

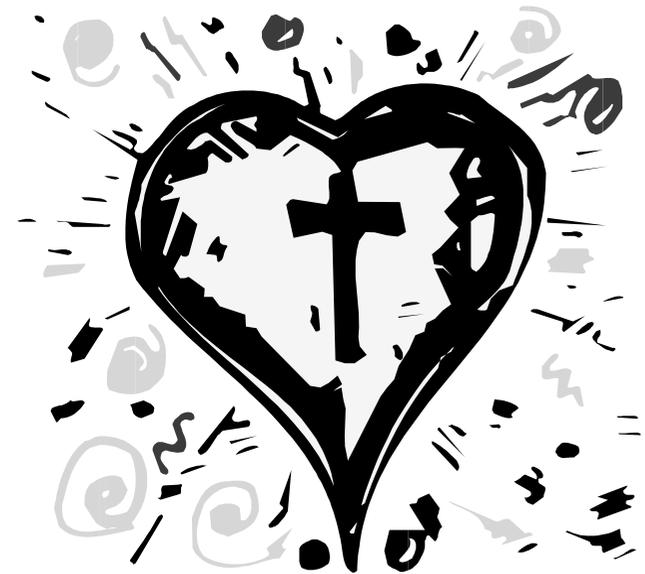


Living Word Lutheran Church
PO Box 242,
New London, MN 56273

Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

**December 2005
Newsletter**

“Communicating the Love of Jesus”



**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

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Questions for Pastor...

Taking a little break from the “serious, theological questions” . .

What is your favorite Christmas carol ?

I can't say that I have just one favorite. It seems that there is an unusual number of great songs and carols for Advent and Christmas. There are songs with some of the best tunes as well as songs with great lyrics - and some songs that combine great tunes with great lyrics.

My traditional favorite has been “Joy to the World,” even though it's technically not a Christmas song. It was written as a paraphrase of Psalm 98 and later came to be used as a joyful song celebrating Christ's coming to earth. One reason people like certain songs is that those songs are connected with certain fond memories. That may be the underlying reason Joy to the World always been my favorite. I love the tune, but it's the memory connected with the song that makes it a favorite. You see, when I was growing up Joy to the World was always the song we sung at the end of the Christmas program on Christmas Eve. When the organist pounded out those first notes, I knew the program was over and it was time to head home to open presents - joy to the world!

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” is another favorite. Again, it has a bold, joyful tune, and the last two lines really sum up Christmas: *“Mild, He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die. Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.”* But this is another song with memories attached. I remember as a child humming this tune in my head as I went to

Opportunities to Learn...

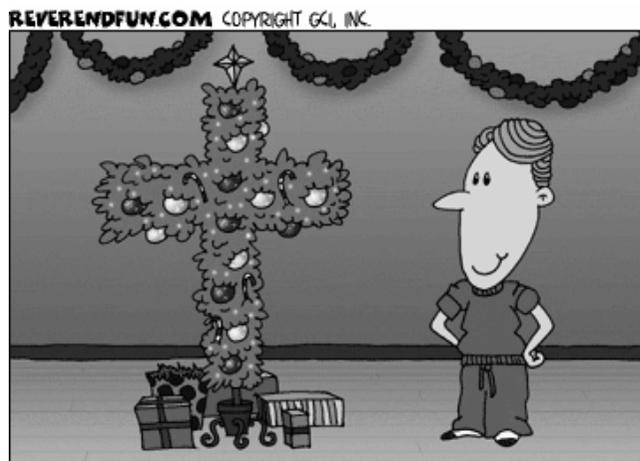
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"Doubts About Creation? Not After This."

Starting December 4

With court cases all over the country trying to prohibit the teaching of creation, it's easy to get talked into the idea that this is one of those "separation of church and state" issues. It's not. It's also easy to get brainwashed into thinking that the *theory* of evolution is "science" and the teaching of creation is "religion." Again, that's not true either. We will take a look at the facts. Facts that show we don't have to apologize for believing in creation by a Creator God.

Please join us at 9:15 for coffee, cookies and the truth of God's Word.



Annual New Years Eve WIST tournament!

Saturday December 31st starting @ 8:00PM.



Join us for a fun filled night of playing Wist. This is a great FAMILY night. Bring an appetizer/snack and get ready for some fun! Anyone can play...anyone can win!

Bring a friend or two. Soft drinks and plates/napkins and PRIZES are provided.

Please call Tammy Miller @ 320-354-4161 with any questions or to RSVP!

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sleep on Christmas Eve.

Enough of the "trip down memory lane."

Lessons From Bible Guys: Jesus

Reprinted from last December (It's just as relevant this year)

It almost seems sacrilegious to refer to Jesus as a "guy." But, the celebration of Christmas reminds us that in addition to being fully God, *Jesus was also fully human*. Indeed he is the ultimate example for us to follow.

As we approach the Christmas season and the celebration of His coming to earth, He gives us the example of the gift to give. What gift did He give us on his birthday (setting the example of something He later said, "It is more blessed to give than receive.")?

The most basic gift Jesus gave was the gift of Himself.

God came to be with us as one of us.

As you are tempted this month to buy all sorts of material gifts for the people close to you, remember what they really want is your presence - not your presents. Get creative and think of ways to give your presence *throughout the coming year* - not just for a week or so after Christmas...

Some ideas: Give your wife the promise of a "date a month"

Give your kids the promise of a special day spent with each of them each month. If they no longer live at home, promise them a visit more often than in the past. Or mark dates each month (week?) when you will call them.

The same thing applies with your parents and your friends. The gift they really want is your presence. It's the example that Jesus set the first Christmas. You will be blessed and so will they.

p.s. Don't forget, that's also the gift Jesus wants for His birthday

But, maybe the song that for me best combines a great tune with great words is "Good King Wenceslas." It's disappointing that the song isn't found in most hymnals. I think that in the story of a king who left his throne to provide for the needs of a poor peasant we really have the story of what happened on Christmas. Christ, the King, looked upon us poor peasants here on earth and saw our greatest need, the need for forgiveness. So, He left His throne in heaven, came to earth and did what only He could do to take care of that need. And just as the king in the song tells his page to follow in his footsteps, Christ tells us to follow in His footsteps, for it is there that we find the power to do what the King did: help others.

Therefore, Christian men, be sure

Wealth or rank possessing

Ye who now will bless the poor

Shall yourselves find blessing

Thanks for asking,
Pastor Dave

ANGEL TREE PROJECT:

The Sunday School Board would like to invite you into sharing the "Angel Tree" program through the Salvation Army. The tags on the tree have names of children that are maybe a bit less fortunate than others and desire a clothing item and a toy for Christmas.



All you need to do is select a tag(s) for your family and purchase the items requested and simply return them back to the church-unwrapped by December 16th.

We also ask that when you take a tag that you write your name on the sign-up sheet-so we know where all the tags are.

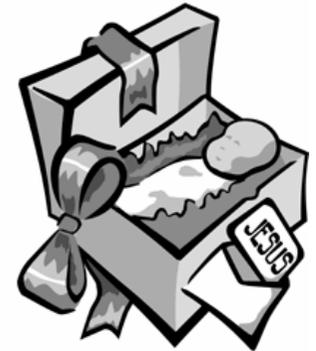
Thank-you for sharing in this wonderful contribution!

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Christmas Program...

The congregation is invited to attend a Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18th, at 4:00 p.m., at Living Word. The Sunday School students will present the Good news of Jesus' birth. Included will be readings, and recitations by the children, special music, and singing of Christmas Carols. All children in the congregation (even though not currently enrolled in Sunday School) are welcome to participate in this joyous service.



Following the Christmas program (at approximately 5:00 p.m.), we will have a ham supper at church. Meat, and eating utensils will be provided. Please bring a dessert and a large dish to pass (suitable to serve approximately 10-12). If you have family, neighbors, etc attending the program, please make sure to invite them to the meal also.

Sunday School practices for the Christmas Program will be held at the church on three Saturdays in December (3rd, 10th, & 17th) at 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. In order to have a successful program, it is very important that your child be at the practices. We will start promptly at 9:00 and will be finished by 10:30. Any questions, please feel free to contact Tammy Fuglie, Mona Hjelle, or Bonnie Hansen.

December Discipleship Verse...



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

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**“Get Into” Advent with Advent Midweek Worship:
Join us the Wednesdays of Advent from 7:30-8:15 p.m.
“Decorating (your life) for Christmas”**

We all do some decorating around the house to prepare for Christmas. This Advent we will take time out to prepare not just our homes but our hearts by letting Christ do some “re-decorating” of our lives.

EACH SERVICE WILL INCLUDE :

Readings by members of our All Stars 4 Jesus group
Messages prepared for us by the 9th Grade confirmation class (based on their readings from their recent Bible study *Just Like Jesus*)

Following worship members of the “Igniters” Youth Group will serve a special Ice Cream treat for us to enjoy along with fellowship

- **December 7** Message by Amanda Olson and Alicia Willer:
- **December 14** Message by Cole Erickson, Anthony Dauk, and Allan Fuglie
- **December 21** Message by Vince Mische

Plan to join us. It will give your spiritual life a lift - and help you to decorate your life in preparation for Christ to come.

Stress In Your Life ?

(Who doesn't have it this time of year?)

Learn How to Deal With It
NEW in our free booklet rack (in front of Pastor's office)

Stress is natural in a world damaged by sin. Stress can actually be a good warning sign - if we heed the warning and deal with it appropriately. But what is “appropriately”? Pick up the new booklet from our friends at Lutheran Hour Ministries. Then pass it along to someone else.

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MMT minutes...

MMT met on November 17th with Mark Fuglie sitting in for Dan Miller. Pastors Devotion was from the Daily Bible Readings-Psalm 23.

We went over our Priority Issues. Need to fill Stewardship and Music Coordinators Positions.

Jack Kuppich is now the coordinator for Make-a-Meal.

Land Committee will meet with Charlie Koch on Tuesday to make an offer on the land we are pursuing.

Will be exploring the A-blaze program in Feb.

Treasurer's Report: Will pay all outstanding bills w/ exception of Amundson Attorney which will pay \$100. Also discussed the special offering that was taken in for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Decided to send \$500 to a congregation in Texas and remaining monies will go to a family in Mississippi, where our youth will go down and purchase items needed to do repairs.

Christmas Eve Worship has been set for 5:00 P.M. and Christmas Day worship will be at 9:00 A.M. and also New Years Day service at 9:00 A.M.

Will do the "Angel Tree" for entire congregation.

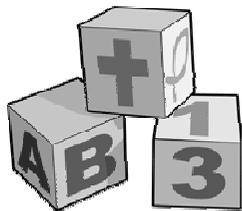
Will celebrate Charter Sunday w/ New Members with at Potluck January 15.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ... HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO YOU ... HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR JESUS ...
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

A Minute for Parents...



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Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday School Classes: 3 years to 9th grade **9:15 -10:15**

Sunday Morning Adult Study: 9:15 through January 8
"Doubts About Creation? Not After This!"

Women's Bible Study: *"Breaking Free"*

11:00 - noon Mondays

An in-depth, Beth Moore study designed to help us break free of the "strongholds" that keep us from experiencing the blessings God has planned.

Tuesday Prayer and Bible Study - Romans

9:30 @ Agape' Coffee

Join us for a great time of fellowship and walking through books of the Bible. We learn what it means to be righteous in the *book of Romans*.

Men's Group - Is God really our father? Study of EPHESIANS

7:00 p.m. Tuesdays

All Stars 4 Jesus (4th - 6th Graders)

Wednesday -6:30 p.m.

Join us at 6:00 for a light supper followed at 6:30 by lots of fun growing closer to Jesus.

7-8th Graders: Confirmation classes -

6:30 p.m. Wednesday

We get to know God by reading His Diary (the Bible)

Join us at 6:00 for a light supper before we study at 6:30

9th Graders: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays

We study at 6:30 how to become "Just Like Jesus"

Join us for a light supper at 6:00 before we study.

10-12 Graders: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays

NOTE TIME CHANGE DURING DECEMBER

Join us to learn what it takes to become "Just Like Jesus"

Join us for a light supper at 6:00 before we study.

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

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Make A Meal

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 sign up on the “Make A Meal” sign up sheet or talk to “Make A Meal” coordinator Jack Kuppich or Pastor David

And please remember to tell Jack or Pastor David when you know of someone whose going through a tough time and could use a meal. Thanks!

Serve As An Usher

Hand out worship folders, collect the offering, usher people to communion.

It’s not difficult at all, but we need people to help.

Bryson Wachter is scheduling ushers for both services for the coming year. Indicate which service and time of year you prefer to help. Thanks in advance!

___ 8:00 or ___ 10:30 _____ Season of the year

Pray

This is something everyone can do.

We are updating our Prayer Force list. You will receive special requests for prayer via email or phone (you choose which).

My email _____

My phone # _____

Help Out With Children’s Church Once A Month

The only pre-requisite is a love for Jesus and for His kids

You read a Bible story or Object Lesson, say prayers and do an activity that reinforces the lesson. Lessons are provided. All you do is show up and lead. Please talk to Violet Dauk if you can help in this way. Thanks!

December 5-Minutes-a-day Devotional Readings

This Month’s Readings: More “Bible Overview in 125 readings (plus Psalm & Proverb)

(Read the major passages of the Bible along with the confirmation students)

Dec 1 1 Samuel 17:1-58 _____

Dec 2 1 Samuel 24:1-22 _____

Dec 3 Proverbs 5:21-23 _____

Dec 4 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Dec 5 2 Samuel 11:1-27 _____

Dec 6 2 Samuel 12:1-25 _____

Dec 7 Psalm 32 _____

Dec 8 1 Kings 3:4-28 _____

Dec 9 1 Kings 16:16-46 _____

Dec 10 Proverbs 6:16-19 _____

Dec 11 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Dec 12 2 Kings 2:1-18 _____

Dec 13 2 Kings 4:8-37 _____

Dec 14 Psalm 34 _____

Dec 15 2 Kings 22 & 23 _____

Dec 16 2 Chronicles 36 _____

Dec 17 Proverbs 8:1-21 _____

Dec 18 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Dec 19 Esther 2:1-23 _____

Dec 20 Esther 6 & 7 _____

Dec 21 Psalm 37:1-11, 34-40 _____

Dec 22 Luke 1:26-56 _____

Dec 23 Matthew 1-2 _____

Dec 24 Luke 2:1-20 _____

Dec 25 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Dec 26 John 1:1-18 _____

Dec 27 Galatians 4:4-7 _____

Dec 28 Psalm 46 _____

Dec 29 Job 1 _____

Dec 30 Job 42 _____

Dec 31 Proverbs 8:22-36 _____

Important Insights from the readings: _____

December

Living Word Lutheran Church - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4, 18 - Violet Dauk 11, Jan 1 - Tris Mische</p> <p>HELPERS 4 - Peter E. 11 - David G. 18 - Joey J. Jan 1 - Jesse M.</p>	<p>ELDERS: 8:00 Kevin Welsh & Duane Hansen 10:30 Ron Wothe</p>	<p>USHERS: 8:00 Troy Hansen 10:30 Chuck Weflen Jack Kuppich Jr. Usher: Joey J.</p> <p>GREETERS: Jim & Janet Towner Jr. Greeter: Sierra C.</p>	<p>November 30</p> <p>6:00 Meal 6:30 + All Stars 4 Jesus + 7-8th Confirm'n + 9th Confirmation + 10-12th Gr Study</p> <p>7:30 ADVENT WORSHIP Decorate life for Christ</p>	<p>December 1</p> <p>6:00 Elders' Team</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 - 10:30 Christmas Program Practice</p>
<p>4</p> <p>8:00 - Traditional Worship w/ Lord's Supper 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - Bible Study "No More Doubts re: Creation" 10:30 - Contemporary Worship w/ Lord's Supper</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11:00 Women's Study "Breaking Free"</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:15 - Prayer @ Agape' Coffee 9:30 - Bible Study - Romans @ Agape'</p> <p>7:00 - Men's Study</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 Meal 6:30 + All Stars 4 Jesus + 7-8th Confirm'n + 9th Confirmation + 10-12th Gr Study</p> <p>7:30 ADVENT WORSHIP Decorate life for Christ</p>	<p>8</p>		<p>9</p> <p>10:30 Christmas Program Practice</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:00 - Traditional Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - Bible Study "No More Doubts re: Creation" 10:30 - Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11:00 Women's Study "Breaking Free"</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:15 - Prayer @ Agape' Coffee 9:30 - Bible Study - Romans @ Agape'</p> <p>7:00 - Men's Study</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 Meal 6:30 + All Stars 4 Jesus + 7-8th Confirm'n + 9th Confirmation + 10-12th Gr Study</p> <p>7:30 ADVENT WORSHIP Decorate life for Christ</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 Sunday School Teachers 7:00 - Mission & Ministry Team</p>		<p>16</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:00 - Traditional Worship w/ Lord's Supper 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - Bible Study "No More Doubts re: Creation" 10:30 - Contemporary Worship w/ Lord's Supper 4:00 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 5:00 CHRISTMAS DINNER</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00 Women's Study "Breaking Free"</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:15 - Prayer @ Agape' Coffee 9:30 - Bible Study - Romans @ Agape'</p> <p>7:00 - Men's Study</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 Meal 6:30 + All Stars 4 Jesus + 7-8th Confirm'n + 9th Confirmation + 10-12th Gr Study</p> <p>7:30 ADVENT WORSHIP Decorate life for Christ</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:00 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP</p>
<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p>9:00 CHRISTMAS DAY Combined Worship</p>	<p>26</p> <p> HAPPY JESUS' BIRTHDAY</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:15 - Prayer @ Agape' Coffee 9:30 - Bible Study - Romans @ Agape'</p> <p>7:00 - Men's Study</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p> <p>8:00 NEW YEARS EVE FELLOWSHIP Whist tournament</p>