

April 2023 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 was your faith life like as a kid - did you go to church every Sunday (or more often)?"

This month our 8-9th grade confirmation students will be interviewing various people - parents, elders, pastor - asking questions designed to help them find out what a commitment to follow Jesus looks like in real life. The above question is one a confirmation student asked me.

The short answer to the question they asked is "Yes, and yes." Our family, dad, mom and I, went to church every Sunday - and more often.

We had a Sunday routine in our home: Sunday School, Church and then Sunday Dinner at home. (We always had pancakes and sausage for Sunday dinner.) While we ate dinner we listened to The Lutheran Hour radio program. I can't ever remember missing church on Sunday except if someone was sick. There was no reason to miss church. There were no stores open. There were no school-sponsored sporting events. (And if there had been, I can say with 100% certainty that my mom would have had a rule: No church. No baseball. Period. End of discussion.)

When I was in elementary school, we still had something called "Release Time." That was when the public school would let kids - all kids - out of school an hour early every Wednesday afternoon to attend "Release Time Classes" at their churches. (And, of course the question will come, "What about kids who didn't go to church?" I literally didn't know any kids who didn't belong to a church, so that wasn't an issue when I was growing up.)

Release Time Classes for high school kids were confirmation instruction. For us younger kids it was kind of like Sunday School on Wednesday. By the time I was confirmation age the public school had quit "release time," so our confirmation classes were held on Saturday mornings.

We also had Sunday School classes for all age kids - from as young as three years old to seniors in high school. My dad started teaching Sunday School when I was three, so that I would have someone to go with me to Sunday School, since I didn't have any brothers or sisters to



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go with. Dad taught Sunday School for the next 25 or so years. I remember that everyone liked Albert's class, because he was so easy going. He didn't yell like some other teachers when the kids would get distracted by, well, pretty much anything :)

At home my mom would read a daily devotion from The Portals of Prayer everyday before school and work. I would say prayers before going to sleep at night. I can't say that I read the Bible much back then - except to prepare for confirmation class. The King James Version was pretty much the only translation we had available, and, for me, the Shakespearean English it was written in may as well have been a foreign language. Later, my mom had gotten a modern-language paraphrase called The Good News Bible that put things into much easier-to-under English.

In short, from the earliest days that I can remember, God was a very central part of my life growing up. I thank God, literally, for my parents giving me that firm foundation!

Thanks for asking!
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Thank You...

- To everyone who helped at Kevin Hokom's funeral !
- To everyone who brought soup or sandwiches for Lent!

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

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the normal First and Third Sundays, **April 2nd and 16th** as well as on **Maundy Thursday** as part of the Passover meal and at **10:00 worship on Easter**



Reminders:

- 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.
- **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.

The Parable of the Three Trees...

Three trees on a wooded hill were discussing their hopes and dreams. The first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. People could fill me with gold, silver and precious gems. They could decorate me with intricate carvings and everyone would see its beauty."



The second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the seas and sail to unknown places. Everyone will feel safe because of the strength of my hull."

Finally, the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of a hill, look up to my branches and think of the heavens and God. They will remember me as the greatest tree of all time."

After years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. One came to the first tree and said, "This looks like a strong tree. I can sell the wood to a carpenter." After being cut down, the tree was happy because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree a woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree. I can sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down, his dreams would not come true. A woodsman said, "I don't need anything special from this tree so I'll just take it back with me."

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, they made it into a feed box for animals. It was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. They cut the second tree and made a small fishing boat. They cut the third tree into large pieces and left it alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot their dreams. Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the feed box made from the first tree. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One man went to sleep. A great storm arose and the tree

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Thot for a day: Ever notice that when you pull in front of someone it's "merging," but when someone else does it it's called "cutting off"?

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didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man. He stood and said "Be calm" and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. Later, they nailed the man to the tree and raised him up to die at the top of a hill. On the third day, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible. Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral is: When things are not going our way, know that God has a plan for us. God will do almost anything for us. Jesus reminded us through his teachings and his stories how much God loves us. Place your trust in God and God will always give you what is best for you.

Youth Events...

Wednesday, April 12 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Confirmation Youth GAME NIGHT
Pizza will be served at 6:00.

Please bring:

- A favorite board game.
- Snacks to share.
- A friend!



"Egg My Yard: fundraiser:

- We sold a total of 87 Dozen eggs (75 will be donated to The Link).
- + All 1000+ eggs were packed by the High School Youth and Miller family.
- + \$1540 was raised for the CIY Move event in Baltimore.

A Reminder 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?"



Who Can You Invite?...

Easter Celebration 4 Kids

Sunday, April 2 @ 4:00pm
(Re-scheduled from April 1 due to weather)

"Passover Meal and Communion"

Thursday, April 6 @ 6:00pm

Learn how the greatest event in the Old Testament - the Passover - points ahead to, and is ultimately fulfilled by, Jesus! The evening begins with the Passover Seder (seder is a Hebrew word that means "order"). It is the traditional orderly re-telling of the account of the Passover event through the symbolism of the foods. The Seder is followed by a meal that includes traditional Passover foods like lamb (and beef for those who can't have lamb).

Good Friday - The Seven Last Words

Friday, April 7 @ 6:30pm

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

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

Easter

Sunday, April 9

Sonrise Worship: 6:45 am

We begin outdoors watching the sun rise (6:45 is actual sunrise time), then move to the sanctuary to finish celebrating the Greatest Event in History.

Easter Worship w/Communion 10:00am

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



Breakfast at
Tutti Frutti
April 29 @ 10:00
Sign up at church.

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That for a day: I thought the dryer made my clothes shrink. Turns out it was the refrigerator

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LWML News...

LWML MEETING:

Wednesday, April 12th at 10:00a.m. We will have a meeting, followed by Bible Study entitled "Transforming Faith, a Gift From a Faithful God". All ladies of the church are welcome to join us!



SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

A huge thank you to all who have donated! This is fund-raiser for Lutheran Island Camp. Please continue to bring your good used shoes, slippers, or boots to church. Collection tote is in the entry of the church.



LWML LAKELAND II REGION SPRING RALLY

will be Sunday, April 23rd, at St John Lutheran Church Sparta Township, Montevideo, MN. Please see poster at church for details.

LWML has Camp Scholarships

\$25 / Attendee (ages 8-14)

Please contact Bonnie Hansen at 796-5605 (LWML treasurer) for details.

If you would like more information on Lutheran Island Camp and the weekly camps (dates, cost, etc) that are offered in 2023, there are brochures available at church, or at: www.islandcamp.org



Mark Your Calendars...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, April 13th @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

Building Committee

Next meeting: Thursday, April 27th @ 6:30

Women's Retreat...

"HEARING GOD ABOVE THE ROAR OF THE WORLD"

Friday May 19-Sunday May 21st (Until noon)

Willow Retreat Center Hutchinson MN

Begins at 11:00 AM, Friday May 19th. This social day is optional, and costs are on your own. Lunch at 12:00: Crow River Winery for lunch and games! 2:00 : Shopping at one of Hutchinson's stores: Purse-a-rality, Amazing Grace Boutique, and or the mall as we desire. There is a Quilt shop in Hutch as well.

We will start the retreat at 6:00 PM that night by having prayer and light meal, so if you aren't joining in on the Social afternoon, plan on being at the retreat center by 6:00. The remaining time will be spent at the Willow Ridge Retreat Center 16502 Jefferson RD Hutchinson, MN 55350. The retreat ends about noon on Sunday.

Cost: \$150.00 per person based on double/triple occupancy. (\$100. to RESERVE your spot) Limited availability... We need payment BY April 15th to hold your reservation. Balance can be paid the weekend of retreat. Give checks to Violet Dauk or Tammy Miller

Special SURPRISE: A MASSAGE Chair and some spa like pampering! As always...a "Make and Take" which sounds pretty darn fun!! Promise to light up your life!!

Questions? JUST ASK!! Violet: 320-220-0344 Tammy 320-905-2434
Bring a friend!!

"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>

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That for a day: Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

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Email Wisdom...

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas ("back in the day" when you didn't have to do it yourself) just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him in front of the service station.

Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

(A humorous reminder that life goes a LOT better when you don't wait until the last minute to get ready for that trip to heaven!)

Building Committee News...

Living Word to Conduct a Feasibility Study

We need your participation!

Living Word Lutheran Church's leadership is exploring the feasibility of a capital campaign to fund Phase Two of our building plan (construction of a new sanctuary). All households will soon receive a letter inviting them to participate by completing a survey. Survey results will assist in determining if our church has the support and ability to fund this project at this time.

Mark Davy & Associates, a firm with 32 years of experience working with churches, has been hired to conduct the study. The primary areas of focus:

- Clarity and importance of our vision
- Living Word's strengths
- Areas of concerns that may affect a capital campaign
- Communication preferences of households
- Potential leadership and volunteers to conduct a successful campaign
- Financial support available

Please prayerfully consider participating when invited. Your feedback is important to determining next steps for our congregation. Thank you for your help in completing the questionnaire!



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 :

- LOTS of things for kids to take home!
- Extra Smoke Detector Batteries !!!
- April Newsletters
- Apr—June Portals of Prayer



Recorded videos of Sermons

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

<https://www.youtube.com/@newlondonlivingword8097/streams>

Mar 5 "The Absolutely Necessary Plan For What To Do When You Sin."

Mar 12 "A Parable that Paints a Perfect Picture of God's Love"

Mar 19 "A Parable that Teaches Us What Forgiveness Really Is"

Mar 26 "Jesus Is Our Redeemer: But What Does That Mean?"

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 2023

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!

We STILL have extra batteries

from our outreach !

Please pick some up for your family - and to give to neighbors and friends - from the "Free Stuff" table at church.



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Thot for a day: Prayer is the original wireless communication.

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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 Easter Worship
- Asking God to open hearts and minds to Jesus during Holy Week!
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did - with sacrifice
- Asking God to prepare our confirmation students for Confirmation Day
- Thanking God for Emergency people who work even during blizzards!
- Asking God's guidance for our Building Committee.
- Thanking God for the freedom to attend worship & Sunday School
- Thanking God that His Word is Truth amidst the lies of the world.
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- Asking God for faith to stand for His Truth like Daniel's 3 friends did!
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Asking God to humble you, seek Him and repent (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- God's protection, guidance, wisdom & courage for government leaders
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan.

After-Worship Fellowship

COOKIE-BAKING SCHEDULER NEEDED

We have cookies to ready to bake, and volunteers to bake them. All we need is someone to come up with a baking schedule and let the bakers know when it's their turn to bake. Pretty easy!

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



April 2023 - Daily Readings

We begin the month with readings of the events of Holy Week and then Jesus' Resurrection.

Then we conclude reading 120 of the most important accounts in the Bible. We've listed the readings that are found in *Know the Bible Now* (KTBN). We begin May reading results of Jesus' Resurrection

Week of APRIL 2 HOLY WEEK EVENTS FROM MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

- Apr 3 Matthew 21:1-17 _____

Apr 4 Matthew 21:33-46 _____

Apr 5 Matthew 25:1-46 _____

Apr 6 Matthew 26:31-75 _____

Apr 7 Matthew 27:1-32 _____

Apr 8 Matthew 27:33-66 _____

Week of April 9 APPEARANCES OF JESUS AFTER HE IS RISEN

- Apr 9 Matthew 28:1-10 _____

Apr 10 Luke 24:13-35 _____

Apr 11 Luke 24:36-49 _____

Apr 12 John 20:19-23 _____

Apr 13 John 20:24-31 _____

Apr 14 John 21:1-11 _____

Week of April 16 MORE APPEARANCES and FINISHING KTBN READINGS

- Apr 17 John 20:12-17 _____

- Apr 18 Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1-2 _____

Apr 19 Acts 1:1-11 _____

Apr 20 KTBN pg 326 *Paul's Letters* _____

Apr 21 KTBN pg 330 *Paul and Timothy* _____

Week of April 23 WE FINISH OUR KNOW THE BIBLE NOW READINGS

- Apr 24 KTBN: pg 332 *Paul Tells Lydia About Jesus* (Acts 16) _____

Apr 25 KTBN pg 338 *Paul and Silas in Prison* (Acts 16) _____

Apr 26 KTBN: pg 340 *Paul Sails to Rome* (Acts 27-28) _____

Apr 27 KTBN: pg 350 *Paul Writes to the Philippians* (Philippians 1-2) _____

Apr 28 KTBN: pg 354 *John's Vision of Heaven* (Revelation 21-22) _____

Week of April 30 RESULTS OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

- May 1 John 11:20-27 _____

May 2 1 Corinthians 15:12-23 _____






May 3 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 _____

May 3 Acts 4:32-35 _____

May 4 Colossians 3:1-10 _____

May 5 1 Peter 1:3-9 _____

April 2023 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 2 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 4:00 - EASTER 4 KIDS	3	4	5	6	7 6:30 -GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 	8
9 RESURRECTION SUNDAY 6:45 - SONRISE SERVICE 8:00 - Continental Breakfast 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 	10	11	12	13	14	15
		6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	10:00 LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - JR. HIGH YOUTH GAME NIGHT	Mission Ministry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM		
16 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	17	18	19	20	21	22
		6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6:00 - 6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - 8-9th CONFIRMATION			David Scheusneer Memorial Service
23 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP	24	25	26	27	28	29
		6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	6:00 - 6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	6:30 - BUILDING COMMITTEE		10:00 - Breakfast at Tutti Frutti
30 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - CONFIRMATION WORSHIP	May 1 	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6
						

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

Apr 2 Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Apr 9 Jason & Levi Miller
Apr 16 Larry Levin

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)!

Scripture Readers

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

Elders

Apr 2, 9 Joe & Duane
Apr 16, 23 & 30 Steve & Scott

Custodian

April Open

PowerPoint Operator

Apr 2 Parker
Apr 9 Ella
Apr 16 Alex
Apr 23 Rya

Communion Bread Maker

Apr 2 Autumn & Kala
Apr 16 Carson & Rya



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Thot for a day: So, is m acaroni and cheese "m ac" because it's short for m acaroni... or is it because "m ac" is an acronym for m acaroni and cheese?

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Nursery

(Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

Altar Guild

April Mona Hjelle

Accompanying Musicians

Apr 2 Sharon Willen
Apr 9 Scott Wachter
Pam Johnson
Apr 16 Open
Apr 23 Pam Johnson
Apr 30 Open



Seen on Church Signboards...

**3 Nails
+ 1 Cross

= 4 Given**

April Discipleship Verse...

*"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile;
you are still in your sins....
But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead"*

1 Corinthians 15:17 & 20

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)



When you think about being curious, what comes to mind? Cats? Kids? George? All joking aside, curiosity is a trait that we don't often put a lot of thought into, especially as adults. While some people are naturally more inquisitive than others, striving to be more curious is not as common as say, working on being more punctual or organized. That's why you might be surprised to learn that curiosity can improve your marriage. Keep reading to find out how.

1. It helps you resolve conflict.

When you're working through an issue, making assumptions about your partner's behavior and intentions just adds fuel to the fire. It easily comes across as judgmental, which can set off a cycle of defensiveness – not ideal for a productive discussion. Curiosity is a great way to avoid jumping to unfair conclusions. For example, instead of saying, "You've been distracted all week. It's like you're not even trying to be present," you might lead with, "I noticed you've been really distracted this week. Is there anything going on?" Keep in mind, your tone and nonverbal cues need to align with a genuine sense of curiosity. A warm and caring delivery is much more likely to elicit a vulnerable and honest response from your spouse. In turn, you're more likely to have a meaningful conversation instead of getting sucked into an unproductive argument.

2. It helps you keep learning about each other.

In a long-term relationship, you might get to a certain point and feel as if you know everything about your partner. However, as individuals, you'll both change over time. A sense of curiosity helps you keep getting to know all aspects of each other, whether you've been together for three years or thirty. You gain insight and learn more about who they currently are instead of who they used to be or who you assume them to be. Ultimately, this helps you stay connected as you both grow.

3. It helps you understand each other's perspective.

When you disagree on something, working to understand where the other person is coming from helps broaden and enrich your own point of view. Leading with curiosity helps you do that. Similar to working through conflict, focusing on being curious is a foil to being dismissive or narrow-minded. Instead of focusing on changing each other's mind, curiosity helps you listen to understand instead of planning your next persuasive point.

4. It helps you have great conversations.

Podcasts are all the rage right now. At the core of a good podcast is an inquisitive host who asks questions that elicit thoughtful answers and spurs compelling conversation. Curiosity can do the same for you and

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That for a day: God never intended for us to pat ourselves on the back. If he had, our hinges would be different.

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your spouse! Sure, there can be a sense of comfort and security in being able to sit in silence together, but that can't be all the time. Engaging in conversation, whether they're lighthearted and fun, deep and meaningful, or fiery and passionate, is one major way that you'll stay connected to each other over the course of time.

5. It helps you gain more insight and self-awareness.

In the midst of those great conversations, your partner is probably asking you questions that get you thinking and reflecting on your own feelings and behaviors. Their curiosity can lead you to learning more about yourself in ways you might not have otherwise. When you start thinking about things through a lens other than your own, you have the opportunity to unlock new insights and levels of understanding about yourself, as well as how you show up in your marriage. And when you're both able to gain more self-awareness in this way, it helps you grow in your relationship together, too.

Curiosity has the power to transform crucial areas of your marriage – from how you handle disagreements to how you relate to each other on a daily basis. With it, you can gain a better understanding of your spouse and yourself. How do you incorporate curiosity into your relationship? Let us know in the comments!



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 March we thanked God for...

- Kevin Hokom
- Folks Who Plow Snow - In April !

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

†OMICS by Tim Gould



The Link...

March 2023 Updates

It's MN FoodShare Campaign time!!!! From February 27-April 9th, The Link participates in the MN FoodShare Campaign! During this time, the monetary donations made to the food pantry and the food donations are collected and reported to the campaign. At the end of the campaign, MN FoodShare sends The Link funds depending on the amount raised throughout the campaign to help further with food costs. If you are interested in donating, please see below on different ways you can do so!

SAVE THE DATE!!!! RibFest 2023 planning is officially underway! It is scheduled for June 10, 2023 from 1pm-4pm in the large city parking lot behind The Link! If you are interested in having a Rib team, please contact Ashley at 320-354-5465! We also have sponsorship opportunities available for businesses and individuals. If you would like to help financially with RibFest this year, please contact us at 320-354-5465 and we will send you the sponsorship information. There are many different opportunities available! There will also be volunteer opportunities for the day of RibFest! Please stay tuned for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities: If you or someone you know would like to be a part of The Link's mission and volunteer at the **Community Revival Boutique and Thrift**, we are looking for extra help on-call and on a consistent basis (mostly Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays). Our store hours are 10-3 Wednesday-Friday and 10-2 Saturdays. Our current volunteers are amazing and have a great time together building friendships. If you'd like to join the fun, call Shawna at 320-347-1047 or Ashley at 320-354-5465.

In February, The Link was able to serve 12 families with common household needs with our Household Exchange Program. The Household Exchange program takes in donations such as smaller furniture, bedding, towels, kitchen utensils, pots and pans etc. to provide families when they are getting back on their feet.

The Food Pantry served 65 households in February (including: 107 adults, 52 children and 22 seniors) and distributed a total of 3115 pounds of food. The need of food has increased significantly the past couple months, requiring The Link to increase their food budget to meet the needs of the people served.

The Wildcat Backpack Program is currently serving 88 children. Each week, students from the NLS High School pack bags including: 2 juices, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 snacks, 1 fruit and 1 treat, and deliver them



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That for a day: Anyone remember the good ol' day, before Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter? When you had to take a photo of your dinner, then get the film developed, then go around to all your friends' houses to show them the picture of your dinner. No? Me either.

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to each school to ensure our students nutritional needs are met on the weekends when they are not in school. If you know a family that could benefit from this program, please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555 or Vicki Mickelson at NLS schools at 320-354-2252 ext. 2607.

The Link's Client Outreach program served 10 families in February by helping with transportation, medical bills, utility bills and rental payments. This program also provided advocacy for 12 families, in-depth budgeting support for 8 families, networking for 7 families and provided 19 families with referrals for additional assistance to meet basic needs.

Tuesday's Table's schedule is as follows: 1st Tuesday of the month: Our Lady of the Lakes (Spicer), 2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant (New London), 3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran (Spicer), 4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran (New London), 5th Tuesday: Rotating (call 320-354-5555 for more information).

As always, a HUGE THANK YOU to those who have donated food and/or monetarily and to those who have prayed for and with us here at The Link! With the increased need for food and in client outreach, we are asking for your continued support - financially and prayerfully.

Monthly Giving Opportunities:

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

Summer Ministry Opportunity

We are hiring for Summer 2023!

Cabin counselors
Junior counselors
Kitchen assistants
Groundskeepers
Wranglers



Working at camp is more than just a summer job! It's an opportunity to share Jesus with the campers and families that come to the Island. The college-aged individuals that work on summer staff experience profound growth in their faith and character.

Find out more at: www.islandcamp.org

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.

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



Help Record our Worship Services...

that we livestream and later upload our YouTube channel (New London Living Word). Talk to Pastor David if you can help out with this - just one Sunday a month. (Hint: It's really not difficult - even Pastor figured it out!)

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.



Custodian Volunteers Needed.

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

We are still in need of volunteers for any month from May—December Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to sign up or find out more details.



NEW Make-A-Meal Program...

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.

On our last "Make-a-Meal Day" we made 20 more meals you can take to someone who needs.

Meals are in the freezer at church ready to grab and take to someone you know who could use a meal. They even have a card attached!

If you have any questions, please check with Marcia, otherwise, just grab a meal from the freezer at church and make someone's day!



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That for a day: Cats can memorize 120 commands, but they don't want to.

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Host Families Needed for Foreign Exchange Students...

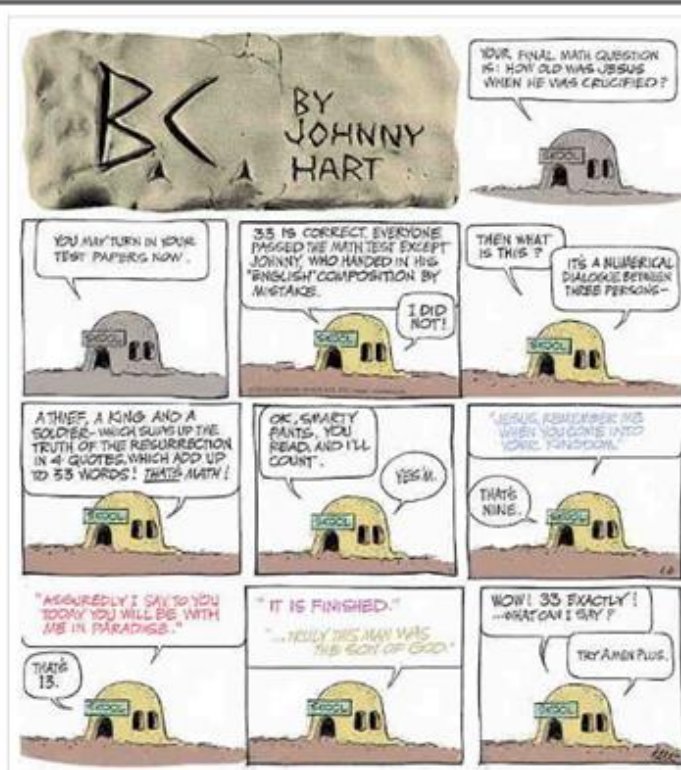
We need families - anywhere in America (so tell your friends and relatives) - who can host foreign exchange students!

Basic Requirements:

Your family doesn't have to be perfect, but it does need to be safe and loving! The student needs a clean bed and three meals per day. They can share a room with a sibling that is within four years of their age, or they can have their own room. Students come with their own spending money and insurance.

Please, consider opening your heart and home to welcome a great student from another country. They are interested in learning about American culture and improving their English. Students are ages 14 to 17 when they arrive in America! I know from experience, this is an opportunity that will be remembered forever!

Please, call Lori Sherod at 320-305-2495 or sherodlori@gmail.com to start the process!



Email Inspiration...

DUCKS QUACK — EAGLES SOAR

I was waiting in line for a ride at the airport. When a cab pulled up, the first thing I noticed was that the taxi was polished to a bright shine. Smartly dressed in a white shirt, black tie, and freshly pressed black slacks, the cab driver jumped out and rounded the car to open the back passenger door for me. He handed me a laminated card and said: 'I'm Wally, your driver. While I'm loading your bags in the trunk I'd like you to read my 'mission statement.'

Taken aback, I read the card.

It said: "Wally's Mission Statement: To get my customers to their destination in the quickest, safest and cheapest way possible in a friendly environment." This blew me away. Especially when I noticed that the inside of the cab matched the outside. Spotlessly clean!

As he slid behind the wheel, Wally said, "Would you like a cup of coffee? I have a thermos of regular and one of decaf."

I said jokingly, 'No, I'd prefer a soft drink.'

Wally smiled and said, "No problem. I have a cooler up front with regular and Diet Coke, water and orange juice."

Almost stuttering, I said, "I'll take a Diet Coke."

Handing me my drink, Wally said, "If you'd like something to read, I have the Wall Street Journal, Time, Sports Illustrated and USA Today." As we were pulling away, Wally handed me another laminated card — "These are the stations I get and the music they play, if you'd like to listen to the radio."

And as if that weren't enough, Wally told me that he had the air conditioning on and asked if the temperature was comfortable for me. Then he advised me of the best route to my destination for that time of day. He also let me know that he'd be happy to chat and tell me about some of the sights or, if I preferred, to leave me with my own thoughts.

"Tell me, Wally," I asked the driver, "have you always served customers like this?"



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Thot for a day: Children are not very good at listening to their elders, but they never fail to imitate them.

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Wally smiled into the rear view mirror. "No, not always. In fact, it's only been in the last two years. My first five years driving, I spent most of my time complaining like all the rest of the cabbies do. Then I heard a personal growth guru on the radio one day. He had just written a book and said that if you get up in the morning expecting to have a bad day, you'll rarely disappoint yourself. He said stop complaining! Differentiate yourself from your competition. Don't be a duck. Be an eagle. Ducks quack and complain. Eagles soar above the crowd. That hit me right between the eyes," said Wally.

"It was like he was talking directly to me. I was always quacking and complaining, so I decided to change my attitude and become an eagle. I looked around at the other cabs and their drivers. The cabs were dirty, the drivers were unfriendly, and the customers were unhappy. So I decided to make some changes. I put in a few at a time. When my customers responded well, I did more."

"I take it that has paid off for you." I said.

"It sure has," Wally replied. "My first year as an eagle, I doubled my income from the previous year. This year I'll probably quadruple it. You were lucky to get me today. I don't sit at cabstands anymore. My customers call me for appointments on my cell phone or leave a message on my answering machine. If I can't pick them up myself, I get a reliable cabbie friend to do it and I take a piece of the action."

Wally was phenomenal. He was running a limo service out of a Yellow Cab. I've probably told that story to more than fifty cab drivers over the years, and only two took the idea and ran with it. Whenever I go to their cities, I give them a call. The rest of the drivers quacked like ducks and told me all the reasons they couldn't do any of what I was suggesting. Wally the Cab Driver made a different choice. He decided to stop quacking like ducks and start soaring like eagles.

Which are you?

Pastor's Disclaimer:

This comparison makes for a good motivational story, but in reality I will take a duck over an eagle ANY day! Ducks lay great eggs, and they don't eat my chickens ... like eagles do!!!

Church Choir...

We Sing on Easter @ 10:00

Please join us as we practice for singing. (The only requirement is the ability to "make a joyful noise.")



Email Humor...

THE WHITE LIE CAKE

Alice was to bake a cake for the Baptist Church Ladies' Group in Tuscaloosa, but forgot to do it until the last minute. She remembered the morning of the bake sale and, after rummaging through cabinets, found an angel food cake mix & quickly made it while drying her hair, dressing, and helping her son pack for Scout camp.

When Alice took the cake from the oven, the center had dropped flat and the cake was horribly disfigured. She thought, "Oh dear, there is not time to bake another cake."

This cake was important to Alice because she did so want to fit in at her new church and in her new community of friends. So, being inventive, she looked around the house for something to build up the center of the cake.

Alice found it in the bathroom - a roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in and covered it with icing. Not only did the finished product look beautiful, it looked perfect.

Before she left the house to drop the cake by the church and head for work, Alice woke her daughter Amanda and gave her some money and specific instructions to be at the bake sale the moment it opened at 9:30 and to buy the cake and bring it home.

When Amanda arrived at the sale, she found the attractive, perfect cake had already been sold. She grabbed her cell phone and called her mom.

Alice was horrified - she was beside herself. Everyone would know! What would they think? She would be ostracized, talked about, and ridiculed! All night, Alice lay awake in bed thinking about people pointing fingers at her and talking about her behind her back.

The next day, Alice promised herself she would try not to think about the cake and would attend the fancy luncheon/bridal shower at the home of a fellow church member and try to have a good time. Alice did not want to attend because the hostess was a snob who more than once had looked down her nose at Alice because she was a single parent and not from the founding families of her city but, having already RSVP'd, she couldn't think of a believable excuse to stay home.

The meal was elegant, the company was definitely upper crust and, to Alice's horror, the cake in question was presented for dessert! Alice felt the blood drain from her body when she saw the cake!

She started out of her chair to tell the hostess all about it, but before she could get to her feet, the Mayor's wife said, "What a beautiful

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That for a day: My mind still thinks I'm 25. My body thinks my mind is crazy.

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cake!"

Alice still stunned, sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess (who was also a prominent church member) say, "Thank you. I baked it myself."

Alice smiled and thought to herself, "God is good."

Story Behind The Song...

Easter has been the topic of more hymns than any other, besides Christmas. Over the years we have written about many great traditional Easter hymns. This month, I am going to feature a relatively new song, but one that you have undoubtedly heard if you ever listen to Christian radio... **"RATTLE!"**

Chris Brown, lead singer of Elevation Worship and one of the songwriters, says RATTLE! was created out of the COVID-19 pandemic. He and his fellow songwriters (Steven Furtick and Brandon Lake) saw how so many people buried and mourned over their loved ones this past year. As people who love and know Jesus, the foundation of faith is built on the trust that comes with Jesus' resurrection. With that hope in mind, RATTLE! was created. They wanted to write authentically about experiencing lockdown, but also give the church something to shout about. "This isn't the end," he said, "I will get to go and see life again and experience life again, and let's believe it."

Brown, Furtick and Lake wrote the song over voice memos that were shared back and forth, and with Zoom calls. "There just became a significant energy around the song really quickly," Brown told Billboard. "It felt like we had all been in quarantine and we're pent-up, on a roller coaster of emotions. It's like, the news is on and we're up and down with good news, bad news, fear and anxiety. So, yes, this song just came out as a release of emotion and a call to arms."

On the surface of this song, it is easy to see how it is a testament to the resurrection of Jesus, but when we dive a little deeper into the lyrics, there's even more depth to the lyrics. This song was also formed out of a story from Ezekiel 37, the valley of dry bones, and 2 Kings 13:14-21, the man thrown on the bones of Elisha. In Ezekiel 37 we read about how Ezekiel was led by the Lord to a valley that was full of dry bones. The Lord then asks Ezekiel if the bones in the valley can live, to which, Ezekiel replies, "Lord, you alone know."

"Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says

to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.” Ezekiel 37:4-6 (NIV)

Ezekiel began to prophesy over the bones as the Lord had told him, and as he did, he heard the noise of the bones rattling as they came together. The Lord then asks Ezekiel to prophesy breath into these bones so that they may live. Once more, Ezekiel begins to prophesy and before his very eyes, a vast army comes to life, standing in the valley where there had just been dry bones everywhere. Why did God ask Ezekiel to do this and show him this vision? It was a message to the people of Israel, who felt their hope was gone. They felt dead inside and as dry as the bones in the valley. God’s message was simple: “I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live again” (Ezekiel 37:14). This was a message of hope that He was breathing into them.

Released on April 23, 2021 as the third official single from *Graves Into Gardens*, “Rattle!” became Elevation Worship’s second song to top Billboard’s Christian Airplay Chart.

Saturday was silent Surely it was through
But since when has impossible Ever stopped You
Friday’s disappointment Is Sunday’s empty tomb
Since when has impossible Ever stopped You

CHORUS:

This is the sound Of dry bones rattling
This is the praise Make a dead man walk again
Open the grave I’m coming out
I’m gonna live Gonna live again
This is the sound Of dry bones rattling!

Pentecostal fire Stirring something new
You’re not gonna run out of miracles Anytime soon
Resurrection power Runs in my veins too
I believe there’s another miracle Here in this room!

CHORUS:

My God is able to save And deliver and heal
And restore anything that He wants to
Just ask the man Who was thrown
On the bones of Elisha If there’s anything that He can’t do
Just ask the stone That was rolled
At the tomb in the garden
What happens when God says to move

I feel Him moving it now I feel Him doing it now
I feel Him doing it now Do it now

CHORUS:

Open the grave I’m coming out
I’m gonna live Gonna live again
This is the sound Of dry bones rattling!

Since released by Elevation Worship, it has been preformed by many artists...

- Here is Avalon (yes they are still a group):
<https://youtu.be/kLoB3MRbh2M>
- With Zack Williams:
<https://youtu.be/wQJaFairJ-Q>
- And of course, the official video by Elevation Worship at
<https://youtu.be/xrAdhH28glg>

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson

