



# February 2021 Newsletter "Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
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 Website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

# Questions for Pastor...

"Can you print out the 'Sin Shoveling' Instructions?"

This question came after a recent sermon in where I made the comparison between the steps required for shoveling a driveway and the steps required to get off a bad path and onto the good path God has laid out for you. (In other words, the steps required to repent).



#### Make a conscious decision to change "I should" into "I'm going to."

No snow gets shoveled until you change "I should" into "I'm going out to..." In the same way, good intentions will never end up in a changed path for your life.

And when the thought hit me, "I'll just drive over it. It's going to all melt in a couple of months anyway," it really helped to remember the likely consequences of doing that: 1) I'll probably fall and break a wrist - or worse! 2) I know I'll end up sliding off the driveway into the ditch some day. And 3) the dog will no doubt dislocate a hip on the icy driveway. Take a moment to think about the consequences - for you and those close to you - of staying on your current course.

#### 2) Tell someone about your decision.

It will be much harder to revert back to "I should" if someone else knows about your decision. Find someone who will hold you to it!

#### Figure out the steps - usually simple - you need to take to get started.

For snow, I need to put on gloves, boots, a coat and grab a shovel. Decide what you need to start doing (or stop doing) to change.

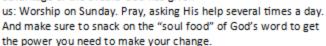
# 4) Break the change down into small, manageable segments. Shoveling the whole driveway looked really daunting, but an 8' section looked veryt "doable." The task of changing directions in some area of your life can also look way too difficult as a whole. But breaking the change down into "one day at a time," makes all the

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difference in the world!

#### 5) Take breaks to re-charge.

There's no way I can shovel our 100' driveway without breaks - and snacks! In the same way you'll need to take full advantage of the breaks God has given us: Worship on Sunday, Pray, asking His h



#### 6) Find someone who will help you.

Violet saying, "I'll help you," made the difference between "There's no way I'm going out to shovel," and "I can do this!" My guess is there are people in your life who would be more than willing to help you make a direction change to get on God's path. Who are those people? Go ask them now!

#### 7) Remember: It will snow again!

Once I'm done shoveling I need to remember that I will likely need to do it again soon. Once you get off your "bad" road and onto God's way, Satan will work hard to get you back onto his road! Celebrate your change, but don't even begin to think that you are done repenting. That friend who helps you - ask them to tell you when they see you making some wrong turns in the future.

Thanks for asking! Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

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

#### Facebook Live

On Sunday, November 29, 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-

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

We moved the study location, since it's too toughto hear at church with Confirmation dasses going on - and we can't "social distance" in Pastor's office.

We will start with Prayer Time @ 6:00 followed by Study at 6:30.

#### Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Wednesday, February 10th @ 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.

"WEIRD: Because Normal Isn't Working"

Please join us Tuesday evenings @ 6:30

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Wednesday RETURN LORD LORD GOOD

Ash Wednesday begins the 40-day season of Lent. This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 17. Ashes symbolize humility, remorse over sin and repentance. Many times in the Old Testament we read about people who put on sackcloth and covered themselves in ashes to show their grief over sin and their desire to repent and turn back to God. Ashes also suggest a need for cleansing, particularly the cleansing we celebrate at the end of Lent by the blood Jesus shed on Good Friday.

During our Ash Wednesday worship we each have a time to record our sins on a piece of paper. The confirmation students take those papers out and burn them, then they return with the ashes that are applied to our foreheads. This serves as a visual reminder that Jesus has taken our sins to the cross and paid for them there!

Please join us for worship at 7:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday

# LWML News...

#### LWMLMEETING:

Wednesday, Feb 10th 10:00 a.m. (followed by Ladies Monthly Bible Study "Women of the Bible")

#### UPCOMING EVENT:

Summer Tea & Luncheon, Saturday, June 12th @ 11:00a.m. at Kevin & Marcia Welsh's home. All women of the church are invited.





# The Link...

#### January 2021 Updates

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for

the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."— Fred Rogers

This quote sums up this past year quite well. 2020 came with a lot of uncertainty and fear, yet there were always people looking for ways to help. When COVID began to affect our local community, there was a lot of questions as to what that would mean for The Link and its' programs (especially when all of the typical fundraising events needed to be cancelled), yet, The Link was able to continue running programs as usual because of the outpouring support that came from our local churches, businesses and community members. It was humbling to see the amounts of people that called, stopped in or sent messages wondering what they could do to help their neighbors.

For Christmas, The Link was able to help provide 80 families with Christmas food baskets and 56 families with gifts! This year, there were 43 families that reached out wanting to "adopt" a family for Christmas which is more than The Link has seen in previous years. There was also \$3800 worth of gift cards donated to help families with food and gifts. Looking at numbers in years past, The Link was able to help more families than usual, despite the fact that more families were facing hardship. It is hard to put into words the gratitude that came from the families that received help- there were a lot of "Thank-you's" and many tears.

In December, The Food Pantry welcomed 20 new families, served 76 children, 106 adults and 17 seniors. 4690 pounds of food was distributed and 1839 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches...

The Wildcat Backpack Program continues to deliver to Prairie Meadows Headstart program. There is hope that this program will serve the other schools as soon as there is a new routine established with school re-opening. 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 hearing more about this program please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

The Link's Client Outreach program served 11 families in the month of December. There were also some generous donors who wanted to

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help families experiencing hardship due to COVID. With that, we were able to pay rent for 2 families, make a car payment for another and take care of a medical bill.

There really are no words to express how it felt to feel God's presence this past year through the kindness of others. There is rarely a day that goes by that someone doesn't call looking for ways to help, even if they don't have much.

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 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 for more information.

# Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the First and Third Sundays in November. (February 7th, & 21st and Ash Wed, February 17th)

We have NEW Wine & Wafer Sealed Communion Packets. Since the COVID protocols were put into effect, we have been using presealed 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!)

# Email Wisdom...

#### A TRUE Story — Author unknown

This is a statement that was read over the PA system at the football game at Roane County High School, Kingston, Tennessee by school Principal Jody McLoud, on September 1, 2000. It clearly shows just how far this country has gone in the wrong direction.

"It has always been the custom at Roane County High School football games to say a prayer and play the National Anthem to honor God and Country. Due to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, I am told that saying a prayer is a violation of Federal Case Law.

As I understand the law at this time, I can use this public facility to approve of sexual perversion and call it an alternate lifestyle, and if someone is offended, that's OK.

I can use it to condone sexual promiscuity by dispensing condoms and calling it safe sex. If someone is offended, that's OK.

I can even use this public facility to present the merits of killing an unborn baby as a viable means of birth control. If someone is offended, no problem.

I can designate a school day as earth day and involve students in activities to religiously worship and praise the goddess, mother earth, and call it ecology.

I can use literature, videos and presentations in the dassroom that depict people with strong, traditional, Christian convictions as simple minded and ignorant and call it enlightenment.

However, if anyone uses this facility to honor God and ask Him to bless this event with safety and good sportsmanship, Federal Case Law is violated.

This appears to be at best, inconsistent and at worst, diabolical. Apparently, we are to be tolerant of everything and anyone except God and His Commandments.

Nevertheless, as a school principal, I frequently ask staff and students to abide by rules which they do not necessarily agree. For me to do otherwise would be at best, inconsistent and at worst, hypocritical. I suffer from that affliction enough unintentionally. I certainly do not need to add an intentional transgression. For this reason, I shall, "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's," and refrain from praying at this time.

However, if you feel inspired to honor, praise and thank God, and ask Him, in the name of Jesus, to bless this event, please feel free to do so. As far as I know, that's not against the law — yet."

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# Page 9 Upcoming Fun Stuff...

March 20: Trip to "Tooty Fruity" for Breakfast @ 10:00

June 20: Stingers' Game
 July 18: Green Lake Cruise

Talk to Marcia for details and to sign up!

# Email Humor...

A tired homemaker answered the doorbell to find a young minister who said, "I'm collecting donations for the new children's home we're building. I hope you'll give what you can."

"Of course," said the frazzled mom,. "I'll give you two boys, two girls, or one of each."

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A minister was planning a wedding at the close of the Sunday morning service.

After the benediction, he had planned to call the couple down for a brief ceremony in front of the congregation.

For the life of him, he couldn't think of the names of those who were to be married.

"Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?" he requested.

Immediately, nine single ladies, three widows, four widowers, and six single men stepped to the front.



# 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 sen-

tence to encourage people who drive past to remember that God is the giver of all good things - especially things we take for granted. This past month we thanked God for:

We Have REAL Hope for 2021: JESUS

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

hot for a day:

# Email Inspiration...

This month's memory verse talks about persevering through times of struggle. This story reinforces that truth...



A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole.

Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon.

The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time.

Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives.

If God allowed us to go through our lives without any obstades, it would cripple us.

We would not be as strong as what we could have been. We could nev-

I asked for Strength... and God gave me Difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for Wisdom... and God gave me Problems to solve.

I asked for Prosperity... and God gave me Brain and Brawn to work.

I asked for Courage... and God gave me Danger to overcome.

I asked for Love... and God gave me Troubled people to help.

I asked for Favors... and God gave me Opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted ... I received everything I needed!

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# Sunday School News...



- Feb. 7- Jesus Heals many and Prays- Mark 1:29-39
- Feb 14- Friendship Sunday!
- Feb. 21- Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man Mark 2:1-12
- Feb. 28- Why we Pray and the Purpose James 5:13-16
- March 7 Jesus Clears the Temple John 2:13-25



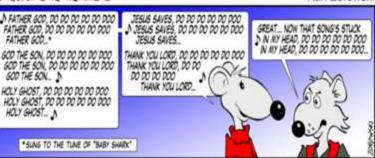
#### FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

The Sunday School will be celebrating Friendship Sunday, Feb. 14th. Children are encouraged to invite a friend to come to Sunday School. We will have a special hour of games, lesson and fun! Also, during the 10:00 Worship Service we have a Puppet play to present to the kids! There will also be a special fellowship time with some great treats for everyone!! Please plan on joining us! Thanks, Mona

If you have young kids or grandkids, you'll understand this one...

# Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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# February 2021 - Daily Readings

We spend January reading through God's book of Practical Everyday Wisdom (Proverbs). This month we jump back into our 100 (or so) Key Chapters of the Bible. Record your insights on the lines provided.

	Week of Feb 14 Daily Readings
Mark 13	
Mark 9	
Mark 6	
Mark4	
Haggai 1	Week of Feb 7 Daily Readings
Matthew 27	
Matthew 25	
Matthew21	
	Week of Jan 31 Daily Readings

Feb 16	Romans 3
Feb 17	Romans 5
Feb 18	Romans 7
Feb 19	Romans 8
Feb 20	Romans 12
	Week of Feb 21 Daily Readings
Feb 22	1 Corinthians 12
Feb 23	1 Corinthians 13
Feb 24	1 Corinthians 15
Feb 25	2Corinthians 5
Feb 26	2 Corinthians 9
Feb 27	Philippians 4
Mar 1	Week of Feb 28 Daily Readings Galatians 1
Mar 2	Galatians 5
Mar 3	
Mar4	Lot #conductions and the conduction of the condu
Mark 5	Ephesians 6

# February 2021 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	1	6:30 MENS' STUDY	3 6:00 - 6-7th CONFIRMATION 7:00 - 8-9th CONFIRMATION	4	5	6
	8 DLY MUNION	9 6:30 MENS' STUDY	10:00 MONTHLY LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - PRAYER TIME 6:00 - 6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - 8-9th CONFIRMATION	11 MISSION Withistry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	12	13
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY COFFEE & DESSERT BAR	nd stip Sweday	16 6:30 MENS' STUDY	17 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - Worship w/communion	18	19	1:00 Winter Trap-Shooting (weather permitting)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - CHOIR PRACTICE	UNION	6:30 MENS' STUDY	6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION 6:30 - 6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:15 - 8-9th CONFIRMATION			ry 17th
28	Mar 1	Mar 2	Mar 3	Mar 4	Mar 5	Mar 6
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	r	6:30 MENS' STUDY	6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION 6:30 - 6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:15 - 8-9th CONFIRMATION			

# 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

Jan 3, 10 Ed Vegdahl & Joe Johnson
Jan 17, 24 & 31 Keith Hanson & Kevin Welsh
Feb 7, 14 17 Jason Miller & Ed Vegdahl
Feb 21 & 28 Joe Johnson & Keith Hanson

#### Custodian

February Lonny & Wendy Robbin

#### Make A Meal Volunteers

February Violet Dauk

# Nursery Altar Guild

( Volunteers needed - please talk February to Mona H.)

Accompanying Musicians

 Feb 7
 Pam Johnson
 Feb 7
 Sharon Willen

 Feb 14
 Volunteer Needed
 Feb 14
 Carmen Macik

 Feb 21
 Mona Hjelle
 Ash Wed
 Open

 Feb 28
 Violet Dauk
 Feb 21
 Pam Johnson

Feb 28 Scott Wachter

Mona Hielle

# Seen on Church Signboards...

Get Spiritually Fit in 2021: Cross-Training Inside

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# Who Can You Invite?...



1. Friendship Sunday

Sunday - February 14 Includes Ice Cream & Desserts after worship

#### 2. Winter Trap Shooting

Saturday, February 20 @ 1:00 p.m. (Weather permitting, of course!) Bring some shells and a friend. We'll have hot chocolate and coffee too!



# REVERENDEUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER

# February Discipleship Verse...

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." James 1:12

That for a day: A person

# Miscellaneous Notes...

#### Food Pantry Reminder

Please remember to bring your donations for the Food Pantry. 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
- February Newsletters
- January-March Portals of Prayer





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

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

01/03/21	"The key to making wise choices this year."
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01/10/21 "Jesus is baptized"

01/17/21 "Selfishness is the Arch-Enemy of Life." 01/24/21 "The 'Sin Shoveling' technique of repentance"

"We walk in Jesus' footsteps as Servants to others

#### 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 is starting up again!

1st Practice Feb 21 after worship We sing Feb 28 during worship! Everyone is invited to sing with us



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# Page 19 Prayer...

#### Remember to use "The Prayer Force"



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

#### And an Invitation to Join our "Prayer Force"

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

## Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

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

Remember to take a time-out and PRAY for...

- The Holy Spirit's power to keep following God's Plan everyday in 2021
- Thanking God for things like furnaces that work & cars that start!
- Thanking God we have in-person worship & Sunday School
- Asking God for His guidance about who to invite to Friendship Sunday
- Asking God to open our eyes to see His guiding in the coming year
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did with sacrifice
- Safe travels.
- 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

# Congratulations...

... Westyn Anthony Ampe on your Baptism into Christ's family Jan 24!

If you have someone you'd like to offer congratulations to, just email Scott at webmaster@livingwordlutheran.net

 iy: People who wonder if the glass is half full or half empty is refillable.

hot for a day: F

# About Valentine's Day ....

From Danielle Bemock Crosswalk.com

Valentine's Day began as Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine. The feast was first established by Pope Gelasius I to honor one or two saints named Valentinus for being martyred on February 14.



Those familiar with this connection believe

there to be a single man, but there were actually three saints bearing the name Valentine or Valentinus. Two were from Italy and one was from Africa. Two were clearly beheaded, while the third one's martyrdom is only "supposed" by some.

One Valentine's story is that he was a temple priest who was imprisoned for ministering to Christians when they were being persecuted by the Roman empire. While in prison, he fell in love with a young woman (possibly the jailer's daughter) and sent her afarewell note (from "Your Valentine") before his execution. One version of the story states that the young woman was blind, and Valentine healed her, while other stories leave that part out.

Another Valentine's story says that he was beheaded for performing secret weddings when Emperor Claudius had outlawed them for young soldiers.

And yet another story: Valentine was a priest who was arrested, but instead of being put in jail, he was put into the custody of an aristocrat named Asterius. After hearing Valentine speak, he challenged him about the validity of Christ. He bargained with him to heal his for Asterius to believe. Valentine healed her and they all got baptized. After Emperor Claudius II found out, he had Valentine killed.

With the difficulty of determining which details are true, it's no wonder they can be found all mixed together, giving us the idea of a single person.

While it is clear that the origin of Valentine's Day is connected to Christianity, there are those who claim paganism is the root. Those telling this story say Christianity took the Roman festival called Lupercalia and "Christianized" it.

Lupercalia was a fertility festival that honored the Roman gods on February 15. Some stories say Juno and Pan, while others say Faunus, Romulus, and Remus.

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The details of the festival have differences depending on which story you read, but they're all quite gory.

Nevertheless, Paganism may or may not have had anything to do with Valentine's Day.

How Valentine's Day became connected with romantic love is said to be due to a poem by Geoffrey Chaucer. In 1375, he wrote "Parliament of Foules" connecting romantic love to the beginning of mating season for birds (mid-February). He wrote, "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day/Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate."

During that time in history, courtly love flourished, and couples took the occasion to express their love in the form of flowers, candies, and cards (valentines).

Perhaps this is where we get the term love birds from?

Whatever Valentine's Day is to you, it is for you to decide. Personally, I think it's a great opportunity to celebrate love, whether it be for family, friends, lovers, or neighbors because Jesus said that people would know us by our love.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:14

I found the one my heart loves. Song of Solomon 3:4

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised. Song of Solomon 8:6-7

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give overmy body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love. I gain nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

That for a day:

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# A Minute for Couples...

"Support Instead of Solve" (from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Are you a problem-solver? When your spouse comes to you with an issue, are you quick to offer a solution? This can be a very positive trait in many areas of life. You're action-oriented and aren't one to wallow around in excuses or blame.

Have you ever been caught off guard by a negative reaction from your partner in response to your suggested solution? You probably thought (or said), "I was just trying to help!" and maybe felt a little hurt or annoved yourself.

The thing is, sometimes a solution isn't what your partner wants, or needs, or is ready for. So what do you do when they come to you in crisis or to share an issue or problem?



Here are three things you can do, in any order, depending on what feels right for your relationship and the situation:

#### Listen

It's so simple, but possibly the most difficult for some of us. Just listen. Hear what they're saying as well as the emotion behind the words. Resist the urge to interrupt, offer advice, or tell them what they should do. Utilize active listening to acknowledge and validate what they've expressed. You might say something like, "It sounds like you're feeling because of . That must be hard on you."

#### Touch

A hug, a hand on their arm, a cuddle on the couch. Physical affection shows your partner in a tangible way that you're there to support them. Granted, some people are more "touchy-feely" than others, so do what feels right for your relationship. Keep in mind that if your partner is normally the more physically affectionate one, a hug from you when they're upset could speak volumes.

#### Ask

"What can I do for you?" or "What do you need from me right now?"
This gives your partner the opportunity to tell you whether they're
just venting or if they are actually looking for a solution. They might
not have an answer for you, and that's okay. Not jumping in with solutions at the get-go gives them space to reflect on what they need

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from you - and gives you the opportunity to provide it.

As much as we'd like to, our job isn't to solve our partner's every problem. Not only is it unrealistic to think you'll have a solution for everything, it also sets pretty high expectations to live up to. Let yourself off the hook. Sometimes not offering a solution is the best solution.

# Youth Gathering...

Youth Group Meets 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning (via Zoom)

The NEXT National Youth Gathering (2022 in Houston)



## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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# 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. <a href="https://www.livingwordlutheranlcms.blogspot.com">www.livingwordlutheranlcms.blogspot.com</a>



# 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 Hielle 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 after March 2021. Talk to our new Trustee, Steve Wulf, to sign up or find out more details. Thanks

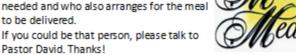


#### Make A Meal

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 February Make-a-Meal volunteer. Violet Dauk 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

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



Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible 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 \$30.23 for the July - September 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 every-

one who turned in Teals Receipts in 2020! We received back \$160 from 700 receipts!

# Story Behind The Song...

#### How Great Thou Art

It's a prayer, a plea, and a declaration of God's infinite greatness. This song was originally written in 1885 by Carl Gustav Boberg, a 26-year old pastor in Sweden. As the story goes, Boberg was caught in a thunderstorm one Sunday afternoon after church. From his perchin the mountains. Boberg watched as the storm swept in with a bolt of lightning and massive clap of thunder. The storm hurtled through the meadows and grain fields, reverberating across the countryside with the sound of its astounding power. After the storm, pastor Boberg looked out his windows at a rainbow spread across the sky, the birds were singing, the church bells were softy tolling, and Carl was overwhelmed by God's power and majesty. The result was an outpouring of adoration and worship in the writing of the song. O Store Gud. The song made a circuit of translations to German, then Russian.

In the early 1930s, Stuart K. Hine, an English missionary, first heard the Russian version of "O Store Gud" while in the Ukraine. For years he and his wife sang the song with locals before he finally sat down and translated it into English. Translation is of course more art than science, and Hine took some liberties, most particularly with the title. which in 1949 he rechristened "How Great Thou Art."

Hine published his English translation alongside the Russian version in Grace and Peace, a magazine that he published and was circulated to missionaries in over 15 countries. The story of "How Great Thou Art" might have ended here, in relative obscurity, were it not for a British-

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American theologian traveling to India, a singing cowboy, and a popular American evangelist on a self-described crusade.

When J. Edwin Orr, a British-American theologian and evangelist, travelled to India in 1954, music was the farthest thing from his mind. He was there to preach. But while there he heard an English version of "How Great Thou Art" sung by a choir in north-eastern India. He was so impressed by the song he brought it back to America and had it performed at a conference for college students where he was speaking.

In attendance at that fateful conference were the children of Tim Spencer, a singing cowboy and actor who had found fame singing in the Sons of the Pioneers alongside Bob Nolan and Roy Rogers. At that time, Spencer owned Mana Music, Inc, a publisher of Christian music. He quickly arranged to buy the rights to the song and then did what all good publishers do—he started pushing the song.

As late as 1954, "How Great Thou Art" remained all but unknown in the U.S., but with Mana Music's backing the song eventually landed in the hands of George Beverly Shea, famed soloist in Billy Graham's travelling crusade. Graham reportedly loved the song and quickly made it his evangelical crusade's signature song. Given Graham's reach, Shea all but introduced the song to the nation. He sang it live on radio, before stadiums filled with thousands of people—and during nationally televised events like the 1957 Madison Square Garden Crusade, which ran for 16 weeks and was viewed by an estimated 96 million people. And then came Elvis. Though Shea and other popular artists like Tennessee Ernie Ford and Loretta Lynn recorded versions before him, Elvis's recordings introduced the song to new audiences and were hugely popular. To date "How Great Thou Art" has become one of the most recorded hymns.

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder, Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

CHORUS: Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art. Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander, And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees. When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze. CHORUS

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And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing; Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; That on a Cross, my burdens gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin. CHORUS

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow, in humble adoration, And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" CHORUS

Editor's note: There are many great performances like Carrie Underwood's 2011 performance <a href="https://youtu.be/dnvg0Otupul">https://youtu.be/dnvg0Otupul</a>, or Lauren Daigle with Hillsong United <a href="https://youtu.be/p-hvl1nbS80">https://youtu.be/p-hvl1nbS80</a>, or Anthem Lights <a href="https://youtu.be/48i41715uc...">https://youtu.be/https://youtu.be/txQpDDcrN-w</a>
But my all-time favorite is by the acapella group, Home Free-https://youtu.be/txQpDDcrN-w

# The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

