

January 2024 Newsletter

"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church

PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273

Located north of the New London Township Hall on Cty Rd 9 NE

Phone: 320-354-4637

Email: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net Website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

Questions for Pastor...

You said God's name is "Yahweh." I haven't heard that before, where does that come from?

It's not unusual that you've never heard it before, because "Yahweh" is not found in most English translations of the Bible. It is, however, found 6820 times in the original Hebrew of the Old Testament. It

is actually the most common way of referring to God in the whole Old Testament!

You may have noticed in our English translations of the Bible, the world LORD (all caps) appears a lot in the Old Testament - 6820 times, in fact! The all-caps version of LORD is an indication that the actual word in that text of Scripture is God's name, "Yahweh."

Yahweh is the name God gave to Moses to refer to Him by when God appeared to Moses in the Burning Bush in Exodus chapter 3.

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them,
'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What
is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" Exodus 3:13

God's reply in Exodus 3:14 & 15:

God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'Yahweh the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you."

"This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation."

God's name when He says it is "I Am." His name when we say it is, "He Is" or, in Hebrew "Yahweh."

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So, why don't we just print God's actual name instead of LORD?

Well, somewhere along the line when the Israelites returned to the Promised Land after being in exile in Babylon, someone came up with the idea: "We can't take God's name in vain (use it in a wrong or meaningless way) if we never say it." So, the tradition arose of substituting the word "lord" for "Yahweh" when reciting a passage of Scripture. The popular English translations of the Bible have followed along with this tradition, but to indicate that the actual word in the original Hebrew is not "lord" but "Yahweh," they distinguish it by putting LORD in all capital letters.

It's admirable that the people had the desire to not break the second commandment, but their solution seems to me comparable to, for example, a carpenter being so afraid of using a hammer incorrectly that he starts pounding nails with a screwdriver. Or maybe a painter being so afraid of using a brush incorrectly that she starts painting pictures with a fork. Very simply, not what God intended.

Thanks for asking Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Who Can You Invite?...

Two of the prophesies about the Messiah talk of Him as being a "Light to the Gentiles." People who are living without Jesus are living in the dark- and that's no way to live!

Those of us who believe that Jesus is truly the "Light of the World" (and our only Savior) have the privilege of being like "mirrors" - reflecting the Light of Jesus to those around us.

One great way we can reflect that Light is by a simple invitation to friends, neighbors, relatives.

Invite them to join you for:

- the Chili Cook-Off (January 20)
- or any of our Fellowship Outings

Who can you invite? Pray about it. Ask God to give you the words and opportunity. Then just do it. Ask them to come with you. Offer to pick them up. (And if they don't take you up on your invitation,, keep praying for them and for another opportunity to invite.)

Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study

Please join us for coffee and study of the Book of Romans

Monthly Morning Women's Study:

January 10th @ 10:00 a.m. All ladies are invited!

Evening Women's Study Is on Break.

Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30 (Come at 6:15 for food.)



Thank God For...

You've seen our sign board out by the road with the beginning of a sentence: "Thank God For..." Each week we'd like to change the ending of that sentence to encourage people who drive



past to remember that God is the giver of all good things - especially things we take for granted.

In December we thanked God for...

- Volunteers
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Immanuel- He's Still God. And Still With Us!

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence in January

"Participate" in Worship from home...

If you can't be here in person: Watch on our YouTube channel with Sunday services being livestreamed at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-

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Sunday School News...

Classes resume January 7

Upcoming Lessons:



- January 7: The Wise Men: Matthew 2:1-12
- January 14: LIFE SUNDAY: Psalm 139:1-14
- January 21: "We are God's Workmanship": Ephesians 2:10

"Baby Bottle Campaign"

to benefit Hope Pregnancy Center begins December 31.

Confirmation News



- + January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Class @ 6:00 (Pizza @5:45)
- + Remember to check the "PowerPoint Clicker" schedule.

Pastor is Planning a Membership Class...

Please talk to him if you are interested in finding out about membership at Living Word.

Coming During Lent...

(Which begins February 14)

Preparation for First Communion for 5th & 6th Graders



The students will have their first communion during the Maundy Thursday service on March 28. Please talk to Pastor David if you have questions. Thanks!

Smoke-Detector Battery Outreach...

We Have LOTS of Batteries left from Our Annual Smoke-Detector Battery Giveaway

Building Committee Update...

Record your vision for our new sanctuary...

on this poster in the fellowship area!

We want to find out what things you would love to see included as we move forward with our planning.



We've also been checking on Building Codes for required number of bathrooms and parking spaces.

OUR NEXT BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday, January 9th @ 5:30 (Prior to Men's Study)

Youth Events...

11-12th Grade YOUTH:

11-12th Grade Bible Study meets every other Wednesday at 5 pm at Becky's office in Willmar (January 3rd & 17th)



Planning has begun for attending...



Information Meeting. Wednesday. January 24 @ 7:00 p.m. This meeting is for Parents of who will be 14-19 years of age by the Gathering Date (July 19-

P.K. PREACHER'S KIDS

BY DAVID AYERS



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Fmail Humor...

George has been seeing a psychoanalyst for four years for treatment of the fear that he had monsters under his bed. It had been years since he had gotten a good night's sleep.

Furthermore, his progress was very poor, and he knew it.

So, one day he stops seeing the psychoanalyst and decides to try something different.

A few weeks later, George's former psychoanalyst meets his old client in the mall, and is surprised to find him looking well-rested, energetic, and cheerful.

"Doc!" George says, "It's amazing! I'm cured!"

"That's great news!" the psychoanalyst says, "You seem to be doing much better. How?"

"I went to see another doctor," George says enthusiastically, "and he cured me in just ONE session!"

"One?!" the psychoanalyst asks incredulously.

"Yeah," continues George, "my new doctor is a behaviorist."

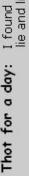
"A behaviorist?" the psychoanalyst asks. "How did he cure you in one session?"

"Oh, easy," says George. "He told me to cut the legs off of my bed!"

Thank You...

- ... everyone who remembered us with cards and gifts this Christmas! Your support and partnership in the Gospel is truly a great Pastor David & Violet blessing!
- ... everyone who brought Poinsettias!
- ... parents and grandparents who brought kids to participate in the Christmas Program!
- ... Sharon Willen for accompanying the Program!
- ... Sunday School teachers who prepared the kids!
- ... Mona Hielle for again organizing the Program!

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



Miscellaneous Notes...

Food Pantry Reminder

Please remember to bring your donations for the Food Pantry on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Place them in the purple container by the door at church. Thank to everyone for donating!



Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

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

- Kid's books
- January Newsletters
- January—March Portals of Prayer
- Smoke Detector batteries

Recorded videos of Sermons

Sermons can be found in on our Living Word YouTube channel (New London Living Word) at

https://www.youtube.com/@newlondonlivingword8097/streams

- Dec 3 "Angels at Jesus' Birth: Gabriel comes to Zechariah""
- Dec 10 [We're sorry! The internet feed didn't work that day.]
- Dec 17 Sunday School Christmas Program & "Gifts for Jesus"
- Dec 24 "Angels at Jesus' Birth: An Angel in Joseph's Dream"

Christmas Eve: "Jesus' Birth: The Greatest [True] Parable of All"

Dec 31 "What Did You Get for Christmas?"

Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Living Word has the option of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.

Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2024

If you like to use dated envelopes for your offerings, we have them available. Just pick up a box of envelopes from under the mailboxes. Write down the # of the box you picked up. Thanks!

Choir News

Please practice with us after Sunday worship.



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LWML News...

Our next meeting and Bible study will be Wednesday, January 10th @ 10:00 a.m.



SHOES FOR MISSIONS:



A huge thank you to all who have donated!
This is fund-raiser for Lutheran Island Camp. Please continue to bring your good used shoes, slippers, or boots to church. Collection tote is in the entry of the church.

DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Thank you to all who helped put them up! We had a very good turnout.

We plan on taking the decorations down after church on Sunday, January 7th

Fmail Wisdom

Wise (and funny) Quotes

I just read a book about marriage that says treat your wife like you treated her on your first date. So tonight after dinner I'm dropping her off at her parent's house.

When I was a kid, I used to watch the "Wizard of Oz" and wonder how someone could talk if they didn't have a brain. Then I got Facebook.

Why do you have to "ask your doctor" if a drug with 32 pages of sideeffects is bad for you?!

The best way to get back on your feet is to miss two car payments.

Driver: "What am I supposed to do with this speeding ticket?"

Officer, "Keep it. When you collect four of them, you get a bicycle.

Who knew that the hardest thing of being an adult is figuring out what to fix for dinner and doing it every single night for the rest of your life until you die?

Never trust an electrician with no eye brows.

Instead of cleaning my house, I just watch an episode of "The Hoarders," and think, "Wow! My house looks great."

Thot for a day:

Mark Your Calendars...

Mission & Ministry Team

January 11th @ 6:30 p.m. Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT



Building Committee Meeting

January 9th @ 5:30 p.m. (Prior to Men's Study)

Upcoming Fellowship Outings...

Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate December and January Birthdays together

at Sweet River Cafe New London January 9, from 11:00 - 1:00



January Supper-Fellowship Outing:

Thursday, January 18, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. O'Neill's in Spicer



Sleigh Ride

COMING IN FEBRUARY:

After Worship Service on the 18th.

Friendship Sunday...

Marcia has begun collecting prizes for BINGO

(Held after Friendship Brunch in February).

Please let her know if you have any prizes you could add. Thanks!



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Everyone is fighting a l loudly about my battle.

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Outreach Events...



Chili Cook Off!

January 20th (at church, of course) 4:30-6:00

1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes !!!

"Notorious judges"

This is a Living Word outreach event, so please invite friends to eat (and compete)!

CHILI COOK-OFF RULES:

- 1. Name your chili. Be creative!
- 2. Briefly describe your chili:

e.g. Beef, chicken, vegie, mild, hot, etc.

(You will receive an entry card and # on which to display your Chili Name and Description.)

3. Must be homemade.

No pre-packaged mixes or canned chili.

4. Bring your own crockpot. One.

Hot and ready to each upon arrival.

(Also bring an extension cord)

We provide the table, tasting bowls and spoons.

Must be at church by 4:00 p.m. to set up.

Church will be open at 3:30

6. Must register with Tammy Miller by Jan. 15

320-905-2434

GRAND PRIZE: \$100.00

Awarded to chili with highest point total combining points from Judges' Choice and People's Choice.

2nd Prize:

Judges' Choice Winner

3rd Prize:

People's Choice Winner

Email Inspiration...

It was the day after Christmas at a church, the pastor was looking at the nativity scene outside when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the figures.

Immediately, the pastor turned toward the church to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Jimmy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

The pastor walked up to Jimmy and said, "Well, Jimmy, where did you get the little infant?"

Jimmy replied, "I got him from the church."

"And why did you take him?"

With a sheepish smile, Jimmy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it."

NOTE FROM PASTOR: I put this in the "Inspiration" section with the hope that this child's simple faith would inspire us to think about the gifts God has given us, and then respond by simply putting those gifts to use.

We support both the Jastram's mission in Japan and the International Lutheran Council with our budgeted mission dollars. Below is a "Thank You" from the Jastrams.

Dear Living Word Lutheran Church.

We are profoundly grateful for your faithful support of LCMS mission work in Japan this past year. Your continuing generosity allows us to spread the joy and peace of Christ to the far corners of the world. Thank you!

May God's grace, mercy, and peace be yours this Christmas season in Christ our Savior.

Daniel & Joan Jastram

Thank You from the Jastrams...

We are so happy to have you as part of our missionary team. Your support for LCMS mission work in Asia means a lot to us. Dan & Joan Jastram



Read the current newsletter at

http://tinyurl.com/yr2ru92b

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A Minute For Parents (& Grandparents)...

Set an example by giving an "After-Christmas" Gift that keeps on giving. (The same one God gave us at Christmas)

By now some of the Christmas presents you gave your kids (or grandkids) have become broken. Others have been forgotten. Hopefully some are still in use. But the start of a new year would be a great time to resolve to give your children the present they really want most - your presence.

His presence is the present God gave us at Christmas. It's the one He has promised to give us until the end of time "And surely I am WITH YOU always, to the very end of the age." Mt. 28:20

Of all the things my parents did to show their love, the things that stick in my mind most are the times they made a special effort to just "be there." Chances are the same can be said for you. And chances are that is what your kids will remember too.

How can you spend more time with your children - collectively and individually? After school? In the evening? On the weekends?

Maybe read them a story instead of reading what's on your phone. Play a game with them instead of watching TV. Plan a special project that you can work on together. Have a "Date Your Kid" night once a week. Set aside one night as "Family night." Get their input on what they would like to do on those days. Sit down with them and plan what you will do then put it on the calendar.

"Being there" isn't limited to the kids that still live under your roof. When could you "be there" for your kids that are away at college? When could you "be there" for those children that live on their own?

Follow Jesus' example and give the gift of your presence.
It says "I love you" like nothing else.

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

6 Types of Rituals to Maintain in Your Marriage

Much research has shown that rituals have an overwhelmingly positive effect on marriage. They create and nurture connection, shared meaning, and a sense of stability in your bond. They act as constant relational touch points that help you stay tethered to each other and your unique identity as a couple - in the midst of your busy lives.



Chances are, you already have many rituals in your marriage that formed naturally. While you might not have put much thought into creating them, a bit of intention and awareness doesn't hurt when it comes to sustaining them over time. Here are 6 types of rituals to maintain (or create) in your marriage:

1. The goodbye/reunion ritual

Yes, that goodbye kiss is important! Whether it's that and "I love you's" as you see each other off in the morning or a 10-second bear hug when you reunite after a long day, this type of ritual bookends your time apart with some feel-good endorphins. It promotes a sense of connection as you separate for the day, and re-establishes that bond as you reunite, starting your evening off on the right foot.

2. The celebration ritual

Birthdays, anniversaries, life milestones, job promotions, beating the odds-there will be many opportunities for celebration over the course of your marriage. Making that same special meal or treat, booking that favorite restaurant, filling the house with balloons, or putting on that song that kicks off a kitchen dance party - there's no right or wrong. Whatever form they take, creating and carrying out rituals to mark celebrations becomes a constant thread that marks some of your happiest moments. Once established, they can signify the specialness of an event, help you recall happy memories, and even become part of a family tradition that gets passed on through the vears.

3. The holiday ritual

One of the complex, yet rewarding parts of coming together as a married couple is figuring out what your holidays will look like. You both probably grew up with different traditions and ways of celebrating. Combining those - or creating new rituals altogether - is a great way to embrace your own identity as a couple. Sure, you might adopt some

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of the traditions of one or both of your families, but don't be afraid to try new things or add your own unique spin to them. If you have children, this is also important in establishing a sense of family identity as well.

4. The daily ritual

These might be mistaken for the mundane parts of marriage, but don't be fooled. They can actually be the glue that connects all the exciting ups and downs to the ho-hum parts of life as a married couple. Think of things like your perfectly coordinated execution of prepping coffee in the morning and then sitting down to enjoy it together, settling into the couch for a few quiet minutes of cuddling after the kids are in bed, or brushing your teeth together every night before crawling into bed for pillow talk. While they don't seem exciting, they shape your day-to-day relationship through comforting moments that you can count on.

5. The dating ritual

This might sound rather specific, but it can actually encompass all kinds of things related to dating and romance with your spouse. It could simply be having a weekly date night, or it could be what you do to get ready for your date, what you do on the date, or after it. It might be going to a certain place for a certain occasion, or even a ritual you have to indicate to each other you want to go on a date. Continuing to date each other all throughout your marriage is important, and having rituals tied to it can help make that time spent together feel special.

6. The silly ritual

Nicknames that no one else knows about, an over-the-top secret handshake when your favorite sports teams get a win, a nonsensical phrase that originated from an inside joke years ago that means "I love you." These are all examples of some lighthearted, yet meaningful rituals you might share in your marriage. Often they are started without intention, but the bond and "we"-ness they cultivate is priceless. These are the types of rituals that only come with a sense of friendship, longevity, and knowing each other well; you can't fake them. They highlight the uniqueness of your relationship, strengthen your bond, and show affection.

THE DEVIL LIKES TO TEMPT ME!

BUT TEMPTATION IS STRONG!

Church Mice

THE DEVIL KNOWS

MY WEAKNESSES!







January 2024 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	1 NEW YEAR	6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	3 5:00 - H.S. YOUTH STDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	4	The second secon	er Dates January 7th January 21st
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	Sweet River	9 11:00-BIRTHDAYS Cafe @ Sweet River Café, N.L. 5:30 - BUILDING COMMITTEE 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	11 Mission Withistry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	12	13
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	15	16 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	5:00 - H.S. YOUTH STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	6:00 - JANUARY OUTING @ Max's on the Green		COOK OFF 4:30 - CHILI COOK-OF
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/communion (22 L L E Y	6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - PARENTS' MTG. 2025 Youth Gathering	25	26	27
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	29	30 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	31 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	Feb 1 6:00 - FEB. OUTING @ O'Neill's, Spicer	Feb 2	Feb 3

January 2024 - Daily Readings

This Month we return to our "100 - or so - Key Chapters of the Bible" readings.

Pastor records the readings (along with devotions based on the readings). If you would like to receive these audio recordings daily, just email him: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

31	Use today to Worship and catch up on reading you missed
Job 38	41
Job 42	
Psalm	1
Psalm	19
Psalm	23
	Use today to Worship & catch up on readings you missed
Psalm	46
Psalm Psalm	
Psalm Psalm Psalm	51
Psalm Psalm Psalm	46
Psalm Psalm Psalm Psalm	46
Psalm Psalm Psalm Psalm	46

Jan 16	Psalm 145
Jan 17	Proverbs 3
Jan 18	Proverbs 31
Jan 19	Ecclesiastes 3-4
Ja	Use today to Worship and catch up on readings you missed
Jan 22	Isaiah 6
Jan 23	Isaiah 53
Jan 24	Isaiah 55
Jan 25	Jeremiah 29
Jan 26	Ezekiel 18
Jan	28. Use today to Worship and catch up on readings you missed
Jan 29	Daniel 3
Jan 30	Daniel 6
Jan 31	Daniel 7
Feb 1	Jonah 4
Feb 2	Joel 2

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

Upcoming Schedules...

After-Worship Fellowship

We will have coffee / water and cookies at 11:15 after worship .Please join us when you can!



Usher Schedule

Jan 7	Wendy & Lonny Robbin	
Jan 14	Joe Johnson & Pam Johnson	
Jan 21	Jason & Levi Miller	
Jan 28	Larry Levin & Jack Kuppich	

USHERS NEEDED

Since we have resumed gathering the offerings during worship, we are in need of more ushers to help with that. Please sign up at church if you could take a turn once ever month or so.

Thanks!

Scripture Readers

NOTE: Pastor David will read the Scriptures in Worship until COVID restrictions are eased

Elders

Jan 7, 14	Scott &		
Jan 21, 24,	Duane & Kevin		

Custodian

January -	Duane & Bonnie Hansen
February -	Lonny Robbin

Nursery

(Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

Altar Guild

January 1	Mona Hjelle
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Power Point Clicker

Dec 31	Carter
Jan 7	Parker
Jan 14	Ella
Jan 21	Troy
Jan 28	Open

Communion-Bread Maker

February 4	Kjirsten
February 18	Carter

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Confirmation Parent Helpers		Accompanying Musicians		
Jan 3	Hjelle	Dec 31	Pam Johnson	
Jan 10	Sarsland	Jan 7	Sharon Willen	
Jan 17	Wright	Jan 14	Open	
Jan 24	Foshaug	Jan 21	Scott Wachter	
Jan 31	Knutson	Jan 28	Open	

Your special 2023 Thank-offering can still be given: Until Sunday, December 31



We're each encouraged to bring a special freewill offering in proportion to how God has blessed us this past year.

Please pray about your Thank-offering proportion. Use the special Thank-Offering envelope to make your Thank-Offering.

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

King David in 1 Chronicles 29:14

Seen on Church Signboards...

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

(G.P.S. NOT REQUIRED -YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND JESUS HERE)

January Discipleship Verse...

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." Isaiah 9:2

Monthly Music Videos...

Not much new music released in December, so I thought I would share a list of my favorite songs about praise this month...

- My current favorite is by Brandon Lake, "Praise You Anywhere"... https://youtu.be/V39qPqyyB2A?si= n9MKTCEKx2ylcq2
- Another great praise song is by Mica Tyler "Praise The Lord "... https://youtu.be/7DXGozXslig
- Nest on the list is by Patrick Mayberry, "Easy To Praise"... https://youtu.be/HJBt1DiwOu4
- An older song, but a classic from one of my all time favorite artists, Rich Mullins is "Sing Your Praise To The Lord"... https://youtu.be/t1pBOAiSJp8?si=XoW1iWwNhXIz WP
- From Casting Crowns, "Praise You In This Storm"...
 https://youtu.be/Ype1xE0wzsg?si=rdQMlRH8Frhs2ZAX
- A beautiful song from Blessing Offor and Benjamin Willian Hastings, "That's The Thing About Praise"...
 https://youtu.be/nGo-zyx7CWM?si=c5g4orsTEKCNf_L5
- A great song from Cory Ashbury "Reason To Praise"...
 https://youtu.be/ CI7RabtPV4?si=k2YAKH8s7MHmma6V
- "All My Praise" is a catchy song from Ryan Ellis...
 https://youtu.be/MN73-5nXCG8?si=DN2ple-2nW3fLfZC
- Another classic is from Hillsong Worship; "O Praise The Name"... https://youtu.be/LqBpifDpNKc?si=bdoxAb6yir-sFnmT
- It may be considered a Christmas song but from Crowder, "Your Praise Goes on:....
 - https://youtu.be/WbfjMlzwGE0?si= Y2rFd0wsliYuQzc
- The list wouldn't be complete without a Chris Tomlin song, "Praise Him Forever"...
 - https://youtu.be/lrDzdew4AOk?si=F5FVVU-jsHLaxGi5
- "Praise Opens Prison Doors" from CAIN...
 https://youtu.be/ToY7XDEFhrI?si=ARNiDCrSXPl5XwwF
- Another Brandon Lake song (with Elevation Worship), "Praise"...
 - https://youtu.be/f2oxGYpuLkw?si=0G60Zrx7baKQ9UcH

I've left off the praise songs we sing in church and I'm sure that I missed a lot of great praise songs, but this list should get you started praising the Lord...

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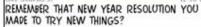
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New Year's Resolutions...

Colossians 3 Put On the New Self! These excerpts from Colossians 3 make a great 'scriptural' New Year Resolution

- 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth....
- 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:...
- 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
- 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
- 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
- 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ...
- 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- 18 Wives, submit to your husbands, ...
- 19 Husbands, love your wives, ...
- 20 Children, obey your parents...
- 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, ...
- 23 ... work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,
- 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.







OUR RESOLUTION LAST YEAR COULD HAVE BEEN "LESS FRUIT", BUT NO ... WE WENT WITH "TRUST PEOPLE MORE"



The Link...

NOV 2023 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

The Link's Open House Fundraiser was a great success! We are grateful to each and every one of you that came to support The Link and to all of you that have

supported The Link's mission so far in 2023!!!!

The Food Pantry continues to see an increase in need. In November, The Link welcomed 27 new families and served 165 households - distributing a total of 10,067 pounds of food.

Wildcat Backpack and Snack Pantry. The Link is currently serving 93 children each week from NL-S schools! This is an ability to supplement children's food for the weekend when they are not in school. The Link is also currently connecting 29 teachers with snacks for students in their classroom.

Client Outreach. Each month, The Link is able to provide support to a number of families facing hardships, such as (but not limited to): job loss, chronic illness, unexpected change in family dynamics and increase in the cost of living. In November, your donations were able to support 7 families by helping with medical bills, gas, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic needs. Household Exchange. The Household Exchange Program was able to provide 27 families with much needed winter gear, furniture and other household necessities in November.

Tuesday's Table. A free community meal the 1st Tuesday of the month: Our Lady of the Lakes (Spicer), 2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant (New London), 3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran (Spicer), 4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran (New London), 5th Tuesday: Rotating (call 320-354-5555 for more information).

Christmas Joy 2023- If you would like to contribute to Christmas Joy, you can still donate financially. The Link uses any financial contributions to purchase items for families to meet any basic needs they listed on their Christmas list that they don't receive from their shopper. (i.e. if they are in need of winter gear, socks, underwear, clothing, etc we will purchase those items and wrap them up for families and send them with their gifts).

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Pray for the Link and the community--Help us spread awareness by talking about The Link to your friends and

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family and sharing on social media-- Donate unexpired food items to the food pantry or organize a food drive-- Volunteer at the thrift store or in the food pantry-- Donate your gently used clothing and household goods- (all proceeds kick back into The Link's programs - or Donate financially. CURRENT NEEDS: Gently used winter gear and kids clothing. Remember for every \$1 donated, The Link can purchase \$10 in food through Second Harvest.

Donations made easy Monthly giving at The Link is convenient. You can set up online giving directly through your bank or by visiting The Link's website at www.youarethelink.org by scanning the QR code. You can also mail your donation to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273, drop off your donation in person or leave your check in the drop box outside of The Link's door at 20 Central Ave E, New London. Questions? Contact Ashley at 320-354-5555.

Thank you for your support! YOU are The Link!

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

Read 100 (or so) Key Bible Chapters

(Or listen to Pastor read them. He will text or email you a link to each day's recording)

Refresh your memory about God's work in His world through these basics of the Christian faith, from Creation to John's Vision of Heaven.

You'll find the readings listed on our Daily Readings page

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the normal First and Third Sundays, January 7th & 21st

Holy

Reminders

- Those who are not comfortable coming to the altar should inform an Elder or Usher, and communion will be brought to you in your pew.
- Gluten-free bread wafers are available for those who have gluten-sensitive conditions. You will find these wafers in a separate cup in the communion tray.

for a day: Just because nobody complains doesn't mean that

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Opportunities to Serve...

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.

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

We'd like to send out a card or two each week to people we prayed for during worship.

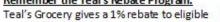
We are currently in need of a volunteer to mail the cards. If you could help, talk to Pastor David



Help Record our Worship Services . . .

that we livestream and later upload our YouTube channel (New London Living Word). Talk to Pastor David if you can help out with this just one Sunday a month. (Hint: It's really not difficult - even Pastor figured it out!)

Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.



organizations. There's a teal-colored box on the back-wall table where you can put in your receipts.

Custodian Volunteers Needed.

Pick Your Month for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian.

We are still in need of volunteers for any month after February. Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to sign up or find out more details.



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.

(Meals are in the freezer at church waiting for you to grab and take to someone.)



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Prayer...

Remember to use "The Prayer Force"

Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email (pastor@livingwordlutheran.net) prayer requests to Pastor David for the Prayer Force prayer chain to include in their prayers. Thanks!

And an Invitation to Join our "Prayer Force"

Being a part of our prayer chain is a HUGELY important - and very simple - way you can serve God and His people! When a request to pray comes in, Pastor forwards it via text message (or email for those who don't have a cell phone). Then you simply include that request in your prayers. Text Pastor today and tell him "Yeah, I can do that!" Thanks!

Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

(inspired by Luke 11:9: "So I say to you, Ask and it will be given to you; Seek and you will find; Knock and the door will be opened to you")

Remember to take a time-out to PRAY for things like... these VBS Prayers:

- Thanking God for sending His Son to live among us!
- Thanking God that Jesus is still Immanuel God with us! Today!
- Safe travel (and good weather for traveling)
- For those who lost loved ones this past year.
- Thank God for all who attended our Christmas Program or Candlelight Worship
- The Holy Spirit's power to follow God's Plan everyday in 2024
- Thanking God for all the blessings of 2023 (take time to list them)
- Asking God to open our eyes to see His guiding in the coming year
- A "Christmas-like" attitude of giving that continues all year
- Asking God's guidance for our Building Committee
- Thanking God that His Word is Truth amidst the lies of the world.
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- Asking God for faith to stand for His Truth like Daniel's 3 friends!
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Asking God to humble you, seek Him and repent (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- God's protection, wisdom & courage for government leaders
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan.



A Reminder to Wear Your "Living Word" Sweatshirts

Not only are they warm (and look really "cool") but they could also be a conversation starter when people ask things like, "And where is Living Word located?"



More Email Humor...

Funny Quotes

Being a little older, I am very fortunate to have someone call and check on me every day. He is from India and is very concerned about my car warranty.

Nothing spoils a good story more than the arrival of an eye witness. (Mark Twain)

I finally realize why I look so bad in pictures. It's my face.

It only takes one slow-walking person in the grocery store to destroy the illusion that I'm a nice person.

Sorry that I'm late. I got here as soon as I wanted to!

It's fine to eat a test grape in the produce section, but you take one bite of rotisserie chicken and it's all, "Sir, you need to leave!"

I hate it when people act all intellectual and talk about Mozart when they've never even seen one of his paintings.

A guy walks into a lumberyard and asks for some 2x4s. The clerk asks, "How long do you need them?" The guy answers, "A long time. We're gonna build a house."

One thing no one ever talks about, when it comes to being an older adult, is how much time we devote to keeping a cardboard box because it is, you know, a really good box.

I can't believe I forgot to go to the gym today. That's seven years in a row now.

If you drop something when you were younger, you just picked it up. When you're older and you drop something, you stare at it for just a bit contemplating if you actually need it anymore.

I like to make lists. I also like to leave them laying on the kitchen counter, and then guess what's on the list when I am at the store.

Story Behind The Song...

In 1926, the old building of the historic First Baptist Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was being torn down to make way for a new office building. The building was built in 1853 and had served the church for 73 years. The church sold the old building and built a new building a few blocks away. The United Gas Improvement Company purchased the old building and planned to tear it down to make way for a new Page 28 Page 29

high rise office building for the company.

On the morning that the demolition was to begin, an old man was standing across the street from the old church building watching carefully as the demolition crew set up cranes with giant wrecking balls. The supervisor of the wrecking company noticed the old man and walked over to him. The supervisor asked him if he was a member of the church. The old man replied, "Yes, I am a member of the church. There are a lot of memories I have of that old building. You know, there is a lot of history being torn down." The supervisor asked the old man to tell him what historical significance he was talking about. The old man told the story to the supervisor.

On Wednesday night, March 26, 1862, Dr. Joseph Henry Gilmore, a young 28 year old preacher, was invited to speak at the First Baptist Church. He was filling the pulpit for the pastor, who was out of town that night. Those were dark days in American history—the Civil War was still raging. There was concern on the minds of most Americans as family members and friends were fighting in the war.

Dr. Gilmore focused his message on the thought He leadeth me based on the 23rd Psalm. Dr. Gilmore said, "I set out to give the people an exposition of the Twenty-third Psalm. I had given this exposition on three or four other occasions; but this time I did not get beyond the words 'He leadeth me.' So greatly impressed was I with the blessedness of divine guidance that I made this my theme." He later felt that the dark days of the Civil War may have subconsciously led him to focus on God's leadership. After the service Dr. Gilmore and his wife were invited to Deacon Watson's home for a time of fellowship and refreshment. Dr. Gilmore sat at the table of the Watson's home enjoying refreshments and conversation but kept thinking about what he had just preached – He leadeth me. While others were talking, he quietly sat in his chair and took out a piece of paper, wrote all the words to the hymn He Leadeth Me, and handed the paper to his wife. He did not think about them again.

Mrs. Gilmore, without the knowledge of her husband, sent the poem to a weekly Christian magazine in Boston called The Watchman and the Reflector. Hymn writer William Bradbury, who owned his own music company, saw the words in the magazine and wrote music for the poem. This became known as the hymn He Leadeth Me.

Three years later, having pastored for some time in New Hampshire, Henry was invited to preach a trial sermon at the Second Baptist Church in Rochester. "I picked up a church hymnal to see what songs they sang and was surprised to have the book fall open to the very song I had written three years earlier," he wrote.

That for a day: I started out with nothing,

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"When I returned home, I related this experience to my wife. 'I do not understand it,' I said. 'My words had been set to music by Dr. William B. Bradbury; yet I had not given the words to anybody.' My wife smiled and said, 'I can explain it, Joseph. I felt that the words would bless the hearts of people in these troublesome times; so I sent the poem to The Watchman and Reflector. I am glad to know that they have printed it."

When the old man finished telling this story to the wrecking crew supervisor, the supervisor was so impressed that he told the story to the new owners of the site – the United Gas and Improvement Company. The directors of the gas company were also moved by the story, they had a bronze plaque installed as a cornerstone on the new building they built on the site of the old First Baptist Church which read:

He Leadeth Me, sung throughout the world, was written by Rev. Dr. Joseph Henry Gilmore, son of the governor of New Hampshire, in the home of Deacon Watson immediately after preaching at the First Baptist Church on the northwest corner of Broad and Arch streets on the 26th day of March 1862.

The church and Deacon Watson's home stood on the ground which this building is erected.

The United Gas and Improvement Company in recognition of the beauty and fame of the hymn and in remembrance of its author, makes this permanent record on the 1st day of June 1926.

The United Gas and Improvement Company's building has been torn down, but the plaque is preserved and is on display at the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:

He leadeth me, he leadeth me; by his own hand he leadeth me: his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom, by waters calm, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. (Refrain)

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Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine; content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me. (Refrain)

And when my task on earth is done, when, by thy grace, the victory's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me. (Refrain)

Note from the editor:
A great version by Selah at
https://youtu.be/unk0Vivyt6Y?si=cR-ddp0tk1VfWA6i

But my favorite version is by the Martins... https://youtu.be/AzsMXr-uPAg?si=PRwFirC6sj3C6Oeb

