

July 2025 Newsletter
"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Summer Hours:
Worship Service: 9:00 a.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church

PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273
Located north of the New London Township Hall on Cty Rd 9 NE
Phone: 320-354-4637
Email: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net
Website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

Questions for Pastor...

What does God mean when He says,
"I will be with you always"?

Great question! I mentioned in a recent sermon that it's easy to think "Well, that means He'll be there for moral support and a shoulder to cry on." He certainly will be there for those things, but that's not the number one reason God promises His Presence.

There are four passages that come to mind when I think about God's promise of "being there."

"And God said, 'I will be with you.'" Exodus 3:12

God said this to Moses when Moses made an excuse that he wasn't up to the task after God had commissioned him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

(Our discipleship verse for July).

God spoke this to Joshua after choosing him to succeed Moses in leading the people into The Promised Land

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20

Jesus spoke this to His Apostles after commissioning them to "As you go, wherever you go, make disciples of all peoples."

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
Hebrews 13:5



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God speaks this through the writer of the New Testament book of Hebrews as He gives some final instructions to followers of Christ at the end of the book.

You could sum up God's promises to be with people in those passages with this sentence:

"Whatever I've called you to do, you can do it - even if it's difficult - because I will be with you with my power. And remember, NOTHING is impossible for me."

The common thread running through each of those passages is that there is some action (or attitude) that God has called people to achieve.

It may be obvious, but from these passages we see that we can't count on God to be with us to help us when we're doing things He does not want or hasn't planned for us to do. That really highlights the importance of seeking His will and following it.

So, remember:

"If God calls you to do something - or go through something - He always promises to be with you to help you do it - or get through it."

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

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

Read about (or listen to) some very important people in the Bible who are not exactly "household names." There are some excellent lessons we can learn from these people - and God's dealings with them.

Readings are listed on our Daily Devotion Pages 14 & 15.

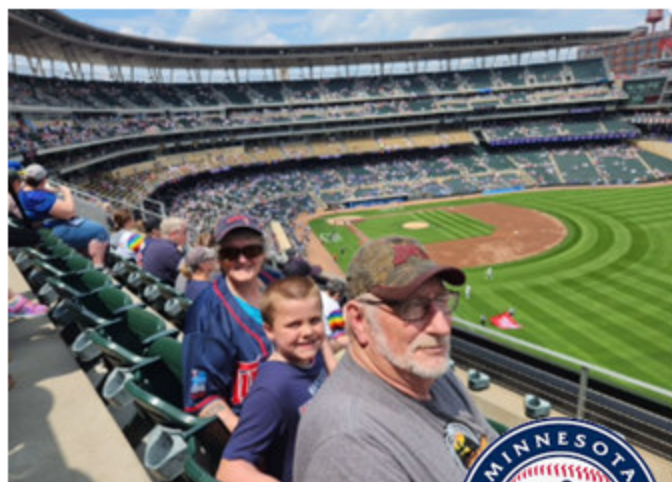
Pastor also records audio devotions based on these readings. You can find them on our website. Click on the "Readings" tab.

OR Just tell Pastor to email or text the readings to you.



Summer Worship Time: 9:00 a.m.
(Runs through Labor Day Weekend)

MN Twins Outing...



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That for a day: Don't tempt me, I can resist anything but temptation.

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Vacation Bible School...

God's Love For Us

Save the Date!!!



August 18th—21st

Monday thru Thursday

5:30—8:00

Everyone Invited

"He has saved us from the kingdom of darkness, He has brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves." Colossians 1:13



SCHOOL KITS

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 18—21. Our Mission Project for it will be "Orphan Grain Train" School kits. I invite the congregation to also support this mission with eh kids! School supplies are already on the store shelved. Thanks!



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- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 backpack | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 ruler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 spiral notebooks | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 glue sticks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 pencils | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 pens | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 eraser |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 sheets of construction paper | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 package colored pencils (12 count) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 package crayons (24 count) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pencil sharpener |

Mark Your Calendar...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, July 10th @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT



Building Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 15th @ 5:30 p.m. (Prior to Trap Shooting)

BLOCK PARTY !

Saturday, August 9th,
from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.



LIVING WORD "RAD WHEELS" SHOW - If it has wheels, bring it. Trophy for Best of Show
Parking will be on the North Side of the Building

JENNIFER MARIE MUSIC 2:00-4:00PM
Fun upbeat and lots of worship music. Under a tent. BRING a Chair!

BLACK CHERRY SMOKEHOUSE FOOD TRUCK Noon -4:00

VENDORS

We still have room for Vendors! If you or someone you know has Crafts, Baked goods etc...to sell we supply the place. If you're a church member, no cost, but bring tables, chairs, anything you need. Open to non members as well. Their cost is \$10 and they supply their own tables, chairs, tent, etc.. If we supply the table and chairs cost will be \$25. Please share with friends and family!!

KIDS ACTIVITIES - Games, face Painting and more!

Something for everyone...Grab a Neighbor, Friend and families. This will be a well rounded event ... for All ages

Let Tammy Miller or Becky Sarsland know if you are interested. There is an ORANGE sign up sheet at church as well.

Trap Shooting Fellowship 2025...

On:

Tuesdays, July 1st, 15th, & 29th @ 6:00 p.m.

We'll have brats, hot dogs and a devotion @ 6:00
and start shooting @ 6:30



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Thot for a day: I'm great at multi-tasking. I can listen, ignore, and forget all at once.

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Upcoming Fellowship Outings...



Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate July birthdays on
Tuesday, July 8th @ 11:00
at New London American Legion

July Fellowship Outing

Thursday, July 31st @ 6:00
at Manannah Hilltop Tavern
(57241 CSAH 30, Grove City)



Send Off Get-Togethers...

"Sent Forth By God's Blessing"

- ♦ For Ed and Ruth Vegdahl
Sunday, July 13th @ 4:00
Picnic at their home.
- ♦ For Mark and Tammy Fuglie
Sunday, July 27th
Brunch after Worship at Living Word

Please join us as we send these two families off to their new homes!

Women's Retreat...



November 14-16, 2025
At Green Lake Bible Camp

"The Truth that sets you Free"

Is God's Word still relevant today?

Come along with us as we journey through the Bible, learning God's Commandments, His truths and how Satan tries to distract us from the truth. Come and surrender your weekend and let us grow together!

The cost will be \$130.00 for 2-night's stay at the Medayto Lodge
(GL Bible Camp - Spicer) and the Teachings, some crafts and a whole lotta fun with our fellow Sisters.

Invite a friend to come along on this Journey!

Questions? Talk to Violet or Tammy M

Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study

Is on Summer Break
(Due to Worship Service Summer hours)



Men's Pontoon Study

We'll study as we cruise Green Lake
July 8th
(meet at County Park 5 at 6:30)
We'll stop for pizza halfway through the cruise...



Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Will not meet in July or August

You're Invited...

... to help celebrate!

Roxy Boysen is turning 70!

Date: Wednesday, July 16th

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Max's on the Green @ Little Crow Golf Club

Come and enjoy some cake and ice cream as we celebrate!

...Baby Shower Open House

for Mariah (Welsh) Stern!

Date: Saturday, July 26th

Time: 10:00 to 2:00

Location: At Living Word Lutheran Church

Congratulations...

- Davis and Emily Rustad on being united in marriage, June 28th.
- Graham Jeffrey Klose baptized into the family of God on June 29th.

If you have someone you'd like to thank, please email
webmaster@livingwordlutheran.net

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That for a day: I'm having a going-out-of-fitness sale.

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Living Word's 2025 Goals Update...

- Continue the Make A Meal program.
We will make meals on July 12
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper
Tuesday, July 8th and Thursday, July 31st
- Continue the Birthday Card/Anniversary ministry
Ongoing
- Challenge every member to bring a guest this year
Be praying about who you can invite to join you
- Create a Visitors Table (Coffee, giveaways along with church and prayer ministry info)
Check out our new "Visitors (and members) Coffee Cart"
- Initiate the "Prayer D-Fence" Program
(Adults "adopting" a kid to pray for, send cards etc....)
Currently looking for a coordinator
- Start a Prayer Ministry - with people praying for/with others after the Sunday Service
Began in January
- A Concert!! **Will be held as part of our Block Party on August 9th**
- Chili Cook-Off **Held on January 18th**
- Host a Block Party or Community Festival in the Spring
Coming on August 9th
- Focus on the National Youth Gathering event for youth
7 youth are signed up to attend in July
- Coordinating with Redeemer, Willmar and St. John, Atwater to host joint youth events
- Continue weekly Youth Gatherings
We have 2 speakers in May
- Keep the church yard looking nice and continue to de-clutter the storage areas inside.
Ongoing

Remember to wear your Living Word Apparel...



National Youth Gathering News...

(Please pray all month for God's work in the lives of each of our participants)

- **Wednesday, July 9 at 6:00 p.m.** - Youth Gathering Meeting for Parents & Youth
- **Saturday, July 19**
Leave for MSP Airport to fly to the Gathering
- **Sunday, July 20**
The Gathering Begins!!!
- **Wednesday, July 23**
Youth have a FUN Day before heading home.
- **Thursday, July 24**
Fly Back to MSP, then head home.
- **Wednesday, July 30 at 6:00**
Post-Gathering Review for Attendees
- **Sunday, August 3 at 9:00**
Attendees Share in Worship How God Worked in Their Lives through The Gathering



THANK YOU! To Everyone Who Helped Make This Possible.

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Thanks to Mike Rice (See John 13:2-5)

02-02-2001

YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISERS IN THE EARLY CHURCH

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That for a day: I'm gonna be as useless at the "g" in lasagna today.

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Building Committee Update...

Check out the new computerized drawings on the table by the entry door at church.



The Committee is in the process of planning for raising funds.

We've had a generous challenge:

As soon as we raise and additional \$70,000 the "challenger" will donate \$100,000 !!!

Some pertinent figures (as of June 27):

"Challenge" Money Raised: \$35,000 (of \$70,000 needed)

Money in CDs and Building Account: \$115,000

OUR NEXT BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday, July 15th @ 5:30 (prior to Trap Shooting)

Communion Notes...

NOTE THE CHANGE FOR THIS MONTH: The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in June on the normal **First and Third Sundays (July 6th & July 20th)**



Reminders:

- Wine - is in the two outer rings of the individual-cup tray
- Grape Juice - is in the inner ring of the individual-cup tray
- **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.
- Those who are not comfortable coming to the altar should inform an Elder or Usher, and communion will be brought to you in your

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!



Email Wisdom...

From God's Book of "Practical Wisdom for Everyday" (Proverbs)

- If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; If he is thirsty, give him water to drink Proverbs 25:21
- Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. Proverbs 26:12
- Without wood a fire goes out; Without gossip a quarrel dies down. Proverbs 26:20
- Do not boast about tomorrow; For you do not know what a day may bring forth Proverbs 27:1
- Let another praise you, and not your own mouth, Someone else, and not your own lips. Proverbs 27:2
- Wounds from a friend can be trusted, But an enemy multiplies kisses. Proverbs 27:6
- As iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17
- If anyone turns a deaf ear to God's law, Even his prayers are detestable Proverbs 28:9
- He who conceals his sins does not prosper, But whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. Proverbs 28:13
- He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor, than he who has a flattering tongue. Proverbs 28:23
- A greedy man stirs up dissension, But he who trusts in the LORD will prosper. Proverbs 28:25



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That for a day: I used to be an amateur crastinator but then I decided to go pro.

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LWML Meeting & Women's Study:

+++ Note: LWML will not meet in July and August +++

SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

A huge thank you to all who have donated! This is an on-going 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.



Email Inspiration...

The teacher's first graders were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different hair color than the other members. One of her students suggested that he was adopted.

A little girl said, "I know all about adoption; I was adopted."

"What does it mean to be adopted?", asked another child

"It means", said the girl, "that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy!"

Spring Voters' Assembly...

The Spring Assembly is our annual election to fill Mission and Ministry positions. On June 8th, we elected the following members to 2-year terms in the following positions:

Treasurer-	Steve Wulf
Elders (two):	Dan Miller and Kevin Welsh
Christian Growth - Sunday School	Meggie Ashburn
Congregational Outreach-	Marcia Welsh

We need suggestions for people to fill the Vice Chair 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!

July 2025 - Daily Readings

Our Summer Readings will be about some...

Very important, but lesser known, people in the Bible.

Pastor records the readings (along with devotions based on the readings).

To receive these audio recordings daily, just email him: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net.

NOTE: Email or text Pastor with questions you have on something you read.

WEEK OF JUNE 29

June 30 Balaam - Numbers 22 _____

July 1 Zelophehad - Numbers 24 _____

July 2 Phinehas - Numbers 31 _____

July 3 The Prophet - Deuteronomy 18 _____

July 4 The Two Spies - Joshua 2 _____

WEEK OF JULY 6

July 7 Unnamed Ark carriers - Joshua 3 _____

July 8 12 Tribal Leaders - Joshua - 4 _____

July 9 Commander of the LORD's Army - Joshua 6 _____

July 10 Aksah - Joshua 15 _____

July 11 The Stone Witness - Joshua 24 _____

WEEK OF July 13

July 14 Othniel - Judges 3 _____

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

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

July 15 Ehud - Judges 3 _____

July 16 Shemgar - Judges 3 _____

July 17 Deborah - Judges 4 _____

July 18 Barak - Judges 4 _____

WEEK OF July 20:

July 21 Jotham - Judges 9 _____

July 22 Abimelech - Judges 9 _____

July 23 Tola & Jair - Judges 10 _____

July 24 Jephthah - Judges 11 _____

July 25 Ibzan, Elah & Abdon - Judges 12 _____

WEEK OF July 27

July 28 Manoah - Judges 13 _____




July 29 Naomi - Ruth 1 _____

July 30 Boaz - Ruth 2-4 _____

July 31 Elkanah - 1 Samuel 1 _____

Aug 1 Hannah - 1 Samuel 1-2 _____

July 2025 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 - WORSHIP w/ Baptism of Graham Klose 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	June 30	1  6:00 - TRAP SHOOTING	2	3	4	5
				<div> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday, July 6th • Sunday, July 20th </div>		
6 9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	7	8 11:00 - JULY BIRTHDAYS @NL LEGION 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY (On Pontoon)	9 6:00 - YOUTH GATHERING MEETING - Youth & Parents	10 <i>MISSION Ministry</i> 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	11	12 10:00 - MEAL MAKING
13 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP 4:00 - SEND-OFF PICNIC for VEGDAHL'S at Their Home	14	15  5:30 - BUILDING TEAM 6:00 - TRAP SHOOTING	16 7:00 - ROXY BOYSEN'S 70TH BIRTHDAY PARTY @ LITTLE CROW	17	18	19 LEAVE FOR NAT'L YOUTH GATHERING 11:00 - Living Word in Waterdays Parade
20 9:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	21	22 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	23	24 RETURN FROM NAT'L YOUTH GATHERING	25	26 10:00 -2:00 BABY SHOWER MARIAH (Welsh) STERN
27 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - SEND-OFF BRUNCH for MARK & TAMMY FUGLIE	28	29  6:00 - TRAP SHOOTING	30 6:00 - POST-YOUTH GATHERING GET-TOGETHER	31 6:00 - FELLOWSHIP SUPPER @ HILLTOP Manannah	Aug 1	Aug 2

Upcoming Schedules...

After-Worship Fellowship

We will have coffee / water and cookies at 10:15 after worship. Please join us when you can! ...and, if you can, please sign up to serve coffee and goodies some Sunday. Thanks!



Usher Schedule

July 6	Jim & Torasie Larsen
June 13	Jason & Levi Miller
June 20	Pam Johnson & Linda Vanmeter
June 27	Larry Levin & Jim Stinson

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!

Elders

July 6, 13	Scott & Dan
June 20, 27	Steve & Kevin

Custodian

July-	Volunteers needed
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Children's Church

Parents can take children to the Pre-School room as needed

Altar Guild

July	Mona Hjelle
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Accompanying Musicians

July 6	Sharon Willen
July 13	Phyllis Schultz
July 20	Phyllis Schultz
July 27	Scott Wachter



Seen on Church Signboards...

JESUS SAVES

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Thot for a day: Pessimists complain about the wind. Optimists expect it to change. Realists adjust the sails.

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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 June we thanked God for...

- Jesus is Still Risen
- Air Conditioning
- Our Freedom

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

GRACE ELEVATOR

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- JOHN 1:17 NV

July Discipleship Verse...

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Note: This is the second of six straight months where we use a confirmation verse as our Discipleship Verse. This month's verse is Kjirsten Hansen's confirmation verse.

Independence Day...

What comes to your mind when you think of Independence Day?

For many Americans, the Fourth of July serves as a day to watch fireworks, barbeque and have a good time with friends and family. While there is nothing wrong with having these traditions, it is important to remember the reason behind why we celebrate this holiday.

Samuel Adams, the father of the American Revolution, was bold in proclaiming his faith. To him, signing the Declaration of Independence meant no longer submitting to Great Britain, but rather, submitting to the Lord (Crowe, 2008). As a result, America would be free from the power of man and able to serve Christ. What a significant day in history!

It is important to remember what our duties are as Christians. We are called to serve Christ and Christ alone, and it is such a blessing that we can live in a country where we have the freedom to do so.



Oftentimes, the enemy will use distractions to keep us from fulfilling our duties as Christians. Being distracted by all that happens on the Fourth of July can cause us to lose sight of the true meaning of the holiday. This is dangerous, as it can ultimately cause us to stray away from Christ.

So, why is it important to acknowledge the significance of Independence Day, and how can we do so in today's world?

American liberty is a blessing from God. Because of our freedom, we can express our faith and boldly share it with others. It is important to recognize that in many other parts of the world, this is not the case. The cost of following Christ is much greater for our brothers and sisters across the globe.

With this in mind, I encourage you to not lose sight of why we celebrate Independence Day. Take time to reflect on the ways God has blessed you in your life, and make it a goal to not take the freedom we have for granted. As you spend this day with family and friends, I encourage you to celebrate the blessing of freedom that was given to us by Christ.

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That for a day: I've got big news for musicians wanting that perfect sound! Stay tuned!

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Building Campaign...

We are launching the second phase of our Church Building Campaign to construct a new Sanctuary that will better meet the needs of our Congregation and community. The addition of a sanctuary will facilitate our worship needs and at the same time allow us to turn the current worship space into Sunday School or Bible study rooms and enlarged Fellowship area.

For this phase of our campaign, we are seeking to raise \$250,000 prior to the start of the construction. Currently the mortgage is paid off and there is \$115,000 in savings for the new Sanctuary already. Someone has graciously put out a challenge to the congregation to raise \$70,000 and when that happens, they will donate the remaining \$100,000 to reach our goal of \$250,000.

Someone has really stepped out in faith and the building committee is inviting every member to prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this challenge. Whether through a one-time gift or a monthly pledge, our mission is to raise these funds within the next twelve to fifteen months so please keep that in mind when completing your pledge card.

BUILDING FUND PLEDGE CARD



In support of the Building Fund Campaign,
I/we pledge a total of:

\$ _____

to be paid as follows:

☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ As a one-time gift
or any other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$75,000

LIVING WORD
LUTHERAN CHURCH – LCMS

We believe this is more than a building – it's a dwelling that will support the work of Christ in our Community for generations to come.

Would you prayerfully consider making a financial gift to our building campaign? Please keep in mind, this must be in addition to your regular giving as we do have monthly obligations to fulfill. Please fill out this Pledge Card and return.

If you have questions or would like to discuss ways you can support this effort, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the building campaign members listed below. Let's join hearts trusting that the Lord will provide as we walk in faith together.

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
- July Newsletters
- July—September Portals of Prayer
- Lutheran Island Camp brochures
- 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>

June 1 "God Gives Us Signs in His Word - Don't Miss Them"

June 8 "The Holy Spirit Isn't Just a New Testament Thing"

June 15 "The Trinity: TEAM GOD"

June 22 "Jesus' First Miracle Wasn't Turning Water Into Wine"

June 29 "We Know God Promises to Be With Us. But What Does That Mean?"



Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Living Word has the option of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account.

Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.

Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2025—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: Being a functioning adult, every day seems a bit excessive.

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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 HUGE 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:

- For God's peace, comfort and healing for Jamie and Laurel
- Thanking God for the freedom to attend worship
- Thanking God for freedom to live out our faith in your daily lives
- Thanking God for Jesus dying to set us free from sin!
- Thanking God for all who serve to keep us free!
- Asking God to provide safe travel for everyone vacationing
- Thanking God for those elected in June to serve on our MMT
- Asking God's blessing on our Youth Gathering attendees
- Asking God for good weather for the growing season.
- Asking God for courage to follow where He guides
- For all those who are home-bound or in nursing facilities
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- 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 !
- 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

After-Worship Prayer Ministry



We're looking for a few more people who have a passion for praying!!! We meet a few minutes after church to pray with and for each other.

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

3 Types of Expectations That Will Cause Conflict

Whether we realize it or not, our expectations have a big impact on how we perceive and experience life. Was your day good or bad? Did that new restaurant hit the mark or fall short? Was your long-awaited vacation everything you hoped it would be? It all depends on what type of expectations you had. And the same applies to your marriage.



Unmet expectations are the root cause of many marital disagreements, and they can come in several forms. Here are 3 types of expectations that can cause conflict between you and your spouse.

1. Unrealistic

When it comes to marriage, having expectations can be healthy. They help to set a standard for what is or isn't acceptable and provide a baseline for holding yourself and each other accountable. They have the potential to push us to be better partners and to grow as a couple. However, there needs to be a balance between aspirational and attainable. When they are too idealistic, you're bound to be disappointed. For example, if you go into marriage expecting nothing but romance and smooth sailing, with nary a fight between you, chances are you're going to be let down. If you expect your spouse to always know what you need and never do anything that upsets you, they're inevitably going to fall short. Expecting perfection, whether from your spouse or yourself, is simply not realistic— you're both human, after all!

2. Ingrained

Some of the sneakiest expectations are the ones we don't even realize we have. They've been imprinted upon us through various means, whether it's what we observed and internalized growing up, what society and culture tells us is acceptable, or even our own personal desires and perceptions. If you've ever found yourself getting upset about something, and you're not even sure why, consider whether it's related to an ingrained expectation you're holding. Maybe you think holidays should be celebrated with specific traditions, believe finances will be handled a certain way in your marriage, or have dear ideas about the "correct" order of milestones as a couple. When ingrained expectations are not met, it can spark emotions that seem to come out of nowhere, and

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That for a day: Nothing is fool-proof because fools are so ingenious.

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that can cause conflict in your marriage.

3. Silent

Sometimes we're very much aware of the expectations we have, but we don't actually communicate them to our spouse. Instead, we hope that they'll read our mind or figure out what we want on their own, then feel disappointed or upset when they don't. Maybe your spouse asks what you want to do for your birthday. You give a vague, noncommittal answer. In reality, you know exactly what you want to do, but when your spouse doesn't plan anything, you're annoyed and disappointed. Sure, it's nice when your partner just seems to know exactly what you want without having to spell it out, but realistically, this is unfair to both of you. By clearly communicating expectations, you give your spouse the best chance of meeting them— and yourself the best chance of not feeling let down.

Expectations are like a measuring stick that we hold our reality up against. In the context of marriage, they play a huge role in how happy and satisfied we are. The problem with these three types of expectations is that they essentially rig the game against you, souring your perception of both your spouse and your relationship. The key is to prioritize communication and work together to create expectations that set a healthy standard for how you both want to show up in your marriage.



There's Still Time to Attend Summer Camp !

Lutheran Island Camp
Summer 2025 brochures
are available at church

Thank You from the Jastrams..

Our hearts are full of gratitude to you, our dear readers, for your prayers and support of LCMS mission work here in Japan. Thank you so much! Dan & Joan Jastram

Read the current newsletter at:

<https://tinyurl.com/43bxdpfb>



Opportunities to Serve...

Help With Children's Church

We need a couple more volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-6 year olds).

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.

For any month remaining in 2025...

Pick Your Month for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian.

We are still in need of volunteers. Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to sign up or find out more details.



Looking for Volunteers...

and people interested in helping with our Living Word float in the New London Waterdays Parade Saturday, July 19th

Please contact Mona Hjelle if you can help.



"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-VvJEU22yCYxbhwjg/featured>

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Thot for a day: I'm going to donate these bags of old clothes to Goodwill, but first I'm going to drive around with them in my trunk for 4 months.

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Make-A-Meal Program...

Please Sign Up to Help Make Meals at 10:00 on Saturday, July 12

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.



Please grab some meals from the freezer at church and take them to someone who's going through a tough time.

E-Mail Humor...

'My wife asked me this morning, "Whacha doin' today?"

I said, "Nothing."

She said, "That's what you did yesterday."

I said, "I wasn't finished."

After a hardy rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys with water, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddle through her kitchen window. The older of the two, a five-year-old lad, grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and shoved his face into the water hole. As the boy recovered and stood laughing and dripping, the mother runs to the yard in a panic.

"Why on earth did you do that to your little brother?!" she asks angrily. "We were just playing 'church,' Mommy," he said. "I was baptizing him in the name of the Father, the Son and in the hole-he-goes."

A kindergarten student told his teacher he'd found a cat but it was dead. "How do you know the cat was dead?" she asked him. "Because I pissed in its ear and it didn't move," answered the child innocently. "You did WHAT?!!" the teacher exclaimed in surprise. "You know," explained the boy, "I leaned over and went 'Psst!' and it didn't move."

Monthly Music Videos...

Some new music from the month of June.

- My pick for best of the month is "Sing (Like You've Already Won)" by MercyMe... https://youtu.be/SQQR_9Q1B_g
- In close second is, "Dusty Bibles" by Josiah Queen... <https://youtu.be/eVz3Ag5FKEM>
- "God Story" is a new song from Anne Wilson... <https://youtu.be/pf246bFwfg4>
- Blessing Offor has great new song, "Real" <https://youtu.be/JiKJhWG0t9A>
- "Goodbye" is a heartfelt song about a loss of a friend by Toby Mac... <https://youtu.be/-iW63YuRAyo>
- Sanctus Real just released a new song, "You Are I Am"... <https://youtu.be/Xy4CWEogXLg>
- The latest song from Cory Ashbury is called "Cheap Seats"... <https://youtu.be/55EBPIIoHw>
- "Shine" is a great song, just released by the Gray Havens... <https://youtu.be/VxtXiGrXiMA>
- "Thank The Lord" is new from Patrick Mayberry... <https://youtu.be/3cieD48kOFF>
- Ben Fuller released another song from his new album, "Walk Through Fire"... <https://youtu.be/PyIL5YccQWE>
- The latest song from Pat Barrett is "Praise The Lord Forever"... <https://youtu.be/chGsvFIHf8w>
- "Help" is new from Jordan St. Cyr with Riley Clemmons <https://youtu.be/rinIXUZmGVg>
- Peter Burton released "Jesus Over Everything"... <https://youtu.be/eoOKYQX0xEU>
- "Singing In The Dark" is a new song from Tasha Layton... <https://youtu.be/iBT73gyrRDk>
- "Running To Me" has a great 80's feel from Joseph Habedank... <https://youtu.be/YUAvpNPN6GQ>
- Andrew Ripp just released "On The Inside"... <https://youtu.be/P1dxsminNmU>
- "Pray" is a new song from Good Weather Forecast... <https://youtu.be/CXqD14dJqIA>

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That for a day: Common sense is the least common of the senses.

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- "Jesus The Son" is a new release from George Case... <https://youtu.be/wF3nYn5ZQX8>
- "Lead" is a beautiful song from Josh Wright... <https://youtu.be/GX2WGcTBmA4>
- "I Believe In You" is a great song from Megan Woods... <https://youtu.be/es8KfGbTKkE>
- Justin Gambino released "Just Like Jesus"... <https://youtu.be/66Xu8ZDt89Y>
- Finally, "Somebody Say Amen" is another great song by Kristian Stanfill... <https://youtu.be/hM3L9o1yIGY>

Story Behind The Song...

In the United States, July 4th is "Independence Day", the annual celebration of nationhood, commemorating the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. This hymn, "God of Our Fathers", was written in 1876 for the "Centennial" Fourth of July celebration at Brandon, Vermont. Though it was written to celebrate a United States event, it does not specifically mention the U.S. — so this song is "versatile" and could easily serve in other ways, times and places.

Many American patriotic songs praise the beauty and worth of the United States first, and treat God almost as an afterthought. Not so with this hymn which praises God and prays for His help, while recognizing that we as a nation need God's law and guidance to maintain peace. The language is not modern, but is rich in meaning and heart. It is worth the effort to learn what this song says — making it easier to sing it heartily with understanding.

"God of Our Fathers" communicates a feeling of patriotism and honors the greatness of God. This 19th century hymn was written by Daniel Crane Roberts. Roberts was educated at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio and when the Civil War started in 1861 he joined the Union Army as a member of the 84th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Roberts, who in 1876 was serving as rector of St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal churches in Brandon, was asked to write a song for the people to sing during the Centennial celebration. He agreed to do so and the result was "God of Our Fathers."

Roberts was ordained in the Protestant Episcopal Church as a priest in 1866 and ministered to several congregations in Vermont and Massachusetts. In 1878 he began a ministry at St. Paul Church in Concord,

New Hampshire, that lasted for twenty-three years. Serving for many years president of the New Hampshire State Historical Society, Roberts once wrote, "I remain a country parson, known only within my small world," but his hymn "God of Our Fathers" brought him widespread recognition. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Norwich University in 1885.

In 1892, Roberts sent the hymn anonymously to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church to be considered by a group tasked with revising the Episcopal hymnal. If the group accepted his hymn, Roberts said he would send them his name. The commission approved it.

Because of its use in that national celebration, the song became widely known among Americans. As hymnals are being published, most of them include "God of Our Fathers." The three-part farfare at the beginning of each verse and during each interlude adds greatly to the spirit of the song.

God of our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band.
Of Shining worlds in splendor through the skies
Our grateful songs, before thy throne arise.

Thy Love divine hath led us in the past.
In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay.
Thy Word Our Law, thy Paths our chosen ways.

From wars alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be thy Strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,
Thy Bounteous goodness, nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night, to never ending day;
Fill all our lives, with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

People speak of "God and country", but might not know a lot of details of that relationship through our history. There is a lot of history that connects God with the founding of the United States. Let's take a look at just one of many significant historical events.

Way back on April 29, 1607, long before the Declaration of Independence, a wooden cross was planted and the following famous prayer and decree were made by Robert Hunt at Cape Henry, Virginia.

"We do hereby dedicate this land and ourselves to reach the people within these shores with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to raise up

godly generations after us, and with these generations, take the Kingdom of God to all the earth. May this covenant of dedication remain to all generations as long as the earth remains, and may this land, along with England, be Evangelist to the world. May all who see this Cross remember what we have done here, and may those, who come here to inhabit, join us in this covenant and in this noblest work that the Holy Scriptures may be fulfilled. From these very shores, the gospel shall go forth, not only to this New World, but the entire world."

After that declaration, this powerful Bible passage was read:
All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. (Psalm 22:27-28).

Here is a performance by the Gaithers featuring Shane McConnell...
<https://youtu.be/rQpHsQez-JU>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

