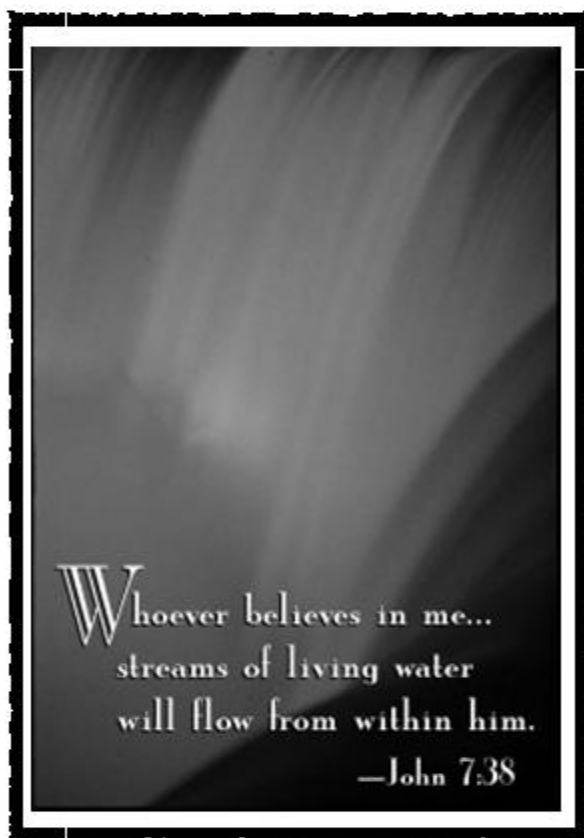


Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

March 2011 Newsletter



"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Worship Hours:

Christian Growth Hour: 8:45 a.m.

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church

Located on the West of Spicer on Cty Rd 10
in old Prairie Meadows building
PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273
Phone: 320-796-0742
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...

Why is Ash Wednesday so late this year - wasn't it in January last year?

Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday, March 9 this year. (Incidentally, the latest that it can ever be is March 10, and that won't occur until 2038).

With regard to Ash Wednesday falling in January recently, it actually was in February the last two years. But in 2008 it did fall during the last week of January. So, you can see there really can be quite a range of dates for Ash Wednesday.

It would be easy to get the impression that the date for Ash Wednesday must be chosen in some random way like in a special ceremony where a designated person tosses a dart at a calendar, and whatever date the dart lands on becomes Ash Wednesday next year. That might be more fun and suspenseful, but it doesn't happen that way.

Actually there is a "rhyme and reason" to this date-hopping. The date of Ash Wednesday is determined by the date of Easter, and Easter is a "moveable" festival (as opposed to Christmas, for example, which always falls on the same date each year), so Ash Wednesday also moves around from year to year.

Here's the formula for setting the date of Easter:

The first Sunday after the first full moon ...after the Spring Equinox.

Thus Easter can be no earlier than March 22 and no later than April 25. You can actually find the dates Easter will be celebrated

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through 2050 on page xxiii in the front of our hymnal. Find the Easter date, then go back 46 days and you've got the date for Ash Wednesday that year.

(Which leads to a second question: *Why is Ash Wednesday 46 days before Easter when Ash Wednesday begins Lent and Lent is supposed to have only 40 days?*)

It's true that Lent is 40 days long - patterned after the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by Satan (see Matthew 4 or Luke 4). Those 40 days of Lent were designed to be days of somber, self-sacrifice helping us to recall the sacrifice Jesus endured for us on Good Friday. BUT, every Sunday is designed to be a mini-Easter - a celebration reminding us that Jesus didn't stay dead in the tomb, but rose and is alive! Because of the celebration aspect of Sundays, they are not counted as part of the somber season of Lent even though they fall in that time-frame.

Thus, you have 40 days of Lent plus 6 Sundays (a total of 46 days) between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Upcoming Events...

March 9 - Ash Wednesday Worship @ 7:00 p.m.
*see page 15 for details

Saturday, March 12, 10-noon
Bridal Shower for Carrie Halliday - bride-to-be of Brent Miller

Sunday, March 13 - Outreach Meeting after worship

Wednesday, March 16, 23, 30 & April 6, 13
Lenten Midweek Supper / Devotions
*see page 5 for details

March 18-19 Regional Outreach Conference
At Alexandria, Sponsored by Lutheran Hour Ministries
*see page 16 for details

Sat., April 2 - Walk Thru the Old Testament
held at Peace Lutheran in New London
*see page 6 for details

Inspirational Story...

The Stone Cutter

There was once a stone cutter who was dissatisfied with himself and with his position in life.

One day he passed a wealthy merchant's house. Through the open gateway, he saw many fine possessions and important visitors. "How powerful that merchant must be!" thought the stone cutter. He became very envious and wished that he could be like the merchant.

To his great surprise, he suddenly became the merchant, enjoying more luxuries and power than he had ever imagined, but envied and detested by those less wealthy than himself. Soon a high official passed by, carried in a sedan chair, accompanied by attendants and escorted by soldiers beating gongs. Everyone, no matter how wealthy, had to bow low before the procession. "How powerful that official is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a high official!"

Then he became the high official, carried everywhere in his embroidered sedan chair, feared and hated by the people all around. It was a hot summer day, so the official felt very uncomfortable in the sticky sedan chair. He looked up at the sun. It shone proudly in the sky, unaffected by his presence. "How powerful the sun is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be the sun!"

Then he became the sun, shining fiercely down on everyone, scorching the fields, cursed by the farmers and laborers. But a huge black cloud moved between him and the earth, so that his light could no longer shine on everything below. "How powerful that storm cloud is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a cloud!"

Then he became the cloud, flooding the fields and villages, shouted at by everyone. But soon he found that he was being pushed away by some great force, and realized that it was the wind. "How powerful it is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be the wind!"

Then he became the wind, blowing tiles off the roofs of houses, uprooting trees, feared and hated by all below him. But after a while, he ran up against something that would not move, no matter how forcefully he blew against it - a huge, towering rock. "How powerful that rock is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a rock!"

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That for a day: Friends may come and go but enemies accumulate.

Page 5

Then he became the rock, more powerful than anything else on earth. But as he stood there, he heard the sound of a hammer pounding a chisel into the hard surface, and felt himself being changed. "What could be more powerful than I, the rock?" he thought.

He looked down and saw far below him the figure of a stone cutter.

Lenten Midweek Devotions...

Wednesday Evenings, March 16 - April 13

Supper served from..	5:45 to 6:20
Devotion and prayer from...	6:30 to 7:00

Each week different groups within church will take turns ...

- providing the pre-devotion meal
- picking a couple songs for us to sing
- choosing a service project we can participate in after the devotion e.g. writing a letter to Heidi; bringing food shelf items; bringing items for the Safe Avenues fundraiser

The group schedule:

March 16: Living Word Elders' Team
March 23: Confirmation Parents
March 30: Senior High Study Group
April 6: MMT
April 13: LWML

The Devotions

It is traditional to "give something up for Lent" (again, following Jesus' example of giving up food during the 40 days of temptation). Most often what we "give up" is normally a habit or action. This year our devotions will focus on giving up wrong beliefs (or myths) about God. The myths we are to give up will be chosen by the confirmation students based on chapters they've read in the book *Don't Check Your Brains At the Door*. An example is the "Cosmic Cop" myth. The belief that God just sits up there and waits for us to step out of line, so He can "zap" us with some punishment.

Please consider adding our Lenten Midweek Devotions (and supper) to your schedule.

Walk Thru The Old Testament...

Have you ever thought:

- that the Old Testament is confusing?
- it's hard to keep all the people and events of the entire Old Testament in order?
- that understanding the Old Testament takes years to accomplish?

What if we told you that you could memorize the key characters, places, events, and themes of the Old Testament in a few fun-filled, action-packed hours?



On Saturday, April 2, 2011, a Walk Thru the Old Testament Live event will be held at Peace Lutheran Church in New London. You are invited to join in this exciting day.

Advance Registration is \$20.00 per person (\$25.00 at the door). Registration fee includes all materials, snacks, and lunch. Child care for young children through 4th grade will be provided free of charge.

For more information or to register, go to:
www.mnwalkthru.org

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That for a day: For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.

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The LINK Update...

News from The Link



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

From Naomi Mahler the Director.....

Acts 4:32-35

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

We read in the bible in the book of Acts about the care of the needy and the rapid growth of the early Christian church. It's no coincidence that these two things go hand in hand. Historians suggest that much of the growth in the early church can be accounted for the fact that the Christian community simply kept people alive.

In ancient society the most vulnerable, especially the widows and orphans, were often cast aside. But the early church set itself apart from the rest of society by responding to the basic needs for food and shelter of the needy, protecting them and by welcoming them into their community.

People may not be out on our streets literally dying today, but there still is an opportunity for the church to set itself apart by responding to the needs of our community. In a society that devalues anyone with limited resources and says it is an individual's own laziness, stupidity or

lack of discipline that sends them into poverty, the church can share a different message.

We can see the face of God in the other, valuing all people regardless of economic status. We can welcome the stranger into our midst and receive the gifts they have to offer. We can advocate for just economic policies that protect the most vulnerable among us. When we do these things we enrich our community and are able to experience God's grace in new and exciting ways.

Donate, Advocate, Volunteer
Contact Naomi at The Link for more information. 796-2522 or flc_naomi@tds.net

**Save the Date.....April 30th
9am - 11am**

**Spring Shop and Drop
Clothing Exchange
Place TBA**

**Spring Cleaning
Household Item Collection
at the New London Link**

You are invited...

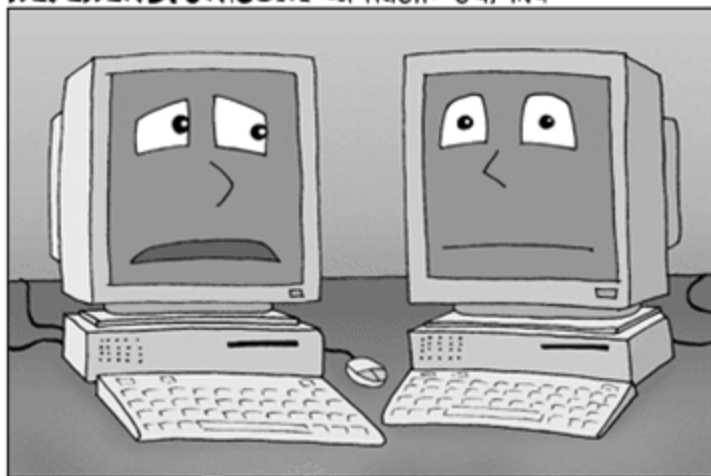
**Join us every Tuesday
night at 6pm for dinner at
Tuesday's Table.**

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

Opportunities for Growth...

- What Does God Say About...? Bible readings
This month's readings (found on pages 10 & 11 of this newsletter) focus on themes from Lent.
- Men's "Bible and Burgers" Study - Tuesdays @ 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Morning Mom's Study - 9:30
- Wednesday Women's study - Noon
- Confirmation - 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
- Senior High Study 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
- All Stars 4 Jesus (3-6th Grade) - THIS Wed @ 6:30
- Sunday Morning Study @ 8:45
- 50 DAYS ABLAZE DAILY DEVOTIONS...
...are still available on our website - (including audio)
Also available in paper copy at church.

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OH MY NO ... HUMANS DIDN'T INVENT US AT ALL ... WE EVOLVED FROM PLASTIC, WIRES, AND LITTLE MICRO THINGERS

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That for a day: Computers are not intelligent. They only think they are.

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Sharing the Love of God In Practical Ways...

Pray

We are conducting the annual update of our Prayer Force prayer chain:

As we've been reminded by the *50 Days Ablaze*, prayer for others is one of our responses to the love God has shown us. People on the Prayer Force receive requests via email (we are adding a phone list this year for those who don't use email).

Help with Children's Church

The only pre-requisite is a love for Jesus and for His kids. You read a Bible story or Object Lesson, take prayer requests from the kids and lead them in prayer; and do an activity with the kids that reinforces the lesson. Lessons are provided. You simply show up and lead. Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help in this way. Thanks!

Help With Support of Heidi

Heidi is the girl from Ecuador that we support through Compassion International. We have committed to \$32/month to help pay for basic needs and Christian education opportunities for Heidi. Donations may be placed in the "Heidi" box on the usher table at church. Thank you!

Help Chaperone a Youth Lock-In

The youth have asked for a lock-in again this year. We are currently looking for a date that works. Something in late Feb or early March. If you can help chaperone or would like to help plan this event, please talk to Pastor David. Thank you!

An Invitation from Redeemer Lutheran Church and Preschool

In celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week, Redeemer is sponsoring a concert featuring Arison Records artist Jennie Williamson.

Jennie will share her gift of music at 2pm in the church's gym. Preschools and daycares are invited to join us for this concert, but the music would be enjoyed by any age. Refreshments will be served following the approximately 45-minute concert.

March - Daily Devotionals

The daily readings are on topics that traditionally have to do with Lent (which starts March 9)

Mar 6 What God Says About ... SACKCLOTH AND ASHES (Ash Wed. In Mar. 9)

Mar 7 Esther 3:13-4:3 _____

Mar 8 Job 42:1-6 _____

Mar 9 Jeremiah 6:16-19,26 _____

Mar 10 Ezekiel 27:29-36 _____

Mar 11 Jonah 3:1-10 _____

Mar 12 Joel 2: 12-18 _____

Mar 13 What God Says About ... REPENTANCE

Mar 14 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 _____

Mar 15 Psalm 38: 1-4,18 _____

Mar 16 Psalm 51:1-17 _____

Mar 17 Jeremiah 3:21-4:2 _____

Mar 18 Acts 2:38-39 _____

Mar 19 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 _____

Mar 20 What God Says About ... THE BLESSINGS OF HUMILITY

Mar 21 Proverbs 22:4 _____

Mar 22 Proverbs 29:23 _____

“What Does God Say About...?”

Mar 23 Isaiah 57:15 _____

Mar 24 Matthew 18:1-4 _____

Mar 25 James 4:6-10 _____

Mar 26 1 Peter 5:5-7 _____

Mar 27 What God Says About SELF-DENIAL AND SELF-SACRIFICE

Mar 28 Matthew 16:24-25 _____

Mar 29 Matthew 19:21 _____

Mar 30 Romans 14:21 _____

Mar 31 Proverbs 23:20 _____

Apr 1 Galatians 5:16-25 _____

Apr 2 Luke 18:29-30 _____

Apr 3 What God Says About _ FASTING

Apr 4 Psalm 35:11-14 _____

Apr 5 Matthew 6:17-18 _____

Apr 6 1 Samuel 7:6 _____

Apr 7 Luke 4:1-2 _____

Apr 8 Acts 13:2-3 _____

Apr 9 Acts 14:23 _____

March 2011 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 27 50 DAYS ABLAZE: CELEBRATE 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - 50 Days Ablaze: GO - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	Feb 28 7:00 Elders' Team	Mar 1 6:00 Men's Group 50 Days Ablaze	Mar 2 9:30 Moms': 50 Days Noon Women's 50 Days 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Sr. High 50 Days 7:00 50 Days Study @ Pam Johnson's	Mar 3 Noon NL-S Ministerial At NL-S	Mar 4 7:00 50 Days Study @ Dauk's	Mar 5 6:30 50 Days Study @ Tm Geer's
6 50 DAYS ABLAZE: Wrap-Up 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - 50 Days Ablaze: CELEBRATE - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	7 8:30 Circuit Pastors Mtg. @ Living Word	8 6:00 Men's Group	9 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 Moms' Group Noon Women's Group 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 LWML 7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship	10 7:00 Circuit Supper	11 7:00 Circuit Supper	12 10-Noon Bridal Shower - Carrie Halliday Bride-to-be of Brent Miller
13 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship Outreach Meeting	14 7:00 Elders' Team	15 6:00 Men's Group 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	16 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Women's Study 5:45 Lenten Supper 6:30 Lenten Devotion 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Sr. High Study	17 LUTHERAN HO REGIONAL OU At Arrowwood Conf Ctr	18 LUTHERAN HO REGIONAL OU At Arrowwood Conf Ctr	19 UR MINISTRIES TREACH CONF in Alexandria
20 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	21 6:00 Men's Group	22 6:00 Men's Group	23 9:30 Moms' 50 Days Noon Women's 50 Days 5:45 Lenten Supper 6:30 Lenten Devotion 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Sr. High Study	24 6:00 Men's Group	25 6:00 Men's Group	26 6:00 Men's Group
27 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	28 6:00 Men's Group	29 6:00 Men's Group	30 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Women's Study 5:45 Lenten Supper 6:30 Lenten Devotion 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Sr. High Study	31 6:00 Men's Group	Apr 1 6:00 Men's Group	Apr 2 6:00 Men's Group

Upcoming Schedules...

Elders

Mar 6 Jason Miller & Troy Hansen
Mar 20 Bryson Wachter & Brady Sharp

Apr 3 Jason Miller & Troy Hansen
Apr 17 Bryson Wachter & Brady Sharp

Scripture Readers

Mar 6 Duane Hansen 796-5605
Mar 13 Scott Wachter 796-6222
Mar 20 Bryson Wachter 894-6378
Mar 27 Wendy Robbin 354-9049

Apr 3 Mona Hjelle 354-4315
Apr 10 Phil Iverson 354-4932
Apr 17 Kevin Welsh 796-6840
Apr 24 Carolyn Rossow 952-738-1036

Fellowship Servers

Mar 6 Wendy Robbin / Stacy Olson
Mar 13 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Mar 20 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Mar 27 Lu Kiehm / Mona Hjelle

Apr 3 Laurel Iverson / Violet Dauk
Apr 10 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Apr 17 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Apr 24 Easter

Children's Church Schedule

Mar 6 Mona Hjelle 354-4315
Mar 13 Emily Fuglie 796-6975
Mar 20 Mikayla Geer & Halee Lucas
Mar 27 Carolyn Rossow 952-738-1036

Apr 3 Mariah Welsh 796-6840
Apr 10 Joe Johnson 354-3545
Apr 17 Kasey Nieland 354-2036
Apr 24 Mona Hjelle 354-4315

Acolyte

Mar 6 Grace Geer
Mar 13 Michelle Johnson
Mar 20 Matthew Tri

Mar 27 Caleb Beeler

Apr 3 Grace Geer
Apr 10 Michelle Johnson
Apr 17 Matthew Tri
Apr 24 Jacob Beeler

Usher & Greeter Schedule

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
Mar 6	Lonny Robbin & Jason Olson	Bryson Wachter
Mar 13	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer	Laurel Iverson
Mar 20	Kevin & Noah Welsh	Lu Kiehm
Mar 27	Linda Dilley & Lu Kiehm	Gerri & Paulette

Apr 3	Mona Hjelle & Paulette Spletter	Bryson Wachter
Apr 10	Brady Sharp & Wally Abraham	Laurel Iverson
Apr 17	Jamie & Phil Iverson	Lu Kiehm
Apr 24	Joe Johnson & Anthony Dauk	Gerri & Paulette

Fill-in Greeter Bonnie Hansen 796-5605 Please call Bonnie if you aren't able to greet on your scheduled Sunday

Ash Wednesday Worship...

March 9 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ashes carry a lot of symbolism...

- People in ancient times showed their sorrow over sin and repentant attitude by putting on sackcloth and ashes - sometimes even sitting in the ashes. (Check out the daily readings for March 6 - 12)
- Ashes are a humbling reminder of our mortality. (You may remember hearing the phrase "earth to earth, dust to dust and ashes to ashes" spoken at a burial service.)
- Ashes are dirty and suggest a need for deansing by the blood of Christ.

During our traditional service of ashes on Ash Wednesday, ashes will be applied to the foreheads of all worshipers in the form of a small cross. This serves to remind us that it was our filthy sin that put Jesus on the cross. But more than that, it reminds us that it was on the cross that the dirt and guilt of our sins were washed away by Jesus' blood!

Please join us for this traditional Service of Ashes on March 9 at 7:00 p.m.



March 18 & 19, 2011

Mark the date! Plan to be there! We look forward to seeing you at the ROC in Alexandria!

Train and Inspire!

ROC March 18-19 in Alexandria, MM. *A weekend get-away for the whole family!! Something for everyone! Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria welcomes you...

- Be *inspired* through the worship and music
- be *energized* and encouraged through the Word
- be *equipped* as speakers and breakout leaders...
- offer practical ideas for sharing your faith
- offer outreach strategies to connect with your community,
- offer practical ways of being the hands and feet of Jesus;
- help you to gain confidence in spiritual conversations and
- lead the discussion on how to deal with the challenging situations and questions of today's culture.
- explore innovative ways and possibilities of utilizing technology and the internet in ministry.

For a complete listing of all breakout sessions, and to register your first, second, and third breakout choices, go to www.lhm.org/roc (choose three even though you only attend two breakout sessions.)

Conference prices:

- Adults \$69 Family package \$175.
- Children younger than kindergarten are *free* and child-care provided.
- Children kindergarten through 7th grade will enjoy varied activities that are tons of fun and will teach practical ways for them to share Jesus - \$29.
- Teenagers (Grades 8 -12) will enjoy the *Five 14*, an entertaining and interactive program that teaches teens how to share their faith and shine like stars - \$49.

These prices include all meals on Saturday and all of the conference. Register on line at: www.lhm.org/roc/mn

Room rate is \$109 per night plus taxes. For \$119 per night you will get up to 4 Waterpark passes (an \$80 value).

To reserve your room go to www.arrowwoodresort.com and enter *LHM311* as the group code, to get the right price. In addition to the Waterpark, there is also an indoor pool and indoor tennis; for those that like the outdoors, there is snow-

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That for a day: Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

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mobiling or horse-drawn sleigh rides! Free time has been built into the schedule to enjoy these activities.

What a weekend of fun as you grow in your faith and fellowship with other Christians!!

It's time to get that registration made!! March 18-19, this Friday and Saturday is the weekend get-away for the whole family! It's affordable, enjoyable, and will have lasting value! Be inspired through the Word in worship and music. Let the compelling speakers and workshop presenters, energize and equip you with proven ideas and strategies that can enable you to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Learn how to share your faith and better communicate with those of other faiths and different culture. Go home with tools and ideas that will enable you to minister to your community. There is something for everyone, regardless of age! For more information and to register, go to www.lhm.org/roc

MATCHING FUNDS 'THANK YOU'

As of February 27, we have received \$6989 in our Matching Funds drive

Donations can still be made.

Lutheran Island Camp...

Summer Creation Science Camp Reminders

Programs Offered:

YOUNG SCIENTIST PROGRAM

"BANG!" "Whoosh!" "Wow!" Science can be exciting at Lutheran Island Camp. Our Young Scientist Program uses science to better understand God's creation and the universe that surrounds us. Brian Young teaches God's word while helping participants see how the truth of science supports the facts of creation.

Ages: 10-15

Dates:

Young Scientist 1-June 12-17

Young Scientist 2-June 26-July 1

Young Scientist 3-July 31-August 5

(This event now has room for about 10 more)

Cost: \$350

CREATION-SAFARI CAMP

Send your child on the ultimate journey of exploration. God has given us a wonderful place to search for strange animals, neat plants, big fish, and lots of bugs. During our Creation-Safari camps we'll be teaching youth to see just how miraculous those creations are. We'll have fun with butterflies, fish, horses, flowers, and bugs. At the same time we'll be taking a safari into God's word to hunt dinosaurs, giant fish, exotic plants, and strange weather patterns.

Ages: 8-11

Dates:

Creation Safari 1-July 10-15

Creation Safari 2-July 17-22

Creation Safari 3-August 7-12

Cost: \$310

CREATION PHOTOGRAPHY AND ART

Join other photographers and artists who have a special desire to learn how to capture God's magnificent creation through their art. Led by a professional photographer, you'll see nature as it gives birth, blooms, takes to the sky, and brings forth beauty.

Ages: 12 and older

Dates: June 5-10

Cost: \$265

TEACHING YOUR FAMILY ABOUT CREATION

This weekend event will help parents and children learn about the most up-to-date creation science and how to teach and live it. They will discover that much of the "evidence" of evolution is based on false information and unproven theories. This will be a great family opportunity to have the tools to respond to questions and challenges to our faith.

Ages: Family

Dates: June 17-19

Cost: \$85 per person, children under 5 free,
\$300 maximum per family.

Scholarships for camp are available. Talk to Pastor if you need a scholarship or would like to provide one for a student.

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That for a day: Ever stop to think and forget to start again?

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Just For Fun...

THE MESSAGE

Paul was an apostle and Agabus was a prophet.
One day, Agabus came to see Paul and give him a very special message.

To find out what that message was, decode the numbers.

1=A
2=B
3=C
4=D
5=E
6=F
7=G
8=H
9=I
10=J
11=K
12=L
13=M
14=N
15=O
16=P
17=Q
18=R
19=S
20=T
21=U
22=V
23=W
24=X
25=Y
26=Z

20 8 5 10 5 23 19 1

20 10 5 18 21

19 1 12 5 23 9

12 12 2 9 14 4

25 15 21 1 14

4 4 5 12 9

22 5 18 25 15

21 15 22 5 18

ACTS 21:11

11:09... (set the alarm on your cell phone)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY AT 11:09 EVERYDAY

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

E-Mail Humor...

A Jewish businessman in Chicago sent his son to Israel for a year to absorb the culture.

When the son returned, he said, "Papa, I had a great time in Israel. By the way, I converted to Christianity."

"Oy vey," said the father. "What have I done?" He took his problem to his best friend, Ike.

"Ike," he said, "I sent my son to Israel, and he came home a Christian. What can I do?"

"Funny you should ask," said Ike. "I too, sent my son to Israel, and he also came home a Christian. Perhaps we should go see the rabbi."

So they did, and they explained their problem to the rabbi.

"Funny you should ask," said the rabbi. "I, too, sent my son to Israel, and he also came home a Christian. What is happening to our young people?"

And so they all prayed, telling the Lord about their sons. As they finished their prayer, a voice came from the heavens:

"Funny you should ask," said the Voice. "I, too, sent my Son to Israel . . ."

+++++

A fisherman from the city was out fishing on a lake in a small boat. He noticed another man in a small boat open his tackle box and take out a mirror. Being curious the man rowed over and asked, "What is the mirror for?"

"That's my secret way to catch fish," said the other man.

"Shine the mirror on the top of the water. The fish notice the spot of sun on the water above and they swim to the surface. Then I just reach down and net them and pull them into the boat."

"Wow! Does that really work?"

"You bet it does."

"Would you be interested in selling that mirror? I'll give you \$30 for it."

"Well, okay."

After the money was transferred, the city fisherman asked, "By the way, how many fish have you caught this week?"

"You're the sixth," he said.

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That for a day: You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

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

THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD

A group of students was asked to list what they thought were the present Seven Wonders of the World. Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student hadn't turned in her paper yet, so she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list.

The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read,

"I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. TO SEE, 2. TO TASTE, 3. TO TOUCH, 4. TO HEAR."

She hesitated a little, and then added,

- "5. TO FEEL, 6. TO LAUGH, 7. AND TO LOVE."

The room was so full of silence you could have heard a pin drop.

Those things we overlook as simple and ordinary are truly wondrous. This is a gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be bought...but are gifts from above. (James 1:17)

March Discipleship Verse...



Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

Joel 2:13

Story Behind The Song...

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Martin Rinkert was a pastor in the walled town of Eilenburg, Germany, during the horrors of the Thirty Years War of 1618-1648. The town was an overcrowded refuge for the surrounding area. The fugitives who flocked there suffered from epidemic and famine. At the beginning of 1637, the year of the Great Pestilence, there were four ministers in Eilenburg. But one abandoned his post for healthier areas and could not be persuaded to return. Pastor Rinkert officiated at the funerals of the other two.

As the only pastor left, he often conducted services for as many as 40 to 50 persons - a day--some 4,480 in all. In May of that year, his own wife died. By the end of the year, so many were dying that the refugees had to be buried in trenches without services.

It was after all this - not before - that Martin Rinkert penned these words:

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done
In whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore;

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That for a day: The bonds of matrimony are a good investment, but only when the interest is kept up.

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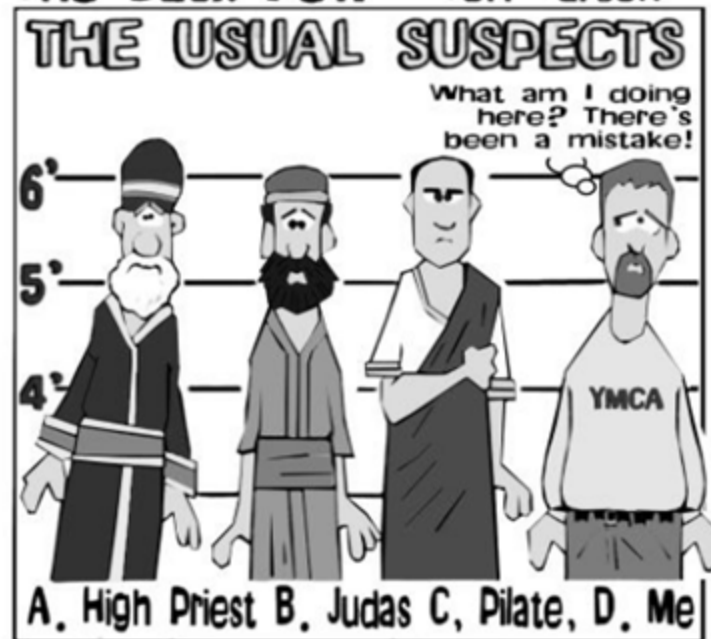
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

This song of praise, written in the midst of deepest sorrow, is a prime example of what the God tells us through the Apostle Paul in Romans:

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ - through whom we have gained access into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom he has given us."

"Now Thank We All Our God" is a great reminder of why we can rejoice even in time of suffering: We have hope! Through faith in Jesus we have the certain hope of an eternity void of suffering. Now, thank we - all - our God!

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



IN A POLICE LINEUP.. Who would be picked as the the person responsible for Jesus crucifixion? The correct answer is E.. all of the above.