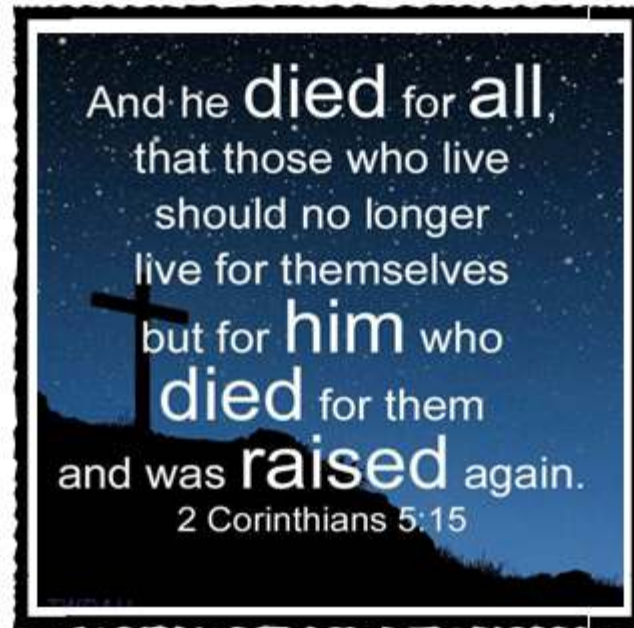




**Living Word**  
**Lutheran Church**  
LCMS



**April 2021 Newsletter**

*"Communicating the Love of Jesus"*

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. (vis Zoom)

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (& Facebook Live)

# 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](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)  
Website: [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net)

## Questions for Pastor...



Why did the authorities want to arrest & kill Jesus?

This question came from one of the confirmation students after watching one of our episodes on the Video Bible: Gospel of John.

It's a great question, because, when you think about it, it makes no sense! Who would want to kill Jesus?! I mean, He's God. He loves everyone. He never sinned. He came - as we read in John 3:17 - "not to condemn the world but to save the world!" And when you realize it was the religious leaders of His own people who plotted to kill him, it makes even less sense. To top it all off, it was His greatest mirade - bringing Lazarus back to life after he'd been dead for four days - that prompted those leaders to move from "We should kill him," to "We will kill him!"

There are actually a couple of reasons that these authorities wanted Jesus dead. Here's the reason they gave:

Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin (the Jewish ruling council).

"What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation." John 11:47-49

In other words, they were afraid that Jesus would lead a revolt and that lots of people would join in that revolt. They knew from past experience that the Romans were ruthless and powerful when it came to putting down revolutions. The religious leaders could not see how this would end well - from a human perspective.

But, you know how the reason you give to others for doing something (or not doing something) isn't always the real reason?! The rationale for the reason you give to other people is that you think that's the explanation that will make you look good, (because you know that the real reason is one that won't make you look so good.) That's what's going on here.

However, Matthew tells us the real reason these religious leaders wanted

## Page 3

Jesus gone:

"For he (Pontius Pilate) knew that it was out of ENVY that they had delivered him (Jesus) up." Matthew 27:18

Envy can cause people to do really rotten things - like kill Jesus!

But we can't just leave it with "envy" as the bottom line. We must remember this extremely important verse from Romans 8:28:

And we know that in ALL things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

That verse reminds us that God can take anything bad - including the execution of His Son by envious people - and turn it into something good!

In fact, it was God's plan since the creation of the world, that His Son would die as a way of taking the punishment for the sins of all people, so that everyone who puts their trust in Jesus will receive forgiveness for their sins, and thus be able to spend eternity with our sinless God!

So, I guess we can say this to sum it up: Jesus' death was caused by sin. From a human perspective it was due to the sin of envy, but from God's perspective it was due to the sin of all mankind!

Thanks for asking!  
Pastor David

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

## A New Way to "Participate" in Worship if you can't be here is person...

### Facebook Live

Last November, we began live-streaming the message on the Living Word Facebook group page. Plans are to continue that each Sunday. We will also stream the Scripture readings prior to the message and the Apostles' Creed following it. Tune in around 10:25 (give or take). Join our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/131798513523470/>



## Opportunities for Growth...

### **Sunday Morning Study:**

Sunday mornings @ 9:00

Please join us. Bring your coffee and Grow in God's Word!

### **Wednesday Prayer Time**

Will resume after Lent...

A special invitation to everyone to meet weekly in prayer Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Prayer is a foundational part of our spiritual life both personally and as a congregation. We would love to have you join us.

*12 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

*18 "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:12; 18*

### **Wednesday Evening Women's Study @**

At Violet's Home @ 6:30

Will resume after Lent



### **Monthly Morning Women's Study:**

Wednesday, April 14th @ 10:00 a.m.

We are studying Women of the Bible.

All are welcome to attend. If weather is inclement please call Leone about meeting. 320-354-4665.

### **Men's Study**

Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m.

Please join us.

### **Confirmation Class**

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Devotions will serve as confirmation class.

If you can't make it in person, you can watch The Gospel of John (2003) on either Amazon Prime or Netflix. Or you can request the extra DVD we have. You will also be able to watch Pastor's video summary on [facebook](#) live after each segment of the video. (You will have to join living Word's [facebook](#) group to watch the [facebook](#) live sessions)



## Page 4

That for a day: Good news! The Lego Store has reopened! People are lined up for blocks!!

## Page 5

We won't have class the week after Easter (April 7), but will be back to our normal schedule of classes beginning April 14. (6-7th Graders @ 6:00 p.m. and 8-9th Graders @ 7:00 p.m.)

## Who Can You Invite?...

### 1. **Maundy Thursday Worship -**

April 1 @ 6:30 pm

We'll look at the example Jesus set for His disciples (us) "on the night He was betrayed." Then we'll share communion.

### 2. **Good Friday - the Seven Last Words -**

April 2 6:30 pm

Easter is just a "feel-good" story without Good Friday. We extinguish one candle for each of the seven last words Jesus spoke from the cross until all lights have been put out.

Join us to be reminded why we call such a dark day "Good."

### 3. **Easter Worship:**

**Sonrise Worship @ 6:56**

We begin outdoors watching the sun rise (6:56 is actual sunrise time), then move to the sanctuary to finish celebrating the Greatest Event in History.

**Communion Worship @ 10:00**

We again celebrate the Greatest Event in all of History at our regular worship time and share in communion as the Feast of Victory



Continuing Worship

- **Apr 1 (Maundy Thursday)**  
John 13,17
- **Apr 2 (Good Friday)**  
John 18-19
- **Easter**  
John 20

## Baptized into the Family of God...

### Westyn Anthony Ampe

Parents: Anthony & Lyndsay Ampe  
Sponsors: Brandon & Nicole Westgaard  
Andrew & Rebecca Petrich



Pictured welcoming Westyn into the family of God are his sister Strykar and all of his cousins on both sides of the family!

### Millie Sue Raddatz

Parents: Tayah & James Raddatz  
Sponsors: Summer & Brandon Hinrichs



James, Tayah, Brekkyn and Millie Raddatz

## Page 6

**Thot for a day:** You know you're into middle age when you realize that caution is the only thing you care to exercise.

## Page 7

## Email Humor....

Whether this actually happened or was just made up by some creative person, it is good - and funny!

### A FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days. The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood and objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, How can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays..."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counselor, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned.."

+++++

A shipwrecked sailor spent several years on a deserted island.

One morning he was thrilled to see a ship offshore and a small boat pulling out toward him!

When the boat arrived, its occupant handed the marooned sailor a bundle of newspapers and said: "With the captain's compliments. He said to read through these and let us know if you still want to be rescued."

## From The Jastrams...

Dear Pastor Dauk and Members of Living Word New London MN,

Thank you very much for your March 11th generous contribution in support of our LCMS Jastram-Asia mission work.

We thank you in particular for extending to us this trust in partnership, giving us the privilege of being on the delivery end of a good work that you make possible, to spread the good news of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. We could not accomplish this without the sustaining partnership of supporters like you.

If there is anyway we can help facilitate your mission interests please contact us by email <[daniel.jastram@lcms.org](mailto:daniel.jastram@lcms.org)> at your convenience.

I have attached our most recent newsletter to this email. To subscribe to our newsletter use the link <[here](#)>. Also, for your convenience, I have provided a link to our newsletter archive <[here](#)>, our prayer card <[here](#)>, and one of our LCMS articles <[here](#)>.

Most of all, thanks be to God for the wondrous works He accomplishes through your mission partnership.

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## Whirlwind Tour of Good News

One of the great joys I have as Asia Lutheran Resource Coordinator is its scope, which extends beyond my own translation projects in Japan, to countries throughout Asia by fellow LCMS missionary team members. This last month I confirmed and logged the completion of thirty-two resource projects in the Asia region. Here's a peek.

In **Taiwan**, the wide-ranging work of our LCMS missionary includes *forty-five* different resource projects at various stages, spanning from the earliest

stage of concepts on the drawing board, to printing, to translation completion, and even to a second printing.

Our LCMS missionary in **Sri Lanka**, in conjunction with the national church body publication board, coordinates an even *larger* number of projects, including original art work commissioned from national artists.



SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE...

**Hong Kong** meanwhile has a long-established project for translating fifteen volumes of Luther's Works into Mandarin Chinese, into both simplified and traditional characters.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

*Rev. Dr. Jastram is the Asia Lutheran Resource Coordinator. Making Lutheran resources of theology and worship available in Asia.*

888-THE LCMS • [lcms.org](http://lcms.org) • [infocenter@lcms.org](mailto:infocenter@lcms.org)

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### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Our partners in mission, for your generous January support, and for the sustaining contributions of individuals, congregations, and LWAG groups that make this mission work possible.

### WE PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod which is the source of the International Development Grant that makes possible our translation project of Walther's Law and Gospel text into the Japanese language.
- Completion of the first periodic progress report for Walther's Law and Gospel translation project with no major obstacles and smooth sailing ahead.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Ongoing Lutheran resource projects throughout Asia, numbering well over one hundred, in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, and Taiwan.
- Japan, as it manages its pandemic precautionary measures, along with the roll out of its national vaccination program and its careful evaluation for the possibilities for the summer Olympics.

### NEWSLETTERS INFO

Want to catch up? Here's our archive link: [tiny.cc/dv9uzw](http://tiny.cc/dv9uzw)

Want to self-subscribe? Go here to receive your own email newsletter: <http://wpa1.com/dv9uzw>

To be ADDED or REMOVED from our mailing list, you can also send an email message to [daniel.jastram@lcms.org](mailto:daniel.jastram@lcms.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

(Continued from page 1)

Farther south in **Papua New Guinea**, one of our oldest mission fields, they are anticipating the completion of six printing projects for works already translated, in addition to numerous ongoing projects, such as commentaries and helps for the teaching of God's Word.

One of our newer missionaries in **Indonesia** is making great strides with the Lutheran Service Book translation project there, especially by increasing the number of translated hymns.

And finally, in **Cambodia**, one of our newest fields, missionaries are striving to distribute resources already available but not yet purchased or delivered to locations where they are needed.

All in all, the full range of these resource projects — catechism booklets and larger explanations, liturgies and hymnals, and theological resources— are all for teaching and practicing the faith. What a privilege and joy to be part of this thriving team of fellow participants in the LCMS Asia Lutheran Resource production team!



## What a Yarn to Tell!

Okajima-san and Joan trekked to Kichijoji this month to purchase supplies for her first ever weaving-twinning project. Although the two of them do not know each other's

language well, they still thoroughly enjoy their weekly get-togethers. And Okajima-san is also planning to teach Joan how to make *umeboshi*, a pickled plum, when it is plum season. She can't wait!



To support the LCMS through the work of Daniel Jastram, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-0861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Asia-Jastram."

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/giveway/jastram](http://lcms.org/giveway/jastram)

888-THE LCMS • [lcms.org](http://lcms.org) • [infocenter@lcms.org](mailto:infocenter@lcms.org)

## Mark Your Calendars...

Calling all ladies! Invite a friend!

"Unfading Beauty"

"DAY-TREAT":

Saturday, May 8, 2021

This is a condensed version of the November 2020 Women's retreat. Please come and join us. Fellowship, spiritual growth and enlightening.

We will be taking a look back in Jesus' time as we want you to FULLY grasp how important you are to Jesus: best yet! It's TRUE because it's in the Bible!

<b>When:</b>	<b>May 8, 2021</b>
8:30-9:00 am	Continental breakfast
9:00 am:	Session begins
2:00-3:00 pm	Estimated closing
<b>Where:</b>	Living Word Church
<b>Cost:</b>	Free, free, free!

This event includes:

- Continental breakfast,
- Lunch,
- 2 sessions
- and a Fun Take-home Project!

## Youth Gathering...

The NEXT National Youth Gathering

(2022 in Houston)

Youth Group Meets

9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning

(via Zoom)

Youth will host a **BAKE SALE After Sunrise Worship**

(approx. 8:15 - 9:00). This will be their first fundraiser!

**UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS:**

- Mr. B's Chocolate fundraiser for Mother's Day
- The Giving Bean fundraiser for Father's Day
- A quilt raffle - TBD

**Mission & Ministry Team Meets:**

Thursday, April 15th @ 6:30 p.m. (NOTE: 3rd Thursday this month)

**Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT**



## Page 10

Thot for a day: The scary part is, someday these are going to be referred to as the good old days.

## Page 11

## Upcoming Fun Stuff...

**June 20: Stingers' Game**  
Picnic begins at 4:05 (Game @ 5:05)

- + Reserved-Seat Game Ticket
- + All-you-can-eat Ballpark Buffet



Cost: \$21.58 (Sign up at Church or call Mardia Welsh 320-796-6840)



**July 18: Green Lake Cruise**

Talk to Marcia for details and to sign up!



We visited the Tutti Frutti Kitchen on March 20th for breakfast and fun...



## A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Here are some simple suggestions for baby-steps toward growth in your relationship, depending on where you're at now.

**Feel like two ships passing in the night?** → Create a simple good-bye/hello ritual— a kiss, a hug, a meaningful smile. A brief moment of connection can help you let each other know you're still in it together, even when life is pulling you in all kinds of directions.

**Struggling to prioritize intentional time together?** → Set a goal of devoting just 10 minutes a day to giving each other your full attention. Maybe it's after the kids are in bed or right after you climb into your own bed. Try to eliminate any distractions and just enjoy ten minutes of uninterrupted time together— cuddling, sharing about your day, or having silly pillow talk.

**Already doing daily intentional check ins?** → Schedule a standing date. Date night, day date, lunch date, even if it's just an hour long. Start out with once a month, then increase the frequency or work your way up to a cadence that works for you.

**Got the date thing down?** → Take date conversations to the next level by trying something like the Discussion Guide for Couples. (Bonus tip: this guide also works great for daily check ins!)

**Great conversations part of your repertoire?** → Take a relationship assessment. Pastor David can help you get an in depth look at your strength and growth areas with the Prepare/Enrich assessment. You'll likely have some new things to talk about.

**Completed an assessment recently?** → Team up with other couples to create a supportive culture in your neighborhood or broader community. Join a small group for couples at your church or talk to Pastor David about starting one.

These aren't huge, groundbreaking ideas. They're small, simple shifts that might be just the stepping stone you and your partner need to grow.

## Thank You...

If you have someone you'd like to offer congratulations to, just email Scott at [webmaster@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:webmaster@livingwordlutheran.net)

## Page 12

Thot for a day: When you get older, lack of pep is often mistaken for patience.

## Page 13

## Sunday School News...



NOTE: We will have Sunday School on Easter!

### LESSONS:

- April 4- EASTER SUNDAY - "The Tomb is Empty" - John 20:1-18
- April 11- "Road to Emmaus" Luke 24:13-35
- April 18- "Jesus Appears to Thomas" John 20:19-31
- April 25- "Jesus the Good Shepherd" John 10:11-18
- May 2 - "The Vine and the Branches" John 15:1-8



## 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.

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence in April.

## Email Wisdom...

PASTOR'S NOTE: This was on a t-shirt I had years ago!



# April 2021 - Daily Readings

DAILY READING PROGRAM: We conclude our '100 - or so - Key Chapters of the Bible' readings.

Just look for one main thing God has for you to learn in each reading, then write that down.

Mar 28 **Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed**

Mar 29 John 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 30 John 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 31 John 13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 1 John 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 2 John 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 3 John 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Easter John 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 5 John 21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 6 1 Corinthians 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 7 Acts 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 8 Acts 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 9 Acts 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 10 Acts 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 11 **Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed**

Apr 12 Acts 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 13 Acts 12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 14 Acts 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 15 Acts 17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 16 Revelation 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 17 Revelation 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 18 **Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed**

Apr 19 Revelation 21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 20 Revelation 22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 21 **Use today to review your insights from "Key Chapter" Readings**

**The remainder of the month our reading focus on the results of Jesus' Resurrection**

Apr 22 John 11:20-27 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 23 1 Corinthians 15:12-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 24 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 25 **Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed**

Apr 26 Acts 4:32-35 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 27 Colossians 3:1-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 28 1 Peter 1:3-9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





Apr 29 Ephesians 2:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 30 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 1 Luke 24:13-49 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# April 2021 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Mar 28 PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30 MENS' STUDY	<b>31</b> 	<b>1 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 6:30 Worship w/Lord's Supper	<b>2 GOOD FRIDAY</b> 6:30 Worship 	<b>3</b>
<b>4 RESURRECTION SUNDAY</b> 6:56 - SONRISE WORSHIP 8:15 - YOUTH BAKE SALE 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - EASTER WORSHIP w/COMMUNION	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30 MENS' STUDY	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <b>Lord's Supper Dates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maundy Thursday, April 1st</li> <li>Easter Sunday 10:00, April 4th</li> <li>Sunday, April 18th</li> </ul> </div>						
<b>11</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:30 MENS' STUDY	<b>14</b> 10:00 LWML & Women's Study 6:00 6-7th Confirmation Class 7:00 8-9th Confirmation Class	<b>15 MISSION Ministry</b> 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/ Communion 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 Circuit Pastors @ Living Word 6:30 MENS' STUDY	<b>21</b> 6:00 6-7th Confirmation Class 7:00 8-9th Confirmation Class	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:30 MENS' STUDY	<b>28</b> 6:00 6-7th Confirmation Class 7:00 8-9th Confirmation Class	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>May 1</b>

## Upcoming Schedules...

### Fellowship Servers

We will not be having "Fellowship" after worship until the social distancing guidelines are relaxed. - Please pray for that to happen soon!

### Usher Schedule

The Usher schedule is "on hold" until COVID restrictions are eased.

### Scripture Readers

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

### Elders

Apr 1, 4, 11 Keith Hanson & Kevin Welsh  
Apr 18, 25 Jason Miller & Ed Vegdahl

### Custodian

April Pam Johnson  
May Duane & Bonnie Harsen

### Make A Meal Volunteers

April Scott & Tammy Wachter

### Nursery

( Volunteers needed- please talk to Mona H.)

Apr 3 Pam Johnson  
Apr 11 Volunteer Needed  
Apr 18 Mona Hjelle  
Apr 25 Violet Dauk

### Accompanying Musicians

Maundy Thurs Scott Wachter  
Good Friday: Scott & Pam  
Apr 4 SonRise: Scott Wachter  
10:00 Pam Johnson  
Apr 11 Scott Wachter  
Apr 18 Sharon Willen  
Apr 25 Carmen Macik

### Altar Guild

April Mona Hjelle

*Seen on Church Signboards...*  
**Good Friday and Easter**  
**Prove This :**  
**God Loves His Peeps !!!**

That for a day: We had cured ham for Easter dinner. We all wondered what illness it was cured of.

## Community Outreach...

### **Waterdays Parade:**

Yes, it's on!

July 17th at 11:00 AM, New London, MN

We are looking for . . .

- A planning coordinator,
- Float creationist,
- Volunteers for that day.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Mexican Fiesta: October 9, 2021**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Living Nativity, December 4, 2021**

EVEN BIGGER and BETTER

\*\*\*\*\*

Please contact Tammy Miller if interested in ANY part of these fabulous outreaches to our community.

320-905-2434... text or call or email: [tammiller1@tds.net](mailto:tammiller1@tds.net)

## Congratulations...

- Millie Raddatz on your baptism into the family of Christ on March 27!
- Angie Jaspersen on your promotion to Quality Control Manager at Gurley Foods!
- Sarah Iverson on your promotion at your work!

Please email [pastor@livingwordlutheran](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran) if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

## April Discipleship Verse...

*"And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again."*

2 Corinthians 5:15

## 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 :

- Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- Today's Light Devotional Bible
- 100 or so Key Chapter Bible Reading Booklets
- April Newsletters
- April - June Portals of Prayer



### Sermons Now Available in Video on our Website

Sermons can be found in on our Living Word Facebook page or at <http://livingwordlutheran.net/video.htm>

March 7 "Jesus STILL calms storms"  
March 10 Lenten Devotion: Gospel of John chs -9  
March 14 "A book - and a story - everyone can relate to"  
March 17 Lenten Devotion: Gospel of John chs 10-12  
March 21 "John tells us to "believe." James defines what that means."  
March 24 Lenten Devotion: Gospel of John chs 14-17

### Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2021

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 took. Thanks!

### 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 . Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office

### Choir...

Sings on Good Friday and @ 10:00 Easter Service  
Everyone is invited to sing with us



## Page 20

That for a day: Called my stockbroker this morning and asked him what I should be buying? He said, "Canned goods and ammunition."

## Page 21

## Prayer...

### Remember to use "The Prayer Force"



Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email ([pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto: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 and PRAY for...

- Thanking God for Spring!
- Thanking God we continue to have in-person worship & Sunday School
- Asking God for His guidance about who to invite to Easter Worship
- Asking God to open hearts and minds to Jesus during Holy Week!
- Asking God to open our eyes to see His guiding this month.
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did - with sacrifice
- God to show you opportunities to Share His Love in Practical Ways.
- Asking God for His power to bring healing to our nation - in all ways!
- Asking God to humble you, seek Him and repent (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- God's protection, guidance, wisdom & courage for gov't leaders
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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## The Link...

### March 2021 Updates

It's hard to believe March is almost over. We are in full swing of fundraising for the MN FoodShare campaign and the community is once again showing The Link how lucky we are to be a part of so many giving people. [The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign](#) brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over 18 million dollars to March Campaign participating food shelves throughout the state via the Minnesota FoodShare Food-Fund. This fund includes donations secured year-round from corporations, individuals, foundations, and businesses. 100% of donations received by Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign go into the FoodFund and are distributed to March Campaign participating food shelves.

For more information on the Minnesota FoodShare, visit [www.mnfoodshare.org](http://www.mnfoodshare.org).

With its' efforts to raise money for Minnesota FoodShare month, The Link set a goal of raising \$25,000 before April 7th. On this quest, Three Sisters offered a match of \$1,000 and if that match was met by March 17, they would donate another \$500. This match was met within a few days of their announcement! Richard and Barbara Gunderson also offered to match \$2,000 and have said if that goal is met by the end of March, they want to donate another \$1,000! As I am typing this update, this match was also met and we are extremely close to our goal! Needless to say, the generosity is humbling and there is no doubt The Link will meet its' goal by the time the campaign is over. Thank you does not seem enough for all the outpouring support! YOU truly are The LINK!

In February, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 7 new families, served 39 children, 76 adults and 15 seniors. 3480 pounds of food was distributed and 506 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches.

**The Wildcat Backpack Program** continues to deliver to Prairie Meadows Headstart program and we also have a few families picking up their backpack food during the week. If you know a family that could benefit from this program, please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

**Senior Food Delivery-** If you, or someone you know, is interested in

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That for a day: My mind is like lightning. One bright flash and it's gone.

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hearing more about this program please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

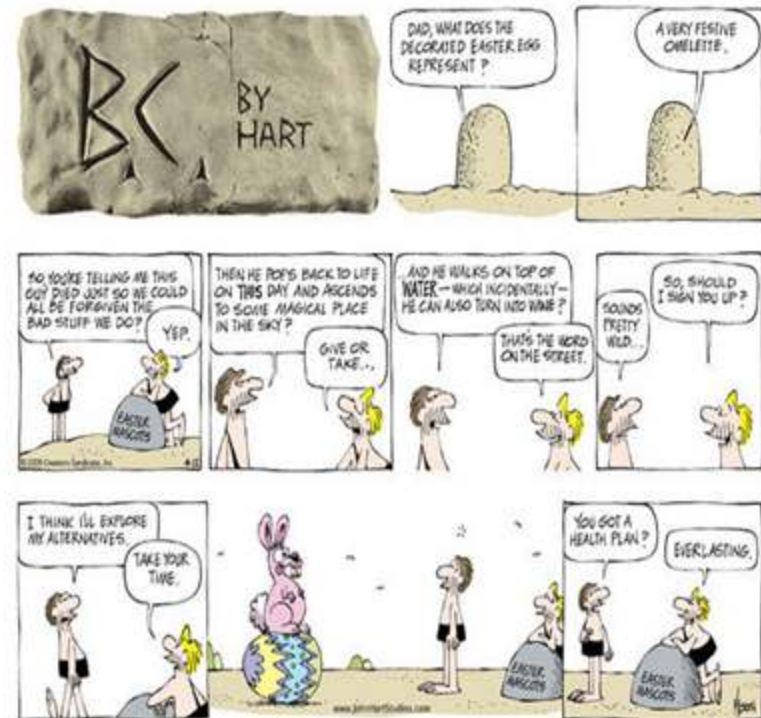
The Link's **Client Outreach** program served 9 families in the month of February. Thanks to some generous volunteers, a lot of large furniture items that had been donated to The Link were delivered to families in need!

### Tuesday's Table:

Tuesday's Table continues to be cancelled until further notice.

### Monthly Giving Opportunities:

The Link makes monthly giving a convenient option for our donors. You can set up online giving through The Link's website at [www.youarethelink.org](http://www.youarethelink.org) or directly through your bank. If you would like to make a one-time donation, you can send a check to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273 or via Venmo @The-Link-1. Please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555 or email her at [ashley@youarethelink.org](mailto:ashley@youarethelink.org) for more information.



# Easter Celebration for Kids...

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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.

### Operate our PowerPoint display during worship:

In an effort to keep "touchable surfaces" to a minimum, we are projecting the order of worship - Scripture readings, songs, etc... onto the front wall instead of having them in a worship folder. We need some volunteers to "dick" from one screen to the next at the appropriate time during worship. Please talk to Pastor if you could do this one Sunday a month. Thanks!

### Operate our new Camcorder

to record parts of each worship service that we can later upload to our website. Talk to Pastor David if you can help out with this - at least one Sunday a month.



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

You can choose any month in 2021. Talk to our new Trustee, Steve Wulf, to sign up or find out more details. Thanks

### Make A Meal

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 call Pastor David or our April-Make-a-Meal volunteers, Scott & Tammy Wachter if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks !



### We are also looking for a person to be the Make-a-Meal coordinator -

someone who notifies the meal makers when a meal is needed and who also arranges for the meal to be delivered. If you could be that person, please talk to Pastor David. Thanks!

### 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.

Please contact [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net) with the address of someone you asked us to pray for who would be greatly encouraged by getting a card. We are currently in need of a volunteer to mail the cards. If you could help, talk to Pastor David



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That for a day: He who lives in a glass house should change his clothes in the basement.

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### Donate to Living Word when you order from Amazon



Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) purchases to Living Word. Use this link to have your purchases

support Living Word: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1513306>

Our latest donation: Living Word Lutheran Church received an AmazonSmile donation of \$25.67 for the 2020 Oct - Dec, quarter!

### Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.

Teal's Grocery gives a 1% rebate to eligible organizations. There's a box under the mail boxes where you can put in your receipts. Thanks to everyone who turned in Teal's Receipts in 2020! We received back \$160 from 700 receipts!



## LWML News...

### LWMLMEETING:

Wednesday, April 14th 10:00 a.m.

(followed by Ladies Monthly Bible Study "Women of the Bible")

### UPCOMING EVENT:

Summer Tea & Luncheon,

Saturday, June 12th @ 11:00 a.m.

at Kevin & Marcia Welsh's home.

All women of the church are invited.



## Living Word Blog...

Looking for some entertainment or things to do during the pandemic? Check out our Living Word Blog for lots of fun thoughts, ideas, music videos and more. [www.livingwordlutheranlcms.blogspot.com](http://www.livingwordlutheranlcms.blogspot.com)



## Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the First and Third Sundays in April (**Maundy Thursday (April 1st)**, and **Easter Sunday (April 4th @ 10:00)**) and **Sunday, April 18th**

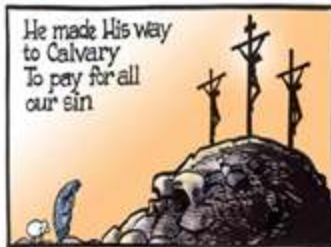


We have **NEW Wine & Wafer Sealed Communion Packets**. Since the COVID protocols were put into effect, we have been using pre-sealed packets of grape juice and a bread wafer. Pre-sealed packets that contain wine as well as a larger bread wafer have recently been made available. We were able to order some of these new wine/wafer packets and will begin using them in communion starting with the first Sunday in October.

We also now have **available gluten-free bread wafers** for those who have gluten-sensitive conditions. You will find these wafers in a separate cup in the communion tray.

### NEW 'SOCIAL DISTANCING' COMMUNION PROCEDURE:

Everyone will remain in their seat for communion. After consecrating the elements, Pastor and the Elders will distribute a sealed packet of both wafer and grape juice to each communicant. After everyone has received their packet, we will all open them and partake of communion at the same time. Pastor will then give the communion dismissal to everyone. (Please continue to pray for an end to the restrictions so we can come to the altar rail for the Lord's Supper again soon!)



**That for a day:** My ability to remember song lyrics from the '80's far exceeds my ability to remember why I walked into the kitchen.

## Story Behind The Song...

### He's Alive

This song is not as old as some of the songs we feature in this spot, but in my opinion it tells the story of the resurrection as well as any other song. "He's Alive" was written in 1975/76 by Don Francisco and was released on Don's 1977 album titled *Forgiven*. In 1980, he was named Songwriter of the Year along with "He's Alive" as Song of the Year at the Dove Awards.

In the mid 70's Don was performing concerts in churches and had only one song to sing about the crucifixion. As Don states, "The song was written by a friend of mine and it stopped with the crucifixion, with all this guilt. I just couldn't continue using it, so I sat down with the intention of writing a song about the resurrection. At first, I tried it from Thomas' point of view. I was attempting to get whoever was listening to the song to go along with me, from Thomas' doubt into faith when he saw the risen Lord, but I just couldn't get it to work. Nothing felt real to me— I couldn't get into Thomas' head.

"So I tried again, this time from Peter's perspective. I found I understood Peter. He'd denied Christ three times— and the last time Jesus had turned around and looked at him— so the weight of guilt on him must have been crushing, I'm sure." Don pauses from talking about the song to explaining how his own life could relate to Peter's.

"You see, I'd been in Peter's place," Don continues. "Up until a couple of years before writing this song I had been living a life of sex, drugs and rock 'n roll, and I was full of guilt and fear of the consequences. Although I'd been raised in church (we were there every time the doors were open), and in spite of the fact that my dad was a seminary professor as well as a Baptist preacher, I had simply blown off any sort of relationship with God by the time I reached junior high school. Everything I was being told and shown described an angry, judgmental God. Like most of us, when I reached my teens I wasn't all that rational— I was just in a desperate, emotional search for some kind of love, and I wasn't finding it in church or at home. "When I was 28 years old, two years before this song was written, I had a powerful experience with God. I wasn't looking for him."

That experience completely turned Don's life around and upside down, as he put it. Because of that revelation, that moment of hearing Jesus speak, Don said that he was able to write with real gut-level excitement and conviction that He is alive— and I'm forgiven, heaven's gate are open wide...

Don says, "I had probably written over three times as many verses as I actually used. For me, the songwriting/storytelling process is one where I edit and cut to the point that if I cut out any more of the song then no one will understand the message. I kept working on it and finally picked up a guitar to put music to it. When I thought the song was completed I sang it to my wife. It originally ended with the last verse—where it says "Guilt and my confusion disappeared in sweet release, And every fear I'd ever had just melted into peace." That's where I ended the song. When it was over my wife said to me, "You can't stop there, you just can't end it like that!" So, I went back, and in about 20 minutes or so realized how Peter would have really felt, not just all this peace but incredibly excited." And with that, Don finished the song and gave it the dynamic chorus proclaiming, "He's Alive, He's alive, He's alive and I'm forgiven, heaven's gates are open wide!" He's alive, Sweet Jesus.

The gates and doors were barred  
All the windows fastened down  
I spent the night in sleeplessness  
And rose at every sound

Half in hopeless sorrow  
And half in fear the day  
Would find the soldiers breakin'  
through  
To drag us all away

And just before the sunrise  
Heard something at the wall  
The gate began to rattle  
And a voice began to call

Hurried to the window  
Looked down into the street  
Expecting swords and torches  
And the sound of soldier's feet

There was no one there but Mary  
So I went down to let her in  
John stood there beside me  
As she told us where she'd been

She said they've moved Him in the  
night  
And none of us knows where  
The stones been rolled away  
And now His body isn't there

We both ran toward the garden  
Then John ran on ahead  
We found the stone and the empty  
tomb  
Just the way that Mary said

But the winding sheet they wrapped  
Him in  
Was just an empty shell  
And how or where they'd taken Him  
Was more than I could tell

Well, something strange had hap-  
pened there  
Just what I did not know  
John believed a miracle  
But I just turned to go

Circumstance and speculation  
Couldn't lift me very high  
'Cause I'd seen them crucify Him  
Then I saw Him die

Back inside the house again  
The guilt and anguish came  
Everything I'd promised Him  
Just added to my shame

When at last it came to choices  
I denied I knew His name  
Even if He was alive  
It wouldn't be the same

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**That for a day:** when you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am literally doing nothing.

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Suddenly the air was filled  
With strange and sweet perfume  
Light that came from everywhere  
Drove shadows from the room

Jesus stood before me  
With His arms held open wide  
And I fell down on my knees  
And just clung to Him and cried

He raised me to my feet  
And as I looked into His eyes  
Love was shining out from Him  
Like sunlight from the skies

Guilt in my confusion

Disappeared in sweet release  
And every fear I'd ever had  
Just melted into peace

He's alive, He's alive  
He's alive and I'm forgiven  
Heaven's gates are open wide

He's alive, He's alive  
He's alive and I'm forgiven  
Heaven's gates are open wide

He's alive, He's alive  
He's alive and I'm forgiven  
Heaven's gates are open wide

He's alive, He's alive, He's alive!

**Editor's note:** Here is a live performance by Don Francisco  
[https://youtu.be/4Lmv\\_xR6\\_o8](https://youtu.be/4Lmv_xR6_o8)

## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

