



# May 2018 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

# Question for Pastor...

### What do you think God would think of you?

One of the assignments the confirmation students have is to "interview" the pastor, so I had them come up with a list of questions they wanted to ask me (with a particular focus on spiritual things).



They asked a few easy-to-answer questions, like: "How old are your kids?" (26 & 27) and "How far did you have to walk - 'uphill both ways' - to school every day?" (A mile) and "What is the square root of 225?" (15).

I also received some deeper questions, like the one listed at the top. It's a great question. One that gets at the heart of our relationship with God. My answer was this:

I expect that God thinks about us in much the same way that most parents think about their kids - remember, He is our Heavenly Father. And as our Heavenly Father the most important thing God thinks about me - and you and everyone else - is this: I brought you into this world and I really LOVE you!

That great passage at the end of Romans chapter 8 reminds us that there is NOTHING - nothing we have done, nothing we will do, and nothing that has been done to us - that can ever make God quit thinking, "I love you!"

And, when I do things He's told us are good for us to do, God probably thinks something along the lines of "Way to go kid! You're making your Dad proud!" Just like most parents would think of their kids in that situation.

Also, like any parent would naturally be disappointed, sad or hurt when a child disobeys the rules or flat-out rebels, I expect God reacts with similar disappointment, sadness or hurt feelings when I mess up. He knows I can do better.

But no matter how badly I mess up - and pastors are not immune from messing up badly! - I know that God still loves me. Sending His Son to

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take the punishment for My sin is proof of that! I also know that instead of holding a grudge against me for what I've done wrong, He holds out His forgiveness (just like the Father in the Prodigal Son parable) and will never give up on me!

Christ IS risen! Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

### 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...

- Great attendance at our Mother-Daughter Luncheon, May 12
- A successful Garage Sale Fundraiser May 25-26
- A 'full slate' of attendees & volunteers for the National Youth Gathering
- Thanking God for everyone involved in our Sunday School program
- Thanking God for all the kids in our church and all we learn from them
- The Spirit to continue the work begun at the Women's Retreat
- Protection for farmers and construction workers
- Protection as the summer travel season begins
- Thanking God for all who gave their lives in service to our country.
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Courage to take a stand for Jesus at school and work.
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- God to embolden our Christian witness in our daily lives.
- The Holy Spirit to continue to work through our Bible studies
- God to raise up leaders in our nation who seek His will
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

# Thank God For...

You've seen our sign board out by the road with the beginning of a sentence: "Thank God For..." This past month we thanked God for...



- Christ is STILL Risen
- 60 Degrees!
- For Dominic Evenson Baptized into God's family
   Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next month.

# Opportunities for Growth...

### Sunday Morning Study @ 9:00

Men's Study - Tuesdays @ 6:30"

Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School: The Book of Revelation.

Please Join us - on Sunday Mornings at 9:00 or our Men's Study on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 -to learn the blessings God promises for reading



### Daily Bible readings:

The Resurrection-See pages 10 & 11 in this Newsletter

### Women's Wednesday Evening Study:

We've finished the Old Testament, so we will start our Summer Break and be back in September to begin the New Testament.

### Moms' Study: Wednesdays @ 9:30 am

**Boundaries** 

Uncover the secrets to cultivating the habit of setting and maintaining healthy boundaries that provide the framework for rich, productive relationships, Drawing on principles from the Bible, Boundaries nine interactive sessions can make a life-changing difference in all of your relationships.



Could you provide child care for the moms while they do the study? Please talk to Pastor David. Thanks!

Sunday School: See page 20 for information

#### An Open Invitation to Pray - Wednesdays @ 6:00pm

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people..." 1 Timothy 2:1

Living Word has a group of 'prayer warriors' who have been meeting informally for about a year on Wednesday evenings following the Apostle Paul's urging in the above passage.

They start their meetings by looking at an example prayer in the Bible, then they have a time of prayer and praise - including silent time. The group has been expanding by word of mouth, but as we begin a new Christian Growth season, they would like to issue a formal invitation to everyone who has a heart for prayer to join them Wednesdays at 6pm. (Don't worry if you aren't able to attend every week.)

### Thanks...

to Everyone Who Brought Toothpaste for the Link's annual "Just the Basics" give away !!!



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### Page 5 Email Inspiration...

Excerpted from an article in World Magazine:

Through fire to forgiveness

The 'Napalm Girl' of Vietnam says a bomb pointed her to Christ

With the snap of a camera, a photojournalist immortalized the most agonizing moment of Kim Phuc Phan Thi's life: The 9-year-old girl was running from air raids on the Vietnamese village of Trang Bang, naked, arms spread, screaming in pain from the napalm burning her neck, back, and arms. (Those of you who were around in the 70's likely remember the picture.)

The photo, which won a Pulitzer Prize, encapsulated the horrors of the Vietnam War and the high price paid by children caught in the crossfire. For Phan, now 55, it was a decisive turning point in her life, taking her down a winding road that eventually led to spiritual restoration. She documents this journey in her recent memoir "Fire Road: The Napalm Girl's Journey Through the Horrors of War to Faith, Forgiveness & Peace." The bombs that nearly killed her, Phan now says, ultimately led her to hope and joy in Jesus Christ.

"Why was I was still suffering?" Phan recalled wondering. "I didn't have any peace or joy, I still struggled. My heart was so empty." She concluded there must be no god.

She became curious about Christianity after picking up a Bible at her local library and reading about the God who was willing to die for His people. Later her brother-in-law's cousin, an associate pastor, came to visit, and Phan peppered him with questions about the faith. He patiently answered her questions and pointed her to church, where she professed Christ.

Years later she started the Kim Foundation International, which helps children who have been injured or disabled in wars. As a UNESCO goodwill ambassador, Phan speaks to people all over the world, and shares not just a positive message, but the source of her hope—Jesus Christ. In her book, she recounts how attendees at her talks often come up to tell her they had prayed for the little girl in the photo years ago. "Those bombs led me to Christ," Phan wrote.

Today, Phan laughs and cries tears of joy when contemplating God's plan for her even as a little girl. "I look back at that picture, how ugly it was: I was naked, I was in agony, I was so hopeless, crying out. Why would that happen to a child?" Then she responds in praise: "Wow, Lord, You allowed that to happen to me. In the middle of that, You were there and You saved me.?... It changed my life completely, turning darkness into light, from hatred to forgiveness, from sorrow to joy, from hopelessness to hope."

You can read the entire article at:

https://world.wng.org/2018/04/through fire to forgiveness

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# District Convention Highlights...

Below is a sample of ten things the convention voted to do:

- 1. Encourage Planting of New Congregations and Ministries In light of the fact that in the district over the past 3 years, nine congregations have closed and no new congregations have formed, the convention voted overwhelmingly to encourage congregations, pastors, and district to actively seek and support opportunities to plant new congregations.
- 2. Encourage Congregations to be Intentional in Outreach The convention voted overwhelmingly to encourage individuals and congregations to cultivate their own relationship to Christ, to make use of the Every One His Witness evangelism program, and to intentionally pursue outreach.
- 3. Promote District-Wide Use of a program helping families Learning the Great Stories of the Bible. The program is set to begin in August and will make two Bible-story books available to families at greatly discounted prices. One book will be aimed at younger children, the other at older children.
- 4. Encourage Annual District Youth Gatherings in the years there is no National Youth Gathering.
- 5. Further Develop Campus Ministry

The convention voted to expand and develop campus ministries

- Ask the Synod to Provide Guidance on Questions of Marriage. After much discussion on the issue of Pastors performing marriages for a government that now defines marriage differently than the church, the convention overwhelmingly voted to decline the overture to encourage the Synod in next year's national convention to allow pastors to cease acting as agents of the state in licensing marriages (effectively ending the performing of marriages and simply blessing them after-the-fact). Rather, questions about the officiating of marriages were drawn up for the synod to provide guidance.
- 7. Reaffirm the Biblical Witness of a 6-Day Creation
- 8. Decline a proposal to begin looking at merging MN North & South
- 9. Oppose Physician Assisted Suicide

The Rev. Fred Hinz, the public policy advocate for the MN North & MNSouth districts addressed the convention about his work and of legislative issues to watch. Hinz mentioned that one important goal was to push for greater educational choice legislation, in the hope of facilitating Lutheran education. He remains optimistic about two current

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efforts to that effect. He also mentioned that there was currently some pro-life legislation under consideration which would require abortion providers to show mothers sonograms of babies in-utero prior to commencing with an abortion. Hinz also alerted delegates to the ongoing efforts of other groups to push for physician assisted suicide, and our need to be alert against such efforts and to be informed about the is-

10. Re-elect Rev. Don Fondow as District President

### The Convention Essayist was the Rev. Roger Zieger of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany.

Pastor Zieger addressed the problem the Christian church faces as it seeks to bring Jesus to a society that is increasingly apathetic (if not downright opposed) to the Gospel. He clearly stated that Christians should not alter the message of the Gospel, but rather we must strive to communicate the Gospel in ways that are understandable, and believable to the people. Zieger proposed that we earnestly listen to the questions, concerns, and issues people have, and to speak to those rather than to questions we assume they should be having. As Zieger put it, "If someone asks you how to make a Sunday roast, don't give them a recipe for pancakes."

President Donald Fondow led the convention in a closing devotion telling the story of a debate between a pastor and an atheist, each of whom were to bring 100 people eager to share their respective faith and the impact it had on their lives. No atheists showed up. Fondow made the point that it is not our arguments and debating skills that authenticate the Gospel, since the Gospel authenticates itself. He finished by reminding the delegates that our life and our light stands on Christ alone, and that we ought go ahead and simply demonstrate to the world exactly what Jesus means to us, that we may simply give Jesus to the world.

# Thank You from the Jastrams...

Yay! We are so happy to have you as part of our missionary team. Your support this past January for LCMS mission work in Asia means a lot to us.

Thank you for your generous gift!

Dan & Joan Jastram



Read the latest newsletter from the Jastrams at : https://tinvurl.com/yak3fzfz

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# Miscellaneous Notes...

### CHOIR...

We are winding down for the year. If we have enough singers able to come to practice we will sing the first Sunday in May and June. Thanks for all your dedication and hard work.



Keep a song in your heart, Leone

### Food Pantry Reminder

The Food Pantry continues to supply needed food to local families. Please remember to bring food items to church. The second Sunday each month is delegated as Food Sunday at Living Word. Look for the purple tote box to put your donations in.

#### Pies Pies Pies

We are busy getting them ready for the Music Fest in August. If you will have rhubarb to give away this year, please let Leone or Bonnie know. Rhubarb is our best selling pie. Thanks so much.

### Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

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

- Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- Today's Light Bible for adults
- May Living Word newsletters
- May Daily Bible readings
- Christian Magazines



ONLINE 4)

#### Sermons Now Available in Audio on our Website

http://livingwordlutheran.net/sermons.htm

(Or just dick on "New Sermons Online" at the bottom of the livngwordlutheran.net home page)

Easter Your daily reminder that Jesus is STILL alive!

April 8 Why John 20 is a 'Top 5' chapter.

April 22 Expect God has the power for you to change!

### Offering Envelopes Available for 2018

They are on the table by the mailbox. Please write down the identifying number of the box you picked up. You can begin using them right away.

### Elders Available for Prayer After Worship

Each Sunday, after worship two members of the Living Word Elders' Team will be available near the altar to pray with you. Simply come up and tell them your request and they will bring that to the Lord in prayer for you.

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### Living Word Directory... NOW AVAILABLE Online.

Email pastor@livingwordlutheran.net and he will send you a link to view the directory online.

### Summer 2018 Lutheran Island Camp brochures available

All Parents of students received one in your mailbox. Extras are available on the "Free Stuff" table. Scholarships are available to help with the cost. Just ask.

### Church-League Softball

Another Season starts soon. Come and cheer on your team at the Swanson Fields on Willmar Avenue in Willman

Please talk to Brady Sharp if you'd like to play.



# Mark Your Calendars...

### Adopt-a-Highway: Wednesday, May 9

We will leave from church at 6:00 We need a minimum of 8 people

in order to complete the cleanup in an hour. Sign up at church.

#### Garage Sale

(A National Youth Gathering fund-raiser) Friday, May 25, 8-5pm & Saturday, May 26, 8 - noon

### How you can help:

- Bring stuff!
- Have a large, enclosed trailer we could use to collect donations at church the week prior to the sale?
- Help set up Thursday night or early Friday morning.

Contact Brooke Knutson if you can help in any way:

320-212-9076 Text Email: mbknutson@tds.net



### Church Clean-up Night

Come anytime after 5pm

### The Congregation is Invited to Alana Friehl's Graduation Open House

When: Saturday, June 16, noon to 4:00 p.m.

Where: At her home - 1401 4th Ave North, Sartell, MN 56377



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# May 2018 - Daily Readings

We begin the month finishing our readings about Jesus' Resurrection. May 20 we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, so spend the remainder of May reading about the Spirit.

Ephesians 2
Ephesians 4
Ephesians 5
Ephesians 6
Work of May 6 Daily Readings The HOLY SPIRIT in the OLD TESTAMENT
Genesis 1:2
Numbers 11:23-30
Judges 3:9-11
Judges 14:5-6
1 Samuel 16:10-13
Isaiah 63:7-10
Wk of May 13 Daily Readings: CHARACTERISTICS of the HOLY SPIRIT
Isaiah 11:1-3

May 15	John 14:15-17
May 16	John14:25-27
May 17	John 16:7-8
May 18	John 16:12-15
May 19	Galatians 5:22-26
	Wk of May 20 Daily Readings Examples of being FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT
May 21	Acts 2:1-4
May 22	Acts 4:5-13
May 23	Acts 4:31
May 24	Acts 13:6-12
May 25	Acts 13:46-52
May 26	Exodus 35:30-36:1
	Wk of May 27 Daily Readings Important WORK of the HOLY SPIRIT
May 28	2 Peter 1:19-21
May 29	1 Corinthians 6:19-20
May 30	1 Corinthians 2:1-5
May 31	Romans 8:26-27
June 1	2 Corinthians 3:12-18
June 2	1 Corinthians 12:4-11

# May 2018 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/ Baptism 11:15 Fellowship	April 30	May 1 6:30 MEN'S STUDY Revelation	9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 6:00 - PRAYER GROUP 6:00 4-6th GR, GROUP	3	4 Circuit Pastors @ St John, Montevideo	5
6 9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship	7	6:30 MEN'S STUDY Revelation	9 9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 6:00 - ADOPT-a-HWY 6:00 - PRAYER GROUP	Lord's Supper Da  Sunday, May 66 Sunday, May 26	th	11:00 MOTHER- DAUGHTER LUNCHEON
9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship	other's	5:00 CHURCH CLEAN-UP NIGHT	16 9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER GROUP	5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	Lecher - Steffensen Wedding	19
9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship 11:45 CHOIR PRACTICE	21	6:30 MEN'S STUDY: Revelation	9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER	24	Youth Fundraiser GARAGE SALE	Youth Fundraiser GARAGE SALE
27 LAST DAY SUNDAY SCHOOL  9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:00 WORSHIP  11:15 Fellowship  11:45 CHOIR PRACTICE	28 Memorial Day  memorial DAY	6:30 MEN'S STUDY: Revelation	30 9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER	31 Sig dir ne	June 1 In up to have this ectly to you by e-remail addrewsletter@livingwood	June 2 newsletter sent mail. Send your ess to: ordlutheran.net

# Upcoming Schedules...

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Fel	OW	shi	n Se	rve	rs

May 6 Mike & Brooke Knutson
May 13 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
May 20 Gwen Ruchti / Ruth Vegdahl
May 27 Nancy Jo Wendt & Tammy Fuglie

June 3 Leone & Kerry Quigley

June 10 Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky / Mary Lee Moore

June 17 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller June 24 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham

### Usher Schedule

May 6 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer

May 13 Larry Levin

May 20 Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson
May 27 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
June 3 Brent & Lance Sawatzky

June 10 Jason & Levi Miller

June 17 Bo & George Arends-Schmidt June 24 Wendy & Lonny Robbin

### Make A Meal Volunteers

May Wachters & Gwen Ruchti

June Nancy Jo Wendy & Wendy Robbin

Elders

May 6/13 Joe Johnson & Ed Vegdahl May 20/27 Jason Miller & Kevin Welsh

June 3/10 Keith Hanson & Ed Vegdahl June 17/24 Joe Johnson & Jason Miller

Custodian

May Duane & Bonnie Hansen June Custodians needed+

Altar Guild

May Mona Hjelle Jun Nancy Jo Wendt

# Seen on Church Signboard...

Forbidden Fruit Creates Many Jams!

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my friend texts me and asked, "What does IDK mean?" So I don't know." My friend texts me back: "OMG nobody knows!" So yesterday answered, "I o

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Acolyte	(little brothers & sisters)	Confirmatio	n Parent Helper		
May 6	Zoe Rustad	May 2	Jaspersen		
May 13	Lexi Macik	May 9	Knutson		
May 20	Alex Meis	May 16	Miller		
May 27	Carson Sawatzky	May 23	Rustad		
		May 30	Sawaztky		
June 3	Addison Arends-Schmidt				
June 10	Gage Dahl	Scripture Readers			
June 17	Levi Miller	May 6	Jason Miller		
June 24	Eli Sharp	May 13	Mark Fuglie		
		May 20	Ruth Vegdahl		
Sunday	School Helpers	May 27	Tammy Fuglie		
May 6	Noah & Davis				
May 13	Lance & Andrew	June 3	Leone Quigley		
May 20	George & Ryland	June 10	Confirmands		
May 27	Carson & McCartney	June 17	Nykki Foshaug		
		June 24	Mona Hjelle		
Nursery					
(more v	olunteers needed)	<b>Accompanying Musicians</b>			
May 6	Pam Johnson	May 6	Sharon Willen		
May 13	Violet Dauk	May 13	Scott Wachter		
May 20	Mona Hjelle	May 20	Pam Johnson		
May 27	Laurie Hanson	May 27	Scott Wachter		
June 3	Pam John	June 3	Sharon Willen		
June 10	Violet Dauk	June 10	Scott Wachter		
June 17	Mona Hjelle	June 17	Pam Johnson		
June 24	Laurie Hanson	June 24	Scott Wachter		

### Church mice







# May Discipleship Verse...

"By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:8

# Opportunities to Serve...

### Chaperone a Fun Event for:

4-6th Graders or The Confirmation Group
We'd like to have a fun outing (something within and hour's drive)
for our 4-6th Grade Youth Group May 2. Please talk to Pastor David
or Lyndsay Ampe if you could help. THANKS!

### Be "Custodian of the Month"

You (or your whole family) can sign up to provide the necessary cleaning A check-list of duties is posted by the mailboxes. Please consider being a part of this service. Talk to Trustee Jamie Iverson if you have questions or to volunteer yourself or your family. We are in need of custodians.

### Help With Our Nursery

We need a couple more volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-6 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help out.

### 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.

#### Tell us who could use a "We Prayed for You" card.

Tell Pastor or Nancy Jo Wendt when someone you asked us to pray for would be greatly encouraged by getting a card. Then just give us their address.

#### We're looking for more Ushers

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

#### 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 May Make-a-Meal volunteers are Gwen Ruchti & the Wachters.

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# Spring Voters' Assembly...

... was held after worship on April 22. The Spring Assembly is our annual election to fill Mission and Ministry positions. The following people were elected to serve (effective July 1).

Chairman - Brady Sharp
Secretary - Jennifer Wendt
Stewardship (Position open)
Trustee - Jamie Iverson
Community Outreach - Ruth Vegdahl

Elders (two): - Ed Vedgahl, (one position open)

Christian Growth - Youth. - Lyndsay Ampe

Congregational Outreach - Marcia Welsh was appointed to this previ-

ously open position.

### Congratulations...

- Alana Friehl on your new job at Good Shepherd home!
- Bryan Sharp on your new position at Spanier!
- Joe and Allie Johnson (and Brooklyn) on the birth of daughter (& sister) Riley Michelle!
- Scott & Tammy Wachter on the birth of grandson to Caleb Arnold (born to Bryson and Shannon).

If you have someone you'd like to offer congratulations to, just email Pastor David with the info: <a href="mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net">pastor@livingwordlutheran.net</a>

# Email Humor...

At a wedding I attended, the priest called for a moment of silence to remember the faithful dead.

As the church grew quiet, a little boy sitting in front of me turned to his father and said excitedly, "Dad, you have some of their albums!"

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

A tourist visiting New London stopped Pastor David on Main Street and asked, "What is the quickest way to the lake?"

Pastor David thought for a while.

"Are you walking or driving?" he finally asked the tourist.

"I'm driving."

"That's the quickest way."

That for a day:

### LWML News...

LWML Zone meeting will be Saturday May 5 at Nicolai in Canby. Heartland Girls Ranch will be presenting at the zone meeting. More info can be found on the LWML info board at church. See Bonnie Hansen if you are interested in attending.



Salad Spring Salad Luncheon: Saturday, May 12 Come celebrate with your mother, daughter, sister, church family.

> Theme: A Re-purposed Life A short program is planned.

There is no admission charge, but please sign up in advance. Bring your mother, daughter, sister, friend and a salad.

# F-mail Wisdom .

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. The conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain-looking, some expensive, and some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

After all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice-looking, expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is but normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress

"Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases, it's just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups...and then began eveing each other's cups.

"Now consider this: Life is the coffee, and the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define nor change the quality of life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

God brews the coffee, not the cups . . . enjoy your coffee

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# The Link...

# MAY NEWS







### MN FoodShare Results:

Thanks to your support, 2,507 pounds of food and \$14,714 were raised to help battle hunger right here in our community. The funds will help The Link Food Pantry to purchase food through Second Harvest Heartland, the region's largest food bank. The Link is able to stretch donations by partnering with Second Harvest Heartland to make a greater impact. Thank you to the NL-S schools, community members, churches and service organizations for your generosity!

### Summer Pack:

Since September, 65 students at the NL-5 Schools have been receiving a weekend food package through the Wildcat Backpack Program. Summer becomes even more difficult for children when they are not able to receive breakfast and lunch at school. The Link is launching the summer pack to address this gap in summer food resources.

The summer program will provide larger amounts of food, including fresh items on a weekly basis. The households served will have the option of picking up the food or having it delivered depending on their schedule. The Link is very excited to be able to offer this service to the kids in our community and is possible because of your

### Food Pantry & Household Exchange Hours of Operation and

Donations:

Tuesday: 9 am-3 pm Thursday: 9 am-3 pm 3rd Wednesday: 4 pm - 7 pm

#### Revive + Redeem

Boutique | Thrift New Hours: Tursday 9am-3am Thursday 9 am - 3 am Governor's Fishing Opener May 11th, 10 am-3 pm

May 12th, 9 am to 1 pm

### Rib Fest:

Sunday, June 10, 2018 at Goat Ridge Brewing Co.

Come enjoy an afternoon filled with music and delicious food. The Link is still looking for a few rib teams and volunteers to round out the event. Contact The Link to get involved. Tickets available at: Goat Ridge Brewing Co., The Happy Sol, O'Neil's, Three Sisters and Westside Liquor

### Paying It Forward:

In August. The Link assisted a family that was facing a financial crisis after a health emergency. Eventually, the family was able to get back on their feet. In March, the family surprised The Link with a monetary gift of \$300 to express their appreciation for the support, but more importantly, to pay it forward. It was a raw and emotional moment. The family was reminded that the assistance was only made possible because of the supporters of The Link. You are the Link!

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

# Tuesday's Table

May 1st: Our lady of the Lakes Catholic Church

May 8th: Evangelical Covenant Church

> May 15th: Faith Lutheran Church

May 22nd: Peace Lutheran Church

May 29th: O'Neil's & The Open Door

Food, Friends, Fellowship.

# How to Calm Anxiety & Stress...

Presented by Jim Otremba, M.Div. M.S., LICSW

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will auard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

#### Come and Discover

- How stress is inevitable but anxiety is optional (It depends on what we do with our daily stress).
- The healing effect of associations and how the body can stay calm in the midst of stress
- Lessons from your family of origin and (most especially) your Origin of family (God).
- More Christian truths to calm stress and anxiety.

\$35.00 (Lunch and resources included) Registration:

Deadline to register: June 1, 2018

Saturday, June 9, 2018 Concordia Lutheran Church, 13455 Bluffton Road South Haven, Mn 55382

For more info check out the poster at church.

# Sunday School...

#### We continue with "The Life of Jesus."

Apr 29 Jesus Claims to Be God's Son

Parables of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin

May 13 Parable of the Prodigal Son (Waiting Father)

May 20 Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

May 27 Jesus Heals Ten Men of Leprosy

+ Daily Schedule 9:00 Welcome, Opening & 'Talk about' Video

9:15-45 Lesson Time

9-45 Clean up & bathroom break

+ Rides are Available Talk to Amanda or Pastor David

+Make sure to check out our "Dig In @ Home" weekly wrap-up page. It's in the worship folder you receive at church each Sunday. EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE KIDS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL, there are great faith questions for all ages to ponder by yourself or talk about with your family on the way home from church or during the week over meals.

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### Community Outreach... Page 21

### New London Water Days

We have been granted funds from Thrivent to go towards buying children's books to give out at the parade. The parade will be on July 21. Please see me if you have ideas for decorating the float!

If you are a Thrivent member you can apply for funds for specific projects. See me if you have questions or ideas. Thanks!

Thank you. Ruth Vegdahl

# We Prayed For You...

Remember to use our "We Prayed for You" program...

In 2016 we started a new prayer ministry where we send out a card or two each week to people we prayed for during worship. Nancy Jo Wendt is our card sender.



How you can help: Simply tell Nancy when you feel that someone you asked us to pray for would be greatly encouraged by getting a card. Then just call, email or text Nancy with that person's address. It truly is a simple way to brighten the spirits of someone who's going though a tough time.

# 20 LCMS Youth 19 Gathering

#### UPDATE:

Registration for the 2018 National Lutheran Youth Workers Conference is OPEN

July 8-11, 2018 Dates: Registration: \$375.00

Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Each #NATIONAL18 adult registration provides for a complimentary adult leader registration for the 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering. For more information and the link to register, please visit https://calendar.lcms.org/event/2018-national-lutheran-youthworkers-conference/

### Fundraiser Updates:

1. We made close to \$300 on the Tupperware Sale! Thanks to everyone who participated

and to Amanda for organizing the effort!!!

2. We are planning a Garage Sale Fundraiser May 25 & 26 (to coincide with the city-wide garage sale weekend) Please check the details on how you can help elsewhere in this Newsletter. Thanks!

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# Story Behind The Song...

### I Can Only Imagine

by Bart Millard

By now many of you have seen the movie based on the writing of this song. If you haven't seen it, I would strongly encourage going to the movie. In my estimation I Can Only Imagine is one of the most powerful Christian movies of all time.

Below is an article about the writing of the song that appeared in The Christian Post in 2004 - long before making a movie was even thought of...

Mercy Me's Bart Millard shares the heart-rending story behind the beautiful song "I Can Only Imagine." This song touches a part of the heart that yearns to meet with God in the world where there is no pain, no sorrow, and no sufferings of this world. From the moment the piano music begins to softly play, all focus becomes directed to the Lord. The lyrics show us a glimpse of the world of peace where all our worries are no longer superficial, but only for the glory of God. Millard simply expresses all of mankind's deep thirst for completion in God. Here is the story behind "I Can Only Imagine" by songwriter, Bart Millard.

When my father died of cancer in 1991, he left me with the assurance that he was headed to a better place. He used to always tell me that I was getting the raw end of the deal because I had to stick around here. For several years following his death, I would find myself writing the phrase, I can only imagine, on anything I could find. That simple phrase would give me a peace and a hope thinking about what my dad was finally experiencing.

Years later, in 1999, MercyMe was writing songs for an independent project. I remember coming home from a show and being wide awake on our bus at 2 o'clock in the morning. I was trying to write lyrics in an old notebook of mine, when all of a sudden, I stumbled across that phrase. About ten minutes later, the song was written. Some people say it's amazing that it was written in ten minutes, when really it had been on my heart for almost ten years

Words and Music By Bart Millard (MercyMe) c 2001 Simpleville Music/ASCAP

I can only imagine what it will be like When I walk by your side I can only imagine what my eyes will see When your face is before me. I can only imagine

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Chorus:

Surrounded by your glory Will I dance for your Jesus Will I stand in your presence Will I sing hallelujah I can only imagine What will my heart feel
Or in awe of you be still
Or to my knees will I fall
Will I be able to speak at all
I can only imagine

I can only imagine when that day comes
And I find myself standing in the Son
I can only imagine when all I will do Is forever, forever worship you
I can only imagine
I can only imagine

#### Chorus

I can only imagine When all I will do
Is forever, forever worship you I can only imagine

Editor's note: The movie version by MercyMe at... https://youtu.be/ZNDEvxEMNp0



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