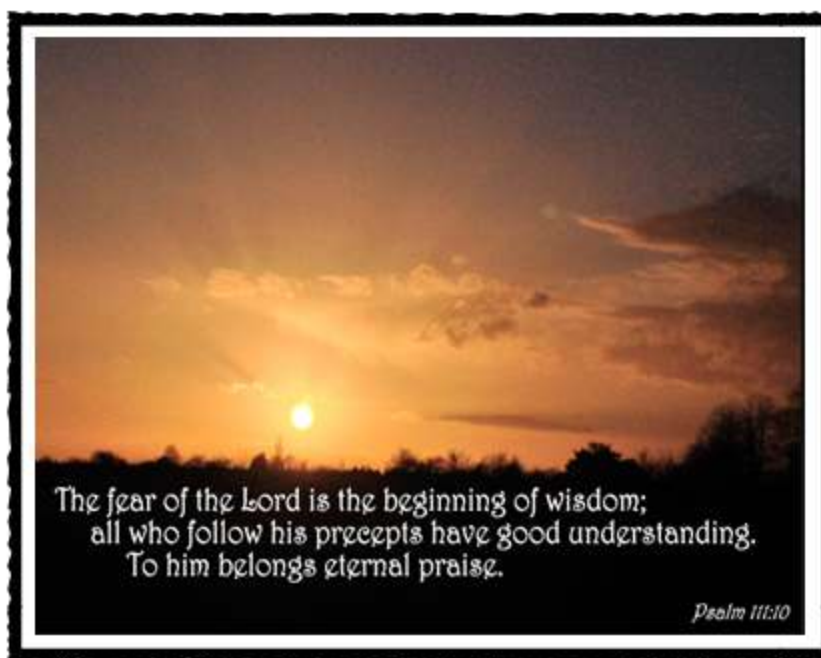


  
**Living Word**  
**Lutheran Church**  
LCMS



**January 2020 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](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)  
Website: [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net)

## Question for Pastor...

"Hey Pastor. I just have a question for you: What is your favorite Bible verse - or favorite(s)?"



I've been mentioning in sermons a lot lately that there are no coincidences with God (like it was no coincidence that Simeon came into the temple at the exact same time Mary and Joseph brought Jesus in to present Him to the Lord - Luke 2:22-32).

The above question was no coincidence. It came from one of our Confirmation students at the exact same time as I was pondering questions to answer this month.

My answer: "I have a bunch of them, depending on the situation. But there are two that come to mind right off the top of my head today: John 16:33 and Proverbs 3:5-6"

I'll write them out, so you don't have to go look them up.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Jesus to His disciples in John 16:33

At Christmas we hear a lot about one of Jesus' titles: "Prince of Peace." There truly is a peace that can only come from knowing Jesus is God and came to make peace between us sinful humans and a sinless God - and had to die to accomplish that! A peace that comes from knowing that, because He became human, He truly understands the "troubles" we go through! And a peace that comes from knowing that, because He is God, He doesn't just understand the troubles we go through - He has the power to get us through the troubles!

I can guarantee one thing about the coming year: you will have trouble. But an even greater guarantee: Jesus has the power to get you through it!

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

In other words, Trust that God knows the right thing to do - always!

## Page 3

He sees things you can't and won't ever see. He knows things you don't know and may not ever know. He is not distracted by ... well, anything! And don't forget: He's God - and you're not! He created everything (not you!) and so, HE knows how He designed it to work best. So, trust God, not your own ideas of how you want things to go.

A long time ago I put this verse into one of those nifty (or goofy, depending on your perspective) acronyms: FYGNYF (pronounced: FIG-nif): "Follow Your God Not Your Feelings."

If we ask God's help to remember to put Proverbs 3:5-6 into practice each day this year, our 2020 "paths" will end up being straight instead of crooked.

Thanks for Asking,  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

## Who Can You Invite?...

- Whist Night @ Pastor & Violet's (Friday, January 10)
- Sunday School Bowling Outing (Sunday, January 12)
- Mexican Fiesta Dinner (Saturday, January 25 4:30-7:00)

And Coming in February: Friendship Sunday (February 16)  
Includes Fish-fry brunch after worship and  
Bingo after the meal.

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.)

## Many Thanks To...

...everyone who brought Poinsettias!

...everyone who remembered us with cards and gifts this Christmas!  
Your support and partnership in the Gospel is truly a great blessing!  
Pastor David & Violet

...My Church Family for the gift card you gave me for doing the rest-room cleaning! I appreciate it so much!  
Laurie Hanson

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

### Resolve (again) to feed on God's Word daily this year.

*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*

God renews our mind through what we put into it. A couple of things are true regarding what we put into our minds:

- 1) You tend to believe what you hear most often.
- 2) What you put into your mind is what comes out in your life.

It just makes sense that life goes better when we put the things of God into our minds daily.

Once again, daily Bible readings will be printed in each Newsletter to help you get into God's Diary. God's Word is more than just a reference book to keep on the shelf until you need to find out something. God calls his Word "Living and Active." That means there is power in the Word.

#### God's Word:

Generates life	Creates faith	Heals hurts
Produces change	Overpowers the devil	Infuses hope
Causes miracles	Overcomes adversity	Forgives sins
Builds character	Defeats temptation	Imparts joy
Transforms circumstances	Releases power	Guarantees our future forever

#### Some results God promises from reading You will ...

- be able to live a life worthy of the Lord
- please God
- bear fruit like: love, joy, peace, patience, self-control, faithfulness
- grow in your faith - your trust in God will be strengthened
- into God's power for life - physical as well as spiritual
- gain endurance for getting through life
- gain a thankful attitude as you are reminded of all God has done for you
- grow in your love - for God and the people in your life
- be able to tell what is good and right
- be completely equipped for every good work.

#### Be it resolved that . . .

- 1) Make the commitment today:  
"I commit to feeding my Spirit with God's word daily." Signed \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Pick the time that will work best for you:  
"I will set aside time at \_\_\_\_\_ each day to spend with God."
- 3) Set your Bible in a place where you literally will trip over it every day:  
"I'll put my Bible \_\_\_\_\_"
- 4) PRAY. Ask God to help you resist Satan's temptations to quit.  
"Lord, I know Satan will tempt me by \_\_\_\_\_.  
Please help me to stand firm and resist his lies."

## Page 4

That for a day: I am not as good as I should be. I am not as good as I could be. But thank God I'm better than I used to be!

## Page 5

## Get to Know Our Newest Members...

### Jim & Naomi Stinson

We live in Spicer, having moved there from Wayzata, MN in 2004. We have two children David and wife Bridget in Bemidji. (They have two children Madelyn and Michael). Tracy and husband Corey in Victoria. (They have three children Alex, Nicholas and Cooper)



### Naomi.

I was born in Glencoe, Mn, and grew up on a dairy farm in Brownton MN.

Career: I retired from General Mills in 2004 after working there 28 years. My last 2 years were in a volunteer capacity, which I did in Minnetonka, Florida, and in Willmar,

Hobbies/Things I do for fun: I enjoy spending time with the family, gardening, reading, fishing, playing games, and walking with my friends.

A Favorite Bible Passage: Psalm 23 is a favorite of mine, it is a very comforting Psalm. It was also my Mom's favorite.

What God used to attract you to Living Word: We just decided to visit Living Word one Sunday. I was raised in the Missouri Synod and we go to a church in Arizona that is Missouri Synod, but have gone to ELCA churches for a while. We enjoyed our first visit, the pastor, his words, the people and fellowship, everyone working together, just felt like home.

Fun Fact About Me: My fun fact is that I have found the best food-Stromboli from Pennsylvania to Arizona at Coops Corner and enjoy it.

### Jim

I was born in Minneapolis. I grew up on a farm in Maple Grove, MN.

Career: I spent 2 years in the army after graduation. I retired from General Mills in 2002, after working there for 34 years.

Hobbies/Things I do for fun: I am enjoying my retirement and keep busy fishing, flying my RC plane, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

A Favorite Bible Passage: My favorite Bible passage is John 3:16-21. It shows God's love for us.

What God used to attract you to Living Word: Pastor's messages, and the fellowship is why I enjoy coming to Living Word.

Fun Fact About Me: Naomi thinks I am an animal whisperer. I get chipmunks to eat out of my hand, and like the possums, and deer that eat out of my many bird feeders

## Email Inspiration...

### NO ROOM IN THE INN, except...

Wally was nine years old and in the second grade, though he should have been in the fourth. He was big and clumsy, slow in movement and mind, but well liked by the other children in class, all of whom were smaller than he. At time the boys did have trouble hiding their irritation when the uncoordinated Wally would ask to play ball with them. He would stand by - not sulking, but hoping - always a helpful boy, willing and smiling, the natural protector of any child he felt was being mistreated.

As Christmas time approached, plans were made for the annual school pageant. Children were being assigned their parts - angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph. Wally stood by expectantly - then suddenly his joy knew no bounds, for he heard the teacher say, "Wally, I want you to be the Innkeeper." (Not many lines to learn, she reasoned - and his size would make his refusal of lodging to Joseph even more forceful.) Little did that teacher dream the lesson that such a tenderhearted boy would teach to all who would attend that program!

Then came rehearsals - the shepherd staffs and manger, beads, crowns, halos, and a stage full of squeaky voices. Most caught up in the magic of the night was Wally. He would stand in the wings, watch the performance with fascination; his teacher had to make sure he did not wander on stage before his cue.

Came the long awaited night and Wally stood, holding a lantern, by the door of the Inn, watching as the children who portrayed Mary and Joseph came near him. "What do you want?" Wally asked with a brusque gesture

"We seek lodging."

"Seek it elsewhere - the inn is filled."

"Sir, we have asked everywhere in vain. We have traveled far and are very weary."

"There is no room in this inn for you." Wally looked properly stern.

"Please, good Innkeeper, this is my wife. She is heavy with child and needs a place to rest. Surely you must have some small corner for her. She is so tired."

Now, for the first time, the Innkeeper relaxed his stiff stance and looked down at Mary. With that there was a long pause - the audience became a bit tense.

## Page 6

That for a day: Remember, you can't have everything. Where would you keep it?

## Page 7

"No! Begone!" the prompter whispered from the wings.

"No! Begone!" Wally repeated automatically.

Joseph sadly placed his arms around Mary, and Mary laid her head upon her husband's shoulder, and the two of them started to move away. The Innkeeper did not return inside his Inn, however. Wally stood there in the doorway, watching the forlorn couple. His mouth was open, his brow creased with concern, his eyes filling unmistakably with tears.

And suddenly - this Christmas pageant became different from all others.

"Don't go, Joseph", Wally called out. "Bring Mary back." And Wally's face grew into a bright smile. "You can have my room!"

A burst of laughter - then silence - then tears flowed freely as the message came through to the listeners. Wally, the boy considered "slow", had made room for Jesus. He could not turn Mary and Joseph away - God's only begotten Son would be welcomed by him! His tender heart had made room for the Savior.

Christmas is over for another year,  
but it's not too late to follow Wally's example!

## Congregational Outreach News....

### BINGO!

February 16 after our annual Friendship Sunday Meal

Marcia is collecting prizes. If you have any you could donate, please talk to her. Thanks!



### GREEN LAKE CRUISE

- Sunday, June 14 @ 2:00 p.m.  
We will have the entire boat  
(as long as we get 25 people)
- Reserve your seat for \$20 by Jan 19.



### STINGERS' GAME & PICNIC

- Sunday, August 9
- Picnic begins at 12:05 (Game @ 1:05)
- Includes:
  - + Reserved-Seat Game Ticket
  - + All-you-can-eat Ballpark Buffet

Cost: \$21.58 (Sign up at Church or call Marcia Welsh 320-796-6840)



## Opportunities for Growth...

"The Holy Land" Sunday mornings @ 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. 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:

Discerning: Good from Evil, Right from Wrong, Truth from Lies  
**Starts January 8...**

The study starts at 6:30 p.m. (right after Prayer Time at 6:00) and concludes by the time Confirmation class is over at 7:30.

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

NEW... "The Great Deceiver"

Though popular culture may paint the devil as a buffoon-like character in a red jumpsuit, as needing our sympathy, or as having "gone down to Georgia," those depictions make light of his sinister and diabolical nature. His ap-

THAT THE  
WORLD  
MAY KNOW.



## Page 8

That for a day: I assume full responsibility for my actions, except the ones that are someone else's fault.

## Page 9

proach is straightforward; his objective is final: Separate every man, woman and child from God - forever ! Into this sick and twisted plan, God threw the Ultimate wrench: Jesus!

Tuesday Evenings in January @ 6:30 We'll spend some time getting to know our Greatest Enemy - his tactics .... and the weapons God provides to defeat him! Who can you invite to join you?



### Confirmation Class

+ Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.

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

## A Minute for Parents...

Set an example by giving an "After-Christmas" Gift that keeps on giving. (The same one God gave us at Christmas)

By now some of the Christmas presents you gave your kids have become broken. Others have been forgotten. Hopefully some are still in use. But the start of a new year would be a great time to resolve to give your children the present they really want most- your presence.

His presence is the present God gave us at Christmas. It's the one he has promised to give us until the end of time "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Mt. 28:20

Of all the things my parents did to show their love, the things that stick in my mind most are the times they made a special effort to just "be there." Chances are the same can be said for you. And chances are that is what your kids will remember too.

How can you spend more time with your children - collectively and individually? After school? In the evening? On the weekends?

Maybe read them a story instead of reading the newspaper. Play a game with them instead of watching TV. Plan a special project that you can work on together. Have a "Date Your Kid" night once a week. Set aside one night as "Family night." Get their input on what they would like to do on those days. Sit down with them and plan what you will do then put it on the calendar.

"Being there" isn't limited to the kids that still live under your roof. When could you "be there" for your kids that are away at college?

When could you "be there" for those children that live on their own?

**Follow Jesus' example and give the gift of your presence.**

**It says "I love you" like nothing else**

## January 2020 - Daily Readings

January begins with Epiphany - the celebration of the coming of the Wise Men. We'll read what the Bible says about WISDOM - what it is, who has it, how to get it, how to put it into practice.

### Wk of Jan 5 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the Old Testament

- Jan 6 Deuteronomy 4:1-8 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 7 1 Kings 3:5-14 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 8 Job 32:1-9 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 9 Daniel 2:14-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 10 Daniel 12:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 11 Hosea 14:1-3,9 \_\_\_\_\_

### Week of Jan 12 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the Psalms

- Jan 13 Psalm 2:1-6, 10-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 14 Psalm 19:7-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 15 Psalm 36:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 16 Psalm 111:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 17 Psalm 119:97-100 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 18 Psalm 104:1-24 \_\_\_\_\_

### Wk of Jan 19 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the Gospels

- Jan 20 Matthew 7:24-27 \_\_\_\_\_

- Jan 21 Matthew 13:53-56 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 22 Matthew 24:42-51 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 23 Matthew 25:1-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 24 Mark 12:28-34 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 25 Luke 2:40-52 \_\_\_\_\_




### Wk of Jan 26 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the New Testament

- Jan 27 Acts 6:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 28 Romans 11:33-36 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 29 1 Corinthians 1:17-31 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 30 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 31 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Feb 1 2 Peter 3:14-18 \_\_\_\_\_

### Wk of Feb 2 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the New Testament

- Feb 3 Ephesians 1:17-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
Feb 4 Ephesians 3:7-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
Feb 5 Colossians 1:9-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
Feb 6 Colossians 3:12-17 \_\_\_\_\_  
Feb 7 James 1:5-8 \_\_\_\_\_  
Feb 8 James 3:13-18 \_\_\_\_\_

# January 2020 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>5</b> 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - <i>The Holy Land</i> - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 MEXICAN DINNER PLANNING	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	<b>8</b> 10:00 NEW MONTHLY WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER & 6:30 - NEW WOMEN'S STUDY: <i>Discerning</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  7:00 WHIST NIGHT @ Pastor & Violet's	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - <i>The Holy Land</i> - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship NOON SUNDAY SCHOOL BOWLING	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	<b>15</b> 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER & 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	<b>16</b> MISSION Ministry 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	<b>Lord's Supper Dates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday, January 5th</li> <li>Sunday, January 19th</li> </ul>	
<b>19</b> SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - <i>The Holy Land</i> - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 11:45 - CHOIR PRACTICE	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	<b>22</b> 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER & 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - LWML Planning	<b>23</b>  <i>Mexican Fiesta Dinner 2020</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 4:00-7:00 MEXICAN FIESTA DINNER
<b>26</b> 9:00 - ADULT STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - Fellowship 11:45 - CHOIR PRACTICE	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	<b>29</b> 6:00 - 5-6th PARENTS First-Communion Mtg 6:00 - PRAYER & 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Feb 1</b>
<b>Feb 2</b> 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - <i>The Holy Land</i> - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper 11:15 - Fellowship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	<b>5</b> 10:00 MONTHLY WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER & 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	<b>Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to:</b> <a href="mailto:newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net">newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net</a>		
				<b>Thank You from the Jastrams..</b> We are so happy to have you as part of our mission-ary team. Your support for LCMS mission work in Asia means a lot to us. Dan & Joan Jastram Read the latest newsletter at: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/yxxxcr6x">http://tinyurl.com/yxxxcr6x</a> 		

## Upcoming Schedules...

### Fellowship Servers

Jan 5 Linda VanMeter & Tammy Fuglie  
 Jan 12 Knutsons  
 Jan 19 Wendy Robbin / Alida Sawatzky / Mary Lee Moore  
 Jan 26 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller

Feb 2 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham  
 Feb 9 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson  
 Feb 16 Friendship Brunch  
 Feb 23 Bonnie Hansen

### Usher Schedule

Jan 5 Brent & Lance Sawatzky  
 Jan 12 Jason & Noah/Levi Miller  
 Jan 19 Wendy & Lonny Robbin  
 Jan 26 Brady & Andrew Sharp

Feb 2 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer  
 Feb 9 Larry Levin & Carroll Sarsland  
 Feb 16 Derek & Sarah Olson  
 Feb 23 Kevin Welsh & Wally Abraham  
 Ash Wed Duane Hanson & Chuck Weflen

### Make A Meal Volunteers

Jan Wachers & Nancy Jo Wendt  
 Feb Wendy Robbin & Pam Johnson

### Acolyte (little brothers & sisters)

Jan 5 Carson Sawatzky  
 Jan 12 Addison Arends-Schmidt  
 Jan 19 Autumn Foshaug  
 Jan 26 Jonah Sharp  
 Feb 2 Rya Sharp  
 Feb 9 Kala Miller  
 Feb 16 Will Dahl  
 Feb 23 Carter Foshaug

### Seen on Church Signboard...

**This year.. Try Jesus!**  
**(If you don't like Him, the devil will**  
**always take you back.)**

## Page 14

We tend to criticize others not because they have faults, but because their faults are different from ours.

That for a day:

## Page 15

### Nursery

(more volunteers needed...)

Jan 5 Pam Johnson  
 Jan 12 Violet Dauk  
 Jan 19 Mona Hjelle  
 Jan 26 Volunteer Needed  
 Feb 2 Pam Johnson  
 Feb 9 Violet Dauk  
 Feb 16 Mona Hjelle  
 Feb 23 Volunteer Needed

### Elders

Jan 5,12 Joe & Jason  
 Jan 19,26 Ed & Kevin  
 Feb 2/9 Keith & Joe  
 Feb 16/23/26 Jason & Ed

### Scripture Readers

Jan 5 Jason Miller  
 Jan 12 Mark Fuglie  
 Jan 19 Tammy Fuglie  
 Jan 26 Leone Quigley

Feb 2 Nykki Foshaug  
 Feb 9 Ruth Vegdahl  
 Feb 16 Mona Hjelle  
 Feb 23 Sarah Olson

### Altar Guild

Jan Nancy Jo Wendt  
 Feb Mona Hjelle

### Custodian

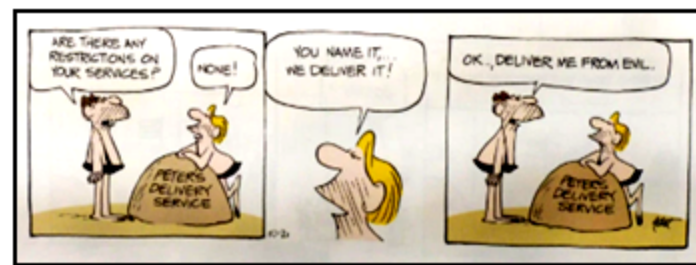
Jan Wendy & Lonny Robbin  
 Feb Wendy & Lonny Robbin

### Accompanying Musicians

Jan 5 Sharon Willen  
 Jan 12 Scott Wachter  
 Jan 19 Pam Johnson  
 Jan 26 Carmen Macik  
 Feb 2 Sharon Willen  
 Feb 9 Scott Wachter  
 Feb 16 Pam Johnson  
 Feb 23 Carmen Macik

### Confirmation Parent-Helper

Jan 1 No Class  
 Jan 8 Macik  
 Jan 15 Miller  
 Jan 22 Rustad  
 Jan 29 Sarsland  
 Feb 5 Sharp  
 Feb 12 Dahl  
 Feb 19 Macik  
 Feb 26 Miller



## January Discipleship Verse...

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
 all who follow his precepts have good  
 understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.*

Psalm 111:10

## 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
- January Newsletters
- January—March 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 [livingwordlutheran.net](http://livingwordlutheran.net) home page)

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 12-1-19       | "Light one candle for Hope (Capital "H")"           |
| 12-8-19       | "The One Christmas Preparation You Can't Forget"    |
| 12-15-19      | "What name of Jesus do you connect with?"           |
| 12-22-19      | "A really important lesson on faith from Joseph"    |
| Christmas Eve | "Two most important words from the Christmas story" |
| 12-29-19      | "What do we do now that Christmas is over?"         |

### CHOIR ...

Start out the New Year by joining the choir!  
Please join us after worship January 19th and 26th  
as we rehearse for singing on February 2nd



### 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 .

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.

## Page 16

Thot for a day: The trouble with the rat race is even if you win, you're still a rat.

## Page 17

### 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, etc...



### Offering Envelopes



### Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2020

If you like to use dated envelopes for your offerings, we have them available. Just pick up a box of envelopes from under the mailboxes. Write down the # of the box you took. Thanks!

### Remember to Wear Your "Living Word" Sweatshirts

Not only are they warm (and look really "cool") but they could also be a conversation starter when people ask things like, "And where is Living Word located?"



## **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...

- The Holy Spirit's power to follow God's Plan everyday in 2020
- Thanking God for all the blessings of 2019 (take time to list them)
- Asking God to open our eyes to see His guiding in the coming year
- People you can invite to any of our studies or events or worship
- Great attendance & good weather for our Mexican Fiesta Dinner
- Thanking God that Jesus is still "Immanuel" (God With Us) today.
- A "Christmas-like" attitude of giving that continues all year
- Safe travel
- 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

## Sunday School...

Meets every Sunday at 9:00.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING: JANUARY 12**  
**BOWLING at Alley on Ash** (New London)

A free event for Sunday School students, family & friends.  
2 games of bowling, shoes, pizza & pop.  
Please sign up in back of church. Thanks!

### 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!

## Mark Your Calendar...

### Register Now:

**Women's Retreat 2020:**  
**"Unfading Beauty"**  
April 17-19  
Muskie Lodge, Mille Lacs Lake

Join us as we explore the Unfading Beauty in the body, mind and soul of the Christian woman.



Registration Deadline: April 1. (Early Bird Entry drawing March 1)  
\$150 each- includes 2 nights' lodging and meals!  
Checks can be given to Tammy Miller, Violet Dauk or Ruth Vegdahl.

### Annual Whist Party at Pastor & Violet's

Friday, January 10 - 7:00 p.m.  
The Annual Court Whist Night at Pastor and Violet's home.

Bring a friend and an appetizer to share!  
(Pastor David says: "You don't even have to know how to play. It's easy to learn!- If I can figure it out, anyone can!")



### Preparation for First Communion:

We will have an information meeting on Wednesday, January 29 @ 6:00 p.m. for parents of 5th and 6th graders. (The students will have their first communion during the Maundy Thursday service on April 9.) Please talk to Pastor David if you have questions or are unable to attend that day. Thanks!



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That for a day: Sure worry works: 98% of the things I worry about don't happen.

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## LWML...



### OUR NEXT MEETING:

will be Wednesday, January 22nd, 7:00pm, at church. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss, and plan for, what we wish to accomplish in 2020.

### SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

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

### ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN:

Ashley Hansen is in the process of crocheting infant hats to be donated to Orphan Grain Train. She is in need of white, black, and gray yarn for making the hats. If you have yarn to donate, please bring it to church, and put it in the shoe donation boxes. Other colors of yarn would be welcome, as well.



## Community Outreach...



### Mexican Fiesta Dinner 2020

Saturday, January 25, 4:00-7:00

We will hold a planning meeting after worship on January 5.

Idea: Pre-purchase tickets to give to friends as an outreach.

Cost: \$10.00 for adults,  
\$5.00 for kids 5-11,  
Free for kids 4 & under

### How You Can Help:

Serve:	+ Decorate	+ Prep food	+ Set Up
	+ Serve Food	+ Take Down	
Donate:	+ taco meat	+ salsa	+ cheese + rice + chips
	+ refried beans	+ black olives	+ taco shells
	+ tortillas	+ nacho cheese sauce	+ ice cream

+++

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

## Opportunities to Serve...

### 4-6th Grade Group:

Volunteer(s) Needed to organize an outing for the group in January. 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.

### Provide Light Suppers for Confirmation students:

We we'd like to provide a light supper (sandwiches, hot dogs, etc) for the Confirmation students. Please talk to Pastor David if you could take a turn once a month providing this meal for six students.

### One More Fellowship Server Needed:

We are looking for someone to team up with one of our current servers serve snacks for after-worship fellowship once every 2 months.

### Two More Ushers Needed:

Talk to Pastor if you can help. (Father-Son/Daughter teams are great!) Thanks!

### Read Scripture in Worship

Please talk to Pastor David if you can take a turn once every couple of months reading our New Testament and Old Testament Scriptures

### 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 January Make-a-Meal volunteers are Scott & Tammy Wachter and Nancy Jo Wendt.

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

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That for a day: Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.

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with that person's address. It truly is a simple way to brighten the spirits of someone who's going through 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



Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) purchases to Living Word. Use this link to have your purchases support Living Word: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1513306>

### 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.

## 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:

- Carolers
- Sunday School Program
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
- All the Blessings of This Past Year

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



## Story Behind The Song...

### "My Lighthouse"

The season of Epiphany highlights Jesus as the Light that shines our way. It's an appropriate time to find out the story behind the upbeat contemporary Christian song, "My Lighthouse."

(from an interview with Gareth Gilkeson and Chris Llewellyn of Rend Collective)

Chris: Living in Northern Ireland, lighthouses are something we see quite often on our coastline. For us, it has become a picture of the faithfulness of God and His constancy in our lives. He is this unshifting Light. We all go through seasons of storms, troubles and sorrows, and we can count on Jesus to be that Fire before us the same way He led

the children of Israel in the desert by Fire. He still is that Fire before us today, like a lighthouse.

Gareth: It's funny because we sing in many churches all around the world and it's amazing how many pictures of lighthouses are on the walls.

Gareth: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world," and throughout the centuries, the picture of the Church is that we are the light of the world. It's great to see that symbolism. That's what we were thinking about when we were working on the song, and we sing about failures and doubting, and knowing that God doesn't walk out on us, and that He's the peace in our troubled seas. No matter what we are going through, or are looking for God you can know that He's not going to let you drown in your circumstances. There are so many pictures of that in Scripture: Peter walking on the water and Jesus calming the storm. Those are powerful pictures and calming for us.

Gareth: The last part of the chorus is "safe to shore," and we sing it a bunch of times. I love that idea, that literally when you are lost and don't know where you are, you can trust that no matter where your head is, God is going to lead you safe to shore. You are going to get to the harbor and the land. You're not going to starve and be overcome by the waves.

Chris: This song represents a way of wrestling with your suffering and with your doubts and so much of worship is within the context of real life. We all worship with our real life situations and struggles happening around us. There's no way to get around that. We all need to learn how to raise up our voices in singing to God even in those troubles and trials in our lives.

Lyrics for the song "My Lighthouse":

*In my wrestling and in my doubts.....  
In my failures You won't walk out.  
You're great love will lead me through..  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.*

**Chorus:** *My lighthouse .....My lighthouse.....  
Shining in the darkness I will follow You.  
My lighthouse.....My lighthouse.....  
I will trust the promise: You will carry me safe to shore....  
Safe to shore...Safe to shore...Safe to shore.*

*In the silence You won't let go.....  
In the questions Your truth will hold.  
Your great love will lead me through.....*

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That for a day: Children will soon forget your presents; they will always remember your presence.

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*You are the peace in my troubled sea.*

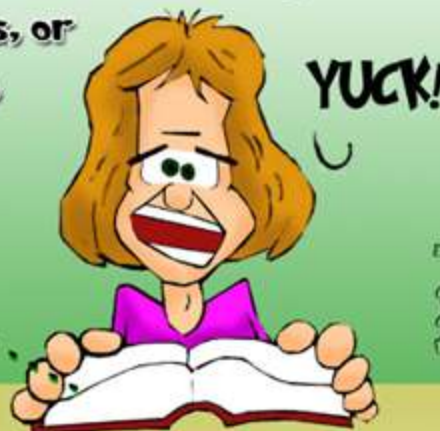
**Chorus:** *My lighthouse .....My lighthouse.....  
Shining in the darkness I will follow You.  
My lighthouse.....My lighthouse.....  
I will trust the promise: You will carry me safe to shore....  
Safe to shore...Safe to shore...Safe to shore.*

**Editor's note:** Watch the official video by Rend Collective at <https://youtu.be/reAUkv7ptU>

## New Music of the Month...

Since we are featuring an Irish band (Rend Collective) this month, I thought I would stay in that part of the world and feature a great new song from an artist from Scotland, Jamie Kimmet, called **Burdens**. Watch at <https://youtu.be/f8DRsRxTMs>

**The Back Pew - Jeff Larson**  
**Animal sacrifices.. blood.. lots of blood!.. burnt offerings, don't eat buzzards, bats, rats, badgers, or bugs, moles, or mice.. & no touching dead bodies!**



**THE BEGINAGAINS - The annual intention to read thru your Bible only to bog down in LEVITICUS.. then start over the next year.**