



December 2019 Newsletter

"Communicating the Love of Jesus"
Worship Hours:
Christian Growth Hour: 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

Question for Pastor...

"Why do we give gifts to each other at Christmas when Jesus is the One with the birthday?



That's a really good question - one I've receive more than once.

If you do like I did and search the internet for answers to that question, you'll come up with lots of speculation about the origin of gift giving. Some folks are convinced it was a pagan practice that started as a way of celebrating the fact that the amount of sunlight finally starts to increase again after the winter solstice (Dec. 21). Others explain that Saint Nicholas was noted for giving gifts of money to the poor (and tossing those gifts through windows in stockings - not down chimneys). Others feel that the gift-giving craze got started in earnest in response to Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, because no one wanted to be called a "Scrooge." And, of course, there is the truth that the practice is fueled by retailers who want to sell stuff, so they convince us to buy their stuff (not for selfish reasons, but to give to others).

Each of those explanations may play a part.

But the real question is, "No matter how it got started, what is our motivation for continuing the practice?"

I'm going to suggest a couple for you - reasons for giving gifts that are actually found in the Bible.

 We read at the end of the book of Esther that God's people gave each other gifts as a way to celebrate God sparing His people from being destroyed.

I'd say that motivation translates very well to our Christmas situation.

God sent His Son into our world that first Christmas for the express purpose of sparing us from being destroyed by our sin. If the Israelites of long ago celebrated God saving them by giving gifts of food to each other, isn't it appropriate to expand the gifts beyond food in response to the greatest salvation of all - our eternal one.?!

Gift are given to show appreciation and thanks. That's why we bring our offering gifts to God each Sunday. Christmas is as good a time as any

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to give gifts to other people as a way of saying, "Thanks for what you do."

- 3) Gifts can be given to show honor. The magi brought their gold, frankincense and myrrh to honor Jesus as the King of the Jews.
- But mostly gifts are given to show you care. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son....

Bottom line: It really doesn't matter how the practice got its start. What does matter is that you continue the practice with a good motivation - and "just because it's always been done that way" isn't a real good reason! Pick one of the reasons listed above and you will have a good, biblical motivation for your gift-giving.

Thanks for Asking, Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Who Can You Invite?...

Two of the prophesies about the Messiah talk of Him as being a "Light to the Gentiles." People who are living without Jesus are living in the dark - and that's no way to live!



Those of us who believe that Jesus is truly the "Light of the World" (and our only Savior) have the privilege of being like "mirrors" - reflecting the Light of Jesus to those around us.

One great way we can reflect that Light is by a simple invitation to friends, neighbors, relatives. Invite them to join you for one of our special services this Christmas. Who can you invite? Pray about it. Ask God to give you the words and opportunity. Then just do it. Ask them to come with you. Offer to pick them up. (And if they don't take you up on your invitation,, keep praying for them and for another opportunity to invite.)

- Caroling (Sunday, December 8 after worship)
- The Christmas Program (Sunday, December 15 @ 10 a.m.)
 (Special music, songs by the Sunday School students)
- Christmas Dinner (Sunday, December 22 @ 11:15)
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship (Dec. 24 @ 5 p.m.)

2020 Goals...

Approved by the Fall Voters' Assembly

Congregational Outreach Goals:

Continue hosting roughly one event/month) that fosters fellowship among members of all ages and which also provides an opportunity to invite friends.

Community Outreach Goals:

Continue to focus on the unchurched by:

- Hosting the Mexican Dinner in January
- 2. Our New London Waterdays Parade Outreach
- Our Children's Card Ministry to Glen Oaks residents
- 4. Developing Living Word business cards to assist in inviting people
- 5. Living Word Apparel members can wear

Elders' Goals:

- Get Our Building Committee Started in January
- Continue Men's Group Work Projects 4 per year
- 3. Re-establish adults praying for kids program
- Continue Elder Training
- 5. Elders Make Visits to families in their Elder Group
- 6. Help parents by Providing Rides to Sunday School for kids

Trustee Goals:

- Continue to improve landscaping by adding bushes/shrubbery around the building.
- Prepare custodian calendar ahead of time so that volunteers are lined up for the year.
- -Recognize those volunteers at a special end-of-year fellowship event.
- Form an "anti-clutter" subcommittee for managing the organization of church items and storage areas. The goal will be to maximize usable space and keep the building easy to dean and maintain.
- -Replace front entryway rugs.

Youth:

- Form a Youth Choir
- Find one or two people to lead studies/events/service projects for the NYG group
- Find one or two people to lead/plan activities for 4-6th Grade group.

Sunday School:

Increase attendance at Sunday School

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Congregational Outreach News....



Please join us after worship on December 8 as we jump in a "One-Ford Open Sleigh" (Instead of being pulled by a horse, Kevin Welsh will pull us around New London in his F-150). Choir Director Sarah Olson will lead us as we sing songs that remind peo-

ple that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season!" Please invite friends to ioin you for this fun time!

CPR / First Aid Class Anyone ???

Interested in a CPR/First Aid Class with your church family?
If we get 6 adults we will schedule a time, so please sign up at church if
you are interested. Thanks!

Community Outreach...

Join the Outreach Team as we find out more about witnessing: LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission will host a free webinar titled "Always Prepared to Give Reason for Your Hope" from 1–2 p.m. Central time on Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019. The webinar will focus on these questions:

- Have you ever wondered what you might say if you were asked about your faith?
- Do you sometimes struggle to find ways to be good stewards of a wide variety of treasures and talents God has placed in your congregation and community?

Reminder, Coming in January:





Let us know if you have some new ideas for reaching out to people who do not have a church home. Thanks again and God bless you!

Special Thanks... For OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



We packed 16 boxes this year!

Thanks to Everyone Who Packed a Box & to Mona Hjelle for organizing!

Email Quiz...

(from Lutheran Hour Ministries)

This True/False quiz is hopefully a fun challenge for you—but in this season when people are often thinking about spiritual things, it can also be a good conversation-starter with family and friends.

- 1. Jesus was born on December 25 Tor F
- 2. On the night Jesus was born, a star shone to mark the place T or F
- 3. We don't know how many Wise Men there were Tor F
- 4. Mary and Joseph were turned away from the inn Tor F
- 5. Jesus was born sometime between 6 BC and 4 BC. T or F.

Answers:

1F: While December 25 is the traditional date to celebrate Christ's birth in the Western church, it's more likely that Jesus was born in the spring (during lambing season, when shepherds would have been watching their flocks by night on the hillsides).

So how did we get to December 25? It may have been an attempt by the church to create a holiday during the dark midwinter. More likely, however, it's counting forward nine months from March 25, the traditional date of Christ's crucifixion (an old tradition held that Christ was conceived and crucified on the same day of the year).

2F:The Bible does not mention a star shining on the night Jesus was born. The star is first mentioned in relation to the Wise Men, who may have arrived as much as two years after Jesus' actual birth. While it's possible the star was there, the angels did not mention it to the shepherds as a sign to look for; they were told to look for a child in a manger.

3T: Nearly every Nativity set comes with three Wise Men (even though the actual Wise Men didn't arrive until well after Christ's birth). Over the years, they've been given names, nationalities, and stories of their own. But in reality, the Bible simply says that Jesus was visited by a group of Wise Men. The tradition of three comes from the three gifts they brought: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Maybe there were actually eight, ten, or even more!

4F: While the mean innkeeper is a fixture of Nativity plays, the Greek word kataluma is better translated as "the place where they were staying" rather than "the inn." Joseph is more likely to have looked for a place to stay with relatives. With the town full for the census, you can imagine those relatives squeezing them into any small space available—a space not large enough to have a baby. So Mary probably gave birth in the main room of a relative's home, a place where domestic animals would be brought in at night for safety and warmth—hence the

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5T: Since B.C. stands for "Before Christ" and A.D. stands for "Anno Domini," "in the year of our Lord," it seems obvious that Jesus would be born in 0 A.D. But the date of 0 A.D. is based on an early miscalculation. We know that Herod the Great, who plays such a role in the Christmas story, died around 4 B.C., giving us the last possible year in which Jesus could have been born (dates B.C. are counted backwards, so 6 B.C. comes before 4 B.C.).

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

Share the Love of Jesus This Month

During the busy weeks prior to Christmas thoughtful Christians go out of their way to show their love for others. In fact, "Sharing the Love of Jesus in Practical Ways" is one of our Core Values at Living Word. Here are a few suggestions. You may think of more. The possibilities are limited only by your creativity.

- Babysit for a mom (or dad) while they shop.
- Shovel snow for someone who could use the help this winter.
- Invite at least one person to join you in worship Christmas Eve.
- Drive others to church for worship.
- "Adopt" someone in a care center or group home, not just for Christmas, but for an indefinite period of time.
- Use your special talents (what are they?) where needed.
- Invite someone over for dinner who will be alone on Christmas.
- Ask the Lord for guidance in using you in meaningful ways to bring glory to Him - He will direct you.



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. This past month we thanked God for:

- Veterans
- Deer
- EMT & Law Enforcement folks
- Good Friday! (Posted on "black Friday")

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence during December.

That for a day: Patience is not the

Opportunities for Growth...

"The Holy Land" <u>Sunday mornings</u> @ 9:00 Filmed on site in the Holy Land. Lessons from God's Word on living as a Christian in the midst of a non-Christian society."



Please join us for coffee, goodies and study!

MEET FOR PRAYER- WEDNESDAYS @ 6 p.m. at church

A special invitation to everyone to meet weekly in prayer Wednesdays at 6 p.m. (The Women's Evening Bible Study will follow Prayer Time from 6:30-7:30)

Prayer is a foundational part of our spiritual life both personally and as a congregation.



UNDERSTANDING

Praying together has power against evil in our family's lives, our church, and our community. We would love to have you join us.

Ephesians 6:12; 18

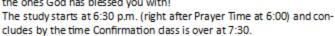
12 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

18 "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."

Wednesday Evening Women's Study:

"Understanding the Holy Spirit"

Continues Wed., Dec 3... with learning about "gifts" the Holy Spirit gives - and discovering the ones God has blessed you with!



Please spread the word and bring a friend!

NEW Monthly Morning Women's Study:

will be starting Wednesday, January 8th at 10:00 AM. We will be studying "Women of the Bible." Bring your Bibles and join in at church. A light lunch will follow. For more questions see Leone.

Men's Group Study-Tuesdays @ 6:30

We're finding out
"Stuff they DIDN'T teach me in Sunday School!
Who can you invite to join you?



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Confirmation Class...

Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.

Parents check the "Parent Helper" schedule for your dates to serve



Email Humor...

One Sunday a minister preached about shepherds. He explained that sheep need lots of guidance, and that a shepherd's job is to stay dose to the sheep, protect them from wild animals, and keep them from wandering off. He said that the people of the church were God's sheep. Then he asked, "If you are the sheep, who is the shepherd?" (He was pretty obviously indicating himself.)

After a few seconds, a young boy piped up: "Jesus! Jesus is the shepherd."

The minister, caught by surprise, asked, "Well, then, who am I?"

The boy frowned thoughtfully. "I guess you must be a sheep dog."

A Minute for Parents...

Give Your Kids a "Mary" Christmas

You may remember the story of Jesus' visit with Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38-42.

Martha we are told "was distracted with much



serving" while Mary "sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching." Martha even got mad about that and told Jesus to tell Mary to get up and help. Jesus told Martha that she was "anxious and troubled about many things" and then went on to remind her, "but one thing is necessary." That one necessary thing was the very thing Mary had chosen to do, take time to just sit and listen to Jesus.

This time of year it is very easy to be a "Martha" and get distracted, anxious and troubled about all the food and gifts and events. Make a conscious decision to have yourself a "Mary" Christmas instead. Like Mary, be sure not to overlook the "one necessary thing" - just spending time with Jesus. Set the example for (and with) your kids. By talking to Jesus with them in prayer. By listening to Him by reading His Word together. By spending time with Him together in worship. Jesus is the gift God gave to us that first Christmas. He's the best gift you can give your kids (and grand kids) this Christmas!

When you commit to a "Mary" Christmas, you will help your children discover that Jesus brings a level of peace, joy, hope and love that meals and presents and special events can never accomplish!

That for a day:

December 2019 - Daily Readings

This month we finish our readings on giving thanks, then spend the rest of December reading about the birth of our Lord and Savior. Prophesies of it, events around it, and purpose of it.

1	Wk of DEC 1 Daily Readings GIVING THANKS in the NEW TE STAMEN Mark 6:35-44
2	Luke 17:11-19
3	2 Corinthians 4:13-15
•	1 Timothy 4:1-5
5	Revelation 4:8-11
5	Revelation 7:9-12
7	Revelation 11:16-18
9	Wk of DEC8 Daily Readings PROPHECIES of CHRIST'S COMING Genesis 3:15
10	Genesis 3:15
10	Genesis 3:15
10 11 12	Genesis 3:15
10 11 12 13	Genesis 3:15
10 11 12 13	Genesis 3:15

Dec 1/	Isaiah 7:10-14
Dec 18	Isaiah 9:6-7
Dec 19	Isaiah 11:1-10
Dec 20	Isaiah 42:1-8
Dec 21	Isaiah 61:1-3
	Wk of Dec 212 Daily Readings THE BIRTH OF CHRIST
Dec 23	John 1:1-14
Dec 24	Luke 1:26-56
Dec 25	Luke 2:1-20
Dec 26	Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 27	Luke 2:21-40
Dec 28	Matthew 2:1-12
	Wk of DEC 29 Daily Readings. JESUS TELLS WHY HE CAME
Dec 30	Matthew5:17-18
Dec 31	Matthew 20:28
Jan 1	Luke 4:42-44
Jan 2	Luke 19-9-10
Jan 3	John 3:16-17
Jan 4	John 10:7-10

December 2019 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
9:00 - ADULT STUDY - The Holy Land - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship 5:00 YOUTH-DONOR DINNER	2	6:30 MEN'S STUDY	6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER & 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY	5	Sunday, December 1st Christmas Eve, Dec 24th Communion will not be celebrated on the third Sunday, due to the Sunday School Christmas Program		
9:00 - ADULT STUDY - The Holy Land - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:45 CAROLING	9	5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	6:00 - CHRISTMAS PGM PRACTICE 6:00 - PRAYER & 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	12 100 OUTREACH WEBINAR Sign up to have t you by e-mail. newsletter	13 his newsletter s Send your emai @livingwordluth	ent directly to laddress to:	
15 S.S. CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2:00 - ADULT STUDY - The Holy Land - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w. CHRISTMAS PGM 11:15 Fellowship 11:45 - CHOIR PRACTICE	16	9:00 - Circuit Pastors @ Living Word	18 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER & 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	19 MISSION Winistry 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	20	21	
22 CHRISTMAS DINNER 9:00 - ADULT STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - CHRISTMAS DINNER 11:45 - CHOIR PRACTICE	Christmas Dinner	4:15 Choir Rehearsal 5:00 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP w/communion	25 CHRIST IS BORN!	THE Other sector CAS NO. The Control of the Control	27	100 man Sook man Sook me Association	
29 - ADULT STUDY - The Holy Land - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 - Fellowship	30	31	Jan 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR New Year	Windle on the case of the case			

Upcoming Schedules... Page 14 Fellowship Servers effort Dec 1 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson Gwen Ruchti / Ruth Vegdahl every Dec 15 Sunday School Parents Dec 22 Christmas Dinner Dec 29 Mike & Brooke Knutson despite Jan 5 Linda VanMeter & Tammy Fuglie Jan 12 Leone & Kerry Quigley Jan 19 Wendy Robbin / Alida Sawatzky / Mary Lee Moore Jan 26 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller ents, Usher Schedule par Dec 1 Wally Abraham & Dec 8 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer their Dec 15 Larry Levin & Carroll Sarsland Dec 22 Derek & Sarah Olson œ Christmas Eve Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson ≟ Dec 29 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen act Jan 5 Brent & Lance Sawatzky Jan 12 Jason & Noah/Levi Miller who Jan 19 Wendy & Lonny Robbin Jan 26 Brady & Andrew Sharp mimics Make A Meal Volunteers Violet Dauk & Bonnie Hansen Wachters & Nancy Jo Wendt Jan 9 natura n good Nursery are no them (more volunteers needed...) Dec 1 Pam Johnson Dec 8 Violet Dauk Children to teach Dec 15 Christmas Program Dec 22 Mona Hielle Dec 24 Christmas Eve Dec 29 Volunteer Needed Jan 5 Pam Johnson day: Jan 12 Violet Dauk Seen on Church Signboard... a for "Beat the Christmas Rush -Thot Come to church THIS Sunday!"

Jan 19 Mona Hjelle Custodian Page 15 Jan 26 Volunteer Needed Dec **Elders** Accompanying Musicians Dec 1/8/15 Jason & Ed Dec 22/24/29 Dec 1 Sharon Willen Kevin & Keith Dec 8 Scott Wachter Jan 5.12 Joe & Jason Jan 19.26 Ed & Kevin Dec 15 Christmas Program Dec 22 Scott Wachter Acolyte (little brothers & sisters) Christmas Eve-various Dec 1 Rya Sharp Dec 29 Scott Wachter Dec 8 Kala Miller Jan 5 Sharon Willen Dec 15 Will Dahl Jan 12 Scott Wachter Dec 22 Carter Foshaug Jan 19 Pam Johnson Dec 24 Toby Arends-Schmidt Jan 26 Carmen Macik Dec 29 Alex Meis Jan 5 Carson Sawatzky Confirmation Parent-Helper Jan 12 Addison Arends-Schmidt Dec 4 Sharp Jan 19 Autumn Foshaug Dec 11 Christmas Prog Practice Jan 26 Jonah Sharp Dec 18 Dahl Dec 25 No Class Scripture Readers Jan 1 No Class Dec 1 Tammy Wachter Jan 8 Macik Dec 8 Wendy Robbin Jan 15 Miller manners Dec 15 Christmas Program Jan 22 Rustad Dec 22 Linda Dilley Jan 29 Sarsland Dec 29 McCartney Knutson Jan 5 Jason Miller Jan 12 Mark Fuglie Jan 19 Tammy Fuglie Jan 26 Leone Quigley Altar Guild Mona Hjelle Dec Nancy Jo Wendt

December Discipleship Verse...

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Matthew 1:22-23

Jamie Iverson

Wendy & Lonny Robbin

Miscellaneous Notes...

Food Pantry Reminder

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

Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

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

- Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- Today's Light Devotional Bible
- December Newsletters
- "Free to be Faithful" newsletter
- October December Portals of Prayer





Sermons Now Available in Audio on our Website

http://livingwordlutheran.net/sermons.htm (Or just click on "New Sermons Online" at the bottom of the livngwordlutheran.net.home page)

- 11-3-19 "The Key to Living as a Saint"
- 11-10-19 "The Antidote for Grumbling and Complaining"
- 11-17-19 "The wrong and right thing to do with God's Blessings"
- 11-24-19 "Answers to the question: How Can I Thank You, Lord?"

CHOIR ...

Please join our Choir as we rehearse for caroling as well as for singing on Christmas Eve!



Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Just a reminder that there is an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

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.



Reminders of your scheduled day to serve will be coming to your phone soon.

Pam Johnson has graciously volunteered to give a call or send a text to help us all remember our scheduled dates to serve as ushers, acolytes, fellowship servers,

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etc... : Smoke Detector Batteries

We have some batteries left over from our outreach. Please take some if you need for your home. And grab some to give to your neighbors! (You'll be "Sharing the Love of Jesus in a Practical Way.")

22-24 oz. COFFEE CANS NEEDED...

by the local Boy Scout troop. Talk to Marcia Welsh if you can help.

Poinsettias Welcome

Everyone is welcome to bring a poinsettia plant to place in the sanctuary for Christmas. You may bring the plant any time and set it on the counter. The Altar Guild will take care of it and place it around the altar.

Get Your "Living Word" Sweatshirts

Longing for a new sweatshirt? "Living Word" sweatshirts are available

Special Yearly Thank Offering...



Can Still Be Given

God commanded the Israelites to come to the temple once a year for a joyful celebration of the blessings God provided in the harvest. This harvest festival was called The Feast of Weeks.

Then celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you. Deuteronomy 16:10

With that in mind we gathered together on Thanksgiving Eve for a special joyful celebration of the blessings God has provided us. We were encouraged to bring a special freewill offering in proportion to how God has blessed us this past year.

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." King David in 1 Chronicles 29:14

If you weren't here for Thanksgiving Eve worship, you can still give a special "Thank-Offering" - a special gift to thank God for all the ways He's blessed you this past year. Use a Thank-Offering envelope (in the pew rack) and simply place it in the offering along with your regular offering.

That for a day:

Sunday School...

Lesson Review 'Take-Home' Sheet:

Every week you will find a Sunday School lesson summary sheet in your Sunday bulletin that include activities to do at home, in the car, at mealtime and

before bed that help students (and parents) apply what they learned to their daily lives.

Upcoming Lessons:

December 1 & 8 The account of the Birth of Jesus

Christmas Program: December 15 during Worship (details to come)

Glen Oaks Visit: December 22 Memorizing the 10 Commandments

We're continuing to work on the 3rd Commandment

Have You Checked Out the Sunday School Bulletin Board?

Take a look at the fun info about the students as well as some of the work they've produced in class. You'll find it on the back of the northern partition that separates the Sanctuary from the Fellowship area. After you've checked it out, go find a student and tell them what you saw!

Bring It Home & Highlight

Last year our District sponsored the Bring It Home Bible-reading program where we read five great stories of the Bible each week. This year in "Bring It Home and Highlight It" we have daily readings from five different books of the Bible each week. Each reading includes key verses to highlight in your Bible.



FNDIIRING

Sunday School • Midweek Bible Curriculum

Each day also include a question designed to help apply the highlighted passage to your own life as well as a prayer based on the verse. Each week's readings are available as an insert in the Sunday worship bulletin. (Or you can sign up to have them emailed to you here: https://tinyurl.com/yxlubfge

LWML...



We will serve

for the MN North District Circuit Pastors' meeting on December 17. Our next meeting

will be Wednesday, January 22nd, 7:00 pm, at church.

Shoes For Missions:

Thanks to all who have donated shoes. Please continue to collect, and bring them to church (in rubber banded pairs) as this is a fund raiser for Lutheran Island Camp.

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Mark Your Calendar

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

(Tuesday, December 24 @ 5:00 pm)

- The entire service is done by candlelight
- The Christmas Story from Luke chapter two is interspersed with Christmas Carols
- The Lord's Supper is Celebrated





CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 15 during the 10:00 A.M. Worship

- Practice during the Sunday School December 1 and 8.
- "Dress Rehearsal" (with Pizza!) Wed., Dec 11@ 6pm

Annual Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 22 11:15 a.m. (After Worship) You are invited to Living Word Lutheran's annual CHRISTMAS DINNER following Worship on Sunday, December 23rd.

Turkey will be provided. Each family is asked to bring a dish to pass. There will be a signup sheet at church so that you can indicate what item(s) of food that you would like to bring, and the approximate number of family members attending (so that we can adequately prepare for seating and food amounts), or if you are able to assist with setup, serving, or cleanup. Any questions or additions, please contact Bonnie Hansen at 796-5605 or email textbooks@tds.net

Meatballs Sweet Potatoes

Potatoes (mashed, scalloped, potato hotdish - your choice)

Spinach Salad

Lettuce Salad

Fruit Salad

Pasta Salad

Squash

Vegetables

Baked Beans

Fresh Vegetables

Christmas Cookies

Cranberry Sauce

Gallon of Milk

Apple Pie

Pumpkin Pie

Other Pies or Dessert

Buns/Dinner Rolls

Loaf of Bread (sliced & buttered)

Christmas Breads Pickles



Save the Date:

Women's Retreat next Spring April 17-19 Mille Lacs Lake Lodge

Opportunities to Serve...

Could You Help With . . .

Providing a Light Supper for Confirmation students?

Please talk to Pastor David if you could take a turn once a month providing sandwiches, hot dogs, pizza, etc... for six students.

4-6th Grade Group:

Volunteer(s) Needed to organize an outing for the group between Christmas and New Year's Day. Please talk to Pastor David if you can help with that. Thanks!

Help With Our Nursery

We need a couple more volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-6 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help.

A Great Month To Use Our Make-A-Meal Program

One of the best (and simplest) ways to share Jesus' love is by making a meal for someone who is going through a tough time. Please use the Prayer and Care cards in the attendance pad at worship or call Pastor David if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks! Our December Make-a-Meal volunteers are Violet Dauk & Bonnie Hansen

We are also looking for a person to be the Make-a-Meal coordina-

<u>tor</u> - someone who notifies the meal makers when a meal is needed and who also arranges for the meal to be delivered. If you could be that person, please talk to Pastor David. Thanks!

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. How you can help: Simply tell Pastor David when you feel that someone you asked us to pray for would be greatly encouraged by getting a card. Then just call, email or text him with that person's address. It truly is a simple way to brighten the spirits of someone who's going though a tough time.

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

Donate to Living Word when you order from Amazon

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Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.

Teal's Grocery gives a 1% rebate to eligible organizations. There's a box under the mail boxes where you can put in your receipts.

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Many Thanks...

- ...to the Ladies who decorated our tree.
- ...to Bonnie Hansen for organizing the Pumpkin Pie Fellowship After Thanksgiving Eve Worship.
- ...from the Altar Guild to Leone Quigley for sewing our new altar cloth!

Story Behind The Song...

"O Holy Night"

Portions Reprinted from "Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas" by Zondervan Publishing.

The strange and fascinating story of "O Holy Night" began in France, yet eventually made its way around the world. This simple song, inspired by a request from a dergyman, would become one of the most beloved carols of all time. It also marked a technological revolution that would forever change the way people were introduced to music.

In 1847, Placide Cappeau de Roquemaure was the commissionaire of wines in a small French town. Known more for his poetry than his church attendance, it probably shocked Placide when his parish priest asked the commissionaire to pen a poem for Christmas mass. Nevertheless, the poet was honored to share his talents with the church.

In a dusty coach traveling down a bumpy road to France's capital city, Placide Cappeau considered the priest's request. Using the gospel of Luke as his guide, Cappeau imagined witnessing the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Thoughts of being present on the blessed night inspired him. By the time he arrived in Paris, "Cantique de Noel" had been completed.

Moved by his own work, Cappeau decided that his "Cantique de Noel" was not just a poem, but a song in need of a master musician's hand. Not musically inclined himself, the poet turned to one of his friends, Adolphe Charles Adams, for help.

As a man of Jewish ancestry, for Adolphe the words of "Cantique de Noel" represented a day he didn't celebrate and a man he did not view as the son of God. Nevertheless, Adams quickly went to work, attempting to marry an original score to Cappeau's beautiful words. Adams' finished work pleased both poet and priest. The song was performed just three weeks later at a Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

Initially, "Cantique de Noel" was wholeheartedly accepted by the church in France and the song quickly found its way into various Catholic Christ-

That for a day:

He who hesitates freeway exit.

mas services. But when Placide Cappeau walked away from the church and became a part of the socialist movement, and church leaders discovered that Adolphe Adams was a Jew, the song—which had quickly grown to be one of the most beloved Christmas songs in France—was suddenly and uniformly denounced by the church. Yet even as the church tried to bury the Christmas song, the French people continued to sing it, and a decade later an American writer, John Sullivan Dwight, brought it to a whole new audience halfway around the world.

Dwight saw something else in the song that moved him beyond the story of the birth of Christ. An ardent abolitionist, Dwight strongly identified with the lines of the third verse: "Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace. Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother; and in his name all oppression shall cease." The text supported Dwight's own view of slavery in the South. Published in his magazine, Dwight's English translation of "O Holy Night" quickly found favor in America, especially in the North during the Civil War.

Adams had been dead for many years and Cappeau and Dwight were old men when on Christmas Eve 1906, Reginald Fessenden—a 33-year-old university professor and former chief chemist for Thomas Edison—did something long thought impossible. Using a new type of generator, Fessenden spoke into a microphone and, for the first time in history, a man's voice was broadcast over the airwaves: "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed," he began in a clear, strong voice, hoping he was reaching across the distances he supposed he would.

Shocked radio operators on ships and astonished wireless owners at newspapers sat slack-jawed as their normal, coded impulses, heard over tiny speakers, were interrupted by a professor reading from the gospel of Luke. To the few who caught this broadcast, it must have seemed like a miracle—hearing a voice somehow transmitted to those far away. Some might have believed they were hearing the voice of an angel.

Fessenden was likely unaware of the sensation he was causing on ships and in offices; he couldn't have known that men and women were rushing to their wireless units to catch this Christmas Eve miracle. After finishing his recitation of the birth of Christ, Fessenden picked up his violin and played "O Holy Night," the first song ever sent through the air via radio waves. When the carol ended, so did the broadcast—but not before music had found a new medium that would take it around the world.

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior's birth; Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth/ A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

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Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices O night divine; O night when Christ was born

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name;
Christ is the Lord, Oh praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Editor's note: Nearly everyone's favorite artist has recorded a version of this song, but I would like to present a hauntingly beautiful version by Home Free at https://youtu.be/CO6OZIY-IYW

New Music of the Month...

It is December so I want to share a brand new Christmas song by Casting Crowns with Matt Maher called Make Room. Watch at https://youtu.be/uYHpJnfy2IQ

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 and PRAY for...

- An "Attitude of Gratitude" everyday not just on Thanksgiving Day
- People you can invite to any of our studies or events or worship
- God to open hearts to invitations to celebrate His Son's birth
- Safety and good weather for our Christmas caroling on December 8.
- · Asking God to bless all the students involved in our Christmas Program
- Thanking God for sending His Son to be with us that first Christmas
 Thanking God that Jesus is still "Immanuel" (God With Us) today.
- A great turnout for our Christmas Program and Christmas Dinner
- A "giving" attitude all year not just at Christmas
- Thanking God for the harvest
- Safe travels over the Christmas holiday
- Thanking God for the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of our Sunday School and Confirmation students
- The Holy Spirit to work through "Bring It Home and HIGHLIGHT IT!
- For the Holy Spirit to work through the teachers of our classes
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- God's protection, guidance, wisdom & courage for gov't leaders
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Courage to take a stand for Jesus at work AND school
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

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