

Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

January 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...

So, is this saying that Adam and Eve weren't created in the Garden of Eden?"

This question came during a confirmation class after we had read Genesis chapter three together. Particularly this passage at the end of the chapter:

[23] So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

Did you assume that Adam and Eve were created in the Garden? I'd say that's an assumption almost everyone makes. But the verse we read in confirmation class certainly makes it sound like Adam was being sent back to where he came from when he and Eve were booted out of Eden. So, which is correct - our long-held assumptions or this new idea?

Whenever we aren't quite sure about something in the Bible, the first place to check is... the Bible. Is our question referred to elsewhere? As a matter of fact, it is - just one chapter previous.

the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

[8] Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. [9] And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

[10] A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. [11] The name of the first is the

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Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. [12] (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) [13] The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. [14] The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

[15] The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Genesis 2:7-15

So, it appears that the questioner was correct. The Bible says that Adam was not created in the Garden, but God put Adam there after he was created - and took him and Eve out of their "paradise" after they sinned.

This bit of information may not be a big deal, but there are a couple lessons we can learn from this question and the answer we found:

1) Long-held assumptions are not always correct. Another great example of this is the idea that the Wise Men showed up at the manger after the shepherds. Christmas pageants usually depict it happening that way *not because that's the way it happened in the Bible, but because that's the easiest way to present it in a play.* (Check out Matthew 2 to see where the Wise Men actually found Jesus). The only way to separate false assumptions from God's truth is to read what God really says in His Word.

2) When something in the Bible isn't crystal clear, the first place to check for clarification is elsewhere in the Bible. A concordance (many Bibles have one at the back of the Bible) can be a great help to find where else in the Bible to look for specific words.

3) There's always something new to learn each time you read - and it helps when you read/study with other people. Insights you see, might be missed by others (and vice versa).

So.... if you've gotten out of the habit of Bible reading or Bible study, here's an invitation to get back into it. Check out the "What God Says About" readings elsewhere in this newsletter. Also check out the various studies offered - and if there's not one that fits your schedule, find a couple of folks who can study when you can, then talk to me for some ideas on what to study.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

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. And make a commitment to find out how God will change you through reading just a couple minutes a day. (See pages 10 & 11)

Sunday Morning Adult Forum - 9:00

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.

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"
See page 19 for details

Women's Study - Wednesdays @ noon

"Five Things God Uses To Grow Your Faith"
See page 19 for details

Men's Revelation Bible Study

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the Month @ 7:00 p.m.

Couples Bible Study

Saturday, Jan 9th @ 6:30
See page 19 for details

All Stars 4 Jesus

Wed., January .20 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

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Thot for a day: Better the world know you as a sinner than God know you as a hypocrite.

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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." Chances are you'd say the same. And it is quite likely that your presence is the present 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.

THANK YOU... 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

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

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!

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.

Willmar/Spicer Polar Bear Plunge

Law Enforcement Presents Saturday, January 30, 2010



Melvin's on the Lake @ 2 p.m.
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.

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

THANK YOU...

To Rachel Tri, Carolyn Rossow, Mona Hjelle, Pam Johnson, Bonnie Hanson, Becca Dauk, Susan Johnson, and Bryson Wachter for making our Christmas Program a great success. We really appreciate your hard work! Thanks also to the teachers, parents and students who all did a great job of helping tell the message of the gift God delivered at Bethlehem. Thanks be to God for all of you "indescribable gifts".

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That for a day: A lot of people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.

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How have you seen God at work in Living Word in 2009?

For our Charter Sunday (January 24) we will put together a list all of the ways and people you've seen God work through this past year at Living Word. We'll have a chance to do this in worship on January 17 and 24 (or just email your answers to Scott at c.wachter@charter.net)

So That The World May Know...

Thanks for your input about the 'move-a-building' option we are currently researching.

This month we will meet each Wednesday @ 6:00 to pray and then continue comparing bids, meeting with contractors and putting together our proposal @ 6:30.

After we have a good handle on the expenses associated with the move, we will put together a proposal that will include our recommended actions including those associated with the areas of concern members wanted us to take into account. We will present this Building Committee proposal at a congregation information meeting and then schedule a Special Voter's Assembly to vote on the proposal.

We invite you to please join us each Wednesday at 6:00 as we take this opportunity to the Lord in prayer



Concordia
UNIVERSITY-SAINT PAUL

Extreme Home Project Makes A Concordia Connection...

The episode of Extreme Makeover: Home Edition featuring St. Paul's Morris family and a scholarship presentation to the family by Concordia University, St. Paul, is scheduled to air on **Sunday, January 3 at 7 p.m.** on the ABC network. The episode will feature a total renovation of the home of Sandy Morris, who runs a small day care center out of her home in West St. Paul. Program host Ty Pennington will present the Morris children with full scholarships to attend Concordia University when they graduate high school. The scholarships are Pennington's special gift to the family.

For more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/ylzfSz9>

E-Mail Wisdom...

Take a tour to Israel and there is one town you'll need to think twice about visiting. Jewish tours almost always avoid it, even though it is the birthplace of the greatest ruler in Israel's ancient history—King David. Christians like to tour there, but it is such a hassle that many settle for a "facsimile." You can walk through a reproduction of this town (particularly at this time of year) in many major U.S. cities, from Longview, Washington, to Orlando, Florida. I am talking about that little town of Bethlehem.

Bethlehem is only six miles from the heart of Jerusalem, but since it is in Palestinian territory, to get there from Israel you have to go through a border crossing. If you are part of a tour, you will probably have to get off your bus and board another with a Palestinian tour guide and driver. That is why Jewish groups rarely go there and why many Christian groups decide the hassle isn't worth it.

But the modern political difficulties mask a far greater and more ancient controversy.

The Jewish prophet Micah wrote:

"And you Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, from you shall come forth to me one to be a ruler in Israel and his goings forth are from old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2, or 5:1 in some versions).

Since Micah was writing several hundred years after the death of King David, it has been accepted that the "ruler in Israel" spoken of would be none other than David's greater son, the promised Messiah.

Targum Jonathan, an ancient Aramaic paraphrase of the Bible says this:

"And you, O Bethlehem Ephrata, you who were too small to be numbered among the thousands of the house of Judah, from you shall come forth before me the Messiah." The 12th century rabbi called Radak (David Kimhi) wrote: "out of thee shall come forth unto me a Judge to be Ruler in Israel, and this is the King Messiah."

The mystery and the controversy intensify when we begin to examine what is actually said about this ruler who is to be born in Bethlehem.

Micah makes an unusual statement when he says: "from you shall come forth to me." This is no ordinary way to talk about someone's birth. Micah is speaking as a prophet on behalf of God—that is who the "me" is. So this ruler is born for God and

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Thot for a day: He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree.

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for God's purposes. No wonder all the ancients expected this one to be the Messiah!

Now we arrive at the most controversial—and for some, alarming—part of Micah's prophecy. God begins talking more specifically about the nature of the child, or the "comings forth" of the ruler. In Hebrew the word is *motzaotav*. This is a compound noun meaning more precisely: "the place where he originally left." So here we are surprisingly told there is a place this ruler existed before his birth in Bethlehem. God then tells us that this ruler actually comes from "*kedem*" meaning "of old" and from "*yemei ha Olam*," "from everlasting" or literally "the days of eternity."

Who in the world has origins in eternity? Who could exist before his own birth? There can be only one conclusion: this one to be born in Bethlehem would be of divine origin!

The mystery of Messiah is not just where he would be born, which we know to be Bethlehem, but what his nature is to be, i.e. divine. This is a shocker. As Jews we are taught, "*Shema yisrael adonai elohenu adonai echad*," "Hear O Israel the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And yet here we have a mystery that goes beyond the nature of the Messiah and straight to the nature of the One True God. How can the promised Messiah be divine when the Lord our God is One? We can point to biblical clues regarding the compound unity of God, but we cannot fully understand it; we cannot fully explain it. It is a mystery and a controversy, but it is also true. And that is where faith comes in. God says it. I believe it. That settles it.

Can you live with that tension? Are you willing to believe something that you can't fully understand? Will you agree there are things about the nature of God that are beyond our ability to completely comprehend?

In Bible times, there was no controversy among Jews about where Messiah was to be born. The only controversy was when he was to be born. These mysterious wise men from the east were looking for the Messiah because they had seen signs in the heavens. When they approached King Herod—then the ruler of the Jewish people—to find out where to look for him, Herod had to ask his own wise men. The Jewish scribes and chief priests confidently answered the King's question. "Tell the wise men from the east that Messiah must be born in Bethlehem." And so he was.

But how could a wise man (or woman) possibly answer the question of the Messiah's birthplace were it to be posed today? For many this controversial question has been answered once and for all in the person of Jesus our Messiah. How do you answer?

January - Daily Devotionals

We start the month with the question "What does God say about FAMILY LIFE?" He actually says quite a bit, just like He does about how to tell WHAT'S FROM GOD AND WHAT'S FROM SATAN. so we have two weeks of readings for each question. Then onto what God says about WHAT TO DO ON SUNDAY.

Jan 3 **What God Says About ... FAMILY LIFE**

Jan 4 Genesis 2:20-24 _____

Jan 5 Genesis 50:15-21 _____

Jan 6 Psalm 127 _____

Jan 7 Deuteronomy 6:1-9 _____

Jan 8 Deuteronomy 6:20-25 _____

Jan 9 Joshua 24:14-15 _____

Jan 10 **What God Says About ... FAMILY LIFE**

Jan 11 Proverbs 22:6 _____

Jan 12 Proverbs 23:15-25 _____

Jan 13 Hebrews 12:5-11 _____

Jan 14 Ephesians 5:21-6:4 _____

Jan 15 2 Timothy 1:5 _____

Jan 16 1 Peter 3:1-7 _____

Jan 17 **What God Says About ... TELLING WHAT'S FROM GOD AND WHAT'S NOT**

Jan 18 1 John 4:1-6 _____

Jan 19 Proverbs 3:5-8 _____

"What Does God Say About...?"

Jan 20 James 1:5-8 _____

Jan 21 Hebrews 5:11-14 _____

Jan 22 John 16:12-15 _____

Jan 23 Psalm 111:10 _____

Jan 24 **What God Says About ... TELLING WHAT'S FROM GOD AND WHAT'S NOT**

Jan 25 2 Timothy 3:12-17 _____

Jan 26 Isaiah 11:2-5 _____

Jan 27 Matthew 7:24-27 _____

Jan 28 Romans 12:1-2 _____

Jan 29 1 Peter 5:8-9 _____

Jan 30 Ephesians 6:10-20 _____

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 _____

January 2010 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Key Chapters Sunday School Parents' Study</p> <p>10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship</p>	4	<p>5</p> <p>NOON Bible Study "Colossians" @ Geneva Olson's</p> <p>7:00 Elders Team</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 Mom's Study "The 5 Love Languages" Noon Women's Study "5 ways to grow faith" 6:00 Prayer Time 6:30 Youth Mtg & Study 6:30 Bldg Committee 7:00 Men's Study:(Rev.)</p>	7	8	9
<p>10</p> <p>8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - LCMS beliefs Sunday School Parents' Study</p> <p>10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship Outreach Mtg.</p>	11	<p>12</p> <p>NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 Mom's Study "The 5 Love Languages" Noon Women's Study "5 Ways to grow faith" 6:00 Prayer Time 6:30 Bldg Committee 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 LWML</p>	14	15	16
<p>17</p> <p>8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - LCMS beliefs Sunday School Parents' Study</p> <p>10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship</p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's</p> <p>7:00 Mission & Ministry Team</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 Mom's Study "The 5 Love Languages" Noon Women's Study "5 Ways to grow faith" 6:00 Prayer Time 6:00 Bldg Committee 6:30 Confirmation All Stars 4 Jesus 7:00 Men's Study: (Rev.)</p>	21	22	23
<p>24 CHARTER SUNDAY</p> <p>8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - LCMS beliefs Sunday School Parents' Study</p> <p>10:00 Worship 11:15 Charter Sunday Dinner</p>	25	<p>26</p> <p>NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study</p> <p>6:00 Prayer Time 6:00 Bldg Committee 6:30 Confirmation</p>	28	29	30
<p>31</p> <p>8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - LCMS beliefs Sunday School Parents' Study</p> <p>10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship</p>	Feb 1	<p>Feb 2</p> <p>NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's</p> <p>7:00 Elders Team</p>	<p>Feb 3</p> <p>9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study</p> <p>6:00 Prayer Time 6:30 Youth Mtg & Study 6:30 Bldg Committee 7:00 Men's Study:(Rev.)</p>	Feb 4	Feb 5	 <p>2:00 Polar Plunge Law Enforcement Presents</p>



Upcoming Schedules...

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

Scripture Readers

Jan 3	Wendy Robbin	354-9049
Jan 10	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
Jan 17	Kevin Welsh	796-6840
Jan 24	Linda Dilley	235-0235
Jan 31	Phil Iverson	354-4932

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

Fellowship Servers

Jan 3	Violet Dauk	220-0344
Jan 10	Lu Kiehm	979-0097
Jan 17	Linda Dilley	235-0235
Jan 24	Bonnie Hansen	796-5605
Jan 31	Youth	

Feb 7	Wendy Robbin	354-9049
Feb 14	Nancy Jo Wendt	354-2398
Feb 21	Pam Johnson	354-3545
Feb 28	Laurel Iverson	354-4932

Mar 7	Tammy Fuglie	796-6975
Mar 14	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
Mar 21	Stacy Olson	212-9647
Mar 28	Violet Dauk	354-4103

Usher & Greeter Schedule

	Ushers	Greeter
Jan 3	Jamie Iverson & Jason Miller	Lu
Jan 10	Jack Kuppich & Lonny Robbin	Laurel
Jan 17	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen	**
Jan 24	Kevin & Noah Welsh	**
Jan 31	Joe Johnson & Becca Dauk	Mariah

Thot for a day: I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

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	**
Mar 28	Jack Kuppich & Troy Hansen	**

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

Children's Church Schedule

Jan 3	Joe Johnson	354-3545
Jan 10	Kasey Nieland	354-2036
Jan 17	Becca Dauk	354-4103
Jan 24	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
Jan 31	Halee Lucas/Mykala Geer	354-5035

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

Elders

Jan 3	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Jan 17	Troy Hansen & Kevin Welsh
Feb 7	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Feb 14	Troy Hansen & Kevin Welsh
Mar 7	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Mar 14	Troy Hansen & Kevin Welsh

January Discipleship Verse...



Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2a

Mark Your Calendars...

Each Wednesday @ 6:00 - Prayer Time

"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 5:15 to 6:00, 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.

Charter Sunday: January 24

It has been five 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 24.

Make sure to join us as we thank God for our fifth year and kick off year number 6.

Annual Whist Night

7:00 p.m. Friday, January 29, @ 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).

Willmar/Spicer Polar Bear Plunge

Saturday, January 30, 2010

(see page 6 for more details)



The LINK Update...

Advocacy & Resource Network- January 2010 Update

"Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other."

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who contributed - with your time and energy, talents, and financial resources over the last year in order to assist people facing tough situations in our community. Did you know that approximately 30% of households in our community do not have adequate income to meet their basic needs?

As we work to meet the mission of The Link, we must make our own new year's resolutions, or in other words, goals for the year. Here they are:

- 1) To increase our visibility in the community at large.
- 2) To secure sustainable funding sources for project administration.
- 3) To increase opportunities for neighbors to develop relationships with each other through service projects and events.

How can you help?

- 1) Talk to people you know about our work!
 - 2) Invite us to come and speak to your groups/ clubs/ businesses.
 - 3) Give- of your time, talent and financial contributions.
- Complete a volunteer interest survey today or contact us to find out about opportunities to help.

What's New? Come and visit us at the New London location- at this office people have access to household items, the food shelf, computer with online access, and coming soon- laundry facilities! In partnership with the food shelf and the United Way, we are developing more space in order to offer more donated goods to people-bedding, baby items, small appliances, etc. We are also developing a community meal project to begin this spring.

Contact information:

Michelle Peterson, Director
(320)796-2522 or (320)894-1681
email: fic_michelle@tds.net

What Do We Believe...

What Do Missouri Synod Lutherans Believe?

Pastor is planning 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 also serves as the instruction class for those interested in discipleship (membership) here at Living Word. Please talk to pastor if you have questions about the class or would like to attend.

The current plan is to hold the class during the Sunday School hour beginning Jan. 10.

E-Mail Humor...

Church Lesson

One Sunday morning when my son was about five years old, we were attending church in our community. It was common for the preacher to invite the children to the front of the church and have a small lesson before beginning the sermon. He would bring in an item they could find around the house and relate it to a teaching from the Bible.

This particular morning, the visual aid for his lesson was a smoke detector. He asked the children if anyone knew what it meant when an alarm sounded from the smoke detector.

My child immediately raised his hand and said, "It means Daddy's cooking dinner."

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That for a day: Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

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Couple's Study...

Pastor and Violet will host the kick off of the study on **Saturday, January 16** 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

Women's Study...

Wednesday Women's Study Topic

"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. Starting Wednesdays at noon.



Mom's Study...

9:30 a.m. Wednesday Mornings

"The Five Love Languages"

Join us for this popular study that looks at the five basic ways to say "I love you." Each of which speaks to different people.



Story Behind The Song...

"As With Gladness Men of Old"

January 6 is Epiphany. That's the celebration of the day the Magi - wise men - found Jesus. It's the day he was "revealed" (the meaning of "epiphany") to the Gentile world as the true God that He is.

It was on January 6, in 1859, while ill in bed that William C. Dix penned the words to this song that tells the story of the "Wise Men." But more than simply re-telling what Matthew recorded in chapter two of his gospel, William Dix challenges us who sing the hymn to follow their wise example in our everyday lives right now. The last two verses tell of that special "day of epiphany" when we get to see with our own eyes the Savior who was born to take our sins away.

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) was born in Bristol, England and was the son of a Doctor. His career was spent working for an insurance company in Glasgow, but he had a life long passion for writing lyrics for hymns and carols. Perhaps his most famous is the Christmas hymn *What Child Is This*.

The music for this song has been set to a tune composed by the German musician Conrad Kocher (1786-1872). Kocher was well travelled and visited Russia and Italy. He established the School of Sacred Music at Stuttgart in 1821.

*As with gladness, men of old Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light Leading onward, beaming bright
So, most glorious Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.*

*As with joyful steps they sped To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before Him Whom Heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.*

*As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.*

*Holy Jesus, every day Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed*

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Thot for a day: A Christmas sign outside a church: "The original Christmas Club."

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souls at last Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

*In the heavenly country bright, Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown, Thou its Sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King!*

You knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalms 139:13-14

...when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Luke 1:41-44

...fan into flame the gift of God which is in you...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord...but share in the suffering. 2 Tim 1:6-8

*Let us stand up and defend God's Word and will
for His children. Join us on a bus ride to the
State Capital to proclaim that word at the*

March for Life

Friday, January 22

Bus departs **promptly** from the Wal-Marts at:

- * 7 a.m. from Montevideo
- * 7:50 from Willmar
- * 8:20 from Litchfield

We will return to Monte at approximately 6 p.m.

Reservations must be made **before January 10th** at:

- * St. Paul Lutheran Church @ 320-269-7145

Additional Pro-Life information:

- * **President Obama's stand on abortion**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHnJyOCE4UI
- * **"Roe" of Roe vs. Wade (she is now ProLife)**
www.leaders.com/norma/
- * **The Silent Scream**
A ultrasound video of an 11th week abortion.
- * **ProLife.com**
A website dedicated to Pro-Life issues and news.
- * **MCCL**
Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life: www.mccl.org
- * **Lutherans for Life**
<http://lutheransforlife.org/>

The 12 Days of Christmas (or New Years) For Couples

Written by Michael Webb,
from Women Today Magazine

Simple ideas for putting romance back in your relationship

On the first Day of Christmas... Buy your mate 1 box of their favorite cereal and lace it with lots of "prizes." Throw in some golf tees, Hershey kisses, toy cars or whatever would bring out the child in them.

On the second Day of Christmas... Take out your 2 engraved toasting glasses from the china cabinet and use them. Reminisce about the day you first sipped from them. If you never had any, engrave your own by buying some stencils and etching paste at a craft store.

On the third Day of Christmas... Have 3 meals together. You could go all out with breakfast in bed, a picnic lunch and a candlelit dinner. Better yet, spend less time preparing the meal and more time sharing it together.

On the fourth Day of Christmas... Put the pedal to the metal and 4 on the floor. Take a peaceful drive for the day. Go to the country, sight see in the city or cruise around looking at Christmas lights.

On the fifth Day of Christmas... Fax or deliver a photocopy of your 5 fingers (plus the rest of your hand) to your love at work. Tell them you can't wait to be together to hold the real thing.

On the sixth Day of Christmas... Give her a half dozen of her favorite flower – one at a time. Leave one on the pillow, one on her car seat, one at her office, etc.

On the seventh Day of Christmas... Count your lucky stars by gazing into the 7th heaven. If the night is overcast, arrange for glow-in-the-dark stars on the bedroom ceiling.

On the eighth Day of Christmas... Buy an 8 pack of crayons and together design and color a personalized coloring book of happy memories you have shared.

On the ninth Day of Christmas... Dress to the 9's and head out to a swanky restaurant. If a full meal would be too much on the budget, simply go for cocktails or dessert.

On the tenth Day of Christmas... Massage your sweetheart's aching shoulders for 10 minutes. Throw in a back scratch, a foot massage and a hair brushing if you are feeling extra generous.

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Thot for a day: Jesus paid the price. You get to keep the change.

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On the eleventh Day of Christmas... Bake him 11 of his favorite cookies (since most recipes make one dozen, these will be bigger than usual – he won't complain). Stick a wooden skewer through the side of each cookie and then wrap the cookie in a colored plastic wrap. Place them in a box or vase as you would a dozen roses.

On the twelfth Day of Christmas... Present your sweetheart with a custom made 12 month calendar for the new year. Use personal photographs or your own drawings to make it unique. Highlight special days for the new year.

MISSING...

We are missing numerous videos of "The Animated Stories From The Bible". They were originally stored in a box in a gray cabinet. If you have any information on the location of these videos, please contact Marcia Welsh.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



A PROVERB FOR SNOWMEN
The intelligent person restrains his words, and one who keeps a cool head is a man of understanding.
Pr 17:27 while FROSTY loses his cool head.