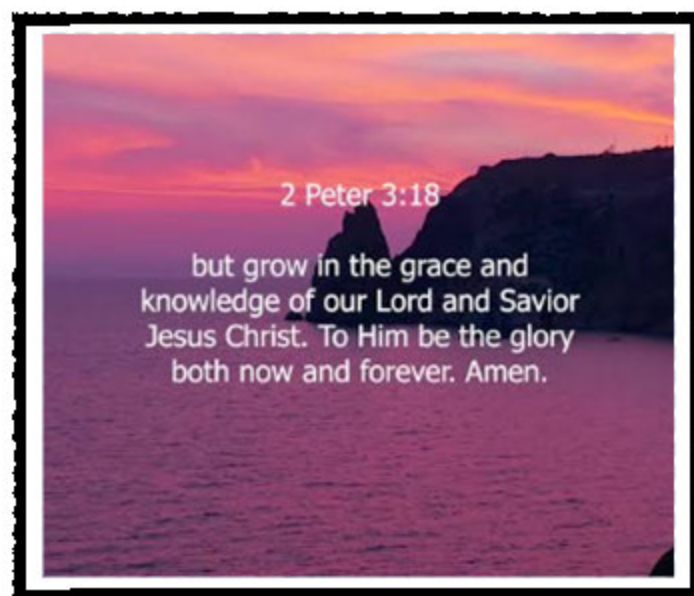




September 2026 Newsletter

"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

~Hours—starting September 13th~

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...

"Have churches fallen into the same trap as the Pharisees?"

This question came during a recent Men's Study after we read this passage from the Gospel of Mark:

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?"

He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

"These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules."

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."

And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!"

The question came from one of the guys who grew up Roman Catholic, and he was referring primarily to some of their teachings like clergy celibacy and purgatory.

The short answer is a simple, "Yes." None of those teachings have any basis in the Scripture, but are simply human rules or traditions.

The slightly longer answer is "Yes, and pretty much every church falls into that same trap of elevating human traditions above God's teaching - to the point where everyone thinks the traditions are actually from God."

The Church Year and the various seasons of it are a good example. The Church Year is a good thing, and it is designed to make sure we



Page 3

remember to celebrate things God has done for us. Like coming to Earth (the Christmas season), dying to take punishment for our sins (Lent), rising from the dead (Easter.)

But celebrating Christmas on December 25, for example, is a human tradition. The Bible is silent as to the actual day - or month - Jesus was born. But can you imagine the uproar (very mild word) that would happen if we were to go against that tradition and celebrate Jesus' birth in March, for example!

Or what if we decided to make Lent 20 days long instead of 40? There's no command in the Bible to have a 40-day time of reflection and fasting prior to celebrating Jesus' resurrection. But Lent is a tradition that has been going on so long, I would guess that most people have the idea God commanded it. He didn't.

Traditions can be helpful, but we can't let them be elevated to the level of Scripture. They were created to help us, not to rule over us.

With all of that in mind, this Rally Sunday will be the day we retire the "Sunflower Sermon" tradition - a tradition that has been in place for at least the last 25 years. I'd invite you to come September 13 to hear, one final time, how God has used a unique crop of sunflowers to remind us how to grow closer to His Son.

Please don't hesitate to keep asking questions whenever they come up.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Fall/Winter/Spring Worship Time:

10:00 a.m.

Resumes Rally Sunday,
September 13

(9:00 a.m. Worship ends September 6)



Mark Your Calendar...

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, September 10th @ 6:30 p.m.

Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT



Page 4

September Fellowship Outings...

Celebrate Birthdays:

Tuesday, September 8th @ 11:00 a.m.
Coop's Corner
Belgrade, MN

Fellowship Supper:

Thursday, September 17th @ 6:00
At Sportsman's Club
Lake Henry, MN

Fellowship Outing:

Rustic Gardens
Sunday, September 20th
Leave church at 11:30
<https://tinyurl.com/bdeshs3f>



New Member Class...



Membership Class is scheduled

Thursday evening, September 24 @ 6:00 p.m.

Please let Pastor know if you're interested in finding out more about Living Word but that date/time doesn't work.

Trap Shooting Fellowship 2026...



Last shoot of the season:

Tuesday, September 8th @ 6:30

That for a day: An apology is the best way to have the last word.

Page 5

Who Can You Invite?...

...to Rally Sunday (Sept 13) ?

- Talk to God about them.
- Then talk to them about joining you.

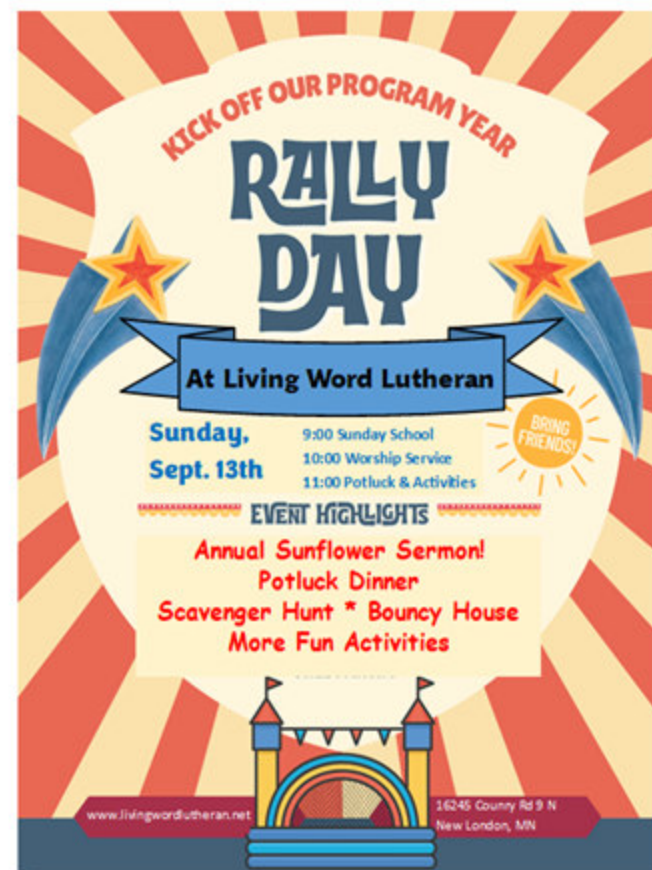
(Make sure to tell them you can pick them up!)

And don't forget, worship goes back to 10:00 that day.

... to any of Our Upcoming Outings:

- See previous page #4

Sunday School News...



Opportunities for Growth...



Sunday Morning Bible Study

Returns at 9:00 on Rally Sunday, Sept 13th
Please join us for coffee and God's Word!



Men's Study

"The Gospel of Mark"

6:30 p.m.

Each Tuesday, Starting September 15th
(Join us for pre-study meal at 6:15)



Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Wednesday, September 9th @ 10:00
All women are invited!

Confirmation News...

Our 6th and 7th graders will be studying the Basics of Christianity this year.



Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up: Wednesday, Sept 9
(For parents and students. We leave church at 6:00)

Classes begin Wednesday, September 16 @ 6:00



Living Word will be hosting Tuesday's Table on Tuesday, September 29th (a fifth Tuesday).

We will need food for approximately 100 people. We will also need help for Tuesday afternoon set up and serving on Tuesday evening as well.

If you are interesting in helping in any way, please contact Tammy Miller at 320-05-2434. Thanks.

Altar Guild...

Anyone Interested in Helping with Altar Guild ???

Please talk to Mona Hjelle to get more info. Thanks!



Page 6

That for a day: Want to know what worry really is? A waste of time.

Page 7

Living Word's 2026 Goals Update...

- Continue the Make A Meal program.
We made more meals on June 20th
- Continue the monthly Fellowship outings: Birthdays and Supper
September 8th—Birthdays
September 17th—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 Rally Sunday or any of our September Fellowship Outings
- Enlist Youth and Young Adults to help with our
"Visitors (and members) Coffee Cart"
- Initiate the "Prayer D-Fence" Program
(Adults "adopting" a kid to pray for, send cards etc....)
Prayers began in June praying for the young people they have been assigned
- Enlist younger members to help with the Building Project
Fall 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
- Continue growing our active Youth numbers
Youth Director needed
- Offer support and encouragement to the Parents of Youth
Ongoing
- Keep the church yard looking nice and maintain interior repairs
Ongoing
- Parking Lot maintenance
After the Building Project is complete
- Encourage participation in Sunday School
Sunday School starts Sept 13th



Miscellaneous Notes...

Food Pantry Reminder

Please remember to bring your donations for the Food Pantry on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Place them in the purple container by the door at church. Thank to everyone for donating!

Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

Here's just a sampling of what you'll find :

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

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



Recorded videos of Sermons

Sermons can be found in on our Living Word YouTube channel (New London Living Word) at <https://www.youtube.com/@newlondonlivingword8097/streams>



- Aug 2 - VBS Wrap: Why should the kids have all the fun?!
- Aug 9 - "Jesus shows the miraculous power of gratitude."
- Aug 16 - "God's grace is truly amazing, if . . ."
- Aug 23 - "A miracle God wants to do in your life."
- Aug 30 - "God created everything perfect. Sin messed it up. Thank God, that's not the end of the story!"

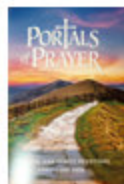
Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

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 office.



Portals of Prayer.

July—September issue
Are in Mailboxes and on the Table by the Door



Page 8

That for a day: An apple a day keeps a doctor away only if you throw it hard enough.

Page 9

Living Word Phone App...

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

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



Living Word Blog...

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

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

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



LWML News:

Next meeting on September 9th @ 10:00 a.m.

SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

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

E-mail Wisdom...

Wise Advice from Kids...

- "Medicine only works if it's cherry flavored." - Elissa, 9
- "Good food always comes with a toy." - Ryan, 6
- "Just because your dog drinks from the toilet, doesn't mean you should." - Joaquim, 7
- "Don't dry the dog in the microwave." - Brittany, 5
- "If mommy says no, then you should ask daddy." - Daniel, 7
- "You can't eat soup with a fork." - Mel, 4
- "Don't pick your nose when you're finger-painting." - Xiang, 8
- "Never ask mom when she's going to go on a diet." - Bob, 11

Received from Molly's Quotes of the Day.

Community Outreach...

Looking for . . .

+ Pie-bakers

+ Good Bargain-Grocery Shoppers

If you can help with either of these, or just want more information, please contact Community Outreach Director, Pam Johnson. Thanks!



Page 10

Thot for a day: At my age I have given up on health foods; I need all the preservatives I can get.

Page 11

Congregational Outreach...

August Birthdays @ Mariscos Y Tacos...



August Fellowship Supper @ Queen B's...



Join us for September fellowship events...
See page 4 of this newsletter for more info.

Labor Day...

Labor Day is not a Christian holiday. It is not on a Liturgical Calendar, but that doesn't mean it should be ignored this week.



Monday is more than just a long weekend marking the end of summer. It's a day that honors American workers' economic achievements. It is a tribute to the labor movement's fight for fair wages and reasonable working hours.

The roots of Labor Day take us back to the late 19th century, when workers in the United States faced grueling conditions, often working twelve-hour days and seven-day weeks. During this period, at the peak of the Industrial Revolution, the labor force began to unite for better treatment, leading to the establishment of Labor Day as a federal holiday in 1894.

As we enjoy the holiday, it's also an opportunity to reflect on the deeper meaning of work and rest, particularly through the lens of the gospel message.

In Scripture, work is presented as part of God's original design for humanity. It was a calling, a divine task given to humans to cultivate and care for the earth.

The notion that work is a fulfilling and God-ordained activity was polluted by the Fall, like everything else. It became not just a duty but also a punishment for sin — a toilsome endeavor.

However, the New Testament brings redemption to the concept of work with the introduction of Jesus, himself no stranger to labor.

Jesus learned a trade, honed a skill, and worked as a carpenter.

Through his life, we see that work is not merely a means to an end but a way in which we can participate in God's creative power.

We become co-creators with God, but this partnership with the divine is only possible through our engagement in work.

By tying these themes together, Labor Day becomes more than a holiday; it becomes a moment to contemplate our approach to work and rest. It challenges us to find balance, to see our labor as a way to contribute to God's creation, and to remember that rest is not only necessary for our well-being but also a spiritual practice that helps us to trust in God's ongoing care and provision.

Page 12

That for a day: A car's weakest part is the nut holding the steering wheel.

Page 13

Billy Graham once said, "But Labor Day, I believe, should also be a time when we ask God to help us see our work from His point of view. Let's be honest; work isn't always exciting, and when we focus only on its problems or spend our time wishing we were doing something else, we'll probably end up resentful, angry, or bored. But when we begin to see our work from God's point of view, our attitude will be much different. We'll begin to realize that God gave our work to us, and because of this it has dignity and importance."

Be encouraged. Work is no longer a curse. It is an opportunity to serve God and others.

© Randy Glasbergen / glasbergen.com



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

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

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

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

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



Update From The Link...

Help Us Fill Backpacks & Brighten Futures!

Back-to-school season is almost here, and for many families, it brings excitement... but also financial stress. Together, we can help ensure every child starts the school year with the supplies they need to learn, grow, and succeed!



IF SHOPPING ISN'T YOUR THING, YOU CAN ALSO DONATE MONETARILY BY:

- -CLICKING THE "DONATE" BUTTON ON OUR WEBSITE—
www.youarethelink.org
- -MAILING A CHECK TO PO BOX 823, NEW LONDON, MN 56273 AND PUT "SCHOOL SUPPLIES ON THE MEMO;
- -VIA VENMO @THE-LINK-1 AND PUT "SCHOOL SUPPLIES" IN THE COMMENTS

Thank you for helping us create a community where every child has the opportunity to start the school year ready to learn.

Page 14

That for a day: Life is like photography...we use the negatives to develop.

Page 15

Email Humor...

After parking my car in front of a restaurant, I picked up two scratch tickets at a nearby store to play while I enjoyed my food. Each ticket was a winner, and I popped back into the store to get two more tickets. This process was repeated four more times, until I was \$16 ahead.

After dinner, I was happily walking back to my car when I noticed something on the windshield: a parking ticket for \$16.

It was testimony night in the church. One lady got up and said, "We are living in a wicked land where sin is on every hand. I have had a terrible fight with the old devil all week."

Whereupon her husband, who was sitting glumly by her side, said, "It's not all my fault; she's tough to get along with!"

The minister of a church asked the secretary to put on the bulletin board his sermon topic for the following Sunday:

"Are Ministers Cracking Up?"

The secretary looked puzzled but did as she was told and put up the letters to announce:

"Our Minister's Cracking Up."

Building Committee Update...

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

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

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

The BUILDING TEAM met with an architect about specific design plans last month. They have approved the architect's revisions and are waiting the "okay" from the structural engineer.



September 2026 - Daily Readings

We continue our **Summer Reading: The Book of Acts** - a Manual for all believers.

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

To receive these audio recordings daily, just email him: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

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

WEEK OF SEPT 6 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

Sept 7 **Acts 14:1-7** _____

Sept 8 **Acts 14:8-20** _____

Sept 9 **Acts 14:21-28** _____

Sept 10 **Acts 15:1-4** _____

Sept 11 **Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs** _____

WEEK OF SEPT 13 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

Sept 14 **Acts 15:5-11** _____

Sept 15 **Acts 15:12-35** _____

Sept 16 **Acts 15:36-41** _____

Sept 17 **Acts 16:1-5** _____

Sept 18 **Acts 16:6-10** _____

WEEK OF SEPT 20 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

Sept 21 **Acts 16:11-15** _____

Sept 22 **Acts 16:16-34** _____

Sept 23 **Acts 16:35-40** _____

Sept 24 **Acts 17:1-9** _____

Sept 25 **Acts 17:10-15** _____

WEEK OF SEPT 27 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

Sept 28 **Acts 17:16-34** _____

Sept 29 **Acts 18:1-11** _____

Sept 30 **Acts 18:12-17** _____

Oct 1 **Acts 18:18-22** _____

Oct 2 **Acts 18:23-28** _____

WEEK OF OCT 4 - The Book of Acts - a Manual for All Believers in Jesus

Oct 5 **Acts 19:1-11** _____

Oct 6 **Acts 19:12-22** _____

Oct 7 **Acts 19:23-27** _____

Oct 8 **Acts 19:28-41** _____

Oct 9 **Acts 20:1-12** _____

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

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

September 2026 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 30 9:00 - WORSHIP 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	Aug 31	1 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	2 6:00 - CONFIRMATION PARENTS MEETING	3	4	5
6 9:00 - WORSHIP with Communion 10:15 - FELLOWSHIP	7 LABOR DAY 	8 11:00 - CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS - Coop's Corner 6:30 - TRAP SHOOTING	9 10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - ADOPT-A-HWY 	MISSION Ministry 10 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	11	12
13 RALLY SUNDAY 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - POTLUCK LUNCH 	14	15 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	16 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	17 6:00 FELLOWSHIP OUTING @ Lake Henry	18	19
20 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00- WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP 11:30 - RUSTIC FARMS OUTING	21	22 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	23 6:00 - CONFIRMATION TBD - PASTORAL-CALL COMMITTEE MEETS	24	25	26
27 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - FELLOWSHIP	28	29 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY	30 6:00 - CONFIRMATION	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3

Lord's Supper Dates
 • Sunday September 6th
 • Sunday, September 20th

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

Sept 6	Jim & Torasia Larson
Sept 13	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Sept 20	Larry Levin Gerry Butler
Sept 27	Pam Johnson & Linda Van Meter
Oct 4	(Ushers Needed)

USHERS NEEDED

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

Elders

Sept 6, 13	Scott & Duane
Sept 20, 27	Dan & Kevin

Custodian

Sept -	Jean Lungstrom & Meggie Ashburn
--------	---------------------------------

Altar Guild

September -	Mona Hjelle
-------------	-------------

Accompanying Musicians

Sept 6	Sharon Willen
Sept 13	Scott Wachter
Sept 20	OPEN
Sept 27	Scott Wachter



Opportunities to Serve...



Custodian Volunteers Needed.

Pick Your Month for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian. All months after Sept are available. Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to find out more details. Thanks to Jean Lungstrom and Meggie Ashburn for cleaning September

Page 20

Thot for a day: If the grass is greener on the other side, maybe there's more manure.

Page 21

Mission & Ministry Team...

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

- Vice Chair (OPEN)
- Stewardship - (OPEN)
- Elders: (ONE OPEN)
- Christian Growth - Youth (OPEN)

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!



Seen on Church Signboards...

Be a SON-flower:

**Face the SON
Follow the SON**

Make People Smile

September Discipleship Verse...

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

Email Wisdom...

IS YOUR HUT BURNING?

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened; everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger.

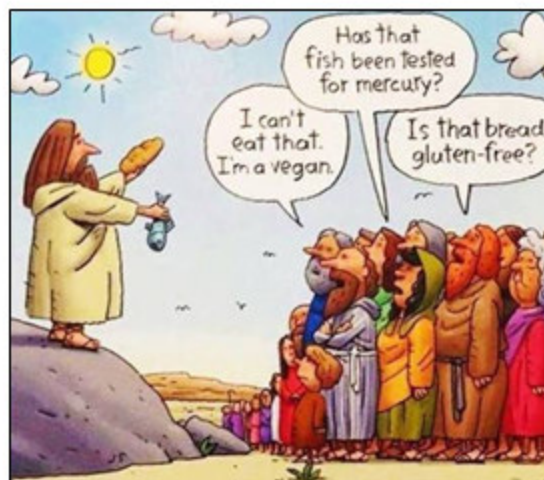
"God, how could you do this to me?!" he cried.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him.

"How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers.

"We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

Feeding the 5000 today..



"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-VvIJEU22yCYxbhwjg/featured>

Page 22

Thot for a day: Don't give up on your dreams; keep sleeping.

Page 23

23rd Psalm for the Student...

The Lord is my real instructor and I shall not want.

He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.

He gently reminds me to pray before I speak and to do all things without murmuring and complaining.

He reminds me that He is my Salvation and not my school.

He restores my sanity every day and guides my decisions that I might honor Him in everything I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of homework, quizzes, tests, unrealistic deadlines, shortages of funds, gossiping students, discriminating teachers, and a sleep-deprived body that doesn't cooperate every morning, I will not stop—for He is with me!

His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through.

He raises me up, even when they fail to give me good grades.

He claims me as His own, even when the class threatens to flunk me.

His faithfulness and love are better than any A+.

His eternal reward beats every degree there is.

When it's all said and done, I'll be working for Him a whole lot longer than I'll be in school (even when it doesn't feel like it) and for that, I bless His Name! Amen!

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 August we thanked God for...

- Antique Cars - That still run!
- God's Amazing Grace
- Teachers and Staff

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



Around the Community...

2ND ANNUAL
Men & Teen boys
HOG ROAST

Timberframe Ranch - New London, MN
Great food, Great fellowship, A Great God

**Saturday
September
19**

Hog Roast @ 6:00 pm
(Free Will Offering)

Scan here to register or call 320-354-2446 to register by September 5th

Optional Activities start earlier

- Pickleball
- Golf (addt'l cost)
- Trap Shooting (addt'l cost)

Guest Speaker - Dan Nelson, LPCC
will be speaking about men/dads helping teen boys become men.

Dan has over 30 years experience in clinical counseling. He is the current director at Sagent Behavioral Health in Willmar. Dan and his wife Julie have 4 kids and 5 grandchildren. Dan is the author of "The Missional Counselor"

616 270th Ave NW New London



2026 Walk to End Alzheimer's

Saturday, September 19th

Registration at 9 am, Ceremony at 10 am with walk immediately following Ceremony.

Where: Robbins Island Park, North Highway 71, Willmar

Route Length: .75 miles or 1.5 miles

Register, learn more and receive the latest updates on this year's Walk at <https://tinyurl.com/kk6p5tb8>

Page 24

Thot for a day: Don't play dumb with me ... I'm better at it!

Page 25

*ATLAS of West Central MN
invites you to our 10th annual*

Beauty From Ashes Banquet

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026
AT 5:30PM

WILLMAR CONFERENCE CENTER
240 23RD ST SE, WILLMAR

JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP, HOPE, AND CELEBRATION AT THE ATLAS ANNUAL BANQUET. ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL, HEAR POWERFUL TESTIMONIES OF LIVES TRANSFORMED THROUGH GOD'S LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS, AND CELEBRATE THE INCREDIBLE WAYS HE IS WORKING THROUGH ATLAS TO BRING HOPE, HEALING, AND RESTORATION TO OUR COMMUNITY. TOGETHER, WE'LL REFLECT ON WHAT GOD HAS DONE, SHARE THE VISION FOR WHAT'S AHEAD, AND DISCOVER HOW, THROUGH HIS GRACE, WE CAN CONTINUE MAKING AN ETERNAL IMPACT. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN TOUCHING LIVES FOR CHRIST, AND WE WOULD BE HONORED TO HAVE YOU JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENING.

SILENT AUCTION: 5:30 PM

DINNER & PROGRAM: 6:00 PM

TICKETS: \$40 PER PERSON

TABLE SPONSOR (8 GUESTS): \$300

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SEAT BY RETURNING THE ENCLOSED RSVP CARD WITH YOUR PAYMENT IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, OR CALL 320-441-2250 TO PAY BY PHONE. TOGETHER TOUCHING LIVES FOR CHRIST!

You are invited to an
ATLAS informational Meeting
September 16, 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



Around the Community...

Please Join Us For A Walk Down Memory Lane
'Vintage Wedding' Bazaar
 At Hope Lutheran in Sunburg
Sat., October 3rd - 10am-1pm
 BAKERY SHOPPE — LEFSE,
 SCANDINAVIAN GOODIES
 GARDEN PRODUCE
 JAMS, JELLIES, SALSA
 FREEZER MEALS
 CRAFTS, CARDS, NAPKINS
 BOOK SALE

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

LUNCHEON MENU
 2 kinds of soup,
 Ham & Turkey Sandwiches,
 Macaroni Salad
 Rommegrot,
 Variety of Pies

Quilt Raffle
 1 pm drawing
 (Winner need not
 be present)

From
 this day forward...



12718 - 110th Street NE, Spicer

Special Program & Events: seminars, exhibitors, artists, outdoor equipment, dog distance jumping, trap & sporting clays, 3D archery course, black powder shoot, shotgun patterning, special raffles, silent auction and more.

Free for kids: kids archery, BB gun shoot, environmental learning activities, climbing wall

Free Admission: adults urged to purchase \$10 in raffle tickets

Page 26

Thot for a day: My favorite childhood memory is having energy.

Page 27

Email Inspiration...

There once was a farmer who grew the most excellent wheat. Every season he won the award for the best wheat in the county.

A woman came to him to ask him about his secret to success. He told her that the key was sharing his best seed with his neighbors so they could plant the seed as well.

The woman asked, "Why would you share your best wheat seed with your neighbors when they compete with you every year?"

"That's simple," the farmer replied. "The wind spreads the pollen from everyone's crop and carries it from field to field."

"If my neighbors grew inferior wheat, cross-pollination would degrade everyone's wheat including mine. If I'm to grow the best wheat, I must help my neighbors grow the best wheat as well."

The woman realized that this was not only excellent advice for growing the best crops, but also great advice for how to live your life.

Remember: The value of your life is measured by the lives you touch with love, kindness, respect, and hope.

Copyright © Randy Glasbergen. www.glasbergen.com



"I wasn't always as religious as I am now. For years I thought the Ten Commandments were a doo-wop group from the 1950's!"

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)

How half-listening undermines your marriage

Your spouse is telling you about their day. There was a big announcement at work that the company is restructuring. You're listening – mostly. But your phone just dinged with a text from a friend you haven't heard from in months, and that pot is almost boiling over on the stove. You're trying to pay attention to what your spouse is saying – they seem a little stressed. But the reality – whether it's intentional or not – is that you're only half-listening.



What does it look like?

Chances are you don't set out to half-listen to your spouse. Sometimes it's simply a by-product of the distraction-filled world we live in. After all, multi-tasking is a skill most people lean on to maximize their productivity on any given day. Other times, you might be spent after a long day; your focus simply isn't there. You're running on auto-pilot or lost in your own thoughts. Maybe you've gotten sucked into scrolling, even when you know you should be paying attention. Perhaps you're mentally crafting your reply to what they're saying instead of actively listening. You're nodding along, inserting an occasional "uh-huh" or "oh, really?" You're getting the gist of what they're saying. That counts, right? You're not intentionally half-listening, you're just human.

What's the harm?

If we're being honest, it's unrealistic to think that you'll be able to give your full, undivided attention to every word your spouse says every time they speak. However, falling into the habit of half-listening is slippery slope that can undermine your connection. For example, you might hear your spouse's words, but are you sensing the emotions behind them? Are you failing to pick up on the body language clues that paint a bigger picture? Are you missing out on key moments to ask questions and learn more? These are all invaluable opportunities to tune into your spouse on a deeper level. Half-listening squanders the chance to boost your emotional intimacy through every day conversations.

Over time, half-listening also erodes the quality of your communication. Your spouse might stop sharing what's on their mind or the depth at which they do so, all because they sense you're not paying full attention. Maybe they abbreviate their side of the conversation,

Page 28

Thot for a day: Sign in a restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry, come in and get fed up."

Page 29

feeling a sense of "what's the point?" You may unwittingly find yourself reciprocating this halted style of communication, sending negative ripples throughout all areas of your relationship. The most damaging end result? You both feel unheard even in each other's presence. You each hold back while making assumptions about the other's thoughts and feelings – a breeding ground for resentment.

What can you do about it?

First off, take a breath. If you think you might be half-listening more often than you'd like to admit, you can correct your course:

- **Recognize it.** If you find yourself nodding without eye contact, needing your spouse to repeat themselves, jumping in with a fix before they finished explaining the problem, etc., these are good signs you're only half-listening.
- **Own it.** Politely interject and take responsibility for not fully listening when you should have been. Refocus your head and heart on what your spouse is saying.
- **Correct it.** Get back to basics by practicing active listening and reflecting back what they've shared.

In a world full of distractions, truly listening to your spouse is one of the most basic – yet meaningful – things you can do. When you put down the phone, tune out the noise, and tune into each other, you'll find it has a profound impact on your connection. And that kind of intentional presence makes all the difference in keeping your marriage strong.

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in Sept on the first and third Sundays (Sept 6th & 20th)



Reminders:

- Wine - is in the two outer rings of the individual-cup tray
Grape Juice - is in the inner ring of the individual-cup tray
- **Gluten-free bread wafers are available** for those who have gluten-sensitive conditions. You will find these wafers in a separate cup in the communion tray.
- Those who are not comfortable coming to the altar should inform an Elder or Usher, and communion will be brought to you in your pew.



Prayer D-Fence...

The Prayer D-Fence is Up!

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

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

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

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

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



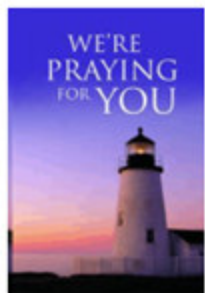
GOD'S DE-FENCE...

We Prayed for You...

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

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

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



After-Worship Prayer Ministry



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

Also, we're always looking for a few more people who have a passion for praying!!! Talk to Tammy Miller if interested.

Page 30

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

Page 31

Prayer Force...

Remember to use "The Prayer Force"

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

And an Invitation to Join our "Prayer Force"

Being a part of our prayer chain is a HUGE 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...

- God to show you who to invite to Rally Sunday or Fellowship Events
- God to open everyone's heart to accept your invitations
- For a great turnout for Rally Sunday & the start of Sunday School
- For the Holy Spirit to help kids who don't know Jesus to discover Him as their Lord and Savior through Sunday School
- For the Holy Spirit to work through the teachers of our classes
- The Holy Spirit to bring growth through our Confirmation class
- Asking God's direction for our Pastoral Call Committee
- Asking God's continued guidance for our Building Committee
- Asking for courage to follow where God guides-trusting He will provide
- Asking God to raise up people to fill our open MMT positions.
- For God to provide a smooth transition from summer to school.
- Asking God for safety for harvesting
- Asking God for healing for all who have lost loved ones.
- Asking God's wisdom and guidance for your decisions (BIG and small)
- 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
- For all those who are home-bound or in nursing facilities
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- Thanking God that His Word is Truth amidst the lies of the world.
- 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...

Here are some of my favorite new songs in August...

- "Passing Through" by Warren Peay... <https://youtu.be/SobE3Z2qvcw>
- "Worth Everything" by Josh Baldwin... <https://youtu.be/clvwtLWGLb4>
- "Take Me Home" by We The Kingdom... <https://youtu.be/RVS-WbOFwTw>
- "Sundays" by Josiah Queen... <https://youtu.be/Xcy7L3AFUoQ>
- "Alle" by for King & Country... <https://youtu.be/NsR-d-pfg5A>
- "A Man Don't" by Drew Baldridge... <https://youtu.be/9jZMBkQG7m0>
- "Hold On To Jesus" by the Band Reeves... <https://youtu.be/sLOEs4OegK0>
- "Who Am I To You" by Anne Wilson... <https://youtu.be/kRefAnZP6Cs>
- "Wake Up Sleeper" by MercyMe... <https://youtu.be/HiPX0NtcH1k>
- "Roots" by Jamie MacDonald... <https://youtu.be/AKTr0YskU9Y>
- "Ask Him" by Olivia Lane... <https://youtu.be/ngvsUHS2ds>
- "Why God Why Me" by Carly Pearce... <https://youtu.be/hQCmfDBRrEE>
- "How Good God Is" by the Brandon Lake... <https://youtu.be/OmVAVMFzjk>
- "Here and Heaven" by Matthew West... <https://youtu.be/vcwJ3lOdNdw>
- "Wait On The Lord" by Cade Thompson... <https://youtu.be/zT7T8LL36r8>
- "King of Heaven" by Jon Reddick... <https://youtu.be/OBpWdZNI7g>
- "Jesus Girl" by Franni Cash... <https://youtu.be/iVnUuX0TKn0>
- "Saving Jesus" by Micah Christopher & Conner Smith... https://youtu.be/dfXeY_jWX6E
- "That's The God You Are" by the Scally Brothers... <https://youtu.be/l-IOMQhwRw>
- "My Closest Friend" by Cory Ashbury... <https://youtu.be/cGqv5nNiPQA>
- "He Will" by Francesca Battistelli... <https://youtu.be/7x6ctGtCMI8>
- "Lifeline" by Carly Ann Taylor... <https://youtu.be/800iKl-CsYo>
- "Got God" by Michael Orr... <https://youtu.be/4YMNx1SCaY>



- "Keep Going" by Rachael Purcell... https://youtu.be/5d_uTrzESII
- "All I Need Is You" by Tyler Hubbard... <https://youtu.be/2kHmqiRbMuE>
- "Life In Color" by RENEE... <https://youtu.be/JFqpR7HnYmo>
- "Me and Jesus" by Anne Wilson... <https://youtu.be/vVmrFDcmf1w>
- "Lazarus" by Aaron Shust... <https://youtu.be/NiQLtzyG8K0>
- "Pray" by Nate Smith... <https://youtu.be/iOFD4nO46bE>
- "To Be Loved" by Madalyn Rae... <https://youtu.be/x88pcjgJX60>
- "One King" by Jordan Colle... <https://youtu.be/62CvUQcJ0w8>
- "The Suffering" by Jimmy Clifton & Walker Tackett... <https://youtu.be/3ktCJzEVVdQ>
- "Jeans, Boys, & Jesus" by Jenna Raine... <https://youtu.be/V8c1A7z4n8o>
- "2 Step The Enemy" by Forrest Frank and Lost & Found... <https://youtu.be/lSmh-s1tJ60> (This song is the latest Christian dance going viral on the internet... https://www.youtube.com/shorts/kJnl_q1_-mc)

Story Behind The Song...

Occasionally a single song brings acclaim and recognition to a composer. He writes a song that leaps ahead of all of his other compositions. Such was the case with Squire Parsons and his most famous song, "Sweet Beulah Land."

While not often heard in church, this is a beautiful song with great meaning. The term "Beulah Land" derives from the King James Version of Isaiah 62:4; "Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate; but thou shalt be called Hephzibah and thy land Beulah; for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married."

Parsons was born in Newton, West Virginia, in 1948. He surrendered his heart to Christ at age 9 and began his song writing ventures 11 years later. He studied music at a West Virginia college where he majored in voice and bassoon.

While still a student, he was employed as a bass soloist for Christ United Methodist Church, in Charleston, West Virginia. He later said that it was a wonderful experience because he was exposed to the Christian classics, which influenced some of his later writing.

Looking back to Squire's preteen years, while a member of the small church in Newton, he remembers a particular song his dad led the congregation in singing, "Is Not This the Land of Beulah?" The whole congregation seemed swept up in the song. That picture remained in young Parson's mind.

Squire told me the following: "One morning, years later, as I was driving to my high school teaching job, my mind drifted back to a service in our little church. As I drove along I was humming the old song about 'Beulah Land,' which I had learned from the hymnal years earlier. As I topped one of the beautiful West Virginia mountains, I faced a brilliant sun in all of its glory. My thoughts continued to be about the singing in our little Newton church, but this time it was a different song - one that I had never heard or sung before." It was the chorus to what has become the increasingly popular song, "Sweet Beulah Land."

Squire added, "I traveled on to the school. It was early, and the students had not yet arrived. I found some paper and wrote the words and music to the chorus I had been given. I then wrote a single verse to go with the chorus. Five years went by before I wrote a second verse and recorded the song."

This song is amazingly interesting in that some phrases are used, which seem paradoxical in nature - such as being homesick for a country to which I have never been before. Faith is a key element in this highly descriptive song - faith that we hold as we look toward heaven, faith that will end in sight. The name "Beulah Land" is a term we have used for many years and one that evokes happiness and sweetness in our hearts.

Parsons spent the rest of his life crisscrossing the nation, singing his songs and reminding his audiences of the beautiful prospect of Sweet Beulah Land. He wrote more than 800 songs during his lifetime.

I'm kind of homesick for a country
To which I've never been before
No sad goodbyes will there be spoken
For time won't matter anymore

Beulah Land, I'm longing for you
And someday on thee I'll stand
And there my home shall be eternal
Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land

I'm looking now across that river
To where my faith is gonna end in sight

A few more days I'll wait in labor
And then I'll take my heavenly flight

Beulah Land, I'm longing for you
And someday on thee I'll stand
And there my home shall be eternal
Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land
Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land

This song has been performed by many artists, such as the Gaithers...

<https://youtu.be/q8Dt72IN6lg>

And Casting Crowns...

https://youtu.be/1_aNfWiig

My favorite version of this song is by the Petersens...

<https://youtu.be/HiwJibYED30>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

THE KINGDOM OF GOD is like a SCHOOL BOY

w/ his 'BACKPACK UNZIPPED AGAIN' losing his homework,
lunch, crayons & gym shoes!!

WOE TO THIS STUDENT. His
teacher's patience is gone,
and He will be cast into

DETENTION where there
will be weeping,
& **NO RECESS!**

