

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



**March 2026 Newsletter**  
"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

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

# Living Word Lutheran Church

PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273  
Located north of the New London Township Hall on Cty Rd 9 NE  
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## Questions for Pastor...

### What was the single best part of the Midwest Honeybee Expo?

Bear with me on this one. I know it seems like a weird question to be running with, but there is a purpose - a good one.

Some of you know that Violet has been keeping bees for about ten years. She absolutely loves it - and I love the honey the bees produce! So, we decided to check out the Midwest Honeybee Expo in Madison, Wisconsin last month. The question above was a question asked on a post-expo survey I received this week.



There were LOTS of fascinating things I learned about honeybees at the Expo, since my involvement with Violet's bees has been limited to helping her with "bee chores" every now and then. I just do what she tells me to do without really understanding what's going on in the hive. But even with all the amazing new things I learned, it was still pretty easy to come up with a "best part":

The Opening Ceremony began with the Pledge of Allegiance after which the emcee opened the weekend with a humble, "from-the-heart" prayer (as opposed to just speeding through one out of obligation).

I was pretty blown away by that little opening ceremony. In a time when it's not "cool" to love our country - and even less "cool" to invite God to be part of a non-church gathering - that ceremony set the tone for the entire weekend! I thought, "The folks who organize this have their priorities straight!"

As Violet and I reflected on that opening, we figured that the folks in charge of the opening ceremony had to have gotten some flack for the Pledge and the prayer. But the important thing is they did it anyway!!! It reminded me of something I've said more than a few times:

*"Do the right thing, because it's the right thing - regardless of how people might respond."*

Thanks for asking  
Pastor David

## Who Can You Invite?

### • "Maundy" Thursday' Thursday, April 2 @ 6:30p

On this night, Jesus set us the example of servanthood by washing His disciples' feet. After that He instituted the meal we know as "The Lord's Supper" which we will celebrate.

We have a double celebration on this night as our 5th Graders will be taking their first communion!



### • Good Friday - The 7 Last Words - Friday, April 3 @ 6:30pm

Easter is just a "feel-good" story without Good Friday. We extinguish one candle for each of the seven last words Jesus spoke from the cross until all lights have been put out. Join us to be reminded why we call such a dark day "Good."

### • Easter - Sunday, April 5

### • Sunrise Worship: 6:53 a.m.

We begin outdoors watching the sun rise (6:53 is actual sunrise time), then move to the sanctuary to finish celebrating the Greatest Event in History

### • Easter Breakfast - 8:00 a.m.

### • Easter Worship w/Communion - 10:00 a.m.

We again celebrate the Greatest Event in all of History at our regular worship time with communion as the Feast of Victory

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

## Don't Be Late for Church...



## Mark Your Calendar...

### Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, March 12th @ 6:30 p.m.

Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

### 3rd Graders Receive their Bibles

during worship service on March 8th



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## February Fellowship Outings...

# HONKY'S

### Fellowship Supper:

Thursday, March 26th

6:00 p.m.

Honkey's  
(Grove City)

### Celebrate March Birthdays:

Tuesday, March 10th

11:00 a.m.

Sweet River Café—New London



## Lenten Devotion Services...

Begin on Wednesday, February 25th @ 6:00.

Please join us each week as we prepare ourselves for the upcoming Easter celebration - and come early to join us for...



## Soup & Sandwich Suppers

@ 5:00—Prior to each Lenten Devotion Service

March 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th

Please sign up at church to bring either a soup or sandwiches.

## Confirmation News...

- Attend the Lenten Devotion Services Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.
- Class after Lenten Services (6:45 - 7:15)



That for a day: Sometimes we have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give us the right to be cruel.

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

### 1. Attend Wednesday Lenten Services (6:00- 6:40 p.m.)

Our Lenten Devotions will tackle:

"Questions about faith we need to know answers to."

For example...

"How can you believe the earth is only a few thousand years old when everyone knows it's 4.5 billion years old?"

### 2. Read Jesus' Last Words to His Disciples..

from the Upper Room and Garden the night before He was crucified for our sins - as recorded in John chapters 13-16.

(Last words are things you want to make sure people close to you never forget.)

(Or you can listen to Pastor read the passages. He will text or email you a link to each day's recording)

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



## Confessio 2026:

A Retreat on the Lutheran Confessions

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL

### The Shape of the Christian Life for Faithful Ministry Today

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

GRAEBNER MEMORIAL CHAPEL | CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (RESERVATIONS REQUESTED)



Rev. Dr. Harold L. Sembel,  
Speaker  
President Emeritus of the South  
Missouri Synod and Executive  
Director Emeritus of WORLDWIDE

MORNING SESSION:  
Dying and Alive – Faith that Lives by Love using  
Dying to Live: The Foundations, Focus and Shape of the  
Christian Life (ICPL, 2020) as a reference.

AFTERNOON SESSION:  
Christians in the Suburbs of the City of Man –  
Mission in a Collapsing Culture using The Culture of  
God's World: Faithful Ministry in a Post-Christian Society  
(Robert Lohm, 2016) as a reference.

FREE and Open to the Public  
Reservations Requested at: [one.cup.edu/confessio](http://one.cup.edu/confessio)

Lunch provided.

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



Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford  
Marion Proctor  
President of the Missouri South  
Synod and Co-Author of The  
Culture of God's World

# February Outings...



Church Bingo..



# Page 7 | Fellowship Dinner @ Jimmy P's...



## 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
- March Newsletters
- January—March Portals of Prayer
- "Answers in Genesis" magazines

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



### Recorded videos of Sermons

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

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

- Feb 1 "God brings amazing power in answer to prayer - tap into it by being part of our Prayer D-Fence."
- Feb 8 "God shows His love for us... in the Old Testament!"
- Feb 15 "Jesus sets the example for friendship on a mountain"
- Feb 22 "Ash Sunday is about 'Repentance' But what is that?"

### 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 uninter-

rupted basis. An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.



### Portals of Prayer.

Jan—March issue

Are in Mailboxes and on the Table by the Door

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**Thot for a day:** My wife asked me for some chap stick. I haven't heard from her for three days.

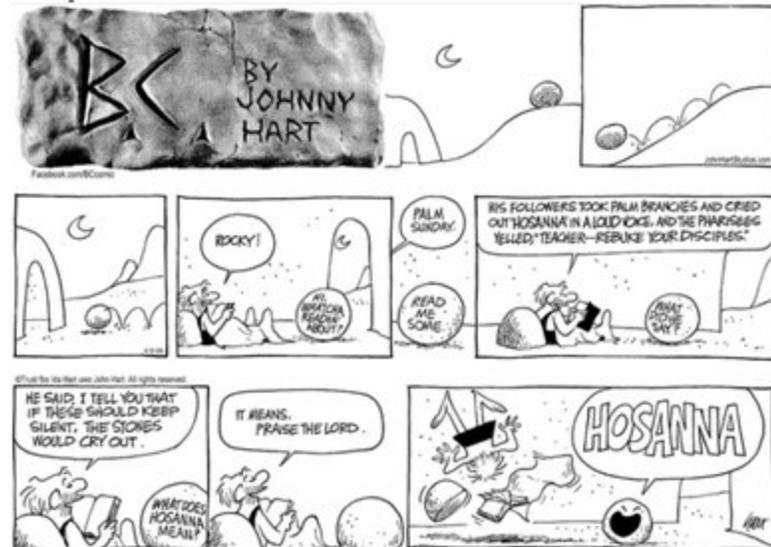
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## Living Word Phone App...

**NEW...**

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

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



### "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-VvIJEU22vCYxbhwig/featured>

## Opportunities for Growth...



### Sunday Morning Bible Study

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



### Men's Study

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



### Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Wednesday, March 11th, at 10:00 a.m.  
at church.  
All women are invited!

**Join Us Sunday Mornings for...**



### LWML Meeting & Women's Study:

Next meeting and Bible study will be  
Wednesday, March 11th, at 10:00 a.m. at church.

### SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

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



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**That for a day:** I believe that onion rings are vegetable donuts.

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

- Continue the Make A Meal program.  
**We made more meals on Nov 15th**
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper  
**March 10th—Birthdays**  
**March 26th—Supper**
- Continue the Birthday Card/Anniversary ministry  
**Ongoing**
- Challenge every member to bring a guest this year  
**Pray about who you can invite to join you for any of our Fellowship Outings or Friendship Sunday.**
- Enlist Youth and Young Adults to help with our  
**"Visitors (and members) Coffee Cart"**
- Initiate the "Prayer D-Fence" Program  
(Adults "adopting" a kid to pray for, send cards etc...)  
**THIS MONTH we continue enlisting people to pray!**
- Enlist younger members to help with the Building Project  
**Spring 2026**
- Host Tuesday's Table  
**Coming September 2026**
- Chili Cook-Off  
**Held on Friendship Sunday, February 15th**
- Host another Block Party or Community Festival  
**This will depend on our building project**
- Coordinating with Redeemer, Willmar and St. John, Atwater to host joint youth events  
**House of Hope, Madagascar, March 3rd**
- 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 get Bibles**



## St Patrick's Day...

Do you have your favorite green shirt ready to go for March 17? Will you dye your scrambled eggs green that morning? Believe it or not, behind our silly St. Patrick's Day traditions – like wearing green or stories about leprechauns and pots of gold – lies a rich story about a man devoted to God who spread the Gospel throughout Ireland.

On March 17th cultures all over the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Of course, St. Patrick's Day has become a pretty secular holiday but when we understand the real meaning behind the celebration, it can become a more fun – and meaningful – experience for the whole family!

Enjoy the story of St. Patrick below! Read it aloud with your kids and learn together about the man behind the holiday.

### Who was St. Patrick?

Patrick was born in Britain circa A.D. 385 – over 1600 years ago! At the time, the Roman Empire (of which Britain was a part) was on the verge of collapse. Barbarians were on the move, invading different regions of the empire. Roman legions (large groups of soldiers) had deserted Britain, making it vulnerable to attack. When Patrick was sixteen years old, Irish pirates invaded his village, destroyed it and took Patrick captive. He was put on a ship bound for Ireland.

In Ireland, Patrick was sold as a slave and put to work as a shepherd for pigs. In those Irish hills, life was hard for Patrick. He was exposed to a harsh climate and nearly starved to death. He was completely alone, but he turned to God for comfort and companionship. Through prayer Patrick found great relief:

"The love of God and the fear of him surrounded me more and more. And faith grew. And the spirit roused so that in one day I would say as many as a hundred prayers, and at night only slightly less." [1]

Six years into slavery, Patrick had a vision from God. He was told he would return to his homeland. Not long after he had another vision and was told his ship was waiting for him. Patrick ran away and travelled more than two hundred miles to Ireland's southeast coast and boarded a ship headed for Gaul (modern-day France), where many people believe he trained for ministry. [2]

After returning to his homeland, Patrick received another vision. In it a man named Victoricius came to him holding many letters. Patrick read one of the letters aloud, called "The Voice of the Irish." As he read he heard Irish voices calling out to him and pleading for his return to Ireland.

Years later Patrick was ordained as a bishop, a leader in the Church. Around A.D. 432 Patrick returned to Ireland to start sharing the Gospel

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That for a day: If all the world's a stage, then someone in casting needs to be fired.

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about Jesus with the Irish people.

Patrick's missionary work over the next thirty years was truly remarkable. He journeyed across Ireland, spreading the gospel, baptizing and confirming countless believers and founding many churches and monasteries. One of Patrick's missionary strategies was to focus his efforts on evangelizing Ireland's many tribal kings. His thought was that converting the kings would lead to the conversion of their subjects. His strategy proved extremely successful, and many people became Christians!

Spreading the Gospel in Ireland was far from easy for Patrick. He faced frequent opposition and was in constant danger of being killed for his bold faith. Lorica, also known as "Patrick's Breastplate," is a special prayer of protection that Patrick would say. Many people read it today because it reminds them of Patrick's confidence in the Lord.

Patrick died on March 17th in A.D. 461. He is best known for organizing the church in Ireland and spreading Christianity there.

Many legends surround Patrick's life, including that he used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. There really isn't any historical proof to that, but the legend can explain why we associate shamrocks with St. Patrick's Day!

### Why is St. Patrick important?

Historically, St. Patrick's missionary work forever changed Ireland. His bold faith and godly character makes him one of the great saints in church history. As a former slave, he condemned slavery as an ungodly institution. As a missionary, he lived among the Irish, identified with them, honored their customs and beliefs and redeemed many of them to reflect the truth and teachings of Christianity. As an evangelist, he was driven to make God's name known among the Irish. God used his steely resolve and ambition to advance God's kingdom in a mighty way in Ireland. Patrick was passionate about evangelizing the Irish, but he was also passionate about educating converts in Christian living and service. Today, Patrick is seen as the ultimate model for Celtic Christians. Ultimately, his life and ministry serve as a pointer to the life and ministry of Christ himself.

### Should Christians celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

Deciding to celebrate St. Patrick's Day is a matter of personal conviction for you and your family. Like Patrick often did with Irish traditions, believers today can redeem a holiday that has become quite secular in its practices and traditions (e.g., leprechauns and shamrocks). Christians throughout the centuries have participated in cultural events like St. Patrick's Day and used them as springboards for relationship building and gospel conversations with nonbelievers.



## Update From The Link...

We are excited to share a transformative opportunity for The Link of Northern Kandiyohi County as we launch our capital campaign,  
The Link Renewed: Renewing our building to better serve our community.

Thanks to dedicated supporters like you, we've already achieved incredible milestones. Your generosity has allowed us to purchase our building and to continue to meet the needs of our community. We are truly grateful for your ongoing partnership and compassion and are humbled by your support.

Now, we're embarking on a crucial initiative: our \$200,000 capital campaign to improve and remodel our existing building. This project is vital because our current facility does not have access to our basement space, lacks office space and privacy for client meetings and phone calls, has inadequate space for the food pantry (which continues to see exponential growth), and does not have a main street entrance to Community Revival.

With your help, we can make this vision a reality. Our goal is to raise \$200,000 by May 1, 2026. These funds will be used to renew our space by providing two new stairways for basement access, building office space for privacy, creating a better flow, more space, and convenient access to storage in the Food Pantry, and constructing a welcoming front entry for our retail space, Community Revival, to promote visibility.

Our Board of Directors has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to this project, with 100% participation in personal financial contributions. We're turning to key partners like you to help us cross the finish line. Would you consider a gift to help us meet our goal? You can make your gift today:

- \*\*Online:\*\* Visit our secure donation page at <https://www.youarethelink.org/> and put "Building Fund" in the comments.
- \*\*Mail:\*\* You can send a check to The Link, PO Box 823, New London, MN 56273 (put building campaign in the memo).
- \*\*Phone:\*\* Call us at 320-354-5465 to discuss giving options like stock or DAFs.

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

Thot for a day: Eggs are an excellent diet food. If you don't like the taste, just mix them with flour, sugar, and butter, and bake at 350 degrees.

## Email Inspiration (& Wisdom)...

One day on the way home from church a little girl turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the preacher's sermon this morning confused me."

The mother said, "Oh! Why is that?"

The girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?"

"Yes, that's true," the mother replied.

"He also said that God lives within us. Is that true too?"

Again the mother replied, "Yes."

"Well," said the girl. "If God is bigger than us and he lives in us, wouldn't He show through?"



# March 2026 - Daily Readings

We finish Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, then read Jesus' Last Words to His Disciples  
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 MARCH 1 - Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Mar 2 **Matthew 6:16-18** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 3 **Matthew 6:19-24** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 4 **Matthew 6:25-34** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 5 **Matthew 7:1-6** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 6 **Matthew 7:7-12** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK OF MARCH 8 - Sermon on the Mount & In the Upper Room

Mar 9 **Matthew 7:13-14** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 10 **Matthew 7:15-23** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 11 **John 13:1-17** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 12 **John 13:18-30** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 13 **John 13:31-38** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK OF MARCH 15 - In the Upper Room

Mar 16 **John 14:1-4** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Mar 17 **John 14:5-14** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 18 **John 14:15-24** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 19 **John 14:25-31** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 20 **John 15:1-17** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK OF MARCH 22 - In the Upper Room

Mar 23 **John 15:18-27** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 24 **John 16:1-4** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 25 **John 16:5-15** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 26 **John 16:16-24** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar 27 **John 16:25-33** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK OF MARCH 29 - Events of Holy Week

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

Mar 31 **Jesus Crucified - Luke 23:26-36** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

# March 2026 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	<b>4</b> 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION & CONFIRMATION	<b>5</b> <div style="border: 2px solid black; background-color: #00FF00; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Lord's Supper Dates</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday, March 1st</li> <li>Sunday, March 15th</li> </ul> </div>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 <b>MEAL            MAKING</b> Set Your Clocks Ahead Tonight !
<b>8</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 11:00 - Celebrate <b>MARCH            BIRTHDAYS</b> @ Sweet River Cafe (New London)	<b>11</b> 10:00 - LWML and <b>WOMEN'S STUDY</b> 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION & CONFIRMATION	<b>12</b> <i>MISSION            Ministry</i> 5:30 - ELDERS' <b>TEAM</b> 6:30 - MISSION & <b>MINISTRY            TEAM</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00- WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	<b>16</b>	<b>17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b>  6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	<b>18</b> 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION & CONFIRMATION	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	<b>25</b> 5:00 - SOUP SUPPER 6:00 - LENTEN DEVOTION & 1 <sup>st</sup> COMMUNION PREP. CLASS	<b>26</b> 6:00 - <b>FELLOWSHIP            SUPPER @            Honkey's            (Grove City)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	<b>Apr 1</b>	<b>Apr 2 MAUNDY THURS            and FIRST            COMMUNION</b> 6:30 - MAUNDY <b>THURS SERVICE            w/ 1<sup>st</sup> COMMUNION</b>	<b>Apr 3 GOOD            FRIDAY</b> 6:30 GOOD <b>FRIDAY            SERVICE</b>	<b>Apr 4</b> Easter Services tomorrow: 6:53 SONRISE 10:00Com munion

## 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

Mar 1	Jim & Torasie Larson
Mar 8	Jason & Levi Miller
Mar 15	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Mar 22	Pam Johnson & Linda Van Meter
Mar 29	Larry Levin & Volunteer needed

### **USHERS NEEDED**

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

### Elders

Mar 1, 8	Scott & Dan
Mar 15, 22, 29	Kevin & Duane

### Custodian

Mar -	Randy and Mary Raddatz
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### Altar Guild

March	Mona Hjelle
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### Accompanying Musicians

Mar 1	Sharon Willen
Mar 8	Scott Wachter
Mar 15	Sharon Willen
Mar 22	Scott Wachter
Mar 29	Open



## Opportunities to Serve...

### Custodian Volunteers Needed.

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

That for a day: All I want is love, peace, understanding and a chocolate bar the size of my head.

## 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 February we thanked God for...

- **Friends**

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



*Seen on Church Signboards...*

**JESUS NAILED IT !!!**

## March Discipleship Verse...

*"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,"*  
Acts 3:19

## Email Wisdom...

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

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



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That for a day: Every silver lining has a cloud.

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## Email Humor...

The substitute Sunday School teacher was struggling to open a combination lock on the supply cabinet.

She had been told the combination, but couldn't quite remember it. Finally, she went to the pastor's study and asked for help.

The pastor came into the room and began to turn the dial. After the first two numbers, he paused and stared blankly for a moment. Finally, he looked serenely heavenward and his lips moved silently.

Then he looked back at the lock, and quickly turned to the final number, and opened the lock.

The teacher was amazed. "I'm in awe at your faith, pastor," she said.

"It's really nothing," he answered.

"The number is on a piece of tape on the ceiling."

## First Communion...

Fifth Graders will take their First Communion during the Maundy Thursday service - April 2 at 6:30 p.m.!

Our preparation class for first communion will be Wednesday evening, March 25.



## Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in February on the normal First and Third Sundays  
(March 1st & 15th),



### 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.

*Seen on Church Signboards...*

**The fact that there's a highway to Hell and only a stairway to Heaven says a lot about the anticipated traffic numbers...**

## Make-A-Meal Program...

Join us Saturday, March 7 at 10:00 a.m. to make meals.

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!

## Building Committee Update...

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

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

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

The BUILDING TEAM continues to meet to put together some specific plans with the goal of breaking ground in the spring!

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



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That for a day: There's something wrong if you're always right.

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Around the Community...

JOIN US FOR AN

## EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH 9AM-11AM

Peace Lutheran Church  
100 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, New London, MN  
\*Hosted by NLS Ambassadors\*

Freewill Donation \$5/child suggested

**Great Prizes,  
Decorate a Cookie,  
and Get Info on being a Candidate  
with the NLS Ambassador Program**



Questions? Please contact Becky Arvola @ 320-905-3337,  
Lori Pederson @ 320-905-2514, or Stephanie Bents @ 320-220-1504

**THE FOR TRESS**  
RESTORING LIVES THROUGH CHRIST

**Save the Date!**

**13th Annual Banquet & Fundraiser**  
Friday, April 10, 2026 Call to reserve your spot 320.214.7015

**Guest MC**  
Pastor  
**Keith Kerstetter**

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

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

## Around the Community...



**ATLAS**  
OF WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA  
PRESENTS

# CLASSICAL MUSIC NIGHT

FEATURING  
DANIEL LONGHIN

Join us for an elegant evening of classical music featuring pianist Daniel Longhin. Experience the beauty and emotion of timeless masterpieces performed with artistry and passion in an intimate setting. This special event is offered as a free will donation, with all proceeds supporting ATLAS of West Central MN and their important work in our community. Come enjoy an inspiring night of music while making a meaningful difference.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 20**

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 515 12<sup>TH</sup> ST SW, WILLMAR

**7-8:30PM**

Register at [atlaswcmn.org/events](http://atlaswcmn.org/events) or  
by calling 320-441-2250

You are invited to an  
**ATLAS informational Meeting**  
March 11, 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)

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Thot for a day: Turning on your lights and siren after you lose a drag race is just poor sportsmanship.

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HOUSE OF HOPE INVITES YOU  
TO OUR 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL BENEFIT EVENT



**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026**

SOCIAL HOUR: 5:30 - 6:30 PM

PRESENTATION: 6:30 - 7:00 PM

RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

19903 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Atwater, MN. 56209

TOGETHER, WE CAN TRANSFORM LIVES.

Please come and support this life-changing mission at our first annual Benefit on March 3rd. We have somewhat limited space at the church, so it will be "first-come first-serve" to meet Pastor Jean Rajaonasy in person as he travels the USA. Buy your tickets now and don't miss this opportunity.

For more information: [www.hohmadagascar.org](http://www.hohmadagascar.org)

You Tube: House of Hope Madagascar

Facebook: House of Hope Madagasikara or School of Hope Madagasikara

# A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

## Five Ways You Fight for Your Marriage



A heroic duel to defend your true love... An epic battle to prove you're meant to be together, against all odds... These scenarios might sound like the ultimate way to fight for each other, but we typically don't see too many sword fights in honor of love these days. So is it even necessary to fight for each other on any given day? We have to admit, it does sound a bit dramatic. But the truth is, fighting for your marriage means caring enough— and doing what it takes — to make it last a lifetime. And with that in mind, there are ways to fight for your marriage every day — they just don't look how you'd expect. Here are a few:

### 1. Not avoiding conflict

The easy thing to do when you and your spouse have an unresolved or persistent issue is just walk away from it— literally or figuratively. It might feel better momentarily, but ultimately this creates distance and resentment between you. Not only is the issue unlikely to resolve itself, but it will also be even harder to deal with down the road when you're already feeling disconnected over it. Make the choice to fight through the discomfort and address the issue at hand. In addition to feeling more connected, you'll also kick off a positive cycle of assertiveness, helping you both feel more self-confident and accepted, even when you're sharing difficult emotions.

### 2. Bringing out the best in your spouse

When you bring out the best in your partner, you see the best in them, recognize their potential, and inspire them to reach it. You believe in them even when they might not believe in themselves. You might wonder how this translates to fighting for your marriage. Well, once you've been married for a while, it's easy to start focusing on each other's negatives. You start settling into a critical perspective of each other, and that will taint the dynamic of your relationship. Bringing out the best in each other means fighting through those tendencies and choosing to lift each other up for the benefit of your marriage.

### 3. Striving to be a better spouse

The other side of bringing out the best in each other is embracing growth as an individual. When you work on your self-awareness and learn more about your own needs, triggers, and tendencies, you're able to bring that knowledge to the table in your marriage. This gives you the best foundation for working through conflict productively and continuing to strengthen that skill over time, ultimately increasing your resilience and ability to face challenges as a couple. Long story

That for a day: Nothing ruins your Friday like realizing it's only Wednesday.

short, when you both do your individual work, your marriage reaps the benefits.

### 4. Being teammates

There are many times in marriage when it can feel like it's you against your spouse — whether it's an argument, not being aligned on parenting or household management, or falling victim to poor communication. When you start to buy into the "you versus them" mindset, this dynamic bleeds into every area of your relationship. Don't let this mentality win out. Instead, fight for your marriage by remembering that you're a team. Being teammates means you have each other's backs as you work toward the same objective. Keep this perspective — especially during those tough moments, days, and seasons.

### 5. Living out your commitment

Commitment can be absent after you've made a formal commitment with vows. The game-changer is how you live out your commitment to each other — the actions and attitudes that reinforce the verbal expressions. It's making the choice to treat each other with love and respect, even when one or both of you are not at your best. It's prioritizing each other and investing in your future. It's building and cherishing the trust between you by following through on the big and little things. Saying "I do" is one thing, but your actions are what make commitment a sustaining force in your marriage.

At the end of the day, fighting for your marriage doesn't always have to be as dramatic as it sounds. It doesn't have to be about grand gestures or beating the odds. It's about consistently making choices — both big and small — to invest in your marriage for the long haul, even when it's not the easiest route or quickest fix.



## Prayer D-Fence...

### Can You Be Part of Our Prayer D-Fence ?

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

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

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

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

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



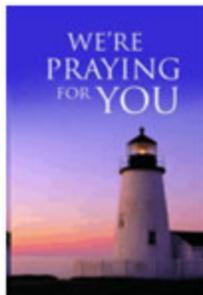
**GOD'S DE-FENCE...**

## We Prayed for You...

Remember to use our  
"We Prayed for You"  
program...

We'd like to send out a card or two each week to people we prayed for during worship.

We are currently in need of a volunteer to mail the cards. If you could help, talk to Pastor David.



## After-Worship Prayer Ministry

We have people who will pray with you or for you after Sunday service. They gather for prayer near the piano, just meet them there.

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



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That for a day: Some people develop eye strain looking for trouble.

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## Prayer...



### 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...

- Asking God to raise up volunteers for our Prayer D-Fence program
- Asking God for His guidance on who to invite to Easter Sunday
- Asking God for the power to love like Jesus did - with sacrifice
- Asking God to help you "give up" and/or "take up" something in Lent
- God's continued healing for all parents who have lost children
- For God to continue giving comfort and peace to all those grieving.
- Safe travel (and good weather for traveling)
- 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 February...

- We The Kingdom has a new song that I'm sure will be a hit, "Don't Let The Darkness"... <https://youtu.be/wUSTYU0S014>
- I really like "Both Sides of the Fence" from Larry Fleet. It seems appropriate for today ... <https://youtu.be/BS5APDNI0s>
- If you like sibling harmony you will enjoy "Trust You" by the band, 3 Heath Brothers... <https://youtu.be/7ynOXOJO6ac>
- Another brothers band that we have featured several times is the Band Reeves. This month they released "If I Didn't Have You"... <https://youtu.be/sKVKKmJSLnM>
- Lost & Found is a group of young musicians that formed a little over a year ago and have a couple new releases this month, "Back to You"... <https://youtu.be/twlqR3Lhkjl> and "Look What God Has Done"... <https://youtu.be/JgV1pt5eLuY>
- We Are Messengers just released a new song, "Faith, Hope, Love"... <https://youtu.be/FUKfnyW6uE8>
- The "other Irish band", Rend Collective also just released "Do it All Alone"... <https://youtu.be/9yuspC0almQ>
- Broken Roots is an outlaw country-gospel duo that got their start on *America's Got Talent*. I really enjoy their new song, "Stormwalkin' Saints"... <https://youtu.be/92CaiKRpCKg>
- Another recent *AGT* group is Ashes and Arrows. They has a song featured last month and this month they released "Get On Your Way"... <https://youtu.be/51oPTYuBbQg>
- As long as we are talking about groups from *America's Got Talent*, you need to check out "Heaven Ain't Quiet" from the brother/sister/friend gospel-rock group, Church Friends... <https://youtu.be/-dixD4-gMt4>
- Sam Wesley (son of Bart Millard of MercyMe) just released the song "Living Water"... <https://youtu.be/TqJfMS1FfOw>
- Sanctus Real has a new song, "Steady"... <https://youtu.be/ZhVFOOQ6f8o>
- "Jesus All Along" is new from Franni Cash (formerly of We The Kingdom)... <https://youtu.be/dwLRPsizGes>
- Patrick Mayberry has a new song, "It Is Well"... <https://youtu.be/dwLRPsizGes>

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That for a day: Talk is cheap, until you hire a lawyer.

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- "Cedar and Stone" is new from Andrew Ripp... <https://youtu.be/4X0-1zOi4I>
- Point of Grace is back this month with another new song called "Fire"... <https://youtu.be/1utEvP4qYgI>
- I really like the new song from Micah Christopher, "White Knuckles"... <https://youtu.be/JvBaMM-UBBw>
- Another artist that has been around awhile that you may not be familiar with is Alan Cox. He has a new song, "What I'd Do"... <https://youtu.be/vkiELD88NeA>
- Pat Barrett released a new song called "Break Open"... [https://youtu.be/EJrIps\\_0IPU](https://youtu.be/EJrIps_0IPU)
- "All You've Ever Done" is the latest from John Waller... <https://youtu.be/nuaYm4VSjpc>
- "Crumbs From The Table" is a new worship song from Stephen McWhirter... <https://youtu.be/1R03YcNfUw>
- The latest worship anthem from Elevation Worship (with Chris Brown) is "I Got Saved"... <https://youtu.be/NmXdITJ-E>
- The Indie rock band, Hopeful just released a new song, "Hopeful"... <https://youtu.be/ZkiG2mDaEug>
- Finally we have a great new song from David Leonard called "Well Done"... <https://youtu.be/aKBdKU7CGUI>

## Story Behind The Song...

The movie, *I Can Only Imagine 2* just hit theaters about a week ago and if you haven't yet seen it, I highly recommend it. (I think it may be better than the first movie.) A unifying storyline of this movie is the hymn, "It Is Well With My Soul" and the amazing story behind it...

Horatio Gates Spafford wasn't supposed to write one of history's most beloved hymns. Born in North Troy, New York, in 1828, he was a successful Chicago lawyer, a Presbyterian elder, and a man of comfortable faith. He had the kind of life that produced contentment, not poetry—a thriving law practice, real estate investments, a beautiful family, and friendships with influential evangelicals like Dwight L. Moody.

But life can be so unpredictable—joys and sorrows, beautiful blessings and distressing difficulties can come unexpectedly. Our life's dreams and plans can change in an instant. We all know this to be true. So how can we find peace amid such turbulence?

Horatio knew something about life's unexpected challenges. He was a

successful attorney and real estate investor who lost a fortune in the great Chicago fire of 1871. Around the same time, his beloved four-year-old son died of scarlet fever.

In 1973, thinking a vacation would do his family some good, he sent his wife and four daughters on a ship to England, planning to join them after he finished some pressing business at home. However, while crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship was involved in a terrible collision and sunk. More than 200 people lost their lives, including all four of Horatio Spafford's precious daughters. His wife, Anna, survived the tragedy. Upon arriving in England, she sent a telegram to her husband that began: "Saved alone. What shall I do?"

Horatio immediately set sail for England. At one point during his voyage, the captain of the ship, aware of the tragedy that had struck the Spafford family, summoned Horatio to tell him that they were now passing over the spot where the shipwreck had occurred.

As Horatio thought about his daughters, words of comfort and hope filled his heart and mind. He wrote them down, and they have since become a well-loved hymn:

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to know  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Refrain It is well, (it is well),  
With my soul, (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:  
If Jordan above me shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life,  
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,

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That for a day: Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

## Page 35

The sky, not the grave, is our goal;  
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!  
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
A song in the night, oh my soul!

For nearly 150 years, "It Is Well with My Soul" has been sung in moments when the human heart needs steadying. Churches across traditions have made it a fixture at funerals and memorial services. Its refrain carries a quiet defiance — a way of saying that, though loss has come, faith still holds.

Here is a great version performed by Caleb & Kelsey with Travis Clark... <https://youtu.be/E-a-zvzcODQ>

Bonus video... From the movie, here is MercyMe with a remake of this hymn called "Make It Well"... <https://youtu.be/xLrF-mI7uks>

## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Sven led Ole to da Lord, but in an ill fated moment of exhilaration Ole became da first ICE FISHIN HOLE BAPTISM donchaknow