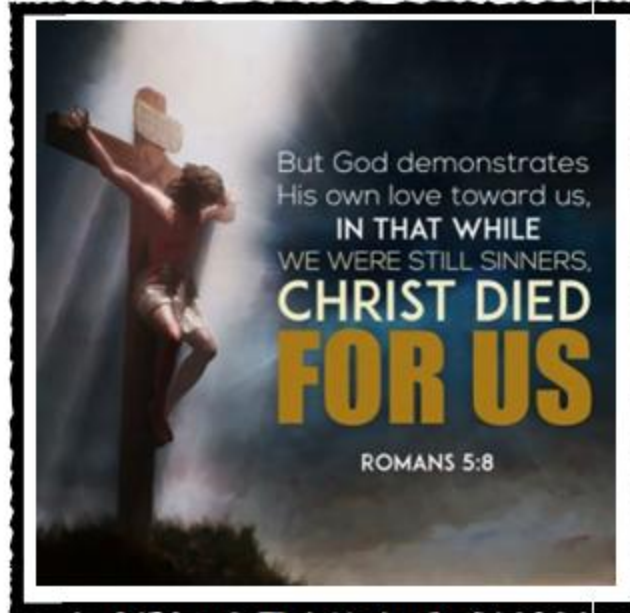



Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



March 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 are the rules for giving things up during Lent?”



I've had several people ask me the past couple of weeks about what to give up for Lent. Like meat or things made with yeast (sin is compared to yeast in the Bible) or “whatever.” My answer was that Lent is a “made-up” thing, so you can pretty much “make up” what you want to give up. What I mean by that is that Lent is something that is not found in the Bible. You'll never find God giving a command like: “Thou shalt give up something for forty days before Easter!”

It's easy to get the idea that because “we always do it that way,” it must have been commanded by God. In reality, there are lots of things we do in church that are human traditions that are neither expressly commanded nor forbidden by God. In other words, ceremonies that fall under the category of Christian liberty.

But, just because God doesn't command us to observe Lent doesn't mean Lent is a bad thing. The folks who came up with the idea had a good reason for it. Lent is a forty-day time when we prepare for celebrating Jesus' victory over sin, death and Satan on Easter. Lent is typically a somber time when we're reminded of our sinfulness - our tendency to do the opposite of what God's designed us to do. It makes perfect sense to prepare for Easter by being reminded of our sin. I mean, how can you celebrate Jesus' victory over sin unless you first admit that you need someone to save you from it?!!!

One way we typically “get in shape” for our Easter celebration is by repenting - turning away from sin and walking in God's ways.

You may try to get in shape during Lent by “giving something up” or by “taking something up.” But don't do either one as a sort of 40-day punishment. That's the wrong idea! Jesus took your punishment, so you don't have to. Use the 40 days of Lent to develop the habit of PERMANENTLY “giving up” (quitting) something or by “taking up” (starting) something

Page 3

And I'd recommend that if you're going to give up something or take up something, make it something more meaningful than meat or yeast or pop or coffee or chocolate. Figure out something to give up that is keeping you from - what's the goal of a disciple? - becoming more like Jesus. Or figure out something to take up that will help you become more like Jesus.

A suggestion: Try adding one of these to your Lenten schedule:

- Wednesday Evening Lenten Devotion from 6:00-6:45 at church. (You can come for soup and sandwich supper before that from 5:00-5:55.)
- “I Can Only Imagine” small group Bible study (See the place / time options elsewhere in this Newsletter.)

Thanks for asking!
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the normal First and Third Sundays, **March 5th and 19th.**



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.

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 February we thanked God for...

- **Caregivers** (I know, same as last month - too much snow to go change the sign!)

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

Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study
 Sunday mornings at 9:00
 Join us for coffee and our
 "I Can Only Imagine" Study

Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Wednesday, March 8th @ 10:00 a.m. Bible Study"
 "Transforming Faith, a Gift From a Faithful God"
 All women are invited to join us!

Evening Women's Study

...is on break during Lent.
 Back after Easter!



Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30
 Who can you invite to join you?

Small Group Study...

Coming during Lent:

"I Can Only Imagine"

(Based on the movie)

It's a great opportunity to invite friends or relatives to join you to find out more about a God who:

- Loves you unconditionally
- Forgives you and has power for you to forgive
- Brings Redemption
- Wants to spend Eternity with you!



Plug in to any of these group studies:

- Sunday Morning @ 9:00 at Living Word
- Sunday Evening @ 6:00 at Jason & Sarah Miller's home
- Thursday Evening @ 7:00 at Pam Johnson's home
- Saturday Evening at Joe and Allie Johnson's home

Page 4

Thot for a day: My wife and I had a long argument about whose turn it was to do the laundry. In the end, I threw in the towel.

Page 5

Sunday School News...

EASTER CELEBRATION
4 KIDS!!!!

Saturday April 1st, 2023
10:00 A.M.

Living Word Lutheran Church

Story Time
 Crafts
 Snack
 Baby Animals

Easter Egg Hunt (weather permitting)
 call 252-0064 or 354-4567 w/questions

During the month of March the Sunday School teachers will continue teaching on "The Ten Commandments".



The Ten Commandments show us how God want us to behave as His people. We don't always follow them as we make too many mistakes. But the more we seek Jesus the more we will be able to keep those commandments that He has given us.

Confirmation News...

Confirmation classes:

6-7th Graders - The Lenten Devotion (6:00-6:45)
 serves as class (Soup & Sandwich supper 5:00-5:55)

8-9th Graders - 7:00 - 7:45 - Regular class time

- Please check the Parent Helper Schedule
 8-9th Grade Parents take turns helping out at class in March. (7-8th Grade parents are encouraged to attend the Lenten devotion with your student this month.)
- Also Check: The PowerPoint Clicker-Person Schedule
 Each student takes a turn operating the "clicker" that changes the PowerPoint screens during Sunday Worship.



Church Choir...

Practices After Worship...March 12, 26 and April 2 to prepare for Easter

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



High School Youth...



EGG MY YARD FUNDRAISER

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE LIVING WORD LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NEW LONDON, MN

EGGS HIDDEN EASTER EVE

\$20 PER DOZEN EGGS
\$100 FOR 6 DOZEN EGGS (ALL PRE-FILLED EGGS)

Bless a local family!*

Or... You tell us which yard to egg!

***WE HAVE PARTNERED WITH THE LINK TO DONATE EGGS TO LOCAL FAMILIES**

CALL BECKY AT (320) 429-1735 FOR MORE INFO.

Name:



Order Form Egg My Yard

Orders due March 26, 2023

Please make checks payable to Living Word Church

Order forms are available at Living Word Lutheran Church or can be downloaded at

http://www.livingwordlutheran.net/index_files/eggmyyard.pdf



Page 6

Thot for a day: Tip: Save business cards of people you don't like. If you ever hit a parked car accidentally, just write, "Sorry" on the back and leave it on the windshield.

Page 7

Youth Events...

BIBLE STUDY:

Wednesday, March 1 @ 5:00
High School Youth Study
At Freedom Center office, Willmar
(Becky's workplace)



COMING SOON:

The High School Youth will be heading to Maryland in July for the CIY (Christ in Youth) Move youth gathering.

"Egg My Yard: fundraiser:

Starts March 1, and ends two weeks before Easter. Yards will be egged the night before Easter. We are really encouraging people to consider donating a dozen or more eggs - we partnered with The Link in New London. They regularly serve 75-90 local families from Northern Kandiyohi County with their weekly food distribution program. We'd like to give a dozen eggs to each family that utilizes this food service the week of Easter - so our goal is at least 75 donations. We will also have a sign up that we leave at church - the monetary proceeds will be evenly shared between the kids that participate in that fundraiser. Otherwise, each individual teen will be out and about looking for customers and their profits go directly to their individual account. \$20 per delivered dozen or buy 5 get one dozen free (\$100). See poster on previous page.

Other planned Upcoming Events:

- Mr. Bs Chocolates. We will be re-running this fundraiser for Mother's Day.
- Sunset Dinner: We will be selling high-dollar meal tickets (\$100), and the kids are going to host a nice supper for the donors.

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?"



Email Wisdom...

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door. On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.

I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing...I know my Master is there and that is enough."

Bingo Fun...



Page 8

That for a day: Question: Have we tried exploding all of the food to see if it makes it better, or did we just stop with corn?

Page 9

LWML News...



LWML MEETING:

Wednesday, March 8th 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

Email Inspiration...

IT'S TIME TO PARTY (excerpts)

By Mike Yaconelli

It doesn't take much to make most of us realize that we have become too serious, too tense, too stressful. The result is that we have forgotten how to live life. It seems like the older we get, the more difficult it is for us to enjoy living.

It reminds me of a description of life given by Rabbi Edward Cohn: "Life is tough. It takes up a lot of your time, all your weekends, and what do you get in the end of it?"

I think that the life cycle is all backward. You should die first, get it out of the way. Then you live twenty years in an old-age home. You get kicked out when you're too young. You get a gold watch, you go to work. You work forty years until you're young enough to enjoy your retirement. You go to college; you party until you're ready for high school; you go to grade school; you become a little kid; you play. You have no responsibilities. You become a little baby; you go back into the womb; you spend your last months floating; and you finish up as a gleam in somebody's eye.

It's hard to imagine we were a gleam in someone's eye once. What happened to the gleam in our eye? What happened to that joyful, crazy, spontaneous, fun-loving spirit we once had? The childlikeness in all of us gets snuffed out over the years...

The sign that Jesus is in our hearts, the evidence of the truth of the gospel is ... we still have a light on in our souls! We still have a gleam in our eye. We are alive, never boring, always playful, exhibiting in our everydayness the "spunk" of the spirit. The light in our souls is not some pietistic somberness, it is the spontaneous, unpredictable love of life...I believe it's time for the party to begin.

Copyright 1989 Mike Yaconelli.

Mark Your Calendars...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, March 9th @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

Building Committee

Next meeting: Thursday, March 23rd @ 6:30

Community Outreach News...

Women's Retreat

"HEARING GOD ABOVE THE ROAR OF THE WORLD"

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

Come and join the 2023 Women's Retreat!!! Check in at 11:00 Friday May 19th and will have a free day to enjoy the community of Hutchinson MN! I will plan an outing for that day for those that want to join in, otherwise we will start the "Official" retreat at 6:00 PM that night.

The price for the weekend is \$150.00 per person, based on double or triple occupancy. (We do need 12 people to make this happen at this price)

Price includes the bible studies, fellowship, make and takes and of course a good time! Growing closer in your relationship with Jesus is FREE!! Hope to see you there!!

Questions? Ask Violet or Tammy Miller

Live Nativity Rescheduled for April 1st

(That's NOT an April Fool's joke!)

Living Nativity...from The Manger to Easter.

(This is to replace the Living Nativity that was cancelled in December due to the weather.)

Saturday April 1st from 2:00-4:00. We still need LOTS of "Characters!!" There will be speaking parts (read, not memorized) Volunteers needed to dress parts, serve for traffic guidance, help with refreshment tables and we will still have a petting zoo! Do you have or know someone that can bring tame animals for human interaction?

TowBridge Zoo will still bring the camel and other animals!!

Call or text Tammy at 320-905-2434 if you can help or have questions. Sign up at church by the entry door as well.

Page 10

Thot for a day: The toughest part of a diet isn't watching what you eat; it's watching what other people eat.

Page 11

Who Can You Invite?...

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS are back!

Prior to the Lenten Devotions from 5:00- 5:55
March 8,18,22, 29



If you would like to help by providing a soup or sandwich for any of these dates, there's a sign-up sheet at church. Or you can call Laurie Hanson @ 320-894-7075



LENTEN DEVOTIONS

"Jesus Teaches About the Kingdom of God"

Wednesdays: 6:00 - 6:45

(The Lenten Devotion also serves as class for the 6-7th confirmation students)

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 !!!
- March Newsletters
- Jan—March 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>

- Feb 5 "There's No Such Thing as a 'Closet Disciple!'"
- Feb 12 "How to Respond to Jesus' Friend Request"
- Feb 19 "An Unexpected 'Top Five' Event in Jesus' Life"
- Feb 26 "How Lent is Like Spring Training"

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.



Page 12

Thot for a day: I'm not a morning person. I drink coffee because morning people exist and keep trying to talk to me.

Page 13 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:

- Asking God to show you what He'd have you "give up" (or take up) for Lent
- Good weather for "Easter 4 Kids" and our "Live Nativity" on April 1
- People you can invite to any of our Easter week services.
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did - with sacrifice
- 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.
- Asking God for the 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)
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- God's protection, guidance, wisdom & courage for government leaders
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan.

Thank You from the Jastrams..

We are so happy to have you as part of our missionary team. Your support for LCMS mission work in Asia means a lot to us. Dan & Joan Jastram



Read the current newsletter at:

<https://tinyurl.com/mry8sc6h>

March 2023 - Daily Readings

We continue reading 120 of the most important accounts in the Bible. We've listed the readings that are found in *Know the Bible Now* (KTBN). You can also do the readings from your Bible. Simply read the chapters listed in parentheses. Record your insights from on the lines provided

NOTE: If you'd rather listen to the readings, Pastor has recorded them. You can find the link to the recordings on our website at the bottom of the home page. livingwordlutheran.net

Week of MARCH 5

Mar 6 KTBN pg 282 *Jesus' Triumphal Entry* (Matthew 21) _____

Mar 7 KTBN pg 284 *The Widow's Coins* (Mark 12) _____

Mar 8 KTBN pg 286 *The Lord's Supper* (Luke 22) _____

Mar 9 KTBN pg 288 *Jesus in the Garden* (Matthew 26) _____

Mar 10 KTBN pg 290 *Peter Denies Jesus* (Matthew 26) _____

Week of MARCH 12

Mar 13 KTBN pg 292 *Jesus' Trial* (Mt 27 & Jn 18) _____

Mar 14 KTBN pg 294 *Jesus' Crucifixion* (Mt 27, Lk 23 & Jn 19) _____

Mar 15 KTBN pg 296 *Jesus' Resurrection* (Lk 20 & Jn 24) _____

Mar 16 KTBN pg 298 *Jesus Appears on the Emmaus Rd* (Luke 24) _____

Mar 17 KTBN pg 300 *Jesus Appears to Thomas* (John 21) _____

Week of MARCH 19

Mar 20 KTBN pg 302 *Jesus and Peter* (John 21) _____

Mar 21 KTBN pg 304 *Jesus Ascends to Heaven* (Mt 28 & Acts 1) _____

Mar 22 KTBN pg 310 *Pentecost* (Acts 2) _____

Mar 23 KTBN pg 312 *Peter & John Heal a Lame Man* (Acts 3) _____

Mar 24 KTBN pg 314 *God's Servant Stephen* (Acts 6-7) _____

Week of MARCH 26

Mar 27 KTBN pg 316 *Philip and the Ethiopian* (Acts 8) _____

Mar 28 KTBN pg 318 *Paul's Conversion* (Acts 9) _____

Mar 29 KTBN pg 320 *Peter & Cornelius* (Acts 10) _____

Mar 30 KTBN pg 322 *Peter's Escape from Prison* (Acts 12) _____

Mar 31 KTBN pg 324 *Paul's 1st Missionary Journey* (Acts 13-14) _____

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 _____

March 2023 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 26 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH STUDY - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	Feb 27	Feb 28 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	1 5:00 - Youth Bible Study 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - "I Can Only Imagine" movie	2	3	4
5 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - "I Can Only Imagine" study 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	6	7 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	8 10:00 LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION 6:30 - Confirmation classes	9 MISSION <i>Ministry</i> 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	10	11
12 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - "I Can Only Imagine" study 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:30 - CHOIR PRACTICE	13	14 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	15 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION 6:30 - Confirmation classes	16	17	18 10:00 MAKE-A-MEAL
19 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - "I Can Only Imagine" study 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	20	21 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	22 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION 6:30 - Confirmation classes	23 6:30 - BUILDING COMMITTEE	24	25
26 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - "I Can Only Imagine" study 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:30 - CHOIR PRACTICE	27	28 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	29 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION 6:30 - Confirmation classes	30	31	Apr 1 10:00 Easter 4 Kids 2:00 - Living "Nativity"

Lord's Supper Dates

- Sunday, March 5th
- Sunday, March 19th



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

Mar 5 Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Mar 12 Jason & Levi Miller
Mar 19 Larry Levin
Mar 26 Open

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

Confirmation Parent Helpers

	8-9th grade
Mar 8	Miller
Mar 15	Sawatzky
Mar 22	Foshaug
Mar 29	Sharp

Elders

March 5, 12	Joe & Duane
March 19, 26	Steve & Scott

Custodian

March Open

Page 18

That for a day: what your heart possesses, your life expresses.

Page 19

PowerPoint Operator

Mar 5 Parker
Mar 12 Autumn
Mar 19 Rya
Mar 26 Troy

Communion Bread Maker

Mar 5 Autumn
Mar 19 Kala

Nursery

(Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

Make A Meal Volunteers

See "New Make-a-Meal Program"
Page for details
March 18 @ 10:00 is "Make-a-Meal" Day

Altar Guild

March Mona Hjelle

Accompanying Musicians

Mar 5 Sharon Willen
Mar 12 Open
Mar 19 Scott Wachter
Mar 26 Pam Johnson

Seen on Church Signboards...

Children Welcomed!

Unattended children will be given a free espresso and a free puppy :)

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.

Our next "Make-a-Meal Day" is Saturday, March 18 @ 10:00 a.m. 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!



March Discipleship Verse...

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)
5 PROJECTS YOU CAN DO TOGETHER
(Working together always brings people closer)



Do you have a list of projects on your mind at all times? There's the self-initiated ones that just never seem to get done. The unwanted-yet-necessary ones that pop up unexpectedly. The pipe-dream projects that only live in your head and the should-do's that hang over it. It can feel overwhelming. It's easy to let these seemingly endless tasks take over all your free time and energy.

Luckily, there are ways to feel less stress when it comes to those "projects". Take the pressure off yourself. It's likely you've got many other things on your plate, so completing all the extra projects simply isn't realistic. Prioritize the ones that must get done, and give yourself some grace with the others. If you haven't given much thought to this, then we can help you get started. Here are five types of projects to take on together:

1. The self-discovery project

Learning more about yourselves— together— is a great way to gain insight into what makes each of you tick and how that plays into the unique dynamics of your relationship. Consider taking personality or relationship assessments or even digging into your family histories. Plan date nights where you can do research together or discuss your results and findings. Make it an ongoing thing, a point of connection that you can keep coming back to. After all, you're constantly growing and changing as individuals and as a couple; this is a great way to continue getting to know each other, even if you've been together for years.

2. The DIY project

This one might be pretty similar to some of the projects already filling your list, but there actually is value that can come out of tackling a DIY project together. It requires you to communicate and work as a team, and you might even gain knowledge about something you knew nothing about before! Whether you build, repair, or upgrade something around your home or even just successfully assemble a piece of IKEA furniture, you and your spouse will walk away with a sense of accomplishment and confidence to take on more together. And here's a hot tip: Before you get started, agree on a lighthearted way to handle frustration should it pop up, like using a silly code word to take a break.

3. The financial project

Every couple has a different view about money, but chances are there is something "bigger" you're working towards. Saving up for a special purchase, learning about investing, setting up college funds for your kids

Page 20

That for a day: Love is like a beard. If you let it grow, soon it'll be the first thing people notice about you.

Page 21

(or even teaching them about money), getting out of debt, or creating a budget you stick to are just some of the examples of money-related projects that you and your spouse could consider working on together. Not only can it help you get on the same page if this is a contentious area, you'll hopefully experience long-term financial benefits as well.

4. The just-for-fun project

Break out the 1000-piece puzzle, put together a time capsule to open on a future anniversary, digitize all your physical photos, or finally print those digital ones. This type of project is just what it sounds like. It's something that is not only enjoyable to do together, but also creates the opportunity for great conversation, connection, and creating shared meaning. You might even find a new shared hobby or interest that opens up a whole new world of ways to spend quality time together.

5. The legacy project

If you have children, have you put much thought into the memories, traditions, or values you want to pass down or instill in them? Take some time to talk about this with your spouse, then think about how you can translate one of those things into a project you can work on together. It could be creating photo or scrapbooks for your kids as they grow, or even of your own lives to share with them down the road. Maybe you put intention into creating a unique family tradition or planning a way to incorporate your family heritage into holiday and birthday celebrations. Whatever you choose, it can be a bonding experience that pays off for years to come.

Projects don't have to be a chore. While you can't avoid all of the not-so-fun ones, you can be more picky about which other ones you put your time and energy into. When chosen carefully, projects can be fun, meaningful, and good for your relationship, too.

Thank You...

- To the Elders who served our Friendship Sunday meal!
- To Joe and Lee Johnson, Byron Meis and James Raddatz for keeping our parking lot plowed!
- To the Confirmation students for operating the PowerPoint in worship!
- To Laurie Hanson & Bonnie Hansen for organizing the Lenten Soup Suppers!
- To Marcia Welsh for another great Bingo day!

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



The Link...

MN FOODSHARE CAMPAIGN IS HERE!

-FEBRUARY 27- APRIL 9, 2023-

STRETCH YOUR DONATION

GIVE MORE BY MAKING A CASH DONATION TO THE LINKS' LOCAL FOOD PANTRY



HELP STOCK YOUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY!

February 17-April 9th, 2023 marks the annual MN FoodShare Campaign. We appreciate food donations, but remember as a partner of Second Harvest, The Links' Food Pantry can stretch each dollar donated, TEN TIMES!

- \$1 = \$10,
- \$100 = \$1000
- \$1000 = \$10,000

Depending on the pounds of food and money donated, the food pantry receives a grant through the MN FoodShare Campaign!

You can donate food items: Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday 10am-3pm directly to The Link (20 Central Ave E, New London) or Friday, 10-3 & Saturday 10-2 right next door at our Community Revival Thrift Store!

Monetary donations can be made in person at The Link or Community Revival Thrift Store; Online at www.youarethelink.org; Venmo: The-Link-1 or by mail at P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273.

**** The Link's Food Pantry does not receive donations through the "Radio for Relief" efforts for the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf.**



Page 22

That for a day: If poison is past its expiration date, does that mean it's less or more poisonous?

Page 23

Email Humor...

The story is told about an old minister who survived the great Johnstown Flood. He loved to tell the story over and over in great detail. Everywhere he went he would he would spend time talking about this great historic event in his life.

One day he died and went to heaven. There in a meeting in heaven all the saints had gathered together to share their life experiences. The old minister got all excited and ran to St. Peter (who, naturally was in charge) and asked if he might tell the exciting story of his survival from the Johnstown Flood.

St. Peter hesitated for a moment and then said, "Yes, you may share, but just a remember that in our audience tonight will be Brother Noah."



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!

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.

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



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.



Living Word Lutheran Church was issued a \$17.88 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 31, 2022.

NOTE: The Amazon Smile program was discontinued by Amazon on February 20. Thanks to everyone who donated to Living Word through this program!

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 after February. Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to sign up or find out more details.



Thot for a day: Why hire someone with a divining rod to find water when a kid with new shoes will do it for free?

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!

ISE INTERNATIONAL Student Exchange
Sharing lives. Building worlds.

Make Dreams Come True. Host an Exchange Student

Who can host?
Our host families live on farms, in bustling cities, and everywhere in-between. Married, single, empty nesters, with or without kids - all are welcome to apply to host an exchange student!

Why host?
The many benefits of our high school exchange program include experiencing a new culture, creating lifelong friendships, enriching your community, and making a positive impact locally and globally.

What are the students like?
They're 15-18-year-old high school students from over 40 countries around the world. They learn about American culture by living with a host family and attending local high school.

How can I host?
We are currently accepting applications for volunteer families in your area. Call us or complete our online interest form today to learn more about our program and meet available students.

Contact:
Lori Sherod
ISE Representative
320-305-2495
sherodlori@gmail.com

f /iseusa @ise_usa /iseusa

The Parable of the Donuts...

Editor note: A bit long, but a great Easter parable..

There was a certain Professor of Religion named Dr. Christianson who taught a required survey course in Christianity at a small college. Every student was required to take this course his or her freshman year regardless of his or her major. Although Dr. Christianson tried hard to communicate the essence of the gospel in his class, he found that most of his students looked upon the course as nothing but required drudgery. Despite his best efforts, most students refused to take Christianity seriously.

This year, Dr. Christianson had a special student named Steve. Steve was only a freshman but was studying with the intent of going onto seminary for the ministry. Steve was popular, he was well liked, and he was an imposing physical specimen. He was now the starting center on the school football team and was the best student in the professor's class.

One day, Dr. Christianson asked Steve to stay after class so he could talk with him. "How many pushups can you do? Can you do 300 in sets of 10? I have a class project in mind, and I need you to do about 300 pushups in sets of ten for this to work. Can you do it? I need you to tell me you can do it," said the professor.

Steve said, "Well, that's a lot...I think I can...yeah, I can do it."

Dr. Christianson said, "Good! I need you to do this on Friday. Let me explain what I have in mind."

Friday came, and Steve got to class early and sat in the front of the room. When class started, the professor pulled out a big box of donuts. Everyone was pretty excited it was Friday, the last class of the day, and they were going to get an early start on the weekend with a party in Dr. Christianson's class.

Dr. Christianson went to the first girl in the first row and asked, "Cynthia, do you want to have one of these donuts?"

Cynthia said, "Yes."

Dr. Christianson then turned to Steve and asked, "Steve, would you do ten pushups so that Cynthia can have a donut?"

"Sure." Steve jumped down from his desk to do a quick ten. Then Steve again sat in his desk. Dr. Christianson put a donut on Cynthia's desk.

Dr. Christianson then went to Joe, the next person, and asked, "Joe, do you want a donut?"

Joe said, "Yes."

Dr. Christianson asked, "Steve would you do ten pushups so Joe can have a donut?" Steve did ten pushups, and Joe got a donut.

Page 26 Page 27

That for a day: When I get to where I'm going, will somebody please tell me where I am?

And so it went, down the first aisle, Steve did ten pushups for every person before they got their donut, and down the second aisle, till Dr. Christianson came to Scott. Scott was on the basketball team and in as good condition as Steve. He was very popular and never lacking for female companionship. When the professor asked, "Scott do you want a donut?"

Scott's reply was, "Well, can I do my own pushups?"

Dr. Christianson said, "No, Steve has to do them."

Then Scott said, "Well, I don't want one then."

Dr. Christianson shrugged and then turned to Steve and asked, "Steve, would you do ten pushups so Scott can have a donut he doesn't want?" With perfect obedience, Steve started to do ten pushups.

Scott said, "HEY! I said I didn't want one!"

Dr. Christianson said, "Look, this is my classroom, my class, my desks, and these are my donuts. Just leave it on the desk if you don't want it." And he put a donut on Scott's desk.

Now by this time, Steve had begun to slow down a little. He just stayed on the floor between sets because it took too much effort to be getting up and down. You could start to see a little perspiration coming out around his brow. Dr. Christianson started down the third row. Now the students were beginning to get a little angry.

Dr. Christianson asked Jenny, "Jenny, do you want a donut?"

Sternly, Jenny said, "No." Then Dr. Christianson asked Steve, "Steve, would you do ten more pushups so Jenny can have a donut that she doesn't want?" Steve did ten, and Jenny got a donut.

By now, a growing sense of uneasiness filled the room. The students were beginning to say "No" and there were all these uneaten donuts on the desks. Steve also had to really put forth a lot of extra effort to get these pushups done for each donut. There began to be a small pool of sweat on the floor beneath his face. His arms and brow were beginning to get red because of the physical effort involved.

Dr. Christianson started down the fourth row. During his class, however, some students from other classes had wandered in and sat down on the steps along the radiators that ran down the sides of the room. When the professor realized this, he did a quick count and saw that now there were 34 students in the room.

He started to worry if Steve would be able to make it.

Dr. Christianson went on to the next person and the next and the next. Near the end of that row, Steve was really having a rough time. He was taking a lot more time to complete each set.

A few moments later, Jason, a recent transfer student, came to the room



and was about to come in when all the students yelled in one voice, "NO! Don't come in! Stay out!" Jason didn't know what was going on.

Steve picked up his head and said, "No, let him come."

Professor Christianson said, "You realize that if Jason comes in you will have to do ten pushups for him?"

Steve said, "Yes, let him come in. Give him a donut."

Dr. Christianson said, "Okay, Steve, I'll let you get Jason's out of the way right now. Steve, will you do ten pushups so that Jason can have a donut?" Steve did ten pushups very slowly and with great effort. Jason, bewildered, was handed a donut and sat down.

Dr. Christianson finished the fourth row then started on those visitors seated by the heaters. Steve's arms were now shaking with each pushup in a struggle to lift himself against the force of gravity. Sweat was profusely dropping off of his face and, by this time, there was no sound except his heavy breathing. There was not a dry eye in the room.

The very last student in the room was a young woman, a cheerleader and very popular. Then Dr. Christianson turned to the last girl, Susan. "Susan, do you want a donut?" Susan, with tears flowing down her face, began to cry. "Dr. Christianson, why can't I help him?"

Dr. Christianson, with tears of his own, said, "No, Steve has to do it alone. I have given him this task and he is in charge of seeing that everyone has an opportunity for a donut whether they want it or not.

When I decided to have a party this last day of class, I looked at my grade book. Steve is the only student with a perfect grade. Everyone else has failed a test, skipped class, or offered me inferior work.

Steve told me that when a player messes up in football practice, he must do pushups. I told Steve that none of you could come to my party unless he paid the price by doing your pushups. He and I made a deal for your sakes.

Steve, would you do ten pushups so Susan can have a donut?" As Steve very slowly finished his last pushup, with the understanding that he had accomplished all that was required of him, having done 350 pushups, his arms buckled beneath him and he fell to the floor.

Dr. Christianson turned to the room and said, "And so it was, that our Savior, Jesus Christ, on the cross, pled to the Father, 'Into thy hands I commend my spirit.' With the understanding that He had done everything that was required of Him, he yielded up His life. And like some of those in this room, many of us leave the gift on the desk, uneaten."

Two students helped Steve up off the floor and to a seat, physically exhausted, but wearing a thin smile. "Well done, good and faithful servant," said the professor, adding, "Not all sermons are preached in words."

That for a day: The nurse came in and said "Doc, there's a man in the waiting room who thinks he's invisible." The doctor said, "Tell him I can't see him today."

Turning to his class the professor said, "My wish is that you might understand and fully comprehend all the riches of grace and mercy that have been given to you through the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for us all, now and forever.

Whether or not we choose to accept His gift to us, the price has been paid. Wouldn't you be foolish and ungrateful to leave it laying on the desk?"

Story Behind The Song...

As I was researching for hymns for the season on Lent, one that came up in several sites that was familiar one that we have not researched... "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing".

It is an unfortunate turn of events when a young boy is forced to grow up without a loving father. Thus was Robert Robinson's fate. His dad passed away when he was only eight years of age. Robert was born on Sept. 27, 1735, in the county of Norfolk, a market town and civil parish in the English county side.

To make Roberts circumstances much more difficult, his maternal grandfather, Robert Wilkin, a wealthy man, who had never reconciled himself to his daughter's lowly marriage, disinherited his grandson and provided an inheritance for him of only ten shillings and sixpence (about \$1.25).

In 18th century England, there was little in the way of a social welfare system. so as soon as Robert was old enough, he secured a job as an apprentice to a barber. Even in his youth he endured the hardship of having to be the breadwinner for his widowed mother and himself. His formal education was limited. Without a father to guide and steady him, Robert fell in with bad companions. Seventeen year old Robert Robinson ran the streets of London in gangs, caring not for anything spiritual. In

One day his gang of rowdies harassed a drunken gypsy. Pouring liquor into her, they demanded she tell their fortunes for free. Pointing her finger at Robert she told him he would live to see his children and grandchildren. This struck a tender spot in his heart. "If I'm going to live to see my children and grandchildren," he thought, "I'll have to change my way of living. I can't keep on like I'm going now."

A few nights later, Robert Robinson, half serious and half in fun, decided to go to a tent meeting to hear the Methodist preacher George Whitefield. To cover his "weak" urge, he suggested that the boys go with him and heckle the gathering. "Let's go laugh at the deluded Methodists" was his invitation to his gang. Whitefield preached on the text:

"O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" Matthew 3:7. Robert left in dread, under a deep sense that George Whitefield was preaching to him alone.

Finally, at the age of twenty, Robert made peace with God and immediately set out to become a preacher himself. He wrote a letter to George Whitefield and told him that he envied the happiness that he saw on the faces of those people in that tent. Two years later, in 1757, he wrote a hymn which expressed his joy in his new faith... "Come Thou Fount."

Years later Robert did wander away from God. In a spiritually back-slidden condition, Robert was traveling in a stage coach one day. His only companion was a young woman unknown to him. In the providence of God, and not realizing who it was she spoke with, the woman quoted "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing", saying what an encouragement it had been to her. Try as he might, Robinson could not get her to change the subject. She asked him what he thought of the hymn she was humming. He responded, "Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago, and I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had then." Gently, she replied, "Sir, the 'streams of mercy' are still flowing." He was deeply touched by that. As a result of the encounter he repented. His fellowship with the Lord was restored through the ministry of his own hymn, and a Christian's willing witness.

Come Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.

Page 30

That for a day: "vacation" is when you get away from it all. Then you come back to find that "it all" is just waiting patiently on your desk.

Page 31

Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

More than 260 years later, Robinson's memorable words continue to inspire and encourage each new generation.

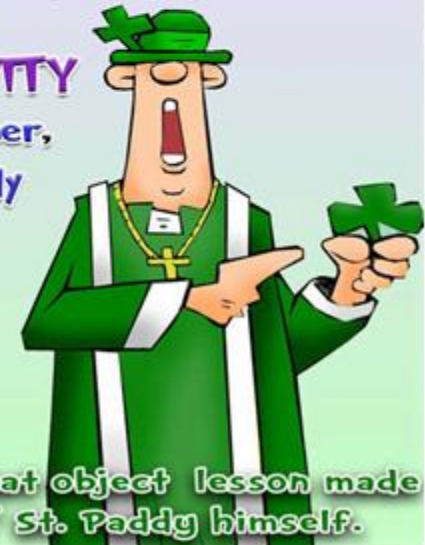
Lots of great versions to view... from the Mormon Tabernacle Choir to Chris Rice. Here are some of my favorites:

- A beautiful version by Caleb & Kelsey at <https://youtu.be/HG1WDDFab3g>
- A mashup version that I enjoy by Charlie Hall at <https://youtu.be/IMLdafi947s>
- An a cappella version by Eclipse 6 at <https://youtu.be/1LWYBcCH7Wg>
- Lastly is the official video from Celtic Worship at <https://youtu.be/XK0oeTbjSel>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Now this **SHAMROCK** right here in
me hand is the perfect picture of

the blessed
HOLY TRINITY
Where **Father,**
Son, and **Holy**
Ghost are
ONE.



What a great object lesson made
here by Ol' St. Paddy himself.