



Let love
& faithfulness
never leave you;

*bind them
around your neck,
write them on the
tablet of your heart.*

-Proverbs 3:3

February 2022 Newsletter

"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

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...

What's your favorite Bible story—Part 2?

Last month I said that the answer to this question probably changes 'most every time I'm asked. I listed four that came to mind last month: The account of Queen Esther; The Birth of Jesus, Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus, and the coming of the Wise Men. I promised to finish answering the question this month with a few more of my favorites - including the one that I told the confirmation students about.

I find a couple common themes running through these accounts:

- 1) They display some characteristic of Jesus that I need to remember
- 2) They highlight people who set some example of faithfulness, especially when it would have been easier not to!

Jesus' First Miracle: John records in chapter two of his Gospel how Jesus turns water into wine at a wedding! In this miracle Jesus reveals that He is no mere human being, He is God - in the flesh! But more than that, Jesus reveals the kind of God He is! He's a God who doesn't just care about our eternal lives. He cares deeply about our lives right here and right now. And, as I mentioned in the January 16 sermon, He's a God whose plans cannot be messed up by any of the "wrenches" we toss into the pile!

Two of Jesus' Post-Resurrection Appearances:

- 1) To Thomas as recorded in John 20. The previous week when Jesus appeared to the other disciples He proved that He really is who He said: God! But when He appeared to Thomas (who wasn't there for that first appearance) He showed that He's a God who is not "put off" by our doubts. In fact, He understands that there are things He does that we don't understand. So, in our times of doubting He deals with us patiently and reveals Himself again.
- 2) To the two disciples on the Emmaus Road. Luke records this encounter in chapter 24 of his Gospel. The obvious lesson here is that Jesus reveals



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Himself as risen from the dead to those who are truly seeking Him. But the thing that strikes me about this encounter is that Jesus has a 'fun side' as we read about how He pretends not to know what these disciples are so distraught about. He walks along the road with them listening to them describe His crucifixion the events that led up to it. Their response when they finally figured out that they've been talking to their Risen Lord, shows how life-changing it is to know Jesus is not dead, but alive!

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The account of these rock-solid believers is found in Daniel chapter 3. (This was the account that I gave as an answer to the confirmation student's question.) You probably know the story. These three friends of Daniel were trusted advisors to the non-Jewish king, Nebuchadnezzar. An edict went out that everyone must bow down and worship the golden statue the king had erected (scholars believe it was a statue of the king himself). The penalty for not bowing was to be executed by being thrown into a furnace! Not only did these three stay standing when everyone else bowed down, they said gave this great statement of faith to the king when he offered them a second chance

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

That's an example of faith in God that we need in our day and age!

If you know the story, you know who God came to their rescue and miraculously spared them, showing that "When we take a stand for God - He takes a stand for us!"

Thanks for asking!
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

"Participate" in Worship from home...

If you can't be here in person: Watch on our YouTube channel with Sunday services being livestreamed at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VvIJEU22yCYxbhwjg/featured>



Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study:

Sunday mornings @ 9:00

"The Radical Teachings of Jesus"

Please join us for coffee and God's

Word as we look at just how Jesus' teachings turned the first-century world upside down (and have the power to do the same in your world)!



Sunday Morning Youth Study

Sundays @ 9:00

Bring friends!

Monthly Morning Women's Study:

February 9th @ 10:00 a.m.

Video and study. All are welcome.



Wednesday Evening Women's Study

Wednesday's @ 6:15

Violet Dauk will host the study at her home (5126 Co Rd 40 NE, New London). Violet will also host a time of prayer prior to the study at 5:45 for anyone who wants to come and pray.

Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30 (Come at 6:00 for Brats, etc...)

Who can you invite to join you?

Confirmation News...

- Class meets Wednesdays at 6:15
- Pastor will have hotdogs & fries at 5:45 for those who want to eat before class.
- Parents: Remember to check the "Parent Helper Schedule" for your date to sit in on the class.
- Also Check: The PowerPoint Clicker-Person Schedule Each student will take a turn operating the "clicker" that changes the PowerPoint screens during Sunday Worship.
- AirMaxx Trip is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22 (there's no school that day). We will need one or two drivers/chaperones for that trip. Please let Pastor know if you can help with that!



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Thot for a day: Just when you think you've won the rat race, along come faster rats.

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Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the normal First and Third Sundays in February (February 6th & 20th.) - **NOTE:** Communion will also be served on Ash Wednesday, March 20th,



COMMUNING AT THE ALTAR HAS RESUMED: 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.

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.

Sunday School News...

The Sunday School lessons will deal with Jealousy for this month.



- Feb. 6 - "A King's Jealousy" 1 Samuel 18:5-16
- Feb. 13 - "God is Jealous" Deuteronomy 10: 12-16, 20-21; Exodus 34:14; James 4:4b-5
- Feb. 20 - "Joseph's Jealous Brothers" Genesis 37:3-28, 39:1-6
- Feb. 27 - "Joseph Forgives" Genesis 45:1-28

All students are encouraged to "Bring a Friend" on Friendship Sunday (February 13).

Youth Gathering...

The NEXT National Youth Gathering (2022 in Houston)

We have roughly \$5500 in our Youth Gathering account with a total needed by July 2022 of \$12,000.

(Pastor & Violet have volunteered to drive the group to Texas if we decide not to fly)



Youth attending:

Noah Miller,
Levi Miller,
Zoe Rustad,
Lexi Macik
Alison Sarsland.

Chaperones:

Becky Sarsland,
Carmen Macik
Jason Miller.

Ash Wednesday...



Ash Wednesday begins the 40-day season of Lent. This year Ash Wednesday falls on March 2. 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

Sanctity of Life Sunday May Be Over... But the fight to restore the Sacredness of Life continues!



If you haven't done so already, please take one of the Hope Pregnancy Center "Baby Bottles" and fill it with your spare change (or bills)!. Return it to church by Sunday, February 27.

The LCMS will match the amount we collect.

Thanks for taking a stand for Life!



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That for a day: My goal is to have \$50,000 by the end of February. I already got \$3,031.

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Mark Your Calendars...

Mission & Ministry Team...

Thursday, February 10th @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

Who Can You Invite?...

Friendship Sunday (Feb 13)

Includes Chili & Soup, etc..
served by the guys after worship.
Bingo after the meal.



Pray about your invitations. Ask God to give you the words and opportunity. Then ask them to come with you. Offer to pick them up. (And if they don't take you up on your invitation, keep praying for them and for another opportunity to invite.)

GUYS: We could use more Chili and Soup as well as Corn Bread, Garlic Toast and Cookies or Brownies. Please talk to Pastor David or sign up at church if you can bring one of these! Thanks!

Marcia has started collecting prizes for BINGO

(after Friendship Brunch on February 13th)

- Ice cream cones,
- Car washes,
- Gift certificates from Coffee and More, Bath and Body Works
- kids toys

Please let her know if you have any prizes you could add. Thanks



Coming in February...

Preparation for First Communion...

Will begin on Wednesday, February 23 (6:15 p.m.) for 5th & 6th Grade students. The students will have their first communion during the Maundy Thursday service on April 14. Please talk to Pastor David if you have questions. Thanks!



Ways to Show Your Spouse You Love Them...

(Start by not forgetting Valentine's Day!)

From "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Wife and Kids" and
"501 Practical Ways to Love Your Husband and Kids"

Husbands:

- Call your wife during the day ... ask her out for dinner & a movie.
- Bring home some flowers- not just on Valentine's Day
- Think of how you've hurt your wife with your words: Ask for-giveness!
- Serve your wife breakfast in bed - make her feel like "Queen for a Day"

Wives:

- Sit next to your husband in the car or truck - like you did when you were dating. (If you have bucket seats, then sit next to him on the couch and watch a movie together.)
- Thank your husband (in front of the kids) for something he did today
- Plan a vacation - where he wants to go.
- Write "I love you" on a post-it note where he'll see it (or text him).

Husbands & Wives together:

- Write down three or four things you love about your spouse. Then take time to share those with each other.
- Get out the wedding album or watch the video together

Ways to Show Your Kids You Love Them...

- Send them a text thanking them for something they did or said.
- Next time you go to the store, bring back a surprise (e.g. a favorite snack)
- Read them a favorite story
- Tell them a favorite memory from when they were younger.
- Tell them you are sorry when you acted impatiently with them.
- If they don't live at home, call them up- just to say "Hi."
- Fix a meal with their favorite foods
- Ask them to help you with an important project around the house

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Thot for a day: Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.

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Email Wisdom...

(From our January readings in Proverbs)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord and shun evil.
This will bring health to your body
and nourishment to your bones. **Proverbs 3:7-8**

Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine. **Proverbs 3:9-10**

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,
when it is in your power to act
Do not say to your neighbor,
"Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"—
when you already have it with you. **Proverbs 3:27-28**

A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for a time of adversity. **Proverbs 17:7**

Whoever is patient has great understanding,
but one who is quick-tempered displays folly. **Proverbs 14:29**

A generous person will
prosper;
whoever refreshes oth-
ers will be refreshed.
Proverbs 11:25

Whoever derides their
neighbor has no sense,
but the one who has
understanding holds their tongue. **Proverbs 11:12**

Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily
bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you.
and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so
dishonor the name of my God. **Proverbs 30:8-9**



Community Outreach...

We are looking to do a community-involved "blessing" of some kind in April or May. We've been thinking about a "Blessing of our Emergency workers" or something similar. We're trying to find what seems appropriate to these times in our community in which we can bless those that bless us.

Ideas? Any one interested in assisting the effort?

Please contact Tammy Miller 320.905.2434 (Text, call or talk to me in church)

Thanks !!

**Remember to Wear
Your
"Living Word"
Sweatshirts (and caps)**



Not only are they warm (and look really "cool") but they could also be a conversation starter when people ask things like, "And where is Living Word located?"

Church Clean-up...

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

- CLEAN / ORGANIZE EAST FURNACE ROOM
- CLEAN / ORGANIZE WEST FURNACE ROOM



Congratulations...

- Troy and Ashley Hansen (and Kirsten) on the birth of Hailey
- Please email pastor@livingwordlutheran if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

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That for a day: On rainy days, my wife thinks it's pathetic when I stare through the window. It would be less pathetic if she just let me in.

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LWML News...



LWML MEETING:

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 @ 10:00 a.m.
We'll have a brief business meeting, followed by Bible Study.
All ladies of the church are welcome.

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.

Thank You...

Dear Living Word,

Thank you for your donation of \$300 to the Link. Your gift makes a difference for so many people in the community. Because of your support, The Link is able to provide programs and services that help meet the basic needs of children, families and seniors and move them toward stability. The Link is putting your gift to immediate use, and your support makes it possible to provide help and hope to your neighbors in need. Thank you for making a difference! YOU are The Link.

With gratitude,
Chasity Ommott
Executive Director, The Link of Northern Kandiyohi County

Dear Friends,

Many thanks for your generous gift to Lutheran Island Camp! Thank you so much for your (\$500) support of our debt-reduction efforts. Happy New Year!

Stacy Lung
Executive Director, Lutheran Island Camp

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

February 2022 - Daily Readings

In February we read through the Gospel of John. As you read, ask two questions after each chapter: 1) What did I learn about God? And 2) What did I learn that God wants me to do?

Wk of Jan 30 Daily Readings

Jan 31 Proverbs 31 _____

Feb 1 Proverbs 1 _____

Feb 2 Proverbs 2 _____

Feb 3 Proverbs 3 _____

Feb 4 Proverbs 4 _____

Feb 5 Proverbs 5 _____

Week of Feb 6 Daily Readings

Feb 7 John 1 _____

Feb 8 John 2 _____

Feb 9 John 3 _____

Feb 10 John 4 _____

Feb 11 John 5 _____

Feb 12 John 6 _____

Wk of Feb 13 Daily Readings

Feb 14 John 7 _____

Feb 15 John 8 _____

Feb 16 John 9 _____

Feb 17 John 10 _____

Feb 18 John 11 _____

Feb 19 John 12 _____

Wk of Feb 20 Daily Readings

Feb 21 John 13 _____

Feb 22 John 14 _____

Feb 23 John 15 _____

Feb 24 John 16 _____

Feb 25 John 17 _____

Feb 26 John 18 _____

Wk of Feb 27 Daily Readings

Feb 28 John 19 _____

Mar 1 John 20 _____


Mar 2 John 21 _____

Mar 3 Joel 1 _____

Mar 4 Joel 2 _____

Mar 5 Joel 3 _____

February 2022 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	31	1 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	2 6:15 - CONFIRMATION 6:15 - WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY @ Violet Dauk's	3	4	5
6 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	7	8 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	9 10:00 LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:15 - CONFIRMATION 6:15 - WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY @ Violet Dauk's	10 MISSION Ministry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	11	12
13 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - VALENTINE'S BRUNCH Noon - BINGO	14	15 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	16 6:15 - CONFIRMATION 6:15 - WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY @ Violet Dauk's	17	18	19
20 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	21	22 TBD - Youth Outing: At AIRMAXX (5-8th Graders) 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	23 6:15 - 5-6th Graders Prep for 1 st Communion	24	25	26
27 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	28	Mar 1 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	Mar 2 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:15 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP w/communion	Mar 3  ASH WEDNESDAY	Mar 4	Mar 5

Lord's Supper Dates

- Sunday, February 6th
- Sunday, February 20th

Upcoming Schedules...

After-Worship Fellowship

We've had requests to re-start our after-worship fellowship time (complete with coffee, juice, and maybe even goodies).

COORDINATOR NEEDED

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

Feb 6 Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Feb 13 Open
Feb 20 Larry Levin
Feb 27 Open

Scripture Readers

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

Elders

Feb 6, 13 Joe & Duane
Feb, 20, 27 Jason & Ed
Mar 2 (Ash Wed), 6, 13 Joe & Duane
Mar 20, 27 Jason & Ed

Confirmation Parent Assistants

Feb 9 Rya Sharp parent
Feb 16 Jonah Sharp parent
Feb 23
Mar 2 (Ash Wednesday)

Custodian

February Wendy & Lonny Robbin
March Volunteer Needed

Nursery

(Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

Feb 6 Violet Dauk
Feb 13 Pam Johnson
Feb 20
Feb 27 Mona Hjelle

USHERS NEEDED AGAIN:

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)!

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That for a day: Put "eat chocolate" at the top of your list of things to do today. That way, at least you'll get one thing done.

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PowerPoint Operator

Feb 6 Autumn Foshaug
Feb 13 Alex Meis
Feb 20 Will Dahl
Feb 26 Carson Sawatzky

Make A Meal Volunteers

Feb Pam Johnson

Altar Guild

Feb Mona Hjelle

Mar 6 Rya Sharp

Mar 13 Jonah Sharp

Mar 20 Kala Sharp

Accompanying Musicians

Feb 6 Sharon Willen

Feb 13 Scott Wachter

Feb 20 Pam Johnson

Feb 27 Open

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 it was just too cold to head out and change the sign in January!
(Please pray for warmer weather in February!)**

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



Seen on Church Signboards...

**The Shape of True Love:
It's a Cross -
Not a Heart !**

February Discipleship Verse...

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.
Proverbs 3:3

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
- The Jan-March Portals of Prayer are available in your mailbox or on the "free stuff" table.

Recorded videos of Sermons

Sermons can be found in on our Living Word YouTube channel (New London Living Word) at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VvIJEU22yCYxbhwig/videos>

Jan 2 "Jesus: There's a Lot of Meaning Wrapped Up in that Name!"

Jan 9 "The Greatest Example Set by the Wise Men"

Jan 16 "One Amazing Thing Jesus Reveals in His First Miracle"

Jan 23 "The Real Enemy of Life: Satan. How We Can Defeat Him!"



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.

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.

Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2022

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 picked up. Thanks!

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That for a day: You know you've grown up when a nap no longer feels like a punishment but a reward.

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

- Asking God for His guidance about who to invite to Friendship Sunday
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did - with sacrifice
- Thanking God for things like furnaces that work & cars that start!
- Thanking God for the freedom to attend worship & Sunday School
- Thanking God that His Word is Truth amidst the lies of the world.
- Asking God for the faith to stand for His Truth like Daniel's 3 friends did!
- Safe travel
- 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 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

Church Choir...

Please join us for practice after worship!

(Willingness to make a "joyful noise" is the only requirement)



A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

4 Things That Happen When You Stop Trying to Change Each Other

Things that could be considered a total waste of time and effort:

- Licking your elbow.
- Herding cats.
- Nailing jello to the wall.

Let's add changing your spouse's personality to that list!

Here's the thing: your personality doesn't really change. It tends to stay stable over time, which makes sense. It's what makes you you. Sure, certain facets might make slight adjustment as you pass from adolescence into adulthood or as you gain more life experience and perspective, but - by and large - personality stays the same.

Most of us know this, logically. But we're human, and we inevitably find ourselves wishing our partner was a little less this or a little more that. We get annoyed and frustrated. We wish they'd think or do things differently. However, when you shift to quit trying to change them, some really positive things happen in your relationship:

Your satisfaction gets a boost.

The desire to change aspects of your spouse's personality is rooted in an expectation that they should or shouldn't be a certain way. When we feel like our partner isn't living up to those expectations, it can cause conflict and resentment. It stands to reason then, that letting go of those expectations (or adjusting them to be more realistic) will help you be less critical of each other, cut down on unnecessary fighting, and feel more satisfied in your relationship overall.

You grow together.

When you stop focusing on each other's perceived flaws, it feels like a weight lifted. Think about it: when you feel judged or criticized, you go into defensive mode. When you feel wholly accepted and appreciated, you're more apt to be vulnerable with each other about your own inner struggles. Being able to talk to and support each other in this self-reflection is game-changer when it comes to experiencing personal growth throughout your relationship.

You appreciate each other more.

When you divert your energy away from attempting to change aspects of your partner's personality, you are more inclined to notice, (re)discover, and appreciate their many positives. There's a reason

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That for a day: You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions.

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that you fell in love with them in the first place, right? Putting those rose-colored glasses back on helps reset your perspective. For example, instead of seeing a "need to be the life of the party," you notice how they "help everyone have fun and feel at ease."

You learn to take advantage of your differences.

When you stop seeing each other's traits as a challenge to overcome and instead as a way to be stronger together, you can make beneficial adjustments in other areas of your relationship. Maybe you adjust your roles and responsibilities to better suit your strengths. Perhaps you tackle a new project that you weren't sure how to approach, or you're able to work together as parents in a way you never did before. Ultimately, working with your differences can help you become a more confident, capable, and harmonious couple.

Most of us don't go into marriage thinking "I do" will be the magic words that make annoying traits disappear. For the most part, we love and accept our spouse for who they are. Over time, though, certain characteristics can lose a bit of their shine. We start focusing on the parts of our spouse's personality that rub us the wrong way. We think the solution might be in how they can change, when really, the answer lies in ourselves: no longer putting energy into trying to change the other person, but instead leaning into acceptance and appreciation.

Pastor Dave's: "P.S.":

Keep in mind, YOU are the only person in the relationship that you have the ability to change! And when you make changes, you may be pleasantly surprised at how your spouse changes in response!

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Inspiration from the Internet...

The True Hero of the Titanic

We all know the story. The Titanic, a British passenger liner, struck an iceberg off Newfoundland on the night of April 14-15, 1912, and sank. There is part of that story, however, that is not widely known.



One of the passengers on the Titanic was a godly Pastor from Scotland, by the name of John Harper. Harper had recently spent three months ministering at the Moody Church in Chicago, during which time the church had experienced one of the most wonderful revivals in its history. He had not been back in Britain long when he was asked to return and continue his ministry. He quickly made arrangements for himself and his six-year old daughter, Nana, to travel back to America on board the Lusitania. However, he decided to delay their departure for one week, so that they could sail on a new ship, the Titanic, which was about to make its maiden voyage.

On Sunday the 14th of April, 1912, the day when the iceberg was struck, the weather was fine, the sea calm. Harper attended the church service for the passengers. His niece reported that later that afternoon she saw her Uncle speaking individually to people about their souls. It seems he was in the habit of seeking out the lost sheep wherever he went.

The Titanic struck the iceberg at 11:40 p.m. on April 14, 1912. As the call was issued for passengers to vacate their cabins, Harper wrapped his daughter in a blanket, told her that she would see him again one day, and passed her to one of the crewmen. After watching her safely board one of the lifeboats, he removed his life jacket and gave it to one of the other passengers. One survivor distinctly remembered hearing him shout, "Women, children and the unsaved into the lifeboats!" Harper knew that believers were ready to die but the unsaved were not ready. Harper then ran along the decks preaching the Gospel to the end (especially Acts 16:31), pleading with people to turn to Christ, and with the ship sinking, he called upon the Titanic's orchestra to play, "Nearer, my God, to Thee." Gathering people around him on deck, he then knelt down, and "with holy joy in his face" raised his arms in prayer. As the ship began to lurch, he jumped into the icy waters and swam frantically to all he could reach, beseeching them to turn to the Lord Jesus and be saved. Finally, as hypothermia set in, John Harper sank beneath the waters and passed into the Lord's presence; he was 39.

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That for a day: You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start now to change the ending.

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Four years later, a young Scotsman by the name of Agulla Webb stood up in a meeting in Hamilton, Canada, and gave the following testimony:

I am a survivor of the Titanic. When I was drifting alone on a spar that awful night, the tide brought Mr. John Harper of Glasgow, also on a piece of wreck, near me. 'Man,' he said, 'Are you saved?' 'No,' I said, 'I am not.' He replied, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.' The waves bore him away; but, strange to say brought him back a little later, and he said, 'Are you saved now?' 'No,' I said, 'I cannot honestly say that I am.' He said again, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,' and shortly after he went down; and there, alone in the night, and with two miles of water under me, I believed. I am John Harper's last convert.

Apparently God wanted Webb's amazing testimony to be shared, because only seven people were plucked from the icy water that night to join the survivors in the lifeboats. Webb was one of them.

"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!

Email Humor...

A high school student stared thoughtfully at the second question on his exam, which read:

"State the number of tons of coal shipped out of America in any given year."

Suddenly, his brow cleared, and he wrote, "1492: None."

Church Mice



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.

Pick Your Month for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian: We are still in need of volunteers for March & April. Talk to our Trustee, Steve Wulf, to sign up or find out more details.

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 Pam Johnson 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. 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.

Teal's Grocery gives a 1% rebate to eligible organizations. There's a teal-colored box on the back-wall table where you can put in your receipts.



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That for a day: Sometimes I shock myself with the smart stuff I do and say. Other times I try to get out of the car with my seatbelt on.

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Story Behind The Song...

You Are My King (Amazing Love)

Something a bit different this month.. No old Irish folk songs or Celtic tunes. This month is February, celebrated for Valentine's Day and love. Even the Hallmark channel has deemed this month to be "Loveuary". So I thought it fitting to talk about a song about love.

John tells us *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16 and then goes on to say *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"* John 15:13.

This is the overriding theme of the song "You Are My King". Of course you are familiar with this song because we often sing it in church service and have probably heard the version made popular by the Newsboys in 2003. In addition to the Newsboys, versions of "You Are My King" have been released by many contemporary Christian artists including Chris Tomlin, Hillsong, and others.

"You Are My King" was written by Billy Foote. Billy James Foote started leading worship in 1990, right after graduating from East Texas Baptist University. At first it was just him and his guitar, but after a few years he added a bass player and a drummer, and his wife Cindy joined on vocals. In the late 90s, he began to write music. Around 2000, Foote developed a neurological condition called hyper-dysphonia, which greatly affected his vocals. This may have prevented him from recording his version first, so it was originally recorded and released by Phillips, Craig & Dean in 2001. But in fact, the origins go much further back... The chorus uses lyrics and melody from Charles Wesley's hymn "And Can It Be"

That beloved hymn was written by Charles Wesley in 1738. He and his brother John had started the Methodist movement, but were very rigid and severe in their personal disciplines. After returning home from a disastrous mission trip to the American colony of Georgia, Charles was ill and heartbroken.

It was at this time that someone offered him Martin Luther's work on Galatians, and it was a revelation to Charles. He was overwhelmed by the realization that his legalism was an attempt to earn the unfailing love that God lavished upon him freely. In his journal he wrote, "At midnight I gave myself to Christ, assured that I was safe, whether sleeping or waking. I had the continual experience of His power to overcome all temptation, and I confessed with joy and surprise that He was able to do exceedingly abundantly for me above what I can ask or think."

In a couple day's time, he had completed this new hymn in response to this experience. And Can It Be's refrain is a beautiful reminder of the unmerited love of God.

*Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

How can a God who is worthy of all honor and glory actually love me? Me – the sinful one. Me – the selfish one. Me – the one who deserves nothing but has been given unbelievable grace. He would do anything to be with me. He would do anything to be with you. And, He did! He sacrificed His own life for our sins. He walked the hill of Calvary and faced death so that we could have eternal life. Why God would send His Son to die for my sins – for someone who is wholly unworthy of such redemption – baffles me. But, I am forever blessed by His actions. I am saved because Christ gave His life away for me.

At times it can be hard to accept God's love. We recognize our unworthiness and unrighteousness so we feel it necessary to hide from His sight. But, He doesn't want to condemn us. He wants to love us. He wants to show us a better way of living. He doesn't desire for us to remain stationary in life but to constantly grow in Him and away from sin. Through His great love for us, He provides us a way to eternity with Him. Christ desires us to be with Him. He proved it by laying down His life for us. Absolutely amazing love!

I'm forgiven, because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

I'm forgiven, because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be
That You my King would die for me
Amazing love, I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
Amazing love, how can it be
That You my King would die for me
Amazing love, I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You

I'm forgiven, because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned

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That for a day: Experience is that marvelous thing that enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

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I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

1 John 3:1-3 – "See what amazing love the Father has given us! Because of it, we are called children of God. And that's what we really are! The world doesn't know us because it didn't know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God. He still hasn't let us know what we will be. But we know that when Christ appears, we will be like him. That's because we will see him as he really is. Christ is pure. All who hope to be like him make themselves pure."

Editor's note: Here is a live performance by The Newsboys. Watch at https://youtu.be/_0gvqSKxWPY

And a great video with Chris Tomlin taken at the Passion <https://youtu.be/ewYdox9Kl4>

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



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