



February 2024 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...

Some LCMS churches only use wine for communion. They don't believe it's right to offer grape juice, since Jesus used wine. But I see you offer grape juice as well as wine. Why is that?



A good question. One that came from a desire to remain true to God's Word. Here's how! answered it

Making grape juice available for communicants is a question people in the LCMS have differing opinions about. Both perspectives have very valid points, and I'm not sure there's a definitive answer. In a perfect world, wine would be the answer. Unfortunately, we live in a world where lots of people can't or shouldn't have alcohol. I used to think, "That little bit of alcohol won't hurt anyone." Then, a few years ago, for whatever reason, my body decided to not tolerate dairy. Even the slightest bit of cheese messes me up for hours! It's tough, because everything made of dairy is so tasty - and it's really difficult to find foods made without some! But that opened my eyes to what some people deal with regarding alcohol- and how little it takes to have an adverse effect. (We also have available gluten-free wafers, because there are also people with an intolerance to gluten or wheat.)

When we first looked at making a limited amount of grape juice available for folks who can't have alcohol, we found something Martin Luther said very helpful: It is the Word of God that gives the Sacraments their power, not the elements or the one who administers them. When the decision was made to have grape juice available we decided that we would use only 100% grape juice (as opposed to the more readily-available stuff "watered down" with apple juice). We wanted to stick with "the fruit of the vine" as scripture refers to it.

Funny thing. As I was pondering that question, the thought hit me, "It sure seems to me that the grape juice we have available bears a much closer resemblance to the wine Jesus used than those mass-produced "styrofoam" wafers resemble the bread He used. (And nobody gives those wafers a second thought. I know I never did.) Thankfully, it is God's Word that gives that "bread" its power and delivers Jesus' real presence

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through it! (And, thankfully, we have confirmation students willing to make wafers that actually look and taste like unleavened bread!)

Thanks for asking Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Pastor is Planning a Membership Class...

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

Who Can You Invite?...

to join you for :

Friendship Sunday (Feb 11)

Friendship Brunch includes Chili & Soup, etc...

served by the Living Word Elders after worship.



Pray about your invitations. Ask God to give you the words and opportunity.

Then ask them to come with you. Offer to pick them up. (And if they don't take you up on your invitation, keep praying for them and for another opportunity to invite.)



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 January we thanked God for ...

Jesus - Still Immanuel: God. With Us!

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

Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study

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

Monthly Morning Women's Study:

February 14th @ 10:00 a.m. All ladies are invited!



Tuesdays @ 6:30 (Come at 6:15 for food.)



LWML News...

Our next meeting and Bible study will be Wednesday, February 14th @ 10:00 a.m. All ladies of the church are welcome! (Please bring a snack to share.)



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 Events...

Chili Cook Off! was a Hit !!!

Grand Prize: Sarah Miller People's Choiœ: Torasie Larsen Judges Choiœ: Violet Dauk



Our Notorious Judges:

Bryan Blomker, Kari Bus and Wayne Krohn,

We had 10 contestants:

Dan Miller, Jason Miller, Sarah Miller, Byron Meis. Duane Hansen, ScottWachter, Marcia Welsh, Violet Dauk, Linda Dilley, Torasie Larsen

Thanks to the 60 (or so) people who came and enjoyed a great evening

of chili and fellowship!

Special Thanks to Tammy Miller for organizing it!

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Sunday School News...

Upcoming Lessons:

- Feb. 4 All Things New Isaiah 40:21-31
- Feb. 11 My Happy Heart Friendship Sunday
- Feb. 18 God Keeps His Promises Genesis 8-9
- Feb. 25 Jesus is the Christ Matt. 16:21-28; Mark 8: 31-38



FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 11, 2024 -

All kids are encouraged to invite a friend!!

"Baby Bottle Campaign"

to benefit Hope Pregnancy Center continues through February 11th

Confirmation News



- January 31 & Feb. 7 Class @ 6:00 (Pizza @ 5:45)
- February 14: Assist with Ash Wednesday Service. (Be to church by 6:15)
- February 21 & 28 Attend the Lenten Devotion @ 6:00
- Remember to check the "PowerPoint Clicker" schedule.

Coming During Lent...

(Which begins February 14)

Preparation for First Communion for 5th & 6th Graders



The students will have their first communion during the Maundy Thursday service on March 28. Please talk to Pastor David if you have questions. Thanks!

~Z

Smoke-Detector Battery Outreach...

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

Building Committee Update...

Record your vision for our new sanctuary...

on this 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.



We've also been checking on Building Codes for required number of bathrooms and parking spaces.

OUR NEXT BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday, February 6th @ 5:30 (Prior to Men's Study)

Youth Events...

11-12th Grade YOUTH:

11-12th Grade Bible Study meets every other Wednesday at 5 pm at Becky's office in Willmar



9th and 10th Grade Youth

Meet at Pastor and Violet's for pizza 5:00 pm, January 28

7-8th Grade Youth

Board-Game Night - Wednesday, January 31



Planning has begun for attending...

Gathering Date: July 19-23, 2025

Youth , 14-19 years of age by the Gathering Date

Thank You...

 ... everyone who made cookies/brownies and/or served for Will and Harry's funeral

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

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Ash Wednesday...

Ash Wednesday begins the 40day season of Lent. This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14. Ashes symbolize humility, remorse over sin and repentance. Many times in the Old Testament we read about people who put on sackcloth and covered themselves in ashes to show their grief over sin and their desire to repent and turn back to God. Ashes also sug-



gest a need for cleansing, particularly the cleansing we celebrate at the end of Lent by the blood Jesus shed on Good Friday.

During our Ash Wednesday worship we each have a time to record our sins on a piece of paper. The confirmation students take those papers out and burn them, then they return with the ashes that are applied to our foreheads. This serves as a visual reminder that Jesus has taken our sins to the cross and paid for them there!

Please join us for worship at 6:30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday

Soup & Sandwich Suppers...

5:00 - Prior to each Lenten Devotion Service (Starting Wed, Feb 21)

Please sign up at church to bring either a soup or sandwiches on Feb 21st, & 28th and for March 6th, 13th, and 20th. (or talk to Bonnie Hansen)

Communion Notes...



The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in February on the normal First and Third Sundays (4th & 18th) as well as Ash Wednesday (14th)

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.

That for a day:

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
- February Newsletters
- January—March 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

- Jan 7 "Wise men (and women) follow the signs"
- Jan 14 "Jesus' first miracle reveals the kind of God He is."
- Jan 21 "Psalm 139 shows what God thinks of you."
- Jan 28 "Our Response to Jesus: Follow Him"

NOTE: There is also a link on our website to the funeral service for Will and Harry Dahl

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. 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 2024

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!

Choir News...

Sings on Ash Wednesday
Please practice with us after Sunday worship.



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Mark Your Calendars...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, February 8th @ 6:30 p.m. Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

Building Committee Meeting

February 6th @ 5:30 p.m. (Prior to Men's Study)

Upcoming Fellowship Outings...

Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate February Birthdays at Westwood Cafe Spicer Tuesday, February 6th, from 11:00 - 1:00



February Supper-Fellowship Outing:

Thursday, February 22nd 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Spicer American Legion



Rescheduled

Sleigh Ride & Potluck @ Rick Spaeth Farm Sunday, February 25th

Let's Go Bowling

Sunday, March 10th—2:00—4:00 Alley on Ash / New London \$14.00 per person



includes 2 games, shoes, pizza & pop

Friendship Sunday Bingo...

We'll play Bingo after Fellowship Brunch on February 11th

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



Email Inspiration...

20 New Brothers and Sisters in Odessa! by Leonid Vasserman, Odessa Branch Leader | Jews for Jesus

Though we're still praying for an end of war in Ukraine, in the meantime, the Lord has been working!

As the war in Ukraine continues, life remains unpredictable—so it was such a blessing when the authorities re-opened some of the beaches to the public. Finally, we could set a date to baptize 16 new brothers and sisters in Yeshua (Jesus), five of whom are Jewish!

One participant, Galina, had been uncertain about going through with it until the Shabbat service just days before the event. She had attended pre-baptism Bible lessons, but after the service, she confessed, "I've really been struggling about this. In addition to my own doubts, my Orthodox daughter has been pressuring me to stop attending the Messianic congregation and to forget all this. But God spoke to me through the message today, and now I'm sure that I want to take this step and follow Yeshua!" What a joy this was after ministering to her for more than 10 years!

On the day of the baptism, Nelia, another new Jewish believer, had great difficulty climbing down the steps that led to the sea. She had a bad leg and silently worried that she wouldn't be able to make it back up. But after she was immersed, Nelia was amazed at how easily both her legs were working. She had no problem getting up the steps to enjoy our celebration service and barbecue lunch.

Praise God, just a few months after the baptism, three Jewish women (Marina, Alyona, and Snezhana) and one Gentile woman (Vika) came to an evangelistic service at the invitation of members of the Messianic community here.

After the Bible message and a call to repentance, all four women wanted to make peace with God through Messiah Jesus! They all prayed to receive Him as their Lord and Savior. Please pray the Lord will bless them and help them grow strong in their new faith.

"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-

VvIJEU22vCYxbhwjg/featured

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Ways to Show Your Spouse You Love Them...

(Start by not forgetting Valentine's Day!)
From "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Wife and Kids" and
"501 Practical Ways to Love Your Husband and Kids"

Husbands:

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

Wives:

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

Husbands & Wives together:

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

Ways to Show Your Kids You Love Them...

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

That for a day: If Paul saw the church in America today,

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A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

5 Daily Moments That Can Make or Break Your Connection

When it comes to feeling connected to your partner, what are the main factors that play into that? You might think of things like whether or not you've recently had a fight or how much quality time you've gotten to spend together lately. Those things certainly contribute to it. But there are also several small moments throughout every day where you have a choice: you can capitalize on the opportunity to connect—or you can let the moment pass. While your relationship certainly isn't doomed if you occasionally choose the latter, choosing one over the other consistently is bound to have a corresponding, cumulative effect on your marriage. Here are five daily moments that can make or break your connection over time:

1. Good morning

When you wake up and get ready for the day, what kind of interactions do you have? Are you grumpy and gruff, barely speaking over your coffee or as you brush past each other in the hallway? Or do you give each other hug as you wait for the coffee to brew, asking your spouse how they slept? Even if you're not a morning person, you can still choose to be warm despite not feeling super energetic or ready for an in-depth conversation. Initiate physical contact with a hand on their shoulder as you bring them their coffee. Tell each other about the weird dream you had. Ask each other about what they have going on for the day. All of these are small ways to start the day off feeling connected.

2. Parting ways

Do you kiss each other goodbye and exchange "I love you's"? Or do you rush out the door without even saying goodbye? Research has shown that establishing rituals like a goodbye kiss has an overwhelmingly positive effect on marriage. Why? They create and nurture a sense of connection, shared meaning, and stability in your bond. So even if getting out the door is always chaotic, try to make it a habit to at least give each other a quick hug or kiss before you go your separate ways.

3. Checking in

Let's be honest, your days are probably pretty busy. Most days you might not have time to call each other for a long leisurely chat. But what about a quick text? It could be wishing them luck on their presentation or even just, "I can't wait to tell you about this funny

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thing that happened today." It's so basic, but it creates a touchpoint of connection that lets your spouse know you're thinking of them even when you're apart.

4. Reuniting

Are you happy to see each other, and do you show it? Do you greet each other at the door, or not even acknowledge when they get home? Do you share about your day? This is the other half of the goodbye ritual – reestablishing your connection after a day apart. It sets off the rest of your evening on a warm and positive note. Over time it's not uncommon for this habit to fade away, that's why it's important to put effort and intention into maintaining a reunion ritual.

5. Good night

Do you try to go to bed around the same time? If you don't, do you make it a point to say good night to each other? Do you brush your teeth together even if you've spent the evening doing your own things? Do you have share some pillow talk and some cuddling before a goodnight kiss? Those moments before hitting the hay are a great time to connect on a consistent basis.

Every time you choose to seize these moments, you're adding a log to the fire of your connection. They build on each other, making it easier and more natural to maintain that sense of closeness. Realistically, you might not hit all of these every single day, and that's okay. Hopefully by being aware of these moments and seeing them as opportunities to make or break your connection over time, you'll be less likely to let them pass.



Thot for a day: It isn't

February 2024 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 28 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 5:00 - 9th-10th YOUTH @	Jan 29	Jan 30 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	Jan 31 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	1	Ash Wed	3 Fer Dates February 4th nesday, Feb 14th February 18th
Pastor & Violet's Home 4 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	5	6 11:00 Birthday Celebration Westwood Cafe 5:30 - BUILDING COMMITTEE 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	7 5:00 - H.S. YOUTH STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	8 Mission Winistry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	9	10
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - FRIENDSHIP WORSHIP 11:15 - FRIENDSHIP BRUNCH Noon - BINGO	12	13 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	14 ASH WEDNE SDAY (and Valentine's Day) 10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:30 - ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE	15	16	17
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/communion	19	9:00 - CIRCUIT PASTORS 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	21 5:00 - H.S. YOUTH STUDY 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION & CONFIRMATION	6:00 - Fellowship Dinner Spicer Am Legion	23	24
9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	26	6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	28 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION & CONFIRMATION	29	Mar 1	Mar 2

February 2024 - Daily Readings

This Month we continue our "100 - or so - Key Chapters of the Bible" readings.

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

Is	saiah 6
-	saiah 53
-	saiah 55
J	Jeremiah 29
	Use today to Worship & catch up on readings you missed
	Use today to Worship & catch up on readings you missed
	Use today to Worship & catch up on readings you missed Daniel 3 Daniel 6

Feb 13	Habakkuk3
Feb 14	Micah 6
Feb 15	Zechariah 1
Feb 6	Malachi 3
Fe	Use today to Worship and catch up on readings you missed
Feb 19	Matthew1:18-2:23
Feb 20	Matthew5
Feb 21	Matthew 6
Feb 22	Matthew 7
Feb 23	Matthew 13
Feb	Use today to Worship and catch up on readings you missed
Feb 26	Matthew 21
Feb 27	Matthew 24
Feb 28	Matthew 25
Feb 29	Matthew26
Mar 1	Matthew 27

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

Feb 4 Wendy & Lonny Robbin Joe Johnson & Pam Johnson Feb 11

Ash Wed

Feb 18 Jason & Levi Miller Feb 25 Larry Levin & Jack Kuppich

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

Elders

Feb 4, 11 Scott &

Feb 18, 25, Duane & Kevin

Custodian

Lonny Robbin February -(Volunteers needed)

March

Nursery (Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

Altar Guild

February Mona Hjelle

Power Point Clicker

Feb 4 Carter Feb 11 Parker Ash Wed Evelyn Feb 18 Ella Feb 25 Troy

Communion-Bread Maker

February 4 Kjirsten

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February 18 Carter

Confirmation Parent Helpers

Jan 31 Knutson Feb 7 Sarsland Accompanying Musicians

Feb 4 Phyllis Schultz Scott Wachter Feb 11 Ash Wed Sharon Willen Feb 18 Sharon Willen Feb 25 Scott Wachter

(E) Randy Glasbergen



"Yes, the disciples followed Jesus... but not on Twitter."

Seen on Church Signboards...

Repenting: Not just for Lent any more

(Kind of like sleep, we need it daily)

February Discipleship Verse...

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." John 13:15

Monthly Music Videos...

Lots of great new songs released in January. Enjoy..

- The newest release from We The Kingdom, "The Plans"... https://voutu.be/COXIXaDVpko?si=653xZ5E4YoE4OcMF
- Jeremy Camp has finally released "These Days"...
 https://youtu.be/0gXn21449gs?si=T0Se1pAjaB57wRa3
- "God Did That" by Cody McCarver has an old country vibe... https://youtu.be/798jHa1r-L8?si=2rmlA55FSPMItt1K
- The latest song by Matthew West (and great advice) is "Don't Stop Praying"... https://youtu.be/bpbZqMJ-B44?si=F5D-pMk6YtvLeSVV
- "By His Wounds" from David Leonard... https://youtu.be/NvOjDQSmAkE?si=M-jSHOPZFjSLHbx-
- Terrian (best known as a vocalist for Toby Mac's band) just released "Honestly, We Just Need Jesus"... https://youtu.be/3eNdX4GbtbE?si=AToTI81YU4Nu9iTy
- "Praise" is a great new song from Seph Schlueter that should have been in last month's list of praise songs... https://youtu.be/OHUNyOVX4rk?si=L2C0FR4giQs5OM28
- "Made For More" by Josh Baldwin with Jenn Johnson... https://youtu.be/Ov9Ls4npIrc?si=q0ZEpxIpEtsrf9KT
- Forrest Frank has released what may be the Christian answer to "Don't Worry, Be Happy" called "Good Day"... https://youtu.be/Uc_HxKMKB_E?si=H4GoaJfMiskOP-lo
- "He Does" is new from Brandon Heath. A fun song with great lyrics (gotta love a line like 'holding us close like a tiny dancer')... https://youtu.be/h 5JItGqp3E?si=p5EBuel6hWXJuZpZ
- A new song by Jordan St. Cyr is "A Way For Us"... https://youtu.be/J-nHBTzji-4?si=iQLQBJ6Aa7EZ74Wc
- "God Is Good" by Austin French...
 https://youtu.be/BM2KXVHdaP4?si=h6b G-9swaft Bco
- "I Got You" is a great song by Danny Gokey... https://youtu.be/bSD421fOVnQ?si=fFEkFyIBe6xZ7iKl
- The newest Katie Nichole song is "My God Can"...
 https://youtu.be/zQATwkAklYw?si=PHSsTxur6CflmIUd
- Finally a catchy song from We Are Messengers called "A Thousand Times"...
 https://youtu.be/Wu00xxpvz9I?si=cSWQHQZ9C8dhM7Af

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Fellowship Dinner...



good exercise don't even they so lazy, people Most day: for

Opportunities to Serve...

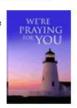
Help With Our Nursery

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 after February. 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.

(Meals are in the freezer at church - waiting for you to grab and take to someone.)





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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:

- God's strength, courage and peace for Will and Harry's family & friends
- God's continued healing for all parents who have lost children
- Asking God for His guidance about who to invite to Friendship Sunday
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did with sacrifice
- Asking God to show you what to "give up" and/or "take up" during Lent
- 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!
- 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, wisdom & courage for government leaders
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan and the Int'l Lutheran Council



Email Humor...

These are the results of a "Creative Scientific Theories Contest" sponsored by Omni magazine:

*GRAND PRIZE WINNER: When a cat is dropped, it always lands on its feet. And when toast is dropped, it always lands with the buttered side facing down. I propose to strap buttered toast to the back of a cat; the two will hover, spinning inches above the ground. With a giant buttered cat array, a high-speed monorail could easily link New York with Chicago.

*RUNNERS-UP: #1 If an infinite number of rednecks riding in an infinite number of pickup trucks fire an infinite number of shotgun rounds at an infinite number of highway signs, they will eventually produce all the world's great literary works in Braille.

#2 Why yawning is contagious: You yawn to equalize the pressure on your eardrums. This pressure change outside your eardrums unbalances other people's ear pressures, so they must yawn to even it out.

#3 The earth may spin faster on its axis due to deforestation. Just as a figure skater's rate of spin increases when the arms are brought in close to the body, the cutting of tall trees may cause our planet to spin dangerously fast.

*HONORABLE MENTIONS: #1 The quantity of consonants in the English language is constant. If omitted in one place, they turn up in another. When a Bostonian "pahks" his "cah," the lost r's migrate southwest, causing a Texan to "warsh" his car and invest in "erl wells."

#2 Birds take off at sunrise. On the opposite side of the world, they are landing at sunset. This causes the earth to spin on its axis.

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

Read 100 (or so) Key Bible Chapters

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

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

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you need Jesus just

Bro,

Heaven?"

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2

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Spoiler alert—
The hero comes back to life

Story Behind The Song...

This month we have Friendship Sunday. It only seems fitting to feature a song like "What A Friend We Have In Jesus".

Joseph Scriven was born on Sept. 10, 1819, in Ireland. His parents had financial means enough to afford a wonderful educational opportunity for their son. He was enrolled in Trinity College in Dublin where he graduated with a bachelor's degree.

In this young man, Ireland had the prospect of a great citizen with high ideals and notable aspirations. He fell in love with a young lady who was eager to spend her life with him. However, on the day before their wedding she fell from her horse, while crossing a bridge over the River Bann and was drowned in the water below. Joseph stood helplessly watching from the other side.

In an effort to overcome his sorrow, he began to wander. By age 25 his travels had taken him to an area near Port Hope, Canada. He became highly regarded by the people of that area. He tutored some of the local children in their school work. It was there he met a wonderful young lady, Elisa Roche, and again fell in love. They had exciting plans to be married. However, tragedy reared its ugly head once again and she died of pneumonia before they could wed.

From this heartache, and through faith in his God, a mission was born. Joseph took a vow of poverty. He labored in Port Hope among the impoverished widows and sick people. He often served for no wages and even shared his clothes with those less fortunate than himself. The story is told that two businessmen stood on a Port Hope, Ontario street corner as a little man carrying a saw walked by. One of the businessmen

People ask "Do I really need Jesus go to Walmart!

Thot for a day:

said, "Now there is a man who is happy with his lot in life. I wish I could know his joy. Perhaps I can get him to cut my winter's supply of wood." The other businessman replied, "I know that man. He would not cut your firewood. He cuts wood only for the financially destitute and for those who are physically handicapped and cannot cut their own firewood."

On an occasion when Joseph became ill, a friend who was visiting with him discovered a poem near his bed and asked who had written it. Scriven said, "The Lord and I did it between us." He thought the poem would, perhaps, bring some spiritual comfort to his Mom, who still lived in Ireland. Scriven had not intended that anyone else should see it.

Joseph knew what it was like to suffer. But instead of letting circumstances dictate his attitude towards life, Joseph looked to something beyond himself. His deep faith kept him looking upward and outwards, to a loving God and to a life of service. Even though Joseph had periods of deep depression, his hope and joy in Jesus never left him. His faith through trials touched thousands—not only those he had an immediate contact with, but those who were touched by his sermons, teaching, and hymns.

On Aug. 10, 1886, Scriven's body was pulled from a body of water near Bewdley, Ontario. He did not live to see his song carried to every corner of the globe, nor could he had ever imagined that we would be talking about him and those scribbled words today.

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer! Page 26 Page 27

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge-take it to the Lord in prayer!

Do your friends forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

A great version by Redeemed Quartet...

https://youtu.be/bVgfTcb_YWE?s⊨Lnmns-rU3RsAyqi6

Another version by Guy Penrod...

https://youtu.be/ 4o9XaL6x7g?si=OR5-0-fWmktvqRtU Finally, my favorite version by Alan Jackson... https://youtu.be/znWu2HCJ92c?si=xLeeiB1zQwC50BH1

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Thot for a day: Keep the faith... But not from others!