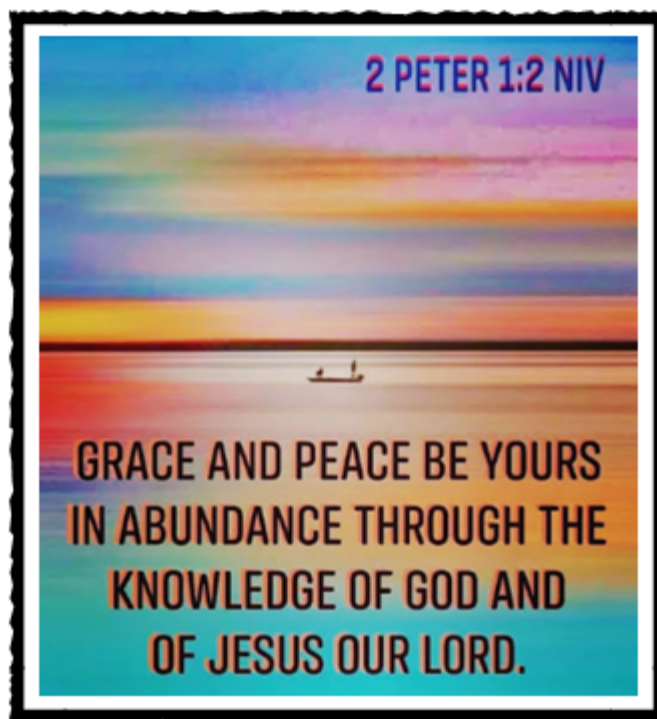


  
**Living Word**  
**Lutheran Church**  
LCMS



**June 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](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)  
Website: [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net)

## Questions for Pastor...

How were the books of the Bible chosen, and how do we decide which we should observe or ignore? (Such as the Mormon books.)

This question came from one of our Daily Devotion listeners.



It's a timely question, because there's no shortage of YouTubers and TikTok-ers who post videos where they tell how there was some grand conspiracy to keep certain books out of the Bible. Unfortunately, people can spout totally unfounded, illogical and blatantly false ideas on videos, and those ideas will be repeated as fact.

It's also a great question, because people often notice that Catholics and Orthodox Christians have more books in their Bibles than Protestant and Lutherans do.

Here's how I answered the question:

The easiest part to answer is how we got the New Testament books. The books had to have been written by an eyewitness of Jesus' ministry, or someone close to an eyewitness (like Luke). The book had to have been widely used by the early Christian congregations and considered authoritative by them. All the major Christian traditions (Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Lutheran) are in agreement that there are 27 books that fit those criteria.

There's also general agreement on the 39 books that make up our Lutheran/Protestant and Old Testament - books written by prophets and recognized as relating the true messages of God. Catholic and Orthodox also have these 39 books.

The major difference is in the "intertestamental" period. ("Time between the Testaments." Roughly 430 b.c. to 50 a.d.) Books of the Apocrypha in the Catholic Bible and most of the books in the Eastern and Ethiopian Orthodox Bibles fit into this category. Jews in Jesus' made use of most of these books, but didn't consider them part of the Old Testament scripture, so we treat them the same way. Useful for study and for

## Page 3

gaining information about life in that 500-year period, but not authoritative for our Christian faith. (In case anyone is interested in checking out the books of the Apocrypha, I have a copy of that has very helpful explanatory notes - similar to the notes in a Study Bible.)

The Mormon books, on the other hand, contain lots of things that actually contradict teachings in our Old and New Testament, so they are easily assigned to the "non-Christian writings" category. (Mormon leadership would definitely not consider their religion a part of Christianity, although they allow their laypeople to present it that way as a means of "getting a foot in the door.")

Thanks for asking  
Pastor David

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

## Who Can You Invite?...

### To Any of Our Outings in June:

- **CELEBRATE MAY 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
- **SUNDAY FUN DAY**  
Sunday, June 28 @ 1:00  
Shining Light Entertainment, Willmar (The new laser tag, mini-golf and axe throwing business of the Miller family)
- **TRAP SHOOTING FELLOWSHIP**  
Every other Tuesday (June 2nd, 16th, & 30th) @ 6:30  
Come early to eat @ 6:15



Summer Worship  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Began Memorial  
Weekend and runs  
through Labor Day  
Weekend

## Mark Your Calendar...

**Mission & Ministry Team**  
Thursday, June 11th @ 6:30 p.m.  
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

**Spring Voter's Meeting**— June 7th after church (see page 21)



Page 4

## May Fellowship Outings...



### Celebrate June Birthdays:

Tuesday, June 9th  
11:00 a.m.  
O'Neil's - Spicer

### Fellowship Supper:

Thursday, June 18th  
6:00 p.m.  
Queen Bee's Bar  
Paynesville



### June Fun Day

Interested in going to Shining Light?  
(Jason & Sarah Miller's new business)  
June 28th @ 1:00  
Please sign up if interested.

## Trap Shooting Fellowship 2026...

Every other Tuesday in Summer:

Starting Tuesday, June 2 @ 6:30 p.m.  
(Come early to eat at 6:15)



## Lutheran Island Camp



Plan for summer fun!

Lutheran Island Camp  
Summer 2026 brochures  
are available at church.

That for a day: It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything.

Page 5

## Who's Interested?...



Who's interested in going to the **Como Park Zoo** in Roseville this summer?

Tokens can be purchased to feed the animals.



Who's interested in going on a **Green Lake Cruise** again this year?

Proposed Sunday, July 26th  
from 4:30 to 6:30 pm

We will need at least 28 people to commit for a private cruise. The price would be \$25.00 per person.



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.



Who's interested in going to a **Willmar Stingers** game?

Date: Sunday, June 7th  
Game time @ 5:05 pm

We will need at least 25 people to commit to get the picnic deal.

**Please sign up at church for any / all of these congregational outreach events.**

## "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-VvJEU22yCYxbhwig/featured>

## 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
- June Newsletters
- April-June Portals of Prayer
- Lutheran Island Camp brochures
- Hand-Made Crosses t 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>



- May 3 "Keep in Fishing... for People."
- May 10 "Start considering everyone 'A Divine Appointment.'"
- May 17 "The example David set for us in taking on and defeating Goliath"
- May 24 "The Spirit has all the power we need - but we need to 'flip the switch' and tap into that power."
- May 31 "All for One and One for All"

### 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



## Page 6

That for a day: Last night, I accidentally superglued my thumb and my pointing finger together. I'll be okay for a while.

## 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 Humor...

A new Senior Pastor, speaking at a congregation "Get to know him" luncheon, assured members that he was always happy to hear from them. He told them, "You can call me any time, day or night, at this number."

Suddenly a cry went up from the Associate Pastor at the back of the room: "Hey, that's MY number!!!"

### Thank You from the Jastrams..

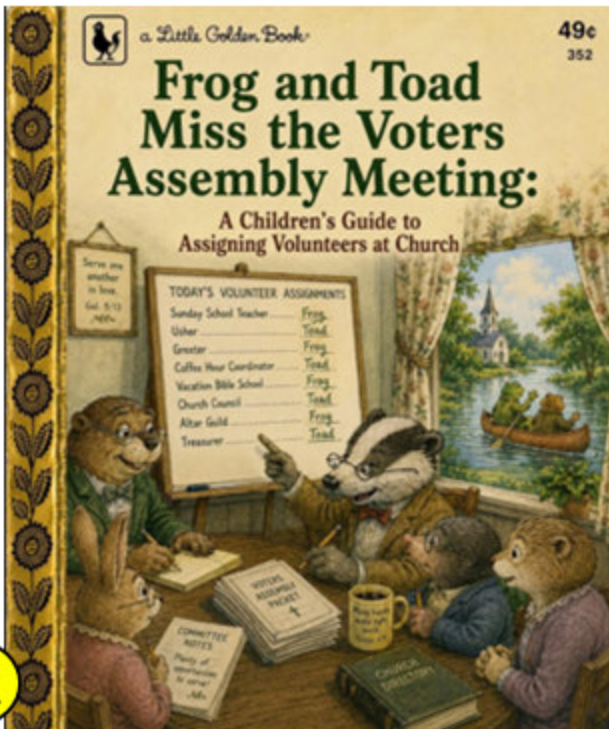
Our hearts are full of gratitude to you, our dear readers, for your prayers and support of LCMS mission work here in Japan. Thank you so much! Dan & Joan Jastram



Read the current newsletter at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc2my7x9>

Don't miss the Voters Assembly!



## Page 8

That for a day: Middle age is when it takes longer to rest than to get tired.

## 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



## Vacation Bible School...

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday—Thursday July 27th—30th

5:30—8:00 P.M.



# BFF

B.F.F.

**B**uilding on **F**oundation of **F**aith  
The Life of Peter

Jesus is our BFF (Best Friend Forever)

## Opportunities for Growth...



**Sunday Morning Bible Study**  
On hiatus for the summer.



**Men's Study**  
"The Gospel of Mark"  
Every other Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.  
June 9 & 23; July 7 & 21; Aug 4 & 18  
(pre-study meet 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

Thot for a day: Nutritionists say that eating healthy involves filling your plate with bright colors: Greens, reds, yellows. So I had a bowl of M&Ms.

Page 11

## Living Word's 2026 Goals Update...

- Continue the Make A Meal program.  
**Making more meals on June 20th**
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper  
**June 9th—Birthday Lunch**  
**June 18th —Fellowship Supper**  
**June 28th—Fun Day**
- 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...)  
**This month pray-ers begin 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  
**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**



## Email Inspiration...

### DUCKS QUACK, EAGLES FLY

Harvey Mackay was waiting in line for a taxi at the airport. When a cab pulled up, the first thing Harvey noticed was that the taxi was polished to a bright shine. Smartly dressed in a white shirt, black tie and freshly pressed black slacks, Wally the cab driver jumped out and rounded the car to open the back door. Harvey noticed that the inside of the cab matched the outside — spotlessly clean.

As Wally slid behind the wheel, he said, "Would you like a cup of coffee? I have a thermos of regular and one of decaf."

Jokingly, Harvey said, "No, I'd prefer a soft drink."

Wally smiled and said, "No problem. I have a cooler up front with regular and Diet Coke, water, and orange juice."

Almost stuttering, Harvey said, "I'll take a Diet Coke."

Handing Harvey his drink, Wally said, "If you'd like something to read, I have The Wall Street Journal, Time, Sports Illustrated and USA Today."

As the taxi pulled away from the curb, Wally handed Harvey a laminated card and said, "These are the stations I get and the music they play if you'd like to listen to the radio." As if that weren't enough, Wally told Harvey the air conditioning was on and asked if the temperature was comfortable.

The driver then advised Harvey of the best route to his destination for that time of day. Wally also let Harvey know that he'd be happy to chat and tell him about some of the sights or, if Harvey preferred, to leave him with his own thoughts.

"Tell me, Wally," the amazed passenger asked, "have you always served customers like this?"

Wally smiled and looked in the rear view mirror. "No, not always. In fact, it's only been in the last two years. My first five years driving, I spent most of my time complaining like all the rest of the cabbies do. Then I heard the personal growth guru Wayne Dyer on the radio saying that if you get up in the morning expecting to have a bad day, you'll rarely disappoint yourself. He said, 'Stop complaining. Differentiate yourself from your competition. Don't be a duck. Be an eagle. Ducks quack and complain. Eagles soar above the crowd.'"

"So I decided to change my attitude and become an eagle. I looked at

## Page 12

**That for a day:** The bravest thing you can do when you are not brave is to profess courage and act accordingly.

## Page 13

the other cabs and their drivers. The cabs were dirty, the drivers unfriendly and the customers were unhappy. So I decided to make some changes. I put in a few at a time. When my customers responded well, I did more."

"I take it that has paid off for you," Harvey said.

"It sure has," Wally replied. "My first year as an eagle, I doubled my income from the previous year. This year, I'll probably quadruple it."

Wally the cab driver made a different choice. He decided to stop quacking like a duck and to start soaring like an eagle.

## 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!



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**We will be making new meals on June 20th @ 10:00 A.M.  
Please sign up at church if you can help.**

Meanwhile in the Garden of Eden...



## Building Committee Update...

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

**Money in CDs and Building Account:       \$265,000**

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 very soon.

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



## Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in June on the first and third Sundays (June 7th & 21st).



### 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.

## Congratulations...

...Alex Meis and Carson Sawatzky on your graduations from High School

Please email [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net) if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

## Page 14

That for a day: Our generation made prank phone calls as kids. Now we're terrorized by robo-calls.

## Page 15

## Congregational Outreach...



May Fellowship Supper  
@ The Greenwald Pub



Join us for this month's fellowship events.

See pages 4 & 5 for more details.

# June 2026 - Daily Readings

We finish **2 Peter**, then jump into our Summer Reading: **The Book of Acts**.

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

To receive these audio recordings daily, just email him: [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

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

## WEEK OF MAY 31 - Lessons from a forgiven betrayer (2 Peter)

June 1 **2 Peter 1:12-15** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 2 **2 Peter 1:16-21** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 3 **2 Peter 2:1-3a** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 4 **2 Peter 2:3b-9** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 5 **2 Peter 2:10-12** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK OF JUNE 7 - - Lessons from a forgiven betrayer (2 Peter)

June 8 **2 Peter 2:13-16** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 9 **2 Peter 2:17-22** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 10 **2 Peter 3:1-9** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 11 **2 Peter 3:10-16** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 12 **2 Peter 3:17-18** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK OF June 14 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

June 15 **Acts 1:1-5** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 16 **Acts 1:6-8** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 17 **Acts 1:9-11** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 18 **Acts 1:12-20** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 19 **Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK OF June 21 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

June 22 **Acts 2:1-13** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 23 **Acts 2:14-36** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 24 **Acts 2:37-41** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 25 **Acts 2:42-47** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 26 **Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK OF June 28 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

June 29 **Acts 3:1-10** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

June 30 **Acts 3:11-26** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 1 **Acts 4:1-4** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_


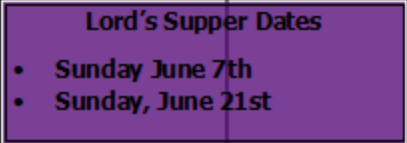



July 2 **Acts 4:5-17** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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>

# June 2026 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>May 31</b> 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	1	2  6:30 - TRAP SHOOTING	3	4 	5	6
7 9:00 - WORSHIP with Communion 10:15 - SPRING VOTERS' ASSEMBLY (Election of Officers) - FELLOWSHIP	8	9 11:00 Celebrate JUNE BIRTHDAYS @ O'Neill's - Spicer 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	10 MISSION <i>Ministry</i> 7:00 - YOUTH BUILD-A-BIRDHOUSE Servant Event	11 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	12	13
14 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	15	16  6:30 - TRAP SHOOTING	17	18 6:00 FELLOWSHIP OUTING @ Queen Bees, Paynesville	19	20 10:00 - MEAL MAKING
21 9:00 - WORSHIP with Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	22	23 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	24 6:00 - YOUTH CANOE FLOAT	25	26	27
28 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP 1:00 - OUTING @ SHINING LIGHT Willmar	29	30  6:30 - TRAP SHOOTING	July 1	July 2	July 3 	July 4

## 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

June 7	Jim & Torasie Larson
June 14	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
June 21	Larry Levin Gerry Butler
June 28	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

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

### Custodian

June -	Lonny Robbin
July -	Joe Johnson

### Altar Guild

Jun	Mona Hjelle
-----	-------------

### Accompanying Musicians

June 7	Sharon Willen
June 14	Scott Wachter
June 21	Sharon Willen
June 28	Scott Wachter
July 5	Sharon Willen



## 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. (September—December are still available.) Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to find out more details.

## Spring Voter's Assembly

... is coming June 7 The Spring Assembly is our annual election to fill Mission and Ministry positions. We will be electing members to 2-year terms in the following positions:

Chairman	-	Joe Johnson
Secretary	-	_____
Stewardship-		_____
Trustee	-	_____
Elders (three):		_____
		_____
		_____
Christian Growth - Youth		_____
Community Outreach -		_____

We need suggestions for people to fill the open positions listed above. If you have members you'd like us to consider for any of these positions, please give their names to an Elder or Mission and Ministry Team member. Thanks!

*Seen on Church Signboards...*

**PUZZLED ?**

**TRY JESUS. HE JUST MIGHT BE  
THE PIECE YOU'RE MISSING**

## June Discipleship Verse...



*"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."* 2 Peter 1:2

## Email 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



## Page 22

That for a day: A bridge built on whispers will crumble beneath the weight of footsteps.

## Page 23

## Congregation is Invited...

CLASS of 2026

Let's celebrate  
THE GRADUATION OF:  
CARSON SAWATZKY

PLEASE JOIN US:  
SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH  
3PM - 6PM

AT CARSON'S HOME  
10712 52ND AVE NW  
PENNOCK, MN 56279

Bonfire to follow



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 May we thanked God for...

- Spring
- All Who Gave Their Lives for Us
- Summer Worship Time: 9:00 (This was more of a notice, but for some a "Thanks!" 😊)

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

Around the Community...

NEW WINE PRESENTS



**CHILDREN OF EDEN**

A JOYOUS AND INSPIRATIONAL MUSICAL ABOUT PARENTS, CHILDREN AND FAITH...NOT TO MENTION CENTURIES OF UNRESOLVED FAMILY BUSINESS!

**PERFORMANCE**  
**JUNE 6, 2026**  
**AT 6:30 PM**

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 100 4TH AVE SW  
 NEW LONDON, MN 56273

— FREE WILL DONATION —

Wednesday-Sunday  
 6/24-6/28

**Time:** Varies  
**Location:** Various locations in Willmar  
**Cost:** Not listed on source

Willmar Fests 2026

Willmar Fests 2026 is a lively community celebration that brings people together for a variety of activities and shared experiences. The atmosphere is energetic and welcoming, with events that highlight local traditions, encourage community participation, and offer entertainment suited for a wide range of ages, creating a festive and engaging environment throughout.

**That for a day:** People blame things on the previous generations because they don't like the only alternative.

**PICNIC SUPPER & SILENT AUCTION**  
**Fundraiser**

♥ IN SUPPORT OF OUR ♥  
*Mission Trip to Belize!*



**THURSDAY, JUNE 25**  
**4:00 - 7:00 PM**

**RIVER OF HOPE YOUTH CENTER**  
 (HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)  
 7730 NORTH SHORE DRIVE  
 SPICER, MN




**Cost: FREE-WILL DONATION**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Friday-Sunday  
 6/12-6/14

**Time:** Varies  
**Location:** Kandiyoh Civic Center  
**Cost:** Not listed on source

Kandi is Dandy Days

Kandi is Dandy Days is a cheerful community celebration filled with classic small-town festivities and activities for all ages. The atmosphere is upbeat and family-friendly, featuring a medallion hunt, a kiddie parade, a Fire Department waterball fight, family movie night in the park, and much more, all centered around celebrating local pride and shared traditions.

**QUESTIONS? CALL 320-441-2250**

**ATLAS OF WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA**

# GARAGE SALE

We are accepting donations June 1 through June 3 from 3pm to 6pm at Crew Company, 1500 E Hwy 12, Willmar

Garage Sale is June 4, 5, 6 9AM-5PM

PLEASE HELP US FUNDRAISE BY DONATING GENTLY USED CLOTHES, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, FURNITURE ETC. ITEMS MUST BE IN CLEAN AND USABLE CONDITION.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TOUCH LIVES FOR CHRIST!!

You are invited to an **ATLAS** informational Meeting June 17, 12-1pm.

Join us to learn what ATLAS is, what we do, and how we can partner together to **TOUCH LIVES FOR CHRIST!**

Bring a friend, neighbor, co-worker or family that does not know about ATLAS! Lunch is provided.

Sign up by calling 320-441-2250 or visiting [www.atlaswcmn.org/events](http://www.atlaswcmn.org/events)

That for a day: Smaller babies may be delivered by stork but the heavier ones need a crane.

**The Link**

# May 2026 Impact Report

**WE HAVE MORE APPAREL AT CRBT!!!!**

Be The Light shirts are still for sale on our website! BUT.....we have added more with "The Link" logo in our thrift store!

CRBT is open Thursdays 10-6, Friday's 10-3 and Saturday's 10-2 COME CHECK OUT OUR NEW STYLES AND SUPPORT THE LINK'S MISSION!

**CALLLED TO SERVE. DESIGNED TO GIVE BACK**

**BE THE LIGHT BE THE LINK**

**\$20/ea**  
Sz: XS-5XL

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**JUNE 6, 2026**  
2PM-5PM

TICKETS SALES HAVE STARTED AT THE LINK & ONLINE & WILL BE AVAILABLE THE DAY OF THE EVENT!

**SILENT AUCTION - RAFFLE DRAWING-LIVE MUSIC**

DELICIOUS RIBS & PIE

**RAFFLE TICKETS NOW ON SALE \$5/ea. avail at The Link, 3 Sisters and by purchasing via venmo @the-link-1 (put raffle in the comments)**

Enter for your chance to win

2- Adirondak Chairs & Table

Donated by 3 Sisters!!!

**SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED**

If you would like to donate a basket, an item for a basket or monetarily for The Link staff to purchase items to fill a basket, please email [director@youarethelink.org](mailto:director@youarethelink.org)

**JOIN THE LINK'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

**The Link Renewed**

The Link has launched it's capital campaign for building renovations! The estimated cost for these much needed renovations is \$365,000! The Link's goal is to raise \$200,000 to go toward these renovations!

**DONOR WALL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!**

To be a part of The Link's Legacy, contact Ashley at 320-354-5465

**YOUR IMPACT**

**223**  
families served in the Food Pantry

**13,828**  
pounds of food distributed

**167**  
students currently enrolled from the NLS Schools to receive food for the weekend.

**346**  
hours donated by generous community members to keep The Link's programs running smoothly

**71**  
families provided with household needs, including:  
clothing, dishes, furniture

**14**  
provided with financial support to families facing hardships. This support includes, but is not limited to: medical bills, prescription costs, utility bills, rent/mortgage payments and other basic needs.

**Tuesday's Table Schedule:**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday: Our Lady of the Lakes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday: Faith Lutheran  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday: Peace Lutheran  
5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday: Crossroads Community

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!!!**

**YOU are The Link!**

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

- Silent Auction donations for Ribfest
- Household essentials (dishes, sheets, small furniture items, etc.)
- Gently used clothing (any size)
- Unexpired food donations
- Monetary donations to The Link's general fund
- Donations to The Link's Capital Campaign for needed building renovations
- Pray for The Link & your community
- Invite The Link's staff to attend a business or church meeting, book club or any group event to help spread awareness of The Link's programs

**MORE NEWS:**

"Link" apparel is officially for sale at Community Revival!!

The 2025 annual report has been mailed and are also available at The Link!

The Link now has a video describing each of our programs! It will be posted on our website soon!

Ribfest tickets & Raffle tickets are officially for sale!!!

Our live silent auction starts June 1st!!!

or more info on The Link or to donate, scan the QR code and visit us online!

## A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

### Do you and your spouse need to get reacquainted?



You might think this is a silly question. You're married, after all. Unless one of you comes down with a case of amnesia, why would you need to get reacquainted?

Perhaps the real question is: are you the same person you were when you first met? Do you have the same preferences, interests, and aspirations? How about your spouse? Chances are, you've both changed and evolved over time. Have you kept up with these changes in each other?

What many couples don't realize is that continuing to truly know each other over the course of your marriage requires intentionally tuning in to your spouse's inner world. This might come naturally as newlyweds, but as you go through busier seasons of life, it often requires more effort. Here are four ways to get (re)acquainted with each other on a regular basis.

#### Lean into curiosity.

When you've been together for a long time, it can seem as if you know everything about each other. You might even start to make assumptions about what your partner thinks or feels. Don't fall into this habit! Staying curious helps you keep getting to know all aspects of each other, whether you've been together for three years or thirty. You gain insight and learn more about who they currently are instead of who they used to be or who you assume them to be. Ultimately, this helps you stay connected as you both grow in your own ways.

#### Pretend you're on a first date.

Remember those early days of your relationship? You were constantly learning new things about each other, asking endless questions to uncover and soak up every facet of this fascinating person – you couldn't get enough. There'd be new stories and tidbits at every turn. While you might know many of the answers to the questions you asked back then, it's the effort and eagerness toward knowing each other that made this phase so exciting. Next time you're on a date, try embodying that mindset.

#### Make it a regular thing.

When life gets hectic, it's easy to deprioritize this type of thing. After all, there are probably many other demands on both of your time,

Page 28

**That for a day:** The dating site says this guy has a corner office with a view of the whole city; he drives a \$600,000 vehicle; and he's paid to travel. Turns out he's a bus driver.

Page 29

energy, and attention. Instead of waiting for that magical opportunity to arise, make it a standing commitment. Maybe every year on your birthdays or anniversary, you "interview" each other. Simply asking, "What's new with you?" could even be part of your weekly or monthly check-in. The idea is to make it habitual, woven into the tapestry of your relationship so that you don't even have to think about it.

#### Don't overthink it.

Sure, truly knowing your spouse typically means understanding them on a deeper level than just their favorite food or movie. However, staying "in the know" with each other doesn't mean you have to have soul-baring conversations every day. It can be as simple as asking what new music or podcast they've discovered lately, what book they're reading (do they like it?), or what they're into right now or no longer into. Staying connected on the ho-hum, day-to-day stuff creates an existing depth to your knowledge of each other that helps the profound conversations happen on more naturally. Conversely, losing track of who your partner is often starts with failing to keep up with the seemingly superficial things.

**Getting to know your spouse again isn't a one-time task – it's an ongoing effort** that keeps your marriage dynamic and your connection strong. By leaning into curiosity, approaching each other with fresh eyes, and making it a regular part of your life together, you'll not only stay current with who your partner is becoming, but you'll also deepen the intimacy and friendship that brought you together in the first place.

EVERY CHURCH HAS A BABY WHO LOOKS AT YOU LIKE HE KNOWS ALL YOUR SINS.





## 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

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

**Thank You So Much to Everyone on the D-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: wife asks husband, "Does this dress make me look fat?" Husband to wife, "Does this shirt make me look stupid?"

## Prayer Force...

Remember to use "The Prayer Force"

Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email

([dvdauk@tds.net](mailto: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 our Graduates - and asking God's guidance for them
- Thanking God for Summer - and safety in summer travels
- Thanking God for all EMS workers
- Thanking God for all who gave their lives serving our country.
- Asking God's protection for all Armed Forces personnel
- Thanking God for dads.
- Thanking God for the freedom to attend worship
- Asking God for 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 May...

- One of my favorites for this month is by the Band Reeves, "Devil Drive"... <https://youtu.be/UWgHqCPzXu0>
- Caleb & Kelsey has a new song, "But The Word Says"... <https://youtu.be/bAG5NGDISeE>
- Matt Maher has a new song called "Gonna Be Alright"... <https://youtu.be/66jeCK6ILOA>
- Brandon Lake and Dan & Shay have a new song not yet released "She Believes In Me"... <https://youtu.be/ET1udkd8bl8>
- "Well Done" is a great new song from David Leonard... <https://youtu.be/aKBdKU7CGUJ>
- NeedToBreathe just released a new song, "Spread the Ashes"... <https://youtu.be/Fhgu9mwwz9g>
- "The Author" is a new collaboration from Brandon Lake and Nick Jonas... <https://youtu.be/azUkM-vhw3k>
- "Holding On To Me" was just released by Sam Wesley... <https://youtu.be/4k7pY9zjUOE>
- "Lake of Fire" is the latest release from We The Kingdom... <https://youtu.be/HIJsCKKIUDc>
- River Cain has a new song, "Jesus On The Rocks"... <https://youtu.be/dwjlz69MTF4>
- Cade Thompson has a new song, "One Day At A Time"... <https://youtu.be/kCkZJCA81WE>
- Caleb & John with Steven Curtis Chapman released "Proud"... <https://youtu.be/w4VO6Hg3HcE>
- "Watchmen" is new from Brooke Ligertwood with Lauren Daigle... <https://youtu.be/6CQmPt-dUUe>
- Leanna Crawford released a new song I really like, called "Thank God"... <https://youtu.be/QgcSoJft03s>
- "Dive" is a new release from Tori Kelly... [https://youtu.be/g28\\_yFMfik](https://youtu.be/g28_yFMfik)
- A new release from Cory Ashbury, "Outsinging The Angels"... [https://youtu.be/eUO5\\_WOLij](https://youtu.be/eUO5_WOLij)
- "Hill To Die On" is from Consumed By Fire... <https://youtu.be/nx28CzR5n8M>

## Page 32

**That for a day:** A burglar broke into our house. I put the little red light on his chest and the cat took care of the rest.

## Page 33

- "Oklahoma" is the latest from Ryan Stevenson... <https://youtu.be/DB8KmvannVg>
- "Anybody Else" is a great new song from Patrick Mayberry... <https://youtu.be/wPHanWIOvzI>
- Terrian has a new release, "Walking With My God"... <https://youtu.be/7zQ-2m4vb8E>
- I like this song from Dailey & Vincent, "God's Country"... [https://youtu.be/ohgV\\_5o2LsI](https://youtu.be/ohgV_5o2LsI)
- Andrew Ripp has a new song called "Hold Me Up"... <https://youtu.be/3vD9cGmlOog>
- "Reflector" is new from Jeremy Camp... <https://youtu.be/tectUPnlrLo>
- "May Father's Business" is new from Pat Barrett... <https://youtu.be/hom8LGLOpwM>
- TAYA released a new song called "Simply Worthy"... [https://youtu.be/zkP\\_OXA-Jug](https://youtu.be/zkP_OXA-Jug)
- The latest from Josiah Queen is called "Make Heaven Crowded"... <https://youtu.be/DZMDuGKJM54>
- "Heaven Down Here" is a new song from Megan Woods... <https://youtu.be/fzu6aW1QicK>
- Cochren & Co has a new album. Here are some new songs: "My Only Hope"... <https://youtu.be/EjoviHJBwG>  
"All I need to Know"... <https://youtu.be/tkTHRrE2XM>  
"Heart on Fire"... <https://youtu.be/zFh3jaqbgzI>

## Story Behind The Song...

This month's song is "Victory In Jesus".

*"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Corinthians 15:5 (NIV).*

On Christmas Eve, 1885, American musician Eugene Monroe Bartlett was born. From a young age, Bartlett dedicated his life to loving and serving Jesus. He had a passion for music and business and would teach music anywhere people were interested in learning across the south. In 1917, he married his high school sweetheart, Joan Tatum.

In 1918 Bartlett founded the Hartford Music Company in Hartford, Arkansas. The company published hymnals, selling more than 15,000 in the first year. His goal was not only to publish hymnals but to also teach singers how to read music. Many of the published hymnals fea-

tured some of his own works, including "Everybody Will Be Happy Over There," and "Just a Little While."

In 1939, at the age of 53, Bartlett suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed and unable to speak. He could no longer travel, but during this time, he wrote his best-known hymn, "Victory in Jesus."

While in his bed paralyzed, he thought about the day he was saved and wrote the words, "I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory." He said he felt the Holy Spirit urging him to write the next verse, "I heard about His healing, of His cleansing pow'r revealing." He thought about the redemption story and wanted his song to be a joyful one. The three verses of the song tell the story of how a person comes to salvation in Christ.

"Oh, victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever. He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood; He loved me ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him, he plunged me to victory, beneath the dearsing flood."

Since Bartlett could no longer travel, his son Eugene Jr. took over and continued Bartlett's traveling ministry across the south. While at a revival in East Texas, Eugene Jr. felt the Holy Spirit telling him to sing his father's newest song, "Victory in Jesus." The revival welcomed the public debut of the hymn. "At the end of the service over 50 men and women had accepted Christ as their Savior."

During Bartlett's suffering, he had been able to write the words, "And then I cried dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit." In 1941, Bartlett Sr. passed away from complications from the stroke he had two years earlier. He published over 800 songs during his 56 years of life and left us with a beautiful hymn that reminds us no matter what we are going through, no matter how bleak things become, we always have victory. That victory is in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory  
How He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me  
I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning  
Then I repented of my sins, and won the victory, yeah

CHORUS

Oh, victory in Jesus, my Savior forever  
He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood  
He loved me 'ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him  
He plunged me to victory beneath the dearsing flood

I heard about His healing, of His cleansing power revealing

## Page 34

That for a day: A bad attitude is like a flat tire. Ya gotta change it before you can get anywhere.

## Page 35

How He made the lame to walk again and 'caused the blind to see  
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit"  
And somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory

CHORUS

I heard about a mansion He has built for me in glory  
And I heard about the street of gold beyond the crystal sea  
About the angels singing and the old redemption story  
Oh and some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory

CHORUS

A classic performance by the late, country great Merle Haggard...

[https://youtu.be/prcnMVL\\_8DE](https://youtu.be/prcnMVL_8DE)

Here is a fun, upbeat version performed by Guy Penrod...

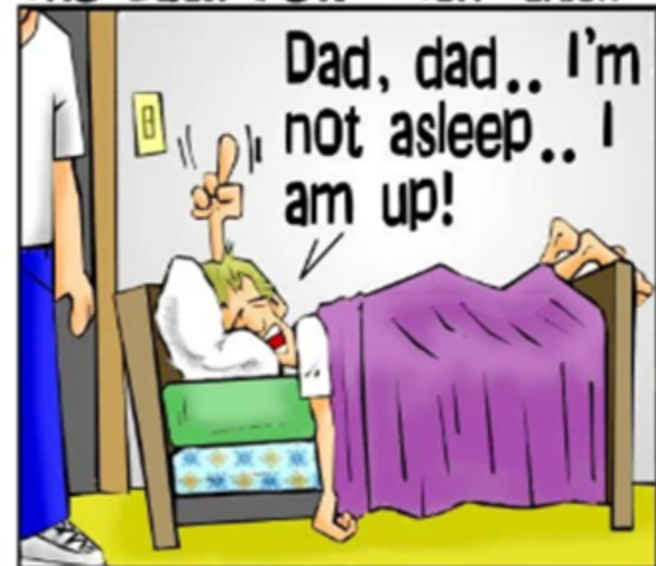
<https://youtu.be/D3xla2L0hcs>

One of my favorites is a soulful version from Stephen McWhirter...

<https://youtu.be/7hMgdJmadLE>

Happy Father's Day...

### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



THE PARABLE OF THE SLEEPING SON - The kingdom of Heaven is like the son who depends on his dad to be his walking talking alarm clock rather than getting an alarm clock of his own. Mt 25:1-13ish