  
 Francis DeSchepper,  
 Scott Hjelle,  
 Joe Johnson,  
 Jason Olson,  
 Darin Palmquist,  
 Bo Schmidt,  
 Brady Sharp,  
 Chayce Sharp,  
 Skylar Wachter,  
 Kevin Welsh,  
 Noah Welsh,  
 Paul, Nate, and Andy.



Thanks also to Jamie Iverson for designing our shirts - they said it well!

Special thanks to our coaches Brandon Sharp and Bryson Wachter !

Extra Special thanks to our dedicated fans - you really did make a difference.

Most of all, thanks to God for allowing us the great fellowship opportunity - and forgiving our errors!

## August Discipleship Verse...



*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him who have been called according to His purpose."*  
**Romans 8:28**



## Opportunities for Growth...

### SUMMER READING SERIES

During the summer months our daily Bible reading focus has changed from 'topics' to 'people'. We have been getting some insight into the lives of people you have (or may not) have learned just a little about way back in Sunday School. This month we will read about the prophet **Elisha, Job, Solomon and Joseph**. The Summer Reading Series schedule of readings is listed elsewhere.

### So You Say Poetry Isn't Your Thing.... Really?

I'll bet you like it more than you think.

Most people would probably say that they aren't really "into" poetry - at least anything beyond the level of, say, Dr. Seuss. But if you have songs or hymns that you like (because of the words) or if the Psalms is one of your favorite books of the Bible, you really are "into" poetry more than you think. The vast majority of songs you hear on the radio, hymns or songs you sing in church are actually poems - simply set to music. And the Psalms are found in the "Poetic Books" section of the Bible (which also contains Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs and Lamentations)

As we bring the summer to a close, we will be looking at some of your favorite poems in our Bible studies. Everyone is encouraged to bring a couple favorite hymns, radio songs and Psalms. We'll look at (and listen to) what makes these "poems" so memorable. **Please join us for one of these studies...**

### Men's "Bible and Burgers" Study

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays @ 6:00 p.m.

Guys: Join us for our study:

### Wednesday Morning Mom's Study

Wednesdays @ 9:30

Childcare is provided

### Wednesday Noon Study

Open to anyone who can attend - guys and gals of all ages.

### Sunday Morning Study

Sunday mornings at 8:45

In our Sunday morning study we will be looking at some of the chapters you would "tear out and keep if you could only have one page.

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That for a day: My mind not only wanders, sometimes it leaves completely.

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## Congratulations!...

- Kjirsten Jo Hansen  
On her baptism, July 24

### PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY AT 11:09 EVERYDAY

(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")



## #73 The Writing On The Wall

Thursday, June 5, 2008

### Daniel 5:12

This man Daniel, whom the king called Belshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding, and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means.

## E-Mail Humor...

"I don't want a new baby." Our oldest son Brian was pretty adamant when I told him his father and I were expecting a third child. We'd survived the first round of sibling rivalry when his younger brother, Damian, was born, so we were surprised that he was digging in his heels over a new baby.

We spent about an hour trying to convince him it was a positive thing. Three-year-old Brian made his stand about this new baby, and neither logic nor persuasion could budge him.

Puzzled, I finally confronted him with a straight-forward question, "Why don't you want a new baby?"

With wide and teary eyes, Brian looked straight at me and said, "Because I like Damian, and I want to keep him."

Yesterday at church, a lady from the congregation was presenting the children's sermon. She walked up to the front of the church and said, "May I have all of the children?"

As the children walked forward, several parents responded, "Yes."

One quick-witted father asked, "For how long?"

Little Johnny's new baby brother was screaming up a storm. He asked his mom, "Where'd we get him?"

His mother replied, "He came from heaven, Johnny."

Johnny says, "WOW! I can see why they threw him out!"

Our young daughter had adopted a stray cat. To my distress, he began to use the back of our new sofa as a scratching post. "Don't worry," my husband reassured me. "I'll have him trained in no time."

I watched for several days as my husband patiently "trained" our new pet. Whenever the cat scratched, my husband deposited him outdoors to teach him a lesson.

The cat learned quickly. *For the next 16 years*, whenever he wanted to go outside, he scratched the back of the sofa!!

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Thot for a day: If Jimmy cracks com and no one cares, why is there a song about him?

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## Just For Fun...

### Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 177

Luke 12:42-48

D	A	Y	U	N	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	R	S	H
T	E	S	U	H	E	R	E	C	N	D	W	F	L	O
E	U	S	S	T	U	C	A	R	E	E	A	I	S	U
D	X	P	E	U	T	L	N	D	E	I	V	N	S	R
E	S	P	C	R	P	A	N	A	T	T	R	I	M	E
T	E	B	E	T	V	A	K	H	W	U	S	A	G	T
S	R	L	I	C	M	I	F	I	T	O	N	A	I	H
U	V	O	P	E	T	U	N	E	N	A	L	M	M	I
R	A	W	D	Y	L	G	R	G	G	G	E	L	O	N
T	N	S	N	O	I	S	S	E	S	S	O	P	A	G
N	T	D	R	E	P	O	R	P	G	D	R	O	L	S
E	S	U	P	P	O	S	E	I	E	R	E	M	D	D
S	M	N	E	T	A	E	B	K	Y	H	A	W	E	N
K	N	U	R	D	A	S	S	I	G	N	D	H	E	I
F	O	O	D	A	W	A	R	E	Y	L	Y	P	C	F

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

\_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 54

MORE PUZZLES AT:  
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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### Parable of the Returning Ruler

ASKED	LORD
ASSIGN	MANAGER
AWARE	MANY
BEATEN	MASTER
BLOWS	PIECES
CHARGE	PLACE
CUT	PROPER
DAY	PUT
DRUNK	READY
EXPECT	RETURNS
FAITHFUL	SERVANTS
FEW	SUPPOSE
FINDS	TAKING
FOOD	THINGS
GIVEN	TIME
GOOD	TRUTH
HOUR	WISE
ALLOWANCE	
DEMANDED	
DESERVING	
ENTRUSTED	
POSSESSIONS	
UNBELIEVERS	

### The weather report!



## Inspirational Story...

### Bruised Apples

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. Well, as such things go, one thing led to another. The sales meeting lasted longer than anticipated.

Their flights were scheduled to leave out of Chicago's O'Hare Airport, and they had to race to the airport. With tickets in hand, they barged through the terminal to catch their flight back home. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table, which held a display of baskets of apples. Apples flew everywhere.

Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding, all but one. He paused, took a deep breath and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him and told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight.

Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the floor. He was glad he did. The 16-year-old girl at the apple stand was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her, no one stopping or to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them into the baskets, and helped set the display up once more. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket. When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$20 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears.

He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister...." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride, and he wondered. Then slowly he

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That for a day The best car safety device is a rear-view mirror with a cop in it.

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made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

Do people mistake you for Jesus? That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace. If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting Scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day.

You are the apple of His eye even though we, too, have been bruised by the fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked you and me up on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit.

## Story Behind The Song...

### "Just As I Am"

Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

This song has been called "the world's greatest soul-winning hymn." It has been used for years by evangelist Billy Graham as a hymn of invitation for people to "come just as you are" bringing their load of sins to the Lord, repenting of them and having Him wash them completely away.

The author of the hymn, Charlotte Elliot, was known as "carefree Charlotte" during her younger years. But at the age of 30 she contracted a serious illness that left her an invalid until her death at age 82. Many times her weakened condition left her depressed about her inability to do things. One such time was when her brother H.V. Elliot, a pastor, was raising funds for St. Mary's Hall in Brighton, England. St. Mary's was a college for daughters of poor clergymen, and Charlotte was sad that she could not help due to her physical condition. The words spoken to her in a fourteen-year-earlier visit from Swiss evangelist, Dr. Caesar Malan, came back to her, "Charlotte, you must come *just as you are* - a sinner - to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

She wrote a poem based on those encouraging words that she felt may help others who were limited by physical conditions. The poem first appeared in *The Christian Remembrancer*, of which Miss Elliot became editor in 1836. Not long after its publishing, a lady whose heart it touched greatly had the



poem printed in leaflet form and distributed it widely. One day while visiting a very ill Miss Elliott, her physician gave her one of the leaflets in an effort to bring her comfort (he had no idea she was the author). Tears streamed down her face as she was told that copies of the poem were being sold to raise funds for St. Mary's Hall. God had indeed used her, "just as she was," to make a significant contribution toward the building of the school.

It's a great reminder that God doesn't ask us to do what we aren't capable of doing. But he does ask us to simply give him what we have - with the promise that He can use that in great ways.

It is impossible to know how many people have been brought to Jesus through the words of that poem-turned-hymn. Her brother said this, *"In the course of a long ministry, I hope I have been permitted to see some fruit of my labors, but I feel that more has been done by a single hymn of my sister's."* After Charlotte's death more than a thousand letters were found among her paper, giving thanks for blessings received from "Just As I Am."

Read the words of this powerful hymn and make them your own...

**Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come!**

**Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come!**

**Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come!**

**Just as I am poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come!**

**Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come!**

**Just as I am, (Thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down),  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,}  
Lamb of God, I come!**

*Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."*  
John 6:35,37

## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



**THE LORD IS  
MY CAMPGUIDE**

I have every  
thing I need.  
He let's me  
rest at clean  
campsites with  
running water  
and electric. He  
gives me good  
rest, and leads  
me on paths  
marked clearly

to the restrooms and hot showers, because he is  
good. Even though I walk through the valley of  
MOSQUITOES I will not be afraid, cuz you giveth me  
DEET. Your campfire and picnic pavillion comfort me.  
You prepare s'mores and hot dogs in the presence  
of racoons. You fill my coleman lantern with oil,  
and my coffee mug overflows. Surely good weather  
and fun will be with me, and I will stay in the  
Lord's Campground FOREVER! Ps 23 (CIV)

Campers International Version.