

Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

**October 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

Questions for Pastor...

Why do the Jehovah Witnesses believe that only 144,000 people (the first 144,000 Jehovah's Witnesses) will get to heaven?



This is one of the questions I get whenever the topic of Jehovah's Witnesses comes up - as it did when we were studying what they believe in Bible Study forum a couple Sundays ago.

In the book of Revelation the Bible talks about 144,000 being "sealed" for eternity with God. The belief that this is the actual number of people who will be in heaven comes from a basic error in interpretation: Taking literally something that was intended to be symbolic.

For example. If I say, *"In my mind's eye I can see our new church building,"* a literal interpretation would lead you to believe that I actually have a third eye buried somewhere in my brain. What I was trying to say, however, was that in my imagination I can picture how a certain thing might look. There's no third eye lurking inside my mind.

We do the same type of thing with numbers. *"I've got a million of them in my yard,"* might be a typical comment I might make about the box elder bugs. I didn't literally mean that there are one million bugs in our yard. What I were simply indicating is that there are tons of them. Oops. I just used another symbolic "figure of speech." see how often we use them in language?). "Tons" doesn't mean there are at least 4000 pounds of the goofy bugs. It simply means that there are a lot of them - more than we care to have.

You get the idea. When we take literally things that were not meant to be taken literally, we're going to end up with a totally different meaning than what the speaker intended.

The book of Revelation is a type of literature known as "apocalyptic." It deals with prophecy. Prophecy specifically about the Second Coming of Christ and the ultimate defeat of evil. Apocalyptic/prophetic literature is typically very symbolic. To read it literally would be get into the same kinds of trouble as if you thought I had a third eye buried in my mind or that I actually have 4000 pounds of box elder bugs in my yard. You'd "miss the boat" (symbolically, of course) on what I really meant. Yet that's what Charles Russell (founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses) did with Revelation 7:4, 14:1 and 14:3. He took the figure to be a literal figure when in reality 144,000 is symbolic.

So, what is 144,000 a symbol for Well, 144,000 is the same as $12 \times 12 \times 1000$. In the book of Revelation the number 12 is symbolic for the church. (12 Tribes in the Old Testament church; 12 apostles in the New Testament church.) The number 1000 in Bible times was symbolic for an extremely large number - too many to count. (Kind of like when I said there are "millions" of box elder bugs.) So what is most likely being indicated in the passage is that those who are "sealed" for heaven are all the believers (an extremely large number - too many to count) from both the Old Testament and New Testament times. Quite a different interpretation from just the "first 144,000 people who became Jehovah's Witnesses."

So, that brings up the question, "How do we know when to interpret something literally or symbolically?" I could probably spend a lot more time on that one. But the simple answer is this: The context. Is the type of literature typically symbolic or literal? Does the situation give an indication that the speaker /writer is meaning it to be taken literally or symbolically? The context of Revelation definitely points us to a symbolic meaning.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

For Further Study...

Which of these topics grabs your attention ?

Each of the studies listed below are topics that ...

1. Pastor can lead for you and a group of friends or
2. You can lead on your own - each has a leader's guide.

Check one that interests you, then give Pastor a call.



____ **Edge of Eternity: Heaven and Hell** (6 Sessions)

Uncovers misunderstandings people have about life after death and tells the biblical truth about heaven and hell. Issues include:

- There Is a Heaven-Really!
- Popular Misconceptions
- Pictures of Heaven
- Curiosity Questions about Heaven
- That Other Place
- Living for Heaven

____ **Off the Edge: Faith, Science and the Future** (6 Sessions)

Looks at the creation of the universe, the end of the universe, and the possibility of life on other planets. Topics include:

- The relationship between faith and science
- Extraterrestrial life
- The origin of life
- Contact with aliens
- The Gospel and the end

____ **Playing God: Redesigning Life** (6 Sessions)

Playing God explores the ethics of "perfecting" humanity through DNA, cloning, stem cell research, and more. Issues include:

- In Search of the Perfect Child
- The Immortal Clone
- The Stem Cell Revolutions
- The Valley of the Shadow of Death

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____ **Science and the Savior: Advancing to the Future** (6 Sessions)

Explores how scientists may serve their Creator through understanding and explaining the wonders of His creation.

Issues include:

- God's Intentions for Science
- How Theology Gave Birth to Modern Science
- Science, Beauty, and God's Handiwork
- Defending the Faith with Science

____ **The Unexplained** (6 Sessions)

Explores in detail the fascination and beliefs our contemporary society has with spirituality and the spirit world. Issues include:

- Miracles
- Mystical Experiences
- Near-Death Experiences
- Dreams
- Demons
- Angels

____ **Godly Man: Men in Families** (6 sessions)

Helps those face and overcome the stresses and challenges of modern manhood. Men in Families explores the role a man plays as he relates to the others in his family:

- Teacher
- Spiritual leader
- Lover
- Father
- Provider
- Son

____ **You and Me, Lord: Support for the Challenges Women Face**

Support and encouragement when feeling

- brokenness caused by sin
- physical weariness
- emotionally drained!
- spiritually challenged
- unfulfilled in serving God
- relationship stress

What We Believe...

What Do Missouri Synod Lutherans Believe ?

Pastor is planning a class that covers the basics of our faith. We'll tackle questions like the ones listed below and also attempt to answer whatever other specific questions you have about what we at Living Word believe.

- What do we believe about God ?
- What do we believe about prayer ?
- What are the goals of Living Word?
- What do we believe about the Bible ?
- What is the purpose of the Church ?
- What do we believe about heaven and hell ?
- What do we believe about sin and forgiveness?
- What do we believe about creation and evolution?
- What do we believe about baptism and communion?
- What do we believe about eternal life - who will get it and how?
- What do we believe about current issues facing Christians - like abortion and same-sex marriages?

This class also serves as the instruction class for those interested in discipleship (membership) here at Living Word.

First class will be THIS MONDAY , October 2, from 6:30 - 8:00.

Please talk to pastor if you have questions about the class or would like to attend.



Trunk or Treat...

Anyone for "Trunk or Treat?"

This is a Halloween outreach idea we will be hosting this year.

Here's how it works:

Load up your trunk (or pickup or minivan) with the candy you would normally give away at your door on Halloween. Bring your vehicle full of candy to the church. We will park our vehicles in a semi-circle in the parking lot at church and the trick-or-treaters can come to one central location and go from "trunk to trunk" instead of house to house. We will plan this along with the Spicer business' candy-giveaway.

We will also have special Christian items available for the trick or treaters. There will also be prizes (leftover candy?) for the best decorated trunk.

Please let Bryson Wachter know if you can participate in this outreach. We'll get you more details as we get closer to Halloween.



Children's Church...

Takin' It To The Pews....

Beginning on Rally Day "Children's Church" started a new format. Instead of heading to the "Children's Church" room after the Children's Message, kids 2 years - 2nd grade go back to sit with their families. Each child gets a special bag that will contain children's bulletin, crayons and maybe even a church-appropriate treat (like Cheerios). Each week the kids' "Church Bag" will have activity sheets and bulletins that will be different from last week. The goal is to provide an age-appropriate worship experience that enables the kids to stay in the sanctuary. **We appreciate your feedback on the new format. Thanks!**



A Minute for Parents...

A lesson from our Heavenly Father about passing along your faith.

When it comes to passing along your faith to your children, our heavenly Father hasn't left us in the dark. He gives us specific instructions in His Word (the Bible). Last month (In Deuteronomy 11) God told us one way we can set an example of centering our lives around Him is by making a point of talking about Him with our children in our everyday lives.

This month our heavenly Father tells us in 1 Peter 1:14-16:

[14] As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. [15] But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; [16] for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Again God reminds us that our faith is demonstrated by our actions (we teach best by the example we set). And the action we need to demonstrate is "Be Holy." To "be holy" means to be "set apart for God." We should not be like everyone else. We should be "set apart," different - in a godly way, not in a weird way.

That kind of goes against our sinful human nature that "wants to be like everyone else." Have you ever said something like this to your kids, (when they said: "But everyone else is doing it") *"If everyone else jumped off a cliff, would you do it too?"* You were teaching them the concept of "holiness" - not going along with what everyone else is doing when what everyone else is doing is not what God wants.

In confirmation class we have focused on the Ten Commandments. In those commandments God shows us what to do (and not do) to be holy, set apart for Him, different - in a godly way. In one of those commands he even uses the word "holy." Do you remember which command that is?

"Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." God tells us one way we can "be holy" is by "setting apart" one day out of each seven, doing something "different" on that day than

on the other six. What God wants us to do on that holy day is devote that day to the Lord by resting our bodies and restoring our spirits in worship.

A simple way to model "holiness" is to make a point to set apart Sunday as a "holy day" for your family - a day of rest and worship. If you haven't been doing that on a regular basis, now is a great time to start!

Bible Wordsearch

Elijah & The whirlwind

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Puzzle # 133

2 KINGS CHAPTER 2

S	M	A	S	T	E	R	F	I	F	T	Y	I	N	F
G	D	K	A	O	L	C	D	P	K	E	R	A	N	A
L	E	A	R	S	I	H	I	N	L	C	S	E	E	T
S	S	H	O	R	S	E	S	L	U	P	A	T	L	H
G	S	O	T	H	A	A	E	D	O	U	B	L	E	
P	O	S	T	N	A	V	R	E	S	R	R	L	A	R
I	R	D	E	R	A	E	P	P	A	T	Y	G	F	O
C	C	O	M	P	A	N	Y	F	O	I	T	E	N	T
K	D	R	P	H	A	J	I	L	E	O	C	A	D	I
E	S	E	W	H	I	R	L	W	I	N	D	E	N	N
D	T	T	D	T	E	H	A	R	A	R	R	H	O	N
E	A	E	R	I	D	T	A	T	O	D	E	I	R	C
K	K	I	N	U	V	H	S	J	E	R	I	C	H	O
S	E	T	L	U	C	I	F	F	I	D	E	W	O	B
A	N	Z	I	O	D	K	D	T	I	R	I	P	S	N

APPEARED	GOD
ASKED	GROUND
BACK	HEAVEN
BOWED	HORSES
CHARIOT	INHERIT
CLOAK	ISRAEL
COMPANY	JERICHO
CRIED	JORDAN
CROSSED	MASTER
DIFFICULT	PICKED
DISTANCE	PORTION
DIVIDED	PROPHETS
DOUBLE	SEPARATED
DRY	SERVANTS
ELIJAH	SPIRIT
ELISHA	STRUCK
FALLEN	TAKEN
FATHER	TORE
FIFTY	VALLEY
FIRE	WHIRLWIND

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Psalm 9

MORE PUZZLES AT: <http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2006 PEACEFULL PUBLICATIONS

October Discipleship Verse...



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

Simple Ways to Share Your Faith...

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WELCOME NEW PEOPLE...

Keep your eyes open for people who move into your area.

One way we would like to begin *"Sharing the Love of Jesus in Practical Ways"* is by taking a basket of cookies to new people who have moved in. It is a simple way to share the love of Jesus.

Here's what we need you to do:

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

We also need more:

- Cookie Bakers
- Move-in Visitors

Please call Violet if you can help with either of these.

Of course, don't forget to take your own batch of cookies (or whatever) to the new folks to welcome them to your neighborhood too.

Help Plan a Benefit for Rick, Penni & Kristina Scholl

We would like to hold a special benefit fundraiser to help the Scholls with the costs they've incurred during Kristina's hospitalization. If you have ideas for a benefit or would like to coordinate the effort, please contact Pastor this week. THANKS !

Donate to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

The Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has requested donations of good usable household items, furniture, clothing (baby through adult), etc.

These would be good usable items that would sell well in their (Another Chance) thrift stores in North Dakota, and also in Moorhead. The proceeds from the sale of

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the items go to help support the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, which is a program to help troubled youth that is supported by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Every year they do a pick-up of donated items from the LCMS churches in our area. They have scheduled a stop here at Living Word on Wednesday, October 18th at 1:00 PM. They have requested that the donations be in closed containers, boxes or bags. All containers should be securely taped or tied, and also be labeled "for Dakota Boys Ranch."

If you have items you would like to donate, please drop them off at church on Sunday October 15th, or the following Monday-Wednesday (Oct 16th, or 17th from 8:00a.m.-3:00p.m.), or on the 18th (in the morning). When you drop the items off, please put them in the church Sanctuary, not in the hallway. Due to storage space limitations, please do not bring items to church prior to October 15th.



Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has included a list of items that they would appreciate NOT receiving (do not sell well). These items are: Appliances (stoves, washers, refrigerators, dryers), Batteries, Bed Springs (metal), Building Supplies or Fixtures (lumber, toilets, tubs, kitchen cabinets), Console Stereos/TVs, Doors, Encyclopedias (unless five years old or newer), Exercise Equipment or Bikes, Flammables, Furniture that is not intact or structurally sound, Magazines, Metal Desks, Microwaves, National Geographic, Oil/Gasoline, Organs (large, heavy ones), Paint/Varnish, Pianos, Ping Pong Tables, Tires, Waterbeds, or Windows.

If you have any questions or would like arrange for your items to be picked up, please call Bonnie Hansen at 796-5605.



October

Living Word Lutheran Church - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 1 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School: Noah Adult Forum: Jews 10:30 Contemporary Worship 11:45 Fellowship 2:30 Circuit Convocation - Granite Falls	2 6:30 "What do Missouri Synod Lutherans Believe?"	3 NOON Bible Study "Mark" @ Geneva Olson's	4 6:00 Meal 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 All Stars 4 Jesus 6:45 Parents of Teens	5 6:00 Elders' Team	6	7 4:30 - 7:00 MEXICAN FIE STA Dinner (Fund-raiser)
8 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School: Abraham Adult Forum: Muslims 10:30 Contemporary Worship 11:45 Fellowship	9	10 NOON Bible Study Mark @ Geneva Olson's	11 6:00 Meal 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 All Stars 4 Jesus	12	13	14
15 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School Adult Forum: Unitarians 10:30 Contemporary Worship 7:30 Destination Vision: YOUTH WORSHIP & Fellowship	16	17 NOON Bible Study "Mark" @ Geneva Olson's	18 NOON - Outreach Team NO WED. ACTIVITIES THIS EVENING - M.E.A	19 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	20	21
22 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School Adult Forum: <u>Yjcca</u> 10:30 Contemporary Worship 11:45 Fellowship	23 6:30 "What do Missouri Synod Lutherans Believe?"	24 NOON Bible Study "Mark" @ Geneva Olson's	25 6:00 Meal 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 All Stars 4 Jesus	26	27	28 
29 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School FALL VOTERS' ASSEMBLY 10:30 Contemporary Worship 11:45 Fellowship	30 	31 NOON Bible Study "Mark" @ Geneva Olson's 3:00 - 6:00 TRUNK or TREAT	Nov 1 6:00 Meal 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 All Stars 4 Jesus	Nov 2 6:00 Elders' Team	Nov 3	Nov 4

October 5-Minutes-a-day Devotional Reading

New Reading Program Begins Oct 2: Passages about PRAYING

Oct 1 Readings this week focus on "WHY" should we pray.

Oct 2 Philippians 4:6-7 _____

Oct 3 Psalm 34:4-10 _____

Oct 4 Matthew 26:40-41 _____

Oct 5 Jeremiah 29:11-14 _____

Oct 6 James 5:13-16 _____

Oct 7 Psalm 141:1-2 _____

Oct 8 Readings this week will focus on the "HOW" of Praying

Oct 9 Mark 1:35 _____

Oct 10 Matthew 6:5-11 _____

Oct 11 Luke 18:1-8 _____

Oct 12 Luke 22:41-42 _____

Oct 13 Romans 8:26-27 _____

Oct 14 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 _____

Oct 15 Readings this week focus on CAUTIONS about praying

Oct 16 James 4:1-3 _____

Oct 17 John 15:5-8 _____

Oct 18 Matthew 6:14-15 _____

Oct 19 1 Peter 3:7 _____

Oct 20 Psalm 66:16-20 _____

Oct 21 Isaiah 59:1-2 _____

Oct 22 Readings this week focus on some of "WHAT" we should pray for

Oct 23 1 Timothy 2:1-4 _____

Oct 24 Ephesians 6:18-20 _____

Oct 25 Luke 11:11-13 _____

Oct 26 Colossians 1:3-4, 8-12 _____

Oct 27 Psalm 141:5-6 _____

Oct 28 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 _____

Oct 29 Readings this week focus on some more of "WHAT" we should pray for

Oct 30 Ephesians 1:15-20 _____

Nov 1 Daniel 9:4-19 _____

Nov 2 James 1:5-8 _____

Nov 3 Proverbs 30:7-9 _____

Nov 4 John 17:9-19 _____

Nov 6 John 17:20-24 _____

SUMMARIZE WHAT YOU LEARNED ABOUT PRAYING _____

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

Youth Servants...

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

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

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

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



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Schedules & Studies...

New Sunday Morning Study :

What Do _____ Believe ?

- Oct. 1 - Jews
- Oct. 8 - Muslims
- Oct. 15 - Secular Humanists / Universalists
- Oct. 22 - Wiccans / Witchcraft / Pagans

Please join us at 9:15 for coffee, baked goods and our study of the teachings of these other belief systems.

"Destination Vision"

Get a vision of God's destination for You at our monthly . . . Sunday Night Youth Worship

Sunday, October 15

Worship with songs, skit, message and prayer starts at 7:30 Fellowship and fun afterward in the gym. Bring a friend.

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10-28-2004

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CHOOSE TO APPRECIATE HALLOWEEN .. BUT NOT EVERYBODY ELSE IN CHURCH DOES

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

Join our Prayer Force

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



Email Pastor David to sign up: dvdauk@mail.tds.net

Help with our "All Stars for Jesus" Program

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

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

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

Invite someone to our Mexican Fiesta Dinner

The ANNUAL Mexican Fiesta dinner and fundraiser is **Saturday October 7th. 4:30-7:00PM.** at Prairie Meadows School in Spicer.

Menu includes: Taco's, Burrito's, Enchilada's, Beans, Rice, Dessert and beverage.

Price is right! Lots of food for \$6 adults and \$3 for kids 3-11, under 3 is free.

It's all you can eat and the food isn't real spicy for those of you with tender tummies! This is our annual building fundraiser and we would greatly appreciate your support! Tickets at the door or contact Tammy at 351-4161 to reserve your tickets today!



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Be a Meal-Maker ...

As a way of sharing the love of Jesus in helpful ways, get involved in our new "Make-A-Meal" program. See details on page 20.

Volunteer at Glen Oaks

Glen Oaks Senior Living Campus of New London has volunteer opportunities in our Care Center, Personal Care Suites and Village Apartments. Volunteers are especially needed to help serve breakfast and lunch. If you would like to spend a rewarding hour or two helping our residents and clients please call Jane at 320-354-6057.

Share your talents - Share your heart!

Be a "Secret Paul"

One of the things the Apostle Paul was noted for was praying daily for people. Paul prayed for their protection. He prayed for them to grow in their faith. He prayed for them to grow in putting their faith into action. He prayed prayers of thanks for them.

This fall - coming soon - you will have a chance to be a "Secret Paul" who prays for one specific person in prayer each day for a year. Details will come soon, but as the "secret" part of the name suggests, the person you pray for won't know who is praying for them (until all the Secret Paul's are revealed at a special year-end banquet).

Help Deliver Smoke Detector Batteries

Before going to sleep Saturday night, **October 28** we will all turn our clocks back one hour. People are always reminded to replace their smoke detector batteries each year on "turn your clock back" day. But many (most?) don't remember to do that. So, we will share the love of Jesus in a practical way by taking batteries around to the homes in our area from 11:00 to 1:00 that day. We'll also leave them a magnet reminder that God sent us Jesus to save us eternally.

Please join us at church at 11:00am for this special outreach.



E-mail Funny of the Month...

Nine year old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned at Sunday school.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

"Make-A-Meal" program...

Our "Make-A-Meal" program has been one of the most successful ways we have of "Sharing the Love of Jesus in Practical Ways" with people going through a tough time.

We will be making a couple of changes to the program to hopefully make it even easier to share the love of Jesus:

1) You will notice special "PRAYER and CARE" cards in the worship attendance folders. Please use these cards to give us the names of people you know who could use a meal. (You can also use the cards to give prayer requests for Pastor and/or the Prayer Force prayer chain). The cards can be filled out and placed in the offering plate.

2) We would like to put our "Meal-Makers" on a schedule. "Meal makers" can sign up for specific months they would like to be available to make meals. It would work best to have two "Meal Makers" per month. (You can sign up for just one month or as many as you'd like).

So, if you have already signed up to be a "Meal Maker" please pick what month(s) would work best for you. If you have not signed up and would like to be a "Meal Maker" - here's your chance.

Thanks for making a meal and making a difference!

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The Gardener...

Right after World War II, a U.S. Army officer and his wife were stationed in Japan. That country had been devastated by the war. The post-war economy was in shambles. Unemployment approached 60%. People came to the Army wife's door daily looking for work. One man said that he could do wonders for her garden if she would only give him a chance. So, for the first time in her life, this young Army wife hired a gardener. He spoke no English, but the wife, through sign language and pencil and paper gave him instructions about where to plant, prune, and pamper her garden. He listened politely and followed her instructions exactly. The garden emerged as the finest in the neighborhood.

When she finally realized that her new gardener knew far more about the matter than she, the wife stopped giving him directions and let him freely care for the garden. It was magnificent. Then one day the gardener came with an interpreter who expressed the appreciation but the regrets of the gardener. "He will no longer be able to care for your garden. He must leave."

The wife expressed her regrets and thanked him through the interpreter for making hers such a fine garden. Out of politeness, she asked the interpreter, "Where is he going?"

The interpreter replied that the gardener was returning to his old job as the Professor of Horticulture at the University of Tokyo.

I can imagine, can't you, the look that must have been on that Army wife's face when she discovered, that her gardener was the university professor of horticulture. No wonder he knew so much about gardening! Imagine having someone at your disposal with that amount of knowledge. What a beautiful lawn I could have!

And yet, we have something far greater that we often take for granted. We have someone who has that kind of intimate knowledge about everything in our lives -- He knows our purpose, He knows what brings us joy, He knows what we need to do to be fulfilled in life. And He's close enough to us that He's willing to listen to us and communicate to us. Imagine taking advantage of having someone with that amount of knowledge. What a beautiful life we could have!!!

Opportunities to GROW...

Jesus compares us to branches connected to a vine. He is the Vine. Our job as branches is to produce fruit - do things that nourish the lives of people around us. Just as a grapevine can only grow and produce fruit when it is attached to the vine, Christians can only grow and produce fruit when attached to Jesus. One of the ways we stay attached to Jesus is by getting into God's Word. If the summer found you not growing very much....

Sunday

"GROWING IN CHRIST": 3 years to 9th grade 9:15 -10:15
See details elsewhere in newsletter.

Adult Study: "What do _____ believe?" 9:15 -10:15
See details on page 17 in this newsletter.

Monday

What do Missouri Synod Lutherans Believe Begins Oct 2
See details on page 6 in this newsletter.

Tuesday

Prayer and 'Book of the Bible' Study. Noon
We meet at Geneva Olson's home in New London
Join us for a great time of fellowship and walking through books of the Bible. This month we start the *GOSPEL of MARK*.

Wednesday

(A Light Supper will be served from 6:00 - 6:45 prior to classes)

- **4th-6th Graders:** The "All Stars 4 Jesus" -6:45 p.m.
Join us for lots of fun growing closer to Jesus.
- **7-8th Graders: Confirmation classes - 6:45 p.m.**
We get together to learn how to apply the catechism to real life.
- **9th Graders: Confirmation classes - 6:45 p.m.**
We get together to study how God works in our lives to help us become "Just Like Jesus."
- **10-12 Graders: 7:45 p.m.**
Join us as we take a look at God's guidance for the issues facing High Schoolers today.

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- **Parents: First Wed. of Every Month @ 6:45**
"Parenting With Purpose": Parenting help from our Heavenly Father

We're also looking for men and women (or couples) or teens interested in leading more studies. Call Pastor if you have a study you want to do - or a group that wants to study.

(See the example studies on pages 4 & 5 for ideas)

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SERIOUSLY ABEL, I KNOW THAT BIBLE CAN BE A HARD SUBJECT, BUT HOW COULD YOU GO AND FAIL GENESIS?

Confirmation Parents...

Our first "Parent" class is this Wednesday, October 4.

We'll start with some "Parenting principles" from our Heavenly Father. Then I would like to spend just a little time getting your input on some youth activities for the coming year, so bring your ideas (and your teen's ideas) on some fun, faith-building events and mission trips, etc...

NOTE: Since we will not have Confirmation on October 18 (due to MEA) the students will have class on October 4 while we are in our parenting session.

