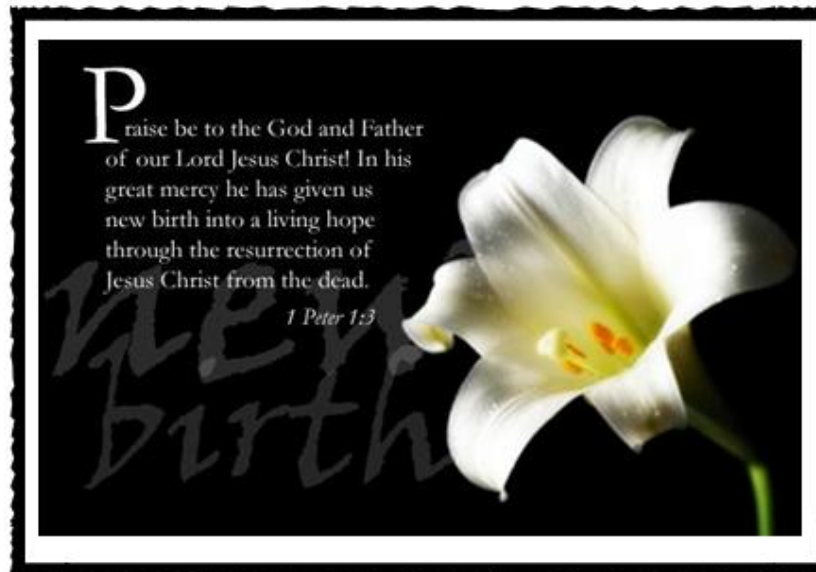


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# Living Word

## Lutheran Church

LCMS



### April 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](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)  
Website: [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net)

## Questions for Pastor...

"Have you seen this?"

That question was asked about a post on Facebook. Since the only time I ever go onto Facebook is to look for cars on Marketplace, my answer was, "No. I haven't." And in case you haven't either, it's a great parable that helps us understand what Jesus did for us on Good Friday. It's a bit lengthy, but it makes a great point.

*Note: A few versions of this story exist, and I'm unsure if it's actual or fictional. The authorship is also uncertain.*

There was a certain Professor of Religion named Dr. Christianson who taught at a small college in the Western United States. Dr. Christianson taught the required survey course in Christianity at this particular institution. Every student was required to take this course his or her freshman year regardless of his or her major.

Although Dr. Christianson tried hard to communicate the essence of the Gospel in his class, he found that most of his students looked upon the course as nothing but required drudgery. Despite his best efforts, most students refused to take Christianity seriously.

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

One day, Dr. Christianson asked Steve to stay after class so he could talk with him. He asked Steve, "How many pushups can you do?"

Steve answered, "I do about 200 every night."

"200? That's pretty good, Steve!" Dr. Christianson said. "Do you think you could do 300?"

Steve replied, "I don't know...I've never done 300 at a time."



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"Do you think you could?" again asked Dr. Christianson.

"Well, I can try," said Steve.

"Can you do 300 in sets of 10? I have a class project in mind, and I need you to do about 300 pushups in sets of ten for this to work. Can you do it? I need you to tell me you can do it," said the professor.

Steve said, "Well...I think I can...yeah, I can do it."

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

Friday came, and Steve got to class early and sat in the front of the room. When class started, the professor pulled out a big box of donuts. These weren't the normal kinds of donuts, they were the extra fancy BIG kind, with creamy centers and frosting swirls.

Everyone was pretty excited it was Friday. It was the last class of the day, and they were going to get an early start on the weekend with a party in Dr. Christianson's class!

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

Cynthia replied, "Yes."

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

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

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

Joe also replied, "Sure."

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



Steve did ten pushups, and Joe got a donut.

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

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

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

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

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

With perfect obedience, Steve started to do ten pushups.

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

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

Now by this time, Steve had begun to slow down a little. He just stayed on the floor between sets because it took a lot of effort to be getting up and down. And, there was perspiration coming out around his brow.

Dr. Christianson now started down the third row. Now the students were beginning to get a little angry.

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

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

By now, a growing sense of uneasiness filled the room. The students were beginning to say "No" and yet there were all these uneaten donuts on the desks.

Steve also had to really put forth a lot of extra effort to get these pushups done for each donut. There began to be a small pool of sweat on the floor beneath his face. His arms and brow were beginning to get red because of the physical effort involved.

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

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

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

A few moments later, Jason, a recent transfer student, came to the room and was about to come in when all the students yelled in one voice, "NO! Don't come in! Stay out!" Jason didn't know what was going on.

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

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

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

Dr. Christianson said, "Okay, Steve, I'll let you get Jason's out of the way right now. "Jason, do you want a donut?" Jason, new to the room hardly knew what was going on.

"Yes," he said, "give me a donut."

"Steve, will you do ten pushups so that Jason can have a donut?" Steve did ten pushups very slowly and with great effort. Jason, bewildered, was handed a donut and sat down.

Dr. Christianson finished the fourth row then started on those visitors seated by the heaters.

Steve's arms were now shaking with each pushup in a struggle to lift himself against the force of gravity. Sweat was profusely dropping off of his face and, by this time, there was no sound except his heavy breathing. There was not a dry eye in the room.

The very last two students in the room were two young women, both cheerleaders, and very popular. Dr. Christianson went to Linda, the second to last, and asked, "Linda, do you want a doughnut?"

Linda said, very sadly, "No, thank you."

Professor Christianson quietly asked, "Steve, would you do ten pushups so that Linda can have a donut she doesn't want?" Grunting from the effort, Steve did ten very slow pushups for Linda.

Then Dr. Christianson turned to the last girl, Susan. "Susan, do you want a donut?"

Susan, with tears flowing down her face, began to cry. "Dr. Christianson, why can't I help him?"

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

grade book. Steve is the only student with a perfect grade. Everyone else has failed a test, skipped class, or offered me inferior work.

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

"Steve, would you do ten pushups so Susan can have a donut?"

As Steve very slowly finished his last pushup, with the understanding that he had accomplished all that was required of him (having done 350 pushups) his arms buckled beneath him, and he fell to the floor.

Dr. Christianson turned to the room and said. "And so it was, that our Savior, Jesus Christ, on the cross, pled to the Father, 'into thy hands I commend my spirit.' With the understanding that He had done everything that was required of Him, he yielded up His life.

"There were also observers that day, who, like some in this room, chose to refuse the free gift."

Two students helped Steve up off the floor and to a seat. He was physically exhausted, but wearing a thin smile.

"Well done, good and faithful servant," said the professor, adding, "Not all sermons are preached in words."

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

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

Thanks for asking  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

### "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-VvIJEU22yCYxbhwig/featured>

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That for a day: To belittle is to be little. To be grateful is to be great.

## Page 7

### Confirmation News



- April 3, 17 and 24 Class @ 6:00 (pizza @ 5:45)
- April 10 Game Night
- April 14 (Sunday) Roller Skating @ St Cloud

Remember to check the "PowerPoint Clicker" schedule.

### Email Humor...

When a new child visited our Sunday school, the teacher greeted him and asked his age. The little boy held up four fingers.

"Oh, you're four," said the teacher. "And when will you be 5?"

The child stared at her and after a few seconds replied, "When I hold up the other finger."



### Thank God For...

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



In March we thanked God for...

- Educators
- Jesus Risen from the Dead

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

### Smoke-Detector Battery Outreach...



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

A great time to change your smoke detector battery is when you change your clocks on March 10th.

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

## Building Committee Update...

The committee has put together a preliminary layout for the new sanctuary. Watch for a drawing to be posted soon.

### OUR NEXT BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday, April 2nd @ 5:30 (Prior to Men's Study)

## Youth Events...

### 11-12th Grade YOUTH:

11-12th Grade Bible Study group meets every other week.

### 7-8th Grade Youth

Next Board-Game Night: Wednesday, April 10th

### Roller Skating for All Ages- Sunday, April 14.

(We get a discount for 20+)

Talk to Sarah Olson to reserve a spot.

### Planning has begun for attending...

Gathering Date: July 19—23, 2025

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

Current fundraiser: Mr B's Chocolates (see pg 22)



## Sunday School News...



### Upcoming Lessons:

Lessons for April will focus on:

"The Armor of God" from Ephesians chapter 6

## Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in April on the normal **First and Third Sundays (7th & 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.

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That for a day: I'm going to live forever... or die trying.

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## Opportunities for Growth...



### Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00

Please join us for coffee and study of God's Word

### Monthly Morning Women's Study:

April 10th @ 10:00 a.m.

All ladies are invited!



### Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30

(Come at 6:15 for food.)

## LWML News...



Our next meeting and Bible study will be Wednesday, April 10th @ 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.

**LWML Spring Rally:** Will be at Redeemer in Willmar on Sunday, April 28th. Registration will begin at 1:30 with the Rally beginning at 2:00. The speaker will be from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Ingathering (donation of needed items) will go to Safe Avenues, in Willmar.

**LWML NORTH DISTRICT 31st BIENNIAL CONVENTION** "Walking as Children of Light" will be held at Cragun's Resort and Convention Center June 3-5, 2024. KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Katie Schuermann "Light In The Lord". There will also be BREAKOUT SESSIONS, BIBLE STUDY, MITES IN ACTION, SPEAKERS, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP, ENTERTAINMENT, A MITE WALK, and SINGING. For more information visit LWML MN NORTH DISTRICT at: [www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org)

## 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
- April Newsletters
- April—June 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>

Mar 3 "Jesus 'Cleans House' in the Temple. But why?"

Mar 10 "Do the 'Right Thing' Just Because It's the Right Thing- Regardless of the Response

Mar 17 "Jesus Gives A Glimpse of Eternity- to Keep Us Going Here and Now"

Mar 24 "Zacchaeus. More than just a cute kids' story!"

Maundy Thur. "Battle Plans from Jesus in the Upper Room"

Good Friday "We know Jesus Died for Sins, But What For?"

Easter "The Stone in Your Pocket - A Reminder We Need"

### 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!



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That for a day: Christians are like tea - their strength is drawn out by hot water.

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## Mark Your Calendars...

### Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, April 18th @ 6:30 p.m.

Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

### Building Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 2nd @ 5:30 p.m. (Prior to Men's Study)

## Upcoming Fellowship Outings...

### Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate March Birthdays  
at Panda Garden

Monday, April 11th @ 11:00



### April Supper-Fellowship Outing:

Thursday, April 11th

@ Agave Mexican Restaurant in Grove City

## Spring Voter's Assembly...

...is coming in May. The Spring Assembly is our annual election to fill Mission and Ministry positions. We will be electing members to 2-year terms in the following positions:

Chairman	Joe Johnson
Stewardship -	open
Secretary -	open
Trustee -	Lonny Robbin
Elders (three):	Steve Wulf, Duane Hansen, Scott Wachter
Christian Growth - Youth	open
Community Outreach -	Tammy Miller

We need suggestions for people to fill the Secretary, Youth and Stewardship positions. If you have members you'd like us to consider for either position, please give their names to an Elder or Mission and Ministry Team member. Thanks!



Hey!  
That's not  
what the  
Bible says...

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## Email Wisdom...

### SLOW DANCE

by David Weatherford

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round,  
or listened to rain slapping the ground?

Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight,  
or gazed at the sun fading into the night?

You better slow down, don't dance so fast,  
time is short, the music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly,  
when you ask "How are you?", do you hear the reply?

When the day is done, do you lie in your bed,  
with the next hundred chores running through your head?

You better slow down, don't dance so fast,  
time is short, the music won't last.

Ever told your child, we'll do it tomorrow,  
and in your haste, not see his sorrow?

Ever lost touch, let a friendship die,  
'cause you never had time to call and say hi?

You better slow down, don't dance so fast,  
time is short, the music won't last.

When you run so fast to get somewhere,  
you miss half the fun of getting there.

When you worry and hurry through your day,  
it's like an unopened gift thrown away.

Life isn't a race, so take it slower,  
hear the music before your song is over.

That for a day: Life is short. If you can't laugh at yourself, call me and I will.

## Thanks...

Dear LWLC,

1st: Happy Easter! He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

2nd: Thank you for all your support at the devastating loss of my dear friend Larry. Our friendship began at the age of 13 when he came from his country school to the town school in Slayton. Coming from only 2 in his age class to a large group of over 50 was a shock to a country kid. He said that I befriended him and made him welcome. By the way: He was my first kiss!

You have done the same for me: You have befriended me and made me a member of your congregation.

Thank you for the concern, cards, emails and texts, food, flowers, hugs, love and most of all the prayers.

God bless you all. I am very thankful for your friendship!

Love and prayers,  
Sharon Willen

+++

### EASTER CELEBRATION 4 KIDS:

Thank you to those who donated candy (Laurie, Lonny and Wendy, Sally, Ruth and Marcia), those who filled the eggs (Torasio, Sharon, Marcia, Mary and Alex), to Ella and Chase for sharing their rabbit and cat, those who helped the day of, Pastor, Evelyn, Troy, Alison and Lexi and to all those who came! We had a great time!

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### SOUP AND SANDWICHES PRIOR TO LENTEN SERVICES.

Thank you to all who participated, with by bringing food, or by your attendance!

*If you have someone you'd like to thank, please email Scott at [c.wachter@charter.net](mailto:c.wachter@charter.net).*



## A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

### The BEST Time to Work on Your Marriage

(Hint: It's not what you think.)

Ahh, marriage. What a dream! You and your spouse both feel that your relationship is stronger than ever. Time to sit back, put your feet up, and coast, right? Well, not quite.

Don't get us wrong. You deserve to relish and enjoy every bit of the joy a happy marriage can bring. However, we don't recommend adopting the mindset that there's no room for improvement. In fact, we'd make the argument that the best time to work on your relationship is when things are going great.

If that seems counterintuitive, here are 5 reasons why it makes perfect sense

1. **You're primed for growth.**

Growing together doesn't always come easy. Often, it can be uncomfortable and feel like a struggle. It requires both of you to be vulnerable and self-aware, not letting defensiveness get the best of you. So when you and your spouse are communicating well, feel emotionally safe and secure, and are confident in your relationship, you're in an optimal position to take those challenging steps toward true growth.

2. **You have a more well-rounded view of your relationship.**

When you're experiencing conflict or problems in your marriage, it's common to have a skewed perspective of it. You might focus more on the negatives – the things that cause frustration or anger, your spouse's traits and habits that irk you, the areas where you both seem to be falling short. This can make it feel like you're starting out in a hole that you need to dig yourselves out of, and that can be discouraging. When things are clicking along smoothly, you're better able to see things as they are – sure you've got areas that could be better, but you also have a lot to take pride in.

3. **You can nip problems in the bud.**

When you're proactive about working on your relationship, you can prevent small issues from festering and turning into bigger problems. It's no surprise that sweeping problems under the rug usually leads to bubbling resentment and conflict down the road. That's why addressing them head-on right away, when you're both in a positive and non-defensive state of mind is the perfect time.



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That for a day: I might wake up and go running. I also may wake up and win the lottery. The odds are about the same.

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4. **You can initiate healthy relationship patterns.**

Unhealthy relationship patterns – similar to any bad habits – can be tough to break. On the flip side, creating positive patterns and habits within your marriage is something that has both long and short-term benefits. When things are going well, establishing them can feel much easier than when you're going through a rough patch. Not only that, but instilling these patterns in your marriage when things are going well can ensure you come out of tougher seasons even stronger.

5. **You can solidify your commitment.**

Being willing to work on your relationship, even when it seems like there's not a lot to work on, shows that you're committed to your marriage and making it the best it can be. Investing effort into your relationship, whether you've been married for 5, 15, or 50 years, is crucial over time.

While "working on your relationship" can often have negative connotations, it's actually a good thing. Instead of waiting for things to fall apart or to have a pressing reason to work on things, your marriage should be an ongoing work in progress. Being proactive means working on it even when things are going great. If you're looking for a way to kickstart this process and see specifically which areas in your relationship you can build on or strengthen, consider taking Prepare/Enrich. (Pastor David is a Facilitator) Even if you took it a few years ago, it can provide you with valuable insight into how you've grown and how you can keep your marriage strong.

## 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

## Pastor is Planning a Membership Class...

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





# April 2024 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Mar 31 RESURRECTION SUNDAY</b> 7:01 - SONRISE SERVICE 8:30 - 9:45 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST 10:00 - WORSHIP w/communion	1	2 5:30 - BUILDING COMMITTEE 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	3 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	4	5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <b>Lord's Supper Dates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday, April 7th</li> <li>Sunday, April 21st</li> </ul> </div>	6
7 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	8	9 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	10 10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION (GAME NIGHT)	11 6:00 - FELLOWSHIP OUTING @ Agave in Grove City	12	13 10:00 MEAL MAKING
14 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP YOUTH ROLLER SKATING	15	16 11:00 - APRIL BIRTHDAYS at Panda Garden 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	17 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	18 <i>Mission Ministry</i> 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	19	20
21 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion	22	23 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	24 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	25	26	27
28 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	29	30 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	May 1 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	May 2	May 3	May 4

# April 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).  
To receive these audio recordings daily, just email him: [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net).  
**NOTE:** Email or text Pastor with questions you have on something you read.

Mar 31 Use today to Worship - and Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection !

Apr 1 Matthew 28 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 2 John 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 3 John 21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 4 1 Corinthians 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 5 Colossians 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 7 Use today to Worship and catch up on readings you missed

Apr 8 Galatians 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 9 Galatians 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 10 Ephesians 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 11 Ephesians 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 12 Ephesians 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 14 Use today to Worship - and catch up on readings you missed

Apr 15 1 Corinthians 12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 16 1 Corinthians 13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 17 1 Corinthians 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 18 2 Corinthians 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 19 2 Corinthians 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 21 Use today to Worship & catch up on readings you missed

Apr 22 Luke 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 23 Luke 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 24 Luke 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 25 Luke 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 26 Luke 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 28 Use today to Worship and catch up on readings you missed

Apr 29 Luke 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Apr 30 Luke 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 1 Acts 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 2 Acts 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 3 Acts 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Apr 7	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Apr 14	Jason & Levi Miller
Apr 21	Joe Johnson & Pam Johnson
Apr 28	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. Thanks!

### Scripture Readers

NOTE: Pastor David will read the Scriptures in Worship

### Elders

Apr 7, 14	Dan & Scott
Apr 21, 28	Steve & Duane

### Custodian

April -	Tammy Miller
May -	Available

### Nursery

( Volunteers needed - please talk to Mona H.)

### Altar Guild

April	Mona Hjelle
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### Power Point Clicker

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

### Accompanying Musicians

Apr 7	Sharon Willen
Apr 14	ScottWachter
Apr 21	Sharon Willen
Apr 28	ScottWachter

That for a day: It turns out when you're asked who your favorite child is, you're expected to pick one of your own.

## Easter for Kids...



### Seen on Church Signboards...

**YOU Are On the  
"Most Wanted" List  
In Heaven**

## April Discipleship Verse...

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" 1 Peter 1:3*

## Living Word Apparel...

Now Through April 14:

Your chance to order Living Word apparel (hats, sweatshirts and t-shirts).

New designs as well as old favorites!

Go to [www.Rambow.com](http://www.Rambow.com) and enter Store Code: LWLC



## Youth Gathering Fundraiser...

We are excited to begin selling Mr. B's Chocolates as a fundraiser for LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH. It will help support our High School Youth Trip to the LCMS Youth Gathering 2025

A few features that make Mr. B's Chocolates special are:

- Premium Belgian Chocolate
- Small-batch and Handcrafted
- Made in Minnesota
- Locally owned since 1987



### IMPORTANT DATES:

- March 31 - Sales begin
- April 14 - Sales end. All orders and money turned in to the fundraiser coordinator.
- May 3 - Delivery Day. Pick up from Living Word

### HELPFUL HINTS:

Make checks payable to LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
if you have any questions, contact our fundraiser coordinator:

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Thot for a day: Some people are like blisters. They don't show up until the work is done.

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## Bowling Fellowship...



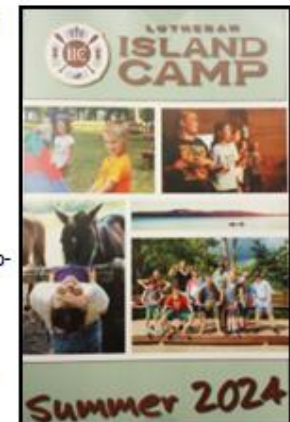
## Its Time...

...to Start Planning for Summer Camp !

Summer 2024 brochures are available at church

### LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS:

Our LWML will provide \$50.00 per camper, for ages preschool (Little Lambs), through grade 9. Deadline for letting Bonnie know that your child will be attending (so it can be budgeted for) is June 1st.





## The Link...

### March 2024 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

**IT'S MN FOODSHARE TIME!** The 43rd Annual FoodShare Campaign is officially underway! Food and monetary donations are proportionality matched from MN FoodShare from

now through April 6th to further your donation! This is a great time to spread your donation even further.....especially with the significant increase in need for food and outreach services over the past few months!

**The Food Pantry** continues to see an increase in need. In February, The Link served 180 families (including 306 adults, 191 children and 61 seniors). Even with the shorter month, numbers increased from January- serving 11 more families than last month and distributing 667 more pounds of food.

**Wildcat Backpack and Snack Pantry.** The Link is currently serving 96 children each week from NL-S schools! This is an ability to supplement children's food for the weekend when they are not in school. The Link is also currently connecting 31 teachers with snacks for students in their classroom.

**Client Outreach.** Each month, The Link is able to provide support to a number of families facing hardships, such as (but not limited to): job loss, chronic illness, unexpected change in family dynamics and increase in the cost of living. In February, your donations were able to support 31 families by helping with medical bills, gas, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic needs. Household Exchange. The Household Exchange Program was able to provide 17 families with much needed clothing, furniture and other household necessities in February.

**Tuesday's Table.** A free community meal the 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: Crossroads Community Church (Spicer)

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?** Pray for the Link and the community--Help us spread awareness by talking about The Link to your friends and family and sharing on social media-- Donate unexpired food items to the food pantry or organize a food drive-- Volunteer at the thrift store or in the food pantry--Donate financially ( Remember for every \$1 donated, The Link can purchase \$10 in food through Second Harvest)

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Thot for a day: Someone said, "Nothing rhymes with orange." I said, "No, it doesn't."

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**SPRING CLEANING?? DON'T FORGET ABOUT COMMUNITY REVIVAL BOUTIQUE AND THRIFT!!** Donate your gently used clothing and household goods to Community Revival!! - (all proceeds kick back into The Link's programs)



**CURRENT NEEDS:** Gently used adult and kids clothing. Any unexpired food items (for a list of ideas, please contact Ashley at 320-354-5465 or email [director@youarethelink.org](mailto:director@youarethelink.org))

**SAVE THE DATE!!!** Ribfest 2024 planning is officially underway!!!! Mark your calendars for June 8, 2024 from 2pm-5pm! If you are interested in sponsoring the event OR if you have a silent auction item you'd like to donate, please reach out to Ashley at 320-354-5465

**Introducing Foster Stitches!** A resource for foster families in Kandiyohi County and beyond is a new LINK program!

In 2015, Foster Stitches began after a significant need was observed by foster families in need of clothing for children in foster care. The majority of the time, when the kids enter care, they come with nothing but the clothes on their backs. It is hard for many foster families to afford to purchase clothing for the kids in their care as their reimbursement can take up to 30 days (sometimes longer).

Foster Stitches started as a [facebook](#) page, asking people for donations and to help spread the word by sharing. Once donations started coming in, items were originally stored in one of the foster families basements until space was offered in Kandiyohi by Steve Lueders. It was always a dream for Foster Stitches to find a space in which their donated items could be set up like a store so the children could shop for things they like and feel good in. Because Foster Stitches is not a non-profit, The Link approved absorbing it as one of it's programs--allowing Foster Stitches a 501(c)3 status where donations can be accepted and tax receipts can be given to donors.

### DONATE!

Remember for every \$1 donated, The Link can purchase \$10 in food through Second Harvest. Donations made easy Monthly giving at The Link is convenient. You can set up online giving directly through your bank or by visiting The Link's website at [www.youarethelink.org](http://www.youarethelink.org) by scanning the QR code. You can also mail your donation to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273, drop off your donation in person or leave your check in the drop box outside of The Link's door at 20 Central Ave E, New London. Questions? Contact Ashley at 320-354-5555.

Thank you for your support! YOU are The Link!

## 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 April. Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to sign up or find out more details.



## Make-A-Meal Program...



April Meal-Making Day:

Saturday, April 13 @ 10:00

One of the best (and simplest) ways to share Jesus' love is by taking 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.



That for a day: 90% of bald people still own a comb; they just can't part with it.

## Prayer...

### Remember to use "The Prayer Force"

Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email ([pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto: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 Jesus' death and resurrection!
- Asking the Spirit to help live remembering Jesus' tomb is empty!
- The Holy Spirit's help abide in Jesus and grow the Spirit's "fruit"
- Thanking God for Spring!
- Thanking God for all Emergency Workers - and asking God to protect them, give them strength and wisdom
- God's continued presence with Will & Harry's family & friends
- God's continued healing for all who have lost loved ones recently
- 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

### PRAYER PUPS By Jeffrey Smith



GOD CREATED EVERYTHING. READ GENESIS 1:1-2

www.prayerpups.com

## Monthly Music Videos...

Some great new songs have been released. Here are some of my favorites:

- At last, We The Kingdom has officially released "Church Music"...  
<https://youtu.be/qYHa3PR36JY>
- "Scars" is a new release from Brandon Heath...  
<https://youtu.be/N0p--3qYsX8>
- Mac Powell has just released "Like Its Nothing"...  
<https://youtu.be/ch2q84hFyW0>
- "Beautiful Life" from Pat Barrett with CAIN is a fun song...  
<https://youtu.be/zm-sYPedsrs>
- Big Daddy Weave just released "Let It Begin"...  
<https://youtu.be/8gT6zirveqw>
- "Awestruck (On My Way Home)" is the latest from Jason Gray...  
<https://youtu.be/GQUiLOa4OT4>
- A new song from Ryan Stevenson is "Just As You Are"...  
<https://youtu.be/vOhfuvt9a7o>
- A new group called AWZY just released "Better Now"...  
<https://youtu.be/BamuF7TQDNl>
- I really like "Miracles" from KCU Worship Collective...  
<https://youtu.be/T6WC22tGBVE>
- "I Found Rest" is new from We Are Messengers with Ben Fuller...  
<https://youtu.be/kSDGmhLwNSU>
- Jeremy Camp's latest song is "Deeper Waters"...  
<https://youtu.be/czXtEN9bS1M>
- "It Gets Better" is a new song from Josh Wilson...  
<https://youtu.be/MpajniBiQ1Q>
- "7000 Promises" is new from Stephen McWhirter & Jason Clayborn... [https://youtu.be/lz4jlv6l\\_g](https://youtu.be/lz4jlv6l_g)
- Tenth Avenue North is back with "Invited"...  
<https://youtu.be/VMF8mMMObvQ>
- Not a new song, but Zack Williams just released a version of "Lookin' for You" with Dolly Parton (because it's Dolly!)...  
<https://youtu.be/Ptsx8EZ6c5Q>
- Finally, Chris McClarney has what may become an Easter classic, "Empty"... <https://youtu.be/3UGVbYoXJfc>

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That for a day: I'm taking care of my procrastination issues. Just you wait and see.

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## Choir News...

Sings on Pentecost (May 19)

Join us after worship  
during April to practice.



## Congratulations...

- Nate and Jenna Lungstrom on being united in marriage, March 9!  
Please email [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net) if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

## Story Behind The Song...

"He looked a little like a southern colonel with his white mustache and a small flower in his lapel. His extraordinary sense of humor and dry wit could be very caustic if he thought the occasion demanded it - a truly brilliant man." This is a description of C. Austin Miles, the man who wrote the song which is the subject of this article. It's popularity is enormous and prolonged.

According to some polls "In the Garden" is as popular abroad, as well as in the United States. More than a million recordings and printed copies of it have been sold. It is virtually impossible to pick up a standard hymnal and find it omitted.

Miles attended the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and the University of Pennsylvania. In 1892, he abandoned his career as a pharmacist and wrote his first Gospel song, which was published by the Hall-Mack Company. He later became editor and manager of the music publishing company and served them for 37 years.

He said of himself, "It is as a writer of gospel songs I am proud to be known, for in that way I may be of the most use to my master, whom I serve willingly although not as efficiently as is my desire."

Miles' hobby was photography, and he had managed to build his own "darkroom" for developing his film. He discovered one day that he could read his Bible in the special "red lighting" of the darkroom. He often read passages of scripture as he waited for the developing process to finish. Since he was a musician and a songwriter, he often found himself reading with the express purpose of getting ideas for Christian songs.

One day in March 1912, Miles, while developing film and waiting for the process to complete, picked up his Bible. It had fallen open to John, chapter 20. He found in that chapter the story of Mary's coming to the garden to visit the tomb of Jesus. As she looked into the tomb her heart sank because he wasn't there. He, standing nearby, spoke to her, and she recognized Him. Her heart leaped for joy!

Miles imagined that he was present with them in the garden on that glorious occasion, witnessing the wonderful event. When his thoughts returned to the business at hand in the darkroom, he was gripping his Bible. His muscles, according to his own recollection, were tense and vibrating. Reverently he thought, "This is not an experience limited to a happening almost 2,000 years ago. It is the daily companionship with the Lord that makes up the Christian's life."

He wrote:

*My hands were resting on the Bible while I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. A woman in white, with head bowed—hand clasping her throat as if to choke back her sobs—walked slowly into the shadows. As she came to the tomb, she bent over to look in and hurried away. John, in flowing robe, appeared; then came Peter, who entered the tomb, followed slowly by John. As they departed, Mary reappeared, and as she leaned her head upon her arm at the tomb, she wept. Turning herself, she saw Jesus standing; so did I. I knew it was He. She knelt before Him, and with arms outstretched and looking into His face, she cried 'Rabboni!'*

*I awakened in full light, gripping the Bible with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision, I wrote—as quickly as the words could be formed—the poem exactly as it has since appeared; that same evening, I wrote the music.*

I come to the garden alone,  
While the dew is still on the roses,  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses...

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other, has ever, known!

He speaks and the sound of His voice,  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
And the melody that he gave to me,  
Within my heart is ringing . . .

That for a day: with all this rain, we need an ark. Fear not! (Wait for it.) I Noah guy.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other, has ever, known!

And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other, has ever, known!

Lots of great videos of this song. Here is a version by Selah...

<https://youtu.be/82xazAEhYO>

A classic performance by the Oak Ridge Boys...

<https://youtu.be/lPbVMBdcx0Q>

Finally my favorite version is probably from Wilson Fairchild...

<https://youtu.be/4GM7iU2kW0U>

As a bonus video this month here is Stephen McWhirter singing "Because You Live"... <https://youtu.be/nW1Q8kyVeK0>

## The Back Pew – Jeff Larson

