



Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS

Revelation 5:13

“To Him who sits on the
throne and to the Lamb
be **Blessing** and
Honor and **Glory**
and **Power** forever
and ever!”

May 2026 Newsletter
“Communicating the Love of Jesus”

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

Living Word Lutheran Church

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

Questions for Pastor...

Is God offended when I do what He wants, but my heart isn't in it?



This is a question that came up in a recent Bible study. I love the question, because it's one that comes from a heart that really wants to honor God, but honestly admits that we don't always feel like doing what we know we're supposed to.

A couple questions I'd ask in "answer" to that question:

"Is your boss offended when you show up for work, even when you don't feel like it?" (No. They would be offended - and you'd likely be out of a job - if you didn't show up, just because you didn't feel like it.)

"Is your teacher offended when you show up for class, even when you don't feel like it?"

(No. They would be offended - and you'd likely get an "F" - if you only showed up when you felt like it.)

"Is the IRS offended when you send in your taxes - even when though you never feel like it?" (Insert laughing emoji here! No. They don't care how you feel, as long as they get your money.)

I could go on (and on) with examples of things we don't always feel like doing, but we do them anyway, just because we've made the commitment.

The problem is that we live in a "feelings-driven society" where it's easy to get the idea that we should only do things we feel like doing. And, if we do something we don't feel like, that we're being hypocritical.

I see the "feelings" test applied to things like "love" and "forgiveness" all the time. For example, we are taught that love is a feeling, and only a feeling, so when we don't "feel it" we wrongly believe we can't love.

But listen to what Jesus says about loving God in John 14:23-24

"Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them,

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and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching.

Jesus clearly spells "love" O-B-E-Y. No mention of feeling like it. Just doing it.

I hear people all the time who say, "I can never forgive..." because they have gotten the idea that forgiveness is a "feeling." But forgiveness is not a feeling. It is a conscious decision to "not take revenge, but rather to let it go" - even if you feel like getting revenge or like holding a grudge forever.

So, the short answer is: "Absolutely not. God is not offended when we do what He asks even when our heart isn't in it."

In fact, you will find something really "cool" happens when you keep on doing what God wants you to do - even when you don't feel like it: God has the power to change your "I have to do this..." feeling to an "I want to do this..." feeling!

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net



Summer Worship Time:
9:00 a.m.

Begins Memorial Weekend
Sunday, May 24
(And runs through Labor

Children's Message



Mark Your Calendar...

Mission & Ministry Team
Thursday, May 14th @ 6:30 p.m.
Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT



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May Fellowship Outings...



Celebrate May Birthdays:
Tuesday, May 12th
11:00 a.m.
El Meson Mexican Restaurant
Willmar

Bowling
Sunday, May 17th, 3:00—5:00 p
Alley on Ash
New London



Fellowship Supper:
Thursday, May 21st
6:00 p.m.
Greenwald Pub

Trap Shooting Fellowship 2026...

Kicks off with one shoot in May :
Tuesday, May 5 @ 6:30 p.m.



We'll start our regular schedule in June.



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

That for a day: I'm walking by faith, but tripping constantly.

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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.

Bowling on Sunday, May 17th from 3–5 pm

\$18.00 per person include shoes, 2 games of bowling, a medium pizza (divided between 4 people) and pop.



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

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
- May Newsletters
- April-June Portals of Prayer
- Lutheran Island Camp brochures
- "Answers in Genesis" magazines
- 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>

- Easter "The Event that literally changed everything - for you."
- Apr 12 "When you find you are questioning like Thomas."
- Apr 19 "Jesus walks with us daily. A practical suggestion for recognizing Him more often"
- Apr 26 "The part about our Good Shepherd that brings comfort- It's not what you think!"

Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Living Word has the option of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account . If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.



Portals of Prayer.

April—June issue

Are in Mailboxes and on the Table by the Door

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Thot for a day: All my heroes got arrested: John, Paul, Peter, Silas, Joseph, Jesus...

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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.



Membership Class...

Pastor is planning a Membership Class in May

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 (May 28th)
- Saturday morning: 9:30 - noon (May 16th or 30th)



LWML Meeting & Women's Study:

Wednesday, May 13, at 10:00 a.m. at church.

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...

TOP 4 CADDIE COMMENTS

4. Golfer: "I'd move heaven and earth to break 100 on this course."
Caddie: "Try heaven, you've already moved most of the earth."
3. Golfer: "Do you think I can get there with a 5 iron?"
Caddie: "Eventually."
2. Golfer: "You've got to be the worst caddie in the world."
Caddie: "I don't think so sir. That would be too much of a coincidence."
1. Golfer: "How do you like my game?"
Caddie: "Very good sir, but personally, I prefer golf."

+++

Someone in our neighborhood put a huge sofa out by the curb for trash collection.

Since it was in good shape, many motorists slowed down for a look. But when they saw how enormous it was, they'd leave.

Eventually a compact car pulled up, and two men got out. "This I've got to see," I thought.

They removed the cushions, turned the sofa upside down, and shook it hard.

Then they picked up all the coins that tumbled out and drove off.

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(See Matthew 14:14-21)

03-13-2009

YES I COULD MAKE FIVE THOUSAND OF THOSE,
BUT A FEW FISH AND SOME BREAD MIGHT BE A
BETTER OPTION

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That for a day: Who are Shirley Goodness and Mercy that keep following me?

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

Read the Insights of a Forgiven Betrayer

Peter was humbled by his sin of daiming he didn't know Jesus. But Jesus died to forgive even that betrayal - and not only did He forgive Peter, but Jesus also gave him an assignment to "Feed My sheep." The books of 1 Peter and 2 Peter are ways that God continues to feed us "wandering sheep" through Peter.

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



created by M. B. Page

First Communion...

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



Took their First Communion during the Maundy Thursday service.

April 2nd @ 6:30

Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Book of Revelation
Sundays @ 9:00—May 3rd, 10th & 17th
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, May 13th, at 10:00 a.m.
at church. All women are invited!

Bible Study: "Out Of Sight But Not Out of Mind".

It is easy to feel the unity of the Body of Christ when we worship together. However, in this bible study we will look at how to encourage unity when some members are isolated (due to illness, caregiving, etc), and unable to attend services.

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!



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That for a day: Pick battles big enough to matter, yet small enough to win.

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Living Word's 2026 Goals Update...

- Continue the Make A Meal program.
We made more meals on March 7th
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper
May 12th—Birthday Lunch
May 17th—Bowling
May 21st—Fellowship Supper
- Continue the Birthday Card/Anniversary ministry
Ongoing
- Challenge every member to bring a guest this year
Pray about who you can invite to join you for any of our May 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 we match pray-ers with young people
- 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
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...

NOT TOO EARLY; NEVER TOO LATE!

By Dr. Michael A. Halleen

"Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years."
(Genesis 18:11)

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young." (1 Timothy 4:12)

Age isn't related to important achievements. Maturity, yes. Attitude, absolutely. Skill and intelligence, of course. But not age.

Benjamin Franklin, already a successful publisher, inventor, diplomat and signer of the Declaration of Independence, led the convention that drafted the Constitution of the United States. He was eighty-four. A few years earlier, about the time Franklin was signing the Declaration, Mozart was living in Salzburg, having just completed all five of his violin concertos, each one a masterpiece. He was twenty. Age had no bearing on that summer of significant moments.

Some time ago I interviewed a young man seeking a job. At nineteen he lacked spirit, the fire within—if there had ever been one—just an ember. The same day I spoke to a new friend, age eighty-seven, whose voice was alive, eyes shining, energy directed toward what was next. Age is irrelevant. Attitude is everything. Trying, not giving up, caring enough to use the resources we've been given—these are the things that matter.

So William Gladstone at eighty-five was prime minister of England and the world's leading statesman. At seventeen Elizabeth Barrett (Browning) published a volume of serious poetry. Galileo was dictating records of his latest discoveries about the rotation of planets (and hiding them in his mattress in order to avoid punishment as a heretic) when he was seventy-eight. Michelangelo began painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in his early thirties. Insight, determination and genius are not limited by age.

Martin Luther was thirty-four when he walked to the door of the castle church in Wittenburg, Germany and posted there the ideas for change he wanted to debate with Church leaders. Abraham, founder of the Hebrew nation at the age of one hundred, might have smiled at how one so young could do something so important while Timothy, at twenty-six the leader of one of the largest Christian churches of the first century, might have wondered what had taken Martin so long.

Beethoven had composed a prodigious quantity of music by the time of

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That for a day: I finally know why they call me a grown up. I groan every time I get up.

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his death at fifty-six, while Grandma Moses, the famous 20th century folk artist, didn't take up painting until she was seventy-five. Golf prodigy Michelle Wie turned professional at fifteen, the same summer as my father-in-law, age ninety, made his first hole-in-one.

We're not too young to do something significant. And we're never too old.

Checkout Mike's book "You Are Rich: Discovering Faith in Everyday Moments": <https://a.co/d/03wWqLWL> (Amazon info)

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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!



Confirmation News...

- Back to our regular schedule of classes at 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays.



Sunday School News...

May 17th is the last day of Sunday School for this season.

Back again when school starts in the Fall.

"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>

Building Committee Update...

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

Money in CDs and Building Account: \$260,000

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

The BUILDING TEAM sent out a letter with an update on their planning progress and how you can help.

They will meet with an architect about specific design plans this month.

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



Communion Notes...

Note the Communion date changes for May only:
The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in May on the Second and Fourth Sundays (May 10th & May 24th).



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...

Isaac, Brekkyn, Maya and Catherine on your First Communion, April 2
Please email pastor@livingwordlutheran.net if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

That for a day: If things get better with age, then I must be getting close to absolute perfection.



April 2026 Impact Report

BE THE LIGHT
BE THE LINK
John 1:9



THE LINK APPAREL IS OFFICIALLY FOR SALE!!!!

WEAR THE MISSION. SHARE THE HOPE
A SMALL PURCHASE THAT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

When you wear this shirt, you're doing more than showing support-you're helping connect families in the community to food, resources, and hope.

\$20/ea
Sz: XS-5XL

CALLED TO SERVE. DESIGNED TO GIVE BACK

SAVE THE DATE:



JUNE 6,
2026

2PM-5PM

TICKETS SALES START MAY 1ST
AT THE LINK & ONLINE & WILL BE
AVAILABLE THE DAY OF THE EVENT!

SILENT AUCTION - RAFFLE DRAWING-LIVE MUSIC
DELICIOUS RIBS & PIE

RIB TEAMS NEEDED!

If you enjoy smoking ribs, grab your friends and smoke them for a cause at The Link's biggest fundraiser of the year!

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

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 \$305,000! 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

219

families served in the Food Pantry

14,348

pounds of food distributed

167

students currently enrolled from the NL-S Schools to receive food for the weekend.

382

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

62

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

18

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:

- 1st Tuesday: Our Lady of the Lakes
- 2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant
- 3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran
- 4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran
- 5th 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:

The Link will soon have "Link" apparel for sale at Community Revival!! Please stay tuned for more fun ways to support The Link's mission!

The 2025 annual report is off to the printers and will be mailed out as soon as they arrive!

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

To purchase your tee, to register a rib team, for more info on The Link or to donate, scan the QR code and visit us online!



May 2026 - Daily Readings

We read the **New Testament Letters written by a forgiven betrayer (Peter)**.
Pastor records the readings (along with devotions based on the readings).
To receive these audio recordings daily, just email him: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net
NOTE: Email or text Pastor with questions you have on something you read.

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

- Apr 27 1 Peter 1:13-16 _____

- Apr 28 1 Peter 1:17-21 _____

- Apr 29 1 Peter 1:22-25 _____

- Apr 30 1 Peter 2:1-3 _____

- May 1 1 Peter 2:4-10 _____

WEEK OF MAY 3 - Lessons from a forgiven betrayer (1 Peter)

- May 4 1 Peter 2:11-12 _____

- May 5 1 Peter 2:13-25 _____

- May 6 1 Peter 3:1-7 _____

- May 7 1 Peter 3:8-12 _____

- May 8 1 Peter 3:13-17 _____

WEEK OF MAY 10 - Lessons from a forgiven betrayer (1 Peter)

- May 11 1 Peter 3:18-22 _____

- May 12 1 Peter 4:1-6 _____

- May 13 1 Peter 4:7-11 _____

- May 14 1 Peter 4:12-19 _____

- May 15 1 Peter 5:1-6 _____

WEEK OF MAY 17 - Lessons from a forgiven betrayer (1 & 8=2 Peter)

- May 18 1 Peter 5:7 _____

- May 19 1 Peter 5:8-11 _____

- May 20 1 Peter 5:12-14 _____

- May 21 2 Peter 1:1-2 _____

- May 22 2 Peter 1:3-4 _____

WEEK OF MAY 24 - Lessons from a forgiven betrayer (2 Peter)

- May 25 2 Peter 1:5-11 _____

- May 26 2 Peter 1:12-15 _____

- May 27 2 Peter 1:16-21 _____





- May 28 2 Peter 2:1-3a _____

- May 29 2 Peter 2:3b-9 _____

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

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

May 2026 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------|---|--|--|---|-----------|
| Apr 26 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP | Apr 27 | Apr 28 5:30 -BLDG COMMITTEE 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY | Apr 29 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 7:00 - YOUTH SERVANT EVENT | Apr 30 | 1  | 2 |
| 3 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP | 4 | 5  6:30 - TRAP SHOOTING | 6 6:00 - CONFIRMATION | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday May 10th Sunday, May 24th </div> | | | | | | |
| 10 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 -WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP | 11 | 12 11:00 Celebrate MAY BIRTHDAYS @ El Meson - Willmar 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY | 13 10:00 - LWML and WOMEN'S STUIDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION | 14  5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM | 15 | 16 |
| 17 GRADUATE BLESSING 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP 3:00- BOWLING @ ALLEY on ASH | 18 | 19 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY | 20 6:00 - CONFIRMATION | 21  6:00 FELLOWSHIP OUTING @ Greenwald Pub | 22 | 23 |
| 24 / 31 9:00 - WORSHIP w/communion (24 th not 31 st) 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP | 25 | 26 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY | 27 6:00 - CONFIRMATION | 28 | 29 | 30 |

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

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| May 3 | Jim & Torasie Larson |
| May 10 | Wendy & Lonny Robbin |
| May 17 | Jason & Levi Miller |
| May 24 | Pam Johnson & Linda Van Meter |
| May 31 | Larry Levin Gerry Butler |

USHERS NEEDED

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

Elders

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| May 3, 10 | Duane & Dan |
| May 17, 24, 31 | Steve & Kevin |

Custodian

| | |
|------|-----------------------|
| May | Bonnie & Duane Harsen |
| June | Lonnie Robbin |

Altar Guild

| | |
|-----|-------------|
| May | Mona Hjelle |
|-----|-------------|

Accompanying Musicians

| | |
|--------|---------------|
| May 3 | Sharon Willen |
| May 10 | Scott Wachter |
| May 17 | Sharon Willen |
| May 24 | Sharon Willen |
| May 31 | Scott Wachter |



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That for a day: If you're going o believe everything you read... start with the Bible!

Opportunities to Serve...

Custodian Volunteers Needed.

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

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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...

**We Celebrate Easter
52 Times a Year**

**Please Join Us
ANY Easter Sunday**

May Discipleship Verse...

"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

Revelation 5:13

Around the Community...



May 4, 5, & 6, 2026
8:15-11:30am

Faith Lutheran - Spicer, MN

OWL CAMP



SABBATH

OWL CAMP 2026

Calling all Older Wiser Learners for our third annual OWL Camp here at Faith Lutheran Church! The theme this year is "Sabbath".

Registration is open to all adults (not just Faith members), - help us spread the word & invite others to join you!

OWL (Older Wiser Learners) Camp sample schedule:


| | |
|---------|--|
| 8:15am | Registration |
| 8:30am | Continental breakfast and fellowship |
| 9:00am | Music |
| 9:30am | Sabbath Study led by the Pastors |
| 10:30am | Choice Time - (choice of activities: art, music, St. John's Bible, birding, culinary arts & more!) |
| 11:20am | Closing Worship |

**A free will offering will be taken each day to help cover costs.

REGISTER AT FAITHSPICER.ORG,
SCAN THE QR CODE, OR BY CALLING
THE FAITH OFFICE AT 320-796-2522.

REGISTER FOR
OWL CAMP HERE!





Olivia's House of Hope's "10th Annual Decades of Hope Banquet" (tickets on sale now)

Friday, May 8th 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Max's Grill - 2425 W. Lincoln Ave, Olivia, MN
\$45 each or table of 8 for \$360, at the door 55
<http://www.oliviahouseofhope.org>
All proceeds benefit Olivia's House of Hope

Thot for a day: Jesus' death certificate became my birth certificate.

QUESTIONS?
CALL
320-441-2250



GARAGE SALE

We are accepting donations from May 26 through June 1 from 9am to 5pm at Crew Company, 1500 E Hwy 12, Willmar



Garage Sale is June 4, 5, 6

Please help us fundraise by donating your gently used clothes, household items, furniture etc.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TOUCH LIVES FOR CHRIST!!

Free Mentor Workshop
Wednesday May 20, 12-1:30pm
at ATLAS office
1210 Lakeland Dr SE, Suite 4, Willmar

If one falls down, his friend can help him up, but pity the man that falls down and has no one to help him up.
- Ecclesiastes 4:10



ATLAS
OF WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Memorial Day...

Memorial Day is May 25th this year. Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, was instituted to honor Union soldiers who died in the Civil War. After World War I, the purpose of the day was expanded to include all men and women who died in U.S. military service. Today, Memorial Day is often thought of as the unofficial start of summer—a long weekend with a car race, playoff basketball, and brats and burgers on the grill.

For Christians, Memorial Day is a time to honor fallen military members, reflecting on themes of sacrificial love, service, and gratitude that mirror the teachings of Jesus Christ. It encourages remembering the ultimate sacrifice of soldiers, often linking this to the Christian concept of laying down one's life for others, similar to John 15:13.

- **Scriptural Parallels:** While Memorial Day is not a biblical holiday, it aligns with biblical concepts of remembrance and honoring those who have died.
- **Theological Reflection:** It is viewed as an opportunity to set eyes on "unseen" spiritual realities, reflecting on sacrifice and ultimate peace
- **Military Virtues:** Christian organizations note that military service can model Christian virtues like courage, endurance, and self-sacrifice, echoing the concept of a "soldier of Christ".
- **A Time for Gratitude:** Many Christians use this day to express gratitude for freedoms and to pray for peace.



Remembering is a big deal to God. The number of times He told the Israelites to remember should have been more than sufficient to keep them from falling into sin and worshiping other gods. When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, He said to "Do this in remembrance of Me." We are forgetful people for sure. Without reminders, we simply drift and repeat the mistakes of others or even ones we've made ourselves.

Memorial Day encourages Christians to balance national gratitude with the spiritual hope of resurrection and eternal life. We can use Memorial Day as an awesome opportunity to do what God reminded us to do over and over again: Remember! So much honor is due to those who have laid down their lives and I believe it honors God to honor each other.

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That for a day: I finally lost my mind. If found, do not bother to return it. It wasn't working anyway.

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The *Free to be Faithful*® newsletter offers updates on religious liberty issues that impact the rights of Christians to live faithfully.

In the Spring 2026 issue, read about:

- An update on the court case against Dr. Päivi Räsänen and Bishop Rev. Dr. Juhana Pohjola of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland. On March 26, the Supreme Court of Finland handed down a shocking ruling that found the two Lutherans guilty of hate speech for a 2004 pamphlet on Christian teachings.
- A column by editor Rev. Jonathan Lange about the difference between "politics" and "pre-politics."
- An article about a detransitioner in New York who sued her former psychologist and plastic surgeon for malpractice and won — the first win of its kind in the U.S.
- An update on a legal effort to reinstate a Ten Commandments monument on statehouse grounds in Indianapolis.

Read the newsletter at <https://files.lams.org/file/preview/free-to-be-faithful-newsletter-spring-2026>

April Fellowship Supper @ The Spot in Belgrade



A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

Are you struggling with being supportive ?

What does it mean to be supportive? Is it validating your spouse's thoughts and feelings? Is it encouraging them to pursue their dreams and cheering them on along the way? Is it being someone they can lean on, both physically and emotionally? Yes, it's probably a bit of all these things.

But here's a bit of a reality check: It often isn't about the big gestures and loud cheering that everyone else notices. It's not just doling out uplifting comments and a pat on the back as you roll along doing your own thing. Being a truly supportive spouse can look and feel different than you might expect, and that can be difficult to navigate. If you're struggling in this role, here are some mind-set shifts to make.

Constant complaining → This is hard, but it is meaningful to your marriage.

Let's say your spouse has had to focus on some family issues. That means they have not had as much capacity to do all of the things they usually do at home, and you've had to pick up the slack. It's been a stressful and difficult time for everyone. Do you complain to your spouse about how much has been added to your plate? Do you vent to friends about not having as much time to yourself? While these things might be true, constantly complaining about how the situation negatively impacts your own reality isn't very helpful. In fact, this pessimistic perspective just might make things worse for everyone. You can acknowledge the fact that this is not easy. But there's more to that story. Holding down the fort is hard, and what you're helping your spouse carry is so much bigger than just extra chores and responsibilities. You're building resilience and showing commitment, and if you have kids, you're modeling those things for them as well.

Guilt tripping → It's a privilege to be able to support my spouse through this.

Imagine your spouse just got the career opportunity of a lifetime. They'll get to do more of what they love, earn more money, and have more flexibility. The only downside? You have to move across the state. Although your own remote job isn't affected and you know this is the best next step, you're sad to move away from friends, family, and the sense of familiarity. How do you handle it? It may be tempting to make passive-aggressive comments about having to leave every-



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That for a day: If you live for other people's acceptance, you will die from their rejection.

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thing you know and love. You might lament the fact that the kids will be further away from their grandparents – will those relationships suffer? Even if it's not your intention, these types of comments can undermine what should be a positive time for your spouse, causing them to question or feel guilty about the choice they've made. Instead of getting sucked into the negative, shift to a lens of gratitude. You get to be the steady rock for your spouse during this big, exciting change – how lucky you are! Understanding the meaningful role you have in your spouse's life reminds you what a privilege it is to be the one to lift them up.

Keeping score → We're on the same team.

Suppose your spouse suffers a serious leg injury, and they need surgery. Recovery may take months. During this period, they'll obviously need physical assistance from you, plus you'll have to take on many of their typical responsibilities around the house and with the kids. If you're in the mindset of keeping score, you're probably making mental notes of all the extra tasks you're doing for your spouse. You're thinking, "Okay, I'm doing XYZ for them, so they owe me." The problem with this perspective is it's based on the idea that you and your spouse are competing. When you find yourself falling into this mindset, remind yourself that you're on the same team. When you're teammates, you both have the same objectives, and you work together to reach them. It's not about tit for tat or making sure everything is perfectly split 50/50. You don't do it for recognition or glory. It's about being able to lean on each other when necessary, no strings attached and nothing expected in return.

Being a supportive spouse isn't about making yourself look good or getting rewarded in some way. It's often found in the quiet willingness to adapt and show up consistently for your spouse – even when it's inconvenient. Making these small mindset shifts can help you be the steady, reliable partner your spouse needs most.

Apostle Paul's Letter Template...



1. Greetings
2. Grace be with you.
3. I thank God for you.
4. Hold fast to the Gospel
5. Stop being stupid.
6. Timothy says hi.

~ Paul

Prayer D-Fence...

Last Call to 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

We will be matching up pray-ers with young people this month!



GOD'S DE-FENCE...

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That for a day: We know we're over 50 when we have upstairs and downstairs aspirin/Tylenol.

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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Prayer...



Remember to use "The Prayer Force"

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

And an Invitation to Join our "Prayer Force"

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

Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

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

Remember to take a time-out to PRAY for things like...

- Thanking God for Jesus' death and resurrection!
- Thanking God for 1st communion for Isaac Ashburn, Brekkyn Raddatz, Maya Wachter and Catherine Wright
- Thanking God for moms.
- Thanking God for Sunday School
- Thanking God for all who gave their lives serving our country.
- Asking God for healing for all who have lost loved ones.
- Asking God for good weather for the planting / growing season.
- Asking God to raise up volunteers for our Prayer D-Fence program
- 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 April

- I think "Is It Alright If I'm Not Okay" from Stephen McWhirter will be a bit hit... <https://youtu.be/MQkTMiLT9K0>
- We The Kingdom has a new song, "God's Way" ... <https://youtu.be/WZ3CLA2Cn0Y>
- Rend Collective and Jervis Campbell released "Do It All Alone" ... <https://youtu.be/5pUpVaSO3to>
- David Leonard has a new song called "Time" ... https://youtu.be/h_A9nV2r3X8
- I really like the new song from Tyler Booth & Jamey Johnson "Clean Dirt" ... <https://youtu.be/rKI60n5QTkw>
- "You Lead Me" is a great new song from Lauren Daigle... <https://youtu.be/5xwQFix5Er8>
- We Are Messengers just released a new song, "Halfway Home" ... <https://youtu.be/JUvBeuc0Pug>
- "The Jesus I Know Now" is a new collaboration from Brandon Lake and Lainey Wilson... <https://youtu.be/zU4Raj8fBc>
- "Whole Wide World" was just released by Consumed By Fire... <https://youtu.be/HzFqXELFmes>
- "Give Him Praise" is a great new song by Building 429... <https://youtu.be/XJK42sOWPMA>
- The Afters have a new song, "New Life, New Day" ... https://youtu.be/ezas1i_AS3c
- How can you not like a band named Stomp Town Revival? Here is "Keep Me" ... <https://youtu.be/T8FplEaL-S8>
- Cochren & Co has a great new song, "Runs In The Blood" ... <https://youtu.be/2znliv9Pz-M>
- "Meet Me In The Valley" is new from Tasha Layton and Ben Fuller... <https://youtu.be/TyHW3GscO7A>
- Lee Brice released a new song I really like, called "When The Kingdom Comes" ... <https://youtu.be/KfAlpRGGkjg>
- "Well Water" is a new release from Micah Christopher... <https://youtu.be/pitK-rcfT98>
- A new release from Pat Barrett "The Wrestle" ... <https://youtu.be/qt4eGvM5qzI>

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That for a day: I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.

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- "All We Can Do Is Pray" is from new artist, Haley Jones... https://youtu.be/p_OvpizZsjk
- "Joy Remains" is from another new artist, Naomi Faith... <https://youtu.be/-DHvCnvXv2A>
- "God You Are" is a great new song from Madison Watkins... <https://youtu.be/vVufA9H-HnM>
- Terrian has a new release, "You Remain" ... <https://youtu.be/5YT7PfnOkOw>
- Peter Burton's latest song is "So Long" ... <https://youtu.be/Mk7fDb-CQnQ>
- Lost & Found has a new song based on Psalm 33, "Stand Against" ... <https://youtu.be/n1zN0U2sxCI>
- "When I Saw The Light" is new from Tyler Philip Ratcliffe... <https://youtu.be/imvYud01dMU>
- "Stomp" is a powerful statement of faith from Michael Ketterer... <https://youtu.be/87yWkew6NGM>
- Samuel Day has a new song called "You Were Always Good" ... <https://youtu.be/3DEI6DSESdI>
- Not really a Christian artist, but Blake Shelton's new song "Let Him In Anyway" is really about sharing our faith... https://youtu.be/K0aRuR_bA4k
- The latest from CeCe Winans is "We Pray" ... <https://youtu.be/gQiF0wx3TOo>

Story Behind The Song...

"Count your blessings." It's an expression most of us know well. It was made famous by a great old hymn that you may not know if you're younger.

Johnson Oatman, Jr. grew up in New Jersey in the middle of the 19th Century singing hymns with his father. His life is a testimony to the legacy left by a loving Father who sings praise to God with his children.

Eventually, he discovered that instead of trying to sing these hymns with the same power that his dad could, he would rather write hymns, and he had a particular knack for it. He ended up writing over 5,000 hymns. In fact, in a hymnal in 1914, the editor wrote that no hymnal is complete unless it has one or two of his hymns in it.

Johnson grew up to become a bi-vocational Methodist minister and

he wrote over 5,000 hymns, including "Count Your Blessings" in 1897. "Count Your Blessings" is considered his finest hymn and for over one century it has been one of our most loved hymns. It's a song of thankfulness to God.

One writer said about "Count Your Blessings," "It is like a beam of sunlight that has brightened up the dark places of the earth." Early on it was especially popular in Great Britain, where it was said, "The men sing it, the boys whistle it, and the women rock their babies to sleep on this hymn." During the revival in Wales it was one of the hymns sung at every service.

One day, in 1902, the famous evangelist Gypsy Smith was visiting an infirmary for children. He relates his experience in his autobiography:

At the request of...my host, I visited the infirmary. Most of the patients had been carried out on to the lawn for a sun bath. I spoke a few words to them, and then Mr. Penny said: "Before Mr. Smith goes, won't you sing something for him?" "Yes, sir," said a little girl.

"What will you sing?" said he. "Count your blessings," was the reply.

Immediately I was deeply touched and impressed. Here was I in full enjoyment of health and of many priceless benefits of God, yet I had never counted my blessings. It had never occurred to me so to do. I felt sure that thousands of others had been guilty of the same omission.

Many of us, alas! are never so happy as when we are talking about our miseries. The sweet song fastened itself upon my heart and soul. I sing it at my meetings very frequently...Wherever one might go in the streets, in the trams, in the trains someone was humming or whistling or singing, 'Count your Blessings.'

When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Refrain:

Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,

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That for a day: They say an elephant never forgets -- but how much does an elephant really have to remember?

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And you will keep singing as the days go by.

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings—money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

So, amid the conflict whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

Here is the classic version performed by Guy Penrod...

<https://youtu.be/FZECFg4BvRQ>

This is an AI creation, but I really like this gospel reggae sound...

<https://youtu.be/9Jq3ltw7fLk>

BONUS "BLESSINGS" SONG: "Counting My Blessings" by Seph Schlueter... <https://youtu.be/Er5XPKdpgHQ>

A new tradition before offering...

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

now the ushers will pass out a POP QUIZ

to check if
y'all been
listening
or not.



In response to the sleepy gazes of his people
Preacher Smitkins issued a sermon POP QUIZ

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