

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



**May 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...

"What book of the Bible would you recommend as a first book for a new Christian or someone interested in finding out about Jesus?"

Another great question! The Bible is a miniLibrary containing 66 books where do you start? The first book (Genesis) is a great place to start to get the foundation for everything that follows, but for someone new to the faith and God's Word, I'd suggest they start with one of the Gospels that record for us the facts about Jesus' birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection.

John's Gospel is the book of the Bible that I've often recommended for people who are interested in finding out about Jesus. More than any other gospel, John highlights the fact that Jesus is the Son of God and was sent by the Father to save the world from sin, and that the proper response to Jesus is to "believe in him." That message is summed up in the passage most people have heard: John 3:16. It makes sense if the goal is for people to "believe in Jesus" and be saved, you'd want them to read the book that stresses over and over the desired response God wants from us is to "Believe in Jesus"

But as I read through - and watched - John's gospel during Lent it struck me that it might not be the best book to recommend to new believers, because one of the other characteristics of the Gospel of John is that it records lots of things Jesus said that would probably leave people unfamiliar with Jesus scratching their heads, wondering "What on earth does that mean?" For example Jesus telling Nicodemus he must be born again. We know what that means, but it probably sounds very odd to someone not familiar with the saying.

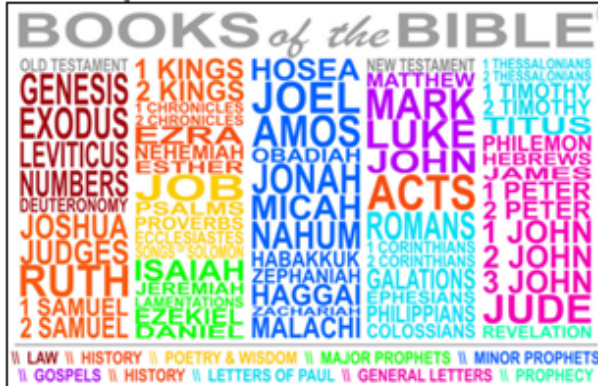
So, I started to think of which other Gospel I would have someone new to Christianity read. And I came up with Luke's Gospel. For a couple of reasons.

1) Right away in the first paragraph Luke tells us this:  
"Since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things



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you have been taught." Luke 1:3-4



Doesn't that make you want to read to find out what Luke's careful investigation uncovered?! Most people don't want to believe in Jesus "just because someone told them to." They want evidence based on research. Luke carefully researched the things people have heard about Jesus, so

that the reader might have full confidence that what he wrote is "Gospel truth."

- 2) Following that introduction Luke records for us the details surrounding Jesus' birth: The Christmas Narrative. Even people who weren't brought up as Christians have some knowledge of that passage. It's a great place for them to start. A point of connection.
- 3) Everyone likes stories. A parable is an "earthly story with a heavenly meaning," a story people can relate to that teaches an important spiritual truth. Luke records more of Jesus' parables than any other gospel. Including a couple that - again - even people unfamiliar with the Bible have likely heard: The Parable of the Prodigal Son and the Parable of the Good Samaritan. More points of connection!
- 4) Some of the other accounts that are unique to Luke's gospel should resonate with people new to the faith: Jesus' invitation to Zacchaeus in chapter 19; Jesus' pronouncing forgiveness for the people who are putting him to death; and Jesus' conversation with the thief dying next to him - both found in chapter 23.

You could not go wrong suggesting either John or Luke as a first book to read. If you'd ask me that question tomorrow, I might answer it with "John's gospel," again. But today my answer is "Luke." (With that in mind, I thought it would be appropriate for us to read through Luke's gospel for our Daily Bible Readings this month. You can find the list elsewhere in this Newsletter.)

Thanks for asking!  
Pastor David

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

## Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the First and Third Sundays in May (May 2 & 16).

### COMMUNING AT THE ALTAR RESUMES MAY 2:

We will resume coming to the altar for communion! Those who are not comfortable coming to the altar should inform an Elder or Usher, and communion will be brought to you in your pew.

**We'll continue to use the Sealed Communion Packets until we run out of them.** Since the COVID protocols were put into effect, we have been using pre-sealed packets of grape juice and an unleavened bread wafer as well as pre-sealed packets that contain wine and an unleavened bread wafer. Once those are gone, we will return to using individual cups and wafers.

**Reminder: Gluten-free bread wafers are available** for those who have gluten-sensitive conditions. You will find these wafers in a separate cup in the communion tray.



## 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



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That for a day: A warped sense of humor is vastly better than no sense of humor.

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### Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Wednesday, May 12th @ 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.

This month we will be looking at the books of Judges and Kings to find some examples of how God works through leaders - both good and bad ones!

Please join us Tuesday evenings @ 6:30 !

### Confirmation Class

We are back to our normal schedule of classes for the month of May:

- 6-7th Graders @ 6:00 p.m.
- 8-9th Graders @ 7:00 p.m.



## Thank God For...

You've seen our sign board out by the road with the beginning of a sentence: "Thank God For..." Each week we'd like to change the ending of that sentence to encourage people who drive past to remember that God is the giver of all good things - especially things we take for granted.

In April we Thanked God that... "Christ is STILL Risen!"

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



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

We have begun livestreaming the entire Sunday worship service on the Living Word Facebook group page. NOTE: You need to join the Living Word Facebook group in order to watch.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131798513523470/>

We are also in the process of "ironing out the wrinkles" that will allow us to also livestream via YouTube on our website at the same time as Facebook live



## Email Humor....

If you've ever taken a pet to the Vet, you can relate...

A friend of mine is a deputy with the sheriff's department canine unit. One evening, the deputy was dispatched to the scene of a possible burglary, where he discovered the back door of a building ajar. He let the dog out his patrol car and commanded it to enter and seek.

Jumping from the back seat, the dog headed for the building. After lunging through the doorway, the dog froze and backed out. My friend was puzzled until he investigated further and saw the sign on the building: "Veterinarian's Office."

*Received from "The Good, Clean Funnies"*

+++

A young child asked a woman how old she was. She answered, "39 and holding."

The child thought for a moment, then said, "And how old would you be if you let go?"

*Received from "Mikey's Funnies"*

## Thank You...

...so much for the wonderful Easter Celebration you did for the children. The three kids I brought thoroughly enjoyed it! Even hunting eggs in the rain!! It was a wonderful morning and I appreciate being able to bring my grandkids. I have enclosed a check to help cover expenses and to show my appreciation. Thank you again!"

(The above was a note received from a Willmar grandparent who brought her grandchildren to our Easter Celebration 4 Kids.)

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

### Mission & Ministry Team Meets:

Thursday, May 13th @ 6:30 p.m. (back to 2nd Thurs this month)

Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

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Thot for a day: It wasn't the apple on the tree, but the pair on the ground.

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## The Center of the Bible...



Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?

A: Psalms 117

Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible?

A: Psalms 119

Q: Which chapter is in the center of the Bible?

A: Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118

Add these numbers up and you get 1188.

Q: What is the center verse in the Bible?

A: Psalms 118:8

Q: Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His Word!

Psalms 118:8

*"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."*

Now isn't that odd how this worked out (or was God in the center of it)? When things get tough, always remember...

Faith doesn't get you around trouble, it gets you through it,

## 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!

**When:** May 8, 2021  
8:30-9:00 am Continental breakfast  
9:00 am: Session begins  
2:00-3:00 pm Estimated closing  
**Where:** Living Word Church  
**Cost:** 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)



**BAKE SALE After Sunrise Worship**

Raised \$385 for the Youth to Attend the Gathering!

**Mr. B's Chocolate fundraiser for Mother's Day**

Orders will be delivered to church Wednesday, May 5.

Our Youth raised \$1369 on this fundraiser!!!

A HUGE "Thank You" to everyone who supported us!

**UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS:**

- The Giving Bean Coffee fundraiser for Father's Day
- A quilt raffle - TBD

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Thot for a day: Sleeping late is considered lazy, but waking up early and taking an afternoon nap is fine.

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## Upcoming Fun Stuff...

June 20: Stingers' Game

TICKETS ARE HERE!

GET THEM FROM MARCIA WELSH.

Cost: \$21.58

(We have extra tickets for those who didn't sign up yet.)

Call Marcia Welsh 320-796-6840)



- Picnic begins at 4:05 (Game @ 5:05)  
+ Reserved-Seat Game Ticket  
+ All-you-can-eat Ballpark Buffet  
+ 1st 200 kids get a FREE youth jersey

July 18: Green Lake Cruise

2:00-4:00

We will have the Sunday Brunch:

Homemade Egg Bake

Fresh, seasonal fruit

Coffee & Orange Juice

Bar open for cash sales.



Price determined by # of people. (We can have up to 50 people!)



Big Kahuna

Date/Time/Cost TBA

Talk to Marcia Welsh for details.  
Sign up at church for any of these outings!

## Lutheran Island Camp

IS OPEN Again This Summer !!!

After a year "off" due to COVID restrictions, the summer camp of the Minnesota North District congregations (like Living Word) is back in action with a full schedule this summer!

Check out the camp-schedule poster at church go to [www.islandcamp.org](http://www.islandcamp.org) for complete descriptions and pricing information.



## A Minute for Couples...

### Quality Time

Whether you're in a super busy season of life or you just want to make the most of the valuable time you spend together, here are three tips for increasing the quality of your "quality time":

#### Ditch your devices.

Yes, this means ALL the devices – your phone, TV, computer, tablet, etc. It's so easy to sit down and spend hours bingeing a new series, all the while hardly speaking or connecting with each other at all. So even if it's just for 15 minutes before you start watching, eliminate the digital distractions long enough for a meaningful interaction. You could implement a "no screens" rule during meals or while lying in bed to incorporate screen-free time into your daily routine.

#### Be in the now.

Eliminating external distractions is one thing, but getting your mind to focus on the present and not your never-ending to-do list can be another story. If you've ever spent time with someone whose mind is on a million other things, you've probably experienced the negative impact it can have. In order to truly go for quality time over quantity, make the effort to be all-in mentally. Helpful tip: Look the other person in the eyes while they are talking to you.

#### Spend time apart.

This sounds counterintuitive, but one tip for truly appreciating your time together is to not be "attached at the hip." Spending time separately doing your own thing helps you nurture your individual selves so that you can come back together energized versus feeling resentment that you're lacking time for yourself. Balance between "I" and "we" will look different for every couple, so communicate with each other about what feels right for each of you and works for your relationship.

There are a lot of things that compete for our precious time. Intentional tweaks like these can seem small but will pay dividends in putting more quality into your "quality time."

## Sunday School News...

### LESSONS:

- May 2 - "The Vine and the Branches" John 15:1-8
- May 9 - "As I Have Loved You" - John 15:9-17
- May 16 - "Through Life's Maze" - John 17:11b-19; 1 John 5:9-15
- May 23 - "Pentecost" - Acts 2:1-21
- May 30 - "Holy Trinity" - John 3:1-17

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Thot for a day: Being popular on Facebook is like sitting at the cool table in the cafeteria of a mental hospital.

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## Email Wisdom...

Did you know our brains tends to focus on negative things as a way to keep us safe? It sure seems like this past year has had no shortage of those. But if you make an effort to focus, instead, on what is going well and what you're grateful for, your health can really benefit!

Studies show that being grateful can help you:

- Feel more optimistic about life
- Feel better about yourself and your purpose in life
- Reduce stress and anxiety

Try it for yourself:

#### 1. Make Gratitude a habit.

Note 3 things you're grateful for during the day.

Encourage your family members to do the same!

#### 2. Let others know you appreciate them.

An easy way to do this: Just practice saying aloud the compliments that you're already thinking about others

#### 3. Stick with it. If giving thanks feels "cheesy" or contrived at first, give it some time. Gratitude is a skill that requires practice!

*Received from Concordia Health Plans*



## May 2021 - Daily Readings

Luke and Acts were both written by the man we know as Luke. Luke's Gospel focuses on the Holy Spirit's work through God's Son Jesus. The book of Acts picks up right where Luke's Gospel leaves off and focuses on the Holy Spirit's work through Jesus' apostles as they take the message about Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection to the world. This month we will read a chapter each day from Luke. In June we will continue reading a chapter a day from Acts. Record insights from each day's reading on the lines provided. God will bless your reading!

**May 2** Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior

May 3 Luke 1 \_\_\_\_\_

May 4 Luke 2 \_\_\_\_\_

May 5 Luke 3 \_\_\_\_\_

May 6 Luke 4 \_\_\_\_\_

May 7 Luke 5 \_\_\_\_\_

May 8 Luke 6 \_\_\_\_\_

**May 9** Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior

May 10 Luke 7 \_\_\_\_\_

May 11 Luke 8 \_\_\_\_\_

May 12 Luke 9 \_\_\_\_\_

May 13 Luke 10 \_\_\_\_\_

May 14 Luke 11 \_\_\_\_\_

May 15 Luke 12 \_\_\_\_\_

**May 16** Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior

May 17 Luke 13 \_\_\_\_\_

May 18 Luke 14 \_\_\_\_\_

May 19 Luke 15 \_\_\_\_\_

May 20 Luke 16 \_\_\_\_\_

May 21 Luke 17 \_\_\_\_\_

May 22 Luke 18 \_\_\_\_\_

**May 23** Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior

May 24 Luke 19 \_\_\_\_\_

May 25 Luke 20 \_\_\_\_\_

May 26 Luke 21 \_\_\_\_\_

May 27 Luke 22 \_\_\_\_\_

May 28 Luke 23 \_\_\_\_\_

May 29 Luke 24 \_\_\_\_\_

**May 30** Spend today worshiping our Risen Lord and Savior

May 31 Spend time thanking God for those who gave their lives for our country

June 1 Acts 1 \_\_\_\_\_





June 2 Acts 2 \_\_\_\_\_

June 3 Acts 3 \_\_\_\_\_

June 4 Acts 4 \_\_\_\_\_

June 5 Acts 5 \_\_\_\_\_

# May 2021 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/ COMMUNION 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30 MENS' STUDY	6:00 6-7th Confirmation Class 7:00 8-9th Confirmation Class	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8:30 - 3:00 WOMEN'S "DAYTREAT"
<b>9</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30 MENS' STUDY	<b>12</b> 10:00 LWML & Women's Study 6:00 6-7th Confirmation Class 7:00 8-9th Confirmation Class	<b>13</b> MISSION <i>Ministry</i> 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  1:00 Trap Shooting
<b>16</b> PENTECOST 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/ Communion 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30 MENS' STUDY	<b>19</b> 6:00 6-7th Confirmation Class 7:00 8-9th Confirmation Class	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - SPRING VOTERS' MEETING	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:30 MENS' STUDY	<b>26</b> 6:00 6-7th Confirmation Class 7:00 8-9th Confirmation Class	<b>27</b> <div data-bbox="1381 1036 1831 1182"> <b>Lord's Supper Dates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday, May 2nd</li> <li>Sunday, May 16</li> </ul> </div>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	<b>31</b> MEMORIAL DAY 	<b>June 1</b> 6:30 MENS' STUDY	<b>June 2</b> 6:00 6-7th Confirmation Class 7:00 8-9th Confirmation Class	<b>June 3</b>	<b>June 4</b>	<b>June 5</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

We will be needing Ushers for Communion Sundays again. Please tell Pastor David if you could be an Usher. Thanks!

### Scripture Readers

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

### Elders

May 2, 9	Joe & Keith
May 16, 23, 30	Kevin & Jason
June 6, 13	Ed & Joe
June 20, 27	Keith & Kevin

### Custodian

May	Duane & Bonnie Hansen
June	Available

### Make A Meal Volunteers

May Wendy Robbin

### Altar Guild

May Mona Hjelle

### Nursery

( Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

May 2	Pam Johnson
May 9	Volunteer Needed
May 16	Mona Hjelle
May 23	Violet Dauk
May 30	Volunteer Needed

### Accompanying Musicians

May 2	Sharon Willen
May 9	Scott Wachter
May 16	Pam Johnson
May 23	Carmen Macik
May 30	Open

*Seen on Church Signboards...*  
**Forecast for Tomorrow:**  
**+ God Reigns**  
**+ The Son Shines**

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That for a day: Money doesn't go as far as it used to. But it does go FASTER.

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## 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.

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

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### **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.

## May Discipleship Verse...

*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*  
 Acts 1:8

## 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
- May 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>

Maundy Thursday: "God's Mission for us is IM-possible"

Good Friday: "What Jesus Tells Us in His 'Seven Last Words'"

April 4 "What Jesus Reveals About Himself on the Emmaus Road"

April 18 "One Very Simple Thing We Can Do to Make a HUGE Impact"

April 25 "Justice: What God Wants Us to Do When It Seems Delayed."

### 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



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Thot for a day: The best auto safety device is a rear-view mirror with a police car in it.

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## 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 HUGE 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...

- Asking God to show you His "calling" for you - and His power to do it!
- Thanking God for Spring!
- Asking God to help you be a great Customer Service Rep for Jesus!
- Asking God to protect the farmers and everyone who works outdoors!
- Thanking God we continue to have in-person worship & Sunday School
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did - through sacrifice.
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- God to show you opportunities to Share His Love in Practical Ways.
- Opportunities to point a friend, relative, neighbor to Jesus
- 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)
- 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...

- Bryan Ashburn on your promotion at Kandiyohi Power Co-op!
- Tom & Becca O'Flanagan on your new home in Smyrna, GA!

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



## The Link...

### April 2021 Updates

We did it! On March 1, we announced Minnesota FoodShare month was here and set a financial goal of \$25,000. Almost immediately after the fundraiser began, community members started sending in donations and contacting us wondering what they could do to help. The fundraising ended on April 11 and the grand total of donations was \$36,478.30!! In this time, The Link also took in 2800 pounds of food! Thank you to all the wonderful donors for stepping up and helping us exceed our goal by over \$10,000! What an amazing community we are a part of! Thank you does not seem like enough! Every dollar and pound of food is used to help your neighbors in need! And even better, there is a match from the Minnesota FoodShare campaign to stretch those dollars even further!

In other exciting news, RibFest is ON and is set to take place on Sunday, June 13! We are currently looking for anyone that would want to sponsor the event. Please contact Chasity at 320-354-5465 for more information! More details on this event will be in the next newsletter and on the RibFest Facebook page.

In March, The Food Pantry welcomed 14 new families, served 43 children, 48 adults and 14 seniors. 2468 pounds of food was distributed and 1646.5 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 learning more about this program please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

The **Link's Client Outreach program** served 7 families in the month of March. Throughout the month, The Link was able to help with utility bills, rent payments, car repairs and furniture.

### 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

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That for a day: The best way to discourage Knock Knock jokes is just by saying, "Come in!"

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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.



### RIB FEST

#### 2020 Sponsorship Opportunities

	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Cost	\$250	\$500	\$750 +
Available	unlimited	8	4
Name on Poster	X	with medium logo	With largest logo
\$25 tasting ticket	1- \$25 tasting ticket (5-ribs and pie)	2- \$25 tasting tickets	\$100 ticket to try all ribs, 2 pieces of pie and 2 beverages
Logo on ticket		On back	On front and back
Listed on tshirt		X	X
Open mic mention		X	X



## Email Inspiration...

John Harper was born to a pair of solid Christian parents on May 29th, 1872. It was on the last Sunday of March 1886 when he was thirteen years old that he received Jesus as the Lord of his life. He never knew what it was to "sow his wild oats." He began to preach about four years later at the ripe old age of 17 years by going down to the streets of his village and pouring out his soul in earnest entreaty for men to be reconciled to God.



As John Harper's life unfolded, one thing was apparent...he was consumed by the word of God. When asked by various ministers what his doctrine consisted of, he was known to reply "The Word of God!" After five or six years of toiling on street corners preaching the gospel and working in the mill during the day, Harper was taken in by Rev. E. A. Carter of Baptist Pioneer Mission in London, England. This set Harper free to devote his whole time of energy to the work so dear to his heart. Soon, John Harper started his own church in September of 1896. (Now known as the Harper Memorial Church). This church which John Harper had started with just 25 members had grown to over 500 members when he left 13 years later. During this time, he had gotten married but was shortly thereafter widowed. However brief the marriage, God did bless John Harper with a beautiful little girl named Nana.

Ironically, John Harper almost drowned several times during his life. When he was two and a half years of age, he almost drowned when he fell into a well but was resuscitated by his mother. At the age of twenty-six, he was swept out to sea by a reverse current and barely survived, and at thirty-two, he faced death on a leaking ship in the Mediterranean. Perhaps, God used these experiences to prepare this servant for what he faced next...

It was the night of April 14, 1912. The RMS Titanic sailed swiftly on the bitterly cold ocean waters heading unknowingly into the pages of history. On board this luxurious ocean liner, there were many rich and famous people. At the time of the ship's launch, it was the world's largest man-made moveable object. At 11:40 p.m. on that fateful night, an iceberg scraped the ship's starboard side, showering the decks with ice and ripping open six watertight compartments. The sea poured in.

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**That for a day:** You can't please everyone. But it is possible to make 'em all mad at the same time.

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On board the ship that night was John Harper and his much-beloved six-year-old daughter Nana. According to documented reports, as soon as it was apparent that the ship was going to sink, John Harper immediately took his daughter to a lifeboat. It is reasonable to assume that this widowed preacher could have easily gotten on board this boat to safety; however, it never seems to have crossed his mind. He bent down and kissed his precious little girl; looking into her eyes he told her that she would see him again someday. The flares going off in the dark sky above reflected the tears on his face as he turned and headed towards the crowd of desperate humanity on the sinking ocean liner. As the rear of the huge ship began to lurch upwards, it was reported that Harper was seen making his way up the deck yelling "Women, children and unsaved into the lifeboats!" It was only minutes later that the Titanic began to rumble deep within. Most people thought it was an explosion; actually, the gargantuan ship was literally breaking in half. At this point, many people jumped off the decks and into the icy, dark waters below. John Harper was one of these people.

That night 1528 people went into the frigid waters. John Harper was seen swimming frantically to people in the water leading them to Jesus before the hypothermia became fatal. Mr. Harper swam up to one young man who had climbed up on a piece of debris. Rev. Harper asked him between breaths, "Are you saved?" The young man replied that he was not.

Harper then tried to lead him to Christ only to have the young man who was near shock, reply no. John Harper then took off his life jacket and threw it to the man and said "Here then, you need this more than I do..." and swam away to other people. A few minutes later Harper swam back to the young man and succeeded in leading him to salvation. Of the 1528 people that went into the water that night, six were rescued by the lifeboats. One of them was this young man on the debris. Four years later, at a survivors meeting, this young man stood up and in tears recounted how John Harper had led him to Christ. Mr. Harper had tried to swim back to help other people, yet because of the intense cold, had grown too weak to swim. His last words before going under in the frigid waters were "Believe on the Name of the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." Does Hollywood remember this man? No. Oh well, no matter. This servant of God did what he had to do. While other people were trying to buy their way onto the lifeboats and selfishly trying to save their own lives, John Harper gave up his life so that others could be saved.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends..." John Harper was truly the hero of the Titanic!

## 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 "click" 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 remaining 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 May Make-a-Meal volunteer, Wendy Robbin 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: Team work means not having to take all the blame yourself.

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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...

### LWML MEETING:

Wednesday, May 12th @ 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.livingwordlutheranlcmis.blogspot.com](http://www.livingwordlutheranlcmis.blogspot.com)



## Story Behind The Song...

### "Man Gave Names to All the Animals"

This isn't a song we've sung in church, although I used it for a Children's Message once. It's one of my favorite songs written by Bob Dylan. It's based on Genesis 2:19-20:

"Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field.

It's a fun song - one that is neat to use with kids! For example, read the first three lines of each verse then have them guess what animal the verse is describing! Aside from being fun, the song has a memorable final verse, as the abrupt ending reveals the one who takes all the fun out of life!

Chorus: Man gave names to all the animals  
In the beginning, in the beginning  
Man gave names to all the animals  
In the beginning, long time ago

He saw an animal that liked to growl  
Big furry paws and he liked to howl  
Great big furry back and furry hair  
"Ah, think I'll call it a bear" (Chorus)

He saw an animal up on a hill  
Chewing up so much grass until she was filled  
He saw milk comin' out but he didn't know how  
"Ah, think I'll call it a cow" (Chorus)

He saw an animal that liked to snort  
Horns on his head and they weren't too short  
It looked like there wasn't nothin' that he couldn't pull  
"Ah, think I'll call it a bull" (Chorus)

He saw an animal leavin' a muddy trail  
Real dirty face and a curly tail  
He wasn't too small and he wasn't too big  
"Ah, think I'll call it a pig" (Chorus)

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Thot for a day: My spouse says I have 2 faults. I don't listen and...something else.

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Next animal that he did meet  
Had wool on his back and hooves on his feet  
Eating grass on a mountainside so steep  
"Ah, think I'll call it a sheep" (Chorus)

He saw an animal as smooth as glass  
Slithering his way through the grass  
Saw him disappear by a tree near a lake ...

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Editor's note: Here is Bob Dylan performing...

<https://youtu.be/MTrN7QoZMDg>

If you are not a Dylan fan, here is Johnny Cash's version...

<https://youtu.be/3CTHkmwIOV0>

## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

