

November 2023 Newsletter

"Communicating the Love of Jesus"
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...

Do we get a "second chance" at putting our trust in Jesus after we die?

I actually received this question a few times in totally different settings this past month, so the idea must be making the rounds.

As always, we turn to God's Word (not our own ideas) for the answer.

For this question, Hebrews chapter 9:27-28 makes it pretty plain:

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

So, the answer seems quite simple: Nope! No second chances after we die.

When you think about it, if Jesus is going to give everyone a chance to trust in Him after we die, it makes zero sense that He would commission us to go into the world to call people to trust Him before they die. I mean, Jesus can do it so much better than we can, so why bother sending us to do it.

Keep in mind what Jesus said in Luke 16:31, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead." In other words, if they don't believe based on what we say about Jesus, they won't believe if Jesus says it Himself!

Thanks for asking!
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net



Thanksgiving Eve Worship...

Wednesday,
November 22
@ 6:30 p.m.



A special Thank-offering will be collected:

God commanded the Israelites to come to the temple once a year for a joyful celebration of the blessings God provided in the harvest. This harvest festival was called The Feast of Weeks.

Then celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you. Deuteronomy 16:10

With that in mind we will come together on Thanksgiving Eve for a special joyful celebration of the blessings God has provided us. We're each encouraged to bring a special freewill offering in proportion to how God has blessed us this past year.

Please pray about your Thank-offering proportion. Use the special Thank-Offering envelope to make your Thank-Offering. (Your yearly Thank-Offerings can be given any Sunday, if you are not able to attend the Thanksgiving Eve service.)

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

King David in 1 Chronicles 29:14

Thank You...

- to EVERYONE for the Pastor (and wife!) Appreciation Sunday Gift Card and Reception after worship on October 8! We thank God for your partnership in the Gospel You truly are the greatest congregation! Pastor David & Violet
- Veterans! Veterans Day is November 11. A HUGE "Thank You" to all who have served our country. We are free to worship and live out our faith everyday because of you. God bless each of you!

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

Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00

Please join us for coffee and study of the Book of Romans

Monthly Morning Women's Study:

November 8th @ 10:00 a.m.

All ladies are invited!

Evening Women's Study

Is on Break.

Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30

(Come at 6:00 for food.)



Pastor is Planning a Membership Class...

Please talk to him if you are interested in finding out about membership at Living Word.

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 October we thanked God for...

- Kasey and Tyler Bryant United in Marriage - Sept 29
- Amazing Fall Weather and Colors

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



"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-](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VvJfEU22yCYxbhwjg/featured)

[VvJfEU22yCYxbhwjg/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG9eU-VvJfEU22yCYxbhwjg/featured)

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Thot for a day: Don't forget to turn your clocks back. I'm turning mine back to when I was 20.

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From The MMT...

The MMT (Mission and Ministry Team) 2024 Goals:

We are very excited to share with you the goals we have for the coming year!

- Continue the Make A Meal program. (it was very successful!)
- Creating a Visitors Table (Give Aways Supplied with church and prayer ministry info)
- Bringing back the Secret Paul Program (adults "adopting " a kid to pray for , send cards etc...)
- A Concert!! (Summer....outdoor) Jason Gray possibly? Any other suggestions?
- Chili Cook off...

Trustee Goals:

- Lawn/ property beautification
- Eliminating clutter on the property (better storage??)
- Develop a structure to ushering
- Structured/consistent calendar for cleaning church (volunteers)

If anyone has ANY ideas for 2024 please let us know. Most importantly, if you have any interest in leading or helping with any of these fun activities, let us know.

We also have 2 open positions on the MMT. Vice Chair and stewardship. Interested?

A church that prays AND plays together stays together!

Some Email Humor...

Locked Out

One afternoon I rushed out of the house, forgetting my keys, and found myself locked out. There was nothing I could do but wait for my husband to come home. I went over to a neighbor who was outside raking leaves.

"You locked yourself out?" he asked.

"Yeah, this is the second time since we moved in. After the first time we took an extra key and put it in a jar, then stuck it in a potted plant on the deck.

"So what's the problem?"

"I took the plants in for the winter."

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 :

- Kid's books
- November Newsletters
- October-December Portals of Prayer
- Smoke Detector batteries

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>

- Oct 1 "Grow in Prayer: "The P.R.A.Y. Example"
Oct 8 "Grow in Prayer: "The Difference a Heaven"
Oct 15 "Grow in Prayer: John 17 - Things to Ask God For"
Oct 22 "Grow in Prayer: Overcoming Obstacles to Prayer"
Oct 29 "A Connection Between the Reformation and Fall Trees"

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.

Choir News...



The Choir is planning to sing for Thanksgiving Eve service.

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That for a day: I can't wait to set the clocks back this weekend, and get an extra hour of unable to sleep.

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LWML News...



Our next meeting and Bible study will be Wednesday, November 8th @ 10:00 a.m.

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.

Outreach...

Smoke-Detector Battery Outreach

We Have LOTS of Batteries left from Our Annual Smoke-Detector Battery Giveaway

Please take some from the "Free Stuff" Table for your family and friends!



Youth Events...

11-12th Grade YOUTH:

11-12th Grade Bible Study meets every other Wednesday at 5 pm at Becky's office in Willmar (November 1st & 15th)



9-10th Grade Youth

Meet Wednesday, November 15th @ 6:00
Game night

Building Committee News...

Write your vision for our new sanctuary..

on the poster in the fellowship area. We want to find out what things you would love to see included as we move forward with our planning.

OUR NEXT BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING:
Tuesday, November 7th @ 5:30 (Prior to Men's Study)



Mark Your Calendars...

Mission & Ministry Team

November 9th @ 6:30 p.m.
(Annual Budget Planning)
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

MISSION
Ministry

Building Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 7th @ 5:30 (Prior to Men's Study)

Fall Voter's Meeting

Sunday, November 19th after worship.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 22nd @ 6:30
Followed by Pumpkin Pie Fellowship after service

Upcoming Fellowship Outings...

Celebrate November Birthdays

November 6 at O'Neill's in Spicer
11:00—1:30. Anyone is welcome!!

Redeemer (Willmar) asked if anybody from our church would like to go watch the Looney Lutherans.

Look for a poster with more information, and please sign up!!

All are welcome to everything!!!

Outreach Events...

Living Nativity Has Been Cancelled . . .

due to the city of New London changing the date for "Home for the Holidays" and to the Zoo increasing the rate for providing the animals. We are looking at recreating event for less cost. I'm open to suggestions!

We are planning a Chili Cookoff for January 20!

More details to come soon.
So be practicing cooking skills and invite some cooks to compete!!

Please contact Tammy Miller 320-905-2434

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Thot for a day: A prayer over leftovers: "Lord, AGAIN we thank you for this food. Bless the hands that repaired it."

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Confirmation News...

- 7-8th Confirmation classes are Wednesdays @ 6:00 (Pastor will have a light supper @ 5:45 for those who need)
- Please, remember to check the "PowerPoint Clicker" schedule.
- Game night this month will be November 15.



Sunday School News...

Sunday School: Lessons for the Month-
"Harvesting Gratitude"!

"Save the Date"

Children's Christmas Program
December 17th @ 10:00 a.m.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Dedication is November 12th.



The congregation and the children are invited to participate in "Operation Christmas Child". Kick-off date for this mission will be Sunday, October 15, with brochures, boxes and labels provided. Deadline for the boxes to be brought back to church, will be Wednesday, November 15th. If you need more info, go to

www.samaritanpurse.org Thank you for partnering with Samaritan's Purse, as we share God's love with children around the world.

Pumpkin (and other) Pie Fellowship After Thanksgiving Eve Worship

We are serving pie (pumpkin, etc.) or pumpkin dessert after the Thanksgiving service. Anyone wanting to bring a pie or dessert can contact me at textbooks@tds.net or call me at 796-5605. Thanks!



Email Wisdom...

(words of wisdom from Billy Graham)

Thanksgiving—the giving of thanks—to God for all His blessings should be one of the most distinctive marks of the believer in Jesus Christ. We must not allow a spirit of ingratitude to harden our heart and chill our relationship with God and with others.

Nothing turns us into bitter, selfish, dissatisfied people more quickly than an ungrateful heart. And nothing will do more to restore contentment and the joy of our salvation than a true spirit of thankfulness.

In the ancient world, leprosy was a terrible disease. It hopelessly disfigured those who had it, and it permanently cut them off from normal society. Without exception, every leper yearned for one thing: To be healed.

One day 10 lepers approached Jesus outside a village, loudly pleading with Him to heal them. In an instant He restored them all to perfect health—but only one came back and thanked Him. All the rest left without a word of thanks, their minds preoccupied only with themselves, gripped with a spirit of ingratitude.

Today, too, ingratitude and thanklessness are far too common. Children forget to thank their parents for all that they do. Common courtesy is scorned. We take for granted the ways that others help us. Above all, we fail to thank God for His blessings.

Ingratitude is a sin, just as surely as is lying or stealing or immorality or any other sin condemned by the Bible. One of the Bible's indictments against rebellious humanity is that "although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him" (Romans 1:21, NIV). An ungrateful heart is a heart that is cold toward God and indifferent to His mercy and love. It is a heart that has forgotten how dependent we are on God for everything.

From one end of the Bible to the other, we are commanded to be thankful. In fact, thankfulness is the natural outflowing of a heart that is attuned to God. The psalmist declared, "Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving" (Psalm 147:7, NIV). Paul wrote, "Be thankful" (Colossians 3:15, NIV). A spirit of thanksgiving is always the mark of a joyous Christian.

Why should we be thankful? Because God has blessed us, and we should be thankful for each blessing.

We pray you have a blessed Thanksgiving Day.

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That for a day: If I were a turkey, I'd be doing everything I could to taste terrible right now.

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October Photos...



**Making
Communion
Wafers**



**Celebrating
October birthdays
@ Zorbaz**

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

4 Benefits of Understanding Your Triggers

You've probably experienced this before—having an emotional reaction disproportionate to the comment that spurred it, or a conversation that goes off the rails when emotions escalate out of control. Sure, some conflict is unavoidable and necessary, but constantly lashing out when you're triggered can be pretty hard on your relationship. When you do the work to better understand your own hot spots and triggers, you'll begin to reap the following benefits:



You'll avoid unnecessary conflict.

Understanding your own triggers gives you a chance to temper your emotions with rational thinking so you can respond more appropriately. When you feel your heart rate starting to ramp up or your first instinct is to get defensive, it's natural to let the emotions take over, which usually leads us down the fight path. When you know your triggers, you're more able to recognize that you're having an emotional reaction because you're particularly sensitive to a certain topic. This insight helps you take on a more objective perspective of the situation and respond with more intention.

You'll be able to take responsibility when your response is less than ideal.

We're not robots. Emotions will sway you from time to time, and you'll inevitably respond in way you wish you hadn't. But when you know why you overreacted, you can call yourself on it and try again. You might say, "I'm sorry, I shouldn't have snapped at you like that. I'm feeling very insecure about that topic lately." This also helps reroute a conversation down a more positive path—creating an opportunity for connection instead of distance.

You'll foster a cycle of empathy.

When you understand your own triggers, you are better positioned to communicate them to your spouse and help them understand where you're coming from. Instead of being blindsided or in the dark about your sensitive topics, they can be more empathetic. They have the knowledge that allows them to be more thoughtful and aware of tone, phrasing, or timing when addressing certain topics. When your spouse responds to you in such a supportive and understanding way, you're much more likely to reciprocate that response.

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Thot for a day: There's always a lot to be thankful for, if you take time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

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You'll grow together.

It takes self-awareness and vulnerability to identify your triggers and share them with your partner, but it's a really powerful way to grow—both as individuals and as a couple. The areas we're sensitive about are often tied to some of our biggest vulnerabilities. When you open up to each other and learn to communicate about them in an honest and accepting way, intimacy grows. You'll learn new ways to support one another and even help each other work through some of those deep-seated fears and insecurities.

Self-awareness is important in all aspects of life. Understanding your strengths and weaknesses can help you optimize your performance at work. Knowing what energizes and drains you allows you to be at your best in your day-to-day life. And understanding your triggers can transform the way you relate to your spouse, avoid unnecessary conflict, and strengthen intimacy and connection.

Simple Ways to Give Your Life A Spiritual Lift...

Read 100 (or so) Key Bible Chapters

(Or listen to Pastor read them on our website. He will text or email you a link to each day's recording)

<https://www.livingwordlutheran.net/devotions.htm>

Refresh your memory about God's work in His world through these basics of the Christian faith, from Creation to John's Vision of Heaven.



You'll find the readings listed on our Daily Readings page s 14 & 15

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Coming soon to a lake near you...

Thanks to Dan
ANOTHER ESKIMO BAPTISM GONE BAD
12-03-2007

November 2023 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|--------|----------------------------|
| Oct 29 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP | Oct 30 | Oct 31 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY | 1 5:00 - 11-12th GRADE BIBLE STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER TIME | 2 <div> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, November 5th Sunday, November 19th Thanksgiving Eve, November 22nd </div> | 3 | 4 |
| 5 <div>Daylight Savings Time Ends</div> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP | 6 11:00 - CELEBRATE NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS @ O'Neills | 7 5:30 - BUILDING COMMITTEE 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY | 8 10:00 - LWML & Women's Study 6:00 - CONFIRMATION | 9 5:30 - ELDERS 6:30 - MMT <i>Mission Ministry</i> | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Operation Christmas Child Dedication 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP  | 13 | 14 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY GAME NIGHT | 15 5:00 - 11-12th GRADE BIBLE STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION GAME NIGHT | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP & FALL VOTERS' ASSEMBLY | 20 | 21 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY | 22 THANKSGIVING EVE 6:30 - THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP w/communion 7:30 - PIE FELLOWSHIP | 23 THANKSGIVING DAY  | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP | 27 | 28 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY | 29 6:00 - CONFIRMATION | 30 | DEC 1 | DEC 2 CHURCH DECORATING |

November 2023 - Daily Readings

This month we continue our look at 100 (or so) Key Chapters of the Bible, chapters that are basic to understanding the message of God's Word..

Pastor records the readings (along with devotions based on the readings). If you would like to receive these audio recordings daily, just email him: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Week of October 29

Oct 30 Exodus 16 _____

Oct 31 Exodus 20 _____

Nov 1 Exodus 32 _____

Nov 2 Exodus 34 _____

Nov 3 Leviticus 19 _____

Week of November 5

Nov 6 Leviticus 25 _____

Nov 7 Numbers 11 _____

Nov 8 Numbers 13-14 _____

Nov 9 Numbers 20:1-21:9 _____

Nov 10 Numbers 22 _____

Week of November 12

Nov 13 Deuteronomy 11 _____

Nov 14 Deuteronomy 28 _____

Nov 15 Joshua 3 _____

Nov 16 Joshua 5:13-6:27 _____

Nov 17 Joshua 24 _____

Week of November 19

Nov 20 Judges 2 _____

Nov 21 Judges 6 _____

Nov 22 Ruth 1 _____

Nov 23 1 Samuel 1 _____

Nov 24 1 Samuel 8 _____

Week of November 26

Nov 27 1 Samuel 16-17 _____

Nov 28 2 Samuel 11-12 _____

Nov 29 1 Kings 3 _____

Nov 30 1 Kings 8 _____

Dec 1 1 Kings 17-19 _____

Recordings of the Daily Readings can also be found on our website at:

<https://www.livingwordlutheran.net/devotions.htm>

Upcoming Schedules...

After-Worship Fellowship

We will have coffee / water
and cookies at 11:15 after worship.
Please join us when you can!



Usher Schedule

| | |
|--------|---------------------------|
| Nov 5 | Wendy & Lonny Robbin |
| Nov 12 | Pam Johnson & Joe Johnson |
| Nov 19 | Larry Levin & Jim Stinson |
| Nov 22 | Jason & Levi Miller |
| Nov 26 | Open |

USHERS NEEDED

Since we have resumed gathering the offerings during worship, we are in need of more ushers to help with that. Please sign up at church if you could take a turn once ever month or so. Thanks!

Scripture Readers

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

Elders

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Nov 5, 12 | Dan & Duane |
| Nov 19, 22 & 26 | Kevin & Steve |

Custodian

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| November - | Joe Johnson |
| December - | Lonny Robbin |

Nursery

(Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

Altar Guild

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| November | Mona Hjelle |
|----------|-------------|

Power Point Clicker

| | |
|--------|--------|
| Nov 5 | Carter |
| Nov 12 | Parker |
| Nov 19 | Ella |
| Nov 22 | Open |
| Nov 26 | Troy |

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Thot for a day: Thank the Lord for Facebook & Instagram . Otherwise I'd have to call 674 people every day to tell them I just went to the gym .

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Confirmation Parent Helpers

| | |
|--------|---------|
| Nov 1 | Wright |
| Nov 8 | Foshaug |
| Nov 15 | Hjelle |
| Nov 29 | Knutson |

Accompanying Musicians

| | |
|--------|---------------|
| Nov 5 | Sharon Willen |
| Nov 12 | Open |
| Nov 19 | Scott Wachter |
| Nov 22 | Open |
| Nov 26 | Pam Johnson |

Communion-Bread Maker

| | |
|--------|------|
| Nov 19 | Ella |
| Dec 3 | Troy |

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



Seen on Church Signboards...

**Join Us on Thanksgiving to Thank
God for Our New "Pumpkin Spice"
Communion Wafers!**

**Just Kidding About the Wafers :)
Join Us Anyway!**

November Discipleship Verse...

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

Note:

Our Discipleship Verses through November will be the verses that our Confirmands chose as their Confirmation Verse on April 30. This month we have Rya Sharp's verse.

More Email Humor...

Explanation of Life

On the first day, God created the dog and said: "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."



The dog said: "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?" So God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said: "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said: "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow and said: "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said: "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give you back the other forty?"

And God agreed again.

On the fourth day, God created man and said: "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But man said: "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren, and for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

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That for a day: It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.

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Monthly Music Videos...

Another month and some more new songs to share that you may not have heard yet. Enjoy...

- Caleb & Kelsey just released a beautiful song, "The Jesus Way" ...
https://youtu.be/IWWiigQilOk?si=tYiJX7HydE_sttS
- "Only Jesus For My Pain" is new from Cory Asbury...
<https://youtu.be/VcNeH4Z2DzA?si=Qg8j3GsZeZzXMJvj>
- A great new song from Brooke Ligertwood is "Bless God / Every Chance I Get" ...
<https://youtu.be/gK0fbhGdX4A?si=DGw1T1dcJE1rgCQz>
- Another new song from Brandon Lake is "Miracle Child" ...
<https://youtu.be/3P9YyJ9zPdo?si=N5153iJOM3KpOfhp>
- "God Be The Glory" was just released by We Are Messengers at...
https://youtu.be/gFf2gTbM_7U?si=UZ7Xf0AyDZ2TLgOK
- A group that you probably haven't thought of for a while, Sanctus Real just released "All Along" ...
<https://youtu.be/1imJe6YzuEQ?si=SAQITOXibZNRKQL>
- Austin Stone released "Less Of Me and More Of You" ...
https://youtu.be/yOIYrPHG1PU?si=Kf43Rol8-ZOC1_xD
- New artist, Joe Guerra has a fun song, "Living For Today" ...
https://youtu.be/EKj364_D4D8?si=Vko2Kf9h57iTy2
- I'm not really ready for Christmas, but Phil Wickham released a new Christmas song called "Manger Throne" ...
https://youtu.be/sPiFsJDglg8?si=dmUf06e_Af6immZ4
- Since we're already discussing Christmas, Another new song for this year is "Because of Bethlehem" by Matthew West...
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PclHOdfUfi8>
- Finally for some great music I recommend that you sign up for TBN (it is free) and watch the 54th Annual Dove awards ceremony from Oct 20th. Watch at...
<https://watch.tbn.org/m/B6AcRISW/the-54th-annual-gma-dove-awards?r=rRtc6X4I&play=1>



Opportunities to Serve...

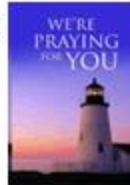
Help With Our Nursery

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 December on. Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to sign up or find out more details.



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.

The freezer at church is full of meals waiting for you to grab and take to someone.



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That for a day: I always knew I'd get old. How fast it happened was a bit of a surprise, though

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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:

- People you can invite to Thanksgiving Eve worship
- Safety during hunting and harvesting
- Thanking God for all Veterans and those who currently serve
- An "Attitude of Gratitude" everyday - not just on Thanksgiving Day
- Safe travels over the Thanksgiving holiday
- Asking God's guidance for our Building Committee
- 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.

A Reminder to Wear Your "Living Word" Sweatshirts



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?"

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the normal First and Third Sundays, **November 1st and 12th**, as well as on Thanksgiving evening, **November 22nd**.



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.



Story Behind The Song...

Sunday, Oct 29th was celebrated as Reformation Sunday. It seems only fitting that we highlight the hymn "A Mighty Fortress".

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his ninety-five theses to the door of the Cathedral of Wittenberg, Germany. That date was sometimes called the 4th of July of Protestantism. It symbolized the start of the Protestant Reformation. And the single most powerful hymn of the Protestant Reformation Movement was Luther's "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", based on Psalm 46.

It is one of the most translated hymns in the history of the Church,

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That for a day: I really need a day between Saturday and Sunday.

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having been translated into more than 200 languages. What many of us might not realize is that the Festival of the Reformation was not celebrated during Luther's lifetime.

Therefore, the hymn was not written to celebrate the Reformation. Only later, after the Thirty Years' War (1618–48), when the Reformation was celebrated as a regular part of the church year in Saxony, Luther's home region, did the hymn become associated with the festival.

Considering that "A Mighty Fortress" is Luther's most famous hymn, we know remarkably little about it. Nor are we even sure when Luther wrote it. The earliest existing hymnal in which it appears is from 1533. (From the records of 19th-century hymnologists we know that there were a few hymnals that contained "A Mighty Fortress" before 1533, but these hymnals were destroyed in the bombing of Dresden during World War II.) Most scholars think Luther wrote the hymn between 1521 and 1529, with the majority of scholars settling on 1527–28.

These years were some of the darkest in Luther's life. A heading from a broadsheet (something akin to modern "sheet music") of "A Mighty Fortress" published in Augsburg in 1529 reads "A Hymn of Comfort." Rather than a battle hymn, Luther intended this hymn, based on Psalm 46, to be one of comfort. While we are not certain what prompted Luther to write the hymn, scholars have suggested a number of events during these dark years.

Because of its association with Reformation Day, many people not only think of "A Mighty Fortress" as the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation," but also as a battle cry against the pope and Rome. Yet, when Luther likely wrote the hymn, his greatest challenge arose from other groups that had broken away from Rome. There were people who claimed to follow the Bible (and Luther) who wanted to revolt against the government, something Luther did not approve of. Others questioned whether pastors were necessary; they believed anyone could proclaim the Word of God. Some doubted whether infants should be baptized. The greatest and most divisive controversy among the reformers also took place during these years—the Sacramentarian Controversy, that is, the fight over whether the Lord's Supper was Jesus' true body and true blood.

Luther saw this controversy as directly related to the proclamation of the Gospel. He believed that the literal words of Jesus needed to be confessed and defended.

In this controversy, Luther argued that there was nothing more true, certain, or powerful than the Word of God. Indeed, the Lord's Word is a "mighty fortress." In the battle between Luther and the Sacramentarians, the Lord's Word was the "trustworthy shield" to defend against their error and the "weapon" used to fight against them. The evil foe was

using deceit and "deep guile" to obscure the words of Jesus.

This hymn reminds us how Martin Luther, and others, preached the truth in love in the face of many obstacles and hardship. Rather than finding a single event behind this hymn, we can see how the plague, the death of his child, the controversies in the church, and other struggles in his life caused Luther to cling to his Lord, who is the Mighty Fortress of all those who trust in Him.

The version of this hymn in our hymnal is an alternate translation of the original wording...

A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from every need
That hath us now overtaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On Earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, who is this?
Jesus Christ it is.
Of Sabbath Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none,
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, goods,
Fame, child and wife,

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Thot for a day: Shoutout to everyone who can remember their childhood phone number but can't remember a password they set up yesterday. You are my people.

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Let these all be gone,
They yet have nothing won;
The kingdom ours remaineth.

Note from the editor:

Every time I hear this hymn it takes me back to my childhood and watching the children's television show, Davey and Goliath every Sunday morning before church. "A Mighty Fortress" was the theme song of this show that was produced by the Lutheran Church of America in the early 1960's. (Showing my age...) If you are interested in some classic entertainment, all the shows are on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=davey+and+goliath+full+episodes

Here is a great version of this hymn by Chris Rice at https://youtu.be/bONV_YZCKdg?si=xkt64tsOteVIVp2M
But, I feel this hymn is best heard when performed by a large choir.
Here is a performance by the Mormon Youth Chorus...
<https://youtu.be/NZcOLL8M5TU?si=fF3vNI-s79puBpJT>

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson

