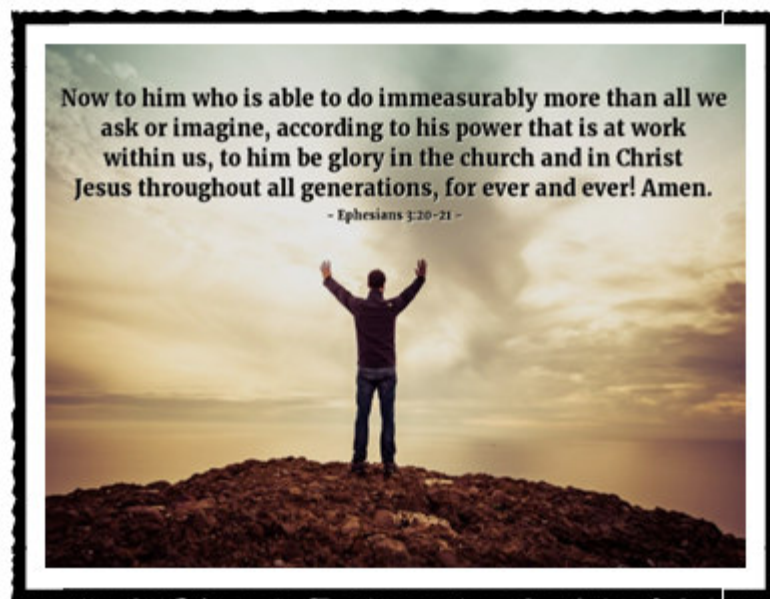


+

Living Word

Lutheran Church
LCMS



July 2026 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...

"I feel guilty getting angry with God."

I know that's actually a statement, not a question. But there - as is often the case - is an unasked question behind the statement. The question goes something like this: "Is God angry with me for being angry with Him? Is He going to 'zap' me - or worse?"



The 'question' came from a relative of ours who had experienced several tragic losses in just the past year. It's likely a question you can relate to if you've been through situations where you just don't understand what God is doing - or why He allowed what He did.

For starters, let's clear up one common misconception: It's NOT a sin to get angry. Listen to this about Jesus:

"He looked around at them in anger, and deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts..." Mark 3:5

Anger is a natural emotion when things don't go the way they should or the way we expect.

But there is this caution about anger in Ephesians 4:26

"In your anger, do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry."

God needed to give us that caution, because, unfortunately, our anger very often does lead us to sin - doing and saying things contrary to what God wants. Things that actually make the situation worse - like hanging onto our anger.

The Psalms are expressions of emotions. And anger is one of the emotions expressed in the Psalms. Anger that is directed at God. Listen to this example from King David at the beginning of Psalm 13:

*How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?*

Page 3

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

David is venting his anger to God. He's going through one of those tough situations where it seems like God has forgotten him; seems like God has even abandoned him.

Think about it. If you're going to vent your anger, what better place to vent it than to God. He can take it. He's God after all! And, as God, He understands that things happen - and that He allows things to happen - that we don't understand. He sees things we don't see. He knows things we don't know. He has long-term plans that we don't see with our short-term view.

Also, what better place to direct your anger, because God is the One who can actually do something about it! He can get you through the situation. He can change your perspective and help you to see that, well, you just don't see everything God does. He does that for David as we hear at the end of the psalm:

*But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
I will sing the LORD's praise,
for He has been good to me.*

So, the bottom-line answer is: "It's okay to take your anger to God - even your anger at Him. It's actually biblical! And after you've vented, let Him remind you that you can trust Him to see what you don't see. You can trust Him to have a plan to get you through.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Who Can You Invite?...

To Any of Our Outings in June:

- **CELEBRATE JULY BIRTHDAYS:**
Tuesday, June 9 @ 11:00 a.m.
O'Neill's in Spicer
- **FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**
Thursday, June 18 @ 6:00 p.m.
Queen Bee's in Paynesville
- **TRAP SHOOTING FELLOWSHIP**
Every other Tuesday (June 30th & July 14th) @ 6:30
Come early to eat @ 6:15



Mark Your Calendar...

Mission & Ministry Team
Thursday, July 9th @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT



July Fellowship Outings...

Celebrate July Birthdays:

Tuesday, July 14th
11:00 a.m.
Mariscos tacos el Viejon, Willmar



Fellowship Supper:

Thursday, July 23rd
6:00 p.m.
The Olde Brick House, St Cloud

Would anyone be interested in a **Wellness Program**?

The class is called "Living Stronger Longer".
It involved a motivational speaker named Marcus McCleery. He weighed 400 lbs. in 2009 and lost over 200 lbs. He wants to share his story with us if we will have him!
Please sign up at church.

Trap Shooting Fellowship 2026...

Every other Tuesday in Summer:
@ 6:30 p.m. (Come early to eat at 6:15)

This month: Tues, June 30th & July 14th
(No shoot on July 28th due to VBS)



Lutheran Island Camp



Plan for summer fun!
Lutheran Island Camp
Summer 2026 brochures
are available at church.

Summer 2026

Page 4

Hot for a day: You know that little thing inside your head that keeps you from saying things you shouldn't? Yeah, I don't have one of those.

Page 5

Vacation Bible School...

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Vacation Bible School
July 27th-30th
Monday – Thursday
5:30 – 7:30
320-212-0069 (Mona)

Living Word Lutheran Church-LCMS
16245 Co Rd 9 NE
New London, MN

"You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house."

1 PETER 2:5

COME TO THE ADULT BIBLE STUDY DURING VBS!!!

Vacation Bible School is coming soon!

Monday—Thursday 5:30—7:30 pm
July 27th—30th

This year's theme is "Building on the Foundation of Faith"
Over the four days we will be looking at the life of Peter.

Signup sheets are at church for volunteers in a variety of ways.

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 :

- "Answers in Genesis" magazines
- Kid's books
- July Newsletters
- July-Sept Portals of Prayer
- Lutheran Island Camp brochures
- Hand-Made Crosses to hang on your wall

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>

- June 7 "Repent. It's not just for Lent "
- June 14 "Point people to Jesus with a simple invitation: 'Come and See'"
- June 21 "Point people to Jesus - by loving like the Good Smartian did."
- June 28 "Point people to Jesus - by praying for them."

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.

July—September issue

Are in Mailboxes and on the Table by the Door



Page 6

That for a day: This getting old stuff is really starting to get old.

Page 7

Living Word Phone App...

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.



Living Word Blog...

Have some spare time? Check out the Living Word Blog. This site was started in 2012 and became very active during the COVID period. It has recently been revived for posting articles, devotions, music, and general topics of Christian interest.

Look over some of the recent posts and check out anything that may be of interest to you.

<https://livingwordlutheranlms.blogspot.com/>



LWML News:

LWML will not meet in June, July, or August
Next meeting on September 9th @ 10:00 a.m.

SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

A huge thank you to all who have donated! This is an on-going fundraiser for Lutheran Island Camp. Please continue to bring your good used shoes, slippers, or boots to church.

Email Inspiration...

Brenda was a young woman who was invited to go rock climbing. Although she was scared to death, she went with her group to a tremendous granite cliff.

In spite of her fear, she put on the gear, took a hold on the rope, and started up the face of that rock. Well, she got to a ledge where she could take a breather. As she was hanging on there, the safety rope snapped against Brenda's eye and knocked out her contact lens. Well, here she is on a rock ledge, with hundreds of feet below her and hundreds of feet above her. Of course, she looked and looked and looked, hoping it had landed on the ledge, but it just wasn't there. Here she was, far from home, her sight now blurry. She was desperate and began to get upset, so she prayed to the Lord to help her to find it.

When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her dothing for the lens, but there was no contact lens to be found. She sat down, despondent, with the rest of the party, waiting for the rest of them to make it up the face of the cliff. She looked out across range after range of mountains, thinking of that Bible verse that says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth." She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Finally, they walked down the trail to the bottom. At the bottom, there was a new party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lost a contact lens?" Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock, carrying it.

Brenda told me that her father is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a picture of an ant lugging that contact lens with the words, "Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."

I think it would probably do some of us good to occasionally say, "God, I don't know why you want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But if you want me to carry it, I will." God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.



Page 8

That for a day: I celebrated last night with a couple of adult beverages: Metamucil and Ensure.

Page 9

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

Read God's Manual for Believers (Book of Acts)

(It's chock-full of examples of how the Holy Spirit empowers believers for life as a Christian)

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

Email Humor...

One Sunday in church there was a little boy who was constantly wiggling, and making noise - being a general distraction for the rest of the congregation. The preacher gives the little boy a look, but to no avail. Finally, his mom leans over and whispers something in her son's ear. For the remainder of the service the little boy sat perfectly still.

As the preacher was greeting the boy and his mom on their way out of the church, he asks the lady, "I'm just curious. What was it you whispered to your son that got him to sit still?"

"I just told him that if he doesn't stop making noise and sit still the pastor is going to have to start his sermon all over."

Now that's a
"Happy Meal" ...



Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study
On hiatus for the summer.



Men's Study
"The Gospel of Mark"
6:30 p.m.
Wed July 8th & Tues July 21st
(pre-study meat at 6:15)



Monthly Morning Women's Study:
Is on break for the summer.
Next Study on Wed, September 9th @ 10:00

Confirmation News...

- On Summer Break. Back in the Fall.



FREE...



Please Take One of Our New Hand-Made Crosses

You'll find them in the display on the table by the door.

They've been handcrafted by someone who attends Living Word. Each one has a hook on back, so you can hang it on your wall.

Don't hesitate to take one to give to a friend or neighbor. We have lots more available

Altar Guild...

Anyone Interested in Helping with Altar Guild ???
Please talk to Mona Hjelle to get more info. Thanks!



Page 10

That for a day: The best murder weapon would a Tupperware lid because nobody would ever be able to find it.

Page 11

Living Word's 2026 Goals Update...

- Continue the Make A Meal program.
We made more meals on June 20th
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper
June 28th—Fun Day
July 14th—Birthdays
July 23rd—Fellowship 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 June Fellowship Outings
- 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....)
Prayers began in June praying for the young people they have been assigned
- Enlist younger members to help with the Building Project
Summer 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
Ongoing
- Continue growing our active Youth numbers
- 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...

DURING OUR BUILDING REMODEL



THE LINK



- ✓ OUTREACH SERVICES
- ✓ FOOD PANTRY

are **temporarily moving to:**

110 MANITOBA STREET, SPICER
(The old MAC Hardware Store Bldg.)

Starting: June 22, 2026

Ending: On or Before December 2026

COMMUNITY REVIVAL THRIFT STORE

WILL REMAIN OPEN
AT ITS CURRENT LOCATION
FOR DONATIONS AND SHOPPING!!!

FOR UPDATES:

- ✓ VISIT OUR WEBSITE
- ✓ FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
- ✓ CALL 320-354-5465

Our phone numbers and mailing address will stay the same!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND SUPPORT!

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 cares!

That for a day: Don't compare yourself to others. We're all a hot mess; some just hide it better than others.

More Email Humor...

The pastor had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down. The pastor coaxed, offered warm milk, etc. The kitty would not come down.

The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided to tie a rope to his car and drive forward so that the tree would bend down and he could then reach up and get the kitten. That's what he did, carefully checking his progress in the car mirror as he inched forward. It looked like it was working but suddenly the rope broke! The tree went "booming!" and the kitten sailed through the air and out of sight.

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood asking people if they'd seen a little kitten. No, nobody had seen a stray kitten. So he prayed, "Lord, I just commit this kitten to your keeping," and went on about his business.

A few days later he met one of his church members at the grocery store. He noticed that she had cat food in her shopping cart. He was amazed - everyone knew how much this woman hated cats! He had to ask: "Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?"

She replied, "You won't believe this... My little girl has been begging and begging for a cat, so a few days ago I finally told her, 'Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it.' Pastor, I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her!"

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Genesis 6-8)

07-25-2011

GLOBAL WARMING! GLOBAL WARMING!

Building Committee Update...

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

Money in CDs and Building Account: \$267,000

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

The BUILDING TEAM met with an architect about specific design plans last month. They should have the architect's recommendations back and will be reviewing them early this month

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



Even the Founding Fathers had computer problems.



"Destination of Incompetence? It's supposed to say Declaration of Independence. Stupid auto-correct!"

Page 14

That for a day: You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.

Page 15

Congregational Outreach...



**June Fellowship Supper
@ Foxhole Brewery**



**Join us for this month's fellowship events.
See pages 4 & 5 for more details.**

July 2026 - Daily Readings

We continue our **Summer Reading: The Book of Acts** - a Manual for all believers.
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 28 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

June 29 **Acts 2:14-36** _____

June 30 **Acts 2:37-41** _____

July 1 **Acts 2:42-47** _____

July 2 **Acts 3:1-10** _____

July 3 **Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs** _____

WEEK OF July 5 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

July 6 **Acts 3:11-26** _____

July 7 **Acts 4:1-4** _____

July 8 **Acts 4:5-17** _____

July 9 **Acts 4:18-22** _____

July 10 **Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs** _____

WEEK OF July 12 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

July 15 **Acts 4:23-31** _____

July 16 **Acts 4:32-37** _____

July 17 **Acts 5:1-11** _____

July 18 **Acts 5:12-16** _____

July 19 **Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs** _____

WEEK OF July 19 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

July 22 **Acts 5:17-26** _____

July 23 **Acts 5:27-32** _____

July 24 **Acts 5:33-42** _____

July 25 **Acts 6:1-7** _____

July 26 **Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs** _____

WEEK OF July 26 -

July 29 **Acts 6:8-15** _____

July 30 **Acts 7:1-53** _____

July 1 **Acts 7:54-60** _____










July 2 **Acts 8:1-3** _____

July 3 **Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs** _____

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

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

July 2026 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 28 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP 1:00 - OUTING @ SHINING LIGHT Willmar 	June 29	June 30 6:30 - TRAP SHOOTING 	1	2	3 	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 250 th BIRTHDAY of OUR COUNTRY
5 9:00 - WORSHIP with Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	6	7	8 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	9 MISSION Ministry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	10	11
12 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	13	14 11:00 Celebrate JULY BIRTHDAYS @ Mariscos tacos el Viejon, Willmar  6:30 - TRAP SHOOTING	15	16	17 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p>Lord's Supper Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday July 5th • Sunday, July 19th </div>	18
19 9:00 - WORSHIP with Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	20	21 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	22	23 6:00 FELLOWSHIP OUTING @ Olde Brick House St Cloud 	24	25
26 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	27 5:30 - 7:30 VBS 	28 5:30 - 7:30 - VBS 	29 5:30 - 7:30 - VBS 	30 5:30 - 7:30 - VBS 	31	Aug 1

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

July 5	Jim & Torasie Larson
July 12	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
July 19	Larry Levin Gerry Butler
July 26	Pam Johnson & Linda Van Meter

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

July 5, 12	Scott & Duane
July 19,26	Dan & Kevin

Custodian

July-	Joe Johnson
August -	Pam Johnson

Altar Guild

July	Mona Hjelle
------	-------------

Accompanying Musicians

July 5	Sharon Willen
July 12	Scott Wachter
July 19	Sharon Willen
July 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 August are taken.
(September—December are still available.)
Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to find out more details.
Thanks to Joe Johnson for taking July!

Page 20

Thot for a day: One of the greatest labor-saving inventions of today is tomorrow.

Page 21

Spring Voter's Assembly

elected members to 2-year terms in the following positions:

Chairman	Joe Johnson
Vice Chair	(OPEN)
Secretary -	Darlene Rose
Stewardship-	(OPEN)
Trustee -	(Lonny Robbin will continue as "acting Trustee" until the position is filled)
Elders (three):	Scott Wachter, Duane Hansen, (1 OPEN)
Christian Growth - Youth	(OPEN)
Community Outreach -	Pam Johnson

We need suggestions for people to fill the open positions listed above. Please pray about filling one of them yourself or talk to our MMT members about someone you see whom God has prepared for one of these positions. Thanks!

"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>

Seen on Church Signboards...

JESUSAVES

For 250 Years - and Counting

July Discipleship Verse...

"Now, to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen!"
Ephesians 3:20-21

Email Wisdom...

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

- Two things I ask of you, LORD;
Do not refuse me before I die:
Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
Give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.
Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you
and say, "Who is the LORD?"
Or I may become poor and steal
and so dishonor the name of my God. Proverbs 30:7-9
- "The leech has two daughters: Give and Give." Proverbs 30:15
- If you have been foolish, exalting yourself,
Or if you have been devising evil,
Put your hand to your mouth. Proverbs 30:32
- Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the
rights of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and
needy. Proverbs 31:8-9
- Charm is deceitful and beauty is fleeting. But a woman who fears
the LORD is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30
- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools
despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7
- Listen, my son, to your father's instruction.
And do not forsake your mother's teaching.
They are a garland to grace your head
And a chain to adorn your neck. Proverbs 1:8-9



Page 22

That for a day: The reason politicians try so hard to get re-elected is that they don't want live under the laws they've passed.

Page 23

More E-mail Wisdom...



If you are interested in finding out more about Living Word or about becoming a member, please let Pastor know - and which of the possible dates work for you.

Possible dates and times:
Thursday evening: 6:00 - 8:30 OR Saturday morning: 9:30 - noon

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...

- Fathers
- Summer

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



Around the Community...

**ATLAS ACTORS PRESENTS
PSALTY'S CAMPING ADVENTURE**

Explore performance, storytelling, and stage creativity in a dynamic group setting. Kids ages 6-14
Open to performers and creatives of all levels.

ACTING * LEARNING * FUN

Upcoming Sessions:
AUGUST 10-21 MON-FRI 2-5PM

Performance held on August 21. All practices and performance will be held at Community Christian School in Willmar.

Register at: atlaswcmn.org/events OR by calling 320-441-2250

Tuesdays
7/14-8/4

Time: 5PM-9PM
Location: Robbins
Island Regional Park
Cost: Free to attend

Rockin' Robbins

Rockin' Robbins is a summer concert series featuring live performances from regional bands and headlining musical acts. In addition to the music attendees can enjoy food vendors, family activities, and a dedicated kids zone with inflatables and a climbing wall. The atmosphere is relaxed and community-oriented, bringing together families, music fans, and local residents for evenings of outdoor entertainment.

That for a day: There is absolutely no substitute for a genuine lack of preparation.

Worship Night

presented by **ATLAS** OF WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA and **Habitat for Humanity** of West Central Minnesota

Come worship our Savior with us!! Join us for a heartfelt evening filled with compassion, community and prayer as we raise funds for ATLAS and Habitat!

**JULY 10
6-8PM**

KANDIYOHI COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

**FREE WILL DONATION
BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR
CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM OVERFLOW SODA SHOP**

Funds raised will be split between Atlas and Habitat. Atlas' portion will go to the construction and completion costs of the recently donated house for our Safe Harbor homeless program.

Everyone Welcome!

Overflow

LET'S COME TOGETHER AND SPREAD THE HOPE!

***** JOIN US FOR OUR *****

AMERICA 250 Celebration

KANDIYOHI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SATURDAY, JULY 11

10AM-3PM

Celebrating Our Country's Heritage
Bring the whole family! Fun-filled event featuring food, pie auction, hands-on educational opportunities, and exciting activities for all ages.

Pie Auction 10AM-2:30PM	Costume Contest 1:00PM
Tug of War 1:30PM	Lunch 11:30AM-1:00PM
Old Time Crafts & Games 10AM-3PM	The American Revolution Experience Traveling Exhibit 10AM-3PM

FREE TO ALL

***** JOIN US FOR OUR *****

AMERICA 250 Celebration

JULY 7 - JULY 17

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION EXPERIENCE TRAVELING EXHIBIT

The Willmar Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the American Battlefield Trust are excited to feature the American Revolution Experience at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society from Tuesday, July 7 - July 17, 2026.

250 CELEBRATING YOUR HERITAGE SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026 10AM-3PM

Celebrating Our Country's Heritage. Bring the whole family! Fun-filled event featuring historical food, music, hands-on educational opportunities, and exciting activities for folks of all ages.

SPEAKERS SERIES

Wednesday, July 8 6:30pm The Road to 1776 By: Mike Herlihy	Wednesday, July 15 2:00pm Revolution in Their Words By: Mike Herlihy	Thursday, July 16 6:30pm Declaration of Independence By: Erin Hvalby
---	---	---

Around the Community...

CELEBRATING 250 of America
SPICER, MA 2025

Kid's Night
Thursday, July 2 • 4-7pm

- Kids Little Squeegee Puddle Fall
- 50 for Unlimited Free Beverage Passes
- Go Karts, Motorized Big Kahunas
- Coloring Contest, Big Kahunas
- Kid's Games and Fun
- The Recycling Union
- Teach-A-Buck with Spicer Fire Dept.
- 500 Community Rate Night
- Face Painting, Craft Kits and Prizes
- Progress Circle by Baker Printing

STREET DANCE
Friday July 3
8-11pm
Downtown Spicer by Pirrotta Park
\$15 CASH ONLY • 12 & UNDER FREE
Tickets Available at the Gate • Family Friendly • 20 Required

GRAND DAY PARADE
Saturday, July 4 • 10am

FIREWORKS
At 10PM
Over Green Lake

Green Lake Boat Parade
Sunday, July 5 • 10am

Thanks to these Premier Sponsors:

NEW LONDON WaterDays
JULY 12-19, 2026

Page 26

That for a day: This is probably as bad as it can get, but don't count on it.

Page 27

Independence Day...



At its core, the Fourth of July commemorates the birth of a nation founded on the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice for all. These principles are not only enshrined in the founding documents of the United States but are also echoed throughout the Bible. As Christians, we believe in the inherent dignity of every human being, created in the image of God, and endowed with certain unalienable rights.

The Bible teaches us about the importance of freedom, both spiritual and temporal. In Galatians 5:1, we read, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Through His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus Christ has liberated us from the bondage of sin and death, offering us the ultimate freedom in Him.

As we celebrate Independence Day, we also reflect on the blessings of liberty that we enjoy as citizens of a free nation. However, we recognize that true freedom is not merely the absence of external constraints but the presence of righteousness and justice. In Micah 6:8, we are reminded, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

"In Galatians 5:1, we read, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Through His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus Christ has liberated us from the bondage of sin and death, offering us the ultimate freedom in Him."

For Christians, the Fourth of July is an opportunity to express gratitude for the freedoms we have been granted and to reaffirm our commitment to live out our faith in the public square. It is a day to pray for our nation and its leaders, to advocate for the marginalized and oppressed, and to strive for justice and reconciliation in our communities.

As we gather with family and friends to celebrate Independence Day, let us remember that our ultimate allegiance is not to any earthly kingdom but to the Kingdom of God. May we use our freedom responsibly, as instruments of God's love and grace in a world that is longing for redemption.

And may we never forget the words of Jesus in John 8:36, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Anniversary Gifts with Staying Power

When it comes to anniversary gifts for your spouse, where are you at? Do you feel energized and inspired to pick out the perfect gift?

Or does it feel like yet another occasion to acquire more “stuff” that will end up in next year’s donate pile? Maybe you keep it minimal with a card and flowers (which also just end up in the trash). Maybe for this very reason you’ve decided not to do gifts at all.

Your wedding anniversary is a milestone to cherish and celebrate, but when it comes to the gift aspect, we’d agree— we can do better! Instead of gifts that seem generic, disposable or expensive with short shelf lives, what if you opted for ideas with a much longer payoff? If you’re wondering what we mean, here are 4 types of anniversary gifts with staying power.

The Experience

Whether it’s a concert, theater production, trip to an amusement park, or another novel opportunity to do something fun and special together, the idea is that you’re getting out and having an adventure with your spouse, making lasting memories. Sharing new experiences strengthens your bond and boosts those feel-good endorphins you had when you first started dating. Take a few photos and videos to capture the excursion for posterity, but overall try to stay off your phones as much as you can. Focus on being fully present and in the moment. After all, that is what an experience is all about.

The Getaway

Whether it’s slipping away for one night, a (long) weekend, or a full-length vacation, this one takes some planning, but it can be a great option for big milestone anniversaries. If you have a bigger one coming up, consider how you might plan for it both financially and logistically. For example, maybe instead of buying each other smaller gifts for other occasions, you put the money toward the trip instead. While this could fall into the Experience category itself, this version is more about having a chance to escape into a little bubble and focus only on each other. Come back feeling closer and more committed than ever— an invaluable gift to your marriage!

The Thing That Makes Your Life Easier

Have you ever thought, “I wish we could spend less time doing _____,” or “Help with _____ would take so much off our plate.” If so, then



Page 28

That for a day: Wouldn't it be nice if you read a medicine bottle that says: Warning – May cause permanent weight loss, remove wrinkles, and increase energy.

Page 29

consider how you could translate that into a gift to yourselves. Things like meal delivery subscription, house cleaning, lawn service, or grocery delivery are things that you might not typically be willing to shell out the bucks for. However, even if you just do a trial run for a few months, it can be a nice little reprieve from those day-to-day tasks that are weighing you down. Then be intentional about how you use that freed up time or mental energy— ideally you can spend it with your spouse doing something you enjoy.

The Investment in Your Well-being

Your health and well-being are just as important to invest in as your marriage— why not combine the two? If you and your spouse have been wanting to get in shape, take your health and fitness to the next level, or simply be the best versions of yourselves you can be, consider things you can invest in as a gift to yourselves, your marriage, and your future. Maybe you start working with a nutritionist together or purchase something that gets you motivated and excited— like new bikes, or even upgrading your currently worn out gear. And let’s not forget, well-being isn’t just about physical activity. Expand your thinking to include things like sleep quality (how old is your mattress?), stress management (praying together!) and mental health (you don’t need marriage problems in order to benefit from counseling!)

At the end of the day, the best anniversary gift is one that keeps giving — to your marriage, your happiness, and your life together. If you’re looking for a way to shake up your gifting strategy, then consider skipping the things that just collect dust. Instead, choose something you’ll still be talking about or benefitting from when your next anniversary rolls around.

Communion Notes...

The Lord’s Supper will be celebrated in June on the first and third Sundays (July 5th & 19th)



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.



Prayer D-Fence...

The Prayer D-Fence is Up!

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

Last month Prayer D-Fence coordinator Tammy Miller matched up pray-ers with the young people they will be praying for.

Thank You So Much to Everyone on the D-Fence!



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!!! Talk to Tammy Miller if interested.

That for a day: Under Democrats, man exploits man. Under Republicans, it's just the reverse.

Prayer Force...

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...

- Thanking God for 250 years of His work in our Country
- Thanking God for the freedom to attend worship and live out our faith
- Thanking God for Summer - and safety in summer travels
- Asking God for continued good weather for the growing season.
- Asking God's continued guidance for our Building Committee
- Asking God for healing for all who have lost loved ones.
- Asking God to raise up people to fill our open MMT positions.
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did - with sacrifice
- 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 June...

- "How To Forgive" by the Band Reeves...
<https://youtu.be/H0it2ihE85w>
- "Living Room Floor" by Leanna Crawford...
<https://youtu.be/hNOB22ef7EA>
- "Glory, Glory" by the We The Kingdom with Crowder...
<https://youtu.be/n5K8gHPgPTU>
- "So Good" by We The Kingdom... <https://youtu.be/dE6zramNhVQ>
- "The Plans" by We The Kingdom... <https://youtu.be/L906onMRzIU>
- "Finished Work" by Matt Maher... <https://youtu.be/ALSTvLrnmU>
- "My Victory's Coming" by CAIN... <https://youtu.be/UNg3edRT4dk>
- "Living Water" by CAIN... <https://youtu.be/Hv-8CM5NIPM>
- "Walkin' On Down" by David Leonard...
https://youtu.be/XI0jm_p6aog
- "Time" by David Leonard... <https://youtu.be/ihNEfMmEKyU>
- "Take Me Dancing" by NeedToBreathe...
<https://youtu.be/b6gblRgKC2I>
- "Last Drink" by NeedToBreathe... <https://youtu.be/mhVRI1NC98M>
- "Anybody Else" by Patrick Mayberry...
<https://youtu.be/NLVAYJhKxgg>
- "Simple and True" by Patrick Mayberry...
<https://youtu.be/UJVooNxegMM>
- "Campfire" by TobyMac & Third Day...
<https://youtu.be/ibbyINABEdQ>
- "Miracle" by King & Country... <https://youtu.be/OOFdEAXtjPY>
- "God's Not" by Danny Gokey... <https://youtu.be/oGpKaX6ftcU>
- "God I'm Just Grateful" by Stephen McWhirter...
https://youtu.be/oA9_Z4mREFU
- "Evergreen" by Rend Collective...
<https://youtu.be/zCaRDqM7ucI>
- "Broken People" by Tenth Avenue North...
<https://youtu.be/8GV9d3mXF5M>
- "The Jesus Generation" by Forrest Frank...
<https://youtu.be/uARdfZe6Jw>

Page 32

That for a day: You can't pass the buck if it never physically touches you.

Page 33

- "There Is A God" b Taha Layton... <https://youtu.be/uir050NW9PU>
- "America the Beautiful" by Steven Curtis Chapman...
<https://youtu.be/KBxt8b10Q0o>
- "Fishers of Men" by Tyler Philip Ratcliffe...
<https://youtu.be/rHrsLGo6-8g>
- "Lay It All On You" by We Are Messengers...
<https://youtu.be/cdT-S1x-Ejw>
- "Every Reason To Believe" by Jordan St. Cyr...
<https://youtu.be/Xo28ihhTJ18>
- "What Would I Say" by Jenna Raine...
<https://youtu.be/l7NH2ao-aG8>
- "What a Miracle Feels Like" by Taureen Wells...
<https://youtu.be/CFAHflgalde>
- "Eastern Sky" by Cochren & Co...
<https://youtu.be/itS-qsbDiKg>
- "Know Me By Name" by Consumed by Fire...
<https://youtu.be/FLdY9A3aPxx>
- "Whole Wide World" by Consumed By Fire... <https://youtu.be/HzFqXELFmes>
- "Revival" by Jeremy Camp...
<https://youtu.be/iTFi9WgMwPA>
- "It's Gonna Get Better" by the Afters...
<https://youtu.be/uK5FIPIQZAk>



Story Behind The Song...

July is most know for Independence Day so it seems relevant to feature the song, "God Bless America". This simple one-verse song became an overnight hit, and a hopeful song as war threatened. "It's not a patriotic song," composer Irving Berlin said in a 1940 interview, "but an expression of gratitude for what this country has done for its citizens, of what home really means." Today, many Americans consider "God Bless America" an unofficial national anthem of the United States.

The life of Irving Berlin is a uniquely American success story. He was born Israel Baline in the Jewish village of Tyumen, in a harsh region of Russia known as Siberia. When he was about five, an anti-Jewish mob destroyed his family's home, and the Balines set out for America. They settled on New York's Lower East Side.

As a young teen, he began singing in saloons and at some point taught himself piano. He began copying the musical styles of the day, and developed an incredible instinct for creating popular tunes that people loved to sing. A printing error on a published piece of sheet music left him with the name Irving Berlin, and that was the name he carried as he wrote song after song. In 1911, he wrote his first huge dance hit, "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

After that, Berlin's career took off like a rocket. He wrote stage musicals and film scores, and produced hit after hit. Many are still sung today, including: "White Christmas," "Blue Skies," "Always," "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Heat Wave," "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm,"—and "God Bless America" which he wrote in 1918 but was never used.

Then Kate Smith, one of the great singers of her day, asked Berlin for a new number for her radio show. The year was 1938, and she was looking for something fresh to mark the 20th anniversary of the end of the Great War, what would later be called World War I. Irving Berlin had composer's block.

Berlin felt the urgency to deliver. He had recently returned from Europe, where catastrophe was brewing. Nazi Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, was growing more powerful and aggressive and seemed to be preparing for war. But Berlin wasn't focused on writing a get-America-ready-for-war song. He wanted to create something to celebrate America as a special place to live. Then he remembered a song he had drafted years earlier. He pulled out an old trunk and dusted off the 20-year-old manuscript.

The result was the song most American school kids have learned by heart ever since.

God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above
From the mountains,
To the prairies,
To the ocean white with foam
God bless America,
My home sweet home.

Smith sang the song as the show closer on her live national broadcast that night. Berlin's phone immediately began ringing off the hook. Everyone wanted to know where they could get the music.

After that, Smith almost always included the song in her weekly show, and it became her trademark during a career that spanned five

That for a day: Always give 100% at work: 12% Monday; 23% Tuesday; 40% Wednesday; 24% Thursday; 1% Friday.

decades.

The song is structured as a prayer, and asks for God's blessing and guidance for the nation ("stand beside her and guide her through the night"). Other wartime songs would remind Americans what they were fighting against. Berlin's "God Bless America" reminded them what they were fighting for.

When it came to "God Bless America," Irving Berlin and Kate Smith put their money where their mouths were. They donated all the royalties from the hit song to the Boy and Girl Scouts of America through the God Bless America Foundation. That arrangement is still in effect today.

The classic performance by Kate Smith...

https://youtu.be/QPIeLh7_M0A

One of my favorite renditions is by Anthem Lights...

<https://youtu.be/va0qNTe090s>

And of course, a version from the Petersens...

<https://youtu.be/ZOruMyGEo-g>

Happy Independence Day...

