

Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

February 2007
Newsletter

“Communicating the Love of Jesus”

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have gained access by faith into this
grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope
of the glory of God.*

Romans 5:1-2

justified *grace* *glory*
access *hope*



Traditional Worship : 8:00 a.m.
Christian Growth Hour: 9:15 a.m.
Contemporary Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church

Located on the West of Spicer on Cty Rd 10.
in old Prairie Meadows building.
PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273.
Phone: 320-796-0742.
Website: www.livingwordlutheran.net



Questions for Pastor...

Someone told me that an excuse is really a lie. Is that true?

An interesting question, since we all make excuses daily for things we did or didn't do. The answer to that question could have very important implications for our lives.

I checked a dictionary for the "official" word and found this:

EXCUSE: (n) 1. justification: a reason or explanation, not necessarily true, given in order to make something appear more acceptable or less offensive
2. false reason: a false reason that enables somebody to do something he or she wants to do or avoid something he or she does not want to do.

The dictionary backs up my "gut feeling" about the question: Chances are really good that an excuse is, at it's most basic level, a lie. Excuses tend to be "holy-sounding" reasons for why we did or didn't do something. The problem is that the "holy-sounding" reason really isn't the truth - it's not the real reason. Maybe that's why people seem to feel they need to use the phrase "legitimate excuse" those few times when an excuse really is the truth.

Excuses tend to be made on a couple of occasions.

1) We make excuses to keep from taking personal responsibility for things we've done wrong.

Remember Adam and Eve? Instead of simply admitting he was wrong, Adam tried to make himself look "holier" by putting the blame on Eve. Likewise, Eve, instead of just admitting that she blew it, tried to make herself look "holier" by inventing the line that made Flip Wilson rich "The devil made me do it."

2) We make excuses for things we know we should do, but don't want to.

A couple guys in the New Testament come to mind here.

Page 3

[59] He [Jesus] said to another man, "Follow me."

But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

[60] Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

[61] Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family."

[62] Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." Luke 9:59-62

Jesus' answers may seem a little strange, until you realize that He saw these excuses for what they were: "holy-sounding" lies for not following Him.

Excuses didn't end in Bible times. I just heard a room full of confirmation students exclaim that they didn't have time to get their confirmation assignments done because they have so much homework from school every day. No mention was made of the hours spent in front of the computer or TV or on the cell phone or listening to ipods. Too much homework from school is a much better sounding reason. The problem is it's still a lie.

Not to point fingers at the confirmation students. We adults are just as good at giving excuses (lies) for why we don't do what we should do - or why we did something wrong. Try paying attention to how many excuses you give and you may be surprise how often you give false reasons for your actions - reasons that are designed to make you look better than you really are.

This verse from God's Word is a good reminder for us when we are tempted to offer a "holy -sounding" reason that really isn't true:

You know my folly, O God; my guilt is not hidden from you.
Psalm 69:5

We may fool some people with our excuses, but God always sees them for what they are.

Thanks for asking the question. Maybe this will help us all think twice before offering an "excuse."

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

January MMT Meeting...

SUMMARY OF MMT MEETING JANUARY 18, 2007

M/S/P to accept Treasurer's report. We were charged \$50 from the school for clean-up

after the Lock-in.

Received a letter from the local "MOPS" asking for a donation for the program. Will put

something in the bulletin asking on an individual basis or group within the church.

The New London-Spicer Ministerial is promoting a "Advocacy Center". A place where people can turn to for assistance in a time of need. They don't know exactly where it will be yet, but are asking the area churches to join in which will include people to run and oversee the project. There is a fundraiser concert set for January 26 at Faith Lutheran Church.

Some dates to note on the Capital Campaign Fundraising

February 24	Prayer Vigil
March 1	Leadership Gift
March 18	Congregational Brunch
April 15	Celebration Dinner

Still need a communications director. The theme for the campaign is "That the World May Know" based on John 17:3

Board Reports

Congregational Outreach: Annual Whist Tournament was fun. The Progressive Supper will be held February 17.

Elders: Christmas Eve service was well attended. Have the new Keyboard in place. Pastor asked if we thought the children's bags were a distraction? A good thing about it is that the children stay in the sanctuary for the entire service. Maybe put a few different things in the bags for the kids to do.

Education: Sunday School is getting back into the routine after the holidays. Still encourage the Parents to bring their children on time so it can stay on schedule. Asking the children to continue to bring offering. Will ask them if they would like a portion of their offering to go to the Capital Campaign Fundraising. Will maybe do a skating party in conjunction with Friendship Sunday.

Janet mentioned the possibility of reorganizing the LWML

Page 4

Page 5

at church. Bonnie will look into.

Youth: Will serve Hot Chocolate and goodies during Winter Fest. Will join in the Polar Plunge Jan. 28 for Special Olympics.

Pastors Parish Report: Charter and New Member Sunday held January 14. 12 New Members.

Membership stands at: Baptized Members: 192 and Communicate Members: 128

Mark Your Calendars...

Ash Wednesday

Traditional Service of Ashes

Yes, Lent is coming soon. The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Ashes symbolize our frailty, our mortality, humiliation and need for repentance before God (people in ancient times showed their repentance by putting on sack-cloth and ashes). Ashes also suggest a need for cleansing by the blood of Christ and renewal by His Holy Spirit.

During our Ash Wednesday service, ashes will be applied to the foreheads of all worshipers in the form of a small cross. Please join us for one of our special services, Wednesday, February 28 @ Noon or 7:30pm.

Friendship Sunday

February 12

A great opportunity to invite some friends to come and meet the ultimate Friend: Jesus.

Special Events on Friendship Sunday:

- + Worship service celebrating our Greatest Friend - Jesus
- + Brunch between services - prepared by men of the congregation
- + Music by Youth for Christ's "Fast Forward" group at 10:30 worship
- Fun afternoon outing: Ice Skating at the rink

Mark your calendars and start praying about friends you can invite. (Special "Friendship Sunday" invitations will be available.)

Opportunities to “Share the Love of Jesus in Practical ways”...

Page 6

Join our Prayer Force

One of the most practical ways you can share the love of Jesus is by praying for people in need. That's what people on our "Prayer Force" do. The "Prayer Force" is an e-mail prayer chain. You simply receive requests via email, then take those requests to the Lord in prayer.

Phone or e-mail Pastor David to sign up:
dvdauk@mail.tds.net

Welcome New People

Keep your eyes open for people who have just bought or rented a home (or apartment) in your area. As soon as possible, notify our Visit Coordinator, Violet Dauk (220-0344). She will notify our cookie bakers and move-in visitors to go make a "welcome" visit.

We also need more:

Cookie Bakers & Move-in Visitors

Please call Violet if you can help with either of these. Of course, don't forget to take your own batch of cookies (or whatever) to the new folks to welcome them to your neighborhood too.

Help with our “All Stars for Jesus” Program

Our Wednesday evening program for 4-6th graders still needs

- 1) A meal coordinator to schedule meal providers
- 2) an adult group leader for Bible stories & memory work
- 3) an activity leader for games and crafts

Please talk to Pastor David if you can help. Thanks!

Be a Meal-Maker ...

The only requirement is ability to cook a meal (or go out and buy one). One of our most successful ways of sharing the love of Jesus is by bringing a meal to someone going through a tough time.

If you could take a turn making and delivering a meal once in awhile, please talk to Meal" coordinator Jack Kuppich or Pastor David. And please remember to tell Jack or Pastor

Page 7

David when you know of someone whose going through a tough time and could use a meal. Thanks!

Youth Servants...

We have lots of servants waiting to serve (and raise funds for the Igniters' Youth).

Please check this list and then sign up to rent a servant.

Anthony Dauk	Yard work; playing music, "just about anything."
Cole Erickson	Anything you need help with
Peter Erickson	Anything you need help with
Joe Johnson	"Pretty much anything"
Jesse Medalen	Any outside stuff Take someone fishing
Sierra Cobb	Babysit; Petsit; Mow lawn Yard work
Rebecca Dauk & Dani Skaggs	Babysitting; house cleaning; groom animals; (Servant team) Baking; Yard work (no cleaning 'doggy-do')
Alicia Willer	Baby sit; Clean house
Allan Fuglie	Math tutoring "Pretty much anything - with instructions"
Mariah Welsh	Babysit Clean house Laundry Pet sit Yard Work
Bryson Wachter	Anything you need help with.
Pastor Dave	Paint a room Take someone to a Twins game
Chuck Weflen	Haul stuff in pickup truck

We need funds for our 2007 National Youth Gathering, so when you 'rent a servant' it's a Win-Win Situation: You not only get some work done, The Igniters' get funds for stuff like the National Youth Gathering. Thanks!

Welcome New Members...

On January 14 we received into membership...

- Gwen and Gary Anfinson
- Randy & Bobbi Berghorst, Brandon and Zoey
- Linda Dilley
- Marion Dilley
- Lurene Kiehm
- Jason Olson
- Alex Rustad and Davis
- Stacy Sawatzky

We will be introducing our new members to you with short biographies and pictures in the next couple of newsletters. (Like the one below from the Anginsons). If you haven't done so already, please introduce yourself to our new members and welcome them to our fellowship.



Gwen & Gary Anfinson

Hi, my name is Gwen Anfinson

I live near Spicer and worked for Kandiyohi County Family Services as an account clerk, but am now retired. I was born in Kandiyohi County and have lived here all my life. I enjoy walking, gardening, quilting, camping and reading. My husband Gary and I have been married 46 years and have three children and five grandchildren. We have been very grateful to have all live

Page 8

Page 9

within 40 miles of us - and all five grandchildren living within three miles of us. They have all been a very important part of our lives. We have a dog, Tina, and two cats, Kitty and Bell. My faith and prayer have been very important to me all my life, since an adult friend led me to Christ when I was five years old. One of my favorite passages from the Bible is Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God which goes beyond understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." I chose Living Word as the church for me because of Living Word's statement of faith and the preaching of the Bible as God's Living Word.

Hello, my name is Gary Anfinson, Gwen's husband.

Gwen and I have been married 46 years. I was born in a farm house about a mile from where we live. My family moved to this farm, where Gwen and I live, when I was three years old, and I have lived here since - except when I was in the Army. I worked for Kandoyohi County Highway Department for 33 years doing survey work for highway construction and am now retired. My hobbies include woodworking, gardening, camping, hunting and fishing. We have three children and five grandchildren. Thanks to God we have a very good life.

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING MEETING

After 10:30 Worship on Feb 11.

Parents and Youth need to attend.



We will discuss details of the event and brainstorm fund-raising ideas.

Have You Seen Our Sign ?

Head out County Road 9 between New London and Spicer and check out the new "Future Home of Living Word" sign. Thanks to Jamie Iverson for designing and producing the sign.

Still to come: 4' x 8' letterboard under the sign for changeable messages.

February Living Word Lutheran Church - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 4 SECRET PAUL Kickoff 8:00 Traditional Worship/LS 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School Network Study # 3 10:30 Contemporary Worship/LS 11:45 Fellowship	5 9:00 Circuit Pastor Conference @ Montevideo 7:00 NETWORK Study # 4 @ Millers'	6 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	7 6:00 Meal 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 All Stars 4 Jesus 7:00 Confirmation Parents Mtg	8	9	10 
11 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:15 Friendship Brunch 10:30 Contemporary Worship W/ music by Fast Forward Skating Party Noon Nat'l Youth Gathering Info Meeting for Parents/Youth	12 7:00 NETWORK Study # 5 @ Millers'	13 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	14 6:00 Meal 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 All Stars 4 Jesus	15 2:00 Outreach Team 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team 	16 ACQUIRE THE	17 FIRE @ Target Center 5:30 Progressive Supper
18 8:00 Traditional Worship/LS 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School / Network Study # 4 10:30 Contemporary Worship/LS 7:00 Destination Vision / Bondage Breaker Youth Worship & Study	19 7:00 NETWORK Study # 6 @ Millers'	20 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	21 6:00 Meal 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 All Stars 4 Jesus	22	23	24 8:00am - 8:00pm "So That the World May Know" Prayer Vigil
25 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School Network Study # 5 10:30 Contemporary Worship	26	27 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	28 Ash Wednesday Noon Worship 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 All Stars 4 Jesus 7:30 Worship	Mar 1 6:00 Elders' Team 6:30 "So That the World May Know" Leadership / Initial Gifts Dinner	Mar 2	Mar 3
Mar 4 8:00 Traditional Worship/LS 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School Network Study # 6 10:30 Contemporary Worship/LS	Mar 5 8:30 Circuit Pastors @ Living Word	Mar 6 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	Mar 7 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 All Stars 4 Jesus 7:30 LENTEN Worship	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10

February 5-Minutes-a-day Devotional Reading

New Reading Program Begins Feb 5:

Jan 28 Readings this week focus on God's gift of your TIME / TEMPLE (body), etc..

Jan 29 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 _____

Jan 30 ~~Colossians 3:15-17~~ _____

Jan 31 Ephesians 5:1-21 _____

Feb 1 Ephesians 5:7-8 _____

Feb 2 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 _____

Feb 3 Psalm 96 _____

Feb 4 Readings this week focus on PRINCIPLES OF FRIENDSHIP
(Remember to invite a friend to Friendship Sunday)

Feb 5 Proverbs 17:17 _____

Feb 6 Proverbs 27:6-10 _____

Feb 7 Proverbs 16:27-29 _____

Feb 8 Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 _____

Feb 9 John 15:13-18 _____

Feb 10 James 4:4-10 _____

Feb 11 Readings this week focus on EXAMPLES OF FRIENDSHIP

Feb 12 Ruth 1:15-18 _____

Feb 13 1 Samuel 20:17 _____

Feb 14 2 Kings 2:2-12 _____

Feb 15 1 Kings 5:1-12 _____

Feb 16 Matthew 11:19 _____

Feb 17 Matthew 27:55-61 _____

Feb 18 Readings this week focus on REQUIREMENTS OF LEADERS
(in honor of Presidents' Day)

Feb 19 Deuteronomy 17:14-20 _____

Feb 20 2 Samuel 23:3-4 _____

Feb 21 Proverbs 29:4, 12, 14 _____

Feb 22 Proverbs 20:28 _____

Feb 23 Deuteronomy 1:9-18 _____

Feb 24 1 Timothy 2:1-6 _____

Feb 25 Readings this week focus on LIONS & LAMBS (which will March come in as?)

Feb 26 Isaiah 11:1-9 _____

Feb 27 Isaiah 53:3-7 _____

Feb 28 Isaiah 65:17-25 _____

Mar 1 John 1:19-36 _____

Mar 2 1 Peter 5:8-11 _____

Mar 3 Revelation 5:1-10 _____

LIST THE MAJOR THINGS YOU LEARNED FROM THIS MONTH'S READINGS:

REMINDER: Go to www.livingwordlutheran.net
Click on "Pastor's Notes" for Pastor David's comments on the daily Bible readings. You
can add your own insights by clicking on "comments" below Pastor's comment

A Minute for Parents...

How to send a Valentine to your kids:
i.e. How do you tell them you love them?

Gary Chapman is the author of a book that says there are five basic ways that people "hear" I love you.

Love Language #1: Physical Touch -
A gentle touch on the shoulder, holding hands or hugs

Love Language #2: Words of Affirmation
Nice words or praise with the right attitude and tone of voice

Love Language #3: Quality Time
Being together or doing something together

Love Language #4: Gifts
Meaningful gift with creativity - not just buying things

Love Language #5: Acts of Service
Doing special age-appropriate acts of service without trying to manipulate

Which of these five ways says "I love you" the loudest for your kids?

Learning to speak your child's love language will be an adventure. Although the "translation" process might not run smoothly, we can give you clues to look for as you search. Becoming fluent in your child's love language is largely a matter of trial and error. Let's take a quick look at how to figure out which one is your child's primary love language:

Observe how your child expresses love to you. Your child may very well be speaking his or her own love language without you realizing it. Be particularly aware of those languages that aren't natural to you.

Observe how your child expresses love to others. Pay close attention to how your child interacts with the children and adults to whom your child most often shows affection.

Listen to what your child requests most often. Most kids aren't shy about voicing their requests, preferences, and desires. If you learn to listen "between the lines" to the

Page 14 Page 15

things your child is requesting, you may hear his or her primary love language.

Listen to your child's most frequent complaints. When you stop to consider their whining and grumbling, the results may surprise you. Their complaints may fall into a category corresponding with one of the love languages.

Give your child a choice between two options. Try introducing your child to situations where there are choices between two love languages. Pay close attention to the decisions made. The love language your child chooses most often may very well be the primary love language.

Thanks...

Secret Paul Program Starts Today (Feb 4)

We have matched up 35 adults to pray daily for 38 young people.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE !

THANK YOU...

To our 2007 Polar Plunge Team who raised money for the Special Olympics by jumping in Green Lake.

Randy Berghorst	Pastor David
Emily Fuglie	Tammy Fuglie
Vince Mische	Gabe Mische
Dom Mische	Butch Mische
Bryson Wachter	Ali Zare



We have some "official" Living Word Plunge Team t-shirts and sweatshirts available to purchase. \$10 for t-shirt (only one small and one medium left) and \$25 for a hooded sweatshirt.

So That the World May Know...

Our congregation, Living Word Lutheran Church, is entering a most exciting and challenging time! God has been at work in our midst and has blessed us with a beautiful location where, as He so wills, it is our sincere desire and plan to build our new church facility!

Directing Committee

Campaign Directors

Ryan Block
Duane Hansen
Dan Miller
Kevin Welsh

Prayer Directors

Shelli Block
Tammy Miller

Fellowship Directors

Tris Mische
Janet Towner

Financial Directors

Lonny & Wendy Robbin

Communication Director

Bryson Wachter

Pastoral Advisor

Rev. David Dauk

And now, He is leading us in our efforts to tell the world about Jesus into a stewardship campaign which will enable us to make significant steps toward building. We have chosen the theme, "So that the World May Know!" - a theme based on John 17:3: "Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent." That is a wonderful statement as to why we exist as a Christian congregation in the communities of New London and Spicer.

A leadership team has been formed and several meetings have been held. It is our intention to provide each member and family of our congregation with the opportunity to make a 3-year financial commitment to "So that the World May Know!" Each gift that is given, every commitment that is made, when added together, will enable us to go forward with our building plans.

Will you join with us in keeping this effort in your prayers? And will you join with us in prayerfully considering the gift the Lord is calling you to provide "So that the World May Know!"?

*In Christ,
The Directing Committee*

E-mail Joke of the Month...

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shone his flashlight around, looking for valuables, and when he picked up a CD player to place in his sack, a strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark, saying, "Jesus is watching you."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off and froze. When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head, promised himself a vacation after the next big score, then clicked the light back on and began searching for more valuables. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, "Jesus is watching you." Totally rattled, he shone his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

"Did you say that?" he hissed at the parrot.

"Yes," the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you."

The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who do you think you are, anyway?"

"Moses," replied the bird.

"Moses!" the burglar laughed. "What kind of stupid people would name a parrot 'Moses'?"

The bird promptly answered, "The same kind of people who would name a Rottweiler 'Jesus'!"

Annual Progressive Supper:

It's that time of year again! We always have a great turn out and lots of good food and fun. Please mark your calendar for Saturday February 17th beginning at 5:30 pm.

Please talk to Tammy M or call at 354-4161 if you are interested in attending or hosting. We will be looking for homes to host Appetizers, soup/salad, main course and dessert.



Capital Fundraising....

CAPITAL FUNDRAISING KICKOFF - PRAYER VIGIL

Saturday, February 24

The Directing Committee believes our "So that the World May Know !" Capital Fundraising campaign must be powered by prayer. The Committee members have been praying for God's guidance since its first meeting.

In response to this we want to ask the members of Living Word Lutheran to pray daily for each other and for the "So That the World May Know" campaign. Because "So that the World May Know" asks for sacrificial giving, only prayer can reveal God's will for us individually and as a congregation.

Saturday, February 24th will be a most important day in the life and history of our congregation as we join together in a 12-hour "Prayer Vigil."

As we share with each other our enthusiasm for the fulfillment of our mission, we pray that God will enable us to accomplish His will.

What is a "Prayer Vigil"?

A "Prayer Vigil" is an extended time when we each volunteer to take a certain time period to be in prayer. It is a little like a relay race, with one participant handing off the baton to the next until the race has been run.

What are we asking you to do? We are asking you (and your family) to sign up for a 30 minute prayer slot sometime between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 24th. You won't need to travel any place as we will each spend our time slot in prayer in our own home. When one person has completed his or her prayer time, they will call the next person on the schedule, and that person will begin to pray. This will continue on until the vigil has been completed. Participants in the prayer vigil will be given a guide to help them through the time. Appropriate Scripture passages,

Page 18 Page 19

prayer suggestions, and several written prayers, will be provided in order to equip each one for their prayer time. While the focus of the prayer vigil will be on bringing our "So that the World May Know" campaign to the Lord, each participant will be encouraged to pray for their personal needs as well.

A sign up sheet with time slots will be available after each service on February 11th and 18th. Shelli Block and Tammy Miller, our Prayer Directors for "So that the World May Know", will coordinate this event. Please contact them for additional information.

Thanks in advance for your partnership in prayer!

Reminder:

Raise Funds for Our Church when you Search the web

Living Word Lutheran Church is registered on **GoodSearch**, (as seen in OPRAH Magazine, ABC News, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and Fortune.) And will now receive a direct donation every time someone uses **GoodSearch** to search the Internet.

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates ad revenue, about a penny per search, to the charity its users designate. Use it just like any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get the same great results.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and enter Living Word Lutheran Church, New London, MN as the organization you want to support.

It costs you nothing: But just 100 supporters searching the Internet just twice a day would bring \$730/year

Download the GoodSearch toolbar -
<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx>

February Discipleship Verse...



Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13