

Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

September 2008 Newsletter
"Communicating the Love of Jesus"



Worship Hours:
Christian Growth Hour: 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 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

Question for Pastor...



Where are we at with the building ?

That's definitely the top FAQ (Frequently Asked Question) I get in the community. It's also a pretty frequent question from members who aren't on the building committee.

We have been working closely with our architect Rand Shaper the past three months - meeting almost every week. We've worked extensively on the floor plan for the first and second phases. We've also determined the general exterior design. We've attempted to take into consideration the input we received early this year from the congregation as well as the 3-year plan that was put together when Living Word was chartered.

On the next pages in this newsletter you'll find some preliminary drawings of these floor plans and exterior that Mr. Shaper has provided us. (You'll note a large area labeled "workroom." That's the kitchen.) Everything else should be pretty self explanatory. If not, don't hesitate to ask someone on the building committee.

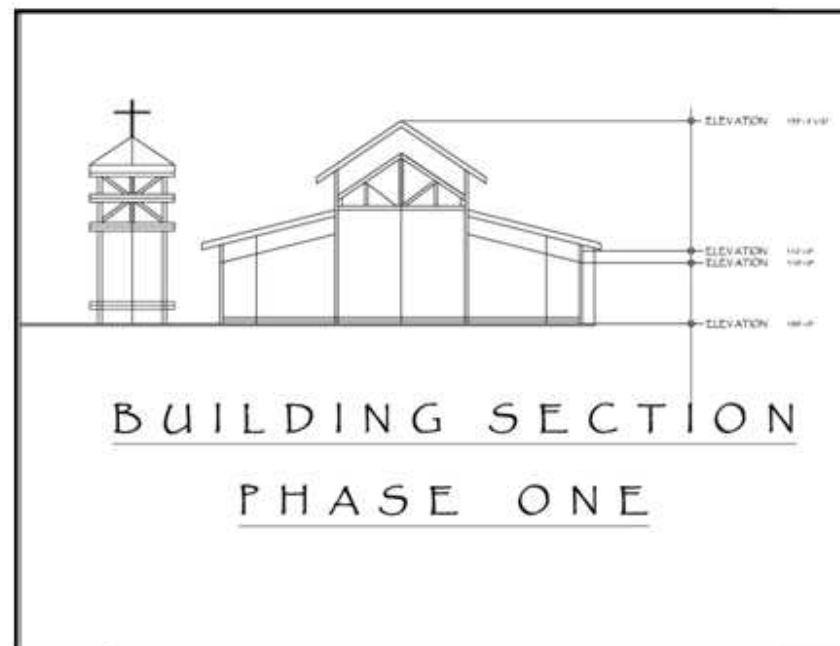
We are close to a final design, but it's still not "etched in stone," so your comments and suggestions are welcome. Although we've gone over the design and made many adjustments, it's still quite possible that we overlooked something.

We have also completed our topographical survey (the 'lay of the land') to determine the best placement of the building. We are currently contacting contractors to get bids on doing soil sampling. This week the committee will be looking at options for framing and siding.

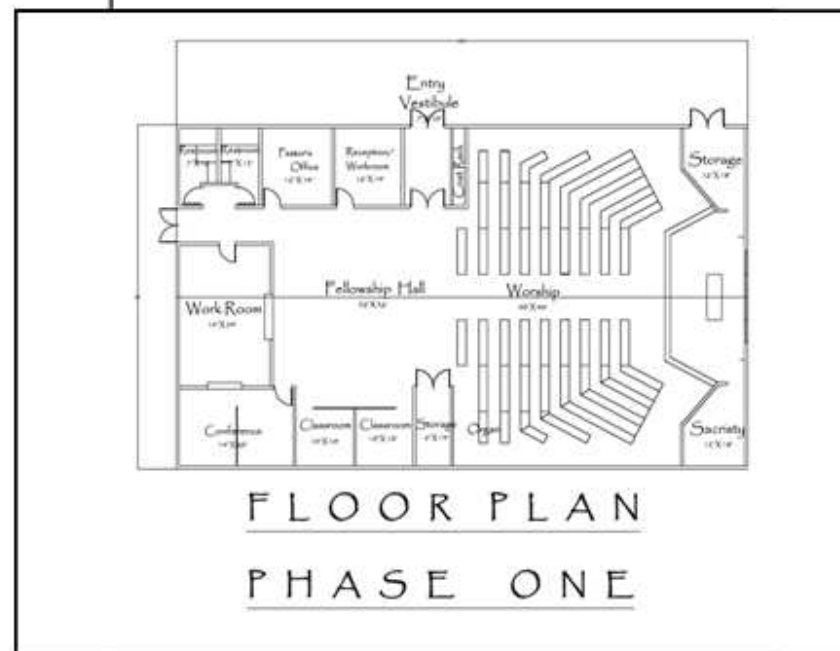
I'd like to thank all of our Building Committee members for their time and effort on this project. Please keep them in your prayers for God's continued guidance.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

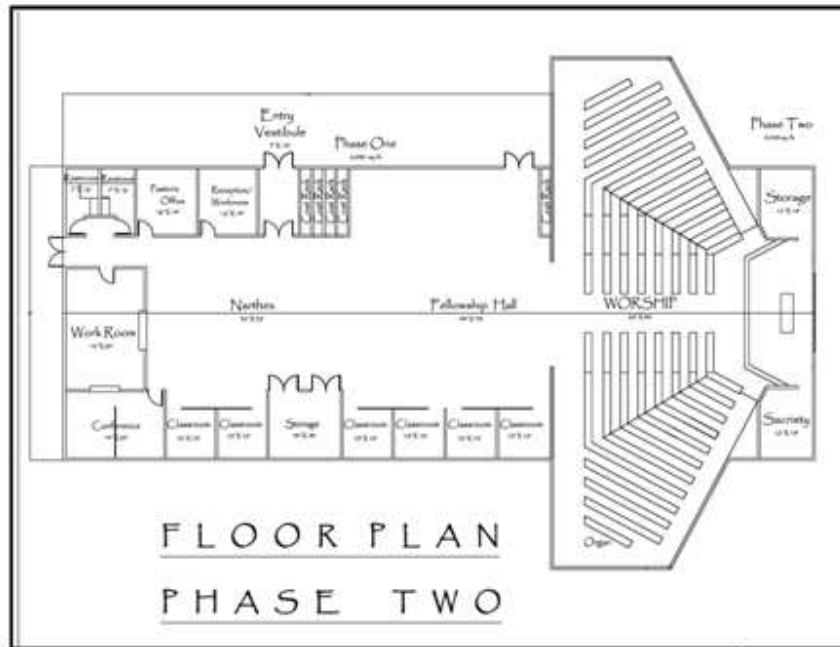
Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net



BUILDING SECTION
PHASE ONE



FLOOR PLAN
PHASE ONE



E-mail Humor...

There were two men shipwrecked on this island. The minute they got on to the island one of them started screaming and yelling, "We're going to die! We're going to die! There's no food! No water! We're going to die!"

The second man was propped up against a palm tree and acting so calmly it drove the first man crazy. "Don't you understand?!? We're going to die!!!"

The second man replied, "You don't understand, I make \$100,000 a week."

The first man looked at him quite dumbfounded and asked, "What difference does that make?!? We're on an island with no food and no water! We're going to DIE!!!"

The second man answered, "You just don't get it. I make \$100,000 a week and I tithe ten percent on that \$100,000 a week. My pastor will find me!"

E-Mail Wisdom...

This email has been recently circulating with the claim that it came from Billy Graham. It did not, in fact, come from Billy Graham but was written by Pastor Bob Russell of Louisville, KY and used by Pastor Joe Wright (not to be confused with Rev. Jeremiah Wright of Chicago) to open the Kansas State House legislative session in 1996.

Heavenly Father,

We come before You today to ask Your Forgiveness and seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good," but that's exactly what we have done. We have lost our Spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values.

We confess that; we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it pluralism;

We have worshiped other gods and called it multi-culturalism;

We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative life-style;

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery;

We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation;

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare;

We have killed our unborn and called it choice;

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable;

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem;

We have abused power and called it political savvy;

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition;

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression;

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.... I ask in the name of your Son, The Living Savior, Jesus Christ

Important Dates...

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

(With Live Bluegrass Gospel Music)

4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Saturday, September 20

At Living Word

Menu: Pie
Ice Cream
Root Beer Floats
Cones
Sandwiches (pulled roast beef and pork)
Potato Salad
Cole Slaw
Baked Beans

Cost: Freewill Donation

Music: Kevin Johnson and his Bluegrass Gospel group will play from 5:00 - 6:00

Still needed: Pie bakers
Serving, Set-Up and Take-Down help

Talk to Lu Kiehm or Janet Towner if you can help out.

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:14

Rally Day is SUNDAY, September 7

Summer has *flown* by fast and we are headed into the school year this week and also, beginning next Sunday, a new Sunday School year. Sunday School classes will begin at 8:45 next Sunday.

Rally Day will start with the students meeting their teachers, checking out their rooms, having a lesson as a group, creating a craft, eating a snack and making some music.

Parents are encouraged to stick around for the Parenting Class that Tammy Wachter will host again this year. This is a great class with lots of helpful information for parents of infants through fourth graders. It's also an opportunity to connect with other parents and share insights (and challenges).

Page 6 Page 7

Thot for a day: Why does the psychic hotline ask for your credit card number?

Rally Day Worship (10:00 a.m.) will be followed by a lunch of Bar-B-Ques and chips (bring a salad or dessert if you can).

If you haven't already done so, please call either Bonnie Hansen (796-5605) or Mona Hjelle (354-4315) to let them know if you have children (or grandchildren) who will be attending this year. You can also ask them any questions you may have.

We are looking forward to a great year of Growing in Christ

Living Word Education Team

Lutheran Hour Ministries Rally

2:30 Sunday, September 14, 2008
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Montevideo

Featured Speaker: Dr. Bernie Lutz
Topic: Near East Ministries

Pastor Lutz and wife Roberta have served as missionaries in Papua, New Guinea, Nigeria, Lebanon, Ghana, Sudan, Canada and the USA. Dr. Lutz has recently spent ten weeks as a seminary professor in Sudan.



Upcoming Schedules...

If you aren't able to serve on your Sunday, please call someone and switch with them. Thanks!

Sept/Oct Scripture Readers

Sept 7	Jack Kuppich	254-8355
Sept 14	Tris Mische	354-9046
Sept 21	Wendy Robbin	354-9049
Sept 28	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
Oct 5	Wally Abraham	354-2615
Oct 12	Kevin Welsh	796-6840
Oct 19	Allan Fuglie	796-6975
Oct 26	Linda Dilley	235-0235

Sept/Oct Fellowship Servers

Sept 7	Pam Johnson	354-3545
Sept 14	Laurel Iverson	354-4932
Sept 21	Elaine Abraham	354-2615
Sept 28	Tammy Fuglie	796-6975
Oct 5	Janet Towner	444-0125
Oct 12	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
Oct 19	Stacy Olson	212-9647
Oct 26	Violet Dauk	220-0344

Sept/Oct Usher & Greeter Schedule

<u>Ushers</u>		<u>Greeter</u>
Sept 7	Jamie Iverson & Mark Fuglie	Lu Kiehm
Sept 14	Wally Abraham/Charlie Carver	Laurel Iverson
Sept 21	Duane Hansen/Jack Kuppich	Janet Towner
Sept 28	Lonny Robbin/Chuck Weffen	Violet Dauk
Oct 5	Jason Miller/Kevin Welsh	Lu Kiehm
Oct 12	Joe Johnson/Anthony Dauk	Laurel Iverson
Oct 19	Troy Hansen/Bryson Wachter	Janet Towner
Oct 26	Janet Towner/Linda Dilley	Violet Dauk

Page 8

That for a day: Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

Page 9

Youth News...

- Thanks to everyone who helped lead worship on the 5th Sunday of August. The youth will plan to lead worship each time there is a 5th Sunday in a month. The next time we lead worship will be November.
- We will have a Youth Group meeting the first Wednesday of each month at 7:15. Next meeting will be October 2. Remember, everyone is to bring one course of a meal.
- Saturday, September 20 we will take a trip to the Renaissance Festival. We will leave at 9:00 for Shakopee.
- Saturday, September 27 we will clean up our Adopt-A-Highway section.
- We would like to hold a Senior High each month, but need people who would be willing to take turns leading the study.
- See You At the Pole - Student-led prayer: Wednesday, September 24 @ 7:00 a.m.



All Stars 4 Jesus (1st - 6th Grade)

Will meet again the first Wednesday of every month.

Meal at 6:15. Activities begin at 6:30

September Discipleship Verse...



But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

September 2008 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 YOUTH HELP W/ WORSHIP 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	Sept 1 LABOR DAY	Sept 2 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's 6:00 Building Committee	Sept 3 Noon Study: LifeLessons from Bible Characters 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "No Ordinary Men" 7:00 Youth 7:15 Confirmation Parents	Sept 4	Sept 5	Sept 6 Cookie Outreach RALLY SUNDAY TOMORROW
7 RALLY SUNDAY 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Rally Sunday Lunch 6:00 New Neighbor Visits	8	9 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's 6:30 Building Committee	10 Noon Study: LifeLessons 6:15 Meal 6:30 Confirmation	11 7:00 Elders' Team 7:00 LWML	12	13
14 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship Outreach Team mtg after f-ship 2:30 LHM Rally @ Montevideo	15	16 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's 6:30 Building Committee (Check for specific time)	17 Noon Study: LifeLessons from Jesus 6:15 Meal 6:30 Confirmation	18 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	19	20 9:00 Youth leave for Renaissance Fest 4:30 - 7:00 ICE CREAM SOCIAL w/ Live Bluegrass Gospel Music 5:00-6:00
21 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 6:00 New Neighbor Visits	22 MN-NORTH	23 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's 6:30 Building Committee (Check for specific time) PASTOR CONF.	24 7:00 a.m. "See you at the pole" NL-S High School Noon Study: LifeLessons 6:15 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	25	26	27 1:00 Youth Adopt A Highway cleanup
28 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	29	30 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's 6:30 Bldg. Committee	Oct 1 6:15 Meal 6:30 All Stars 4 Jesus 7:15 YOUTH	Oct 2	Oct 3	Oct 4 4:30 - 7:00 MEXICAN DINNER HUMAN PRAYER CHAIN TOMORROW

September - 15-Minutes-A-Day

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We finish Deuteronomy then move ahead to some historical books after the Exile (in parentheses are verses to focus on if you are short on time that day)

- Sep 1 Deuteronomy 27:1-26 (27:1-10) _____
- Sep 2 Deuteronomy 28:1-68 (28:1-14) _____
- Sep 3 Deuteronomy 29:1-29 (29:1-15) _____
- Sep 4 Deuteronomy 30:1-20 (30:11-20) _____
- Sep 5 Deuteronomy 31:1-30 (31:1-13) _____
- Sep 6 Deuteronomy 32:1-52 (32:1-43) _____
- Sep 7 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**
- Sep 8 Deuteronomy 33:1-29 (33:1-5, 26-29) _____
- Sep 9 Deuteronomy 34:1-12 (34:1-6) _____
- Sep 10 Ezra 1:1-2:70 (1:1-11) _____
- Sep 11 Ezra 3:1-4:24 (3:1-13) _____
- Sep 12 Ezra 5:1-6:24 (6:1-18) _____
- Sep 13 Ezra 7:1-8:36 (8:1-32) _____
- Sep 14 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**
- Sep 15 Ezra 9:1-10:44 (9:1-15) _____
- Sep 16 Nehemiah 1:1-11 (1:1-9) _____
- Sep 17 Nehemiah 2:1-3:32 (2:1-20) _____
- Sep 18 Nehemiah 4:1-6:19 (4:1-23) _____

Today's Light Devotional Readings

- Sep 19 Nehemiah 7:1-8:18 (8:1-18) _____
- Sep 20 Nehemiah 9:1-10:39 (9:32-38) _____
- Sep 21 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**
- Sep 22 Nehemiah 11:1-13:31 (12:27-47) _____
- Sep 23 Esther 1:1-2:23 (2:1-23) _____
- Sep 24 Esther 3:1-4:17 (4:1-17) _____
- Sep 25 Esther 5:1-7:10 (7:1-10) _____
- Sep 26 Esther 8:1-10:3 (8:1-11) _____
- Sep 27 Job 1:1-22 (1:1-3, 6-20) _____
- Sep 28 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**
- Sep 29 Job 2:1-3:26 (3:1-25) _____
- Sep 30 Job 4:1-5:27 (4:1-21) _____
- Oct 1 Job 6:1-7:21 (6:1-30) _____
- Oct 2 Job 8:1-10:22 (9:1-22) _____
- Oct 3 Job 11:1-12:25 (11:1-20) _____
- Oct 4 Job 13:1-14:22 (14:1-22) _____
- Oct 5 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A CHRISTIAN STUDENT

The US Constitution guarantees that a Christian student has the right to



... wear a t-shirt, and use pencils and notebooks with Christian slogans and verses printed on them. Forbidding use of such items would be a violation of the Constitutional right allowing symbolic speech.¹

... give out religious literature to his classmates. Religious literature may not be singled out for special restrictions, meaning students may distribute religious tracts or literature to their schoolmates in the same manner as they would be permitted to distribute non-religious material.²

... witness to and pray with other students on school grounds. During any time in which a student is free to discuss non-instructional topics, he may exercise his freedom of speech, which includes the freedom to witness or to pray.³

... say grace before eating lunch and read the Bible during the school day. Freedom of speech includes the freedom to pray before meals and to bow their heads to pray before tests. Any time that students are allowed to read non-instructional books, Bible reading is permitted.⁴

... organize Bible clubs in public schools. Public secondary schools must allow Bible clubs the same privileges as any other school club as long as the club is student-led and follows school policies.⁵

... write reports and do oral assignments based on religious subjects. Religious topics must be judged by ordinary standards and may not be discriminated against, therefore students may express their beliefs in homework, artwork, written and oral assignments, and any other time in the classroom that the views of all other students are also allowed.⁶

... mention their Christian faith and to read from the Bible when asked to be a graduation speaker. If students such as valedictorians or salutatorians are allowed to compose their own speeches, a school may not censor the speech of private individuals merely because it contains a reli-

Page 14 Page 15

That for a day: Sometimes, the only thing worse than having unanswered prayer is answered prayer.

gious perspective.⁷

Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech... from the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

FOOTNOTES

1. Rights upheld by the Supreme Court (*Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District*, 1969) though courts have ruled free speech expression can be curtailed if message is lewd/obscene (*Broussard v. Sch. Bd. of City of Norfolk*, 1992), or promotes alcoholic beverages (*McIntire v. Berel Sch.* 804 F. Supp. 1415, 1992), and naturally t-shirt expression does not apply to schools that are uniform-only.

2. The Court equated free speech with the right for students to hand out literature as long as the literature in question was not libelous, obscene, or disruptive (*Martin vs. Struthers*, 1943) and they abided by any policy the school already had in place.

3, 4 Courts have repeatedly stated that religious speech, even prayer, is protected free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment, (*Widmar v. Vincent*, 454 U.S. 263, 1981).

5. The court has held that government may not prohibit religious organizations from using school facilities that are made available for a range of nonreligious civic activities (*Lamb's Chapel v. Ctr. Moriches Union Free School District*, 1993) Also note, Congress passed the Equal Access Act in 1988 to protect these type of rights

6. As ruled by the United States Supreme Court, (*Board of Education of the Westside Community Schools v. Mergens*, 496 U.S. 226, 1990). It should also be noted that public school teachers may use the Bible in the classroom in instructional ways such as when teaching literature, history, comparative religions, or ethics. (*Stone vs. Graham*, 449 U.S. 39, 1980).



AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:

Exercise your Freedom of Religion by attending worship Sundays at 10:00

Opportunities to Share the Love of Jesus In Practical Ways...

Plan and Organize Fellowship Activities

One of the goals we set for the coming year is to provide more opportunities for members to get to know each other outside of church. In order to accomplish that goal we need someone who enjoys organizing activities that "get people together." Things like 'fun nights' or service projects or outings. Please talk to Pastor David if you would like to help in this way. Thanks!

Oversee our 'Make-a-Meal' Program

Do you have a heart for helping people in need? Do you enjoy getting other people involved in helping out? Then you may be the person we need to oversee our "Make A Meal" program. We are looking for someone who can call on our "meal makers and takers" and inform them when someone has need of a meal. Our "Make A Meal" program is a great way to show the love of Jesus, but we need someone to oversee the effort. If you would enjoy doing something like that, please talk to Pastor David. Thanks!

Have a heart for missions - enjoy talking to people?

CTI Music Ministries has a position open in the Recruiting Department and will soon have a position open in the Booking Department.

We are looking for someone who enjoys talking to people, and who is organized and self-motivated. Skills needed: Good communication skills, keyboarding & the ability to learn computer software programs, good telephone & email communication. **We will consider either a full-time or part-time position. Hours are flexible.** Contact CTI Music Ministries at 320-235-0155.

Make Some Cookies for New Neighbor Visits

Our "New Neighbor" Visitors welcome people who have recently moved into the area with a basket of 'goodies'

Page 16 Page 17

Thot for a day: Do not believe in miracles...rely on them.

that includes cookies/bars. If you like to bake it would be a big help to have more folks provide cookies or bars for our visits. Talk to Bryson if you can serve the Lord in this way. Thanks!

"Secret Paul" Prayer Partner Program

Reminders:

- Secret Pauls: Don't forget to send your person a note if they have a birthday in July.
- Parents: If you have specific things your kids need prayer for during the year, please place those requests in the Secret Paul request box. Thanks!



Planning Retreat Results...

This year we didn't retreat very far (only to church), but we did accomplish the "planning" part quite well. As always our planning centered around Living Word's mission statement:

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

We sought to answer two questions relative to that statement:

- 1) How has God blessed us relative to that goal this past year?
- 2) What would God call us to improve on this year?

Answers to question #1 (by mission statement area):

"Going": We have continued past outreach efforts (Parade, Fair Booth, Battery Giveaway) while adding an outreach to the RV Park, New Neighbors visits, Visitor Giveaways

"Making Disciples": We started a Men's Study; Congregation-Wide Bible-reading program (Today's Light) and witnessed an increased expectation in the area of spiritual growth.

"Being Joyful": Lots of things have increased our "joy-level": A new choir and more people involved with music; Our new building plans; Increased summer attendance; and having enough people to fill out usher/fellowship/reading lists.

"Being Caring": A number of people have helped "Make A Meal" even though we haven't had a coordinator for the program; We organized two work groups to travel to Rushford to help with flood relief; The Secret Paul prayer program

"Being Family": The change to a single Sunday worship service has brought people together; Our after-worship fellowship has been a great success; People have "pitched in" to help in many areas of ministry including serving as ushers, greeters, Scripture readers, fellowship servers and acolytes; many people have ordered "Living Word" shirts that identify us as part of that family; Many people make a point to talk with visitors helping them to feel welcome.

"Being Christ-Centered" - In our preaching and teaching we make a point to stick to the Bible as absolute truth that points us to salvation through Jesus Christ alone and that empowers us toward the goal of becoming like Jesus.

Our answers to question #2 (by mission statement area):

Going: We need to continue the many programs we already have and continue to enlist even more people in our outreach efforts.

Making Disciples: We need to emphasize this as the reason for everything we do; Re-organize the Sunday School program; Re-organize a Wednesday program for 1-6th Graders; get more people involved in group Bible study.

Being Joyful: We could stand more often during the singing of worship songs; Include more drama's/skits in worship; Keep up the excitement over the building; Model an attitude of "we get to" instead of "I have to"; Step up our stewardship efforts to get people involved doing things they enjoy. Keep people involved in music.

Being Caring: Find a coordinator for the Make-A-Meal program; offer rides for adults and kids who have difficulty getting here for church or activities; Find a coordinator for service projects.

Being Christ-Centered: Remember that this is the sole foundation for growth - both Spiritual and in numbers; Remember to do devotions (not just prayers) prior to every meeting; Keep the focus on Christ during our building process; Include a Sunday prayer for the current building needs; Pray for God's will and timing in all our decision-making

Being Family: Assign oversight for a number of families to each Elder; Find a person to organize "Family Nights" to get people together; Each Team and Committee needs have a person responsible to keep the "family" informed of activities in their area of responsibility.

As a result of our planning night, we determined that it will be important for us to fill two positions:

- 1) **"Congregational Outreach Coordinator"** Someone with a the gift of hospitality who enjoys getting people together. A person who will organize things like "Family Nights" and Service projects.
- 2) A **"Sonshine" person.** Someone who has a heart for people in need. A person who will oversee our "Make A Meal" program and keep their eyes open for needs we can fill.

PLEASE TALK TO PASTOR DAVID IF YOU FEEL GOD HAS GIFTED YOU IN EITHER OF THESE AREAS (OR IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE ELSE WHO HAS THE GIFTS TO FILL ONE OF THEM)

We also answered this question: "If there's only one thing we could focus on, what should it be?"

Emphasizing the need for continued spiritual growth of members of all ages.

Thanks to everyone who took time to help with our planning. Please pray for God's guidance as we seek to follow Him in making these plans a reality. We don't want to run ahead of God, we don't want to lag behind God. We want to keep in step with Him.