

gives us the victory through

our Lord Jesus Christ.

— 1 Corinthians 15:57

"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 County 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...**

"Why does the Church (i.e. Christian organizations in the US that agree Jesus is Lord and the Bible is the Word of God) ignore critical issues that directly affect God's people?" One example given is the recent widespread usage of full-body scanners in airports.

I have to agree that the use of these scanners poses a problem for Christians who are instructed in the Bible to be modest. But I'm not sure I have a definite answer for why this issue (and many others) has been largely ignored by the Church. Quite likely there are several factors that come into play.

It is certainly true that the Christian Church as a whole (as well as individual parts of it) chooses to focus on certain violations of God's will while at the same time choosing to ignore others. For example, many Christian churches and organizations (including the LC-MS) have been very vocal in opposition to abortion and also to homosexual marriages. These same organizations have remained silent on issues like the body scanners that affect even greater numbers of people than abortion or homosexuality.

I expect that a part of the answer lies in the fact that every organization - the Church included - has limited resources and needs to make choices about where to focus those resources. It's likely that the old adage "You have to pick your battles," applies here. Obviously, promotion of abortion and homosexuality are things that have a huge affect on society as a whole and are definitely battles worth picking. But so - it would seem - are other battles that haven't been picked.

Page 3

There are countless immoral and unethical things in our society that are also either legal or culturally acceptable. It truly would be an overwhelming and costly task to keep everyone updated about each instance where culture and governments encourage (or even mandate) things that are contrary to God's will. In fact, several years back the LC-MS had a "Government correspondent" in Washington D.C. who had the task of keeping the church informed about bills and laws that affected us. As resources dwindled that position was eliminated.

Another part of the answer may have to do with people's passion for certain issues. For example, abortion and homosexuality get a lot of "airplay" in churches because those are issues that many people are quite passionate about. I don't observe the same widespread levels of passion for the body-scanner issue. It seems to be one of those things that the majority of people "don't like," but are also willing to "put up with."

Given all that, I would like to suggest a couple of things:

 If there is an issue you feel passionate about, pray about how God would use you to be involved. Research the issue and look for opportunities where God can use that passion.

 Check out a couple of places I've found that do attempt to make Christians aware of at least some of the issues contrary to God's will.

One is "The Baloney Shop" at the Lutheran Hour Ministries Men's Network website:

http://www.lhmmen.com/newsletter/article.asp?id=18847 In our Tuesday evening Men's study we have looked at quite a few "Baloney Shop" episodes where things that are promoted in the media are simply found to be a "bunch of baloney."

The other is Focus on the Family. I receive regular emails from their organization. These emails are designed to keep Christians informed about laws and cultural trends that Christians need to know about. On the next page is one such article that debunks the myth that religion must be kept separate from public life - and encourages us to be bold in expressing our faith.

> Thanks for asking, Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Dear Friend,

In the past several months, we have shared with you many stories of religious liberty being threatened by groups wanting nothing less than to sanitize every reference to religion in the public square. It's clear that we can't afford to take our religious freedoms for granted. But this week, I want to share an inspirational story from Bell County, Kentucky.

Shortly after school went back into session, students and staff at Bell County High School learned they could no longer begin sporting events with their long-standing tradition of prayer. This past summer, an organization known as Freedom from Religion Foundation sent a formal complaint to the school district stating several students had complained about the prayers. The school complied—but thankfully, the fans didn't.

You can view the CitizenLink Report, in which Stuart Shepard and I show the inspirational footage from Bell County and discuss our right to religious freedom.

www.citizenlink.com/2011/10/04/small-towns-called-outover-faith/

At the start of Bell County's homecoming game, hundreds of fans showed up wearing t-shirts that read "Let Us Pray." During the "moment of silence" that had replaced the prayer, fans took it upon themselves to stand up for their right to express their faith, reciting various prayers audibly, including The Lord's Prayer.

I am so encouraged to see this strong display of faith, especially in the face of adversity. The Freedom from Religion Foundation stands on a premise that exists nowhere in the U.S. Constitution or law—that somewhere, somehow there is a protection from religion. In reality, we have protection *for* religion. Our 1st Amendment protects our right to express our faith, openly and freely.

Please join me in prayer for the citizens of Bell County as they stand up for their religious freedom, as well as for others who are facing similar opposition. We must continue to respond with grace and truth as we speak up for what we believe.

For faith and family, Tom Minnery Senior VP, Government & Public Policy, Focus on the Family avoid fatigue. ī concerned moderate where pleasure is ഷ് 흏 σ f Thot Page 5

Page 4

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

My doctor told me what medicine to take. I decided he had no right to tell me what to do and refused to take the pills. Then I got sick. I went to a fitness trainer. She showed me some work-out routine to do but I thought it was unnecessary. Now I'm out of shape. My nutritionist was telling me what foods would be best for me to eat. It offended me 'cause I prefer to eat junk food. I gained weight. My dentist told me how to effectively clean my teeth every day. I was mad that he pushed his agenda on me and ignored him. Now I have tooth decay. My mechanic showed me the maintenance information that my car's manual advised. I told him I believe there are many ways to take care of an engine. Now my car broke down. The bicycle shop derk told me how to assemble my new bike. Bicyclists are such fanatics so I told him I didn't have to follow ALL those instructions, just the ones that felt right for me. Now my bike broke. And I fell down. I got advice from a carpenter on how to build a garage. He told me a bunch of bunk about safety and structural soundness. I knew that he was just trying to get more money out of me, so I built it my own way. My garage fell down. On my car. And on my bike. And on my head. The paramedic told me to stay calm and lay still. I told him that it's my body and I can make my own decisions .... My new physical therapist wants me to do some dumb exercises to get "full range of motion back". I told her I'd do them if I feel like it. Now my pastor is trying to tell me to follow what God says to do in the Bible. I told him I can make my own decisions. I'm sure I'll be fine. Christian Fellowship Church CHURCH PARKING TRESPASSERS WILL BE BAPTISED Rev. Laurence Weaver | Sunday Service: 11:00



The LINK Update...

News from The Link Nov. 2011 Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other,

**From the director...**WE MET OUR GOAL! Thanks to all your support we met the challenge grant goal of raising \$20,000 by September 30<sup>th</sup>! We will now receive an additional \$10,000 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for the work of The Link. Additionally, we were awarded a \$15,000 grant from Otto Bremer Foundation with another \$10,000 challenge grant attached. We have one year to meet this challenge – a one-to-one match of \$10,000.

While these grants go far to help The Link meet our expenses and serve our neighbors, we still need your ongoing support of our work. Please consider how you will become an on-going supporter of this important ministry in our

community.

Mark your calendars! On December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Faith Lutheran Church please join together with other supporters of The Link for a fundraising concert as we celebrate the gifts of the season in song and music.

Naomi Mahler, Director The Link

#### Did you know???

On October 15<sup>th</sup> The Link hosted the Just the Basics and Winter Wear Distribution. 91 households were served. People in communities all over the county and beyond came to get basic household supplies and winter outerwear. Over half of the respondents to our intake form reported a monthly household income of \$1000 or less.

CHILD OF JOY AND PEACE An Evening of Advent and Christmas Music Featuring choirs and solicits from area congregations Sunday Dec 4<sup>TH</sup> 7pm Faith Lutheran Church, Spicer A free-will offering will be received to benefit The Link. Link Send donations c/o of The Link's fiscal host, Faith Lu-

theran Church, 310 Medayto

Designate your check for The

If you have any questions or

Mahler, the director at 320-

concerns contact Naomi

Dr, Spicer, MN 56288.

Link.

796-2522 or

flc\_naomi@tds.net

Page 7

Page 6

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### E-Mail Humor...

Moms will appreciate this one .....

The child was a typical four-year-old girl - cute, inquisitive, bright as a new penny. When she expressed difficulty in grasping the concept of marriage, her father decided to pull out his wedding photo album, thinking visual images would help.

One page after another, he pointed out the bride arriving at the church, the entrance, the wedding ceremony, the recessional, the reception, etc.

"Now do you understand?" he asked.

"I think so," she said, "is that when mommy came to work for us?"

\*\*\*\*\*

A 4-year-old boy who was asked to give thanks before Thanksgiving dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the Cool Whip.

Then he paused, and everyone waited--and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't he know that I'm lying?"

\*\*\*\*\*

The Junior Sunday School Teacher asked her eight eager 10year-olds if they would give \$1,000,000 to the missionaries.

"YES!" they all screamed!!

"Would you give \$1,000?" Again they shouted "YES!"

"How about \$100?" "Oh, YES we would!" they all agreed!!

"Would you give just a dollar to the missionaries?" she asked.

The boys exclaimed "YES!" just as before except for Johnnie.

"Johnnie," the teacher said as she noticed the boy clutching his pocket, "why didn't you say 'YES' this time?"

"Well," he stammered, "I HAVE a dollar."

It would be more funny .... if it weren't so true.

### **Building Update...**

### Help Us Build A New Kind of Hero Sandwich

Praise God! We are excited to be in a position to begin the loan process towards building our new church! With this in mind, we can anticipate a ground-breaking sometime this spring!

To get the new year and our new building off to a good start, we are starting a campaign to get caught up on some bills. We are asking your help to build the "You're a HERO Sandwich".

By donating certain amounts\*, you can select the sandwich fixings to put on the felt board at church. The faster the sandwich builds, the closer all of us are to having our new church building. And when we meet our goal, we'll all get to have a soup and Hero sandwich party!

You can donate by bringing in your donations to church or mailing a check payable to:

> Living Word Lutheran Church PO Box 242 New London, MN 56273



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Page 9

Page 8

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

#### Immediate Need for Altar Guild Members

Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you could serve the Lord in this way. Thanks!

#### <u>Make a Meal</u>

We have people in difficult circumstances who could use a meal. Can you fix one for someone? Let Pastor know. Thanks!

#### Still in Need of Children's Church Leaders

We are in immediate need of Children's Church Leaders. 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 Pastor David if you could help lead Children's Church.

#### **Operation Christmas Child...**

"The Power of A Simple Gift" Collecting Shoe Boxes Now Through Nov. 13



Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through simple, gift-filled shoe boxes and evangelistic material that tell the Good News of God's love.

Here are some ways you can make a difference:

Pray... that God will touch the heart of every child who receives shoe box gift, and that He will bring many children and families to faith in Christ.

Pack a Gift... A Shoe box filled with small toys and other gifts can open hurting hearts to God's love. Instructional brochures on "How to Pack a Shoe Box" are available at church.

Included \$7 Donation... Remember to give \$7 per box to cover shipping and other project costs.

Pick up a "How to Pack Your Shoe Box" brochure from the Ushers' Table and start collecting items for your shoe box. It's a great family project and brings Christ and Christmas to hurting kids around the world. Shoebox dedication Sunday is Nov. 13.

### You can help with our Support of Heidy

We have committed to \$32/month to help pay for basic needs and Christian education opportunities for Heidy. Donations may be placed in the "Heidy" box on the usher table at church.

Thank you!

## **November- Daily Devotionals**

We finish the "God's Favorite Songs" readings. As you read, write down... (E) Emotions demonstrated,

(P) Principles about God and life that are taught, (MP) Mental Pictures that stick in your mind, and

(LS) the Life-Situation you would find this song helpful for.

\*\* Passages with asterisks have songs or hymns based on them.

#### The rest of the month we read passages that deal with GIVING THANKS.

t 31	Luke 1:68-79 E:	MP	
	P:	L-S:	
lov 1	Revelation 5:9-14** E:	MP	
		L-S:	
Nov 2		MP	
	P:	L-S:	
Nov 3	Revelation 15:1-4** E:	MP	
	P:	L-S:	
Nov 4	Revelation 12:7-12 E:	MP	
	P:	L-S:	
Nov 5	Revelation 19:1-7** E:	MP	
	P:	L-S:	
lov 7		INGS GIVING THANKS IN THE PSA	LMS
	Psalm 28:6-7 Psalm 50:14-15		LMS
Nov 8	Psalm28:6-7  Psalm 50:14-15		LMS
Nov 8 Nov 9	Psalm 28:6-7 Psalm 50:14-15 Psalm 75:1		LMS
Nov 8 Nov 9 Nov 10	Psalm 28:6-7 Psalm 50:14-15 Psalm 75:1 Psalm 100		LMS
Nov 8 Nov 9 Nov 10 Nov 11	Psalm 28:6-7 Psalm 50:14-15 Psalm 75:1 Psalm 100 Psalm 106:1		LMS
Nov 8 Nov 9 Nov 10 Nov 11	Psalm 28:6-7 Psalm 50:14-15 Psalm 75:1 Psalm 100 Psalm 106:1 Psalm 118:1-4, 19-21, 28-29 _		LMS

## "Giving Thanks"

Nov 15	Ezra 3:10-11			
Nov 16	Daniel 6:10			
Nov 17	Mark 6:35-44			
Nov 18	Luke 17:11-19			
Nov 19	Revelation 11:16-18			
Nov 21	Wk of Nov 20 DAILY READINGS GIVING THANKS 1 Corinthians 15:50-57			
Nov 22	2 Corinthians 9:10-15			
Nov 23	Ephesians 5:3-4			
Nov 24	Ephesians 5:19-21			
Nov 25	Philippians 1:3-6			
Nov 26	Philippians 4:4-7			
Nov 28	Wk of Nov 27 DAILY READINGS GIVING THANKS Colossians 2:6-7			
Nov 29	Colossians 3:15-17			
Nov 30	Colossians 4:2			
Dec 1	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18			
Dec2	2 Thessalonians 1:3-4			
Dec 3	1 Timothy 2:1-4			
Dec 4	Hebrews 12:28-29			

# November 2011 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday Monday		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship W Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	31 Trunk or Treat @ Green Lake Mall	Nov 1 6:00 Men's Group	2 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	3	4	5 11:00 Smoke Detector Battery Outreach
6 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	7 9:00 Circuit Pastors @ Madison	8	9 9:30 Mams' Study Noon Bible Study 6:30 LWML 6:30 Confirmation	10	11	12
13 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship Outreach Meeting	14	15 5:30 LW Helps Serve @ TUE SDAY TABLE 6:00 Men's Group 7:15 Elders Mtg	16 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	17 6:30 Sunday School Mtg 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	18	19
20 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	Noor		23 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Worship w/ Lord's Supper	24 THANKSGIVING	25	26
27 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	28	29 6:00 Men's Group	30 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:30 Advent Midweek Devotion Service 7:00 Confirmation	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3 9:00 Christmas Program Practice

Upcoming Schedules		Page 14	Page 15	Usher & Greeter Schedule Ushers Greeter
<u>Scripture Re</u> Nov 7 Nov 14 Nov 21	<u>aders</u> Linda Dilley Mark Fuglie Tammy Fuglie			Nov 7         Vern Samuelson & Wally Abraham         Bryson W           Nov 14         Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen         Laurel I           Nov 21         Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter         Bonnie H           Nov 28         Troy Hansen & Brady Sharp
Nov 28 Dec 4 Dec 11	Tammy Wachter Duane Hansen Scott Wachter	r has it.		Dec 4Lonnie Robbin & Jason OlsonBryson WDec 11Mark Fuglie & Tim GeerLaurel IDec 18Linda Dilley & Mona HjelleBonnie HDec 25Kevin & Noah WelshBonnie H
Dec 18 Dec 25	Bryson Wachter Wendy Robbin	every mother has it.	_	*Fill-in Greeter Bonnie Hansen 796-5605
Confirmation		ခ်		Lining Mand is near an Eastheadd
Nov 2 Nov 9	Pam Johnson Marcia Welsh	e l		Living Word is now on Facebook!
Nov 16	Julie Bajari			Posting the daily bible readings, church activities, and
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Eve Worship - no meal	nddē		taking prayer requests! Go to www.facebook.com to sign up for your free account. Already on facebook?
Nov 30	Pastor David	M A		search for Living Word Lutheran Church and add us to
Dec 7	Pam Johnson Marsia Walah	l e		your friend list.
Dec 14 Dec 21	Marcia Welsh	비 끝		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Julie Bajari No Class			
Dec 28	NO Class	ll și		Thanks !!!
Fellowship S	ervers	al chilo		
<mark>Fellowship S</mark> Nov 7	<u>ervens</u> Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen	ional chilo		To these people involved with the Hayride and Bonfire.
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## **Opportunities for Growth...**

### The Daily Bible Readings ... Giving Thanks

This month we finish up the readings on God's Favorite Songs and appropriately turn to readings about Giving Thanks.

### Men's Bible Study

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays @ 6:00 p.m. Guys: Join us for our study.

### NEW STUDY: WEIRD - Because Normal Isn't Working

#### Wednesday Morning Mom's Study

Wednesdays @ 9:30 - Childcare is provided Wednesday Noon Study

Open to anyone who can attend - guys and gals of all ages.

Normal people are stressed, overwhelmed, and exhausted. Many of their relationships are, at best, strained and, in most cases, just surviving. Even though we live in one of the most prosperous places on earth, normal is still living paycheck to paycheck and never getting ahead. Lust and frequent 'casual' sex are far more common than purity and a healthy married sex life. And when it comes to God, the majority believe in him, but the teachings of Scripture rarely make it into

their everyday lives. Simply put, "normal" isn't working.

In this six-session, video-based study, Craig Groeschel's WEIRD views will help you break free from the norm to lead a radically abnormal (and endlessly more fulfilling) life.

### CONFIRMATION - WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30

Parents provide the pre-class meal @ 6:15

#### Sunday Morning Study

Sunday mornings at 8:45

In our Sunday morning study we will be looking at some of the chapters you would "tear out and keep if you could only have one page.

### Sunday School @ 9:00

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Page 17

Page 16

### Upcoming Events...

### Thanksgiving Eve Worship...

Wednesday, November 23 @ 7:00 p.m. A special Thank-offering will be collected.

Please use the Song-Suggestion Box to let us know favorite songs of Thanksgiving and Praise that you'd like to sing at this service.

Bring a special "Thankoffering" to help us fill up our "Hero" Sandwich

#### Christmas Program Practice Begins... Dec. 3

Practices will be held Saturdays (Dec. 3, 10 and 17)

Program will be during worship on Sunday, December 18 (followed by our Annual Christmas Ham Dinner)

### BATTERY GIVEAWAY OUTREACH:

Daylight Saving Time ends on the moming of Sunday, November 6. As a reminder for everyone to Fall Back and to change the battery in their smoke detector, we will be doing our annual Battery Giveaway in the Spicer area over the noon hour on **Saturday, November 5.** Meet at the church at **11:00.** For more information about helping with this program, see Pastor Dave.

### TUESDAY TABLE: - NOV. 15

Living Word is putting together a group to help with the Link's Tuesday Table at Faith Lutheran on November 15, 5:45-7pm\*\*. It's a lot of work for the Faith Lutheran volunteers to host the meal each month, so it's nice that as we serve the community, we can also help out our fellow Christians. There are a variety of jobs for volunteers including serving food, bussing tables, washing dishes and being a Table Host (dining at the table and visiting with the guests). Please sign up to help on the sheet, or let Laurel or Pastor Dave know your plans to help. Meet at Faith Lutheran Church and wear your Living Word t-shirt, if you have one; Living Word pins will be handed out to wear that evening.

### November Discipleship Verse...



"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name."

Psalm 100:4

### Inspirational Story...

### The Barber

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed.

As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists."



**Page 18** 

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"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument.

The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt.

The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist!", answered the barber. "What happens, is, people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" - affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! What happens, is, people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

Have you looked for God lately?

	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 b opened to you")					
	Remember to take a time-out to be "impudent" and PRAY for things like + Safety for harvesters and hunters					
	+ Thanking God that His Word is truly His Word - all of it.					
l	+ Thanking God for people like Martin Luther who bring us back to the truth of God's Word					
	+ Thanking God for well, everything!					
L	+ God's guidance and wisdom for our Building Committee					
	+ God to give us thankful hearts.					
L	+ God to empower us to make our 2012 ministry goals a reality.					
L	+ God to open our eyes to the opportunities to plant Gospel seeds					
	Bible Wordsearch S Things to Overcom					



### Fall Voters' Assembly...

### Summary:

#### Our Constitution states:

The primary purpose of the Fall Voters' Assembly will be to review the vision and goals of the Mission and Ministry Team, and to adopt a budget to become effective at the first of the new calendar year.

On October 26, 2011 our Fall Voters' Assembly did just that. We reviewed and approved the vision and goals of the MMT for 2012. These goals are listed below.

The assembly also adopted a budget for the 2012 calendar year of \$97,295 (a \$1500 increase over 2011).

### Education:

Goal1 ) Encourage students to read their Bibles.

Bibles were given to all students and families on October 23. Students also received calendars to record their readings. Recognition and rewards will be given based on the number of readings completed.

Goal 2) Bring students and families together outside of church through quarterly activities. The hayride/bonfire was the fall quarter activity. Caroling in a horse-drawn sleigh is the activity being planned for winter.

Goal 3) Get students into the habit of regularly inviting friends

### <u>Youth</u>

Goal 1) Form a study group that meets consistently (e.g. weekly, bi-weekly)

Goal 2) Plan 2-4 Youth Group trips (e.g. Valleyfair, MOA, etc..)

Goal 3) Hold monthly Fun Nights (e.g. movie night, dodge ball, etc.. Fri/Sat)

Goal 4) Hold 4 lock-ins

Goal 5) Have a minimum of 8 youth participating in each activity

### <u>Elders</u>

Goal 1) Form more lay-led small-group studies (e.g. couples'

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Page 20

Page 21

study, young adults study, Willmar members study)

Goal 2) Get more people involved using their talents in worship (e.g. music, skits, recording, broadcasting)

Goal 3) Get the congregation more involved in praying together (e.g. prayer calendar in newsletter, weekly prayer group, elders available for prayer after worship)

### <u>Trustees</u>

Goal: To utilize our land for various activities (prior to building on it), so that we will not be assessed property tax for land classified as not used for church purposes)

### **Stewardship**

Goal: A campaign in January to encourage stewardship of all God has given.

### Congregational Outreach

Goal: To host an activity each month to get people together in fellowship and service.

e.g.	November:	Put together Thanksgiving baskets
-	December:	A Christmas Party
	January :	Whist Night
	February:	Sweetheart Dinner
	March:	St. Patrick's Party
	April:	Groundbreaking Party
	May:	Mother's Tea
	June :	"Let's Go Fishing" outings
	July:	Picnic
	August:	Camping

### Community Outreach

Goal 1) Not to have *more* events, but to focus on doing well at the events we already have.

Goal 2) Ensure that all events include an opportunity for people to have access to the Gospel (e.g. Bible-fact table tents at Mexican Dinner)

Goal 3) Redesign and update our Living Word brochure with coordinating business cards, stationary and address labels.

Thanks to all our MMT leaders for their Goals and to everyone who attended the Fall Voters' Assembly for their input and service.

### Story Behind The Song...

### "Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart"

As a teenager Henry Smith played in a high school band like many boys in the 1960s. He says, "I was playing things I wouldn't play or sing now like Jimi Hendrix and all that. I'd rather not go into that." But while in college, a spiritual revolution in his life brought him to Richmond to attend Union Theological Seminary.

"God really touched my heart," he says. "I'd been a Christian since I was a child, but he changed my way of thinking."

Then his eyes went bad. In 1978, Henry returned from seminary to work in his home church as a layperson. He had to take odd jobs to support himself as his career choices were limited by a degenerative eye disease.

Nevertheless, he remembers "being extremely thankful" during that time in his life. He had discovered that in the darkest winter there was within him an invincible summer.

One Sunday his pastor quoted 2 Corinthians 8:9, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

A paraphrase of this would be, "He came to become like us, to enable us to become like Him."

Henry decided to write a song about it:

Give thanks with a grateful heart; Give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. And now, let the weak say, "I am strong" Let the poor say "I am rich" Because of what the Lord has done for us.

"Give Thanks" was published in 1986 by Integrity Music and recorded on the album Heal Our Land in 1989. Since then it has been recorded around the world. On the opposite side of the globe from us, it's said that "Give Thanks", when hummed by strangers from the West, is recognized by Chinese Christians who are otherwise reluctant to reveal their Page 22

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Henry eventually lost his sight, but not his gratitude for God's unfailing love. He is able to play a bass guitar or the keyboard to offer songs at a church in the U.S. today, despite being blind. Henry has written over 100 other songs to fit Scripture passages. Today he runs Outback, a recording studio in Mechanicsville, Virginia.

The story behind the writing of this great Thanksgiving song echoes this verse from God's Word: *Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.* (1 Thessalonians 5:18)



A PSALM FOR TURKEYS - Let us come into his presence with 'Thanksgiving'; let us make a joyful 'GOBBLE, GOBBLE' with songs of praise. **Ps 95:2**