Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

July-August 2007 Newsletter "Communicating the Love of Jesus"



Summer Hours: Christian Growth Hour: 8:00 a.m. Worship Service: 9:00 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...

"What happens to us after death" (until judgment day) ?"

That's the main subject of a question emailed to me by someone whose mom had recently died. Here's the complete question: "There aren't many books or Bible studies out there that comment on this topic. What happens right after death? Do we "sleep" & are totally unconscious? Are we semi-conscious? Fully conscious? Are we aware/unaware of ??? In a physical place? In a spiritual realm? Of course, this is only until resurrection/judgment day..."

I checked the FAQ section on the website of the Missouri Synod (www.lcms.org). I found that this is obviously a popular question. Here's the answer given on the website.

What Scripture teaches concerning the death of the Christian is summarized as follows by Lutheran theologian Edward Koehler in his book, "A Summary of Christian Doctrine:

In the moment of death the souls of the believers enter the joy of heaven. Jesus said to the malefactor: "Today you will be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). Stephen said in the hour of death: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59). Whoever dies in the Lord is blessed "from henceforth" (Rev. 14:13). Paul desires "to be with Christ," and adds that this is "far better" for him than to continue in the flesh (Phil. 1:23. 24). For this reason we pray that finally, when our last hour has come, God would grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this vale of tears to Himself in heaven.

Based on the passages referenced in that answer we can say this: At the moment of death our spirits go to be with the our

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Lord - in His presence.

In our current study on the book of Revelation (Wednesdays @ 11:30) we recently read in chapter six this portion of the vision of heaven that the Apostle John received from Jesus:

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. [10] They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" [11] Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed. (Rev 6:9-11)

It is obvious from the portion in bold that the souls of those in heaven are not "sleeping" or "unconscious." Obviously they are aware of - at least in general - the difficult times that continue to be faced by Christians who are still alive on earth. Whether they are aware of specifics, we aren't told. As always when it comes to questions about heaven, the Bible doesn't give us all the specifics that we long for. But it is safe to say that our spirits won't be sleeping or unconscious until Resurrection Day. Of course, on that day our spirits will be reunited with our resurrected bodies to live in the new heaven and earth God promises to create for all who die with faith in Jesus as their Savior (John 5:28-29; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Cor. 15).

The person who emailed me the question said it quite well at the end of her question:

"Regardless, I know I'll be right where I'm suppose to be—-in God's presence!"

Thanks for asking, Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Worship Schedule Reminder:

We will have one combined worship service at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday through Labor Day.

On September 9, we return to our two-service schedule: 8:00 - Traditional; 10:30 - Contemporary

Freedom Isn't Free

The following "freedom isn't free" reminder was sent to me by my brother-in-law, a Vietnam Vet. I thought it was a good reminder for all of us. Take time daily to thank God for the men and women who make huge sacrifices to keep us free - and to pray for their protection.

Pastor David

You take a warm shower to help you wake up. She goes days or weeks without running water.

You complain of a "headache", and call in sick.

He gets shot at as others are hit, and keeps moving forward.

You make sure you're cell phone is in your pocket.

He clutches the cross hanging on the chain next to his dog tags.

You complain that you have nothing new to wear. She wears the same things for weeks.

You complain about your spouse or your kids. He'd give anything just to see his.

You fuss about how hot it is.

He wears heavy gear, not daring to take off his helmet to wipe his brow.

You go out to lunch, and complain because the restaurant got your order wrong.

She doesn't get to eat today.

You're angry because the Sunday service ran 5 minutes over. He's told he will be held over an extra 5 months.

You go to the mall and get your hair redone. He doesn't have time to brush his teeth today.

You roll your eyes as a baby cries.

He gets a letter with pictures of his new child, and wonders if the y'll ever meet.

You criticize your government.

She fights for your right to do that without being silenced.

You complain about the noise of the neighborhood softball game. She hears gunfire, bombs and screams of the wounded and longs for the noise of a softball game.

You talk trash about your "buddies" that aren't with you. He knows he may not see some of his buddies again.

You are asked to go to the store by your parents. You don't.

She does exactly what she is told even if it puts her life in danger.

You crawl into your soft bed with down pillows and get comfortable. She tries to catch ten minutes of sleep here and there - on the ground.

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Upcoming Events...

Pie and Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 5 1-3 pm
Please bring fruit pies and friends
A "So That The World May Know" Fund raiser

All-Ages Softball Fun Night

We are going to give you an opportunity to come and enjoy some great fellowship time playing (or attempting to the best you can) softball. This will be a co-ed, non-competitive, fun time - including food.

What we'd like you to do: Put together a team from among your friends or your neighborhood. (This is a great opportunity to invite some folks who don't have a church home) Or just tell us that you will come, and we'll find a group of people you can become a team with.

If there is enough interest, we may do this a few more times in the late summer and fall.

Sunday, July 8 - 6:00 p.m. at the Spicer ball fields.

Pray for the Synod as it meets in Convention in Houston on July 14-19

Elder Duane Hansen is the lay representative to the convention from our circuit.

Please keep Duane and all the delegates in your prayers as they choose a president and decide on resolutions that will guide our synod the coming three years.

Installation of Officers

These officers were elected at the Spring Voters' Assembly and began their two year terms on July 1. Please thank them for their service and keep them in your prayers.

Chairman: Mark Fuglie
Vice Chairman: Jamie Iverson
Treasurer: Scott Wachter
Congregational Outreach: Donna Peterson

Board of Elders Wally Abraham & Bryson Wachter Christian Education - Sunday School Bonnie Hansen

Christian Growth - Youth (Position Open) Secretary (Position Open)

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

Help with our Youth Ministry

Can you help with any of these events:

- Provide a boat for our Fishing Outing (Date to be determined)
- Lead A Bible Study for College-Age Young Adults
- Take a group to the Boundary Waters (whenever it works for you)
- · Chaperone our Lutheran Island Camp retreat

Please talk to Pastor if you can serve the Lord any of these 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.

Phone or e-mail Pastor David to sign up: dvdauk@mail.tds.net

Welcome New Businesses

This is a brand new outreach! We will be welcoming new businesses by taking them some flowers and cookies and offering to pray for their business needs in Sunday Worship.

How you can help: Do you have flowers or plants that we can use? Please talk to the "Welcome Business" coordinator, Violet Dauk. (It's so much more personal than getting some from a florist).

Welcome New People

It's "Moving Season"

PLEASE Keep your eyes open for people who have just bought or rented a home (or apartment) in your area. THEN.

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. More Cookie Bakers & Visitors are also needed. 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.

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"SECRET PAUL" Prayer Program

Secret Pauls... have you sent a note to the person you are praying for just to let them know you are praying? If not, please take some time to do that this week. (Don't forget to send a card for their birthday, too!)

Make A Meal Program ...

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. Or you can tell Pastor David or Meal Coordinator Jack Kuppich of someone who needs a meal.

Host Families Needed for Exchange Students are needed for international exchange students for the 2007-2008 school year. A host family provides a bed, meals, friendship, understanding and has the opportunity to positively impact a young person from another part of the world. In addition, they have the joy of getting to know someone from another culture. For more information, please call Bryan Blomker at 320-974-3673.

E-Mail "Humor" of the Month...

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LITE CHURCH

(everything you always wanted in a church and less)

- 7. Guaranteed 30-minute-max sermon (20 if you're Lutheran) or your next one's free!
- 6. Your choice of only 8 commandments
- 5. Only happy hymns and choruses
- 4 Fewer commitments
- 3. No messages on subjects that hit too close to home
- 2. Reclining pews with pillow pads and head rests
- Offering followed by a complimentary beverage and after service mint

From "Bible Humor Top Seven Lists" by Dave Veerman and Rich Anderson:

July Living Word Lutheran Church - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00 History of Christianity 9:00 Combined Worship 10:15 Fellowship	2	3 10:30 Outreach Team NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY No Revelation Study today	5	6	7
8:00 History of Christianity 9:00 Combined Worship 10:15 NYG Youth/Parents Mtg 6:00 All-Ages Softball & BBQ @ Spicer Fields		10 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	11:30 Bible Study: "Revelation" NOON Youth NYG Study @ Games Lake	6:00 Elders' Team 7:00 LWML meeting SONSHINE	M U S I C F	14 11:00 - 1:00 Lemonade Outreach @ Spicer Beach E S T I V A L
8:00 History of Christianity 9:00 Combined Worship wLS 10:15 Fellowship 7:00 Destination Vision / Youth Worship & Study Bonfire @ Blocks LC-MS	16 NATION	17 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	18 11:30 Bible Study: "Revelation"	7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	20	New London Water Day Parade Outreach
8:00 History of Christianity 9:00 Combined Worship 10:15 Fellowship S:00 Young Adults Study (See Pastor for Details)	23	NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	25 11:30 Bible Study: "Revelation" Youth Leave for National Youth Gathering in Orlando, FL	26	21 embado 5	28 Lemonade Outreach on the Bike Trail
8:00 History of Christianity 9:00 Combined Worship With Lord's Supper 10:15 Fellowship	30	NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	Aug 1 11:30 Bible Study: "Revelation"	Aug 2 Youth return from youth gathering	Aug 3	Aug 4 Lemonade Outreach @ Spicer Beach

Aug Living Word Lutheran Church - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 Combined Worship With Lord's Supper	July 30	July 31 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	Aug 1 11:30 Bible Study: "Revelation"	Youth Return from National Youth Gathering	3	4
8:00 History of Christianity 9:00 Combined Worship 10:15 Fellowship 1:00-3:00 Ice Cream/Pie Social (Fund raiser)		7 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	8 11:30 Bible Study: "Revelation"	9 6:00 Elders' Team 7:00 LWML meeting	10 O U T	11 11:00 - 1:00 Lemonade Outreach @ Spicer Beach R E A C H
8:00 History of Christianity 9:00 Combined Worship 10:15 Fellowship	13	14 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	15 11:30 Bible Study: "Revelation"	16 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team		18 Annual Golf Outing
8:00 History of Christianity 9:00 Combined Worship with Lord's Supper 10:15 Fellowship 7:00 Destination Vision / Youth Worship & Study Bonfire @ Blocks	20	NOON Bible Study Geneva Olson's	22 11:30 Bible Study: "Revelation"	23 65	24	25 Lemonade Outreach on the Bike Trail
8:00 History of Christianity 9:00 Combined Worship 10:15 Fellowship	27	28 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's Confirmation Retreat at Lutheran Island Camp (tentative)	Confirmation Retreat at Lutheran Island Camp (tentative)	30	31	Sept 1 Lemonade Outreach @ Spicer Beach

July 5-Minutes-a-day Devotional Reading

New Readings on Wisdom begin July 8

Reading	s this week focus on FREEDOM
luly 1	Use today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed last week
luly 2	1 Corinthians 8:9
uly 3	1 Peter 2:11-16
uly 4	Romans 8:1-4
uly 5	John 8:31-36
uly 6	Luke 4:14-21
uly 7	2 Corinthians 3:17-28
Reading	s this week focus on PEOPLE CALLED "WISE" IN THE BIBLE
uly 8	Use today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed last week
uly 9	Isaiah 11:1-5
	1 Corinthians 1:20-24
uly 11	Acts 7:9-10
uly 12	Acts 7:20-22
uly 13	Exodus 30:1-5
uly 14	Deuteronomy 34:9
Reading	s this week focus on MORE PEOPLE CALLED "WISE" IN THE BIBLE
uly 15	Use today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed last week
uly 16	2 Samuel 14:1-3, 18-20
uly 17	1 Samuel 25:2-35
ub. 40	1 Kings 3:5-14, 4:29-34

Daniel 5:10-12
Matthew 2:1-12
Acts 6:8-10
s this week focus on WISDOM FOR LIFE FROM THE PROVERBS
Use today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed last week
Proverbs 1:1-7
Proverbs 3:1-10
Proverbs 8:10-36
Proverbs 16:1-9
Proverbs 22:1-9
Proverbs 28:9-27
s this week focus on WISDOM FOR LIFE FROM THE BOOK OF JAMES
Use today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed last week
James 1:2-8
James 1:19-21
James 1:22-25
James 2:14-26
James 4:1-10
James 4:13-17
RY OF WHAT YOU LEARNED:

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

Aug 5-Minutes-a-day Devotional Reading

New August Readings on The Psalms begin on August 6

Reading	s this week focus on WISDOM FROM THE BOOK OF JAMES
July 29	Use today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed last week
July 30	James 1:2-8
July 31	James 1:19-21
Aug 1	James 1:22-25
	James 2:14-26
Aug 3	James 4:1-10
Aug 4	James 4:13-17
Reading	s this week focus on PSALMS THAT INSPIRED HYMNS (See if you can guess)
Aug 5	Use today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed last week
Aug 6	Psalm 46
Aug 7	Psalm 23
Aug 8	Psalm 27
Aug 9	Psalm 84
Aug 10	Psalm 91
Aug 11	Psalm 141
Reading	s this week focus on PSALMS OF PRAISE
Aug 12	Use today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed last week
Aug 13	Psalm 111
Aug 14	Psalm 96
	Psalm 96 Psalm 145

	Psalm 135
Aug 18	Psalm 19
Reading	s this week focus on PSALMS FOR TROUBLED TIMES
Aug 19	Use today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed last week
Aug 20	Psalm 103
Aug 21	Psalm 34
	Psalm 51
Aug 23	Psalm 139
Aug 24	Psalm 13
Aug 25	Psalm 130
	Use today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed last week Psalm 25
	Psalm 62
	Psalm 4
Aug30	Psalm 1
	Psalm 121
Aug31	
	Psalm 127

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So That the World May Know...

Architect Info Session Summary:

Architect Rand Shaper (a member at Love of Christ Lutheran in St. Cloud) gave us lots of info about building designs. But maybe the most valuable things he shared were these: "Follow the Holy Spirit, not your own ideas (i.e. don't get your mind set on just one certain design)" and "Don't put limits on what God can do."

Pastor Strohschein from the Minnesota North District also outlined some things we need to do in order to have a chance to break ground next year. (e.g. In the very near future, schedule the District financing rep to come and give us information about financing options).

Thanks to everyone who attended!

Capital Fund Raising Campaign UPDATE:

"When we follow where God guides, He always provides."

As of this week we thank the Lord for the commitments we have received from 28 families with gifts totaling \$80,000. Added to the \$32,000 we have remaining after purchasing land we have \$112,000 - well over half the way toward our goal of \$190,000! Pledge cards can be placed in the offering plate during offering.

In our next phase we will be sending letters to Friends of the Congregation - people who have had some connection with Shepherd of the Hills, New Life or Living Word but are not currently members. We will invite them to keep our campaign in their prayers. We will also give them an opportunity to make a financial contribution if the Lord leads them to participate in that way.

Answers to "Psalms that Inspired Hymns" (from Aug Daily Readings):

Psalm 46: "A Mighty Fortress"

Psalm 23: "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" and "The

King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Psalm 27: "Do, Lord"

Psalm 84: "Better is One Day" Psalm 91: "On Eagle's Wings"

Psalm 141: "Let My Prayer Rise Before You"

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Why I Want to Go to Orlando...

I want to to on the trip to Florida for a few reasons. I've gone to ATF (Acquire the Fire) two times and it was very inspiring. Ech time I was awed at the sights and entertainment, but it all focused in on the source of it all, God. Of course the reasons for going to the Youth Gathering include some of the cool stuff we will see down there, but the main reason is to become closer and closer to God. Sometimes people need dramatic examples to shock them into action, and Christian events like this will bring us all closer to Him and open some eyes as to His plan for our lives as they much-too-quickly unfold.

Allan Fuglie

I want to go to the National Youth Gathering this summer, because I think this will be a great opportunity for me to get closer to God with other believers from around the United States, and also my Youth Group. What I want to get out of this trip is an even stronger relationship with God.

Danielle Skaggs

There are a few reasons why I want to go to the National Youth Gathering. For one, it gives me a great chance to grow in my faith and with God. Secondly, it will give me a chance to get closer with my Youth Group. And third, to have a great time with friends and God.

Anthony Dauk

I want to go to the National Youth Gathering, because I think it would be a good opportunity for me to get closer to God. I am also looking forward to getting closer to the members of my Youth Group.

Becca Dauk

I want to go to the National Youth Gathering to get closer to God and help others get closer to Him. I'd also like to go just because it will be fun - and I've never been to Florida.

David Geer

I want to grow in my faith. I'd just like to go and see and be a part of a group of young people that are growing in their faith in the midst of a world where it's tough to do that. There's going to be lots of music and lots of fun stuff to do - plus maybe I can get a nice tan. It should be a life-changing experience. Plus my mom went three years ago and she said that it was a really fun experience and that I should go.

Joe Johnson

I want to go to the National Youth Gathering in order to "keep on keepin' on" growing closer to the Lord. Peter Erickson

Welcome New Members...

We continue introducing our new members to you with short biographies in this newsletter...

Welcome to... Marion Dilley

Hi to all! I'm Marion Dilley and was born on Aug. 19, 1921 in Enderlin, ND to Jennie (Hudson) and George Sonstegard. I'm the second child out of nine. We moved to Brooten when I was six months of age. I grew up in and around the New London area. I was baptized in Brooten and confirmed (as an adult) in the Lutheran faith in New London. I graduated from New London High School in 1939.

On July 1, 1941 I married Robert Dilley, Sr. We were blessed with six children (five daughters and one son). Our second daughter, Sharon, and son, Bob, Jr. are deceased. We were blessed with 13 grandchildren (two of which have died). And also have eight great-grandkids. My husband Bob passed away in 1999 after 58 eventful years of marriage.

I still live in my own home where I love to garden, sketch and paint pictures, design and sew my own quilts and other crafts - and keep tabs on the Minnesota Twins baseball games! I also enjoy camping and picking wild blueberries in northern Minnesota.

As for favorite Bible passages, I especially like the story about the life of Moses. Because of his faith in God, he was able to free the Israelites from oppression.

I was attracted to join New Life Lutheran (and then Living Word), because of the caring and friendliness. They have all been and continue to be a blessing of help and understanding to my whole family in good times and bad!

Sincerely, Marion Luella (Sonstegard) Dilley

July - August Communion Sundays

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper on the following Sundays in July and August

July 1 July 15 July 29 August 19

(We've substituted July 29 for August 5 due to Pastor's vacation)

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Opportunities to Grow...

"History of Christianity"

Sunday Mornings at 8:00 in the Sanctuary

Part 4: The Age of Reason, "Enlightenment" and Piety Part 5: Christianity in "The New World" (America)

Part 6: Christianity in the Modern World

Bible Study: 1 Peter

Tuesdays at noon at Geneva Olson's in New London. as we begin a study of

1 Peter: God's Guidance in Times of Opposition

Bible Study: The Book of Revelation

Wondering just what God is saying in this book? Confused about the prophecies of the End Times? We just started taking a look at this great book of encouragement and hope. Please join us Wednesdays over the lunch hour - (starts at 11:30) at Church

National Youth Gathering Bible Study

Wednesday, July 11 Noon at Games Lake

NOTE: All youth are invited - Required for youth attending the National Youth Gathering, but you don't have to be going to Florida to attend the study.

Young Adult Study

Sunday Evening, July 22. See Pastor for Details

July Discipleship Verse...

"We aim to give God glory, making disciples - as we go, wherever we go - by being a joyful, caring, Christ-centered family of God."

Living Word Mission Statement

August Discipleship Verse...

"My soul finds rest in God alone. My salvation comes from Him." Psalm 62:1