

September 2021 Newsletter "Communicating the Love of Jesus"

~ Back to Regular Hours ~ Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

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...

If God knows everything - why do we pray?

God does indeed know everything. If He didn't, He wouldn't be God! We read in 1 John 3:20: "God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything."



Jesus even tells us point-blank in His Sermon on the Mount: "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

There are probably quite a few directions to go with answers to that question. I won't aim for hitting them all!

Maybe the easiest answer is this one: "We pray because God simply tells us to pray - and tells us quite often!" For example, our discipleship verse for August (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 said, "Rejoice always, pray continually..." And, of course, if God tells us to do something we know it is a good thing to do! The rest of the answers will highlight some of the benefits (good things) we get from praying.

Praying, by its very nature demonstrates two things that God requires of people who follow Him: Humility and Faith.

First, prayer humbles us. When we go to God asking Him for things, we are admitting that we are powerless to get those things by ourselves. That's humbling!

Second, prayer shows that we do trust God. We wouldn't ask Him for the things we can't do ourselves if we didn't trust that He does have the power to give them. Asking God also shows we trust that He has the wisdom to know the best way to answer and the right time to give what we need.

Another reason God tells us to ask for things that He already knows we need is this: If God just gave us everything without our asking, we might start to take these things for granted and forget "Every good gift and every perfect gift is FROM ABOVE, coming down from the Father of lights," (James 1:17) But when we ask first, and then receive, we are reminded that God is the Giver! That, again, strengthens our trust in Him.

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Another good thing that results from praying is this: God desires a loving, trusting relationship with us. And you can't have a relationship with anyone without talking to them! When we talk to God, our relationship with Him is naturally strengthened.

Finally, we can't forget God's promise in Philippians 4:6-7:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

What a deal! God takes our anxieties and trades us His perfect peace! It doesn't get much better than that!

Thanks for asking! Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Who Can You Invite to Rally Sunday?

- Talk to God about them.
- Then talk to them about joining you.
 (Be sure to tell them you'll pick them up)

Confirmation News...

- Parents' Meeting
 Wednesday, September 8 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Confirmation
- Class begins for students September 15 @ 6:30

A New Way to "Participate" in Worship

If you can't be here in 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/

NFW:

We now have a YouTube channel with Sunday services being livestreamed at.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VvIJEU22vCYxbhwig

Sunday School News...

Rally Sunday (Sept 12) kicks off a new Sunday School Year !!



- Sunday School starts @ 9:00.
- During Worship: Blessing of the Backpacks
- After worship: Lunch!

Barbeques Potato salad

Whatever dish you bring to share

Noon: Knockerball and Bouncy house!







Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the First and Third Sundays in August. (September 5th & 19th)



COMMUNING AT THE ALTAR HAS RESUMED:

We have resumed 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 have also transitioned away from the pre-packaged sets of wafer and wine back to the normal distribution of communion - with separate wafers and individual cups (as well as common cup for those who prefer).

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.

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don't like.

bet you would be really motivated if the weight you lost went to someone you

day:

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Page 5 | Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study:

Begins again at 9:00 on Rally Sunday (Sept 12)!
We'll start by taking a look at the Hymnal of God's People
(We know it as The Psalms)
Please join us for coffee and God's Word!

7 SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES TO HELP YOU GROW IN YOUR FAITH



Sunday Morning Youth Study

Begins on Rally Sunday (Sept 12) @ 9:00 We'll finish the remaining lessons from summer's "Feed the Dog" study. Bring friends!

Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Wednesday, September 8th @ 10:00 a.m. Bible Study & video All are welcome to attend

Men's Study

Tuesday, Sept. 14 @ 6:30

We'll kick off the fall study by:

- Grilling some brats (6:00-6:30)
- Playing some games (horseshoes, foosball, bean bag, cards)
- Finding out "Stuff they DIDN'T teach me in Sunday School!

Who can you invite to join you?





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 August we Thanked God for ... VBS

Youth Garage Sales Sunday School

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence in September

Vacation Bible School Fun...



Page 6

Page 7 Fmail Humor

A member of our church choir arrives every Sunday morning with her seven children in tow, all a bit rumpled but never the less on time.

Scarcely able to get my one child ready, I asked her how she managed her brood so efficiently.

"Easy," she replied with a smile. "I dress them the night before!"

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A teenage boy passed his driving test. He asked his Father when he could use the family car. "I'll make you a deal. You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and agreed. After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut".

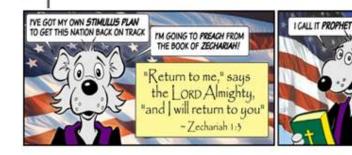
The boy quickly retorted, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair".

"Very clever, Son, you got me there! But did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

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Our family was in church a few weeks ago. The pastor gave a sermon based on the timeless story of the prodigal son. When he got to the point where the father saw his son returning and raced out to meet him, the pastor quoted, "Throwing wide his arms, the father said..."

At which point my younger son leaned over to me and whispered, "YOU'RE GROUNDED!"



everyone agrees to say collectively what no one will say individually. Consensus means that

day:

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Mark Your Calendars...

Mission & Ministry Team...

Meets: Thursday, September 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

We still need suggestions for people to fill the Stewardship position. If you have members you'd like us to consider, please give their name to a Mission and Ministry Team member. Thanks!

Trap Shooting...

End-of-Season Trap-Shooting & Picnic

ONE FINAL TRAP-SHOOT DA



Bring the whole family - and friends! We'll shoot first then have a picnic. We may even play some horseshoes & bean bag toss too!

If you haven't been to one of our trap-shoot events because they've been in the evening, this will be a great chance to join the fun! Or just come to watch - we have plenty of folks who do that too!

Youth Gathering...

The NEXT National Youth Gathering (2022 in Houston)



A HUGE "THANK YOU" to EVERYONE who helped with our Garage Sale Fundraiser by donating or purchasing items!

Church Choir...



Our First Practice will be ... After Worship SEPTEMBER 26!

No experience necessary. Please join us!

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The Congregation is invited to participate in our VBS Mission Project.

We will be putting together School Kits for "Orphan Grain Train". Please see the "SCHOOL KITS" page.



Please put all the items from the "Contents" list in a bag and it bring it to the Church. (Backpacks, pencils and construction paper have been purchased.) Please pay special attention to the "Please Note" information on the right-side of "School Kits" page and follow accordingly.

Also, on Rally Sunday, September 12, during Worship Service we will have a special BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS- both of those that we fill during VBS and also for those of all the kids that will be returning to school. Children are encouraged to bring their backpacks that Sunday.

SCHOOL KITS

CONTENTS X 1 backpack ☐ 1 ruler 2 spiral notebooks ☐ 2 glue sticks X 2 pencils 1 scissors ☐ 2 pens ☐ 1 eraser X 10 sheets of ☐ 1 package colored

- construction paper pencils (12 count)
- ☐ 1 package crayons ☐ 1 pencil sharpener (24 count)

ASSEMBLY

- 1. Stack flat items together.
- 2. Place all items inside school bag
- 3. Close bag if applicable.

PLEASE NOTE

- · Backpacks, drawstring allyletic beigs, or homem tole bags are all acceptable
- We recommend leaving contents in the original peckaging, but it is not
- No additions, deletions
- . Do not add money, pinotos. or personal notes.
- Do not include items with religious, comouflage, patriotic or inilitary symbols.
- Plack only new or gently
- Do not include plastic bags.
- it costs an average of \$11 to ship each hox of kits. Please consider a donation to your local OGT branch to help

sempling, phone its not its five. If may recall in heavy from artiful the active shipment being confecient by





VBS Mission Project.

Email Wisdom...

LORD, PROP US UP

Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old deacon who always prayed, "Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side."

After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered, "Well sir, you see, it's like this...I got an old barn out back. It's been there a long time. It's withstood a lot of weather. It's gone through a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years. It's still standing, but one day I noticed it



was leaning to one side a bit. So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall.

"Then I got to thinking bout that and how much I was like that old barn. I been around a long time, I've withstood a lot of life's storms, I've withstood a lot of bad weather in life, I've withstood a lot of hard times, and I'm still standing, too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leanin' side, 'cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning, at times."

Email Inspiration...

A professor stood before his class of twenty senior organic biology students, about to hand out the final exam.

"I want to say that it's been a pleasure teaching you this semester. I know you've all worked extremely hard and many of you are off to medical school after summer. So that no one gets their GPA messed up because they might have been celebrating a bit too much this week, anyone who would like to opt out of the final exam today will receive a 'B' for the test."

There was much rejoicing in the class as students got up, walked to the front of the class, and took the professor up on his offer. As the last taker left the room, the professor looked out over the handful of remaining students and asked, "Anyone else? This is your last chance."

One final student rose up and opted out of the final.

The professor closed the door and took attendance of those students remaining. "I'm glad to see you believe in yourselves," he said. "You all get 'A's."

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expensive one, a big a while I want once in every pit Iffe, = I enjoy the simple little pleasures too. day: O Thot







September 2021 - Daily Readings

DAILYREADING PROGRAM: . We start September with a week of passages about teaching children. We finish the month with passages about growing in our own knowledge of & trust in Jesus.

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

Week of	September 5	Teaching Children	n
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Deuteronomy 11:18-21	
Joshua 24:15	
Proverbs 1:8-9	
Proverbs 22:6	
Proverbs 29:15,17	
Week of September 12	How to Grow Spiritually
John 15:1-8	
Romans 5:1-5	
Romans 12:1-8	
A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH	
2 Peter 3:14-18	
Week of September 19	How to Grow Spiritually - Part 2
Hebrews 5:11-6:3	
	Joshua 24:15

Sept 21	Ephesians 1:15-21
Sept 22	2 Ephesians 3:14-19
Sept 23	Colossians 2:6-10
Sept 24	Colossians 3:1-11
Sept 25	Colossians 3:12-17
	Week of September 26 Following Jesus
Sept 27	7 John 13:12-17
Sept 28	Philippians 2:5-11
Sept 29	Matthew7:24-29
Sept 30	1 John 2:1-6
Oct 1	1Peter2:19-25
Oct 2	Luke 19:1-10
	Week of October 3 The Power of God's Word
Oct 4	Isaiah 55:10-11
Oct 5	Romans 1:16-18
Oct 6	Hebrews 4:12-13
Oct 7	1 Peter 1:22-15
Oct 8	Psalm 119.9-16
Oct 9	Psalm 148:1-6
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September 2021 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	6	7	8 10:00 LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:30 CONFIRMATION PARENTS MEETING	9 Mission Winistry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	10	11
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP W/Backpack Blessing 11:15 - LUNCH NOON - KNOCKERBALL	13	6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6:30 CONFIRMATION	16	17	2:00 TRAP SHOOTIN
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	20	21 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6:30 CONFIRMATION	Lord's Supper Dates Sunday, September Sunday, September		25
6 OO - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY O:00 - WORSHIP 1:15 - CHOIR PRACTICE	27	28 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6:30 CONFIRMATION	30	Oct 1	2
:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	4	5 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6 6:30 CONFIRMATION	7	8	9 4:30 - 7:00 MEXICAN FIESTA DINNER

Upcoming Schedules...

After-Worship Fellowship

This Fall: We would like to re-start our after-worship fellowship after worship changes back to 10:00 (complete with coffee, juice, goodies).

BUT WE NEED SOMEONE TO COORDINATE THE EFFORT.

Here's what that would involve:

- + Putting together a rotating schedule of Fellowship Servers.
- + Reminding servers of their date to serve.
- + Making sure there are cups, plates, napkins, etc... to use.

If you could take on this ministry to our congregation, there are LOTS of folks who would be extremely grateful for your effort!

Usher Schedule

Since we are back to "normal" after covid restrictions, we are in need of ushers to greet people at the door as well as to usher people to the altar for communion.

Please sign up at church on the table by the door (you can choose which type of ushering you are interested in)!

Scripture Readers

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

Elders

Sept 5, 12 Joe & Duane Sept 19, 26 Jason & Ed Oct 3, 10 Joe & Ed Oct 17, 24, 31 Duane & Jason

Make A I	<u>Meal Volunteers</u>	Accompanying Musicians		
Sept	Linda Dilley	Sept 5	Sharon Willen	
		Sept 12	ScottWachter	
Nursery		Sept 19	Pam Johnson	
Sept 5	Pam Johnson	Sept 26	Carmen Macik	
Sept 12	Volunteer Needed			
Cont 10	Mona Hielle	Constanting		

Sept 19 Mona Hjelle <u>Custodian</u> Sept 26 Violet Dauk September

ept 26 Violet Dauk September Joe Johnson October Available

Altar Guild

Sept Mona Hjelle

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pessimist sees a dark tunnel. The optimist sees the light at the end tunnel. A realist sees

The train driver sees three nincompoops standing on the tracks

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Church Clean-up...

You can sign up to take on any of these "spring cleaning" projects. They can be completed any time that works for you this month (there won't be a designated "Clean Up Day").



- ADD PAVER SAND TO SIDEWALK
- CLEAN / ORGANIZE EAST FURNACE ROOM
- CLEAN / ORGANIZE WEST FURNACE ROOM
- CLEAN / ORGANIZE STORAGE SHED
- ORGANIZE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS
- ORGANIZE NURSERY

Seen on Church Signboards...

Be the Kind of Person Your Dog Thinks You Are!

Give Your Spiritual Life a Lift...

Come to church on Rally Sunday! September 12

September Discipleship Verse...

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-2

That for a day

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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
 - Oct-Dec Portals of Prayer

Sermons can be found in on our Living Word Facebook page at



https://www.facebook.com/groups/131798513523470 or on our YouTube channel at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VvIJEU22yCYxbhwjg

- 8-1 "2 Simple Questions to help you get more out of the Bible"
- 8-8 "What to do when you come upon a puzzling passage."
- 8-15 "What to do and NOT do with our God-given emotions!"
- 8-22 "Glass half-full or Glass half-empty? Both miss the point!"
- 8-29 "We are easily deceived but it doesn't have to be that way!"

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 muchneeded donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

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

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Anon.

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Page 21 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 to PRAY for things like ... these VBS Prayers:

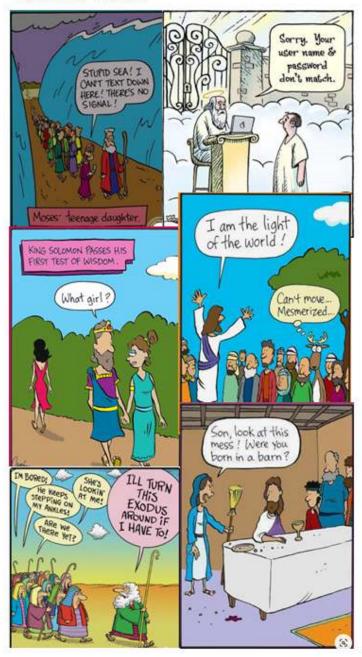
- People you can invite to any of our upcoming studies or events
- For a great turnout for Rally Sunday and the start of Sunday School
- For the Holy Spirit to help kids who don't know Jesus to discover Him as their Lord and Savior through Sunday School
- · For the Holy Spirit to work through the teachers of our classes
- . Thanking God for a great turnout for Vacation Bible School
- God to continue to work through what we learned at VBS
- Thank God for the rain we have received
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- · Great weather for the end of the growing season & begin of harvest
- The Holy Spirit to work through our Summer readings in Proverbs
- · God's protection, guidance, wisdom & courage for government leaders
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Courage to take a stand for Jesus at work AND school
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

Thank You...

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

called On It's group for compulsive talkers? hear about the self-help Did you! day: 0 for Thot

Just For Fun...



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Today I bought a cupcake without sprinkles. Diets are hard

day:

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LWML News...

LWML MEETING:

Wednesday, September 8th @ 10:00 a.m. We'll have a business meeting, followed by Women's Bible Study (video & discussion).



SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

This is a continuing fundraiser for Lutheran Island Camp. Please bring shoes, boots, slippers, sandals (in rubber banded pairs, or with shoestrings tied) to church, and place them in the SHOES FOR MISSIONS box near the entrance.



Congratulations...

Alyssa and Josh Smith on the birth of Emmett James on Sept 1
 Please email <u>pastor@livingwordlutheran</u> if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

Community Outreach...

Mexican Fiesta: Saturday, October 9 4:30—7:00

Please sign up at church to help in any way

Please contact Tammy by call/text 320-905-2434



Proceeds to go to help fund Live Nativity and other Outreach Items.



Living Nativity,

Sunday, December 5
EVEN BIGGER and BETTER
Also looking for Committee to help
plan.

Contact Tammy Miller 320-905-2434 or email: tammiller1@tds.net

Confirmation 2021...

Confirmed June 13, 2021

Left to Right

- Alison Sarsland
- Gage Dahl
- Lexi Macik
- Pastor David
- Zoe Rustad
- Levi Miller
- Alexa Knutson

This month we conclude our Series of Confirmands' FAITH STATEMENTS with Alexa and Zoe's:

Alexa Knutson

I believe God the Father-

Is the great Creator - He created everything

I believe God the Son-

Came and died for our sins to give us eternal life

I believe God the Spirit-

Leads you to do the right things

What I believe about eternal life, how I will get into Gods kingdom-Believe in God, share His Word and be faithful

What I believe about the difference God makes in my life on Earth: Life would be bad without God!

Why I want to "enlist" as a committed follower of Jesus even though I know Satan will be tempting me:

If you don't have God, you have nothing!

What I would like to do with my life (and talents) as a way of saying "thanks" to God:

Be helpful, kind and share His word with others.



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Zoe Rustad:

I believe God the Father...

Created me, the world and everything around me

I believe God the Son...

Died to forgive my sins

I believe God the Spirit...

Protects me and guides me

What I believe about eternal life, how I will get into Gods kingdom:

If you follow God and believe His actions are all good, you will be brought into God's house.

What difference has God made in my life here on earth?

We wouldn't be here - and I'd be nothing, no one, completely empty.

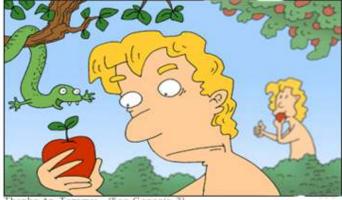
Why do I want to enlist as a committed follower of Jesus Christ even though I know Satan will be fighting me?

I get an entire community on my side, caring for me and fighting Satan with me.

What would I like to do with my life and talents as a way or saying thanks to God?

Once I move back to Willmar I will continue drawing and painting for the church - and I'd like to help with Sunday School

REVERENDFUN COM



EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN THE WORLD HAS TRIED IT BUT YOU!

Cinderella implies that it is impossible for 2 people to have the exact same shoe size day: o for

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Have you ever had a fight brew up out of nowhere? One minute, you're laughing, the next minute, you're both hurling snarky comments and feeling anything but connected.

So what happened in those two minutes? How did you go from enjoying each other's company to finding yourself in a fight? You might be thinking, "All I said was XYZ!" Your partner might be thinking, "I can't believe they said XYZ!"

Oftentimes, there is a trigger – something that stirs up emotions. Then there are a series of choices that we make that lead us down the fight path. The problem is, strong emotions make it difficult to make rational decisions, and our natural instinct is to protect ourselves. This means we might react in a way that triggers our partner, inadvertently or not. You can see how this creates the perfect conditions for an unexpected fight.

So how can we get better at managing our emotions and making choices that defuse those moments instead of fanning the flames? Here are four strategies to add to your repertoire:

Get to know your triggers.

It takes self-awareness and vulnerability to identify your triggers and share them with your partner, but it's a really powerful way to grow together, too. When we understand our own triggers, it gives us a chance to temper our emotions with more rational thinking so we can respond more appropriately. It also allows us to take responsibility for our response if it's less than ideal: "Whoa, I'm sorry I snapped at you."

On the flip side, knowing your partner's triggers doesn't necessarily mean you can avoid them entirely. It does mean you might be more thoughtful and aware of your tone, phrasing, or timing when addressing certain topics. You'll also have much more insight into your partner's responses in certain situations, allowing you to respond with empathy.

Have a signal.

When it comes down to it, do either of you really want to have this fight? Probably not. They tend to pop up at the worst times, like on your way to meet up with friends for a double date or other occasions in which you're meant to enjoy yourselves. So come up with a signal that means, "I'm sorry! I don't want to fight!" Whether it's a silly word,

Page 26 Page 27

be haunted

your house may

close,

and another door

opens

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phrase, or gesture, it acts as sort of a light-hearted equivalent of waving a white surrender flag. Of course, you'll have to agree on this ahead of time so that you both understand the meaning. But in those moments when you're not sure what to say to turn things around, a secret signal can be clutch.

If you can't say anything nice... try humor!

Have you ever had a moment where you just know you should not say what's on the tip of your tongue. A sarcastic comment, snide comeback, or just the irresistible urge to have the last word, your rational mind knows it's not going to help the situation. Succumbing to that urge is one of those little choices that can either save the whole evening—or ruin it. So if you have the wherewithal to stop yourself, consider throwing out some humor instead—just be sure your partner will think it's funny, too. Go with a self-deprecating joke to lower defenses and lighten the mood, or something completely random and silly that your partner can't help but break down and laugh. It might be just the switch up you need to steer yourselves away from a big fight.

Allow do-overs.

If you just can't seem to say the right thing in the right way, sometimes you just need a do-over. Ask your partner if you can start over. You might acknowledge you responded poorly, offer a sincere apology, then give the response you would have liked to give the first time around. You're both human, and you're not going to get it right every time. Giving each other this grace is a way to acknowledge their likely good intentions and give each other the benefit of the doubt.

Healthy conflict is necessary for growth, but getting caught up in every avoidable argument that comes along can do more damage than it's worth. However, as we learn more about ourselves, each other, and our relationship, we can get better at managing our emotions in order to steer an interaction away from an unnecessary argument.



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.

<u>Pick Your Month</u> 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 September Make-a-Meal volunteer: Linda Dilley if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal.

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

The coordinator is NOT responsible for making the meals, but rather notifies the meal makers when a meal is needed and then 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 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



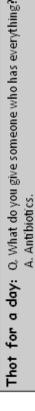
Operate our new Video Camera . . .

to record the worship service that we livestream and later upload our YouTube channel (New London Living Word). Talk to Pastor David if you can help out with this - at least one Sunday a month. (Hint It's not difficult!)

Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.

from 700 receipts!

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 Teals Receipts in 2020! We received back \$160



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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 has been issued
a \$15.12 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result



of AmazonSmile program activity between January 1 and March 31, 2021

Story Behind The Song...

Farther Along

"Farther Along" is an American Southern gospel song of contested signature. The song deals with a Christian's dismay at the apparent prosperity of the wicked, when contrasted with the suffering of the righteous. The repeated theme is that "farther along", the truth will be revealed.

The authorship of this song is a mystery, though there are several theories about its authorship. Whoever composed the words to "Farther Along" must have felt that life was unfair, perhaps even in its potentially most lethal way.

The most prevalent hypothesis is that a minister in Queen City, Missouri – W.B. Stevens wrote at least the first verse upon the occasion of his young son's death. Stevens had counseled others in similar circumstances, yet this time he found it impossible to accept his own oft-given advice. It seems he wished to know in the future – in a "Farther Along" that he composed in the early 20th Century -- the answers to his troubles.

Other evidence suggests perhaps the editor of the first songbook in which "Farther Along" appeared in 1911 (the oldest known print edition is in the 1911 hymnal Select Hymns for Christian Worship and General Gospel Service) its only attribution is "Arr. B. E. W.", referring to the hymnal editor Barney Elliott Warren.— had written some of the verses.

Yet a third theory is that another minister — W.A. Fletcher — had penned the words during a train trip to minister to Indian country while his absent wife was preparing to give birth to their first-born. He, too, must have felt or had encountered someone else whose situation seemed unjust. What's the answer when you're feeling His way for you

has become strewn with potholes? Whether it was Stevens, or Warren, or Fletcher, what's the remedy the poet prescribes for the sense that one's state of affairs has become untenable? In Stevens' case, the most difficult for any believer – death of an innocent child—how could one manage such an incident?

Fletcher missed his wife and the unique event he longed to witness—his child's birth; how could God insist he be elsewhere, even if it was to do a great work? Their words, or at least the feelings they shared, tell us 100 years later how they handled the disappointment. It's called the future. And, it's described in more than one way, perhaps because different expressions of the same concept reach different people in their own way. In just a few verses, the author or authors assign various names to the future, in addition to the song's title 'farther along'. 'Sunshine', 'beautiful gate', 'glory', 'home in the sky', 'bright mansion', and 'by and by' all portray a time and place where life's inequities are overridden, nullified. Those who are there won't feel as we who remain here. That's the challenge, isn't it?

We need patience, and "Farther Along" underscores that reality. But, you and I are not alone in this, our composer-friend/s tell us. Their prescription is one they've recommended many times, probably because there is no alternative. If the present is too unfair, overlook it. Don't try to decipher my world's inconsistencies. Instead, gaze at the finish line; in fact, stare at it, dwell in it. The afterlife is the only way to make mortal life livable.

The song has been recorded by Hank Williams, Glen Campbell, Van Dyke Parks, Pete Seeger, Roy Acuff, Johnny Cash, Sam Cooke, Elvis Presley, Mississippi John Hurt, Bill Anderson, Brad Paisley and many others.

Tempted and tried we're oft made to wonder Why it should be thus all the day long While there are others livin' about us Never molested though in the wrong

Farther along we'll know all about it Farther along we'll understand why Cheer up my brothers, live in the sunshine We'll understand it all by and by

And often when death has taken our loved ones Leaving our home so lone and so drear Then do we wonder why others prosper Living so wicked year after year

Farther along we'll know all about it Farther along we'll understand why

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Sleeping when you're not supposed to

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Cheer up my brothers, live in the sunshine We'll understand it all by and by

When we see Jesus comin' in glory
When he comes down from his home in the sky
Then we shall meet him in that bright mansion
We'll understand it all by and by

Farther along we'll know all about it
Farther along we'll understand why
Cheer up my brothers, live in the sunshine
We'll understand it all by and by
We'll understand it all by and by
We'll understand it all by and by

Editor's note: Watch a Petersen's performance of this song at https://youtu.be/nsPm1UghJW8

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

