Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

October 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...

What else is there to say?

I told you at the end of last month's *Question for Pastor* to check back next month, because there was a lot more to be said on the question regarding homosexuals being allowed to be pastors (as the ELCA church body recently voted in their summer assembly).

Last month I included the response by our synodical president to this ELCA decision. He laid out the reasons why it is not "ok" to have gays and lesbians serve as pastors, (in a nutshell: because God has *clearly* stated in His Word that He is not "ok" with it.)

Having said that, I need to remind us that while homosexuality is a sin, one that the vast majority of people can't relate to, there are many other things that are also sin - things that we can relate to and often commit ourselves. A pastor once related an incident where one of his ushers asked, "What do I do if some gay people come in to worship?" The pastor answered, "Seat them right next to the other sinners... the ladies who were gossiping in the church basement before worship, the guy who is hungover from getting drunk last night, the young couple that is living together and aren't married..." i.e. Seat them anywhere you like, because the rest of us are also sinners in need of the forgiveness Jesus' purchased for us on the cross.

The whole point is that we need to take care with regard to this issue not to come off as "holier than thou," because we are sinners too. Jesus said, "I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners." The Gospel message of repentance and forgiveness is there just as much for people who aren't practicing a homosexual lifestyle as it is there for those who are.

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So that brings up another question: "If we are all sinners, how can we single out the sin of a homosexual lifestyle as being a disqualifier for the ministry?"

For starters, there's the fact that God spells out in His Word (in the books of Timothy and Titus) that the qualifications for being a pastor include: "Being the husband of but *one wife.*" But maybe the biggest reason someone leading a homosexual lifestyle is disqualified for pastoral ministry is the lack of an attitude of repentance - the attitude God requires of all sinners and with all sins. With gays and lesbians who do not acknowledge that their lifestyle is a sin and contrary to God's plan, there is an attitude of defiance and not repentance. Instead of a desire to change and follow God's plan of sex only within a marriage relationship between a husband and wife, there tends to be a "That's the way I am and I don't need to change," attitude.

Let's put it in perspective with a couple of comparable examples: Let's say a person who regularly cheats customers out of money wants to become a pastor. He comes to the seminary and clearly states "I a swindler and proud of it. I want to be a pastor." The response would be the same as to the homosexual. "When you come to the point where you are willing to change that lifestyle then we can talk. Otherwise, it's not going to happen." Or take the example of a heterosexual couple living together without being married. The guy decides he wants to be a pastor. He goes to the seminary and says, "I want to be a pastor. I'm living with someone - have been for guite some time and we are committed to each other but feel no need to get married. I think I can be a good pastor.." Again, the response would be the same, "When you come to the point where you are willing to admit your lifestyle is a sin - not something God condones - and you want to change that lifestyle, then we can talk. Otherwise, it's not going to happen."

One other question that comes up is "Well, if those people have desires for folks of the same sex, then that must be the way God made them. And if God made them that way, how can we keep them from becoming pastors?"

There's a false assumption in that question. The assumption that all desires we have as human beings are "because that's the way God made us." The Bible is very clear many times over (e.g. Romans 1:21-32) that there are many desires that run contrary to the way God made us. (We usually refer to it as our "sinful nature") Each and

every human being has desires that are not Godpleasing. Our response to those desires needs to be to seek God's help to curb those desires and replace them with God-pleasing desires and actions.

The bottom line on all these questions is that we turn for our answers not to popular opinion, not to what's currently accepted in society, but that we turn to God's Word. God has created everything that exists. He's given us instructions about how He's created things to work. He's given us instructions on what is unacceptable. His Word really is "the final answer" for our tough guestions.

Thanks for asking, Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

APPLICATIONS FOR HABITAT HOMES NOW BEING ACCEPTED.

Are you looking for an opportunity to buy a simple, decent, affordable home? Are there problems with your current housing? If you fall within low-income guidelines and have a stable income and are willing to help build your home, call Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity of West Central Minnesota is currently accepting applications for homes in Montevideo, Willmar, and Benson.

Applicants are selected to purchase a home with a no interest, no profit mortgage using three criteria: the ability to pay based on income and credit; the level of need as determined by current living conditions; and the willingness to partner with HFHWCM. In accordance with Equal Housing Opportunity policy Habitat for Humanity of West Central MN does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, familial status, marital status, or receipt of public assistance.

For more information or to receive an application or a pre-application form, interested persons may stop by the office at 4078 Hwy 71 NW, Willmar or call 320-231-2704 or toll free 1-877-926-6434. If assistance is needed to complete the application due to language or disability, please contact the office. Completed applications must be returned or postmarked no later than October 22, 2009, 5 p.m.

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Meet Your MMT Members...

Scott Wachter - Treasurer

I am currently the webmaster, newsletter editor, amateur song leader, and questionable financial guru for our congregation.

I grew up on a farm outside Lincoln, Nebraska, and met my wife while working in Iowa. After moving many times and living in several states, we finally settled in Spicer about 19 years ago.

I am currently employed by Jennie-O Foods as Raw Materials manager for the scheduling department. My hobbies include building websites, playing with computers, and playing guitar.

My wife, Tammy, and I will be celebrating our 30th anniversary next year. We have three children; Bryson-who also works at Jennie-O Foods, Alyssa- who is in her senior year at Concordia University in St Paul, and Skylar-who is a sophomore at Concordia College in Moorhead.

We were originally members of Shepherd of the Hills, then helped start the New Life Lutheran Church which then merged with Shepherd to become Living Word. Over the years I have held many positions within the church, from elder to youth leader to other board offices.

I enjoy being a member of Living Word and though we don't have a lot of resources, I would have to say that the members, their attitudes, and their desire to follow God, are probably the best assets that our church possesses.

Our church has had a lot of challenges lately, but it is an exciting time to be a part of the move towards the future as we look for a new building and strive to follow the direction that God is leading us.

Singers Needed...

For Community Thanksgiving Praise Service

A mass choir made up of people from all area churches will be singing a number of songs of thanks and praise on Sunday evening, November 15. There will be a couple of practices prior to that. Please talk to Pastor David for details.

That for a day: Everybody

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to resque him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming., Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions. One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?" Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

The Moral of This Story:

It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad; but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground.. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.

P.S. You may want to consider passing this on, because you never know who feels as if their hut is on fire today.

Just for Moms...

At Peace in the Playpen

Mary was almost crazy with her three young kids. She complained to her best friend Judy, "They're driving me nuts! They give me no rest! I'm half way to the funny farm!"

"What you need," said Judy, "is a playpen."

So Mary bought a playpen. A few days later, Judy called to ask how things were going.

"Superb! I can't believe it," Mary said. "I get in that pen with a good book and a chocolate bar, and the kids don't bother me for hours! Page 6

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Operation Christmas Child...

Christmas seems months away (and it is), but it is time to start thinking about what to put in those Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes, because...

In the next few weeks millions of caring people like you will be praying for children in the poorest areas of the world and



filling shoe boxes with gifts for them. On Sunday, November 15, we will dedicate to the Lord all the shoe boxes that we collect. The next day they will be delivered to the Youth for Christ office in Willmar. From there they will be transported to a large distribution center in the Twin Cities where they will be sorted and packaged for shipping to locations in over 100 countries.

Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse, says, "Sometimes people ask me how much difference a shoe box anc make in the life of a child who is poor, sick, hungry or traumatized by war. I tell them that the gifts are only the beginning. Church partners who hand out the boxes on our behalf also reach out to the children and their families, sharing the hope of the Gospel. By God's grace, every year hundreds of thousands of these children receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior through the Gospel storybooks and discipleship program."

You can help with this special ministry by packing a shoe box for a girl or boy (you choose the age). Watch for a display at church that will list suggested items to pack. Bring the shoe box to church on or before our Dedication Sunday. Thank you for your partnership in sharing the Gospel!



That for a day: He who

Opportunities for Growth...

What is the Key to Spiritual Growth?

That's a question I asked and answered in a recent sermon. The Holy Spirit is the key to <u>Spirit</u>ual Growth. The Bible is clear in stating that all who have faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior have the Holy Spirit. But I pointed out that I can have the keys that start my car and make it run, but if I keep them in my pocket and never put them in the ignition it does me no good to merely "have" them.

God's Word - the Bible - is the ignition the Holy Spirit uses to start our spiritual growth and keep it running. With that in mind we have put together a lot of different opportunities for you to 'switch on' the power the Holy Spirit has for you:

NEW Daily Bible Readings

We finish our *Today's Light Bible Readings* this week. We will now begin a daily reading program that will take us through passages that reveal what God has to say about specific topics. When I asked for topics you wanted to find out God's ideas about, FEAR was the number one response. The Bible actually has a lot to say about fear and a lot of examples of people who were afraid. We'll look at some of those this month on the October Daily Bible Reading page.

Tuesday Noon Study at Geneva Olson's in NL

Colossians: How does Jesus stack up against all the other religious ideas? That's not a question that has just recently surfaced. It was a question Christians had in the first century. The book of Colossians is an answer to that question.

Mom's Study - Wednesday mornings @ 9:30

"The Five Love Languages"

Based on a best-selling book by Gary Chapman, this study takes a look at the five basic ways to say "I love you," and helps you identify which of those ways speaks "I love you" loudest to you, your spouse and your kids. The study begins Wednesday, October 7

Women's Study - Wednesdays @ noon

"How we got the Bible"

We know that the Bible is God's Word, but how did the 66 books that are in the Bible come to be? And how do we

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never hear father-in-law

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know they are God's word and not just the words of some guys who wrote the books? Just some of the questions we'll answer. The study begins Wednesday, October 7

Men's Study - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

"Revelation: What it tells us - and what it doesn't."
The study continues on Wednesday, October 7

Youth Study - 1st Wednesday of each month @ 6:30

"Why is everyone against me? A study in dealing with conflict and anger" Study begins Wednesday, October 7.

All Stars 4 Jesus

1st - 6th Graders meet October 21 @ 6:30 (meal at 6:00)

Sunday School

Here's what we'll be doing this month...

October 4 - Lesson 4: "The Flood" Memory Work Pre-4: Proverbs 3:5

5-8: 1st John 4:8, Luke 1:37

Song Practice: Glen Oaks Songs

October 11 - Lesson 5: "Abraham & Isaac"

Memory Work Pre-4: 2nd Commandment

5-8: Col. 1:16, Psalm 37:5

Activity Assemble candy bags for Glen Oaks

Song Practice: Glen Oaks Songs

October 18 – Lesson 6: "Jacob"

Memory Work Pre-4: 2nd Commandment Meaning

5-8: 2nd Article

Activity Finish Glen Oaks candy bags

Song Practice: Glen Oaks Songs

October 25 - Glen Oaks Trip!

Leave for/ meet at Glen Oaks by 8:55, back to church by 9:50

Singing during church today

November 1 – Lesson 7: "Moses"

Memory Work Pre-4: Psalm 50:15

5-8: John 14:6

Song Practice: Thanksgiving Song

Sunday Morning Adult Forum - 8:45

We'll continue to highlight the insights God gives us in our Daily Bible readings for the previous week. Join us even if you weren't able to do the readings.

That for a day: How come your

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

"Trunk or Treat"

A Halloween alternative outreach. Decorate your trunk (or just fill it with goodies to hand out) and join us at the Green Lake Mall at 3:00 Saturday, October 31. We could also use donations to cover the cost of Gospel-message handouts.



Our annual "Smoke Detector Battery Giveaway"

We simply go door-to-door in Spicer and give people a new battery for their smoke detector. It makes a great family outreach, because it's something adults and kids can do together. It's fun to see the looks on the faces of the people when you tell them you are giving them something and you don't want any money for it. This year's event is Saturday, October 24 from 11:00-1pm.

Help with Support for Heidy

Heidy is the girl from Ecuador that we support monthly through Compassion International. We are a couple months behind in our support, so if you can help out, please make checks payable to Compassion International and put them in the "Heidy" box. Thanks!

Outerwear Exchange:

We will be collecting cold-weather outerwear for the community-wide Outerwear Exchange to be help October 24. This event is a joint effort of all the churches in the community and is sponsored by The Link. We really want to have a good selection for people to choose from. Please bring your items in bags to the church by Wednesday, October 21. Thanks! We also need several volunteers for set up and distribution

The schedule:

Set up is Friday, October 23 4-6pm Distribution is Saturday, Oct. 24 8:30-11:30am AT Peace Lutheran in New London

Operation Christmas Child

Our annual shoebox ministry. See page 7 for more details.

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Reformation Day...

On October 31st we celebrate **Reformation Day**, the **day** that marks Dr. Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany.

The Reformation reminds us that grace is a gift -- it is not only something we cannot earn or buy or deserve in any way, it is also something that even the very best sermon, let alone the best preacher, cannot give! In addition to remembering the great Reformation truths, "Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, and Grace Alone," let us also remember that Grace is God's alone.

In the Gospel Lesson for Reformation Sunday, Jesus says, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." The people answer, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can You say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replies, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

One of the most delightful wonders of God's Word and worship and of receiving our Lord's Supper is that we always seem to return home with more than we dared to ask. When the Son sets you free, you are free indeed.



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October 2009 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Key Chapters Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	5 Circuit Pastors' Conference	6 NOON Bible Study "Colossians" @ Geneva Olson's 7:00 Elders' Team	7 9:30 Mom's Study "The 5 Love Languages" Noon Women's Study "How We Got the Bible" 6:30 Youth Mtg & Study 7:00 Men's Study. Revelation	8	9	9:00 - 4:30 "Becoming Northern Lights" Outreach Event @ Brainerd
8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Key Chapters Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship & Outreach Mtg	12	NOON Bible Study "Colossians" @ Geneva Olson's 6:30 Building Mtg.	9:30 Mom's Study "The 5 Love Languages" Noon Women's Study "How We Got the Bible" No Confirmation - MEA 7:00 LWML	15	16	17
18 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Key Chapters Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	19	20 NOON Bible Study "Colossians" @ Geneva Olson's 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team w/District Staff	9:30 Mom's Study "The 5 Love Languages" Noon Women's Study "How We Got/Bible" 6:30 Confirmation All Stars 4 Jesus 7:00 Men's Study Revelation	22	23	11:00 Smoke Detector Battery Outreach 8:30 - 11:30 Outerwear Exchange at Peace Lutheran
25 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - key chapters Sunday School @ Glen Oaks 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	26	27 NOON Bible Study "Colossians" @ Geneva Olson's	9:30 Morn's Study "The 5 Love Languages" Noon Women's Study "How We Got/Bible" 6:30 Confirmation	29	30	3:00 Trunk or Treat @ Green Lake Mall
Nov 1 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Key Chapters Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	Nov 2 Circuit Pastors' Conference	NOON Bible Study "Colossians" @ Geneva Olson's	Nov 4 9:30 Mom's Study "The 5 Love Languages" Noon Women's Study "How We Got the Bible" 6:30 Youth Mtg & Study 7:00 Men's Study Revelation	Noon NL-S Ministerial at Living Word		

October - 15-Minutes-A-Day

Today's Light Devotional Readings

	SLIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We finish our "Read the Bible in two years" program and ewidally reading program: What does God say about?"The number onething you wanted to find	Oct 20	Esther 4:6-16
	is what God says about FEAR - and God says a LOT about it. Write down what you find	Oct 21	1 Kings 19:1-19
Oct 4	This week we finish Revelation and get three reminders about God's Word	Oct 22	Matthew 8:23-27
Oct 5		Oct 23	Matthew 14:22-33
Oct 6	Revelation 21:1-27 (21:1-7)	Oct 24	Matthew 26:69-75
Oct 7	Revelation 22:1-21 (22:1-17)		
Oct 8	Psalm 119.9-16	Oct 25 Oct 26	This week: More examples of people with fear - and what it led them to do Matthew 26:47-56
	Romans 15:4		
Oct 10	2 Timothy 3:14-17	Oct 28	John 9:13-23
Oct 11	This week: Examples of people with fear - what caused it and got rid of it	Oct 29	Matthew 2:1-16
	Genesis 3:1-13	Oct 30	Revelation 1:12-18
		Oct 31	Acts 27:21-26
	<u>*</u>	Nov 1	This week: Instructions on fear from the Psalms
Oct 14	Exodus 3:9-12. 4:10-16	Nov 2	
Oct 15	Exodus 19:16-19, 20:18-20	Nov 3	Psalm 27:1-6
Oct 16	Judges 6:11-16	Nov 4	Psalm 46:1-11
Oct 17	1 Samuel 17:8-11, 32-37	Nov 5	Psalm 31:19-20
Oct 18	This week: More examples of people with fear - what caused it and got rid of it	Nov 6	7 5000 (1000)
	2 Kings 6:15-18	Nov 7	Psalm 111:10
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Upcoming Schedules...

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

Scripture Readers

Oct 4 Oct 11 Oct 18 Oct 25	Kevin Welsh Linda Dilley Mark Fuglie Tammy Fuglie	796-6840 235-0235 796-6975 796-6975
Nov 1 Nov 8 Nov 15 Nov 22 Nov 29	Lu Kiehm Janet Towner Tammy Wachter Duane Hansen Youth	979-0097 444-0125 796-6222 796-5605
Dec 6 Dec 13 Dec 20 Dec 27	Allan Fuglie Scott Wachter Bryson Wachter Jack Kuppich	796-6975 796-6222 894-6378 254-8355
	_	
Fellowship	Servers	
Pellowship Oct 4 Oct 11 Oct 18 Oct 25	Servers Violet Dauk Lu Kiehm Linda Dilley Bonnie Hansen	220-0344 979-0097 235-0235 796-5605
Oct 4 Oct 11 Oct 18	Violet Dauk Lu Kiehm Linda Dilley	979-0097 235-0235

Usher & Greeter Schedule

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
Oct 4 Oct 11 Oct 18 Oct 25	Tim Geer & Wally Abraham Mona Hjelle & Pam Johnson Troy Hansen & Bryson Wachter Jamie Iverson & Jack Kuppich	Lu Laurel Janet Violet
Nov 1	Lonny Robbin & Jason Miller	Lu

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your parents never had children, chances are you won't either.

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Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen Mark Fuglie & Brady Sharp Janet Towner & Linda Dilley Joe Johnson & Becca Dauk	Laurel Janet Violet Mariah W		
Tim Geer & Allan Fuglie Mona Hjelle & Pam Johnson	Lu Laurel		
Jamie Iverson & Phil Iverson Troy Hansen & Bryson Wachter	Violet		
Children's Church Schedule Oct 4 Kasev Nieland 354-2036			
	Mark Fuglie & Brady Sharp Janet Towner & Linda Dilley Joe Johnson & Becca Dauk Tim Geer & Allan Fuglie Mona Hjelle & Pam Johnson Jamie Iverson & Phil Iverson Troy Hansen & Bryson Wachter		

OU 4	Nasey Melallu	334-2030
Oct 11	Becca Dauk	354-4103
Oct 17	Mykala Geer	354-5035
Oct 25	Emily Fuglie	796-6975
Nov 1	Mariah Welsh	796-6840
Nov 8	Joe Johnson	354-3545
Nov 15	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
Nov 22	Kasey Nieland	354-2036
Nov 29	Becca Dauk	354-4103
Dec 6	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
Dec 13	Halee Lucas/Mykala	Geer 354-5035
Dec 20	Emilie Fuglie	796-6975
Dec 27	Mariah Welsh	796-6840

Elders

Oct 4	Bryson Wachter & Troy Hansen
Oct 18	Wally Abraham & Kevin Welsh
Nov 1	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Nov 15	Troy Hansen & Kevin Welsh
Dec 6	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Dec 20	Troy Hansen & Kevin Welsh

Acolyte

We are in need of young people to light and extinguish the altar candles. Please talk to Pastor if your child would like to be an acolyte. Thanks!

October Discipleship Verse...



For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21



The LINK Update...

Advocacy & Resource Network-October 2009 Update

Winterwear Clothing Exchange

Saturday, October 24th 9am-11am at Peace Lutheran Church-First Come, First Served until we run out!

We are currently collecting new and gently used winter outerwear for all ages.

We will need volunteers for set up on Friday the 23rd and also for the event itself. Please donate items and sign up to volunteer.

Hope Care Pantry

Hope Presbyterian Church operates a small care pantry where people can go to get household and toiletry items. This project is fulfilling an important gap in resources in our community. You can support this through your donation of cash or supplies. Especially needed are diapers and laundry soap. Just drop off your donation at church!

**Item of the month: paper towels

New London Location is Open!

The new community building in New London is open for business. Organizations sharing space with The Link are also the food shelf and Youth for Christ. Business hours for The Link and the food shelf are: Tuesdays 2-6pm and Thursdays 10-2pm. Please stop by and see the new space and to sign up to volunteer.

Current Needs

- Cash contributions to be used for gas cards and hotel vouchers
- Washer and Dryer for New London location
- Winter outerwear for clothing exchange

Contact Information:

Michelle Peterson, Director 320-796-2522 or flc michelle@tds.net

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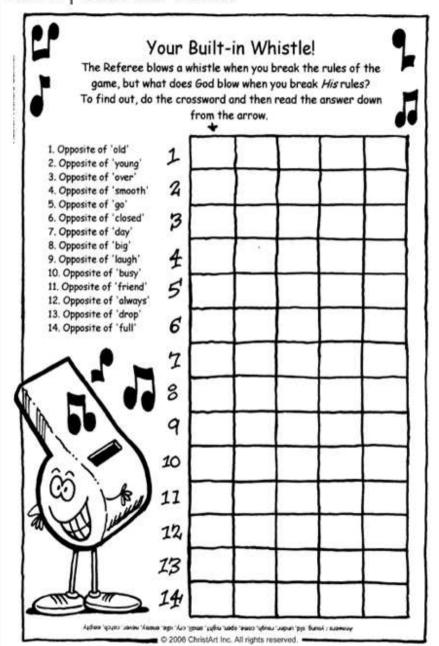
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E-Mail Humor...

In honor of the late Charles Schultz

Most cartoon characters remain frozen in time. Though they've been around almost 50 years the members of the Peanuts gang are in some unspecified elementary school holding pattem. But what if they had been allowed to age like the rest of us?

CHARLIE BROWN:

Operates Good Grief Counseling Inc., which specializes in manic-depressives and people who are just having a bad day. Moonlights as a pitching coach at high school and college levels. Married to Marcie. They have a roundheaded son who wears glasses.

LINUS:

Developer of Security Blanket Software, which is a hot item on the New York Stock Exchange. Worth millions but is actively involved in his church and charitable causes, including the Great Pumpkin 5K Fun Run every Halloween. Linus directs the Christmas Program at his church and personally makes sure that everyone "knows what Christmas is all about" by reading from Luke Chapter Two each year. The only man who makes Bill Gates nervous.

LUCY:

Serving her seventh term in Congress. Never married. Claims she hasn't thought about Schroeder in years, but her ringtone is Beethoven.

SCHROEDER:

After years on the classical performing circuit, he runs a piano bar in Carmel, Calif. Won't let anybody lean on his piano.

SALLY:

Never quite got over being spumed by Linus. Has a cat named Sweet Baboo. Sells Mary Kay.

PEPPERMINT PATTY:

Women's athletic director at a midwestern university. Her fashion credo: "Sandals go with everything."

SNOOPY:

In dog years, he'll be 350. What do you think would've happened to him? Linus has created an endowment at Daisy Hill Puppy farm in Snoopy's memory.

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The Story Behind the Song...

The Gloria in Excelsis

Last month we looked at the origin of *This is the Feast* one of the two songs of praise found in the liturgical services in our hymnal. This month we will look at the origin of the other of those songs of praise, the *Gloria in Excelsis*.



For starters the title is Latin and simply means "Glory to God in the Highest." That may give you a clue as to the origin. Think about the

story of the birth of Jesus in Luke chapter two. Who was it that uttered a verse of praise to the newborn King that began with the words, "Glory to God in the highest,"? It was the "multitude of the heavenly host" - the countless number of angels in the heavenly army of angels.

To their words have been added the words John the Baptizer uttered as he saw Jesus as recorded in John 1:29. "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Those two passages of Scripture form the basis for this song of praise we know as the Gloria in Excelsis:

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father:

We worship You, We give You thanks, We praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; Have mercy on us

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; Receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

That for a day:

Acknowledge God's Blessings:

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you own and use a computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness ... you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day.

If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation you are ahead of 700 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world.

If your parents are still alive and still marriedyou are very rare.

If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Have a good day, count your blessings, and if you want, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.

Celebration of Life Banquet

Hope Pregnancy Center announces Kathy Sparks, former abortion clinic nurse as the speaker for the annual Celebration of Life Banquet, Thursday, October 8, 6:00 p.m. at the Holiday in Conference Center. Kathy will share her testimony of the supernatural intervention of God in her life. One-of-a-kind, painted children's furniture Silent Auction and a wonderful meal will also be part of the event. A free-will offering will be taken. Hope Pregnancy Center is located at 325 SW 4th St in Willmar. (RSVP by phone 235-7619 or email hopepc@gwestoffice.net Thanks.

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Wrinkles

Page 23 The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



You believe in one God, good! But the demons believe too, and tremble with fear. James 2:19

Becoming Northern Lights 2009



A Ministry and Mission Resource Fair— For You and Your Church

Saturday, October 10th 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Forestview Middle School, Baxter

Register by October 1st!

\$25 registration includes two exciting large group discussions with keynote Rev. Paul Mueller, your choice of over 20 interesting ministry and mission workshops, lunch and breaks, and a special gift for you to keep and to give away!

Register online now at www.mnn.lcms.org > Becoming Northern Lights

That for a day: