



Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters,

STAND FIRM. LET NOTHING
MOVE YOU. ALWAYS GIVE
YOURSELVES FULLY TO
THE WORK OF THE LORD,
BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT
YOUR LABOR IN THE
LORD IS NOT IN VAIN.

1 Corinthians 15:58

April 2026 Newsletter

"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church

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

Questions for Pastor...

Isn't it a bit arrogant to say that Jesus is the only way to heaven?!



This is one of the questions we tackled during our Lenten Midweek Devotion services. In today's society there are seemingly thousands of things you could put your trust in to get to an afterlife. Being called 'arrogant' for saying that Jesus is the only way is one of the milder things you will be called. But it brings up the importance of being able to tell why He really IS the only way.

Jesus would frequently answer a question by asking another question - leading the person to figure out the answer for themselves. With that in mind, here's a question to ask in response:

"Would you say it's arrogant to tell someone "Four" is the only right answer to the question, "What is two plus two?" I mean, there are literally countless other answers you could give..."

I'm not sure why, but people tend to put spiritual matters into the realm of opinion, not facts. The question I just listed is designed to help the person start seeing spiritual things from a different perspective - a factual one.

Here's similar objection to saying that Jesus is "the only way":

"Jesus said we should love everyone. It's not very loving to tell someone their idea is wrong, is it?"

Again, people in our day and age think that "love" is being accepting of any and every idea. The only "unloving" thing is to tell someone they have a wrong idea. So, here's a follow-up question to give them a different perspective on what "love" really is:

"Let's say someone is looking for the answer to "What is 2 + 2?" and they've come up with "3." Which is the "loving" thing to do? Let them continue to think that "3" is an acceptable answer OR help them to see how "4" is the right answer?"

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If you need to, you might add:

"You let them keep thinking "3" is ok, and they are going to run into problems for the rest of their lives. That doesn't seem to be very loving."

Of course, when you claim Jesus is the only right answer, you also have to be prepared to give a reason why. So, why is Jesus the only right answer?

Jesus was the only one that dealt honestly with the thing that separated us from God in the first place. Our sin. ("Sin" is simply doing the opposite of what God designed us to do.)

To help them understand the idea that sin is harmful and needs to be removed, you might ask something like:

"Have you ever had some rotten fruit in the bottom of your fridge? (Some folks might not admit this ☹) Did you solve the problem by piling good fruit on top of it? Did it help to just pretend the fruit really wasn't that bad - or ignore it as though it wasn't there?" (Of course, the answer to all those questions is 'No. The only thing that solved the problem was getting rid of the bad fruit.')

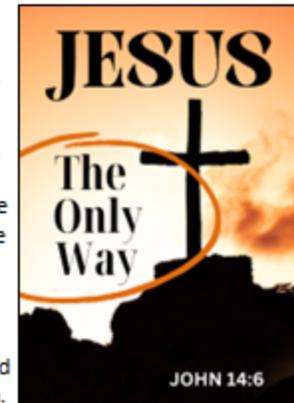
"Sin is like that. It doesn't do any good to try to pile up good actions on top of it. It doesn't do any good to try to pretend it's not a big deal. And it really doesn't do any good to just ignore it as though it's not there. Yet, those are how all other belief systems treat sin. Jesus is the only one who did something to remove it."

Sin puts a barrier between us and our sinless God. That barrier has to be removed in order to bring us back together. Jesus removed the barrier of our sin, when He took our punishment for it - in our place. (We call that sin-removal, "forgiveness.")

Keep in mind, your answers (or questions) might not result in the other person instantly responding, "You know, you're right. I can see how Jesus is the only right answer!" But you've planted the seed of a different way of looking at it, and God can take that seed and make it sprout into faith at just the right time!

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

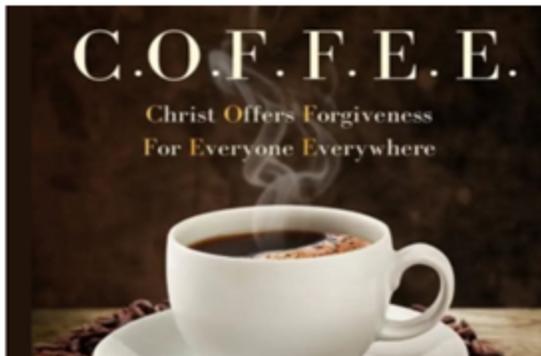


Who Can You Invite?

- **"Maundy" Thursday` Thursday, April 2 @ 6:30p**
On this night, Jesus set us the example of servanthood by washing His disciples' feet. After that He instituted the meal we know as "The Lord's Supper" which we will celebrate.
We have a double celebration on this night as our 5th Graders will be taking their first communion!
- **Good Friday- The 7 Last Words - Friday, April 3 @ 6:30pm**
Easter is just a "feel-good" story without Good Friday.
We extinguish one candle for each of the seven last words Jesus spoke from the cross until all lights have been put out.
Join us to be reminded why we call such a dark day "Good."
- **Easter - Sunday, April 5**
- **Sonrise Worship: 6:52 a.m.**
We begin outdoors watching the sun rise (6:53 is actual sunrise time), then move to the sanctuary to finish celebrating the Greatest Event in History
- **Easter Breakfast- 8:15 a.m.**
- **Easter Worship w/Communion - 10:00 a.m.**
We again celebrate the Greatest Event in all of History at our regular worship time with communion as the Feast of Victory

Pray about your invitations. Ask God to give you the words and opportunity. Offer to pick them up. (And if they don't accept your invitation, keep praying for them and for another opportunity.)

Join Us Sunday Mornings for...



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That for a day: It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

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Email Humor...

A woman was having some health issues, so she went to her doctor of twenty years. They had the following conversation:

Dr: "Take the red pill after breakfast with one glass of water."

Woman: "Ok."

Dr: "Take the blue pill after lunch with two glasses of water."

Woman: "Ok."

Dr.: "Take the yellow pill after dinner with three glasses of water."

After giving these instructions to the woman, she asks, "Can you tell me what's wrong with me, doctor?"

Dr.: "Yeah. You don't drink enough water."

+++++

While waiting for my first appointment in the reception room of a new dentist, I noticed his certificate, which bore his full name.

Suddenly, I remembered that a tall, handsome boy with the same name had been in my high school class almost 50 years ago.

Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought. This balding, gray-haired man with the deeply lined face was too old to have been my classmate.

After he had examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended the local high school.

"Yes," he replied.

"When did you graduate?" I asked.

He answered, "In 1978."

"Why, you were in my class!" I exclaimed.

He looked at me closely and then asked, "What did you teach?"

Thank You...

- To everyone who provided soup and sandwiches for our Lenten suppers!
- To Lee and Joe Johnson for plowing our snow!

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

Mark Your Calendar...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, April 9th @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT



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February Fellowship Outings...



Celebrate April Birthdays:

Tuesday, April 7th
11:00 a.m.
Coop's Corner
(Belgrade)

Fellowship Brunch:

Saturday, April 18th
10:00 p.m.
Tutti Fruitti
Sauk Center



Fellowship Supper:

Thursday, April 23rd
6:00 p.m.
The Spot
(Belgrade)

Confirmation News...

- No Class Holy Week
- Back to our regular schedule of classes at 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays after Easter



It's time to start planning for summer!
Lutheran Island Camp
Summer 2026 brochures
are available at church.

Hot for a day: If you are lavishly praised, enjoy the taste but don't swallow it whole.

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

1. Read About Jesus Dying and Rising

Jesus is God in human flesh, so if you want to get to know God, get to know Jesus. The first three weeks of April our Daily Readings focus on the verifiable, historical events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection - AND their meaning for us today!

Pastor makes an audio recording of the Daily Readings along with a devotion based on them. He can text or email you a link to each day's recording. Just ask.

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

2. Attend our Holy Week Services

April 2- Maundy Thursday/ First Communion - 6:30
 April 3- Good Friday - 7 Last Words - 6:30
 April 5- Easter SonRise - 6:52
 Easter Communion Service - 10:00



Confessio 2026:

A Retreat on the Lutheran Confessions

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL

The Shape of the Christian Life for Faithful Ministry Today

SATURDAY, APRIL 11 | 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

GRAEBNER MEMORIAL CHAPEL | CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (RESERVATIONS REQUESTED)



Rev. Dr. Harold L. Benkard,
Speaker
President Emeritus of the South
Missouri District and Executive
Director Emeritus of DOKOLDFP

MORNING SESSION:
Wanted: Dead and Alive -- Faith that Lives by Love using
Dying to Live: The Foundation, Focus and Shape of the
Christian Life (ICM, 2020) as a reference.

AFTERNOON SESSION:
Christians in the Suburbs of the City of Man --
Mission in a Collapsing Culture using The Culture of
God's Word: Faithful Ministry in a Post-Christian Society
(Baker/Esham, 2020) as a reference.

FREE and Open to the Public
Reservations Requested at: one.csp.edu/confessio

Lunch provided.

Copies of Dying to Live and The Culture of God's Word will
be available for purchase.



Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
Author
President of the Minnesota South
District and Co-Author of The
Culture of God's Word

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
- "Answers in Genesis" magazines

And if you - or your kids- don't have a Bible, please take one from the Coffee Cart.

Recorded videos of Sermons

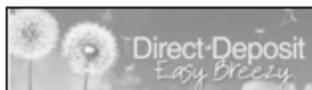
Sermons can be found in on our Living Word YouTube channel (New London Living Word) at

<https://www.youtube.com/@newlondonlivingword8097/streams>

- Mar 1 "Jesus shows us what to do, so we don't have to repent"
- Mar 8 "Lessons from Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well."
- Mar 15 "What naturally happens the more you tell what Jesus has done for you."
- Mar 22 "Lessons from Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead."
- Mar 29 "No Kings? Oh, yes there is! His name is Jesus!"

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.

Portals of Prayer.

April—June issue

Are in Mailboxes and on the Table by the Door



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That for a day: Grandmama used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

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Living Word Phone App...

NEW...

We are working on a phone app for the church. It should make it easier to view videos, events, and share notices and information. You are welcome to install the app and try it out. Go to wherever you get your phone apps (Google Play, Apple Store, etc.) and download the **Our Church Body** app, sign up as a member, and search for Living Word Lutheran Church. Your membership will need to be approved, but once that is done you can look around and try out the features that have been activated.

We are still in the process of getting everything set up, but please check the app out and let us know what you think about it.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE AND EASTER PLANT ...

they may be brought Holy Week and put on the back table.



Sunday School News...

Gabe Ashburn and Alida Miller received their 3rd grade Bibles from Sunday School Director, Meggie Ashburn!

The Bible verse that was read to them was from Proverbs 2:1-5, "Accept my words. Store up my commands inside of you...then you will understand how to have respect for the Lord and find out how to know God."



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

"Current Issues"
Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
(pre-study meet at 6:15)



Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Wednesday, April 8th, at 10:00 a.m.
at church.
All women are invited!



LWML Meeting & Women's Study:

Next meeting and Bible study will be
Wednesday, April 8th at 10:00 a.m. at church.

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.



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

Spring Rally—Sunday April 19th

Registration 1:30 pm Program 2:00pm.

Registration fee \$5.00

St Paul Lutheran Church, 321 N 5th Street
Montevideo, MN

Topic: "Help Me Serve Others"

Speaker: Jennifer Johnson (Kelsi's Hope)

Jennifer Johnson honors her daughter by making dialysis comfort bags and delivers them to different hospitals and dialysis units.

See poster at church for details.

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Thot for a day: "Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40-m inute flute solo."

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Living Word's 2026 Goals Update...

- Continue the Make A Meal program.
We made more meals on March 7th
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper
April 7th—Birthdays
April 23rd—Supper
- Continue the Birthday Card/Anniversary ministry
Ongoing
- Challenge every member to bring a guest this year
Pray about who you can invite to join you for any of our Fellowship Outings, Holy Week Services or Easter Services
- Enlist Youth and Young Adults to help with our
"Visitors (and members) Coffee Cart"
- Initiate the "Prayer D-Fence" Program
(Adults "adopting" a kid to pray for, send cards etc...)
THIS MONTH we continue enlisting people to pray!
- Enlist younger members to help with the Building Project
Spring 2026
- Host Tuesday's Table
Coming September 2026
- Chili Cook-Off
Held on Friendship Sunday, February 15th
- Host another Block Party or Community Festival
This will depend on our building project
- Coordinating with Redeemer, Willmar and St. John, Atwater to host joint youth events
Nothing this month
- Continue growing our active Youth numbers
Devotions on Wednesdays
- Offer support and encouragement to the Parents of Youth
Ongoing
- Keep the church yard looking nice and continue to de-clutter the storage areas inside.
Ongoing
- Parking Lot maintenance
After the Building Project is complete
- Encourage participation in Sunday School
3rd Graders got Bibles on March 22nd





Update From The Link...

Save The Date...

Smokin' for the Link Ribfest
June 6th, 2026, 2 PM to 5 PM



Ticket sales will begin early May 2026

For more information on sponsorship, silent auction items and bringing your own Rib Team, contact Ashley @ 320-354-5465 OR email director@youarethelink.org



Outreach & Food Pantry

OPEN
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
10 am - 3 pm

Last food orders
at 2:45 pm

Thrift Store & Donations

OPEN
Thursday 10am - 6pm
Friday 10am - 3pm
Saturday 10am - 2pm



****Online:**** Visit our secure donation page at <https://www.youarethelink.org/> and put "Building Fund" in the comments.

****Mail:**** You can send a check to The Link, PO Box 823, New London, MN 56273 (put building campaign in the memo).

****Phone:**** Call us at 320-354-5465 to discuss giving options like stock or DAFs.

Thank you for your belief in our mission and for all you've done. Together, we are creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other.

Thot for a day: Worry is interest paid in advance for a debt you may never owe.

Email Wisdom...

THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD

A group of students was asked to list what they thought were the present Seven Wonders of the World. Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student hadn't turned in her paper yet, so she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. TO SEE
2. TO TASTE
3. TO TOUCH
4. TO HEAR.

She hesitated a little, and then added,

5. TO FEEL
6. TO LAUGH
7. AND TO LOVE.

The room was so full of silence you could have heard a pin drop.

Those things we overlook as simple and ordinary are truly wondrous. This is a gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be bought...but are gifts from above. (James 1:17)

"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>

Building Committee Update...

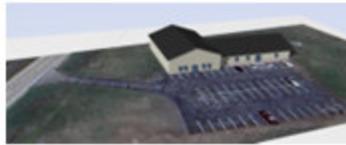
Check out the new computerized drawings on the table by the entry door at church.

Money in CDs and Building Account: \$250,000

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

The BUILDING TEAM will soon be sending out a letter with an update on their planning progress and how you can help.

If you have suggestions for the Committee to consider, please talk to a Committee Member (or just come to a meeting)!



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That for a day: To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.



Holy Week Devotions

Walk your family with Jesus starting on Palm Sunday, to the cross, and ending at the empty tomb this Holy Week with the new Holy Week Devotions from Family Ministry.

Download your copy at:
<https://tinyurl.com/9tvwcdtv>



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 888-THE LCMS (843-5267) • lcms.org/family

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/2iwadvv4>



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Thoughts to Ponder...

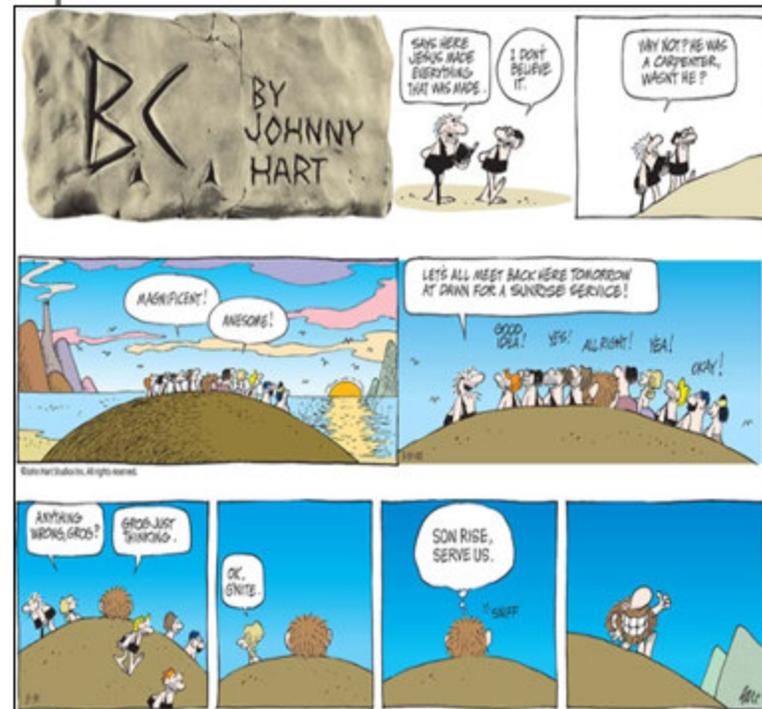


When God wanted to create fish, He spoke to the sea. When God wanted to create trees, He spoke to the earth. But, when God wanted to create man, He turned to himself. Then, God said, "Let us make man in our image and in our likeness."

If you take a fish out of water, it will die; and when you remove a tree from soil, it will also die. Likewise, when man is disconnected from God, he dies.

God is our natural environment. We were created to live in His presence. We have to be connected to Him because it is only in Him that life exists. Let us stay connected to God.

We know that water without fish is still water, but fish without water is nothing. The soil without a tree is still the soil, but the tree without soil is nothing. God without man is still God, but man without God is nothing.



April 2026 - Daily Readings

We read **About Jesus dying and rising from the grave - and what it means!**
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 MARCH 29 - Events of Holy Week

- Mar 30 **Pilate Sentences Jesus - John: 18:29-19:16** _____

Mar 31 **Jesus Crucified - Luke 23:26-36** _____

Apr 1 **The Thief on the Cross - Luke 23:38-43** _____

Apr 2 **The Lord's Supper - Matthew 26:17-30** _____

Apr 3 **Jesus' Death and Burial - Matthew 27:45-66** _____

WEEK OF APRIL 5 - Witnesses of Jesus' Resurrection

- EASTER **John 20:1-8** _____

Apr 6 **Matthew 28:1-10** _____

Apr 7 **Luke 24:15-35** _____

Apr 8 **Luke 24:36-49** _____

Apr 9 **John 20:24-31** _____

Apr 10 **1 Corinthians 15:5-8** _____

WEEK OF APRIL 12 - Results of the Resurrection

- Apr 13 **John 11:20-27** _____

- Apr 14 **1 Corinthians 15:12-23** _____

Apr 15 **1 Corinthians 15:51-58** _____

Apr 16 **Colossians 3:1-10** _____

Apr 17 **1 Peter 1:3-9** _____

WEEK OF APRIL 19 - Lessons from a forgiven betrayer (1 Peter)

- Apr 20 **1 Peter 1:1-2** _____

Apr 21 **1 Peter 1:3-9** _____

Apr 22 **1 Peter 1:10-12** _____

Apr 23 **1 Peter 1:13-21** _____

Apr 24 **1 Peter 1:22-25** _____

WEEK OF APRIL 26 - Lessons from a forgiven betrayer (1 Peter)

- Apr 27 **1 Peter 2:1-3** _____

Apr 28 **1 Peter 2:4-12** _____

Apr 29 **1 Peter 2:13-25** _____

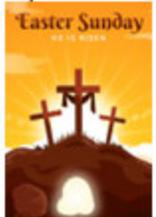
Apr 30 **1 Peter 3:1-7** _____

May 1 **1 Peter 3:8-18** _____

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

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

April 2026 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 29 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	Mar 30 	Mar 31	1 	2 MAUNDY THURS and FIRST COMMUNION 6:30 - MAUNDY THURS SERVICE w/ 1 st COMMUNION	3 GOOD FRIDAY 6:30 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	4 
5 RESURRECTION SUNDAY 6:52 - SONRISE SERVICE 8:15 - EASTER BREAKFAST 10:00 - COMMUNION SERVICE	Easter Sunday 	7 11:00 - Celebrate APRIL BIRTHDAYS @ Coop's Corner (Belgrade) 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	8 10:00 - LWML and WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	9 MISSION Ministry 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 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	15 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Lord's Supper Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maundy Thursday, April 2nd Easter Sunday, April 5th Sunday, April 19th </div>		18 10:00 BRUNCH @ Tutti Frutti Sauk Center
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	23 6:00 - FELLOWSHIP SUPPER @ "The Spot" Belgrade	24	25
26 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	27	28 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	29 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	30	May 1 	May 2

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

Maundy Thurs	Jim & Torasie Larson
Good Friday	Jason & Levi Miller
Easter	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
April 12	Pam Johnson & Linda Van Meter
April 19	Larry Levin Gerry Butler
April 26	Ushers needed

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

Apr 2, 5, 12	Scott & Dan
Apr 19, 26	Steve & Kevin

Custodian

Apr -	Dan and Tammy Miller
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Altar Guild

April	Mona Hjelle
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Accompanying Musicians

Maundy Thurs	Sharon Willen
Good Friday	Scott Wachter & Sharon Willen
Easter Sunrise	Scott Wachter
Easter Communion	Sharon Willen
Apr 12	Scott Wachter
Apr 19	Sharon Willen
Apr 26	Scott Wachter

Opportunities to Serve...

Custodian Volunteers Needed.

Pick Your Month for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian. All months through July are taken. (August—December are still available.) Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to find out more details.

That for a day: The age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 p.m. is the new midnight.

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...

- Spring!

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

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 to take to someone who needs to know Jesus



Seen on Church Signboards...

**Because He Lives ...
I Can Face Tomorrow !**

April Discipleship Verse...

"Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58

God's Wisdom...

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

- He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, But he who doses his eyes to them receives many curses. Proverbs 28:27
- A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed without remedy. Proverbs 29:1
- A fool gives full vent to his anger; .But a wise man keeps himself under control. Proverbs 29:11
- The rod of correction imparts wisdom, But a child left to himself disgraces his mother. Proverbs 29:15
- Where there is no revelation (from God), the .people cast off restraint; But blessed is he who keeps the law. Proverbs 29:18
- Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than him. Proverbs 29:20
- An angry man stirs up dissension. And a hot-tempered one commits many sins. Proverbs 29:22
- A man's pride brings him low, But a man of lowly spirit gains honor. Proverbs 29:23
- Fear of man will prove to be a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe. Proverbs 29:25
- Every word of God is flawless, He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Proverbs 30:5
- Do not add to God's words, or He will rebuke you and prove you to be a liar. Proverbs 30:6



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That for a day: Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

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First Communion...

- Isaac Ashburn
- Brekkyn Raddatz
- Maya Wachter
- Catherine Wright

Will take their First Communion during the Maundy Thursday service.
April 2nd @ 6:30



Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in February on the normal First and Third Sundays (**April 5th & 9th**), as well as on Maundy Thursday, (**April 2nd**).



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.

Its that time again to "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's"



"If I count my blessings and some of them are heavily taxed, do they still count as blessings?"

Around the Community...

SAVE THE DATE

Class of 2026

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE



APRIL 26, 2026 | 7:00PM
NLS Performing Arts Center

REDEEMER LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL



TEACHING, LIVING, SHARING JESUS' LOVE

Enrolling 2026-2027

3-5 year olds

Open House April 21st 5-7pm

- ◆ 20+ years with an established reputation
- ◆ Bible-based curriculum
- ◆ STEM focused
- ◆ Service Orientated

4-STAR PARENT AWARE RATED ACCREDITED

CALL NOW FOR A TOUR!

1401 6th St SW
Willmar, MN 56201
320-235-4685

www.redeemerlutheranpreschool.org

Redeemer Lutheran Preschool does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or physical handicap.






That for a day: Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a work station



Camp GK Bear
GRIEF CAMP FOR CHILDREN

Camp GK Bear is a **FREE** one day camp for children, Grades K-6, who have experienced the death of a significant person in their life. The camp combines activities such as art and music with grief education and support.

Saturday, April 25th
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Lakeland Auditorium
(Lower level of Willmar Lakeland Clinic)

Register by **Friday, April 10th** at CentraCare.com/CampGKBear.

Questions? Call **320-231-4450**.




Profits from the Rose sale support AIM's program's for people with disabilities.

Annual Rose Sale



ORDER FLOWERS
MARCH 10, 2026 UNTIL
APRIL 17, 2026

RED OR LOLLIPOP HALF DOZEN | \$16.00
8 roses with greens in Red or Multi-colored

RED OR LOLLIPOP DOZEN | \$27.00
12 roses with greens in Red or Multi-colored

SPRING BOUQUET | \$20.00
Mix of Seasonal Flowers

Order for someone else to make their day!!!

Drive-thru pickup on **Monday May 18th**

New Location:
Robbins Island - Shelter 1

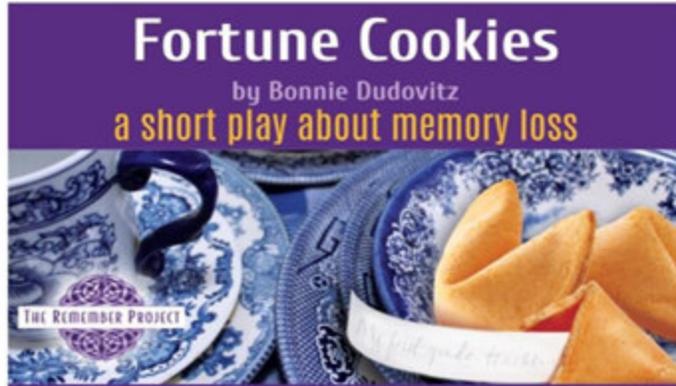
Time: 12:00pm to 5:00pm



To place an order
320-231-1777
www.aimwcm.org

AIM: Advocacy & Inclusion Matter

Around the Community...



Mona has a great idea! This vibrant octogenarian is determined to be the first to know if her recall is slipping beyond what can be considered normal, age-related memory loss. An unexpected visit from her son David reveals that she has cooked up a way to help herself and others be on the lookout for the early stages of dementia.

JOIN US! FREE LIVE EVENT!

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Doors Open and Meal 4:30 pm
Play and Community Conversation 5:30-7:30 pm
Atwater Community Center, 107 2nd St N, Atwater

Reserve tickets and get additional details:
<https://Atwater-Cookies2026.eventbrite.com>
or call (320) 974-8737



Reservations required, attendance is limited

Event Host & Sponsor:



Save the Date!

13th Annual Banquet & Fundraiser
Friday, April 10, 2026 Call to reserve your spot 320-214-7015

Guest MC
Pastor
Keith Kerstetter

Willmar Conference Center
Silent Auction starts at 5:30pm | Dinner at 6:00pm
Tickets: \$45/person + \$360/table

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a Great Evening. With a wonderful meal, silent and live auctions, and Inspiring Testimonies from Fortress Alumni and Current Residents!

That for a day: When you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any container in the house...

61st ANNUAL MEATBALL SUPPER

Fundraiser for the youth attending Clearwater Forest Camp this summer!



Friday, April 24th

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Hope Presbyterian Church
7730 North Shore Drive – Spicer**

Cost: \$15.00 Adults
\$10.00 Children 6-10 years

Menu: Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy,
Corn, Coleslaw, Bread, Homemade Bars & Beverage

Take outs are available!

We would like to invite you, your church staff, and your congregation, to a special night of worship at Willmar CCS!

This event will be led by our student worship team, along with the help of our Spiritual Life Director and our Music/Choir Teacher.



WILLMAR
PRAISE WORSHIP
Night
COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN

APRIL 2, 2026

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
1300 19th Ave. SW Willmar **6:30 PM**

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Drop these habits to truly understand each other:

Does it ever feel like you and your spouse are speaking different languages? Your spouse says something, you interpret it a certain way, and they react to your reply in a way that leaves you baffled. It's like a childhood game of telephone, but with higher stakes.

Now someone is upset, frustrated, or feeling hurt – where did things go wrong? Here are four habits to drop to understand each other better.

1. Formulating the perfect response

We're all guilty of this. Your spouse is telling you something, but instead of truly hearing their words and the feelings behind them, you're mentally crafting your response instead of listening to understand. This can result in a conversation that goes completely off the rails. Think about it: because you're not truly listening, your response might seem way off base, causing your partner to have a less-than-favorable reaction, and so on. This is where active listening, a critical component in good communication, can turn things around. Before giving your own reply, repeat back what you heard your partner say to be sure that you are accurate in your understanding. This gives them a chance to confirm or correct your interpretation and enables you to respond appropriately.

2. Making assumptions

Before your spouse has even finished speaking, you know exactly what they're going to say and the intention behind it. Or at least you think you do. You call them out on it – that thing they haven't even said yet – and now they're feeling attacked and misunderstood. Avoid this pitfall by resisting the urge to put words into each other's mouth. Yes, sometimes you might very well know what your partner is going to (or trying to) say, but be patient. Give each other space to explain clarify your intentions. You both deserve that respect from each other.

3. Taking things personally

"I wasn't a big fan of that movie last night." A seemingly innocent comment from your spouse, but wait a minute – you picked the movie! And now you're feeling defensive about it. "Next time you pick the movie then." Instead of a fun conversation reviewing the movie you watched, things have taken a snippy turn. Whether it's just your mood or your partner's tone, you infer some sort of personal dig where



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That for a day: Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

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there isn't one. If you're feeling reactive, fight the urge to give a knee-jerk response. Take a deep breath, and respond to their words at face value instead of stoking unnecessary conflict.

4. Playing mind-reading games

Sometimes it's tempting to let ambiguity seep into what you're trying to say. After all, clearly articulating your thoughts and feelings isn't always easy. It takes effort. If you've been with your spouse for awhile, you might think they should just "get it" without you having to explain things outright. Unfortunately, this puts your partner in a situation where they're forced to try to read your mind, multiplying the chances of misinterpretation. Instead, practice being straightforward and assertive – the perfect companion to active listening. If you're having trouble finding the right words to express yourself, don't be afraid to let each other know. It takes the pressure off both of you.

Misunderstandings are part of being human. We don't always say exactly what we mean. Sometimes we misinterpret each other's words and intentions. Being aware of the small things you do to make the problem worse can help you let go of those habits, avoid unnecessary conflict, and ultimately understand each other better.



Prayer D-Fence...

Can You Be Part of Our Prayer D-Fence ?

Prayer D-Fence is our new ministry of praying for the Kids, Youth and Young Adults of our congregation.

Prayer is one of the powerful weapons (along with His Word) that God has given us to fight Satan and his temptations:

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18

One of the Elders' Team goals for 2026 is to get this new ministry up and running. The first step is to enlist people who will commit to pray at least once a day for one of our young people. It's a great way not only to tap into God's power for them, but to and help keep them connected to our congregation!

Contact Tammy Miller for more info or to sign up!! 320-905-2434



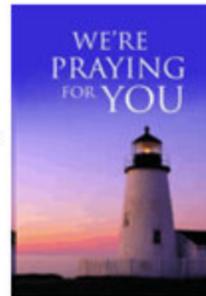
GOD'S DE-FENCE...

We Prayed for You...

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.



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!!!



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That for a day: Always glad to share my ignorance. I've got plenty.

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Prayer...



Remember to use "The Prayer Force"

Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email (dvdauk@tds.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...

- Asking God for His guidance on who to invite to Easter Sunday
- Asking God to open hearts and minds to Jesus during Holy Week!
- Thanking God for Jesus' death and resurrection!
- Thanking God for 1st communion for Isaac Ashburn, Brekkyn Raddatz, Maya Wachter and Catherine Wright
- Asking God to raise up volunteers for our Prayer D-Fence program
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did - with sacrifice
- God's continued healing for all parents who have lost children
- For God to continue giving comfort and peace to all those grieving.
- Asking God to open people's eyes to see that Jesus is what they need
- Asking God for courage to follow where He guides
- For all those who are home-bound or in nursing facilities
- 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 Hope Pregnancy Center in Willmar
- The ministry of House of Hope - Madagascar
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan



Monthly Music Videos...

Recommending lots of great new music released in March...

- I think "In Spite of Me" from Colton Dixon will be a bit hit... <https://youtu.be/rHVy8d1xS7A>
- Cochren & Co has a new song, "Stand My Ground" ... <https://youtu.be/5vhPbVHg2Wk>
- Rend Collective released the first Christian sea shanty I have ever heard, "Salt & Light" ... <https://youtu.be/F9B-VE4C6i4>
- Brandon Lake with Bailey Zimmerman released "Just Believe" ... <https://youtu.be/tS-XtJuWYSQ>
- I really like the new song from Warren Peay, "Learn Something Old" ... <https://youtu.be/geATd3ZrCoJ>
- "Come Out Lazarus" is a great new song from Stephen McWhirter... <https://youtu.be/hw5T2NvbSnI>
- Ryan Stevenson just released a new song, "This I Know" ... <https://youtu.be/A2u4Qri5txQ>
- "Judas" is a new release from Josiah Queen... https://youtu.be/bzbH9pTz_rl
- "Wake Me Up Again" was just released by Tim Timmons... <https://youtu.be/2J1CKnve7hg>
- "Broken Man Can" is a great country song by Scotty Inman... https://youtu.be/fBU_GGZarM0
- Consumed By Fire has a new song, "He's Alive" ... <https://youtu.be/1fFMt5gXrtY>
- "Perfectly" is the latest song from Micah Tyler... <https://youtu.be/VYpSny-0qaM>
- NeedToBreathe has a new song, "Highlands" ... <https://youtu.be/Sp-2qXRpv8U>
- "Water Into Wine" is new from Leanna Crawford & Seph Schlueter... <https://youtu.be/vossiGELp3E>
- Jordan Davis released a new song called "Like God Intended" ... <https://youtu.be/MWCSYWUKkoY>
- I really like the new song from Josh Baldwin & Stu Garrard, "History Maker" ... https://youtu.be/M6ZALM_TYIE
- A new release from Crowder with Tommee Profitt, "There Is Power" ... <https://youtu.be/5rNiniaNx/s>

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That for a day: It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.

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- Taylor Pride released "Praise You In The Morning" ... <https://youtu.be/d76OzqdXZhs>
- Hannah Harper has a couple new songs, "Love Offering" ... <https://youtu.be/-1htwyWnBBk> and "String Cheese and Sunday Grace" ... <https://youtu.be/gTu1UsUUw4k>
- "Bless Your Name" is the latest from Tauren Wells... https://youtu.be/Vzna_oosw1c
- "My Hallelujah" is a great new song from Jordan Colle... <https://youtu.be/9nzTy4ex2y8>
- The latest worship anthem from Bethel Music is "Sing Of Your Love" ... <https://youtu.be/QznQI27aep4>
- Forrest Frank has a new song, "Let Mne Know" ... <https://youtu.be/13sMSXXtNvE>
- I really like Jamey Johnson's new song, "More Of What Matters" ... <https://youtu.be/FnypLJ8ZxpA>
- "I Believe" is a powerful statement of faith from Shawna Edwards... <https://youtu.be/UkOS64-2fJw>
- The great Michael WSmith has a new song called "Hymn for Communion" ... <https://youtu.be/xU1vQ0L04Dl>
- Cade Thompson just released a new song, "What The Cross Is For" ... <https://youtu.be/CO4xoksv7Wk>
- Finally we have a song from Whey Jennings (grandson of Waylon Jennings called "Baptized by Fire" ... <https://youtu.be/yCtkRdcyHRU>

Story Behind The Song...

Written by Frances "Fanny" J Crosby in 1869, "Near the Cross" was introduced first in Robert Lowry (writer of "Christ Arose") and William Doane's volume "Brightest and Best" in 1875.

Usually, when writing a song, the words come first... In the case of this hymn, William Doane wrote a tune... and then asked Fanny Crosby to listen to it, to see if the tune said anything to her.

Its simple melody and lyrics have made an indelible mark on the hearts of millions the world over. This hymn will continue to be used long after many more pretentious ones have been forgotten. Indeed, this is the case, as more than one hundred seventy-five years later, thousands still find "Near the Cross" a blessing.

Many know the remarkable story of Fanny Crosby. Blinded at 18

months by a physician's damaging remedy, she passed her years in darkness, yet with a heart that yearned for knowledge. Permitted to study at a school for the blind, Fanny labored fruitfully at her tasks and excelled in writing— though mathematics she gave up as a complete loss. Finding great success as a writer of secular poetry, soon her name was associated with many popular pieces. The day she found Jesus, her heart found light that her eyes could not give her. Having been given light in her heart, joy in her soul, "Aunt Fanny" began to sing a new song. Ten years after her conversion, she began working with sacred musician William Bradbury, writing her first hymn at his request.

In her autobiography, she writes of her decision thus: "It now seemed to me as if the great work of my life had really begun: and I commenced the delicious toil which, with an occasional pause for rest, I have continued ever since."

The number of songs attributed to this incredible woman, who would at times write as many as six or seven hymns in one day, totals between 5,000 and 9,000. The exact count cannot be known, for she used more than one hundred "nom-de-plumes" or "pen names" for her work, many of which are not known.

The famous evangelist Dwight L. Moody was said to have asked Crosby the following question toward the end of her life: "If you could have just one wish granted, what would it be?" Moody expected her to ask for sight. Sensing this, she is said to have replied, "If I could have one wish, I'd wish that I might continue blind the rest of my life." Moody was taken back and asked, "How can you say that?" Crosby said, "Because, after being blind for all these years, the first face I want to see now is the face of Jesus."

*Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.*

REFRAIN: *In the cross, In the cross
Be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.*

*Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the bright and morning star
Shed its beams around me.*

That for a day: You gotta hand it to short people...cause sometimes they can't reach.

REFRAIN

*Near the cross! oh, Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day,
With its shadow o'er me.*

REFRAIN

*Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand,
Just beyond the river.*

REFRAIN

Here is a great version performed by my favorite family group, The Petersens... https://youtu.be/Gf_wlFwBIMc

Another great version of this hymn by the Mississippi Mass Choir... <https://youtu.be/1gEDkMk8ecc>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!