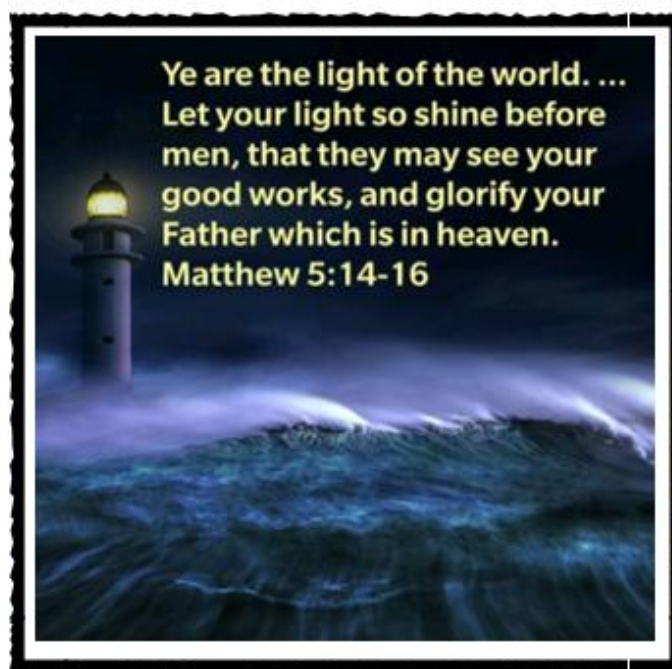


Living Word

Lutheran Church

LCMS



May 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...

Why don't we believe in evolution?

One of the assignments the confirmation students have is to write down all their questions about things we believe or things we do as Christians. This question came from one of those assignments. It's a great question, because the theory of evolution tends to get accepted as a fact just because it's taught in schools. I'd say that "evolution" is a classic example of the idea that "You tend to believe what you hear most often - even if it can be proven false."

The answer to that question can be found in lots of places: God's Word (the Bible), logic, our experience, and even science itself.

Starting with God's Word, God plainly tells us that He created the world and everything in it in just six days, not billions of years. (The Hebrew words and phrases of the creation account indicate that those were 24-hour days. But even if you take Peter's statement in 2 Peter 3:8 literally, "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years..." Then you would still have God creating the world in just six thousand years, not billions.)

I've even heard some Christians claim that God created everything, but He did it through the process of evolution. My answer to that is, "God could have created everything that way, but He tells us in His Word that's definitely NOT how He did it. The basic idea behind evolutionary theory is that everything happens by chance. There's no rhyme or reason or master plan. But when you read how God describes creation in Genesis chapter one, the thing that strikes you is that the creation of the world and everything in it was very orderly, organized and according to a plan. There's absolutely no hint of "Hmmm. Let's try this and see if it works!"

Our own human reason (logic) tells us that nothing gets created purely by chance. For example, when you see a building, you know instinctively that the boards, cement, nails, screws, siding, shingles and everything else didn't just "come together" one day by chance. No, when you see a building, your logic correctly tells you there had to be a builder.



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Someone who planned it and built it. When you see a painting, you inherently know that the paint didn't just "come together" purely by chance one day in the form of the image on the canvas. When you see a painting, your logic correctly tells you there had to be a painter. In the same way, when you see creation, your logic correctly tells you there had to be a Creator.

Our own experience with how fast things decay and erode tells us that there is no way this earth could have lasted for billions of years. We do witness something called "microevolution," the idea that over time things change within a given species. For example, human beings are observably taller than they were a couple hundred years ago. But there is zero evidence for what is called "macroevolution," the idea at the foundation of evolutionary theory that over time one species can change and become a totally different species (e.g. fish became birds and apes became human).

Finally, there are a couple (at least) basic laws of science that are opposed to the theory of evolution. One is called the Law of Biogenesis. It states that living things cannot come from non-living things. But the theory of evolution would have us believe that one day lightening struck some non-living chemicals and living organisms were the result. Science says that can't happen. Another law of science is the Second Law of Thermodynamics which states that things left to themselves will break down over time. The theory of evolution is based on the opposite idea that things left to themselves will become more complex over time. Again, science says that can't happen.

The bottom line: You don't have to apologize for believing that God created the world and everything in it! God's Word, logic, experience and even science are on your side!

Thanks for asking!
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net



Summer Worship Time:
9:00 a.m.

Begins Memorial Weekend
Sunday, May 28

(And runs through
Labor Day Weekend)

Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study
 Sunday mornings at 9:00
 April 30th through May 21st
 Join us for coffee and God's Word

Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Does not meet this month.

(We will have a farewell Luncheon for Leone Quigley, May 10 at 11am at Sweet Water Café.)

Evening Women's Study

May 10th is the last study of the season. Meets @ 6:30 at Violet's home,



Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30

Who can you invite to join you?

Thank You...

...to everyone who helped at David Schleusner's funeral !

...to this year's Sunday School teachers:

Meggie Ashburn
 Lara Dahl
 Mona Hjelle
 Sarah Olson
 Tammy Wachter

...to all parents and grandparents who brought kids for Sunday School

...to our Altar Guild chair Mona Hjelle for placing the Easter Lilies in memory of loved ones lost this past year!

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

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Thot for a day: Today I told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made an appointment for me for next Wednesday.

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Sunday School News...

During the month of April the Sunday School teachers will be teaching on "The Love of God".

- May 7- "Love of God" - God's love is Eternal - Psalm 139 and Luke 1
- May 14- "Peace of Mind and Heart" - John 14:23-29
- May 21- "Run with Endurance" - Hebrews 12:1-2

The last day of Sunday School is May 21, 2023

Confirmation News...



Confirmation classes:

- 6-7th Graders -**
- May 3 - No Class
 - May 10- Review for Test
 - May 17- Test

Also, remember to check the PowerPoint Clicker schedule.

8-9th Graders - -Confirmation Day is Sunday, April 30

- May 7: Cake will be served after worship in honor of our confirmands

- New Bible Study at Pastor & Violet's starts Wednesday, June 3 @ 6:30

(We'll meet the 1st & 3rd Weds. during summer)

Service Project for Both Groups:

Students from both classes will help serve food and bus tables when Living Word hosts Tuesday's Table on Tuesday, May 30. (This serves as the replacement for our usual service project, Adopt-a-Highway, since our section of Highway 23 is closed for construction.)

Youth Events...

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH STUDY:

5:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 3

+++

STUDY FOR THOSE CONFIRMED THIS YEAR:

Starts WEDNESDAY, June 7 @ Pastor & Violet's home



Email Wisdom...

(From Jews For Jesus Executive Director, David Brickner)

The phrase "Freedom isn't Free" echoes in my heart and mind—not just from a historic speech or a popular song—but as the biblical key to receiving and proclaiming the gospel.

The Cost of Liberty

Passover is all about God liberating Israel from slavery in Egypt. And yet Israel's liberty—or freedom—wasn't free. It cost the Egyptian people the lives of their firstborn sons, and it would have cost Israel the same, except for the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Just as freedom from bondage comes at a cost, so does the post-bondage life of freedom. The people of Israel no longer belonged to Pharaoh, yet they

were not free to live however they chose—they belonged to God and were obligated to trust and serve Him. They had to step out in faith and into a life of obedience that included wandering and seasons of deprivation.

The Obligations of Freedom

Our freedom places a profound obligation on us that includes a brand-new identity that is chosen for us, not by us. "Do you not know ... you are not your own? For you were bought at a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). That's not an easy verse to live by, but we need to embrace it tightly because it is crucial to experiencing and to proclaiming real liberty—especially during this cultural moment in time. The world declares and celebrates that people are free to carve their own path and choose their own identity. This false notion of freedom wreaks havoc, enslaving people to their own misguided opinions and desires. The fallout from this "freedom" is brokenness, bondage, and despair.

Our freedom in Jesus runs contrary to popular notions and so must our message. Our identity has been paid for and chosen for us by God. We belong to Him and are obligated to Him, but that obligation goes hand in hand with freedom. We are both free and obligated to love God and others, to serve God and others, and not be bound by selfishness and sin. And there is no greater joy than to see others find that new life, new identity, and new purpose in Jesus.



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That for a day: You're never too old to learn something stupid.

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LWML News...

GOING AWAY LUNCHEON

For LEONE QUIGLEY (moving to Florida):

Wednesday, May 10 at 11:00 a.m.

Meet at Sweet Water Café in New London at 11:00

All Women of Living Word are welcome to join us!

Please RSVP to Bonnie Hansen (796-5605), or Marsha Welsh (320-220-0803) by Sunday, May 7th

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 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



TRUMPET OF THE CROSS



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?"



Mark Your Calendars...



Tuesday, May 2

6:00 p.m. at Larry Levin's

Shoot some pool, play shuffleboard, throw darts, maybe even toss a tennis ball for Larry's dog !

Memorial Service for Elaine Abraham

will be held Saturday, May 13 @ 11:00
(visitation @ 10:00)

May 7 - after worship:

Please join us for special "Cake Fellowship" in honor of our confirm-ands.

Mission & Ministry Team

NOTE CHANGE: Thursday, May 25th @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

Building Committee

Next meeting: Thursday, May 25th @ 6:30

May Fellowship Outing:



Supper at
Greenwald Pub

Thursday, May 11
at 6:00 p.m.

Congregational Outreach...

Marcia would like to know how many people are interested in these possible summer fellowship outings:

- A Stingers Game
- Big Kahuna
- Green Lake Cruise

She appreciates your feedback!

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Thot for a day: At my funeral, take the bouquet off my coffin and throw it into the crowd to see who's next.

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Trap Shooting Fellowship 2023...

Kicks off with our only Saturday shoot of the season:

- Saturday, June 3 @ 12:30.

Then, every other Wednesday, June through August June 14

- June 28
- July 12
- July 26
- August 9
- August 23



Please join us - and bring a friend!

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-palooza, 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
(Still looking for a few more ladies! Invite a friend.)



Spring Voter's Meeting...

... will be held after worship on June 4. The Spring Assembly is our annual election to fill Mission and Ministry positions. We will elect members to 2-year terms. (Current officers are in parentheses.)

Positions to be voted on:

Vice Chair	-	(Currently open)
Elders (two):		(Joe Johnson) (one currently open)
Christian Growth - Sunday School		(Mona Hjelle)
Congregational Outreach -		(Marcia Welsh)
Treasurer		(Steve Wulf)

Open positions that can be filled by MMT appointment:

Chair
Stewardship

We need suggestions for people to fill the open positions as well as the positions up for election. If you have members you'd like us to consider for either, please give their names to an Elder or Mission and Ministry Team member. Thanks!

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the normal First and Third Sundays, **May 7th & May 21st.**



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.

"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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Thot for a day: When I was young, I was poor. But after several years of hard work, I am no longer young.

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Tuesday's Table

will be at Living Word



May 30th,

COMMUNITY DINNER

6:00 pm

We are looking for a few people to help prep food, serve and clean up.

Contact Tammy Miller 320.905.2434

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 !!!
- May 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>

Apr 2 "Imagine Going Home"

Good Friday "What separates Christianity from ALL other beliefs"

Easter [We're VERY sorry, the Easter service did not get recorded]

Apr 16 "Jesus alive after being dead changes everything!"

Apr 23 "Holy Heartburn - and other lessons from the risen Jesus"

Note: We also recorded the memorial services for Kevin Hokom and David Schleusner.

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!

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For every tax problem there is a solution which is straightforward, uncomplicated and wrong.

That for a day:

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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 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:

- Thanking God for the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of our confirmands.
- Thanking God for our Sunday School kids, teachers and Mona.
- Thanking God for moms.
- Thanking God for all who gave their lives serving our country.
- Asking God's blessing on our H.S. Youth fundraising efforts for their trip
- Asking God for good weather for the planting and growing season.
- Thanking God for getting us through winter!
- 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.

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/3yr5ctkb>

May 2023 - Daily Readings

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 4 Acts 4:32-35 _____
May 5 Colossians 3:1-10 _____
May 6 1 Peter 1:3-9 _____

Week of **MAY 7** READINGS ABOUT MOMS IN THE BIBLE

May 8 Eve: Genesis 2:18-25, 3:20, 4:1-2, 4:25-26 _____
May 9 Sarah: Genesis 17:15-19, 18:9-15, 21:1-8, 21:1-2 _____
May 10 Rebecca: Genesis 24, 25:19-28, 27:1-46 _____
May 11 Rachel: Genesis 29:1-30-25 _____
May 12 Jochebed: Exodus 1:22-2:10 _____
May 13 Hannah: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:7, 2:18-21 _____

Week of **MAY 14** MORE MOMS IN THE BIBLE

May 15 Widow of Zarephath: 1 Kings 17:7-24, _____
May 16 Elizabeth: Luke 1:5-25, 1:39-45, 1:56-66 _____
May 17 Mary: Luke 1:26-56, 2:1-51, John 19:25-26 _____

May 18 Lydia: Acts 16:11-15, 40 _____
May 19 Lois & Eunice: 2 Timothy 1:1-5, 3:14-15 _____
May 20 Proverbs 31 Woman: _____






Week of **May 21** PASSAGES ABOUT FISH AND FISHING

May 22 Jonah 1-2 _____
May 23 Matthew 12:38-42 _____
May 24 Matthew 13:47-50 _____
May 25 Matthew 14:13-21 _____
May 26 Matthew 15:29-39 _____
May 27 Matthew 17:24-27 _____

Week of **May 28** MORE PASSAGES ABOUT FISH

May 29 Luke 5:1-11 _____
May 30 Luke 11:5-13 _____
May 31 Luke 24:36-43 _____
June 1 John 21:1-14 _____
June 2 Genesis 1:26-28 _____
June 3 1 Corinthians 15:35-41 _____

May 2023 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 30 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:00-WORSHIP w/Confirmation Confirmation Receptions at various locations	1  Happy May Day!	2 MEN'S STUDY: Game Night at Levin's 6:00	3 5:00 H.S. YOUTH STUDY	4	5	6
7 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 11:15 - CAKE IN HONOR OF OUR CONFIRMANDS	8	9 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	10 11:00 LEONE QUIGLEY LUNCHEON 6:00 -6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	11 6:00 GREENWALD OUTING	12	13 11:00 ELAINE ABRAHAM MEMORIAL SERVICE
14 MOTHERS' DAY 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP	15 11:00 Celebrate May Birthdays @ Panda Garden	16 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	17 6:00 -6-7th CONFIRMATION	18 6:30 - BUILDING COMMITTEE	19 WOMENS' RETREAT	20 WOMENS' RETREAT
21 LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	24	25 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	26	27 Mission <i>Ministry</i> 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	28	29
28 SUMMER WORSHIP TIME 9:00 - WORSHIP 	29 	30 6:00 TUESDAY'S TABLE @ LIVING WORD	31 	June 1	June 2	June 3  12:30 TRAP SHOOTING OPENER

Lord's Supper Dates

- Sunday, May 7th
- Sunday, May 21st

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

May 7	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
May 14	Jason & Levi Miller
May 21	Larry Levin
May 28	Volunteers needed

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

May 7, 14	Joe & Duane
May 21 & 28	Steve & Scott

Custodian

May - Volunteers needed
June - Volunteers needed

PowerPoint Operator

May 7	Troy
May 14	Carter
May 21	Parker
May 28	Ella

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Thot for a day: I may not be that funny or athletic or good-looking or smart or talented
I forgot where I was going with this...

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Communion Bread Maker

Apr 2	Autumn & Kala
Apr 16	Carson & Rya

Altar Guild

May	Mona Hjelle
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Nursery

(Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

Accompanying Musicians

May 7	Scott Wachter
May 14	Sharon Willen
May 21	Open
May 28	Pam Johnson



Seen on Church Signboards...

**When Life Gives You More
Than You Can Stand -**

It's Time to Kneel

May Discipleship Verse...

"You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14 & 16

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Does your spouse have any habits that annoy you? If your answer is no, are you sure you're married? We're joking, but let's be honest - the irritation can get real. Sometimes we could all use a little help in handling those irksome tendencies in positive ways.



1. Determine what really matters to you.

Is the habit actually having a negative effect on your feelings or wellbeing? Or is it just annoying because it's not aligned with your preferences? If it's the latter, then it probably will best serve your relationship to learn to let go of your irritation as quickly as it arises, which you're probably already doing in most cases. If it's the former, however, then see tip #2.

2. Communicate what bothers you in a respectful way.

If a habit is actually causing you some real distress, then it's up to you to let your spouse know. Be honest about how their habit affects you, while remaining kind and respectful. They may not have even realized they were doing it, let alone how it was affecting you up until this point, so be willing to meet them in the middle. Don't expect complete change overnight.

Bonus tip: Try to avoid using over-generalizations like "you always" or "you never" when bringing up each other's habits. Although it might feel like an accurate depiction, it's probably unlikely to actually be true. Your spouse might feel unfairly judged, which tends to evoke defensiveness and can derail the conversation.

3. Make an effort for each other.

This is a facet of #2. If your partner has expressed to you that a habit really bothers them, be willing to put in a genuine effort to curb it. Sometimes just knowing you're both doing your best and not purposely trying to drive each other nuts is enough to temper annoyance and keep things lighthearted and peaceful.

4. Maintain a sense of humor.

Humor has a way of softening things. When you try to see the funny side of your spouse's annoying habits, it can help you think of them as more endearing than exasperating. Being able to poke a little fun at each other - and yourselves - keeps things light. You might even find you develop some great inside jokes out of this, creating shared meaning you can bond over.

5. Keep things in perspective.

When you're bubbling over with annoyance, it's easy to get wrapped up

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That for a day: Is it ignorance or apathy that's destroying the world today? I don't know and don't really care.

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in that feeling. Suddenly that thing they do is the single most irritating thing in the world. You might even get yourself worked up enough that you start feeling angry. This is a great time to take a breath and zoom out on the situation. In the grand scheme of things, how significant is this, really? More than likely, it's not going to rank too highly.

6. Realize if it's you, not them.

When you take a more objective view of the habit you find so annoying, you might come to the realization that maybe their habit isn't actually that annoying after all. Maybe, for whatever reason, you're having a reaction that is disproportionate to the offense. Perhaps it's triggering you in some way or you're already dealing with own emotions. Whatever the case, take ownership of your feelings and be willing to apologize if you overreacted.

For better or for worse, getting annoyed with each other's habits is pretty much unavoidable in marriage. Most of the time, it's not a big deal; we're able to take it in stride and handle it with minimal conflict. But no one is perfect, and sometimes we can use some reminders for how to respond in ways that keep things harmonious and de-escalate the situation.



Thank God For...

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

In April we thanked God for...

- Good Friday
- Jesus is STILL Risen
- David Schleusner
- Our Confirmands:

Will, Autumn, Alex, Kala, Carson and Rya

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

Congratulations...

- Will Dahl, Autumn Foshaug, Alex Meis, Kala Miller, Carson Sawatzky and Rya Sharp on your commitments to follow Jesus on Confirmation Day!

Please email pastor@livingwordlutheran if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

The Link...

April 2023 Updates

The MN FoodShare campaign has come to an end. We are extremely grateful to all of the individual, church and business donations throughout the month! We will update next month on actual numbers raised during the campaign!

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!! RibFest 2023 planning is officially underway! It is scheduled for June 10, 2023 from 2pm-5pm 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!

Silent Auction items needed for RibFest! We have decided to bring back the silent auction to RibFest this year! If you have anything you would like to donate to this, please call Shawna at 320-897-5146. We will also have chance drawings for 3 big ticket items and live music!

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 March, The Link was able to serve 2 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 saw a 46% increase in families served from February to March! In March, The Link served 93 households (including: 172 adults, 101 children and 28 seniors) and distributed a total of 5040.5 pounds of food (which is up almost 2,000 pounds in one month). 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.



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That for a day: It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything.

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The Wildcat Backpack Program is currently serving 88 children. Each week, students from the NL-S High School pack bags to each school to ensure our students nutritional needs are met on the weekends. 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 11 families in March by helping with transportation, medical bills, utility bills and rental payments. This program also provided advocacy for 6 families, in-depth budgeting support for 11 families, networking for 6 families and provided 14 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 con-

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: No problem is so large or so difficult that it can't be blamed on somebody else.

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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!

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!



"If I send my prayer as a text message, will I get a faster reply?"

Memorial Day...

A memorial is established to remind people of something. The Bible has several such memorials. In the Old Testament, the Passover was established as a memorial of God's deliverance. In the New Testament, the Lord's Supper was established as a way to remember Christ's sacrifice. The remembrance serves as a reminder of how to act appropriately today. We look back in remembrance to better understand our actions today.

Memorial Day is a time to remember. Obviously, a biblical mandate does not exist for Memorial Day like it does for the Lord's Supper. Christian Americans should not mix God and country in a way that creates a noxious form of religious nationalism. Our soldiers died for everyone's religious liberty. While some churches are guilty of conflating patriotism and Christianity, it's just as disturbing when a church skips past Memorial Day without a mention. When Christians and churches reflect on the sacrifices of those who died serving our country, it's an opportunity to pull from the best of our culture and demonstrate much needed biblical values for today.

Sacrifice. Many churches will make the connection between a soldier's sacrifice and Christ's ultimate sacrifice on Memorial Day weekend. It's almost cliché, but there is truth in it. While churches could be a little more creative in making this connection, the core teaching is important. In our entitlement-driven culture, we give lip-service to sacrifice. In our preference-driven churches, sacrifice means parking in the back lot. Memorial Day reminds us of true sacrifice—a willingness to lay down one's life.

Honor. Biblically, the concept of honor means to esteem or show great respect. We're to honor our parents, church leaders, people in authority, and, of course, God. Unfortunately, our culture tends to place honor mainly on those with wealth, celebrity, or political clout. Memorial Day is a time to honor those who deserve it. This day of remembrance is a chance for us to give the next generation a picture of true honor.

Liberty. Christ frees us from sin, and our country gives us the liberty to express this freedom to others. My grandfather, Samuel Solomon Rainer, Sr., served in World War II. He flew D-Day. His plane was called the Hoo Jive. My great uncle was a spy for the OSS. Another great uncle, Charles Spurgeon Keller, Jr., died in battle one week before World War II ended. He was in his late teens or early twenties. I know these stories because my father told them to me. Part of remembering is sharing history with the next generation. Take time today to tell your chil-



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That for a day: Just when I was getting used to yesterday, along came today.

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dren or grandchildren about why we remember on Memorial Day. We live in a country where religious liberty exists. Our soldiers need to know our churches are behind them. The next generation needs to know religious liberty is worth our lives. The next generation needs to know freedom comes with a cost.

War is always complex. Views on wars change as decades and centuries pass. Christians should ask, Is war just? It's not an easy answer, and a conclusion about any specific war is not the purpose of this post. My point is simple: We must be careful what we memorialize. The memories we highlight influence our actions today. Memorial Day is worth remembering, for the causes of sacrifice, honor, and liberty.

Easter Celebration for Kids...



Email Humor...

A preacher found his young son in the kitchen munching on a snack, which he was not supposed to be doing.

The preacher said, "Son, I told you to 'stand on the Word of God.' But stacking four Bibles on top of one another, then climbing up on them to reach the cookie jar was not exactly what I meant!"



Kids Are Hilarious:

1. When my daughter was seven-years-old, she once interrupted a bedtime story to tell me, "In a pie eating contest, it doesn't matter if you win or lose because you get to eat pie." I think about that a lot.
2. My ten-year-old carefully packed everything she'd need for a week-long trip to Grandma's house. Then she forgot her bag in her room. Guess who got a shopping spree for all new clothes? I'm pretty sure she planned this.
3. On the first day of school, my six-year-old told me about his art teacher, Mr. McClay. This week, I found out his name is actually Mr. Mitchell. It turns out my kid has been calling him McClay because he thinks that's a better name for an art teacher.
4. I collect all the cell phones and iPads from our kids at night and keep them in my room. Last night they all set alarms on their devices to go off at various times throughout the night. I'm impressed with their ingenuity and team effort. But they're still all grounded!!!

When a mother saw a thunderstorm forming in mid-afternoon, she worried about her seven-year-old daughter who would be walking three blocks from school to home. Deciding to meet her, the mother saw her walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed.

Glimpsing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining enthusiastically, "All the way home, God's been taking my picture!"



Story Behind The Song...

We are just past the Easter season and stories of the crucifixion of Jesus are still fresh in our minds, so I thought we would look at the history of one of the most loved and well known hymns—"The Old Rugged Cross."

"The Old Rugged Cross," one of the world's best-loved hymns, was composed here in 1912 by the Rev. George Bennard (1873-1958).

Bennard was born into a very modest family in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1873. His father, a coal miner, passed away during George's teen years, leaving the youth with tremendous family responsibilities. To that end, he became a coal miner, as was his father before him. He was converted at the age of 24 after attending a Salvation Army meeting, and for a number of years, he and his wife worked with the Salvation Army.

George later left the salvation and joined the Methodist church in 1910 and served for several years as an itinerant Method preacher holding revival meetings in the Midwest of the United States.

On one occasion, as he was thinking of Christ's crucifixion, an original melody ran through his mind. Although it was a complete melody, he struggled to write some appropriate lyrics. It was during one of those revival meetings that he produced this hymn. It was his response to the heckling and ridicule he received from several youths at a revival meeting in Michigan. Bennard was troubled by their disregard of the gospel that he turned to the bible to reflect on Christ on the cross. Here he wrote just the first verse of "The Old Rugged Cross".

After writing the phrase "I'll cherish the old rugged cross." The song began to take shape in bits and pieces.

He returned from several preaching engagements to his home — 1101

E. Michigan Ave., Albion, Michigan — with a renewed meaning of the cross etched in his mind and heart. He took the song manuscript and placed it on the kitchen table. In a very short span of time, he was able to rewrite the stanzas with each word falling perfectly into place. He asked his wife to join him in the kitchen. She did so and he joyfully sang his prized, new song. She was very pleased, expressing that the song was great.

He then sent the manuscript to Charles H. Gabriel, in Chicago, asking if he would write the proper chords with the melody line. Gabriel did so and returned the document with the message, "You will hear from this song."

The completed song was first published in 1915. From this point, "Old Rugged Cross" became a staple at evangelistic crusades. It then proved to be an extremely popular country gospel when it was recorded by numerous artists. This includes Ernest Tubb, who used it as the title track of his 1952 gospel album. Other popular artists who covered the song are Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash, George Jones, Patsy Cline, and so many more.

Bennard said what I have since heard countless other songwriters say, "I really didn't write it. I was merely the instrument God used." He wrote the words and music of over 300 other hymns. None achieved the fame of "The Old Rugged Cross," the moving summation of his faith.

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

CHORUS: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies, at last, I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

CHORUS: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross...

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 't was on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.

CHORUS: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross...

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

CHORUS: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross...

Note from the editor: There are many recordings of this song to enjoy, including Johnny Cash, Guy Penrod, Alan Jackson. Alabama, the Statler Brothers, and Elvis to name a few. Watch the **Redeemed Quartet** sing the song at the original church in Michigan that Bennard first sang it in 1913...

https://youtu.be/YGAHQr_DirY

But perhaps my favorite video is from the Southern gospel group, **Southbound** with American Idol winner, **Todd Tilghman** at

<https://youtu.be/TyGdgTvDw5w>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

