

**April 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

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Located north of the New London Township Hall on Cty Rd 9 NE  
Phone: 320-354-4637  
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## Question for Pastor...

**Who were the first eyewitnesses of Jesus' resurrection?**

This isn't a question someone came up and asked me personally. It's one I heard Pastor Chuck Swindoll, a Christian Bible teacher, ask on his daily program Insight for Living that was being aired over the Christian radio station I was listening to while driving home.

It's not a question I remember ever hearing before, or even pondering in my mind without being asked.

A good first guess at the answer would be Mary Magdalene who saw what she first thought was the gardener, but who in reality was her risen Lord!

But I figured the correct answer must not be one we'd expect or he wouldn't have asked the question. Pastor Swindoll went on to read this passage from Matthew chapter 28:

**11 Now while they [Mary Magdalen and 'the other Mary'] were on their way, some of the guard [who had been assigned by the chief priests to keep watch over the tomb lest someone come and steal the body and claim Jesus rose back to life - see Matthew 27:62-66] came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. 12 And when they [the chief priests] had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, 13 and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' 14 And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble." 15 And they [the soldiers who guarded the tomb] took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day.**

Pastor Swindoll then went on to say that the most likely answer to his question would be those guards. Guards who were there when Jesus came out of the tomb - coming right through the stone that had been rolled over the entrance. (Keep in mind the angel who rolled the stone away, didn't do it so Jesus could get out. Jesus was already out! The



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stone was rolled away, so the people could go in and see for themselves that Jesus was not there!)

The guards' eyewitness account must have been very convincing, because the chief priests didn't even attempt to cast doubt on their story or tell them they must have been dreaming. Instead they gave the guards a bribe and crafted a false story (the first "fake news"? they thought would satisfy the people.

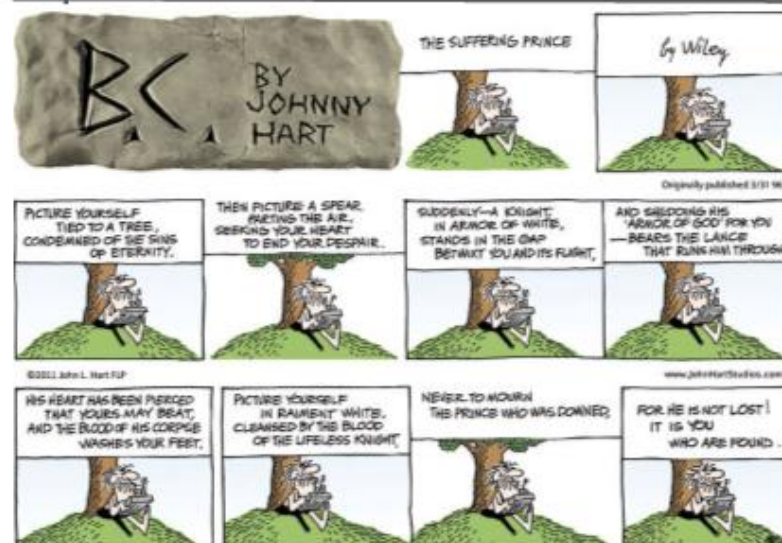
But it's not real difficult to see that the chief priests' story was indeed "fake news": If the guards were sleeping (as the false story asserts) they could not have seen anyone come and steal the body - much less know who the grave robbers were! Sleeping people make horrible 'witnesses' to anything!

So, what difference does it make that the guards were likely the first? It simply adds to the credibility of the resurrection. Skeptics like to make the case that Jesus' followers wanted Jesus to rise from the grave, so made up the story or dreamt it. But if people who were not followers of Jesus witnessed him actually come out of the tomb alive - and had to be bribed with a 'large sum of money' to change their story - then it has to be true!

And indeed it is!

Christ IS risen!  
Pastor David

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





## 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:**

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30

Our 'Seamless' study covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture.

**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 21 for information

**the Living Word Women's Retreat** April 27-29

"Reach Out - Impact Your World"

see page 6 of this newsletter for more details

**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.)

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**That for a day:** The person who spends all day bragging about what he is going to accomplish tomorrow probably did the very same thing yesterday.

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## E-mail Wisdom....

### Quotes About Money

- The only reason a great many American families don't own an elephant is that they have never been offered an elephant for a dollar down and easy weekly payments. - Mad Magazine
- The safe way to double your money is to fold it over once and put it in your pocket. - Frank Hubbard
- There is a very easy way to return from a casino with a small fortune: go there with a large one. - Jack Yelton
- Never work just for money or for power. They won't save your soul or help you sleep at night. - Marian Wright Edelman
- A penny saved is a penny earned. - Benjamin Franklin
- Empty pockets never held anyone back. Only empty heads and empty hearts can do that. - Norman Vincent Peale
- He who loses money, loses much; He who loses a friend, loses much more; He who loses faith, loses all. - Eleanor Roosevelt
- If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can't buy. - Proverb
- Time is more valuable than money. You can get more money, but you cannot get more time. - Jim Rohn

### Congratulations

- Strykar Maxine Ampe - baptized into the family of God on March 11 !
- Davis Rustad - on getting your driving permit on March 23 !
- Keith and Laurie Hanson - on becoming Great grandparents March 15

If you have someone you'd like to offer congratulations to, just email Pastor David with the info: [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

## 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...



- Strykar Ampe baptized into the family of God
- The Sounds of Spring
- Easter Celebration 4Kids!
- Jesus' Resurrection !

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week.



## Mark Your Calendars...

### Spring Voters' Assembly

... will be held after worship on April 22. The Spring Assembly is our annual election to fill Mission and Ministry positions. Positions up for election this year (to take office July 1)

Chairman  
Secretary  
Stewardship  
Trustee  
Community Outreach -  
Elders (two):  
Christian Growth - Youth.

### Coming Wednesday, April 4 at 6 p.m.

Grace Johnson combines her skills as a potter and a storyteller to show how God has molded us, each His unique creation.

On Wednesday, April 4, Grace brings her potter's wheel and story to share with the **4-6th Grade Group** and Confirmation Class.



God has taken Grace and husband Bert all over the States to share their ministry and their Prophetic Art, Christian Prints, Christian Poetry and Christian Greeting Cards. *"Behold as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand."* Jeremiah 18:6



### 3rd Annual Women's Retreat April 27-29 (Friday Evening- Sunday)

We'll hold our 3rd Annual Women's Retreat that weekend at Koronis Ministries camp outside Paynesville. Mark your calendars. It will be a time of fun and growth!

### "Reach Out - Impact Your World!"

Cost for 2 nights and 5 meals: (Based on double occupancy)  
Dorm Room style: \$130/person  
Sunrise (like a hotel room): \$180/person

**RSVP by April 10 to Violet Dauk or Tammy Miller**

(Payment due at that time as well: Checks payable to Koronis Ministries)

This is open to all ladies, so invite some friends !

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Thot for a day: : If you keep saying things are going to be bad, you have a good chance of being a prophet.

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### UPDATE:

**Our NEXT PLANNING MEETING:**  
Sunday, April 8 - [After Worship]  
Bring Your Calendars. We'll plan more fundraising opportunities ...

(Like the Tupperware sale coming up on April 22)

We'll also need to know who's planning to attend.

### **Registration for the 2018 National Lutheran Youth Workers Conference is OPEN**

- Are you planning to take a group to Minneapolis in 2019 and want to familiarize yourself with area hotels, facilities, and restaurants?
- Are you a first-time adult leader and desire to connect with other new and seasoned adult leaders?
- Are you looking for training and networks which support your service as a youth ministry practitioner?

#NATIONAL18 provides a wonderful opportunity to prepare for the 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering.

Dates: July 8-11, 2018      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-youth-workers-conference/>

## Email Humor...

### **First Words**

My son crawled for the first time while I was away on exercises. I also missed Harry's first steps and was afraid an upcoming course would cause me to miss his first words. Each day, I called home and asked if he had spoken yet. The answer was always "no" until my wife said Harry had something to say to me. "Daddy, daddy," I heard over the phone, and glowed with pride. My wife came back on the line and said, "You should come home as soon as possible."

"Why?" I asked.

"Harry was speaking to the dog."

## Miscellaneous Notes...

### CHOIR...

A great big thank you to all the choir members who practiced so hard for Lent, Holy Week and of course Easter Sunday. What a joy to see your "smiling faces" as I get to direct you with praising God when we sing. I feel so blessed to be a choir director here at Living Word. Before you know it the season is over, so keep on coming to practice April 1st before worship on Easter Morning and then April 22nd and April 29th after coffee fellowship. All voices are welcome.

Keep a song in your heart, Leone



### KEEP saving Toothpaste

for the Link's annual "Just the Basics" giveaway. Saturday, April 28th, 9am to 10:30am at Cross Roads Church

Toothpaste may be brought to church and placed in the box by Pastor's office. (We need approximately 200 tubes for the giveaway.)

### 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
- April Living Word newsletters
- April Daily Bible readings
- Christian Magazines



### Sermons Now Available in Audio on our Website

<http://livingwordlutheran.net/sermons.htm>

(Or just click on "New Sermons Online" at the bottom of the [livingwordlutheran.net](http://livingwordlutheran.net) home page)

Mar 4 "A Very Important Rhyme to remember"  
Mar 11 "Maybe the Toughest Idea to Give Up"  
Mar 18 "What Makes A Person Truly Great?"  
Mar 25 "Satan's 'Human Shields'"

### 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

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Thot for a day: We occasionally stumble over the truth but most of us pick ourselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened

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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.

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

Email [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net) and he will send you a link to view the directory online.

**April 22 @ 1 p.m.**

## **National Youth Gathering Fundraiser**

**Tupperware®**

**40%**  
of your purchase will be donated!

**Get containers you need -**

**Help send our youth to the NYG**

**It's truly a Win - Win situation !**

## **Thank You...**

**For Lenten Soup & Sandwich Suppers...**

A HUGE "Thank You" to everyone who brought or served food, and to Leone Quigley for organizing the meals!



## April 2018 - Daily Readings

The Resurrection of Jesus is the central "hinge-pin" of all Christianity. Without it, the 'doors fall off.' But with it everything holds together! Each reading deals with an aspect of the Resurrection.

### **Wk of April 1** Daily Readings **WITNESSES OF JESUS' RESURRECTION**

- Apr 1 Matthew 28:1-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Apr 2 Matthew 28:8-10, 16-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Apr 3 Mark 16:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Apr 4 Luke 24:15-31 \_\_\_\_\_  
Apr 5 John 20:19-31 \_\_\_\_\_  
Apr 6 Luke 24:50-51, Acts 1-2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Apr 7 1 Corinthians 15:5-8 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Week of APR 8** Daily Readings: **RESULTS OF JESUS' RESURRECTION**

- Apr 9 John 11:20-27 \_\_\_\_\_  
Apr 10 1 Corinthians 15:12-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
Apr 11 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 \_\_\_\_\_  
Apr 12 Acts 4:32-35 \_\_\_\_\_  
Apr 13 Colossians 3:1-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Apr 14 1 Peter 1:3-9 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Wk of APR 15** Daily Readings **OTHER RESURRECTIONS IN THE BIBLE**

- April 16 1 Kings 17:7-24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

April 17 2 Kings 4:8-37 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

April 18 2 Kings 13:20-21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

April 19 Matthew 9:18-26 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

April 20 Matthew 27:50-53 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

April 21 John 11:1-44 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Wk of APR 22** Daily Readings **MORE RESURRECTIONS**

April 23 Luke 7:11-17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

April 24 Acts 9:36-42 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

April 25 Ephesians 2:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

April 26 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

April 27 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

April 28 John 5:24-30 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Week of Apr 29** Daily Readings **The POWER of the RESURRECTION for US**

Apr 30 Ephesians 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 1 Ephesians 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



May 2 Ephesians 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 3 Ephesians 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 4 Ephesians 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 5 Ephesians 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# April 2018 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 RESURRECTION SUNDAY</b> <b>7:00 SONRISE WORSHIP</b> <b>8:15 EASTER BREAKFAST</b> <b>9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> <b>10:00 EASTER WORSHIP w/communion</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 6:00 - PRAYER GROUP 6:00 - 4-6th GR. GROUP (The Potter's Heart) 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> <b>10:00 WORSHIP</b> 11:15 Fellowship <b>11:30 YOUTH GATHERING MTG.</b> <b>5:30 WHIST FELLOWSHIP</b> 	<b>9</b> DISTRICT	<b>10</b> CONVENTION 6:30 MEN'S STUDY Revelation	<b>11</b> 9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 11:30 LWML 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER GROUP 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Dominic Evenson Baptism 9:00 ADULT STUDY - Sunday School <b>10:00 WORSHIP w/communion</b> 11:15 Fellowship <b>11:45 CHOIR PRACTICE</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY: Revelation	<b>18</b> 9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER GROUP 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY	<b>19</b> 10:00 PIE MAKING 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> SPRING VOTERS' ASS'Y 9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL <b>10:00 WORSHIP</b> 11:15 Fellowship <b>11:45 SPRING VOTERS' ASS'Y</b> CHOIR PRACTICE <b>1:00 NYG Tupperware fundraiser</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY: Revelation	<b>25</b> 9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL <b>10:00 WORSHIP</b> 11:15 Fellowship <b>11:45 CHOIR PRACTICE</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>May 1</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY: Revelation	<b>May 2</b> 9:30 - MOMS' STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY	<b>May 3</b>	<b>May 4</b> Circuit Pastors @ St John, Montevideo	<b>May 5</b>

## Lord's Supper Dates

- Sunday, April 1st
- Sunday, April 15th

Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to:  
[newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net)

## Upcoming Schedules...

### Fellowship Servers

Apr 1	Easter Breakfast - Youth
Apr 8	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Apr 15	Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
Apr 22	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
Apr 29	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
May 6	Mike & Brooke Knutson
May 13	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
May 20	Gwen Ruchti / Ruth Vegdahl
May 27	Nancy Jo Wendt & Tammy Fuglie

### Usher Schedule

Apr 1	Jason & Noah Miller
Apr 8	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Apr 15	Brady & Andrew Sharp
Apr 22	Linda Dilley & Davis Rustad
Apr 29	Wally Abraham and Joe Johnson
May 6	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
May 13	Larry Levin
May 20	Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson
May 27	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen

### Make A Meal Volunteers

April	Violet Dauk & Bonnie Hansen
May	Wachters & Gwen Ruchti

### Elders

Apr 1/8	Joe Johnson & Jason Miller
Apr 15/22/29	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson

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

### Custodian

April	Phil & Jean Lungstrom
May	Duane & Bonnie Hansen

Seen on Church Signboard...  
Can't sleep?  
Try counting your blessings.

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Thot for a day: My Mom always told me to wear clean underwear in case you have an accident. But if you have an accident, your underwear won't be very clean, will it?

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### Acolyte (little brothers & sisters)

Apr 1	Addison Arends-Schmidt
Apr 8	Gage Dahl
Apr 15	Levi Miller
Apr 22	Eli Sharp
Apr 29	Alison Sarsland

### Sunday School Helpers

Apr 8	Noah & Davis
Apr 15	Lance & Andrew
Apr 22	George & Ryland
Apr 29	Carson & McCartney

May 6	Noah & Davis
May 13	Lance & Andrew
May 20	George & Ryland
May 27	Carson & McCartney

### Nursery

(more volunteers needed...)	
Apr 1	Pam Johnson
Apr 8	Violet Dauk
Apr 15	Mona Hjelle
Apr 22	Laurie Hanson
Apr 29	Helper needed

May 6	Pam Johnson
May 13	Violet Dauk
May 20	Mona Hjelle
May 27	Laurie Hanson

### Altar Guild

Apr	Nancy Jo Wendt
May	Mona Hjelle

### Confirmation Parent Helper

Apr 4	Rustad
Apr 11	Sawatzky
Apr 18	Sharp
Apr 25	Arends-Schmidt
May 2	Jaspersen
May 9	Knutson
May 16	Miller
May 23	Rustad
May 30	Sawatzky

### Scripture Readers

Apr 1	Kevin Welsh
Apr 8	Laurel Iverson
Apr 15	Tammy Wachter
Apr 22	Wendy Robbin
Apr 29	Linda Dilley

May 6	Jason Miller
May 13	Mark Fuglie
May 20	Ruth Vegdahl
May 27	Tammy Fuglie

### Accompanying Musicians

Easter Sunrise	Scott Wachter
Easter 10:00	Sharon Willen
Apr 8	Scott Wachter
Apr 15	Pam Johnson
Apr 22	Scott Wachter
Apr 29	Scott Wachter

May 6	Sharon Willen
May 13	Scott Wachter
May 20	Pam Johnson
May 27	Scott Wachter

## April Discipleship Verse...

*"Therefore... stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know your labor in the Lord is not in vain."*  
1 Corinthians 15:58



## Opportunities to Serve...

### Chaperone a Fun Event for:

4-6th Graders or The Confirmation Group

We'd like to have a fun outing (somewhere within an hour drive) for each of these groups during the winter. If you could help with either group this month, please talk to Pastor David or Lyndsay Ampe.

### 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.**

### 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 Dille if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks! Our April Make-a-Meal volunteers are Violet Dauk and Bonnie Hansen.

### Food Shelf Reminder.

12 pounds of food was donated along with a monetary gift of \$20.00 to the New London Food Shelf. The second Sunday each month we ask you to bring in non perishable items for the Food Shelf. Thank you so much for your generous support of this local charity

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Thot for a day: Did it ever occur to you that tether ball is really just a cat toy for people?

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## Community Outreach...

If you are interested a tour to the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter, Rustad Tours has one all ready to sign up for. It is 6 days at the end of August and costs around \$1,000-\$1,100 per person. It looks like a lot of fun! If you think we need to plan one for our church, we would need about 25 people to commit to be able to book one. Please let me know what you think.

Thank you. Ruth Vegdahl

### **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...

- Protection for everyone at our schools
- A 'full slate' of attendees & volunteers for the National Youth Gathering
- Thanking God for all the kids in our church - and all we learn from them
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- Asking God to open hearts to the message of the Cross & Empty Tomb
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Asking God for great attendance at the Women's Retreat
- Courage to take a stand for Jesus at school and work.
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- 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

## 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 through a tough time.





## LWML News...

**LWML planning meeting** is scheduled for April 11th at 11:30, to be held at church. Nancy Jo Wendt is hostess. All Women are welcome to come to the planning meetings. It is not only about planning it is about sharing God's love to all Sisters in Christ. We lift each other in prayer, laughter and love. Need a ride? Let Leone know and she will pick you up. 354-4665

**Retreat:** The Living Word 3rd Annual Women's Retreat is coming up the last weekend of April. You can come for the full weekend or just for the days.

**Spring Luncheon:** Come celebrate with your mother, daughter, sister, church family on Saturday, May 11. The theme is A Repurposed Life and a short program is being planned. There is no admission charge, but please sign up in advance and bring a salad to share.

**Pies, Pies, Pies!** You are cordially invited to come make pies at church on Thursday, April 19th at 10 a.m. Don't worry if you are a beginning pie maker. There are jobs available for all! We have all the apples we need in the freezer already. Donations of blueberries are welcome if you see them on a good sale.

**LWML Zone meeting** will be Saturday May 5 at Nicolai in Canby. The Northern Convention will be June 18-20 in Bemidji. See a board member if you want to know more about these.

**MN North LWML Convention** will be June 18-20, in Bemidji. There are many hotels nearby. The theme is Forever Written in His Hands. If someone wants to fill a district office, nominations are due by May 15.

## Email Inspiration...

### God roots for us

When Serena Williams won the Wimbledon tennis tournament for the first time in 2002, a reporter asked her if she was bothered by the fact that many of the English fans rooted against her. "No," she said. People had rooted against her all her life. "Besides," she added, "my dad was sitting in those stands, and I knew he was rooting for me and I wanted to please him."

No matter who is rooting against you, know this: Your Heavenly Father is rooting for you! (And He has the power for you to win!)



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Thot for a day: The bravest thing you can do when you are not brave is to profess courage and act accordingly.

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# APRIL NEWS

206 N. Main St. New London, MN 56273 | 320.354.5555 or 354.LINK | [www.youarethelink.org](http://www.youarethelink.org)  
The Link Staff: Rhonda Ottosen, Chasity Dimmock & Shawna Roomeling



### Just the Basics:

The Link's annual "Just the Basics" Household Item and Toiletries Distribution is on Saturday, April 28, 2018, 9 am to 10:30 am at Cross Roads Methodist Church.

The Link is fundraising and collecting items for the event. Sponsor an item for \$300 - \$500 by calling Chasity.

Items still needed: Laundry soap, toilet bowl cleaner, liquid spray cleaner, disinfecting wipes, garbage bags, food storage bags, paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrushes, razors, baby wipes and feminine products.

### Calling All Green Thumbs:

If you enjoy gardening in the summer, The Link is in need of your talent! We are looking for community members to help families access healthy fruits and vegetables by donating a portion of your crops to The Link's Food Pantry and Summer Food Pack Program.



### Thrivent Choice Dollars:

Are you a Thrivent member? The Link has recently been accepted into the Thrivent catalog and can be selected as a recipient of Thrivent Choice dollars. Search for The Link of Northern Kandiyohi County. We are excited to be a partner with Thrivent and their members.

### Your Impact:

In January, The Link assisted a local family with gas to get to Nevada. The couple needed to appear in court to get custody of the husband's three young children who were in foster care after being removed from the mother's care due to extreme neglect and abuse. The Link partnered with the AG Church to provide enough gas cards to get there and back. A few weeks later, the couple stopped in to let us know that the children were safe and happy in their home. They were so grateful. The Link made it happen, but only because of your support. You are the Link!

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

### 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:  
Tuesday: 9am - 3pm  
Thursday: 9am - 3pm  
Special Weekend  
April 13th 10am - 3pm &  
April 14th, 9am to 1pm

### Tuesday's Table

April 3rd: No Tuesday's Table

April 10th: Bengali Covenant Church

April 17th: Faith Lutheran Church

April 24th: Peace Lutheran Church

Food, Friends, Fellowship.



## The Story of the Dogwood....

We had a picnic, climbed a rock wall, learned to pump our legs on the swing, stuck our fingers in a cold lake, investigated an old crumbling chimney from a pioneer's homestead, and marched along a 100-year-old dam. Our final stop was to trek through a parking lot to get to a small tree. A twisted, skinny trunk leaned over a muddy ditch, trying to catch a glimpse of the sun and reach the moisture of the river.

We pulled some of the Dogwood branches toward us, gazing at the bright white flowers covering it. Then, with a quick look around, we plucked one off for everyone...

I ask, "What shape does this flower have? Look at it closely. There are two long petals and two short petals. What does it remind you of?"

My kids think for awhile and then say, "A cross?"

"That's right. Now look at the very ends of the petals. What color is on the edge?"

"Brown" they say.

"How about red or pink? Does it kind of look like blood?"

They nod, wondering why their mama would talk about blood while looking at a flower.

"Now," I say, "look at this part in the middle. Doesn't it look like a great big king's crown?"

Not sure if they see it, they nod.

Then I ask them who a cross reminds them of.

That's an easy one: "Jesus!"

Now, I can tell them the story: God loves us so much He puts His love for us in the pattern of the stars, the colors of the sunrise, and in the flowers. This Dogwood flower is shaped like a cross to remind us of the cross on which Jesus died. The brownish-red ends? They look like they've been pushed in with a nail—just like Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the cross. The color reminds us of the blood he shed for the forgiveness of our sins. And the crown in the middle reminds us of the crown of thorns the Roman soldiers put on Jesus' head to make fun of Him.

But it also reminds us of our true King of Kings, Jesus the Christ, who did die on a cross, who shed His blood for us and then came back to life to take away all our sins and make us as white as snow—as white as the petals on this Dogwood.

God reveals Himself to all people—even little boys—in anyway He can—even spring flowers.

-Amanda White



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Thot for a day: A friend told me she was taking up meditation. I said it was better than sitting around doing nothing.

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## Community Outreach...

Everyone, please start thinking about ideas for our float in the New-London Water Days parade. We will be ordering books to give away.

I have received no responses about chartering a trip to the Ark Encounter, so we will table that idea for now.

If you have ideas or needs, please talk with me.

Thank you. Ruth Vegdahl

## Sunday School...

We continue with "The Life of Jesus."

Apr 1 Jesus heals a crippled woman

Apr 8 Jesus heals a blind man

Apr 15 Jesus declares He is the Son of God

Apr 22 Parables of a Lost Sheep & Lost Coin

Apr 29 Parable of the Prodigal Son (Waiting Father)



**+ 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.

## Story Behind The Song...

**Because He Lives**

by Bill & Gloria Gaither

The subject of this story is one of the most popular songs written by Bill and Gloria Gaither. In an interview several years ago, Gloria related to me (Lindsay Terry) the events surrounding the writing of "Because He Lives."

Bill, in most of their songwriting ventures, will write a musical setting with an idea in mind and Gloria, using the same idea, will write the lyrics. To date, they have written more than 700 songs, produced 60 re-



cordings and several musicals.

Now for the story behind "Because He Lives," as Gloria told it to me in one of several interviews. In the late 1960s, while expecting their third child, the Gaithers were going through a rather traumatic time in their lives. Bill was recovering from a bout with mononucleosis. It was a special period of anxiety and mental anguish for Gloria. The thought of bringing another child into this world, with all of the "craziness," was taking its toll on her.

On New Year's Eve, she was sitting in their living room, in agony and fear. The educational system was being infiltrated with the God is dead idea, while drug abuse and racial tensions were increasing. Then suddenly, and quite unexpectedly, she was filled with a gentle, calming peace. It was as if her heavenly Father, like an attentive mother bending over her baby, saw his child and came to her rescue. The panic gave way to calmness and an assurance that only the Lord can impart. She was assured that the future would be just fine, left in God's hands.

Shortly after the baby was born, both Bill and Gloria remembered that the power of the blessed Holy Spirit seemed to come to their aid. Christ's resurrection, in all of its power and affirmation in their lives, revitalized their thinking. To Gloria, it was life conquering death in their daily activities. Joy once again dominated the fearful circumstances of the day.

Those events gave rise to one of the most famous Christian songs of our time, "Because He Lives." In this song, which begins, "God sent His son, they called Him Jesus," we are reminded that Christ came to this earth. And the purpose for His coming was that we might be able to face tomorrow, with all of the uncertainty that it brings. She also reminds us that God holds the future right in his hands and makes life worth living for all who trust in him.

".. because I live, ye shall live also." - John 14:19

God sent His Son, They called Him Jesus;  
He came to love... Heal and forgive.  
He lived and died To buy my pardon;  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Chorus: Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

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That for a day: How come all the instruments seeking intelligent life in the universe are pointed away from Earth?

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How sweet to hold A newborn baby  
And feel the pride And joy He gives;  
But greater still The calm assurance  
This child can face uncertain days because He lives  
(Chorus)

And then one day I'll cross the river;  
I'll fight life's final war with pain.  
And then as death Gives way to victory  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.  
(Chorus)

[Story by Lindsay Terry as posted at [www.staugustine.com](http://www.staugustine.com)]

**Editor's note:** Listen to the Gaither Vocal Band sing this classic...

<https://youtu.be/bJL4TJcwDRA>

One of my favorite renditions is by Crowder at

<https://youtu.be/3atcawYO2E4>

