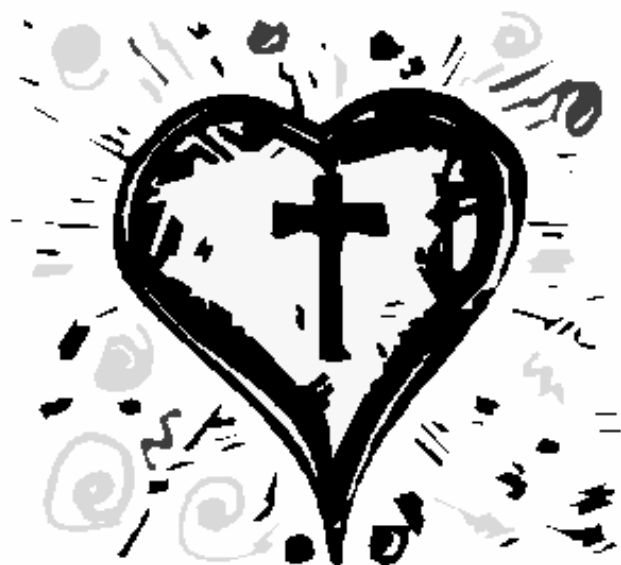


# **Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS**

**January 2006  
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  
Website: [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net)

### Questions for Pastor...



#### Why don't we have "kneelers" in the pews for praying ?

This question came during one of those confirmation classes where one question seemed to lead to another and another. We had been talking about praying and how one of the great benefits of prayer is that it humbles us. Humility is something God values very highly and prayer by its very nature is a humbling experience. When you come to God to ask something from Him you are admitting that you're powerless to control that specific situation in your life. It's very humbling to admit there's something you can't control.

That led to our featured question. My simple answer to that question is this: "I would say that there's no real good reason for not having kneelers." In keeping with the humble nature of prayer I can think of no better place to pray (or to make confession of sins) than on our knees. I have been in Lutheran churches (though, few and far between) that did have kneelers for people to use during prayers or the confession. Kneelers were also a part of the new chapel was built during my last year at seminary in St. Louis. But they are definitely the exception rather than the rule.

In answer to a question about the appropriateness of practices like making the sign of the cross or kneeling for prayer, the LC-MS on its web site has this to say (in its FAQ's section): *While there are numerous factors that can be cited [about why we don't see normally see these practices in LC-MS churches], probably the chief one is the fear that it is a "Catholic" thing. While the Lutheran Church does have serious disagreements with the Roman Catholic Church, it is an unfortunate thing that for many Lutherans in times past, the things that really divided us from the Roman Catholic Church had to do with external*

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*practices [which have nothing to do with our areas of disagreement], like making the sign of the cross, kneeling for prayer, etc...*

There's an old saying "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water." It means "Make sure you don't throw out the good when you throw out the bad." Unfortunately, over the centuries since Martin Luther threw out the "bath water" (like the teaching that we can buy forgiveness with money), we've also tossed out lots of good things like the practice of kneeling during prayers and confession in worship.

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

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### THANK YOU

To everyone who remembered us this Christmas with cards and gifts. We greatly appreciate your support and partnership in the Gospel!

Pastor David, Violet, Anthony and Rebecca

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

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

Our Discipleship Verse for January reminds us: *"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.

Of all the things you can resolve to do this new year, **THE ONE THAT WILL LIKELY GIVE YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE THE BIGGEST LIFT** (not to mention your physical and emotional life) **is this one:** Read God's Diary (His Word)

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!

**Here are some of the 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, kindness, faithfulness
- + grow in your faith - your trust in God will be strengthened
- + tap 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 and focus on Jesus instead of on your expectations that haven't been met.
- + 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 resist."

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## **Opportunities to "Share the Love of Jesus in Practical ways"...**

### **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 pro-



vided. All you do is show up and lead. Please talk to Violet Dauk if you can help in this way. Thanks!

### **Take the "POLAR PLUNGE"**

**Saturday, January 28**

We jump in Green Lake to raise funds for Special Olympics  
Last year Pastor and a bunch of guys from the confirmation classes took the plunge. THIS YEAR WE WANT A MUCH BIGGER GROUP ! **Talk to Pastor**

## **What did Jesus bring at Christmas?**

**God's PRESENT to us at Christmas is the gift of His PRESENCE**

**Wrapped up in His Presence are these other gifts . . .**

### **Comfort**

- + There's great comfort in knowing your sins can be forgiven
- + There's great comfort in knowing that in a world where everything changes, God's Word never does. If He said it, you can bank on it. He won't change His mind.
- + There's great comfort in knowing you aren't alone. God is there.
- + There's great comfort in knowing that the God who is there is a God who loves you - no matter what.

### **Joy**

- + There is joy in actually receiving forgiveness of your sins.
- + There is joy in knowing that because God kept His promise to come the first time, you can be sure He will keep His promise to return.
- + There is joy in knowing that when He returns, you and all who believe in Jesus will rise in a renewed body to live forever on a renewed earth

### **Peace**

- + Jesus brought peace between sinful creation and a sinless God.
- + We receive that peace when we surrender to Jesus and

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trust Him for eternal life

+ We receive that peace daily when we surrender our will to Jesus' will.

### **Love**

- + Love is essential for life. We do all sorts of hurtful things when we don't get it.
- + Love is not something to just talk about. The Bible is clear that love is something that must be demonstrated with actions. Jesus is "Love With Skin On"
- + Love is "Doing for others what they can't do when it is in your power to do it."
- + God showed that real love when He came to earth to pay the way for us to get into heaven (something we could never have done due to our sin)

**We need each of these gifts not just at Christmas time but every day.** But how do we "unwrap" the gift of God's Presence and receive them?

### **Come to Worship -**

*"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them"*

### **Come to the Lord's Supper -**

God's presence comes to us individually in the most personal of ways.

### **Open Your Bible and Read -**

God is present with His wisdom, guidance and power for your life.

### **Pray -**

God is present to listen and answer with the best answer of all.

**January 15:**

### **Charter Sunday & New Member Reception**

It has been one year since Living Word was chartered as an official member of the Minnesota North District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We will celebrate our first year by receiving a group of new members in worship. We will then celebrate with a special potluck meal following the second service.

# January Living Word Lutheran Church - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 1</b>  9:00 - Worship w/ Lord's Supper  10:15 - Bible Study "No More Doubts re: Creation"	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  9:15 - Prayer @ Agape' Coffee 9:30 - Bible Study - Romans 14 @ Agape'  7:00 - Men's Study	<b>4</b>  6:00 Meal 6:30 + All Stars 4 Jesus + 7-8th Confirm'n + 9th Confirmation  7:30 + 10-12th Gr Study	<b>5</b>  6:00 Elders' Team	<b>6</b>  Circuit Pastor's @ Blue Heron	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>  8:00 - Traditional Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - Bible Study "No More Doubts re: Creation" 10:30 - Contemporary Worship	<b>9</b>  11:00 Women's Study "Breaking Free"	<b>10</b>  9:15 - Prayer @ Agape' Coffee 9:30 - Bible Study - Romans 15 @ Agape'  7:00 - Men's Study	<b>11</b>  6:00 Meal 6:30 + All Stars 4 Jesus + 7-8th Confirm'n + 9th Confirmation  7:30 + 10-12th Gr Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY</b> <b>CHARTER SUNDAY</b>  8:00 - Traditional Worship w/ Lord's Supper 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - NEW Bible Study "Personal Witnessing" 10:30 - Contemporary Worship w/ Lord's Supper Noon - New Member / Charter Potluck Dinner	<b>16</b>  11:00 Women's Study "Breaking Free"	<b>17</b>  9:15 - Prayer @ Agape' Coffee 9:30 - Bible Study - Romans 16 @ Agape'  7:00 - Men's Study	<b>18</b>  6:00 Meal 6:30 + All Stars 4 Jesus + 7-8th Confirm'n + 9th Confirmation  7:30 + 10-12th Gr Study	<b>19</b>  6:00 Sunday School Teachers  7:00 - Mission & Ministry Team	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Men's Night Out
<b>22 SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY</b>  8:00 - Traditional Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - Bible Study "Personal Witnessing" 10:30 - Contemporary Worship	<b>23</b>  11:00 Women's Study	<b>24</b>  9:15 - Prayer @ Agape' Coffee 9:30 - Bible Study - @ Agape'  7:00 - Men's Study	<b>25</b>  6:00 Meal 6:30 + All Stars 4 Jesus + 7-8th Confirm'n + 9th Confirmation  7:30 + 10-12th Gr Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  2:00 POLAR PLUNGE @ Melvin's
<b>29</b>  8:00 - Traditional Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - Bible Study "Personal Witnessing" 10:30 - Contemporary Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  9:15 - Prayer @ Agape' Coffee 9:30 - Bible Study - @ Agape'  7:00 - Men's Study	<b>Feb 1</b>  6:00 Meal 6:30 + All Stars 4 Jesus + 7-8th Confirm'n + 9th Confirmation  7:30 + 10-12th Gr Study	<b>USHERS:</b> 8:00 Troy Hansen 10:30 Chuck Wyffen, Jack Kuppich Jr. Usher: David Geer  <b>GREETERS:</b> Jim & Janet Towner Jr. Greeter: Becca Dauk	<b>ELDERS:</b>  8:00 Kevin Welsh & Duane Hansen  10:30 Ron Wothe	<b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</b> 8, 22 - Violet Dauk 1, 15, 29 - Tris Mische  <b>HELPERS</b> 1 - Anthony 8 - Cole 15 - Allan 22 - Vince 29 - Alicia



# A Minute for Parents...

## TEACHING THE FAITH - PART 5

Last month we learned that *"The legacy you leave is the legacy you live."* In other words, the most important thing you leave behind for your kids is your example.

This month you can set an example by giving an "After-Christmas" Gift that will keep 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

As I shared in one of the Christmas messages, 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."

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.**

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## January 5-Minutes-a-day Devotional Readings

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

Remember, you can go to [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net) and click on "Pastor's Notes" to read His comments about the passages (click on "Comments" to add your own insights)

- Jan 1 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed  
Jan 2 Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 3 Daniel 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 4 Psalm 51 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 5 Daniel 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 6 Daniel 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 7 Proverbs 9 \_\_\_\_\_
- Jan 8 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed  
Jan 9 Jonah 1-2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 10 Jonah 3-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 11 Psalm 53 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 12 Jeremiah 29:11-14 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 13 Malachi 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 14 Proverbs 10:17-24 \_\_\_\_\_
- Jan 15 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed  
Jan 16 Matthew 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 17 Matthew 6 - 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 18 Psalm 62 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 19 Matthew 14:13-36 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 20 Matthew 21:1-17 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 21 Proverbs 11:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- Jan 22 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed  
Jan 23 Luke 10:25-42 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 24 Luke 14:25-35 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 25 Psalm 67 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 26 Luke 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 27 Luke 22:1-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 28 Proverbs 11:21-28 \_\_\_\_\_
- Jan 29 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed  
Jan 30 John 3:1-21 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 31 John 4:1-42 \_\_\_\_\_

Important Insights from the readings: \_\_\_\_\_

## Opportunities for Growth...

Daily Bible Readings - see "5-Minutes a day readings" page

Sunday School Classes: 3 years to 9<sup>th</sup> grade 9:15 -10:15

Sunday Morning Adult Study:

*"Doubts About Creation? Not After This!"*

January 1 @ 10:15 & January 8 @ 9:15

*"Evangelism for the Individual"*

January 15, 22, 29 @ 9:15

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

11:00 - noon Mondays January 9 & 16

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.

NEXT STUDY: *Living Free: Praying God's Word*

Tuesday Prayer and Bible Study - *Romans*

9:30 @ Agape' Coffeehouse

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 - Study of EPHESIANS

7:00 p.m. Tuesdays

All Stars 4 Jesus (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> 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: 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays

Join us as we continue to learn what it takes to become "Just Like Jesus" You're welcome to join us for supper at 6:00 and just hang out until we study.

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## Personal Witnessing Class...

Do you know people that don't know the Lord? Do you want to tell them about God? Are you confused about exactly how to talk about God with others?

Now you don't have to be. This in depth study will use the Bible and the book *Out of the Saltshaker* to uncover the basics of evangelism as well as how each person can put them into practice. The study will also cover examples of how to start reaching other people. The goal is to make evangelism easy and practical for everyone.

This is a study that will be beneficial for everyone whether they are discovering how evangelism works for them or how to refine their tools.

This will be a six-week study beginning Sunday, Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. Please make the effort to better your life as well as others' by attending this study and using evangelism in a positive way. Don't let someone live without Christ any longer. Learn how you can be the one to reach them and change their lives without stress or worry affecting you.

Please join us at 9:15 for coffee, baked goods and our study of "Evangelism for the Individual."

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### New Booklet from Lutheran Hour Ministries

"Parenting With Purpose"

Without a doubt, parenting is hard work. Yet, you wouldn't trade it for the world. Between paying bills, trips through the drive-thru and juggling schedules, you may find yourself lost in such a whirlwind of immediacy that you lose focus. How can you love and protect your children in the best way? How do you parent them with *purpose*?

Take heart! Our intentional, loving and perfect God - your heavenly Father - loves and cares for you and has a purpose for you and your family. Inside this booklet, you'll discover practical insights to strengthen the way you relate to your children - helping you find the Christ-centered rhythm God intends for you and your family.

Look for it in our Project Connect booklet rack. Give one to a friend.



## Opportunities to Learn...

**"Doubts About Creation? Not After This."**

The Pre-Flood World - January 1 & January 8

Have you ever wondered how people could live to be 900 years old? Are dinosaurs in the Bible? Did dinosaurs go on the ark with Noah? Did dinosaurs live with humans? How old is the earth? These and many more questions will be answered as we take a look at what the Bible says about the earth before the flood.

It is more important than ever for Christians to know the evidence that God created the earth as opposed to everything "evolving." Please plan to join us for our last two sessions on January 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 on Sunday mornings.

### New Women's Study : *Living Free*

Beginning late January

Beth Moore's *Living Free: Learning to Pray God's Word* combines key concepts from Beth's best-selling *Breaking Free* study with prayer practices taught in her book *Praying God's Word* for a more in-depth look at Christian freedom.

*Living Free* begins by defining false strongholds, then focuses on five key benefits for every believer, including how to find satisfaction in God and experience God's peace. As the subtitle suggests, participants can learn how to develop a God-ward focus in life, while beginning to incorporate the key benefits in their lives through practices of prayer and Bible study.

*Living Free: Learning to Pray God's Word* is a six-session study.

### REMINDER:

Go to [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net)

Click on "Pastor's Notes" for Pastor David's comments on the daily Bible readings. You can add your own insights by clicking on "comments" below Pastor's comment

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## A Minute for Men...

### Lessons From Bible Guys: The Wise Men

We don't know a lot about these guys. We don't know exactly how many there were or exactly where they came from. We don't know their names or exactly what they spent their time doing. But we do know one very important thing:

They made a priority of seeking Jesus and worshiping Him.

They traveled hundreds of miles (maybe even a thousand) to find Jesus and when they finally found Him they knelt down and worshiped Him.

I'm sure they could have found some reasons (excuses) to turn around and head back. But they didn't. Because seeking God and worshiping Him was a priority. THE priority.

You don't have to travel months and hundreds of miles in order to find Jesus. All it takes is a priority. Simply open your Bible and read.

You don't have to travel months or hundreds of miles to worship Him.

All it takes is a priority. Simply come Sunday morning at 8:00 or 10:30

As the saying goes, "Wise men still seek Him"

### January Discipleship Verse...



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

**Romans 12:2**

### Confirmation & All Stars Parents:

Meal Makers... are needed for our January and February suppers. Sign up in the fellowship area. Thanks!