

# **Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS**

**February 2011 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](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net)

What we aim to do:  
**Make disciples for Jesus - as we go, wherever we go.**

What we aim to be:  
**A joyful, caring, Christ-centered family of God.**

## Question for Pastor...

"Why do we believe the Bible?"

One of our sessions in confirmation instruction is dedicated to having the students ask questions. (It seems like almost every topic we cover brings up questions, but we have one class devoted to just questions they have.) To get them started, I give them some prompts like "What do we believe about....., Why do we ....., and Why did Jesus....." The above question came after the "Why do we believe....." prompt.

The question actually has a bit of clarification. "Why do we believe the Bible ... and not the books other religions are based on?"

It's a great question. It gets at the heart of our faith. And faith is at the heart of the answer. The message of the Bible really comes down to faith. And the Bible is clear that we don't come by that faith naturally. For example we are told, *"No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit."* (1 Corinthians 12:3) When we have faith that the Bible is the true and accurate revelation of God, the Holy Spirit gets the credit for bringing us to that conviction.

But the fact that we "take it on faith" doesn't mean that we have a "blind faith" - or that there is no evidence for what we believe. In fact, just the opposite is true. There is evidence for the truth of the message in the Bible.

For starters, in a court of law a point can be taken as fact on the agreement of as little as two witnesses. God used no less than 40 different authors to record his revelation. 40 different witnesses to the same truth. Compare that with the sacred writings of most

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other religions which are typically penned by only one person. One person whose writings are basically ideas and thoughts. Whereas the message of the Bible is grounded in events that took place in verifiable history. For example, the exodus in the Old Testament and the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus in the New Testament.

It's one thing to believe what one person says "because what they say makes sense." (All sorts of things that don't work in reality seem to make sense "on paper.") It's a whole different thing to believe writings that are grounded in historical fact.

The apostle Paul goes so far as to say that the entire Christian message stands or falls on the historical event we call the Resurrection of Jesus. Paul says (in 1 Corinthians 15) that if this event didn't really happen, then we are fools and liars. But that if Jesus really did rise from the grave, then we can be sure that our faith in Jesus is placed in the right place.

At the time of the Resurrection even the enemies of Jesus admitted that the tomb He was placed in on Friday was empty on Sunday. All they had to do was produce the body of Jesus in order to prove the Christian religion to be false. They were not able to produce His body, because He had indeed risen from the grave and was no longer dead. We have further evidence of the truth of the Resurrection in the ten disciples who were put to death for their conviction that Jesus had risen from the grave. It has been correctly said that those disciples would not have been willing to die for a lie or "pie in the sky." They were willing to die for their belief in Jesus' resurrection because they had seen Him alive again.

In short, we trust in the message of the Bible because the Holy Spirit has brought us to faith in it, and because there is evidence to back it up.

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

**Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)**

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

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY AT 11:09 EVERYDAY**

(inspired by Luke 11:9: *"So I say to you, Ask and it will be given to you; Seek and you will find; Knock and the door will be opened to you"*)

## 50 Days Ablaze...

### Continues Through March 6

*50 Days Ablaze* is our congregation-wide, small-group program (similar to 40 Days of Purpose)

**50 Days Ablaze is designed to get everyone focused on the same thing at the same time ...** Knowing Jesus, So We Can Make Him Known.

We accomplish this through three parts.

- 1) Daily devotions
- 2) Weekly small group studies
- 3) Weekly worship services

Here is a listing of the Small Group Studies that you also have the option of being a part of:

6:00 pm Tuesday @ Living Word - A men's study group  
9:30 am Wednesday @ Living Word - A moms study group  
12:00 pm Wednesday @ Living Word - A women's study group  
6:30 pm Wednesday @ Living Word - Confirmation group  
6:30 pm Wednesday @ Living Word - Senior High group  
7:00 pm Wednesday @ Pam Johnson's home  
7:30 pm Thursday @ DQ  
7:00 pm Friday @ Pastor David and Violet's home  
6:30 pm Saturday @ Tim Geer's home  
8:45 am Sunday @ Living Word - during Christian Growth hour  
6:45 pm Sunday @ Living Word

It's not necessary to be able to attend every session.

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**50 DAYS ABLAZE DAILY DEVOTIONS ARE:**  
**AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE** - (including audio)  
**ALSO AVAILABLE ON PAPER COPY AT CHURCH**

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### Highlights from *50 DAYS ABLAZE* Week One: LEARN

- What most people "know" about God didn't come from God (i.e. what most people "know" about God isn't totally accurate - and often flat-out wrong),
- So if we are to truly know God, we need to learn from Him



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That for a day: A friend is someone who reaches for your hand, but touches your heart.

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- You can only grow to trust someone by spending more time together
- Words are the "window to the heart" - Read/hear God's words to know His heart.
- Motivation to get to know God better comes from knowing what God has already done for you - Sending Jesus to take your punishment, because He wants to spend eternity with you
- God sees past the outward things and looks at the heart
- He wants us to do the same.
- Numbers matter to God - just like one lost sheep mattered to the shepherd even though the other 99 were safe.
- Contentment in life will never be found in things. It is only found in the one constant of life: Jesus (and His unchanging promise of love, forgiveness, power and presence)

### Highlights from *50 DAYS ABLAZE* Week Two: PRAY

- Do not attempt to witness to a Jehovah's Witness (or anyone else) unless you first have a love in your heart for that person
- Prayer is often a "last resort" when it should be a "first response."
- Satan hates it when Christians pray, because prayer plugs us in to God's power - and Satan knows he can't win against that power.
- Prayer is both "preparation for the battle" with Satan and a battle in itself (because prayer is also an act of trust in God and Satan fights to keep us from doing that).
- God used the prayer of a Sunday School teacher offered 75 years earlier to set in motion events that would result in Billy Graham coming to faith in Jesus.
- 50% of people not now attending church say they would consider an invitation from someone who does attend
- We have two choices as we look at the world (and life): 1) See the problems or 2) See the potential
- The Lord's Prayer could also be thought of as "The Disciples' prayer"
- The Lord's Prayer is about the attitudes we should have - including a focus not on self, but on God and others
- One of our greatest privileges is that of lifting others up in prayer
- Set an empty chair in front of you when you pray, then envision Jesus in it and just talk to Him as you would talk to a friend.
- Prayer changes us.

## Habitat for Humanity...

### TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR A HOME IN NEW LONDON

Habitat for Humanity of West Central Minnesota is currently seeking a partner family for a home in New London. Would you please help us spread the word by including information in your bulletin and newsletter; making an announcement during your next church service; and posting the attached flyer on a community bulletin board?

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical Christian housing ministry that exists to:

- Provide simple, decent housing for low-income families;
- Make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action; and
- Bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout West Central Minnesota.

Our partner families are selected based on three factors: need, ability to pay, and willingness to partner. Need can be defined as unsafe, inadequate, or overcrowded conditions and/or spending more than 30% of monthly income on rent. Ability to pay is important because Habitat does not give houses away. Rather, families partner with our organization throughout the building process and eventually purchase the home by making payments on a 30 year, 0% mortgage. Partner families must have a minimum of \$25,000 in annual income and not exceed the maximum income guidelines found on the attached flyer. This income includes all wages, social security, county assistance, and child support.

Willingness to partner is our final selection factor. Habitat partner families put in 200 hours of sweat equity for a single adult family or 500 hours for a two-adult family. Sweat equity hours for the New London family will be spent making improvements to the existing home and attending homeowner classes that are designed to help families transition from renting to owning.

The home in New London has three bedrooms and one bathroom. Habitat follows Equal Housing Lender regulations; all families who meet the above criteria are welcome to apply. Families or individuals who would like to apply should call our office at 320-231-2704 to request an application.

Applications will be accepted from January 3rd-February 7th. We will greatly appreciate your assistance in generating awareness with the attached resources and personal referrals during the coming month.

Please visit our website ([www.habitatwcm.org](http://www.habitatwcm.org)) for more information or contact our office with any questions you may have.

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That for a day: Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

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## Inspirational Story...

### Paid In Full

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted.

As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation, his father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box.

Curious, and somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with the young man's name embossed in gold. Angry, he rose his voice to his father and said "with all your money, you give me a Bible?" and stormed out of the house.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realized his father was very old, and thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day. Before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to his son. He needed to come home immediately and take care of things.

When he arrived at his father's house, a sudden feeling of sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important papers and saw the still gift-wrapped Bible,



just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. His father had carefully underlined a verse, Matt.7:11, "And if ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father which is in Heaven, give to those who ask Him?"

As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words PAID IN FULL.

How many times do we miss God's blessings because we can't see past our own desires?



## Sharing the Love of God In Practical Ways...

### Pray

We are conducting the annual update of our Prayer Force prayer chain:

As we've been reminded by the *50 Days Ablaze*, prayer for others is one of our responses to the love God has shown us.

People on the Prayer Force receive requests via email (we are adding a phone list this year for those who don't use email).

### Help with Children's Church

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

You read a Bible story or Object Lesson, take prayer requests from the kids and lead them in prayer; and do an activity with the kids that reinforces the lesson. Lessons are provided. You simply show up and lead. Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help in this way. Thanks!

### Help With Support of Heidi

Heidi is the girl from Ecuador that we support through Compassion International. We have committed to \$32/month to help pay for basic needs and Christian education opportunities for Heidi. Donations may be placed in the "Heidi" box on the usher table at church. Thank you!

### Help Chaperone a Youth Lock-In

The youth have asked for a lock-in again this year. We are currently looking for a date that works. Something in late Feb or early March. If you can help chaperone or would like to help plan this event, please talk to Pastor David. Thank you!

### Opportunities to Volunteer from The Link

#1. The New London LINK site will be in need of an ongoing volunteer/s for Tuesdays from 2-6pm. The volunteer at this site assists with the household item collection and distribution, receiving donations and helping to disburse them. The volunteer needs to be friendly and outgoing, able to relate directly to both guests and donors, be able to do minimal record keeping and willing to help keep household item storage area clean and organized. Whether you are willing to volunteer once a month or every week we would be happy to have you join our team of volunteers. Training will be provided.

#2. This is a one-time need, probably done best by a group of

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That for a day: Honesty is the best policy, but insanity is a better defense.

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volunteers. Another agency in Willmar has put word out for some help moving a family in need. (Even though this opportunity is in Willmar I bring it up as a way we help partner with other agencies throughout the area.)

Feb 26th is the move date and bodies and vehicle(s) are needed to move the family and furnishings (size of 2 br apt) from one part of Willmar to another.

Please contact The Link (info on page 19) if you are interested in helping in either of the above opportunities.

## Upcoming Events...

### FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

February 13

As always, our annual "Friendship Sunday" is a great opportunity to invite some friends to come and meet the Ultimate Friend: Jesus.

#### **Special Events:**

- Worship service celebrating our Greatest Friend, Jesus
- Valentines Brunch after worship - prepared by men of the congregation
- Mark your calendars and start praying about friends you will invite. (Talk to God about your friends, then talk to your friends about God)

### **MATCHING FUNDS 'THANK YOU'**

As of last Sunday we have received \$6714 in our Matching Funds drive.

Donations can still be made, but will be credited to 2011 giving.

## February Discipleship Verse...



*"Were not our hearts burning within us as He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"*

**Luke 24:32**

## February - Daily Devotionals

### February "What God Says About" Bible Readings

The daily readings for 50 DAYS ABLAZE. Full Devotions for the 50 Days readings are available at church

#### 50 Days Ablaze Readings: What God Says About ... GIVING

Jan 30 Psalm 145:16 "Give With An Open Hand" \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 31 Matthew 6:24 "Give With A Servant's Heart" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 1 Exodus 4:1-3 "Give What You Have" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 2 Mark 14:3 "Give Extravagantly" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 3 Luke 12:32-33 "Give Eternally" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 4 1 Chronicles 21:24 "Give What Will Cost" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 5 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 "Give Cheerfully" \_\_\_\_\_

#### 50 Days Ablaze Readings: What God Says About ... TELLING

Feb 6 John 1:38-42 "Tell Them First" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 7 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 "Tell It Boldly" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 8 Deuteronomy 11:18-22 "Tell It To Your Children" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 9 Mark 16:1-7 "Tell The Disciples and PETER" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 10 1 John 3:19-20 "Tell Yourself" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 11 Ephesians 4:31-32 "Tell: 'I Forgive You.'" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 12 Luke 19:35-40 "Tell of His Name (or the rocks will)" \_\_\_\_\_

#### 50 Days Ablaze Readings: What God Says About ... SENDING

Feb 13 John 17:15-18 "Sent into a Changing World" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 14 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 "Sent to do Whatever We Can" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 15 Matthew 27:51-54 "Sent to a Shaken World" \_\_\_\_\_

## "What Does God Say About...?"

Feb 16 Acts 13:36 "Sent With A Purpose" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 17 Acts 13:1-3 "The Sending Church" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 18 Matthew 10:16-20 "Sent to Babylon or Jerusalem?" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 19 Isaiah 6:1-8 "Send Me!" \_\_\_\_\_

#### 50 Days Ablaze Readings: What God Says About ... GOING

Feb 20 Luke 14:15-23 "Go Into the Streets" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 21 Matthew 28:18-20 "As You Go Wherever You Go..." \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 22 Matthew 28:18-19 "Go Because He Says So" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 23 2 Thessalonians 3:3-5 "Go, And Don't Stop Going" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 24 Matthew 5:38-41 "Go the Extra Mile" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 25 John 13:12-17 "Go and Wash Feet" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 26 Acts 1:8 "Go Into the World" \_\_\_\_\_

#### 50 Days Ablaze Readings: What God Says About ... CELEBRATING

Feb 27 John 15:11 "Celebrate the Joy" \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 28 Luke 15:1-10 "Celebrate the Homecoming" \_\_\_\_\_

Mar 1 Luke 24:52-53 "Celebrate the Community" \_\_\_\_\_

Mar 2 Psalm 118:24 "Celebrate the Day" \_\_\_\_\_

Mar 3 Psalm 96:10-13 "Celebrate His Greatness" \_\_\_\_\_

Mar 4 Philippians 4:4-7 "Celebrate the Carefree Life" \_\_\_\_\_

Mar 5 Revelation 21:1-4 "Celebrating God's Handkerchiefs" \_\_\_\_\_

## February 2011 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Jan 30 50 DAYS ABLAZE: GIVE</b>  8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - 50 Days Ablaze: PRAY - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship  6:45 50 Days Study: @ LWLC	<b>Jan 31</b>     7:00 Elders' Team	<b>Feb 1</b>    6:00 Men's Group 50 Days Ablaze	<b>Feb 2</b>  9:30 Moms': 50 Days Noon Women's 50 Days 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Sr. High 50 Days 7:00 50 Days Study @ Pam Johnson's	<b>Feb 3</b>  Noon NL-S Ministerial At NL-S   7:30 50 Days Study @ DQ	<b>Feb 4</b>    7:00 50 Days Study @ Dauk's	<b>Feb 5</b>    6:30 50 Days Study @ Tm Geer's
<b>6 50 DAYS ABLAZE: TELL</b>  8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - 50 Days Ablaze: GIVE - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship  6:45 50 Days Study: @ LWLC	<b>7</b>   Circuit Pastors Mtg.	<b>8</b>   6:00 Men's Group 50 Days Ablaze	<b>9</b>  9:30 Moms': 50 Days Noon Women's 50 Days 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Sr. High 50 Days 6:30 LWML / Bldg Mtg 7:00 50 Days Study @ Pam Johnson's	<b>10</b>   7:30 50 Days Study @ DQ	<b>11</b>   7:00 50 Days Study @ Dauk's	<b>12</b>   6:30 50 Days Study @ Tm Geer's
<b>13 50 DAYS ABLAZE: SEND (FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY)</b>  8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - 50 Days Ablaze: TELL - Sunday School 10:00 FRIENDSHIP Worship 11:15 FRIENDSHIP Brunch  6:45 50 Days Study: @ LWLC	<b>14</b>     	<b>15</b>  6:00 Men's Group 50 Days Ablaze  7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	<b>16</b>  9:30 Moms' 50 Days Noon Women's 50 Days 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Sr. High 50 Days 7:00 50 Days Study @ Pam Johnson's	<b>17</b>   7:30 50 Days Study @ DQ	<b>18</b>   7:00 50 Days Study @ Dauk's	<b>19</b>   6:30 50 Days Study @ Tm Geer's
<b>20 50 DAYS ABLAZE: GO</b>  8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - 50 Days Ablaze: SEND - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship  6:45 50 Days Study @ LWLC	<b>21</b>     	<b>22</b>  6:00 Men's Group 50 Days Ablaze	<b>23</b>  9:30 Moms' 50 Days Noon Women's 50 Days 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Sr. High 50 Days 7:00 50 Days Study @ Pam Johnson's	<b>24</b>   7:30 50 Days Study @ DQ	<b>25</b>   7:00 50 Days Study @ Dauk's	<b>26</b>   6:30 50 Days Study @ Tm Geer's
<b>27 50 DAYS: CELEBRATE</b>  8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - 50 Days Ablaze: GO Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship  6:45 50 Days Study @ LWLC	<b>28</b>     	<b>March 1</b>  6:00 Men's Group 50 Days Ablaze	<b>March 2</b>  9:30 Moms' 50 Days Noon Women's 50 Days 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Sr. High 50 Days 7:00 50 Days Study @ Pam Johnson's	<b>March 3</b>  Noon NL-S Ministerial   7:30 50 Days Study @ DQ	<b>March 4</b>   7:00 50 Days Study @ Dauk's	<b>March 5</b>   6:30 50 Days Study @ Tm Geer's

## Upcoming Schedules...

### Elders

Feb 6 Jason Miller & Troy Hansen  
Feb 20 Bryson Wachter & Brady Sharp

Mar 6 Jason Miller & Troy Hansen  
Mar 20 Bryson Wachter & Brady Sharp

Apr 3 Jason Miller & Troy Hansen  
Apr 17 Bryson Wachter & Brady Sharp

### Scripture Readers

Feb 6 Mark Fuglie 796-6975  
Feb 13 Tammy Fuglie 796-6975  
Feb 20 Lu Kiehm 979-0097  
Feb 27 Tammy Wachter 796-6222

Mar 6 Duane Hansen 796-5605  
Mar 13 Scott Wachter 796-6222  
Mar 20 Bryson Wachter 894-6378  
Mar 27 Wendy Robbin 354-9049

Apr 3 Mona Hjelle 354-4315  
Apr 10 Phil Iverson 354-4932  
Apr 17 Kevin Welsh 796-6840  
Apr 24 Carolyn Rossow 952-738-1036

### Usher & Greeter Schedule

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
Feb 6	Brandon Sharp	Bryson Wachter
Feb 13	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter	Laurel Iverson
Feb 20	Brian Tri & Troy Hansen	Lu Kiehm
Feb 27	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen	Gerri & Paulette

Mar 6	Lonny Robbin & Jason Olson	Bryson Wachter
Mar 13	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer	Laurel Iverson
Mar 20	Kevin & Noah Welsh	Lu Kiehm
Mar 27	Linda Dilley & Lu Kiehm	Gerri & Paulette

Apr 3	Mona Hjelle & Paulette Spletter	Bryson Wachter
Apr 10	Brady Sharp & Wally Abraham	Laurel Iverson
Apr 17	Jamie & Phil Iverson	Lu Kiehm
Apr 24	Joe Johnson & Anthony Dauk	Gerri & Paulette

Fill-in Greeter Bonnie Hansen 796-5605 Please call Bonnie if you aren't able to greet on your scheduled Sunday

That for a day: Hospitality is making your guests feel at home, even if you wish they were.

### Fellowship Servers

Feb 6 Lu Kiehm / Mona Hjelle  
Feb 13 Laurel Iverson / Violet Dauk  
Feb 20 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen  
Feb 27 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson

Mar 6 Wendy Robbin / Stacy Olson  
Mar 13 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie  
Mar 20 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller  
Mar 27 Lu Kiehm / Mona Hjelle

Apr 3 Laurel Iverson / Violet Dauk  
Apr 10 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen  
Apr 17 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson  
Apr 24 Easter

### Children's Church Schedule

Feb 6	Carolyn Rossow	952-738-1036
Feb 13	Mariah Welsh	796-6840
Feb 20	Joe Johnson	354-3545
Feb 27	Kasey Nieland	354-2036

Mar 6	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
Mar 13	Emily Fuglie	796-6975
Mar 20	Mikayla Geer & Halee Lucas	
Mar 27	Carolyn Rossow	952-738-1036

Apr 3	Mariah Welsh	796-6840
Apr 10	Joe Johnson	354-3545
Apr 17	Kasey Nieland	354-2036
Apr 24	Mona Hjelle	354-4315

### Meal Deliveries

#### Meal Makers

Tammy Fuglie  
Lu Kiehm

#### Meal Takers

Tammy Fuglie  
Lu Kiehm

### Acolyte

Feb 6	Grace Geer	Mar 6	Grace Geer
Feb 13	Michelle Johnson	Mar 13	Michelle Johnson
Feb 20	Matthew Tri	Mar 20	Matthew Tri
Feb 27	Jacob Beeler	Mar 27	Caleb Beeler

Apr 3	Grace Geer	Apr 17	Matthew Tri
Apr 10	Michelle Johnson	Apr 24	Jacob Beeler



## E-Mail Humor...

Johnny's mother looked out the window and noticed him "playing church" with their cat. The cat was sitting quietly and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work.

A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub of water. She called out, "Johnny, stop that! The cat's afraid of water!"

Johnny looked up at her and said, "He should have thought about that before he joined my church."

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At their Garage Sale, someone put all of the "junk" they just wanted to get rid of into a carton and placed a sign on the outside: "Free Box."

Moments after they set it at the foot of the driveway, a man drove up, looked at the sign on the box, dumped its contents on the lawn, and drove off with it.

(Sometimes things just aren't meant to be taken literally.)

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A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object to share with the class that represented their religion.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David."

The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary."

The third student got in up front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am Lutheran, and this is a hot dish."

## Lutheran Island Camp...

**CREATION-SCIENCE ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER**  
At Lutheran Island Camp

### What is it?

Believed to be the first environmental learning center devoted exclusively to teaching creation-science, C-SELIC is located on Christ Serve Ranch. This 275-acre piece of property has at least 7 biomes, including lake, pond, prairie, native forest, cultivated forest, lawn, and meadows. It has abundant wildlife reflective of the region, including whitetail deer, turkeys, fox, waterfowl, forest rodents, prairie wildlife, and over 70 species of birds. The woods and prairie contain plant life that includes the most common to the very rare.

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That for a day: I am a Nobody. Nobody is perfect. Therefore I am perfect.

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### C-SELIC Summer Camps

Our Creation-Science Camps are intended to provide fun, education, and an opportunity to learn and grow. We combine the very best aspects of camp life with the excitement of explosions, construction, destruction, blastoffs of rockets, hunting insects and animals, getting lost and found, and lots of other activities that will teach in new and interesting ways.

We use God's word as a truthful presentation of the facts of creation, the Flood, man's sinful nature, and our salvation through Jesus Christ. These events are all important and interrelated.

Through the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center, youth and adults will have an opportunity to observe and participate in God's creation in unique and exciting ways. Come and join us – be a part of God's creation.

*"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ." Colossians 2:8*

*"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to God." II Corinthians 10:5*

Because of kind donors, we are able to offer this program at a rate nearly 40% less than what it actually costs. However, if cost is an issue, please contact us and we will work something out!

Educators and parents, we welcome you to come along with your students. For every 10 students who come, we are committed to providing one free week to a teacher so that they can learn how to teach creation science. Regular rate for parents or educators (\$225) While our teaching and Bible Studies will be done from a Lutheran perspective, we welcome people from all Christian denominations. Both private and public school students, as well as home-schooled students are welcome to attend

### The Instructor

Brian Young is the founder of CIA (Creation Instruction Association). He will be leading both weeks of Young Scientist. Brian is a noted author, lecturer, speaker, and evangelist who **uses both Biblical AND scientific evidence to support a literal six-day creation and a young earth that is thousands not billions of years old.** He debunks evolution and Darwinism while raising up the cross of Christ as the way of salvation from the sin that man fell into shortly after creation. Brian lectures and debates throughout the country and has been challenged by some of the leading critics of a literal creation.

He is an educator by vocation and an evangelist by avocation. Young Scientists will grow immensely by this experience.

## Programs Offered:

### YOUNG SCIENTIST PROGRAM

"BANG!" "Whoosh!" "Wow!" Science can be exciting at Lutheran Island Camp. Our Young Scientist Program uses science to better understand God's creation and the universe that surrounds us. Brian Young teaches God's word while helping participants see how the truth of science supports the facts of creation.

Ages: 10-15

Dates:

Young Scientist 1-June 12-17

Young Scientist 2-June 26-July 1

Young Scientist 3-July 31-August 5

(This event now has room for about 10 more)

Cost: \$350

### CREATION-SAFARI CAMP

Send your child on the ultimate journey of exploration. God has given us a wonderful place to search for strange animals, neat plants, big fish, and lots of bugs. During our Creation-Safari camps we'll be teaching youth to see just how miraculous those creations are. We'll have fun with butterflies, fish, horses, flowers, and bugs. At the same time we'll be taking a safari into God's word to hunt dinosaurs, giant fish, exotic plants, and strange weather patterns.

Ages: 8-11

Dates:

Creation Safari 1-July 10-15

Creation Safari 2-July 17-22

Creation Safari 3-August 7-12

Cost: \$310

### CREATION PHOTOGRAPHY AND ART

Join other photographers and artists who have a special desire to learn how to capture God's magnificent creation through their art. Led by a professional photographer, you'll see nature as it gives birth, blooms, takes to the sky, and brings forth beauty.

Ages: 12 and older

Dates: June 5-10

Cost: \$265

### TEACHING YOUR FAMILY ABOUT CREATION

This weekend event will help parents and children learn about the most up-to-date creation science and how to teach and live it. They will discover that much of the "evidence" of evolution is based on false information and unproven theories. This will be a great family opportunity to have the tools to respond to questions and challenges to our faith.

Ages: Family

Dates: June 17-19

Cost: \$85 per person, children under 5 free,  
\$300 maximum per family.



## NEWS FROM THE LINK

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

### From Naomi Mahler The Director

Why do we do the work that we do at The Link?

Why do we try to end or alleviate poverty?

For me it is in part based on my belief that all humans are made in the image of God, and therefore that all people are of infinite value. I believe that we are all tied together as children of God.

Martin Luther King Jr. in his book *Strength to Love* put it this way:

In a real sense, all life is interrelated. All people are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality.

A statewide movement to end poverty in Minnesota by 2020, *A Minnesota Without Poverty* puts it this way:

Poverty diminishes us all, and reversing the cycle of poverty is the responsibility and opportunity for all those whose lives are based on values and/or faith. Whatever the guiding principles may be in our lives, we can agree that *no one should grow up in poverty.*

Check out [www.mnwithoutpoverty.org/](http://www.mnwithoutpoverty.org/) for more information about how we can end poverty by working together.



### Join our email network or volunteer!!



Sign up for our email network and get updates about events, volunteer opportunities, and the chance to respond to the needs of your neighbors. Contact us today and help us work towards our mission! Call Naomi at 796-2522 or email at [flc\\_naomi@tds.net](mailto:flc_naomi@tds.net)

### WANTED: A FEW GOOD BOARD MEMBERS

The Link is looking for energetic and dedicated board members who are committed to carrying out the organization's mission of "Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other."

Board members are expected to regularly attend monthly board meetings, help engage in fundraising efforts, and promote the work of the Link in the community at large. Ideal candidates will be open, creative, innovative and interested in serving the greater good. Currently the board meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month from 6:00-7:30pm. For more information and a board member application please contact Naomi Mahler, Director of The Link at 796-2522 or [flc\\_naomi@tds.net](mailto:flc_naomi@tds.net).

### CURRENT LINK BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Helmstetter  
Susan Lange  
Pam Lindahl  
Michelle Iverslie  
Chery Johnson  
Jane Andersen  
Char Erickson  
Tammy Olson  
Rhonda Otteson  
Rev. Matthew Peterson



### TUESDAY'S TABLE ALL ARE WELCOME!



Don't forget to join us for Tuesday's Table, the community meal taking place every Tuesday evening in the New London-Spicer area. Local churches are taking turns hosting the meals. Please connect with your church to find out about opportunities to serve at these dinners. These meals are a chance for people to meet others, enjoy a meal together and to build relationships. All meals are free of charge and open to **everyone!** The monthly schedule is as follows:

*All meals are served 6:00-6:30pm*

1 <sup>st</sup> Tues	Our Lady of the Lakes
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	Evangelical Covenant
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	Faith Lutheran
4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	Peace Lutheran
5 <sup>th</sup> Tues	Hope Presbyterian

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

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, *"Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty."*

Then the second tree said, *"Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take Kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull."*

Finally the third tree said, *"I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest Tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me."*

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, *"This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter,"* and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree the woodsman said, *"This looks like a strong tree. I should be able to sell it to the shipyard."* The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, *"I don't need anything special from my tree, I'll take this one,"* and he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for.

The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end.

The third tree was cut into large pieces, and left alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams.

Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave

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Thot for a day: Remember that Triumph is just a little "ump" added to "try."

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birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and He stood and said *"Peace"* and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, God will give you great gifts.

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight."* Proverbs 3:5-6

Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined.

We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His Ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.

## Sunday School News...

### Morning Prayer:

Jesus Friend of little children, be a Friend to me take my hand and ever keep me close to thee. Amen

### Memory Verse:

"Let the little children come to me." Mark 10:14

### Lessons:

Feb. 6: "Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man" Mark 2:1-12

Feb. 13: "Friendship" Special Lesson

Feb. 20: "The Transfiguration" Mark 9:2-10

Feb. 27: "Jesus Calms a Storm" Mark 4:35-41



## Story Behind The Song...

### *I Love To Tell The Story*

Arabella Catherine Hankey, commonly known as Kate Hankey was not born into the kind of family that typically rears song-writers and missionaries. Kate was born in 1834 and grew up in a fashionable London suburb as the daughter of a wealthy British banker. However, Kate had a passion for the gospel that sent her into the world to share the Good News.

Nothing is known of how or when Kate Hankey came to Christ. However, it is told that she started a Bible class for the girls in her neighborhood when she was young. By the time she was eighteen, she went to London and started a Bible class for girls who worked in the factories. She started a second class when she was in her twenties. Obviously, Kate's passion was sharing the gospel.

In her thirties, Kate became seriously ill. Her doctors put her on bed rest and told her she could not teach her Bible classes for twelve months. However, despite her illness, Kate still believed in the gospel and desired to share it with those around her. When she began her bed rest she wrote a poem that became the hymn *Tell Me the Old, Old Story* about ten months later she wrote *I Love to Tell the Story*.

After ten months, Kate's strength returned and she was able to leave her bed. Soon she began teaching her classes again. She continued to teach the gospel to factory girls until she was too old to sustain the commitment.

Even when she was too old to teach factory girls, Kate found a way to share the gospel. Kate started a prison ministry in London. Kate died in 1911 but the world is still reminded of the gospel and Kate's passion for it whenever they hear the song *I Love to Tell the Story* or its companion *Tell Me the Old, Old Story*.

Kate Hankey clearly loved the Lord and took to heart I Peter 3:15 "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." When today's Christians today sing her hymns, the call to carry the message forward can be heard in the word's she penned.

Sources: Peterson, William J. and Ardythe. *The Complete Book of Hymns: Inspiring Stories About 600 Hymns and Praise Songs*. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006.

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Thot for a day: Life is not about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.

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I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love.  
I love to tell the story, Because I know 'tis true;  
It satisfies my longings As nothing else can do.

Chorus: I love to tell the story;  
'Twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old, story  
Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story; How pleasant to repeat -  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
The message of salvation from God's own Holy Word.

(Chorus)

I love to tell the story; For those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long.

(Chorus)

## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



**FLANNEL... the fabric of love**  
for Minnesota's very own 'Victorious Seekers' all  
flannel lingerie ad campaign. **Mt. 7:7**