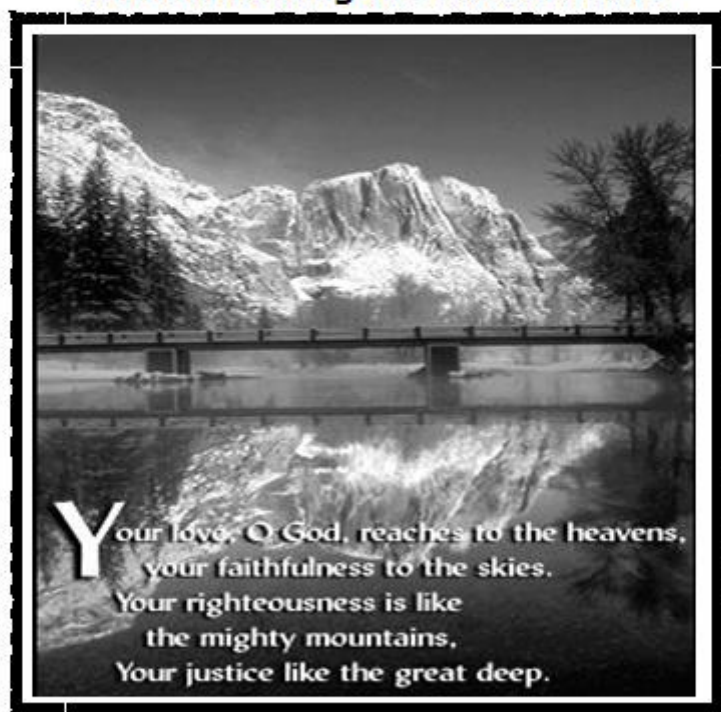


Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

February 2010 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...

How do I answer someone who says "We all believe in Jesus, that's all that really matters,"?

This question relates to comments that come from friends who belong to other Christian denominations - particularly denominations that have recently been introducing changes into their beliefs and practices based on changes in popular culture (e.g. the ELCA voting to allow practicing homosexuals to be pastors).

For starters, always remember that it won't help to get into an argument. No one wins in a situation like that. Both sides dig in their heels and fight it out. In Colossians chapter four God reminds us that we need to make the most of every opportunity, but that we need to be wise in the way we act, and make sure our conversations are "filled with grace and seasoned with salt." In other words, make them hungry for more conversation with us on the subject.

It's always a good idea to follow Jesus' example. Jesus frequently would respond to a question (or comment) with another question. One that would get at the heart of what the other person is really dealing with. In the case of this comment, it's likely that the person making the statement doesn't necessarily agree with their church's changes, but neither do they want to change churches - leaving friends and relatives behind and asking their kids to do the same. So they have to find a comment that gives justification for staying.

"Why do you say that?" or a similar question may get your friend talking about the issue more. Asking a question instead of coming back with an answer right away, sends the signal that you are really concerned more about your friend than you are about being right.

If you this comment by your friend (or any other comment) catches you off guard and you can't think of an answer, a reply like this may

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be helpful, "You know, I'm going to have to think on that one for a bit. Can I get back to you about that?" Of course, make sure to bring the topic back up when you have thought and prayed about it.

Which brings me to another important part: we need to remember to pray and ask God's guidance. Does God want you to understand the truth? Yes. Does God want you to be able to communicate the truth? Yes. Has God provided what we need to do both? Yes. In John 16:12 Jesus promised the Holy Spirit - the Spirit of Truth - who will lead us to all Truth. Jesus also said that God's Word (the is truth." Pray for God's Spirit to lead you to the answer that will not only be truth, but will also speak to the heart of your friend. Pray for God to open your friend's heart to considering what you have to say. Pray for God to give you words and a heart for your friend - not just a heart for being right.

One other example Jesus set for us is the example of the parable. He would tell a story - something the people could relate to - that helps people see the truth for themselves. You can come up with your own parable/comparison, but one that comes to my mind is the example of a cookbook and a recipe.

You could introduce your parable with a comment like, "I guess I look at it kind of like this"

Your grandma always made what you considered to be the best chili in the world. You asked her to write it down so, you would be able to know how to make it. She gave you a copy of the cookbook that she found the recipe in. She said, "Stick to this recipe and it'll always turn out just right for you too." You trusted your grandma, so you trusted the cookbook she gave you.

As you grew up and began to make chili for your friends and family, you kept that cookbook and used the recipe in it. It remained the best chili you'd ever eaten - and most everyone you served it to said the same. You might vary the amount of spices slightly depending on the tastes of your family and friends, but you always stuck to the basics of the recipe in grandma's cookbook.

The Bible is our "cookbook." Jesus is the foundational ingredient. Different Christian congregations can change minor things to give their church a different flavor (like music for example) but once they quit trusting the cookbook, well it won't be long until it's not just the minor things that get changed. It won't be long until people start thinking they can substitute Mohammed or Buddha for the main ingredient (Jesus) and everything will end up ok. But that would be like substituting anchovies for steak in grandma's chile. It's not ok!

I know that may be a bit lengthy, but you get the idea. The basic point of comparison is that once you start to say the Bible can't be trusted on certain points, it won't be long until people won't trust it on the main point.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Mark Your Calendars...

Prayer Time

First Two Wednesdays @ 6:00

"The family that prays together stays together" also holds true for church families. During the Advent season we met for a brief prayer service each Wednesday at 6:00. Since prayer is such an important part of the life of a church family, we will be continuing this brief prayer service each Wednesday.

Pastor will start each prayer time with a short devotion on a different aspect of prayer. Then we will simply pray - for building issues and anything else you'd like for us to take to the Lord.

A light supper will be available from 5:45 to 6:15, so you can come from work and not worry about supper when you get home - plus it's a great time of fellowship with your church family. Please join us.

Sunday, Feb. 7

Youth Ski Trip



Friendship Sunday: February 14

A great opportunity to invite some friends to come and meet the ultimate Friend: Jesus.

Special Events on Friendship Sunday:

- Worship service celebrating our Greatest Friend - Jesus
- Valentines Brunch after worship - prepared by men of the congregation
- Games for kids after brunch
- Kickoff of our "Secret Paul" prayer partner program
- Kickoff of our "11:09" prayer-a-day program (see below)

Mark your calendars and start praying about friends you can invite. (Special "Friendship Sunday" invitations will be available.)

11:09

On Friendship Sunday we kick-off another special prayer pro-

gram, one that will have us each praying at the same time every day - 11:09 a.m. - wherever we are. We're going to choose a slogan that will help us remember to pray. Here are a few that have been offered thus far:

Knees hit the pine at 11:09

B4U Dine - Pray at 11:09

Don't Whine - Pray at 11:09

Anytime is fine - but we pray at 11:09

Talking to heaven at nine after 'leven.

Got a better one? Tell pastor and we'll add it to the list. Then we'll pick one on Friendship Sunday.

Ash Wednesday - Feb. 17

Traditional Service of Ashes

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Ashes symbolize our frailty, our mortality, humiliation and need for repentance before God (people in ancient times showed their repentance by putting on sackcloth and ashes). Ashes also suggest a need for cleansing by the blood of Christ and renewal by His Holy Spirit. During our Ash Wednesday service, ashes will be applied to the foreheads of all worshipers in the form of a small cross. Please join us for our special service, Wednesday, February 17.

As we found out last year, an early service time seems to work better for more people - but maybe just a bit later than 6:00. So this year Lenten services will start at 6:30 with Supper available from 5:45 to 6:20

IWML



LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League)

will meet at church the second Wednesday of every month, at 1:30. All women of the church are welcome to attend. February's meeting will be on Wednesday the 10th.

Announcement...

The Building Committee has been informed that opened sugar packets are being found in the nursery area. We have had some serious problems with ants in the past and would like to avoid any recurrences if possible. Coffee drinkers, please dispose of these packets properly. If you are a coffee drinker but can't read yet, please have your parents explain this to you.

Haiti Relief Effort...

Greetings in the name of Jesus! As we write you, LCMS teams are working in Haiti and the Dominican Republic to determine how best our church can continue to assist the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (ELCH) to help suffering congregations and communities as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Since the earthquake, these teams have been assessing needs, securing emergency supplies, and providing medical and pastoral care. Team members recently met with Rev. Marky Kessa, president of the ELCH (an LCMS partner church), and visited devastated cities.

Over the weekend, an LCMS World Relief and Human Care Mercy Medical Team (MMT) returned to the United States from a hospital in Jimani near the Dominican Republic and Haiti border where volunteers treated a flood of earthquake survivors. Since the hospital was operating with extremely limited supplies and medicines, each of the 13 team members took along 100 pounds of needed items. They worked tirelessly in 12-hour shifts. A second MMT is preparing to depart later this week, and yet another team of medical volunteers is in the works. Please visit <http://www.lcms.org/mercysteams> for updated information, to volunteer, or to donate supplies.

LCMS World Relief and Human Care (LCMS WR-HC) also is working closely with Orphan Grain Train to ship food into the Dominican Republic for distribution along the border and further into Haiti as transportation becomes feasible. Please know that LCMS missionaries based in the Dominican Republic have been outstanding in their organization of aid and are fantastic partners on the ground.

At this time, the greatest needs are for financial donations and some material goods. Information on ways to give to LCMS WR-HC Haiti earthquake relief go to <http://tinyurl.com/y13n3hq>. As we continue to get reports from the LCMS assessment team, we will share that information so that you, your disaster response teams, and congregations can discuss how best to respond with us in LCMS relief efforts.

We also ask that you join with us in prayer, asking that our Lord bring comfort and peace to those suffering in Haiti, that He give strength and wisdom to those bringing aid, and that He make generous the hearts of those who would send gifts from their homes and churches.

In Christ Jesus,
LCMS World Relief and Human Care

Note: We received \$213 for our special offering for Lutheran World Relief's efforts in Haiti. Thanks to all who gave.

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Thot for a day: Where am I going and why am I in this hand basket?

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Opportunities for Growth...

How would you change if you spent just a couple minutes a day getting to know God through His Word?

Join us in finding out.

Check out the "What Does God Have to Say About...? Daily Readings on pages 11 & 12. And make a commitment to find out how God will change you through reading just a couple minutes a day.

What Do We Believe? - 8:45

A class that gives the basics of our faith and answers whatever other specific questions you have about what we at Living Word believe. *See page 8 for details*

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

"Five Things God Uses To Grow Your Faith"

See page 9 for details

Women's Study - Wednesdays @ noon

"Five Things God Uses To Grow Your Faith"

See page 8 for details

Men's Revelation Bible Study

1st and 2nd Wednesdays this Month @ 7:00 p.m.

Couples Bible Study

Saturday, February 13th @ 6:30

See page 9 for details

All Stars 4 Jesus

Wed., February 24: A fun evening for 3-6th Graders
The Confirmation Students will again assist with Craft and Game time. Pastor will lead the Bible story time. Rides can be provided and friends can come. Just let us know. We'll start at 6:30 and conclude by 8:00

Parenting Young Children - 8:45 each Sunday

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

What Do We Believe...

What Do Missouri Synod Lutherans Believe?

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

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

This class meets at 8:45 on Sunday Mornings and also serves as the instruction class for those interested in discipleship (membership) here at Living Word.

Current plans are to complete the study during February and have New Member Sunday on February 28.

Women's Study...

Wednesday Women's Study Topic

"That The World May Know"

Begins, Wednesday, February 3 at noon

Exploring an ancient culture... and discovering relevance for today...

That the World May Know is a unique video series that brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance. By weaving together the Bible's fascinating historical, cultural, religious and geographical contexts, teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan reveals key insights into the Scriptures' significance to modern believers. The result? Illuminating "Faith Lessons" that will solidify your convictions, strengthen your walk with God and inspire you to impact your world.



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That for a day: If you live long enough, something will kill you.

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Couple's Study...

BETTER THAN FLOWERS AS A VALENTINE'S GIFT!



Pastor and Violet will host the kick off of the study on **Saturday, February 13th** at 6:00 p.m. at their home. Please let them know if you are planning to attend, so they can order a study guide for you. Thanks!

The Details: Couples will meet at our home at 6:00 for the study (and snacks), then we send everyone off on their dates. It doesn't matter if you've been married 6 months or 60 years, you will find this study to be very helpful in strengthening your marriage and your commitment to each other.

Topics that will be covered in the study:

- "He Said / She Said" - appreciating the God-designed differences between men and women
- "He First Loved Us" - God's love for you and how it enables you to love others
- "Love for a Lifetime" - marriage as a lifelong covenant
- "Breaking Free" - freeing yourself from the temptations that can destroy marriage
- "Forgiveness" - Giving and receiving pardon
- "A Better Way of Loving" - Unconditional love

Mom's Study...



9:30 a.m. Wednesday Mornings

"Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith"

What would it be like to have perfect faith? Find out in Andy Stanley's dynamic group study! The six sessions will spark discussion about approaching each day with unshakable confidence; belief in God's control; and trust in his purposes. Discover how God uses practical teaching, relationships, private disciplines, personal ministry, and pivotal circumstances to grow your faith. **Childcare is provided.**

February Discipleship Verse...



"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

February - Daily Devotionals

We start the month with the question "What to do on Sunday?" Then we move on to one of the central themes of the Bible, the theme of the month of February and the most basic characteristic of God: Love

Jan 31 **What God Says About ... WHAT TO DO ON SUNDAY**

Feb 1 Exodus 20:8-11 _____

Feb 2 Isaiah 58:13-14 _____

Feb 3 Matthew 12:1-13 _____

Feb 4 Romans 14:5-6 _____

Feb 5 Colossians 2:16-17 _____

Feb 6 Galatians 4:8-10 _____

Feb 7 **What God Says About ... LOVE - What It Is**

Feb 8 1 Corinthians 13:1-8,13 _____

Feb 9 1 John 4:7-12 _____

Feb 10 1 John 4:15-21 _____

Feb 11 Philippians 1:9-11 _____

Feb 12 Colossians 3:12-14 _____

Feb 13 Matthew 5:43-48 _____

Feb 14 **What God Says About ... LOVE - For Others**

Feb 15 Leviticus 19:18 _____

Feb 16 John 13:34-35 _____

"What Does God Say About...?"

Feb 17 1 Thessaonians 3:12-13 _____

Feb 18 1 Peter 1:22-23 _____

Feb 19 Galatians 5:6-15 _____

Feb 20 Deuteronomy 10:14-19 _____

Feb 21 **What God Says About ... LOVE - His Love For Us**

Feb 22 Nehemiah 9:9-25 _____

Feb 23 Romans 5:6-11 _____

Feb 24 Deuteronomy 7:7-15 _____

Feb 25 1 John 3:1 _____

Feb 26 John 15:9-17 _____

Feb 27 Romans 8:35-39 _____

Feb 28 **What God Says About ... LOVE - Our Love for Him**

Mar 1 Deuteronomy 6:4-5 _____

Mar 2 Psalm 73:23-28 _____




Mar 3 Psalm 84:1-2 _____

Mar 4 Hebrews 6:9-10 _____

Mar 5 Matthew 25:31-40 _____

Mar 6 John 14:15-23 _____

February 2010 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 31 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - LCMS beliefs Sunday School Parents' Study 10:00 Worship 11:15 Building Proposal Info Session / Open Forum	1 Circuit Pastors @ Montevideo	2 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's 7:00 Elders Team	3 9:30 Mom's Study "5 ways to grow faith" Noon Women's Study "That the world may know" 6:00 Prayer Time 6:30 Youth Mtg & Study 6:30 Bldg Committee 7:00 Men's Study (Rev.)	4 NL-S Ministerial	5	6  6:00 Couples' Fireproof Study @ Pastor & Violet's
7 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - LCMS beliefs Sunday School Parents' Study 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship/Outreach Mtg. Noon Youth Ski Outing	8	9 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	10 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study 1:30 LWML 6:00 Prayer Time 6:30 Bldg Committee 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Men's Study (Rev.)	11	12	13 6:00 Couples' Fireproof Study @ Pastor & Violet's
14 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - LCMS beliefs Sunday School Parents' Study 10:00 Worship 11:15 Valentine's Brunch	15 	16 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's 7:00 Special Voters Mtg 7:30 Mission & Ministry Team	17 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study 6:00 Supper 6:30 Ash Wed, Worship	18 	19	20
21 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - LCMS beliefs Sunday School Parents' Study 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	22	23 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	24 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study 6:00 Supper 6:30 Lenten Worship 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Bldg Committee 7:00 All Stars 4 Jesus	25	26	27
28 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - LCMS beliefs Sunday School Parents' Study 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	27	Mar 1 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's 7:00 Elders Team	Mar 2 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study 6:00 Supper 6:30 Lenten Worship 7:00 Youth Mtg & Study 7:00 Men's Study (Rev.)	Mar 3 NL-S Ministerial	Mar 4	Mar 5

Upcoming Schedules...

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

Scripture Readers

Feb 7	Mark Fuglie	796-6975
Feb 14	Tammy Fuglie	796-6975
Feb 21	Lu Kiehm	979-0097
Feb 28	Tammy Wachter	796-6222

Mar 7	Duane Hansen	796-5605
Mar 14	Allan Fuglie	796-6975
Mar 21	Scott Wachter	796-6222
Mar 28	Bryson Wachter	894-6378

Apr 4	Jack Kuppich	254-8355
Apr 11	Wendy Robbin	354-9049
Apr 18	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
Apr 25	Kevin Welsh	796-6840

Fellowship Servers

Feb 7	Wendy Robbin / Stacy Olson
Feb 14	Friendship Sunday (Guys)
Feb 21	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Feb 28	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller

Mar 7	Lu Kiehm / Mona Hjelle
Mar 14	Laurel Iverson / Violet Dauk
Mar 21	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Mar 28	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson

Apr 4	Easter Breakfast
Apr 11	Wendy Robbin / Stacy Olson
Apr 18	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Apr 25	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller

Usher & Greeter Schedule

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
Feb 7	Mark Fuglie & Brady Sharp	Lu
Feb 14	Linda Dilley & Lu Kiehm	Laurel
Feb 21	Tim Geer & Allan Fuglie	***
Feb 28	Mona Hjelle & Pam Johnson	***
Mar 7	Jamie & Phil Iverson	Lu
Mar 14	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter	Laurel
Mar 21	Brian Tri & Lonny Robbin	***

That for a day: I always put off procrastinating as long as I can.

Mar 28	Jack Kuppich & Troy Hansen	***
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Apr 4	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen	Jack
Apr 11	Kevin & Noah Welsh	Laurel
Apr 18	Mark Fuglie & Brady Sharp	Lu
Apr 25	Linda Dilley & Lu Kiehm	***

*** Please talk to Pastor David if you'd like to be a greeter

Children's Church Schedule

Feb 7	Emilie Fuglie	796-6975
Feb 14	Mariah Welsh	796-6840
Feb 21	Joe Johnson	354-3545
Feb 28	Kasey Nieland	354-2036

Mar 7	Becca Dauk	354-4103
Mar 14	Halee Lucas & Mikayla Geer	
Mar 21	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
Mar 28	Emilie Fuglie	796-6975

Apr 4	Mariah Welsh	796-6840
Apr 11	Joe Johnson	354-3545
Apr 18	Kasey Nieland	354-2036
Apr 25	Becca Dauk	354-4103

Elders

Feb 7	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Feb 14	Troy Hansen & Kevin Welsh

Mar 7	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Mar 14	Troy Hansen & Kevin Welsh

Apr 4	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Apr 11	Troy Hansen & Kevin Welsh

Blessings from Trinity Lutheran in Ortonville

Trinity Lutheran Church in Ortonville designated their Christmas Eve offering to help support our Sunday School here at Living Word. As a result our students will be receiving the new Sunday School materials from Concordia Publishing for the spring quarter of the year. We thank God for the generosity of our brothers and sisters in Christ!

In Honor of "Valentine's Month" ...

From "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Wife and Kids" and "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Husband and Kids" (Both are in our library. Check them out for lots more great ideas!)

Ways to Show Your Spouse You Love Them

Husbands:

- Call your wife in the middle of the day to ask her out for dinner and a movie.
- Bring home some flowers - not just on Valentine's Day
- Think of how you've hurt your wife with your words: Ask her forgiveness
- Serve your wife breakfast in bed - make her feel like "Queen for a Day"

Wives:

- Sit next to your husband in the car or truck - like you did when you were dating. (If you have bucket seats, then sit next to him on the couch and watch a movie together.)
- Thank your husband (in front of the kids) for something he did today
- Plan a vacation - where *he* wants to go.
- Write "I love you" on a post-it note where he'll see it (or text message him).

Husbands & Wives together:

- Write down three or four things you love about your spouse. Then take time to share those with each other.
- Get out the wedding album or watch the video together

Ways to Show Your Kids You Love them:

- Send them a text message thanking them for something they did or said.
- Next time you go to the store, bring back a surprise (a favorite snack, maybe)
- Read them a favorite story
- Tell them a favorite memory from when they were younger.
- Tell them you are sorry when you acted impatiently with them.
- If they don't live at home, call them up - for no special reason, just to say "Hi."
- Fix a meal with their favorite foods
- Ask them to help you with an important project around the house

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Thot for a day: why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are going dead?

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Building Update...

Building Committee Proposal 1-27-10

History of Building Plans

The building project "So That The World May Know!" began in the spring of 2007 with fundraising pledges from congregation members. The steps needed to begin construction were outlined and in the fall of 2007 the congregation drafted wish lists of features for the new building. The Building Committee was formed in the spring of 2008. The first order of business by the committee was to select an architect. After conducting interviews of potential architects, Rand Shaper was selected. The Building Committee and Mr. Shaper worked together to incorporate the features desired by the congregation into a finished design. The first design proposed by Mr. Shaper was a 100' x 60' structure costing \$795,000. The committee rejected this design and cutbacks were made in order to reduce the cost. The result was a second design with a simplified roofline and fewer interior walls. The 100' x 60' dimensions remained the same, but the cost was reduced to \$396,000 for the 6000 sq ft. structure. At \$66.00 per square foot, the building was extremely inexpensive. However, the Building Committee and the Mission and Ministry Team deemed the resulting \$2000+ per month mortgage payment unaffordable. At that point, the building project could not proceed without a significant increase to the building fund or unless some other alternative was found. The Building Committee had 'hit a wall' and prayed for guidance.

An Alternative is discovered

In early August of 2009, two ladies from the congregation, separate from each other, saw an ad in the paper for a church building for sale. On August 9th, eight members of the congregation made the 60-mile trip to view the building belonging to Good Shepherd Lutheran. The members reported their findings in a meeting on August 12th, which resulted in a follow-up visit to the building on the 16th. The unforeseen possibility of moving an existing church building to our 7 1/2 acres of land had a noticeable energizing effect on our congregation as evidenced by the highly attended Building Committee meetings which followed. Much discussion centered on the advantages and disadvantages of moving the existing building as compared to new construction. At this point, there was clearly a "fork in the road" and much prayer was devoted to discerning God's guidance on how best to proceed. Although there were no lightning

flashes of divine revelation, there were many small signs that kept pointing us in the direction of further investigation into moving the existing building. For instance, Good Shepherd offered us the building for free and they also agreed to cover the cost of filling in the basement after the building was moved. Newsletter updates and Circuit District updates seeking assistance resulted in no volunteer help or financial offerings. It was during this time the Building Committee decided to focus on the moving option. God had placed the existing church building in front of us for a reason and we elected to proceed along that path until God re-directed us, put up a roadblock or made it happen.

To Move a Building

The Building Committee now focused on the task of developing a plan and determining the cost of moving the existing church building to our land. Written bids were obtained from at least three contractors each for excavating, masonry, well, septic, plumbing, heating and electrical work. The two moving companies capable of doing the job were also interviewed and asked to submit bids. The committee then compared bids, sought additional information when needed and invited some contractors to attend meetings to answer questions and clarify bids. The committee then selected the bids that offered the most for the best price. The bid totals are listed below.

Moving	\$41,225
Moving - electrical	\$73,200
Well	\$8,200
Excavating	\$18,507
Septic	\$6,835
Electrical	\$25,810
Masonry	\$25,692
Heating	\$23,972
Plumbing	\$14,775
Basement	\$14,312
Wheelchair Lift	\$12,000
Total	\$264,528

City building inspector Jim Solheid and Werder Home Inspections, Inc inspected the building. Both reported the structure to be very well built and well maintained. It is worth noting that this church was built to replace a structure destroyed by a tornado. As a result, it is of very solid construction. The inspections revealed nothing that would cause the project to halt. In

fact each gave very complementary reports.

In addition to determining the building costs, the Building Committee invited Pastor Dave Strohschein, Mission Facilitator and George Miller, LCEF Rep. from the Minnesota North District to review our progress and calculate the loan amount that would be available. It was determined that a \$117,000 15-year loan would result in a monthly payment of \$800. This would allow us to achieve a total expense of \$1,210 per month when including utilities and other costs. Our present monthly cost is \$1,210 per month, and this has been determined to be the maximum we are willing to take on. At present, we have \$64,540 in our building fund. We were also recently informed that the Good Shepherd board has voted to give us \$10,000 towards the project. This results in a grand total of \$191,540 available for the building project.

Attractions of the Building

The building is a ready-to-go church complete with pews, stained glass windows, hand made light fixtures and a complete kitchen. It has many character features such as hardwood oak floors and a bell tower that we would never be able to afford building new. The structure is very solid and has been lovingly maintained. The traditional "country church" style ties in with our traditional biblical teaching in a time when churches change to fit the present culture. Moving the building will gain much free publicity and attention from the local community. This will help "put us on the map" and promote community goodwill and enthusiasm. It is notable that within our congregation, the building got us moving again and renewed excitement for the building project.

The Flip Side

The Building Committee realizes that moving the existing building is not a perfect solution and many concerns need to be addressed.

There are accessibility issues, since the building would have a main floor and a basement level. The plan is to eliminate any steps when entering the main level of the church by lowering the structure to ground level on the new foundation. The building will feature a walkout basement and a drive-up main level. There will also be a wheelchair lift located inside the church and an outside sidewalk ramp from the main entrance to the walkout basement. A bathroom will also be added on the first floor.

Another concern is the energy cost to heat and cool the building. The building inspection revealed an R38-R44 insulating value for the attic, which is suggested in modern construction

and R11 in the walls. The furnaces will be 93% efficient units with all new ductwork to ensure good air distribution. There are ceiling fans in both the upstairs and in the basement of the church. They appear to be very up-to-date, and would not need to be replaced. The existing windows are single pane, but can be fitted with removable interior storm panes during the winter months. It is also planned to install baseboard heating in office areas so the heat can be turned down in unused areas during the week.

It should be noted that the building features a slate roof. It has been estimated that the roof will last for many, many years. The concern is that slate roofs are more difficult to maintain and repair, as they require someone familiar with slate material. Currently the Building Committee is looking for a local company capable of servicing this type of roof.

There are other cosmetic issues. The ceiling in the sanctuary is noticeably dirty with considerable soot from the existing fuel oil furnace and would need to be painted. The exterior is in need of some sort of cosmetic freshening in order to retain the country-church look while not appearing old. The lighting in the sanctuary is dimmer than is desirable, so lighting would need to be added to brighten things up.

Our Recommendation

Throughout the process your Building Committee committed their efforts to much prayer and the seeking of God's will. One result is that we get a definite sense that God is prompting us to get into a building of our own in the very near future. On Wednesday, January 20, in the prayer time prior to our building meeting we prayed specifically for God to make his will regarding moving the Good Shepherd building so obvious that we couldn't miss it. To that point we had received all the bids for expenses except the one that was the biggest unknown - the charges to take down power lines for the move. We were told to expect a cost somewhere between \$20,000 and \$45,000. When the actual estimates came in totaling \$73,200 the committee felt that God had answered our prayer and had made it obvious that He was putting up a roadblock to moving the Good Shepherd building. (Prior to that estimate the Committee had been leaning in the direction of recommending moving the building). That final cost figure put the building-move project into a price range where it no longer compared favorably to a single-level, build-from-the-ground-up project.

The Next Step

At the same time as we recommend foregoing the Good Shep-

herd building move, we also recommend moving forward quickly with plans for a new, single-level structure that can be erected this spring/summer at a cost that makes sense. The first step in this project will be enlisting feedback from members and friends about what assistance each person could provide in such a project. (e.g. Help with framing; sheet-rocking; landscaping; painting; design; aesthetics, publicity, etc...) Please pray about how you can help, then let your building committee know.

Above All

We must all remember that name of this project "So That The World May Know" is our ultimate goal. Buildings - new or old - are never the goal of a Christian congregation. Buildings exist only to serve as a home-base that a church family uses as they seek to bring the message of Jesus Christ to the world and make disciples for Him. When we get into a building - and we will - our ultimate goal of letting the world know about Jesus will continue.

We thank you for your continued prayers and support!
Your Living Word Building Committee

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!

Make-a-Meal Program

On Life Sunday we were reminded how Jesus has a heart for His people. We also saw that when *we* have a heart for His people, we are actually giving a gift to Jesus: *"Whatever you do for the least of these, you do it for me."* One powerful way we can have a heart for God's people is by taking them a meal when they are going through a tough time. IF YOU DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO DO SO ON LIFE SUNDAY please fill out the Make/Take A Meal Volunteer card at church and place it in the offering plate.

Story Behind The Song...

Doxology

The word doxology comes from two Greek words, doxa, which means glory, and logos, which means word. So a doxology is literally "a word of glory." There are many doxologies we sing to give glory or praise to God. But this four line doxology just might be sung more frequently than any other Christian music. Nearly every English-speaking Protestant congregation unites in this noble overture of praise. It has been said that the Doxology has done more to teach the doctrine of the Trinity than all the theology books ever written.

The doxology was written by Thomas Ken, an Anglican clergyman. Ken was born in 1637, and was orphaned at an early age. He then went to live with his half-sister, Anne, and her husband Izaak Walton. You might recognize Izaak Walton's name, because he was the author of *The Compleat Angler*, a book on fishing that quickly established itself as a standard work and ultimately became a classic.

When Ken was fourteen years old, he entered Winchester College, and four years later began studies at Oxford. He later returned to Winchester College as the chaplain to the bishop. While there, he wrote his *Manual of Prayers* for the use of the Scholars of Winchester College, which he first published in 1674. It was a book of prayers for all occasions, and included (among many others) a Morning Prayer, an Evening Prayer, a prayer to use after committing a sin, a prayer for use when tempted, a prayer entitled "Acts of Shame" and another entitled "Acts of Abhorrence."

Ken also wrote hymns for the students to use to mark the passages of their days, including Morning Hymn, Evening Hymn, and Midnight Hymn. Both the Morning Hymn and Evening Hymn end with the doxology that begins, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." That was the origin of the doxology.

Ken established an excellent reputation at Winchester, and was eventually appointed chaplain to King Charles II. When the king decided to visit Winchester, he sent word to Ken that Nell Gwynne, the king's mistress, was to be lodged at Ken's house. Ken not only mounted loud objections, but also hired workmen to remove the roof to his house so that the king could not enforce Nell's lodgment there. In that time and place, an act of rebellion against the king could cost a person his head, but King Charles was impressed with Ken's courage. Not only did he allow Ken to live, but he even appointed him sometime later

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Thot for a day: An apology is the best way to have the last word.

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to be the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Some years later, Ken was one of seven bishops who refused to sign King James' Declaration of Indulgence. For this act of rebellion, he was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London — but he was later tried and acquitted. He died of natural causes in 1711.

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

E-Mail Wisdom...

One day on the way home from church a little girl turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the preacher's sermon this morning confused me."

The mother said, "Oh! Why is that?"

The girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?"

"Yes, that's true," the mother replied.

"He also said that God lives within us. Is that true too?"

Again the mother replied, "Yes."

"Well," said the girl. "If God is bigger than us and he lives in us, wouldn't He show through?"

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Let every one of you love his wife even more than himself; and certainly more than his TV remote. *Ephesians 5:33ish*