



August 2016 Newsletter
"Communicating the Love of Jesus"
Worship Hours:
Christian Growth Hour: 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

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 Pastor...

"What do you think of ...Donald Trump / Hillary Clinton?"

I've fielded this question many times recently. I suppose that it's a natural question in a presidential election year.

Maybe the best answer I can give is similar to something I came across in an email from the Minnesota Family Council. The subject was a meeting that Christian leaders had with Donald Trump, so the email specifically references Mr. Trump. But the exact same conclusion would apply to Ms. Clinton and those who are wondering whether or not to support her.

Here is the main part of the email:

In June nearly 1,000 Christian leaders from across the nation gathered in New York City for a candid conversation with presumptive nominee, Donald Trump. Among those in attendance was John Helmberger, CEO of Minnesota Family Council.

John Helmberger, along with numerous allies in numerous states joined Trump in New York not to endorse, but to engage in a candid conversation concerning the **convictions that many Christians cherish, want preserved, and are striving to advance in our respective spheres of influence.** Many recognize the significant role the next president will play in shaping future policies on life, family, and religious freedom. These core, non-negotiable issues are central to Minnesota Family Council's mission. Many, including John, attended in order to further discern the intentions of this candidate, to speak into the ongoing conversation, and to highlight pro-life, pro-family, pro-religious freedom



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policies we believe must be championed.

One of our good friends, Bob Vander Plaats serves as President and CEO of The Family Leader in Iowa. He too attended the gathering and his related article below first appeared on The Family Leader's website....We commend his portrayal of the event and his challenge to believers.

It's Time... to Think Bigger Than Trump

By Bob Vander Plaats

Many reports have come out of the meeting that faith leaders held in New York City on June 21 with presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump. Below are my impressions from this big meeting, but I want to stress at the outset my conclusion of the matter: No matter how big the stage, or the stakes, if the church confines its vision to Mr. Trump, then our vision is not big enough. The good news is ... there is a bigger vision already laid out for us.

What happened in New York

The original intent of the New York City meeting was to be a free-flowing and unscripted dialogue with Mr. Trump. We wanted no media. We desired a safe environment that would lend itself to transparency, so Mr. Trump could see our heart and we could see his... Allow me to report the good things that happened in New York.

First, 1,000 faith leaders journeyed from across the U.S. to discern how to lead our country at this crucial time. Their heart for wisdom and unity was truly encouraging. They politely welcomed Mr. Trump to a conversation, and Mr. Trump honored the faith leaders and their importance in the culture and this election by agreeing to meet. These kinds of conversations between faith leaders and national civic leaders are unique opportunities and a positive step.

Second, on the issues, Mr. Trump provided hope for these leaders as he spoke boldly for religious liberty, for ending the Johnson Amendment (which threatens churches that engage in politics with losing their tax-exempt status), for standing with Israel, for repealing Obamacare, and for insisting on the appointment of constitutionally minded Supreme Court justices. All of this is good news.

My biggest concern after leaving this meeting, however, is witnessing brothers and sisters in Christ on both sides of the Trump debate disparaging one another in the name of Christ. As big as this event was, and as big as this election is, I encourage all believers to **think bigger.** Tearing apart the church over Trump is defeating the bigger vision for the sake of the smaller.

For our hope – the hope of the believer, the hope of the church, and even America’s best hope – is not in Donald Trump nor Hillary Clinton nor the 2016 election nor any human instrument. **Think bigger!** Our true hope is not in a president or king, but in the King of Kings, and as Ronald Reagan rightly pointed out, “This country hungers for a spiritual revival.”

And the one institution that champions that true hope for revival is not a candidate or political party, but the church. The vision of the church is the vision bigger than even Donald Trump.

The best message that could come out of this meeting in New York is an overwhelming and united embrace of the belief that our true hope for America is in the Bride of Christ, the church. Simply put, **America needs the church to be the church.** Our pulpits must be enflamed with the righteousness Alexis de Tocqueville proclaimed makes America unique. The church, the body of Christ, must be willing to lead with humility and in prayer by seeking God’s heart and by authentically turning from our wicked and indifferent ways (2 Chronicles 7:14). We need revival, and nothing else and no one else will do.

Thus, I encourage all believers, no matter where you are on the Trump spectrum, to **think bigger** and to encourage one another to keep the main thing the main thing– the church’s united mission to proclaim the Cross of Christ! Let us not allow our smaller vision of Donald Trump to so divide the Body of Christ that it compromises or disqualifies us from our true hope.

Be a part of big vision, the call to revival in America. It’s Time!

FOR MORE INFORMATION Visit the “If 7:14” site at <http://www.if714.com/>

So, no matter who you think is the best leader for our country the next four years, keep putting your ultimate hope in Jesus. He’s truly the One who is in control. One of our VBS lessons later this month will focus on “wisdom.” James 1 tells us that God will give wisdom when we ask in faith. Ask Him for wisdom in your voting choices. Most of all ask Him for revival that begins not in the White House, but in you and me and Living Word.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

That for a day: The difference between “gossip” and “news” is whether you hear it or tell it.

Opportunities for Growth...

Today’s Light Daily Readings:

See pages 10–11 of this newsletter

Sunday Morning Study (9:00)

Stuff they didn’t teach me in Sunday School: Gospel of John

Men’s Study- “Bible & Brats”

Tuesday, August 9th @ 6:30pm

Bratwürship.

Mom’s Study - Wed. @ 9:00 a.m. - on Summer break—back in Sept

Wed. Evening Women’s Study - on Summer break—back in Sept

Confirmation Class - on Summer break—back in Sept

H.S. Youth Study - 1st & 3rd Sundays @ 6:30

Sunday School: Summer Reading program

Marriage Enrichment Evening - August 7th @ 6:00 pm

“Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage” @ the Millers



F.F.A.A. (Fun for All Ages)-

Wednesday, August 10th - 6:30pm

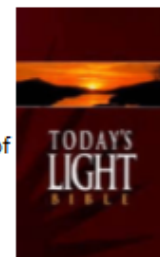
MOVIE! Picnic food; Summer Reading Program update

Vacation Bible School—August 16th through 18th

See page

Could You Host A Small Group Study This Summer?

One of our Core Values at Living Word is that making disciples (people who are committed to growing to become more like Jesus) happens best in small group settings. For example, it’s easier for people to get connected to Jesus through small groups. It’s easier to get to know other Christians in small groups. Caring happens best in small groups. With that in mind if you could host a small group study - at your home, a coffee house or at church, please talk to Pastor David. There are many different kinds of studies available. We can find one that fits your situation.



Opportunities to Serve...

Lead a small group of youth

We would like to have our 3-6th, 7-9th and 10-12th groups meet once a week (or every-other week) for study, service projects and fun events. If you could help with any of these activities for one of these age groups, please talk to Youth Director Lyndsay Ampe. Thanks for considering it!

Help at our Annual Pie Booth at NL Music Fest

Please check the sign-up sheet at church for times to help before, during and after the Pie Social (Saturday, August 20). This is an important event for the year. Opportunities to serve include:

- Baking Pies
- Prepping the booth
- Transporting pies and supplies on Saturday morning
- Staffing the booth
- Taking down and cleaning up
- Providing coolers with ice to keep the beverages cold.

Please contact Leone Quigley @ 354-4665 or leoneq46@gmail.com if you have any questions. Thanks to everyone who can help in any way!

A Great Month To Use Our Make-A-Meal Program

One of the best (and simplest) ways to share Jesus' love is by making a meal for someone who is going through a tough time. Please use the Prayer and Care cards in the attendance pad at worship or call Pastor David or Meal Coordinator Linda Dilley if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks! Our August Make-a-Meal volunteers are Mona Hjelle & Gracie Geer

Read Scripture in Worship

Please talk to Pastor David if you can take a turn once every couple of months reading our New Testament and Old Testament Scriptures.

Serve After-Worship Fellowship Snack

We are looking for more folks to take a turn at serving snacks for fellowship time after worship.

We're looking for more Ushers

Please talk to Pastor David if you can serve once every other month.

Help With Our Nursery

We need a couple more volunteers to help with our during-worship

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That for a day: Silent company is often more healing than words of advice.

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nursery (2-4 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help out

Bring Food Shelf Items Every Second Sunday

We received 5# of food items in July. Thanks for continuing to support the food shelf. (Food shelf Sunday this month is August 14 - always the 2nd Sunday of the month.)

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. Last week we thanked God for **All Who Serve in Law Enforcement!** Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week.

Summer Reading Program...

We have books available to check out from the table at the north end of the fellowship area at church. There are age-appropriate books for all ages of Sunday School students - as well as books for adults. Students earn points for books read (and books they read to younger siblings). Points can be redeemed at the end of summer for a prize!

- Chronicles of Narnia
- The Sugar Creek Gang
- The Case for Christ for Kids
- The Cul-de-sac Kids
- Arch Books
- BOXCAR CHILDREN 1-4 set;
- GIRL'S GUIDE TO MAKING REALLY GOOD CHOICES;
- BOY'S GUIDE TO MAKING REALLY GOOD CHOICES;
- TEN GIRLS WHO CHANGED THE WORLD;
- TEN BOYS WHO CHANGED THE WORLD;
- IF I COULD ASK GOD ANYTHING-
- AWESOME BIBLE ANSWERS FOR CURIOUS KIDS.



Some of the books for adults:

- A Heart Like His - Beth Moore
- The Hidden Value of a Man - Gary Smalley & John Trent
- The Five Love Languages - Gary Chapman
- Rebel With A Cause - Franklin Graham
- When God Doesn't Make Sense - James Dobson
- When God Whispers Your Name - Max Lucado
- Armed and Dangerous (Praying with Boldness) - Jane Fryar

Mark Your Calendars...



August 7th M.E.E. (Marriage Enrichment Evening)

Our August meeting will be on Sunday, August 7 at 6pm at Jason & Sarah Millers' home. Bring something to grill or a picnic salad.

Mission & Ministry Team

Meets on the 4th THURSDAY of the month in August due to VBS.

The Final F.F.A.A (Fun For All Ages) Night for Summer

Will be held on Wednesday, August 10. Pop & Popcorn at 6:30/ Movie will begin at 7:00. At this point the exact movie is yet to be determined. We'd like to show a Christian-themed movie that would be good for all age groups. If you have one you can suggest, please talk to Pastor David.

Tuesday's Table

Living Word will be hosting Tuesday's Table on August 30th. Please check out how you can help serve the community at this event.



Email Humor...

On the way to spend the weekend with us, our grandchildren noticed a bright star in the sky. Our daughter, Nancy, told them that it was Mars, which was at its closest and brightest in many thousands of years. She went on to provide a simplified explanation of the solar system suitable for her young listeners in the back seat. Nancy ended her explanation with, "We live on a planet called Earth."

After a long pause, my four-year-old grandson asked, "What planet does Grandpa live on?"

Thanks...

... to everyone who helped at the Jennie-O 75th Anniversary Celebration (Jennie-O made a \$500 donation to Living Word for your help)

... to Keith Hanson & Mark Fuglie for NYG group rides to / from airport

... to everyone who helped with our WaterDays Parade Outreach

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That for a day: The real measure of your wealth is how much you would be worth if you lost all your money.

Page 9 | The LINK...

AUGUST NEWS



Charity Omroff, Client Services and Community Engagement • 320.796.2522 • thelinkservices@faithspicer.org



The Link update:

Your generous financial support of the community is making a difference!

Supporting Tuesday's Table, a weekly community meal, where over a hundred volunteers each month are engaged to serve their neighbor. Over 4,000 meals have been shared.

Providing basic furniture and housewares to 69 families in transition through the Household Exchange.

Supporting the "Just the Basics" Household and Hygiene Distribution in April. Almost 40 people received over \$200 in goods to stretch their budget. 60% of the households had incomes <\$2,000/month.

Assisting people in need of support and financial resources through the Client Services Program when no other resources were available. Through June, your support has helped 83 families, or 196 people (almost half children) secure their basic needs to move forward. Housing continues to be the greatest need.

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

During August many families struggle with the fact that they have to stretch their already tight budget to buy school supplies. If you would like to make a difference to students in our community, please donate to United Way's STUFF THE BUS campaign. Last year they collected \$13,400 worth of supplies! There are donation bins at each library and at several of our local churches. If you want to learn more, please contact Charity at 796-2522 or call United Way at 235-1050



Dr. Richard, Ben, Ella & Nancy Walseler (not pictured: Caroline) gave a generous donation to The Link Legacy Endowment.

Tuesday's Table

Aug. 2nd: Our Lady of the Lakes

Aug. 9th: Evangelical Covenant Church

Aug. 16th: No Tuesday's Table

Aug. 23rd: No Tuesday's Table

Aug. 30th: Living Word Lutheran

Food. Friends. Fellowship.

August 2016 - Daily Devotionals

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We spend the month with another of the prophetic books from the Old Testament, Jeremiah. Then jump back to the New Testament for the Apostle Paul's letter of instruction to his friend Timothy. (In parentheses are verses to focus on if you are short on time)

July 31 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Aug 1 Jeremiah 1-2 (1:1-19) _____

Aug 2 Jeremiah 3-4 (4:1-31) _____

Aug 3 Jeremiah 5-6 (5:1-31) _____

Aug 4 Jeremiah 7-8 (7:1-28) _____

Aug 5 Jeremiah 9-10 (10:1-16) _____

Aug 6 Jeremiah 11-12 (11:1-17) _____

Aug 7 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Aug 8 Jeremiah 13-14 (13:1-11) _____

Aug 9 Jeremiah 15-17 (17:1-18) _____

Aug 10 Jeremiah 18-19 (18:1-17) _____

Aug 11 Jeremiah 20-22 (20:7-18) _____

Aug 12 Jeremiah 23 (23:1-8) _____

Aug 13 Jeremiah 24-25 (25:15-19) _____

Aug 14 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Aug 15 Jeremiah 26-28 (28:1-17) _____

Aug 16 Jeremiah 29 (29:1-23) _____

Aug 17 Jeremiah 30-32 (31:1-40) _____

Aug 18 Jeremiah 33 (33:14-26) _____

Aug 19 Jeremiah 34-35 (35:1-19) _____

Aug 20 Jeremiah 36-37 (36:1-26) _____

Aug 21 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Aug 22 Jeremiah 38-40 (38:1-28) _____

Aug 23 Jeremiah 41-43 (42:1-22) _____

Aug 24 Jeremiah 44-45 (44:1-23) _____

Aug 25 Jeremiah 46-49 (46:24-28) _____

Aug 26 Jeremiah 50-51 (50:1-20) _____

Aug 27 Jeremiah 52 (52:1-16) _____

Aug 28 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Aug 29 1 Timothy 1 (1:1-11) _____

Aug 30 1 Timothy 2 (2:1-8) _____



Aug 31 1 Timothy 3 (3:1-13) _____

Sep 1 1 Timothy 4 (4:1-8) _____

Sep 2 1 Timothy 5 (5:1-16) _____

Sep 3 1 Timothy 6 (6:3-19) _____

August 2016 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 31 9:00 ADULT STUDY - 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship	1	2	3	4 9:15 CHURCH-LEAGUE SOFTBALL	5 Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, August 7th Sunday, August 21st 	6
7 9:00 ADULT STUDY 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship 6:00 'Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage' @ Millers'	8	9 Bratwürship. 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MEN'S BIBLE & BRATS	10 10:00 LWML Planning Mtg. @ Leone's 6:30 MOVIE NIGHT	11 TBA CHURCH-LEAGUE SOFTBALL 	12	13
14 9:00 ADULT STUDY 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship	15	16 VACATION 5:30	17 	18 SCHOOL 8:00	19	20 ANNUAL PIE SOCIAL @ NL Music Fest
21 9:00 ADULT STUDY - 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship	22 Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net	23	24	25 MISSION Ministry 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	26	27 WEDDING: Nykole Dilley Nick Foshaug
28 BACKPACK BLESSING DAY 9:00 ADULT STUDY 10:00 WORSHIP w/backpack blessing	29	30 TUESDAY'S TABLE 6:00 Living Word hosts TUESDAY'S TABLE	31	Sermons Now Available on our Website! This year we have begun making the sermons from Sunday available in audio on the website. Check it out at www.livingwordlutheran.net/sermons (Or just click on "New Sermons Online" at the bottom of the LivingWordLutheran.net home page)		
				Sept 1	2	3

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Aug 7 Tammy Fuglie
Aug 14 Larry Hultgren
Aug 21 Becky Sarsland
Aug 28 Mona Hjelle

Fellowship Servers

Aug 7 Mike & Brooke Knutson
Aug 14 Kerry & Leone Quigley
Aug 21 Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky / Mary Lee Moore
Aug 28 Becky Sarsland / Mary Raddatz

Usher Schedule

Aug 7 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Aug 14 Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson
Aug 21 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
Aug 28 Brent & Lance Sawatzky

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

July 3 Eli Sharp
July 10 Lance Sawatzky
July 17 George Arends-Schmidt
July 24 Davis Rustad
July 31 Gage Dahl

Aug 7 Carson Jaspersen
Aug 14 Noah Miller
Aug 21 Andrew Sharp
Aug 28 Levi Miller

Make A Meal Volunteers

Aug Mona Hjelle & Gracie Geer

Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)
Aug 7 Mona Hjelle & Lance Sawatzky
Aug 14 Noah Miller & Davis Rustad
Aug 21 McCartney Knutson & Andrew Sharp
Aug 28 Gracie Geer & Carson Jaspersen

Altar Guild

August Nancy Jo Wendt
Sept Mona Hjelle

Elders

Aug 7 Mark Fuglie & Jason Miller
Aug 21 Keith Hanson & Kevin Welsh

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Thot for a day: A veteran is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America for an amount up to and including their life.

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Accompanying Musicians

Aug 7 Sharon Willen
Aug 14 Scott Wachter
Aug 21 Pam Johnson
Aug 28 Scott Wachter

Sept 4 Sharon Willen
Sept 11 Scott Wachter
Sept 18 Pam Johnson
Sept 25 Scott Wachter

Custodian

August National Youth Gathering Group
Sept National Youth Gathering Group

Miscellaneous Notes...

Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

Here's just a sampling of what you'll find :

- A BUNCH of new kids books
- New Devotional books
- Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- Today's Light Devotional Bibles
- August Today's Light daily Bible readings
- Faith, Hope and Love Scripture bags
- August Living Word newsletters + Local coupons
- July—Sept Portals of Prayer - daily devotionals



Summer: A Great Time to Direct Deposit Your Offerings

Summer schedules frequently have us out of town on the weekends. Direct-deposit can ensure your offerings are still supporting our mission while you are away. Thrivent Financial sponsors Simply Giving, a direct-deposit program that you can set up to have offerings automatically transferred from your bank account to the Living Word's general fund. Please see Jason Miller for more details.

August Discipleship Verse...



For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

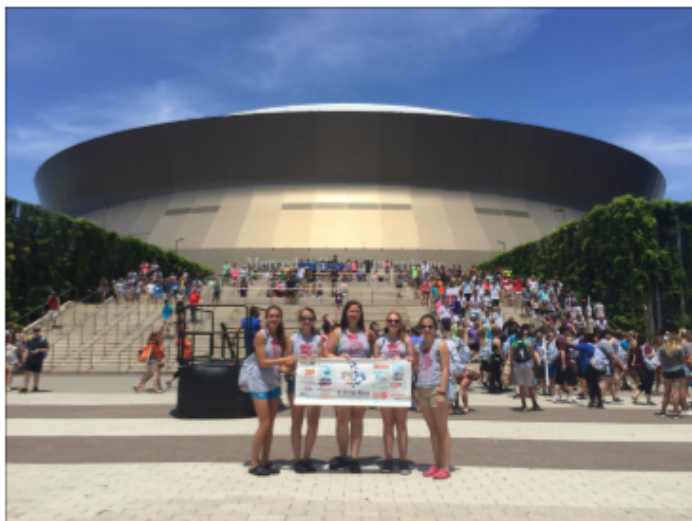
2 Timothy 1:7

National Youth Gathering Update...



Our Group returned, July 21st and recapped their experience in worship on July 31. They will be sharing insights and God's work through the NYG in the September Newsletter.

Thanks for your support, your donations, help with our fundraisers, and continued prayers!



Church-League Softball

Thanks to everyone who ...
... Played ... Subbed ... Cheered

Special Thanks to...

Brady Sharp for Organizing & Coaching
Jamie Iverson for our uniform design



The LWML planning meeting will be August 10th @ 11:00. We will be meeting at Leone's. All women are welcome to attend and be a part of LWML.

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That for a day: Don't borrow trouble. Be patient and you'll soon have some of your own.

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Vacation Bible School...

August is almost here, and once again Vacation Bible School is planned for Aug 16 - 18. Tuesday thru Thursday. Attached are the invitation, our Mission Project, and Sign-up Sheet. I am asking that you please look it over and see if there is some way that you could help out in this Outreach! If you know of someone that you could

invite or maybe someone that moved in down the road that may have children, please get them an invite or let me know so I could send them one.

Also, our Mission Project for VBS is the "School Kits" distributed through "Orphan Grain Train", we are asking the congregation to help out in this mission by supplying items on the list (we have backpacks and pencils). Maybe start purchasing those items as the back-to-school

You're invited to come on
"A WALK WITH JESUS"

Living Word Lutheran Church
V. B. S.

Aug. 16 - 18, 2016
(Tuesday - Thursday)
5:30 - 8:00 P.M.
Ages 3 years - 5th Grade

We will offer a light supper,
Or bring a sack lunch

Our Mission Project will be providing "school kits" for children in poverty, and distributed by "Orphan Grain Train". Backpacks will be provided and are asking for 1-2 items listed on attached.

Contact Mona - 212-0069/Church - 354-4637

sales have begun. I just ask that you could wait until Aug. to bring them to church, and we will put them together during VBS. Also. Please consider volunteering to help out one day in a certain area. That would be great and appreciated very much! If there are any questions, please ask!

I will have extra invites and the "school kit" lists at church and the sign-up sheet will also be there.

Thank you so much for any help that you could provide!

Mona Hjelle

Email Inspiration...

I envy Kevin. My brother Kevin thinks God lives under his bed. At least that's what I heard him say one night. He was praying out loud in his dark bedroom, and I stopped outside his closed door to listen. "Are you there, God?" he said. "Where are you? Oh, I see. Under the bed." I giggled softly and tiptoed off to my own room.

Kevin's unique perspectives are often a source of amusement. But that night something else lingered long after the humor. I realized for the first time the very different world Kevin lives in. He was born 30 years ago, mentally disabled as a result of difficulties during labor. Apart from his size (6-foot-2), there are few ways in which he is an adult. He reasons and communicates with the capabilities of a 7-year-old, and he always will. He will probably always believe that God lives under his bed, that Santa Claus is the one who fills the space under our tree every Christmas and that airplanes stay up in the sky because angels carry them.

I remember wondering if Kevin realizes he is different. Is he ever dissatisfied with his monotonous life? Up before dawn each day, off to work at a workshop for the disabled, home to walk our cocker spaniel, return to eat his favorite macaroni-and-cheese for dinner, and later to bed. The only variation in the entire scheme are laundry, when he hovers excitedly over the washing machine like a mother with her newborn child. He does not seem dissatisfied. He lopes out to the bus every morning at 7:05, eager for a day of simple work. He wrings his hands excitedly while the water boils on the stove before dinner, and he stays up late twice a week to gather our dirty laundry for his next day's laundry chores. And Saturdays-oh, the bliss of Saturdays! That's the day my Dad takes Kevin to the airport to have a soft drink, watch the planes land, and speculate loudly on the destination of each passenger inside. "That one's goin' to Chi-car-go!" Kevin shouts as he claps his hands. His anticipation is so great he can hardly sleep on Friday nights.

And so goes his world of daily rituals and weekend field trips. He doesn't know what it means to be discontent. His life is simple. He will never know the entanglements of wealth or power, and he does not care what brand of clothing he wears or what kind of food he eats. His needs have always been met, and he never worries that one day they may not be. His hands are diligent. Kevin is never so happy as when he is working. When he unloads the dishwasher or vacuums the carpet, his heart is completely in it. He does not shrink from a job when it is begun, and he does not leave a job until it is finished. But when his tasks are done, Kevin knows how to relax. He is not ob-

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That for a day: Every new morning brings us as much of God's grace as we need for the day.

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sessed with his work or the work of others. His heart is pure. He still believes everyone tells the truth, promises must be kept, and when you are wrong, you apologize instead of argue. Free from pride and unconcerned with appearances, Kevin is not afraid to cry when he is hurt, angry or sorry.

He is always transparent, always sincere. And he trusts God. Not confined by intellectual reasoning, when he comes to Christ, he comes as a child. Kevin seems to know God - to really be friends with Him in a way that is difficult for an "educated" person to grasp. God seems like his closest companion. In my moments of doubt and frustrations with my Christianity, I envy the security Kevin has in his simple faith. It is then that I am most willing to admit that he has some divine knowledge that rises above my mortal questions. It is then I realize that perhaps he is not the one with the handicap - I am. My obligations, my fear, my pride, my circumstances - they all become disabilities when I do not trust them to God's care. Who knows if Kevin comprehends things I can never learn? After all, he has spent his whole life in that kind of innocence, praying after dark and soaking up the goodness and love of God.

And one day, when the mysteries of heaven are opened, and we are all amazed at how close God really is to our hearts, I'll realize that God heard the simple prayers of a boy who believed that God lived under his bed. Kevin won't be surprised at all!

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 be "impudent" and PRAY for...

- Volunteers to lead small groups for our various ages of youth
- Volunteers for the Pie Social
- Asking the Holy Spirit to continue to empower us to be bold witnesses
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- Great Weather for the Pie Social & VBS
- Great Weather for Nykki Dille & Nick Foshaug wedding
- God to give us wisdom as we choose leaders in this election year.
- The Holy Spirit to work through our VBS
- The Holy Spirit to continue to work in the lives of our NYG Group
- The Holy Spirit to bring revival in our nation through Christians
- God to raise up leaders in our nation who seek His will
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan
- Kids to have a great start to the school year.

Just For Fun... Find the hidden Bible verse.

Find the hidden Bible verse.

Bible Wordsearch

Apostles Chosen

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

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

More Puzzles At:

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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E-mail Wisdom...

Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress... I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery. — Psalm 31:9, Psalm 31:12

Ever feel like everything is against you? Or like you are stuck in negative thought patterns?

One pattern to watch out for is overgeneralization.

This usually involves words like always, never, every time, or everyone. These thoughts make a situation out to be worse than it really is.

For instance, "I have always struggled with health issues; it will never change" or "Every time I get stressed, I fall into bad patterns."

Are these thoughts accurate? Do you know it will never change? Do you have to fall into bad patterns every time, without exception? Of

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Thot for a day: Good teachers are those who can challenge young minds without losing their own.

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course not

Overgeneralizations make you believe you have no control over your actions and that you are incapable of changing them.

If you tend to think in overgeneralizations, write them down and challenge them. Then turn your heart to what you know is true: the power of the Holy Spirit is within you.

God is merciful: He will free you from those old thought patterns.

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Story Behind The Song...

"In Christ Alone"

Since the theme of the National Youth Gathering was "In Christ Alone," I thought it was timely to find out the story behind the song of that name. Unlike many songs, there's a lot more 'story' behind this song than fits in this newsletter. I'd encourage you to especially check out the interview with Keith Getty who composed the music for the song. You can find it at:

<https://churchmusictoday.wordpress.com/2010/09/15/story-behind-in-christ-alone/>

Below is the story from the songwriter Stuart Townend's perspective as found on the website weareworship.com

The song got written in an unexpected way. Keith Getty and I were at a conference together and a mutual friend said we should get together. He'd said how great Keith was at writing melodies and he probably said some nice things about how I write lyrics, and so we met for a coffee. Nothing particularly eventful happened but Keith said he'd send me a CD with some of his song ideas.

When it arrived I wasn't expecting anything much from it. But as soon as I heard the first song – which was just him on the piano, playing the melody in the right hand – I thought there was something about it, something quite profound.

It was a classic melody, with that eternal, enduring aspect. I was getting to like it more and more and wondering what the song could be about. I phoned Keith and subsequently thought 'this is a song about Jesus' life, death and resurrection and what that means for us.'

When I started to write the lyrics it got more and more exciting, and I got more and more emotional. I began to try and put into words what it means for Christ to have gone through what he went through, what that means for me and how that completely changes my life.

I sent the lyrics to Keith and he liked them and he suggested changing the first line. I'd started with the words My hope is found in Christ alone, but he thought it would be great if the song began with the phrase In Christ alone. I actually think it was a stroke of genius because now the song is known as In Christ Alone, it's where the song begins, it's the statement you make and it's the first thing you sing. So I think that it made the song so much stronger as a result.

The song started slowly in terms of my writing. Sometimes you're just trying to find your way with the first verse, trying to find the key theme. The second verse was about his life and going to the cross, but I think that by the third verse I was thinking about the moment of resurrection. The melody was so powerful, so suggestive of that, and it was at that point I began to be really caught up in the song. It kind of meant that the fourth verse just spilled out, with me saying 'wow, this is what the cross and resurrection means: to change is everything.'

That's the power of the song – it points to what Christ went through. We get to stand before him not because of our great faith or because doing well as a Christian, but purely and simply because of what he has done. That's why the song is helpful. That's why it means something.

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the grave His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain:

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Thot for a day: The pessimist may be right in the long run, but the optimist has a better time during the trip.

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Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I stand!

Editor's note: Probably my favorite version of this song is by Owl City: <https://youtu.be/lpl-rLRxOrs>

