

October 2025 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
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Questions for Pastor...

"Why would Esau sell his birthright for a bowl of stew?"

This great question came from one of our Confirmation students after reading about Abraham's grandsons Esau and Jacob.

The "birthright" refers to the right the firstborn has to a double portion of the inheritance. (See Deuteronomy 21:17) and the right to leadership of the family - including spiritual leadership. Esau was the firstborn of the two twins.

Here's the situation from Genesis 25:27-34

The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

[There's an important lesson on not playing favorites here, but that's for another time.]

Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edam.)

Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."

"Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?"

But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright.

I'm not sure what all went into Esau's spur-of-the-moment decision to trade his birthright for a bowl of stew, but it certainly seems like a decision that was primarily guided by Esau's feeling of the moment (which was hunger.)



Page 3

You could say it was a hasty reaction based on a fleeting feeling. Esau definitely didn't take any time to actually think about what he was doing. He just made a life-changing decision based solely on how he was feeling at that moment.

Romans 15:4 says, *"The things written in the past (Old Testament) were written to teach us..."*

So, as we read through the Bible in Confirmation class one of the things we look for is:

What's the lesson God is teaching us here?

It seems there's a pretty obvious lesson here that applies to each one of us:

Don't make big decisions on the spur of the moment based just on how you are feeling at that moment. Instead, take some time to think about it. Pray about it. Ask God for His guidance. Check with other Christians for their thoughts.

Or, as someone I know summed up in this acronym:

FYGNFY

Follow Your God Not Your Feelings.

Feelings can lead you astray (ask Esau). God can't.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in August on the normal First and Third Sundays (October 5th & 19th), as well as Reformation Sunday (Oct 26th).



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 pew.

Mark Your Calendar...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, October 9th @ 6:30 p.m.

Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

This month is our 2026 Planning Meeting. Please come with goals and budget needs for your team.



Chili Cookoff...



SAVE THE DATE!

2026 Chili Cook Off

is scheduled for
January 17th.

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.

Register by November 1st.

Check's payable to Living Word. You can give to Violet or Tammy M.



Congratulations...

David & Mariah Stern (and grandparents Kevin and Marcia Welsh) on the birth of Milo Welsh Stern!

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

Page 4

Thot for a day: Getting rid of the penny should not change a thing. People have been walking around for a long time with no cents.

Page 5

Upcoming Fellowship Outings...



Celebrate Birthdays

We will celebrate October birthdays on
Tuesday, October 14th @ 11:00
at El Tapatio in Willmar

October Fellowship Outing
Thursday, October 2nd @ 6:00
at the Padua Pub



Brunch at the Tutti Frutti Restaurant
In Sauk Centre
Saturday, October 25th @ 10:00

Invite A Friend...

Please remember to sign up if you can attend, as Marcia will need to make reservations. Thanks!

Confirmation News...

- 6-7th Confirmation classes:
6:00 p.m. Each Wednesday
- Smoke-Detector Battery Giveaway -
Saturday, October 25 from 10 to noon.



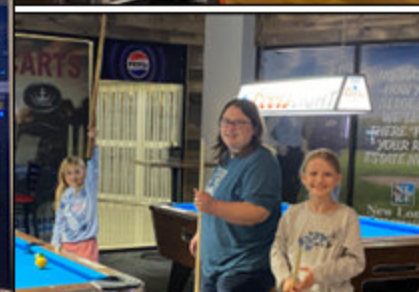
Smoke-Detector Battery Outreach...

Our Annual Smoke-Detector Battery Giveaway

Saturday, October 25, from 10 - noon

Please join Pastor and the confirmation students in our annual community service project of handing out free smoke-detector batteries to folks who live near the church. (It's really fun to see the looks on people's faces when they find out that instead of asking for something, we are giving them something.





Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Book of Revelation
Every Sunday @ 9:00
Please join us for coffee and God's Word



Men's Study

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
(pre-study meat at 6:15)



Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Next study: Wednesday, Oct 8 @ 10:00 a.m.
All women are invited!

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

Read about Luke and John the authors of the Gospels that bear their names

(Or listen to Pastor read the passages show us the unique contributions Luke and John made. He will text or email you a link to each day's recording)

You'll find the readings listed on our Daily Readings pages 16—17

Make-A-Meal Program...

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.

Page 8

That for a day: Consider the word "SCENT" ... which letter is silent, the S or the C?

Page 9

Living Word's 2025 Goals Update...

- Continue the Make A Meal program.
We made meals in July and still have many in the freezer
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper
October 2nd, 14th, and 25th
- 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!! **Was held at our Block Party on August 9th**
- Chili Cook-Off **Next Cook-Off is January 17th**
- 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 attended the Gathering in July
- Coordinating with Redeemer, Willmar and St. John, Atwater to host joint youth events **Ongoing**
- Continue weekly Youth Gatherings
Every Wednesday @ 7:00
- Keep the church yard looking nice and continue to de-clutter the storage areas inside.
Ongoing

Remember to wear your Living Word Apparel...



A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Bonus Marriage Compatibility Points



What are the most important things to agree on in marriage? Typically you're going to consider things like your values and beliefs, overall meshing of your personalities, and the general picture of what you want your future to look like – whether that includes a big family, career aspirations, living in a small town or a big city, etc. If you and your spouse differ significantly on these topics, it's going to be difficult to plan a life together – to say the least.

But if you're aligned on these big things, does that mean it's all smooth sailing? Eh, not quite. You and your spouse will probably still disagree, albeit on things with lower stakes. That got us thinking...

What are those things that you definitely don't have to agree on, but that just might make day-to-day life a whole lot easier if you did? Consider them sort of like bonus compatibility points in marriage:

Food

Are you and your spouse adventurous eaters, or do you both prefer your usual, predictable comfort foods? There is nothing wrong with either, but if you differ on this, you might have more disagreements on what's for dinner or which restaurant to check out. The same goes for general dietary preferences or habits. And what about takeout? Do you consider it a treat or not a big deal?

Temperature

Do you and your spouse generally agree on what the thermostat is set at, or is it a constant tug of war on temperature? Do you believe in turning the AC or heat on the second it hits a certain degree, or do you ride it out for as long as you can? Different temperature preferences is a common sticking point for many married couples – are you one of them?

Entertainment

Do you enjoy similar types of music, movies, or shows? Do you agree on what should be playing in the car on a long trip – music, podcast, or audiobook? Do you go to the movie theater, or wait for streaming? Are concert tickets built into your yearly budget or is that not one of your priorities?

Sleeping

Of course there is the whole early bird/night owl dynamic, but what about sleeping temperature? Do you need a fan or white noise or do

Page 10

That for a day: A pessimist's blood type is always B-negative.

Page 11

you opt for silence? Do you wake up quickly, or hit snooze on three different alarms? Do you like to cuddle throughout the night or would you rather keep to your space?

Cleanliness

When you say you're going to clean the house, does that mean picking up all the clutter so things look nice and tidy? Or is some clutter okay as long as the actual surfaces have been scrubbed down? What's your tolerance for letting either go? It might seem like semantics, but you'd be surprised how different mindsets about this can lead to arguments.

How many bonus points do you and your spouse score? If you're on the same wavelength for many of these examples, that's great! Your similarities probably lend to a general sense of harmony as you encounter these things in your daily life. **If you differ on some or most of these things, then these tips can help you navigate your differences:**

Talk about them.

Share your opinions and perspectives, and listen to your spouse's to gain a better understanding of why they prefer one thing over the other. It doesn't mean you need to try to persuade them to adopt your view or vice versa, but putting in the effort to understand each other better never hurts. If something is particularly important to you, let your spouse know.

Be willing to compromise.

In most of these scenarios, there is no right or wrong answer – it's just a matter of personal preference. While it might be tempting to dig your heels in on something, having courtesy and respect for what your spouse wants sets a tone throughout your relationship. So be willing to meet each other in the middle whenever you can.

Come up with unique solutions.

Get creative when it comes to finding ways to meet both of your preferences or at least a happy medium. Maybe that means a special "system" for cleaning the house, taking turns choosing the movie or restaurant but each having one "veto" to use, or splitting the difference on the thermostat. Do what works for your marriage, even if it seems silly!

Understand how having kids can complicate things.

When it's just you and your spouse to worry about, it's one thing. But adding children to the mix adds a whole other layer of complexity, particularly when your preferences impact or are imposed upon them. In some cases, you might be more willing to flex and forgo your own wants. In others, you and your spouse might have to discuss what's best for your children.

Make sure to nurture your bond in other ways.

If you're opposites on most things, you'll want to make sure you're

staying connected – and nurturing that connection – in other ways. If your emotional bond is strong, these differences are minor conflicts to overcome. But if you're already feeling disconnected, they can create even more distance.

These minor points of contention are typically not dealbreakers when it comes to determining who you'll spend the rest of your life with. If you and your spouse are lucky enough to have many of these things in common, enjoy that luxury! And if you find yourselves bickering about any of these topics, you're not alone. As you learn to manage your differences, take pride in the fact that that you're also gaining skills that will benefit your marriage as a whole.

Email Inspiration...

From Mikey's Funnies

Ron, a 9-year old boy, was being raised by his mother who didn't know how to cope with his uncontrollable temper. She knew he was angry that his father had abandoned him, and she tried professional counseling, but nothing seemed to work.

So, she sent Ron to spend the summer on his grandparent's farm. When he came home, he was a changed boy. His mom asked him what happened, and he told her that every time he got mad or said anything unkind, Grandpa made him go outside and hammer a big two-inch nail into a two-by-four. It was hard, and he wasn't allowed back until the nail was all the way in.

After about 20 trips to the shed to get the tools, he decided it was easier to control his temper than hammer those long nails.

"Did you change because you hated the consequences so much?" she asked.

"Well, that was part of it," he said. "After I'd nailed in all the nails and was behaving better, Grandma took me outside and made me pull them out. That was even harder. When I was done, she gave me this note."

He showed it to her, and this is what she read:

"Pulling out the nails is like saying you're sorry. But the holes still remain in the board. You can't fix things by being sorry, but you can stop making new holes. Remember, every time you do something mean and nasty, you're making a hole somewhere in someone. That's what your dad did to you. Please don't do it to anyone else. You're better than that."

Page 12

That for a day: I'm proud to announce that I have completed the first item on my bucket list. I have the bucket.

Page 13

Opportunities to Serve...

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!)



Teal's Rebate Program...

...has been discontinued. Thanks to everyone who saved receipts.

Custodian Volunteers Needed.

For any month after October...

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.



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 September 15):

"Challenge" Money Raised: \$65,000 (of \$70,000 needed)

Money in CDs and Building Account: \$130,000

A HUGE "Thank You" to everyone who has made a pledge !!!

October 2025 - Daily Readings

October 2025 Daily Readings:

This month we continue our devotion focus: **Who are the Gospel writers -**

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? We find out more about them, the things about Jesus they emphasized - as well as things they included in their gospel that you won't find anywhere else.

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

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

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

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28 - Unique Narratives from Mark

Sept 29 Mark, 1:16, 16:7, 1 Peter 5:13 _____

Sept 30 Mark 1:1-8 _____

Oct 1 Mark 1:21-28 _____

Oct 2 Mark 9:14-29 _____

Oct 3 Mark 16:8, 9-20 _____

WEEK OF OCT 5 - Getting to know Luke and his Gospel

Oct 6 Colossians 4:14 & Acts 16:10 _____

Oct 7 Luke 1:1-4 _____

Oct 8 Acts 1:1-3 _____

Oct 9 Luke 3:23-37 _____

Oct 10 Luke 11:1-13 & 18:1-8 _____

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

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

WEEK OF Oct 12 - Unique narratives from LUKE

Oct 13 Luke 1 _____

Oct 14 Luke 2 _____

Oct 15 Luke 10 _____

Oct 16 Luke 24:13-35 _____

Oct 17 Luke 24:50-53 _____

WEEK OF Oct 19 - Getting to know JOHN and his Gospel

Oct 20 Mark 4:14-20 _____

Oct 21 1 John 1 & Revelation 1:9-11 _____

Oct 22 John 20:31 _____

Oct 23 John 1:1-18 _____

Oct 24 John 13 _____

WEEK OF Oct 26 - Unique Narratives from JOHN's Gospel

Oct 27 John 19:25-27 _____

Oct 28 John 6:35-40 _____

Oct 29 John 11 _____

Oct 30 John 20:24-30 _____

Oct 31 John 21 _____

October 2025 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept 28 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	Sept 29	Sept 30 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	1 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH GROUP	2 6:00 - FELLOWSHIP OUTING @ PADUA	3	4
5 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	6	7 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	8 10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH GROUP	9 <i>MISSION</i> <i>Ministry</i> 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	10	11
12 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	13	14 11:00 - OCT BIRTHDAYS @ El Tapatio 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	15 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH GROUP	16 <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #00b0f0; color: black; text-align: center;"> Lord's Supper Dates • Sunday, October 5th • Sunday, October 19th • Reformation Sunday, Oct 25th </div>	17	18
19 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	20	21 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	22 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH GROUP	23	24	25 10:00 - SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERY GIVEAWAY 11:00 - BRUNCH @ Tutti Frutti
26 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	27	28 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	29 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH GROUP	30	31	Nov 1 WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATIONS DUE... TODAY

Upcoming Schedules...

After-Worship Fellowship

We will have coffee / water and cookies at 11:15 after worship. Please join us when you can! ...and, if you can, please sign up to serve coffee and goodies some Sunday.



Usher Schedule

Oct 5	Jim & Torasie Larson
Oct 12	Jason & Levi Miller
Oct 19	Pam Johnson & Linda Van Meter
Oct 26	Larry Levin & Gerry Butler

USHERS NEEDED

We are still in need of more ushers to help collect offering. Please sign up at church if you could take a turn. Thanks!

Elders

Oct 5, 12	Steve & Kevin
Oct 10, 26	Duane & Scott

Custodian

October	Meggie Ashburn and Jean Lungstrom
November	Available

Acolyte

Oct 5	Isaac Ashburn
Oct 12	Drew Dahl
Oct 19	Isaac Ashburn
Oct 26	Drew Dahl



PowerPoint Clicker Operator

Oct 5	Elsa
Oct 12	Drew
Oct 19	Open
Oct 26	Open

Altar Guild

October	Mona Hjelle
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Accompanying Musicians

Oct 5	Sharon Willen
Oct 12	Scott Wachter
Oct 19	Sharon Willen
Oct 26	Scott Wachter



Page 18

That for a day: It's easier to get older than it is to get wiser.

Page 19

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 September we thanked God for...

- Rally Sunday
- The Power and Truth of His Word

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



Seen on Church Signboards...

**Choose the Bread of Life
Or end up as Toast...**

October Discipleship Verse...

*"Jesus answered, I Am the Way and the Truth and the Life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."*

John 14:6

Note: This is the fifth of six straight months where we use a confirmation verse as our Discipleship Verse. This month's verse is Troy Sarsland's confirmation verse.

Email Wisdom...

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



- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.
Proverbs 3:5-6
- Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.
Proverbs 3:7-8
- Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.
Proverbs 3:9-10
- Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"— when you already have it with you.
Proverbs 3:27-28
- Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.
Proverbs 4:23
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
Proverbs 9:10
- Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.
Proverbs 10:12
- A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.
Proverbs 11:25
- Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.
Proverbs 12:1
- The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.
Proverbs 12:26
- Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin.
Proverbs 13:3

Page 20

That for a day: A person can fail many times, but they aren't a failure until they begin to blame somebody else.

Page 21

E-Mail Humor...

Jim was driving down the street in a sweat, because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place.

Looking up to heaven he said, "Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place, I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up drinking beer!"

Miraculously, a parking place appeared.

Jim looked up again and said, "Never mind, I found one."

Billy Graham was returning to Charlotte after a speaking engagement and when his plane arrived there was a limousine there to transport him to his home.

As he prepared to get into the limo, he stopped and spoke to the driver. "You know," he said, "I'm 87 years old and I have never driven a limousine. Would you mind if I drove it for a while?"

The driver said, "No problem. Have at it."

Billy gets into the driver's seat and they head off down the highway. A short distance away sat a rookie State Trooper operating his first speed trap. The long black limo went by him doing 70 in a 55 mph zone. The trooper pulled out and easily caught the limo. He then got out of his patrol car to begin the procedure.

The young trooper walked up to the driver's door and when the glass was rolled down. He was surprised to see who was driving. He immediately excused himself and went back to his car and called his supervisor.

"I know we are supposed to enforce the law...but I also know that important people are given certain courtesies. I need to know what I should do because I have stopped a very important person."

The supervisor asked, "Is it the governor?"

The young trooper said, "No, he's more important than that."

The supervisor said, "Oh, so it's the president."

The young trooper said, "No, he's even more important than that."

After a moment, the supervisor finally asked, "Well then, who is it?"

The young trooper said, "I think it's Jesus, because he's got Billy Graham for a chauffeur!"

OCTOBER 2025

Check out our website for links to the monthly newsletters, streaming church services, daily devotions, and more!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6pm Confirmation 7pm Youth Group 	2	3 	4
5 10am Church	6	7	8 6pm Confirmation 7pm Youth Group 	9 7am The Well Breakfast 	10	11
12 Pastor's Day! 10am Church	13 6:45 Youth Leaders online meeting 7:00 Adult Youth Group Leadership online meeting 	14 Birthday Lunch Celebration 	15 6pm Confirmation 7pm Youth Group 	16 Congregation Supper 	17	18
19 10am Church	20	21	22 6pm Confirmation 7pm Youth Group 	23 7am The Well Breakfast 	24	25
26 10am Church	27	28	29 6pm Confirmation 7pm Youth Group 	30 	31 RSVP to Becky for Ignite Youth Conference, Free! 	

notes

Oct. 1 - Youth Group: Quilt Finishing

Oct. 3 - Happy Birthday, Kala!

Oct. 8 - Youth Group: Bible Study

Oct. 9 - The Well breakfast club for all area youth at Peace Church

Oct. 14 - Birthday Lunch Celebration, location varies each month, open to all ages, expense is yours, RSVP to Marcia

Oct. 15 - Youth Group: Bible Study

Oct. 16 - Congregation Supper, location varies each month, open to all ages, expense is on your own, RSVP with Marcia

Oct. 22 - Youth Group: Shop for Operation Christmas Child. Each youth will be allotted \$ to purchase things for Operation Christmas Child. They are also welcome to add in personal donations for this event. Will go much later than typical.

Oct. 23 - The Well breakfast club at Peace Lutheran open to all area youth

Oct. 29 - Youth Group: Pumpkin Carving

Oct. 30 - Happy Birthday, Austin!

If you would join our parent group, you would have access to our communications. Feel free to use any photos or dates from that group.

Click here: https://groupme.com/join_group/101771809/iJuNXP4k

"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>

A Minute for Parents...

From Light The Way blog

Raising teens can feel like walking a tightrope—balancing connection with independence, privacy with protection, and structure with flexibility. The teenage years are full of transformation. Your once talkative child might now speak in one-word answers. But don't worry—this is a normal part of development.

The good news? Research from family therapy and adolescent psychology shows that there are meaningful ways to stay connected with your teen, even through the eye rolls and closed bedroom doors.

The Power of Connection: What Teens Really Need

At the core, teens want what we all want—to be seen, heard, and understood. When they feel emotionally safe at home, they are more likely to open up, ask for help when needed, and make healthier choices.

According to Emotionally Focused Family Therapy (EFFT), secure parent-teen bonds can protect against mental health issues, substance use, and risky behavior.

Start with this mindset: Connection before correction.

Ask Open-Ended Questions (That Don't Feel Like Interrogation)

Teens often withdraw when they feel questioned or judged. Open-ended questions invite deeper conversation without pressure.

Try these instead of "How was school?":

- "What was the most interesting part of your day?"
- "What's something you wish adults understood about being a teen right now?"
- "If you could change one rule in the house, what would it be and why?"
- "What's something you're proud of this week?"

Tip: Don't rush to respond or give advice—just listen. Let silence be okay.

Respecting Their Privacy (While Still Parenting)

Teens need a sense of privacy to build independence and trust. Respecting this doesn't mean stepping back entirely—it means adjusting your role.

Here's how to find the balance:

- Knock before entering their room.
- Avoid reading their texts or journals unless there's a serious concern.
- Instead of monitoring everything, talk openly about online safety,

Page 24

Thot for a day: We've been friends so long I can't remember which is the bad influence.

Page 25

relationships, and boundaries.

Therapeutic technique: Use collaborative problem solving. Say, "I want to give you space, and I also need to know you're safe. How can we work together on that?"

Keeping Them Safe: Trust and Boundaries

Set clear boundaries—but involve your teen in creating them. When teens help shape the rules, they're more likely to respect them.

Family therapy emphasizes authoritative parenting—firm but warm, with room for negotiation and mutual respect.

Ideas:

- Create a tech agreement together (e.g., screen time, location sharing).
- Have open discussions about peer pressure, sex, and substance use.
- Practice "what if" scenarios together: "What would you do if...?"

Stay Connected (Even When Life is Busy)

You don't need hours—you need intentionality. Consistent micro-moments matter.

Ideas for connection in small pockets of time:

- Cook one meal together each week, even if it's just tacos.
- Share music playlists and talk about lyrics.
- Watch a short show or play a video game they like.
- Drive-time chats with phones down.
- Five-minute check-ins before bed: "How are you feeling today? Anything on your mind?"

Family therapy tip: Use "special time"—15 minutes a few times a week where you let your teen take the lead in how you spend time together.

Model What You Want to See

Teens learn from watching, not just listening. Show them how to regulate emotions, admit mistakes, and communicate respectfully.

Say things like:

- "I was feeling stressed earlier. I took a walk to calm down."
- "I'm sorry I snapped—I want to try again."

These moments show emotional intelligence in action.

Final Thoughts: You Don't Need to Be Perfect

Connection isn't about being the perfect parent—it's about being a present one. Your teen may act like they don't care, but deep down, your presence and effort matter more than you know.

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
- October Newsletters
- October-December Portals of Prayer
- Smoke Detector batteries

Recorded videos of Sermons

Sermons can be found in on our Living Word YouTube channel (New London Living Word) at <https://www.youtube.com/@newlondonlivingword8097/streams>

Sept 7 "God Made SONflowers to Brighten People's Lives"

Sept 14 "How Should Christians Respond to Things Like the Charlie Kirk Assassination?"

Sept 21 "Using Your 'Sword' (God's Word) Boldly"

Sept 28 "Jesus' Example of Patience While Boldly Speaking God's Word"



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!

Page 26

Thot for a day: I don't let my age define me, but the side effects are getting harder to ignore.

Page 27

Prayer...

Remember to use "The Prayer Force"

Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email (pastor@livingwordlutheran.net) prayer requests to Pastor David for the Prayer Force prayer chain to include in their prayers. Thanks!



And an Invitation to Join our "Prayer Force"

Being a part of our prayer chain is a HUGELY important - and very simple - way you can serve God and His people! When a request to pray comes in, Pastor forwards it via text message (or email for those who don't have a cell phone). Then you simply include that request in your prayers. Text Pastor today and tell him "Yeah, I can do that!" Thanks!

Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

(inspired by Luke 11:9: "So I say to you, Ask and it will be given to you; Seek and you will find; Knock and the door will be opened to you")

Remember to take a time-out to PRAY for things like.... these VBS Prayers:

- People you can invite to any of our studies, events or outings
- Thanking God for the amazing Fall weather
- Safety - and continued good weather - during hunting and harvesting
- For the Holy Spirit to work through the teachers of our classes
- The Holy Spirit to bring growth through our Confirmation classes
- For God to continue giving comfort and peace to those grieving.
- Asking God's guidance for our MMT as they plan for a new year
- 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 have people who will pray with you or for you after Sunday service. They gather for prayer near the piano, just meet them there.

Also, we're always looking for a few more people who have a passion for praying!!!

Talk to Tammy Miller if interested



Monthly Music Videos...

More great new music from the month of August:

- "Found It In Jesus" is a great new song from Stephen McWhirter & Matt Maher... <https://youtu.be/HWzsYQqgdYc>
- Zach Williams released a new album *Jesus Loves*. One new song is with CAIN called "Church Kids"... <https://youtu.be/iGD2FL4Fec>
- "Thank You" is another great song off the new album... <https://youtu.be/AvZpYHXijk8>
- Peter Burton just released a great new song called "Foolish"... <https://youtu.be/rXu24fcDDMM>
- Emmerson Day does Southern rock Christian music. I really like "Get Behind Me"... https://youtu.be/rs2J6t8XS_k
- I really like the song "Always Been" by Stephen Barker Liles... <https://youtu.be/U8HYDV49-o>
- A bit more on the country side than Christian, but I like Thomas Rhett's new song "On A River"... <https://youtu.be/tW5HIXa9rXY>
- "Found In The Hurt" is from Presence Music (a Christian pop band from Duluth)... <https://youtu.be/HffKtkIVCCw>
- "Stars" is the latest song from Anne Wilson... <https://youtu.be/LTaYazX4wic>
- Matt Redmond and Joe L Barnes have released a new song, "Praise To The Most High"... <https://youtu.be/bC32kwx99g>
- "Nobody Loves Like You" is a great new song from Josh Wright... <https://youtu.be/ERupPhwFNfA>
- Patrick Mayberry released a new song, "Everlasting Arms"... <https://youtu.be/iuodyPY-jxo>
- "Days God Gave" is new from Matt Hammit... <https://youtu.be/4OLntS-7MIQ>
- I like this new song from Josh Baldwin, "It's Finished Now"... <https://youtu.be/OyTSxYgQBVo>
- The latest song from Pat Barrett is "Hard Part Of A Dream"... https://youtu.be/odq_cj5WCso
- From the new Angel TV series, *Miracle*, Terrian has a new song called "Testimony"... <https://youtu.be/ijm46OEP0zQ>
- Kristene DiMarco released a heartfelt song about her kids, "Song for My Children"... <https://youtu.be/CikDh8y90aI>

Page 28

That for a day: It's okay to be smarter than people... just don't tell them so.

Page 29

- "Hindsight" is new from Tasha Layton & Colton Dixon... <https://youtu.be/AYmAGzThfmk>
- Katie Nichole's latest song is "Have Your Way"... <https://youtu.be/KBZFgwa5Xn8>
- Michael W Smith is still making new music with "Kingdom Come"... <https://youtu.be/zgekrzf6BkE>
- Tauren Wells released "Fight Like Heaven"... https://youtu.be/b7dwSEvcm_Q
- From the new Chris Tomlin album, *The King Is Still the King...* "Still the King"... <https://youtu.be/Ei7PebNf8-k>
"Jesus Saves"... https://youtu.be/ngeh_oc6a6Y

Story Behind The Song...

William Walsham How was born in December of 1823. His father, also named William, was a solicitor in Shrewsbury, England. How went to school in Shrewsbury, Wadham College, Oxford University. After deciding he was not called to be a lawyer like his father and struggling in certain classes, he decided to attend Durham and, in 1846, gained a license in theology. In December of that year, he was ordained and served at St. George's in Kidderminster. During all this time, he continued with his favorite hobby of botany, sometimes even taking on more official roles in England's botany societies.

Two years later, he moved back to his hometown and served in the Abbey Church, where he met and married his wife, Frances, and wrote numerous poems. He worked at several churches after leaving Shrewsbury in 1851, some for many decades, and others for only a handful of years. He even became a bishop, though he had tried to avoid the title. And yet, his enthusiasm lent itself to reviving the church in some areas and was even known as the children's bishop because of his love and care for children and the poor.

During the course of his life, How wrote a great number of hymns, poems, and a handful of prose. Most of his hymns have long since been forgotten, but some can still be found in hymnals today. His sermons were loved by many, and he wrote a couple of commentaries and manuals for people trying to understand the practices of the church. In 1858, he penned "We Give Thee but Thine Own." Below are some of How's own words on hymns:

A hymn is essentially a form of devotion. It is a channel through which the soul's best and highest emotions and aspirations should flow. A

good hymn is something like a good prayer—simple, real, earnest, and reverent. Of course, it demands some chastened beauty of expression, and sensitive choice of language. The charm and the power of a good hymn depend upon subtle and delicate qualities, which are more easily felt than analyzed. Perhaps purity of tone, admitting no shade of affectation or exaggeration on the one side, or of stiffness or uncomeliness on the other, would describe the first necessary attribute of a really good hymn.

He and his wife had at least one son, and she aided How in some of his writings. Sadly, she died in 1887. While visiting Ireland, he became sick and died in August of 1897. He was buried at Wittington, where he had served for a great number of years, leaving behind him a legacy of song, care for the poor, and a life devoted to serving God and His people.

As quoted in the above, How viewed hymns as a type of devotion or prayer, and we will look at this hymn as such. Here, we pray something of a reflection of the Lord's prayer. There, we ask that the Lord gives us for our daily bread, which we know He gives us without our asking because He loves us (Matt. 6:9-13, 7:11). But here, we acknowledge that what we give to God is already His. "For in Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:24-28, Psa. 24:1-2). Nothing we have is of ourselves but rather gifts from God (1 Chron. 29:14, Eph. 2:8). And as the verse above says, they are "a trust" from God (1 Pet. 4:10). We know, as in the Lord's prayer, that He will provide for us, and so we, in thankfulness and joy, return to God what is His, which is everything.

Thus, recognizing that all we have is a loving gift from God, we take care of that which He has given us. We use these to God's glory and care for them as the precious gifts that they are, and from our Heavenly Father no less (Matt. 5:16, Jam. 1:22-27)! So there should be little dispute in giving only the first fruits of what He has given us, for as we know, all belongs to the Lord anyway. And we give back to our God as gladly as He gave them to us (Matt. 10:7-8, Deut. 26:1-5).

We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus
as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blestest us,
to thee our firstfruits give.

To comfort and to bless,

to find a balm for woe,
to tend the lone and fatherless
is angels' work below.

The captive to release,
to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace—I
t is a Christlike thing.

And we believe thy Word,
though dim our faith may be;
whate'er for thine we do, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.

The classic hymn... <https://youtu.be/IHR1PQ5YwLo>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



