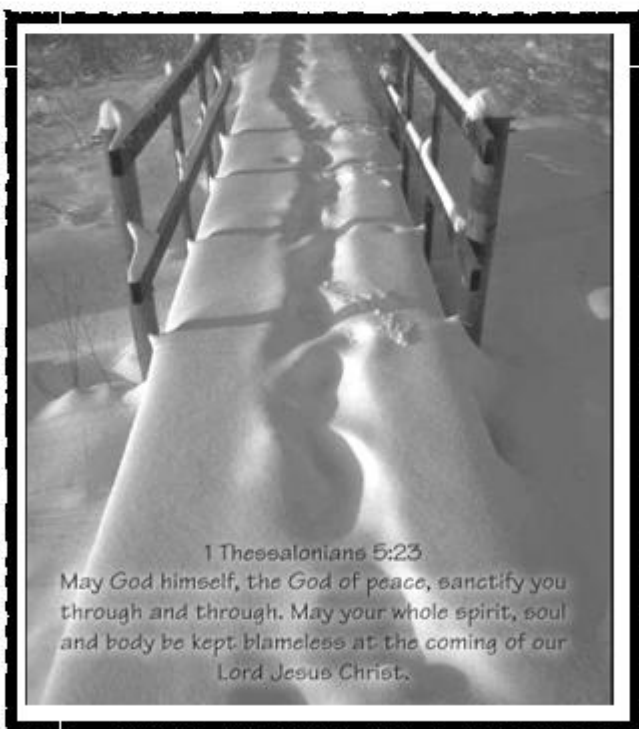


Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

January 2009 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

What we aim to do:

Make disciples for Jesus - as we go, wherever we go.

What we aim to be:

A joyful, caring, Christ-centered family of God.

Question for Pastor...

Why do we celebrate Christmas in winter when Jesus was born in the spring?

This question came from one of the participants in our "Greatest Gift" Christmas program right before "the curtain went up" on the program. My response at the time was, "For starters, we don't know for sure that Jesus was born in the spring. I don't have time to tell you more than that right now, but I will tell you later." Well, "later" is now.

Regarding this question there is one thing that can be stated with certainty: We don't know the date of Jesus' birth.

The Bible is silent on the issue. The only hints it gives us is that Jesus was born during a Roman census and while shepherds were "living out in the fields." Those two hints are usually given as reasons why He couldn't have been in the winter. The theory is that a census wouldn't have been taken during the winter months and shepherds typically weren't "living out in the fields" at that time of year. But others argue that the Romans wouldn't have cared if they made people travel during difficult travel weather, and shepherds did sometimes graze flocks in the fields at times during the winter. So, while spring is a more likely date for Jesus' birth, winter is still a possibility.

The early church is no help with this question. Christmas was not celebrated - as far as any records show - for at least 200 years after Jesus' birth. Some early church leaders even suggested that celebrating birthdays was something only done for pagan gods. Earliest speculations about the date varied

from March or April to November or January.

The earliest official record of a birthday celebration for Jesus held on December 25 was 336 a.d. after Emperor Constantine had declared Christianity the empire's favored religion.

Why December 25? Many historians believe that the church stirred up interest in a festival at this time of year to counter the pagan festivals surrounding the winter solstice - the 'coming back' of the sun. December 25 already hosted two festivals dedicated to celebrating the sun: *natalis solis invicti* (the Roman "birth of the unconquered sun"), and the birthday of Mithras, the Iranian "Sun of Righteousness" whose worship was popular with Roman soldiers. The winter solstice, another celebration of the sun, fell just a few days earlier. The thinking goes that church leaders decided to adopt that date and introduce a new festival - a festival that Christians could celebrate. Celebrating Jesus' birth on December 25 would be an easy way to introduce Jesus to a pagan world that would be curious about this Son. Christians were celebrating on the same day they celebrated the sun.

The bottom line is that the Bible gives us no date for Christ's birth, because it doesn't command us to celebrate it. That, however, doesn't mean that it's wrong for us to celebrate His birth. On the contrary, in the Old Testament God had His people celebrate lots of special festivals in order to force them to remember things He had done for them - and to force them to tell their children about these things. Christmas is a celebration that really does force us to remember that God loves us so much He came to earth to be with us. It is also a great opportunity to teach our kids about Jesus.

The fact that we hold this celebration on December 25 is pretty much arbitrary. It's something we could celebrate any day. Come to think of it, the basic message of Christmas is that God is With Us (Immanuel) and that *is* something we should celebrate every day.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

What Did Jesus Bring...

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 trust Him for eternal life
- We receive that peace daily when we surrender our will to Jesus' will.

Page 4

That for a day: Why do people who know the least know it the loudest?

Page 5

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 Discipleship Verse...



"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

New Year's Recipe...

1. Take a 10-30 minute walk every day. And while you walk, smile. It is the ultimate anti-depressant.
2. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day. Talk to God about what is going on in your life. Buy a lock if you have to.
3. When you wake up in the morning complete the following statement, 'My purpose is to _____ today. I am thankful for _____'.
4. Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured in plants.
5. Drink green tea and plenty of water. Eat blueberries, wild Alaskan salmon, broccoli, almonds & walnuts.
6. Try to make at least three people smile each day.
7. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip, energy vampires, issues of the past, negative thoughts or things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive >> present moment.
8. Eat breakfast like a king or queen, lunch like a prince or princess and dinner like a college kid with a maxed out charge card.
9. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
10. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
11. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
12. You are not so important that you have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
13. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.
14. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
15. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
16. Frame every so-called disaster with these words: 'In five years, will this matter?'
17. Forgive everyone for everything.
18. What other people think of you is none of your business.
19. GOD heals everything - but you have to ask and believe.
20. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.

Page 6

Thot for a day: Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light"?

Page 7

21. Your job won't take care of you when you are in need. Your friends will. Stay in touch!!!
22. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
23. Each night before you go to bed complete the following statements: I am thankful for _____. Today I accomplished _____.
24. Remember that you are too blessed to be stressed.
25. When you are feeling down, start listing your many blessings. You'll be smiling before you know it.

E-Mail Wisdom...

Sand & Stone

Two friends were walking through the desert during some point of the journey, they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face

The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand:

"Today my best friend slapped me in the face"

They kept on walking, until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a swim. The one who had been slapped got stuck in them mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him.

After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone:

"Today my best friend saved my life."

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, 'after I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?'

The friend replied 'when someone hurts us we should write it down in sand, where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it'

Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your blessings in stone.

LWML News...

We've heard that lots of people still aren't sure what an "LWML" really is, so here's some basic info:

We are the organization that serves meals for wedding receptions and funerals. We are involved in charitable activities - like collecting clothes for needy. We undertake and support mission projects. Our monthly meetings include a devotional time for spiritual growth and prayer.

One way we raise funds to support our local, state and national mission projects is through something called Mite Boxes. (Little boxes you keep at home to put your spare change in.) If you can't come to the meetings, but would like to drop your spare change in a Mite Box and turn it in to help support our mission projects, please contact Bonnie Hansen (796-5605) or Lu Kiehm (979-0097).

The organization is for all women of the congregation who are 18 years and older.

We meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (same time as Elders Team).

All women in the congregation are asked to join. Please come to our next meeting on January 8, and experience more of what the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) is all about.

Youth News...

+ We raised \$130 from Candy sales. Thanks to everyone who made candy and everyone who supported us by buying some.

+ We meet on Wednesday, January 7 from 7:15-8:15

+ Upcoming Events:

Bowling -
Ice Fishing - (an overnight outing)
Acquire the Fire (February 14-15)
Skiing - (Twin Cities maybe)

We'll discuss details for each of these on Jan. 7

Page 8 Page 9

Thot for a day: Why is it called hamburger when it's made out of beef?

Today's Light Bible Readings...

During the Christmas Season we celebrated God coming to be with us. You may have noticed that **lying in the manger was a Bible**. God came to be with us in the person of baby Jesus. Jesus has ascended to heaven, but God is still with us in His Word.

This month in our Today's Light Readings we finish up Matthew's account of Jesus' birth, ministry, death and resurrection. Then we read the "book of Joy" (Philippians) and head back to the Old Testament for the history of the Davidic dynasty in the book of Chronicles

If you haven't gotten started with our daily readings... Give yourself the gift of God's guidance and power this month. A NEW YEAR IS A GREAT TIME TO START.

If you've gotten sidetracked in your readings... Just jump back in. A NEW YEAR IS A GREAT TIME TO GET "BACK IN THE SADDLE." You can catch up the readings you missed later.

Go to pages 14 & 15 to join see this month's schedule.



Though your sins may be **SCARLET**, I will make them white like a **MINNESOTA SNOW**. Is 1:18

Upcoming Schedules...

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

Scripture Readers

| | | |
|--------|--------------|----------|
| Jan 4 | Jack Kuppich | 254-8355 |
| Jan 11 | Tris Mische | 354-9046 |
| Jan 18 | Wendy Robbin | 354-9049 |
| Jan 25 | Mona Hjelle | 354-4315 |

| | | |
|--------|--------------|----------|
| Feb 1 | Kevin Welsh | 796-6840 |
| Feb 8 | Allan Fuglie | 796-6975 |
| Feb 15 | Linda Dilley | 235-0235 |
| Feb 22 | Mark Fuglie | 796-6975 |

| | | |
|--------|---------------|----------|
| Mar 1 | Tammy Fuglie | 796-6975 |
| Mar 8 | Lu Kiehm | 979-0097 |
| Mar 15 | Janet Towner | 444-0125 |
| Mar 22 | Tammy Wachter | 796-6222 |
| Mar 29 | Youth | |

Fellowship Servers

| | | |
|--------|----------------|----------|
| Jan 4 | Laurel Iverson | 354-4932 |
| Jan 11 | Tammy Fuglie | 796-6975 |
| Jan 18 | Janet Towner | 444-0125 |
| Jan 25 | Mona Hjelle | 354-4315 |

| | | |
|--------|-------------|----------|
| Feb 1 | Stacy Olson | 212-9647 |
| Feb 8 | Violet Dauk | 220-0344 |
| Feb 15 | Lu Kiehm | 979-0097 |
| Feb 22 | Tris Mische | 354-9046 |

| | | |
|--------|----------------|----------|
| Mar 1 | Linda Dilley | 235-0235 |
| Mar 8 | Bonnie Hansen | 796-5605 |
| Mar 15 | Wendy Robbin | 354-9049 |
| Mar 22 | Nancy Jo Wendt | 354-2398 |
| Mar 29 | Youth | |

Usher & Greeter Schedule

| | <u>Ushers</u> | <u>Greeter</u> |
|--------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Jan 4 | Troy Hansen/Bryson Wachter | Lu |
| Jan 11 | Mona Hjelle/ Pam Johnson | Laurel |
| Jan 18 | Jamie Iverson/Lonny Robbin | Janet |
| Jan 25 | Charlie & Heather Carver | Violet |

Page 10

Thot for a day: You never really learn to pray until your kids learn to drive.

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| | | |
|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| Feb 1 | Duane Hansen/Chuck Weffen | Lu |
| Feb 8 | Jack Kuppich/Mark Fuglie | Laurel |
| Feb 15 | Kevin Welsh/Jason Miller | Janet |
| Feb 22 | Joe Johnson/ Anthony Dauk | Violet |

| | | |
|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| Mar 1 | Janet Towner/Linda Dilley | Lu |
| Mar 8 | Troy Hansen/Bryson Wachter | Laurel |
| Mar 15 | Mona Hjelle/ Pam Johnson | Janet |
| Mar 22 | Jamie Iverson/Lonny Robbin | Violet |
| Mar 29 | Youth | Youth |

Acolyte



| | |
|--------|------------------|
| Jan 4 | Noah Welsh |
| Jan 11 | Michelle Johnson |
| Jan 18 | Phil Iverson |
| Jan 25 | Mikayla Geer |

| | |
|--------|------------------|
| Feb 1 | Noah Welsh |
| Feb 8 | Michelle Johnson |
| Feb 15 | Phil Iverson |
| Feb 22 | Mikayla Geer |

| | |
|--------|------------------|
| Mar 1 | Noah Welsh |
| Mar 8 | Michelle Johnson |
| Mar 15 | Phil Iverson |
| Mar 22 | Mikayla Geer |
| Mar 29 | Youth |



January 2009 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|--|--|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Jan 4 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - <i>Faith Under Fire</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship | 5 | 6 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's The Apostles' Creed teaches: God as Defender & Provider | 7 Noon Study: Boundaries 6:15 Meal 6:30 ALL Stars 4 Jesus 6:30 Men's Study 7:15 Youth Mtg. | 8 Noon Ministerial @ NL-S 7:00 Elders Team 7:00 LWML | 9 | 10 |
| 11 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - <i>Faith Under Fire</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship Outreach Team mtg after f-ship | 12 | 13 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's The Apostles' Creed teaches: Jesus as Lord 6:30 Bldg. Committee | 14 Noon Study: Boundaries 6:15 Meal 6:30 Confirmation | 15 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team | 16 Pastors' Conf. @ Willmar | 17 |
| 18 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - <i>Faith Under Fire</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 6:00 New Neighbor Visits | 19 | 20 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's The Apostles' Creed teaches: Jesus as Savior | 21 NEW Noon Study: Angels 6:15 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Men's Study | 22 |  | 24 |
| 25 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - <i>Faith Under Fire</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship | 26 | 27 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's The Apostles' Creed teaches about: Holy Spirit & the church | 28 NEW Noon Study: Angels 6:15 Meal 6:30 Confirmation | 29 |  | 31 2:00 Polar Plunge |
| Feb 1 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - <i>Faith Under Fire</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship | Feb 2 | Feb 3 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's The Apostles' Creed teaches about Forgiveness & Eternal life | Feb 4 Noon Study: Angels 6:15 Meal 6:30 ALL Stars 4 Jesus 6:30 Men's Study 7:15 Youth Meeting | Feb 5 | Feb 6 | Feb 7 |

January - 15-Minutes-A-Day

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We finish Matthew and Philipians then head back to the Old Testament for the History of the Davidic dynasty as recorded in Chronicles.

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

Jan 5 Matthew 26-27 (27:32-56) _____

Jan 6 Matthew 28 (28:1-15) _____

Jan 7 Philipians 1 (1:1-24) _____

Jan 8 Philipians 2 (2:1-18) _____

Jan 9 Philipians 3 (3:1-16) _____

Jan 10 Philipians 4 (4:1-19) _____

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

Jan 12 1 Chronicles 1:1-4:43 (3:10-16) _____

Jan 13 1 Chronicles 5:1-8:40 (6:1-49) _____

Jan 14 1 Chronicles 9:1-12:40 (12:1-22) _____

Jan 15 1 Chronicles 13:1-14:17 (13:1-14) _____

Jan 16 1 Chronicles 15:1-16:43 (15:1-29) _____

Jan 17 1 Chronicles 17:1-27 (17:16-27) _____

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

Jan 19 1 Chronicles 18:1-20:8 (18:1-11) _____

Jan 20 1 Chronicles 21:1-30 (21:18-30) _____

Today's Light Devotional Readings

Jan 21 1 Chronicles 22:1-19 (22:1-5) _____

Jan 22 1 Chronicles 23:1-27:34 (26:1-19) _____

Jan 23 1 Chronicles 28:1-21 (28:11-21) _____

Jan 24 1 Chronicles 29:1-30 (29:10-25) _____

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

Jan 26 2 Chronicles 1:1-2:18 (2:1-18) _____

Jan 27 2 Chronicles 3:1-5:14 (5:1-2, 11-14) _____

Jan 28 2 Chronicles 6:1-7:22 (6:12-21) _____

Jan 29 2 Chronicles 8:1-9:31 (9:1-12) _____

Jan 30 2 Chronicles 10:1-11:23 (10:1-19, 11:13-17) _____

Jan 31 2 Chronicles 12:1-16 (12:1-12) _____

Feb 1 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Feb 2 2 Chronicles 13:1-14:15 (13:1-22) _____

Feb 3 2 Chronicles 15:1-16:14 (15:1-19) _____

Feb 4 2 Chronicles 17:1-18:34 (17:1-9) _____

Feb 5 2 Chronicles 19:1-20:37 (20:1-25) _____

Feb 6 2 Chronicles 21:1-22:12 (21:1-20) _____

Feb 7 2 Chronicles 23:1-24:27 (24:1-27) _____

A Minute for Parents...

Set an example by giving an "After-Christmas" Gift that keeps 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

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." Chance are the same can be said for you. And chances are that is what your kids will remember too.

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.

Just For Fun...

THE MESSAGE

Paul was an apostle and Agabus was a prophet. One day, Agabus came to see Paul and give him a very special message.

To find out what that message was, decode the numbers.

- 1=A
- 2=B
- 3=C
- 4=D
- 5=E
- 6=F
- 7=G
- 8=H
- 9=I
- 10=J
- 11=K
- 12=L
- 13=M
- 14=N
- 15=O
- 16=P
- 17=Q
- 18=R
- 19=S
- 20=T
- 21=U
- 22=V
- 23=W
- 24=X
- 25=Y
- 26=Z

20 8 5 10 5 23 19 1

20 10 5 18 21

19 1 12 5 23 9

12 12 2 9 14 4

25 15 21 1 14

4 4 5 12 9

22 5 18 25 15

21 15 22 5 18

Upcoming Events...

CHARTER SUNDAY

January 25:

It has been four years since Living Word was chartered as an official member of the Minnesota North District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We will celebrate with a special potluck meal following worship on January 18.

Make sure to join us as we thank God for our fourth year and kick off year # 5.

TAKE THE “POLAR PLUNGE”



Saturday, January 31. We jump in Green Lake to raise funds for Special Olympics

THIS YEAR WE WANT A BIG GROUP, BECAUSE....

...It's just the right thing to do.

...It's been suggested that we take the plunge in choir robes while singing something like "From Greenland's Icy Mountains." How could you NOT want to be part of that ?

Sign up by the door to the sanctuary or talk to Bryson Wachter

ANNUAL WHIST NIGHT

7:00 p.m. Friday, January 30 @ Pastor & Violet's

A GREAT FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY: It is always a night full of fun, laughter, competition and Prizes! Please bring a snack to share...Soft drinks and coffee will be provided. Prior experience is not required. Don't know what whist is? Never played it? No problem. We have PRIZES for doing the worst as well as doing the best!

Talk to Pastor or Violet if you have any questions. Bring friends. (It's a great way to introduce them to others in the church).

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

Could You Help With Children's Church?

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

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

Be part of our 'Make-a-Meal' Team

Do you have a heart for helping people in need? We're in the process of updating our list of people who can serve as either "meal makers" and "meal takers" (or both). Our "Make A Meal" program is a great way to show the love of Jesus. Please talk to Pastor David if you can serve on our Make A Meal Team. Thanks!

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' 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:

1. Please remember to pray for your person.
2. Send them a card to start the New Year.

Help with our Youth Ministry

- Lead a Bible Study for Sr. High Youth
- Chaperone a service project (and fun outing) in the Twin Cities

Please talk to Pam Johnson if you can serve the Lord in any of these ways.

Opportunities for Growth...

Today's Light Bible Reading

(See the schedule of readings on pages 14 & 15 in this Newsletter)

Parenting Young Children

Sunday mornings @ 8:45

A special class for parents of pre-school through 4th grade children

Confirmation - Wednesday evenings

6:15 Meal 6:30 Confirmation studies

Tuesday Noon Bible Study

At Geneva Olson's. See next page for new study...

Wednesday NOON study:

Boundaries: Setting limits in relationships

Finishes this month. See next page for new study...

Sunday Morning Study

Please join us at 9:00 for the Sunday Forum Topic

Faith Under Fire : "Faith and Jesus"

The Next 4-session study begins Sunday, Jan 4th and will address these topics:

Jesus
The Resurrection
Universalism
The Supernatural

Men's Study: "No Ordinary Men"

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of January at 6:30 p.m.

Youth (7-12 Grades)

Meet the first Wednesday of each month from 7:15- 8:15

All Stars 4 Jesus (1-6th Grades)

Meet the first Wednesday of each month @ 6:30

(Meal @ 6:15)

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Meets the 2nd Thurs. @ 7:00 pm

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That for a day: If there is no God, who pulls up the next Kleenex out of the box?

Page 21

New Studies...

NEW Wednesday Noon Study

"ANGELS"

We've heard a lot about angels during the Christmas season. They are creatures that fascinate us. One of the things we'll do in this study is separate what the Bible says about angels from lots of incorrect popular ideas about them (commonly promoted in movies and songs).

Here are some topics we'll cover:

- Their Beginning and their Being (characteristics)
- Satan and the Fallen Angels
- Angel title, names and activities
- The Angel of the Lord
- Guarding and Avenging Angels
- Watching and Communicating Angels
- Angels and Jesus
- Evil Angels today
- Angels and believers today
- On Judgement Day and in eternity

This study begins January 21 At Living Word. Join us and bring a friend.

NEW Tuesday Noon Study

"The Apostles' Creed Teaches..."

We speak it at all the time in worship. But what are we really saying?

We'll take a look beginning January 6at Geneva Olson's in New London. We gather at noon and share a light lunch and feast on God's Word. Please join us.

How have you seen God at work in Living Word in 2008 ?

For our Charter Sunday (January 25) we will put together a list all of the ways and people you've seen God work through this past year at Living Word. Please email your answers to Scott at c.wachter@charter.net (Or just write them out and give them to Scott)

Opportunities to Use Your Talents...

We need someone to:

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!

Become Part of the Living Word's LWML

(Lutheran Women's Missionary League)

For Christ-Centered Women of All Ages

The Mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League: is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God, so that she is enable to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

The Living Word LWML meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 for devotion and mission/ministry planning. Please join us next month.

Thanks...

To Bryson Wachter and Heather Carver for directing our Christmas Program. We really appreciate your hard work! Thanks also to the teachers, parents and students (and adult participants) who all did a great job of helping tell the message that Jesus is the Greatest Gift. Thanks be to God for all of you "indescribable gifts".

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

Page 22

Thot for a day: Can atheists get insurance for acts of God?

Page 23

E-mail Humor...

Bumper sticker on Santa's sleigh:

Don't like my driving?

Call 1-800-NO GIFTS

Christmas traditions are weird...

What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON

May yer house be warm, yer boots dry, and da only ting cold and wet is yer dog's nose and may he be house-broken, and okee-dokee den, dats all.



A Minnesotan Winter Blessin' don't ya know.