

Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

March 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...

What good can come from death?

This question came from a friend who had suffered through the untimely deaths of two family members recently.

There may also be an underlying question that wasn't asked: "If God is so good, how could He allow this to happen?" (Which is a "whole 'nuther question entirely" and one that our Lenten Devotional *Where in the World is God* seeks to answer)

But there's also a biblical truth underlying that question: God CAN make good come out of bad. (*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* Romans 8:28)

First, it should be noted that death is never "good." "Good" being defined as "according to God's plan." Death was not included when God looked at all He'd created and proclaimed it "very good." Death was not in God's plan, but death became a reality that we all must deal with after Satan succeeded in tempting Adam and Eve to disobey God (with the lie, "You will not surely die.")

But God's promise in Romans 8:28 is true. He *can* make good things come from bad things - even death.

One of those "good" things I see is that death makes people think about eternity. It makes people search for answers to questions they haven't asked before - or haven't taken seriously before. Questions like: Is there life after death? (Yes) Did this person make it? (Depends) How do I get there? ("For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that *whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life*")

One of the most frustrating things for me as a pastor is to sit through funeral sermons where those questions are never addressed - or worse,

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where we are given the impression that everyone goes to heaven. I want to stand up and shout, "Meet me outside afterward if you want to hear the Gospel truth and get your questions really answered!"

Another positive thing that death can bring about is that God often uses it to bring families back together or to reconcile people who have been estranged. Death hits people with the reality that life is too short to hold grudges. It offers an opportunity and an urgency to "bury the hatchet". (Of course Satan - often through the inheritance - loves to use death to try to drive a wedge between family members too.)

There is also the aspect that people who have gotten through the death of a friend or family member are often in the best place to be able to give comfort and direction to another person in that situation. Often the greatest help comes from the words or someone "who's been there."

One thing we all need to remember regarding death is that this earthly life is not the most important life. It will not last forever for any of us. As human beings we tend to only see the "details" that are in front of our noses. God sees the "Big Picture" in light of eternity - which is by far the most important "light" in which to see things.

Since we are not God, there will be things He sees that we will never see. There will be things He does or allows to happen that we will never understand - this side of eternity. We should always remember that God realizes we won't always understand why things happen. And since He walked this earth in the person of Jesus, God also understands what it's like to go through tough times like the death of someone close. Because God understands and can relate, He is the perfect One to take our feelings and emotions to in prayer - even those feelings of anger. (It's ok to "vent" on God. He can take it, He's God. Check out Psalm 13) And after we've vented, we must do the hard work of simply trusting that He really does have our best eternal interest in mind. Trusting that He also has the power to get us through the death of a loved one.

One final thought to keep in mind: In a world that is marred by sin, we can't always control what happens, but we can always control our reaction to what happens. When someone close to us dies, we always have the choice to "get bitter" or "get better." Satan wants the former. God alone can bring the latter.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Mark Your Calendars...

Wednesday Lenten Services

Devotion and Prayer at 6:30 (Supper at 5:45)

Services are one-half hour with prayer and a devotion. Each week we focus on one aspect of prayer. On Ash Wednesday we read in the Bible the somewhat shocking revelation that God sometimes refuses to listen to our prayers... until we repent of the sin in our lives. Last week we learned about fasting and how denying yourself can help you to remember to pray. This week we'll focus on.... (come and find out).

Sunday Services in March

"By His Stripes: Healing Wounded Relationships"

The Christian life (indeed all human life) is about relationships: Our relationship with God and with each other. Join us each Sunday as we look at something Satan uses to tear down relationships in our lives - and what God gives to heal them.

New Member Sunday—March 7

Those who have completed the LC-MS Beliefs class and wish to join Living Word, along with those transferring from other LC-MS churches will be received into membership during the worship service. A potluck will be held in their honor following worship.

All Stars for Jesus

Wed., March 17: 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 7:00 and conclude by 8:00

Progressive Supper - Coming one weekend in March

Watch for details on the specific date

The Progressive supper is always a fun event and great way to get to know some of the people in the church. We travel from home to home and eat one course of a meal at each place.

Hosts are still needed for the courses. See Laurel Iverson if you can host.

Palm Sunday / Easter Choir Practice - Sundays after worship

We meet after worship to practice songs for Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday - April 1

The current plan is to hold a Seder Meal at 6:30 with Lord's Supper following.

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Thot for a day: There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.

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Good Friday - April 2

Tenebrae (service of darkness) Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

Easter Schedule - Sunday, April 4

- Sunrise Worship: 6:50 a.m.
(Begins outdoors at actual sunrise time)
- Easter Breakfast: 8:00 a.m.
- Easter Egg Hunt 9:00 a.m.
- Worship 10:00 a.m.

11:09... (set the alarm on your cell phone)

"9-11 reminds us of terror - 11:9 reminds us of prayer"

"The Family That Prays Together, Stays Together" is as true for a church family as it is for your family. Our church family prays together on Sunday, but we can also pray together the rest of the week - together at the same time, if not the same place. On Friendship Sunday we kicked-off a special prayer program that has us each praying at the same time every day no matter where you are - 11:09 a.m. (Inspired by Luke 11:9). If you didn't get an "11:09" reminder card or magnet, please take one home from church - and remember to set the alarm on your cell phone for 11:09 every day.

Here's a list of things from Colossians 1 that you can pray about for your friends, family members - and yourself .

1. Don't Stop/ Give Up Praying
2. God's Will
3. To Have Wisdom and Understanding
4. A godly life that pleases God
5. To Use The gifts / talents God has given
6. A Joyful, Thankful heart

Magnify the Lord

A Lenten Activity Book for Children and Families

Packed with meaningful ideas for the forty days of Lent, this activity book describes some of the many ways we can magnify (praise!) the Lord. Accompanying each book is a magnifying glass to use with some of the nature activities and crafts. We have ordered enough that each child (suggested for ages 3-11) in the family can have their own book. Ask Pastor if your child has not already received this devotional book.

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. Ending March 7th with New Member Sunday.

Paul the Apostle:

What culture doesn't want you to hear

New 8:45 Sunday morning Adult Study beginning in March.
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 8 for details

Women's Study - Wednesdays @ noon

"That The World May Know"
See page 8 for details

Men's Revelation Bible Study

2nd and 4th Wednesdays this Month @ 7:00 p.m.

Couples Bible Study

Saturday, February 13th @ 6:30
See page 9 for details

Parenting Young Children - 8:45 each Sunday

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

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That for a day: Some people drink at the fountain of knowledge while others only gargle.

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So That The World May Know...

On Tuesday, February 16, our Voters' Assembly voted to accept the recommendation of our Building Committee to not move the Good Shepherd building, but proceed with plans to erect a build-new structure the this spring / summer. The Committee will meet again this Wednesday to discuss a couple of floor-plan options.

If you haven't done so yet, Please let us know how you can help with our building project:

Building Project Sub-Committees I'd Be Willing to Serve On..

- Prayer - coordinating efforts to keep us praying together
- Publicity - communicate to the public and the congregation
- Decorating/Landscaping - making building/grounds look inviting
- Fundraising - enlisting continued support of the members
- Financing - working with our district and with lenders
- Space Utilization - coming up with ways to use the building to reach our community during the week
- Coordinating labor - keeping lists of volunteers and contacting them when their help is needed.

Building Tasks I Can Help With...

Framing inside walls / Siding / Roofing / Painting / Sheetrock hanging, mudding and taping / Excavating / Landscaping / Helping with electrical wiring / Helping with plumbing / Helping install heating ducts / Clean-Up / Other

There are surveys like this in church or just email our Building Chairperson, Jamie Iverson indicating where you can help.

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, a minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Father, and unto the Son, and into the hole he goes.'

Sunday Morning Study...

COMING SUNDAYS IN MARCH: 8:45 Sunday Forum Topic

Paul the Apostle: What culture doesn't want you to hear

Americans live in a culture that places great emphasis on entertainment, achievement and self. It's increasingly difficult for Scriptural truth to cut through the noise and sink into our hearts. But when we stop and study Scripture, we find the culture we live in faces the same problems as the early church.

In these four DVD-based sessions filmed on location in Rome, speaker and author David Nasser uses the life of Paul to highlight how followers of Christ can stand up to cultural "norms" and stand firm in Christ.

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.**



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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Thot for a day: Never try to drown your sorrows. They can swim.

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Couple's Study...



Pastor and Violet will host the the study on **Saturday, March 13** at 6:00 p.m. at their home. You are most welcome to attend even if you weren't able to attend the first study in February.

The Details: Couples will meet at our home at 6:00 for the study, then we send everyone off on a date (you make the plans).

Last month we learned about some basic differences between men and women. One of the major ones is that women have the need to feel loved. Men have a corresponding need to feel respected.

This month: we'll study...

"He First Loved Us" - God's love for you and how it enables you to love others

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.

Youth Update...

We have 5 people who will be attending "WE BELIEVE" the LC-MS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer: Becca Dauk, Emily Fuglie, Dani Skaggs and adult leaders Lana Bjork and Pam Johnson.

We will be needing to raise roughly \$3000 to enable us to attend this every-three-year event, so please keep your eyes open for our fundraisers.

Some that are in the planning stages:

- Chip Shoppe (sales of gourmet dry mixes - going on now)
- Purse sales (going on now)
- Wait tables at Pizza Ranch and receive a % of the receipts
- Slim Jim sales
- Sell concessions at a local auction
- Host a "servant" auction
- Garage Sale
- Garden Plants Sale

Thanks in advance for your support and prayers !

March - Daily Devotionals

We start the month finishing our readings on LOVE. Then we move on to a very relevant question in our time of war and strife. What does the Bible say about WAR. We end on Holy Week with passages that tell us the purpose for Jesus' death - and the result of it for us.

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 _____

Mar 7 **What God Says About ... WAR**

Mar 8 Ecclesiastes 3:8 _____

Mar 9 Matthew 24:1-8 _____

Mar 10 Deuteronomy 20:1-15, 24:5 _____

Mar 11 Jeremiah 5:11-19 _____

Mar 12 Luke 14:31-33 _____

Mar 13 Isaiah 1:2-5 _____

Mar 14 **What God Says About ... WAR - OUR RESPONSE**

Mar 15 1 Timothy 2:1-4 _____

Mar 16 Psalm 27:1-3 _____

“What Does God Say About...?”

Mar 17 James 4:1-6 _____

Mar 18 Luke 3:7-14 _____

Mar 19 Romans 12:9-21 _____

Mar 20 Romans 13:1-2 _____

Mar 21 **What God Says About ... TYRANNY & OPPRESSION**

Mar 22 Exodus 23:9 _____

Mar 23 Proverbs 3:29-35 _____

Mar 24 Zechariah 7:9-14 _____

Mar 25 James 2:1-9 _____

Mar 26 Ezekiel 22:29-31 _____

Mar 27 Isaiah 59:9-18 _____

Mar 28 **What God Says About ... JESUS' DEATH - It's purpose**

Mar 29 Isaiah 53:4-12 _____

Mar 30 Romans 5:6-11 _____





Mar 31 Titus 2:11-14 _____

Apr 1 Galatians 3:10-14 _____

Apr 2 1 Peter 3:18 _____

Apr 3 Matthew 26:28 _____

March 2010 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 28 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - LCMS beliefs Sunday School Parents' Study 10:00 Worship 11:15 Make a Meal Info Mtg 11:30 Easter Choir Practice	1	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" 5:45 Lenten Meal 6:30 Lenten Worship 7:00 Youth Mtg & Study 7:00 Bldg. Committee	4 noon NL-S Ministerial	5	6 
7 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - LCMS beliefs Sunday School Parents' Study 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Easter Choir Practice	8 8:30 Circuit Pastor's @ Willmar	9 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	10 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study 1:30 LWML 5:45 Lenten Meal 6:30 Lenten Worship 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Bldg Committee 7:00 Men's Study (Rev.)	11	12 District Staff prays for Living Word	13 6:00 Couples' Fireproof Study @ Pastor & Violet's
14 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Sunday School Parents' Study 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	15	16 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	17 9:30 Mom's Study "5 ways to grow faith" Noon Women's Study "That the world may know" 5:45 Lenten Meal 6:30 Lenten Worship 7:00 Men's Study (Rev.) 7:00 Bldg Committee 7:00 All Stars 4 Jesus	18 	19	20
21 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - 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 5:45 Lenten Meal 6:30 Lenten Worship 7:00 Bldg Committee 7:00 Confirmation	25	26	27
28 PALM SUNDAY 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Sunday School Parents' Study 10:00 Worship (Sndy Schl. sings) 11:15 Fellowship		30 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	31 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study	Apr 1 Maundy Thursday NL-S Ministerial 6:30 Maundy Thursday Worship w/ Lord's Supper	Apr 2 Good Friday 7:00 Good Friday Worship	Apr 3 EASTER Schedule tomorrow: 6:50 SonRise Worship 8:00 Breakfast 9:00 Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 Easter Worship

Upcoming Schedules...

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

Scripture Readers

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
May 2	Carolyn Rossow	952-738-1036
May 9	Gerri Wadsworth	796-2294
May 16	Paulette Spletter	354-7143
May 23	Linda Dilley	235-0235

Fellowship Servers

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
May 2	Lu Kiehm / Mona Hjelle
May 9	Laurel Iverson / Violet Dauk
May 16	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
May 23	Sunday School Picnic
May 30	Youth

Elders

Mar 7	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Mar 14	Troy Hansen & Kevin Welsh
Apr 4	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Apr 11	Troy Hansen & Kevin Welsh
May 2	Wally Abraham & Jason Miller
May 16	Bryson Wachter & Troy Hansen

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That for a day: Life is like a mirror; we get the best results when we smile at it.

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Usher & Greeter Schedule

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
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	**
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	**
May 2	Tim Geer & Allan Fuglie	Jack & Bryson
May 9	Mona Hjelle & Paulette Spletter	Laurel
May 16	Jamie & Phil Iverson	Lu
May 23	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter	Gerri/ Paulette
May 30	Youth	

* Fill-in Greeter Bonnie Hansen 796-5605

Please call Bonnie if you aren't able to greet on your scheduled Sunday

Children's Church Schedule

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
May 2	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
May 9	Halee Lucas & Mikayla Geer	
May 16	Emilie Fuglie	796-6975
May 23	Carolyn Rossow	952-738-1036
May 30	Mariah Welsh	796-6840

LWML...

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.



Gifts For Jesus...

A Sermon Summary

During the Epiphany season we found the Wise Men setting us the example of bringing gifts to Jesus. Here's a summary of the gifts we talked about as being important to give (and an opportunity to make your personal commitment to giving those gifts):

1. WORSHIP

- (I will) Make it a Priority
- (I will) Come (God says we are to do it *together*)
- (I will) Bow Down (submit to God)

2. HAVE A HEART FOR HIS PEOPLE

- (I will) Do what I can do. Which is...

3. MAKE DISCIPLES - as I go, wherever I go

- (I will) Remember "Job #1" everyday is pointing people to Jesus.

4. MY GOLD (Firstfruit Tithe)

- (I will) Give God \$ ____ per ____

5. BEAR MUCH FRUIT

- (I will) Use my talents for God.

For example, I will ...

- Serve as a Secret Paul - praying for a young person (daily)
- Make / Take a Meal (once every 2 months or so, as needed)
- Pray - praying for requests on a prayer chain (as needed)
- Music - provide music or singing for worship (as available)
- Assist with Children's Church (one Sunday every couple months)
- Serve Fellowship (one Sunday every 2-3 months)
- Read Scriptures in Worship (one Sunday every 2-3 months)
- Serve As An Usher (one Sunday every 2-3 months)
- Serve As A Greeter (one Sunday per month)
- Serve As An Acolyte (one Sunday per month)
- Other _____

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That for a day: Ignorance might be bliss to you, but it's agony to everyone around you.

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A Minute For Your Marriage...

"Sacrifice" is a major theme of the Lenten season. It's also a major requirement in love. Jesus demonstrated His love for us by sacrificing His life taking the punishment for all of our selfishness.

What kind of sacrifice can you make for your spouse these next 40 days? If you aren't sure, try this: Ask him or her. I'll bet your spouse will be able to think of some sacrifices you can make.

And remember, don't quit making that sacrifice after Easter comes. Use Lent to get into the habit of making that sacrifice for the rest of your life.

A Minute For Parents...

Lent is traditionally a time for giving "alms-giving" (doing or giving something to help someone in need). Talk to your kids about a project that you can work on together.

And when they ask why you want to do it, you can tell them something like, "It's just a small way that we can follow the example of what Jesus did for us." You can also dig out your Bible and read the passage in John chapter 13 where Jesus washed the disciples feet and then told them that He had set them an example that they should follow. The example of serving others.

E-Mail Humor...

Little Dewey and his family were having Sunday dinner at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Dewey received his plate, he started eating right away.

"Dewey! Please wait until we say our prayer," said his mother.

"I don't need to," the boy replied.

"Of course, you do," his mother insisted through gritted teeth. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house," Dewey explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook."

Sharing 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

The fifteen people who have joined our Make-A-Meal program: We will meet after worship on February 28 to go over some details of how the program will work.

Everyone else: Please use the "Prayer and Care" cards in the attendance folder to indicate the name of someone going through a tough time and could use a meal.

Use your talents for Easter

- + Singing in a choir (familiar songs) -
- + Singing a solo or duet -
- + Playing music (whatever your instrument)
- + Doing readings -
- + Drama (short sketches) -

We'll practice songs after worship during March.

Join in for EASTER(?) CAROLING

Why Not - It's celebrating the greatest event in history.

Come and practice with the Sunday School kids at 9:35. It's a great inter-generational activity. We'll head to Glen Oaks (and wherever else) on a yet-to-be-determined date closer to Easter.

"Secret Paul" Prayer Partner Program NOTES

REMINDER: If you haven't received your "Secret Paul" prayer-person assignment please see Laurel Iverson today.

If you have received your assignment, please send a card letting them know you are praying for them - but remember not to let them know who you are. That's the "secret" part.

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Thot for a day: Honk if you love Jesus! Text while driving if you want to meet Him.

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From the District Office...

To our dear friends in Living Word Lutheran Church,

It is interesting to know that many of the books contained in the New Testament were written as personal letters of encouragement between fellow Christians. The Third Letter of John is an excellent example as under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit John wrote, "to my dear friend Gaius" (3 John 1). John concluded that letter by writing: "The friends here send their greetings. Greet friends there by name," (3 John 14)

It is in that same spirit that I write to you this day. Each day in our District staff devotions we pray for one of the congregations in our District and their pastor. We will be remembering and praying for your congregation and pastor on Friday, March 12, 2010. We would greatly appreciate hearing from you before then with regards to any prayer requests you might have. As your brothers and sisters in Christ we welcome the opportunity to join our prayers to yours about the matters which are either a concern for you or a cause for thanksgiving. It is our hope that in doing this we will provided encouragement to you as you go about the ministry and mission God is placing before you.

Together, beneath the blessings of our gracious God, may we "continue to walk in truth" (3 John 3).

"Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings" (3 John 14)

Blessings in Christ!

Rev. David Strohschein

Mission and Ministry Facilitator

Minnesota North District - LCMS

Please share with Pastor David any requests/thanksgivings you'd like the District Staff to include in their prayers for us. Thanks.

March Discipleship Verse...



For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

1 Peter 3:18



The LINK Update...

March 2010 The Link Update

New London Office-

In partnership with the Willmar Area Food Shelf and the West Central MN United Way, we are offering the following services at our New London location:

"Loads of Help"- Free laundry facilities for those who need it. Call us to set up a time to come in and do your laundry- just bring your own supplies.

"Get Connected"- Free computer access with internet. Do job search, check your email, write a resume, etc.

Gifts In-kind- Free household items. New and gently used- bedding, linens, kids toys, baby supplies, small appliances, etc.

Resource Connection & Referral

Hours: Tuesdays 2-6pm & Thursdays 10am-2pm

Volunteer Opportunities-

New London Location-

Hospitality Volunteers: Welcome community members, answer phone, supervise laundry and computer areas, assist with shopping in gifts in-kind space.

Space Set-up: Organize and maintain space for donated items, reception area, decorate, etc.

Other Opportunities-

Community Meal Planning Committee: Next Meeting is Thursday, March 4 at 6pm at Faith Lutheran

Computer Support: Help with set up and maintenance of computers, website development and maintenance, etc.

Connections- Remember that one of the goals of The Link is to make meaningful connections among neighbors who want to support one another in various ways. For example, we have a number of people who are willing to share their haircutting skills with people who need it, or people who will help with various household repairs, or provide a ride to someone in need. Are there things you can offer to others? Let us know... We want to make the connection!

Fundraising- The Link is forming a fundraising committee to plan for sustainable funding sources- this will include looking at grant opportunities and planning a signature fundraising event on an annual basis. If this is something you are interested in, please let us know!

A note about donations- If you have something you think

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That for a day: Every evening I turn my troubles over to God. He's going to be up all night anyway.

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others could benefit from, please contact us to share. Due to limited storage space, we are not able to accept all donations- please get your donation approved before delivery. If we cannot accept it, we will try to steer you in another direction to share the resource.

Wanted- Shelving for donated items, gift cards for Wal-Mart/Target or grocery stores, toiletries and household items for the Care Pantry at Hope Presbyterian Church.

For more information, contact Michelle Peterson by phone at (320) 796-2522 or (320) 894-1681 or by email flc_michelle@tds.net

Story Behind The Song...

O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

The words to this traditional Good Friday song were penned over 850 years ago in a French monastery by a medieval monk known as Bernard of Clairvaux. Forsaking the wealth and life of ease of a noble family for the life of simplicity, holiness, prayer and ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of others, Bernard was one of the most influential leaders of his day. Martin Luther said of him, "He was the best monk that ever lived, whom I admire beyond all the rest put together."

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded" was part of the final portion of a lengthy poem that addressed the various parts of Christ's body as He suffered on the cross. There were seven sections of the poem that included his feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart and face. The stanzas of this hymn have been preserved for us over the centuries.

*O sacred Head now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns Thy only crown;
How art Thou pale with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!*

*What Thou, my Lord hast suffered was all for sinners' gain:
Mine, mine was the transgressions, but Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
look on me with Thy favor, vouch-safe to me Thy grace.*

*What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever! And, should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for Thee!*

E-Mail Wisdom... (received via e-mail)

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, 'This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received.'

I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, 'This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them. I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth..

Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. 'This is the Acknowledgment Section,' my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed 'How is it that there is no work going on here?' I asked.

'So sad,' the angel sighed. 'After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments.'

'How does one acknowledge God's blessings?' I asked.

'Simple,' the angel answered. Just say, 'Thank you, Lord.'

'What blessings should they acknowledge?' I asked.

- '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.'
- 'And if you get this on your own 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

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Thot for a day: Confidence is that feeling you have just before you fully understand the situation.

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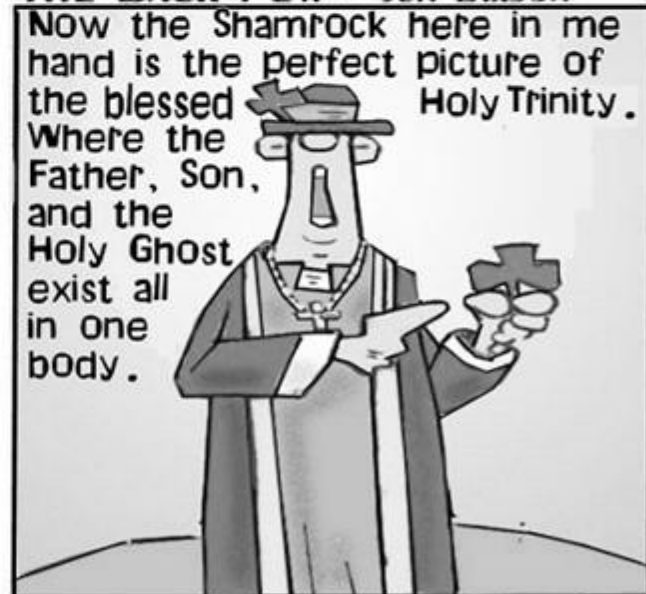
..you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day.'

- '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 married ...you 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 just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Thank You, Lord!

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON

Now the Shamrock here in me hand is the perfect picture of the blessed Holy Trinity. Where the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost exist all in one body.



<http://thebackpew.com>

A Great Object lesson presented by Old St. Paddy.