



Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS

December 2012 Newsletter



"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Worship Hours:

Christian Growth Hour: 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church

PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273
Located north of the New London Township Hall on Cty Rd 9 NE
Phone: 320-354-4637
Email: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net
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...

*"Do you think the world will end this month
- like the Mayan calendar says?"*

This seems to be quite a popular question these days. The 21st of December, which also happens to mark the Winter Solstice, the day when the sun will appear at noon at its lowest altitude above the horizon, has long been believed by some to signify the end of the world, based on the Mayan calendar. The ancient civilization composed calendar cycles that encompassed hundreds of years, with the last cycle, the 13th one, ending on Dec. 21, 2012.

This whole "Mayan Apocalypse" thing strikes me as being quite similar to what I've been reading this fall from some of the baseball "bloggers" that follow the Twins. Lots of totally unfounded speculation by people who apparently have way too much time on their hands. For example, one blogger posed the question, "Will the Twins sign A-Rod?" If you know anything about baseball, you know the chances of that happening are about the same as New London being chosen as the site for the next Winter Olympics.

I'd rank the possibility of both of those things happening 'right up there with' the end of the world coming this December 21. Here's why I say that: Jesus said in Mark 13:32 *"No one knows about that day or hour - not even the angels in heaven."* So to those who claim to "know" that December 21st is the last day I would say, "What part of 'no one knows' don't you understand?"

Jesus said elsewhere that the end will come *"Like a thief in the night."* In other words, it will come unannounced and unexpected. So, since December 21 has been announced globally as the end, and since lots of people are expecting it, I'd have to say there's virtually no chance that God has chosen this December 21st as the last day of the earth's existence.



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So what can we say with certainty about the end of the world? As always, instead of spouting our opinions, thoughts and ideas on the subject, we need to see what the One who actually created the world has to say. And God *is* quite clear in the Bible about many things regarding the end. Here are just a few:

- 1) The world *will* come to an end.
- 2) It will come at a time when *God* - not anyone else - says it will.
- 3) We need to *always* be ready for that last day, simply because we won't know in advance when to expect it.
- 4) We stay ready by keeping our "lamps filled with oil" (our lives filled with faith in God's Son).

I find it interesting that this hype about the end of the world is happening during the season of Advent. Advent is that time in the church year when we focus on preparing for Christ to come. In addition to preparing to celebrate His first-coming at Christmas and preparing for Him to come into our lives daily, Advent is a time when we prepare for Jesus' second-coming at the end of the world.

I'd invite you to join us the Sundays in Advent as we learn more about what the Bible says about Jesus' second coming and how to keep ourselves prepared for that great event.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Special Thank-Offerings Can Still Be Given.

God commanded the Israelites to come to the temple once a year for a joyful celebration of the blessings God provided in the harvest. This harvest festival was called the Feast of Weeks.

"Then celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you." Deuteronomy 16:10

In keeping with the example of the Israelites, on Thanksgiving Eve we came together for a special joyful celebration of the blessings God has provided us. We also brought special Thank-Offerings to the Lord in proportion to the blessings He's given us this past year.

If you weren't here for the Thanksgiving worship, you can still give your Thank-Offering during the month of December. Please use the "Thank-Offering" envelope and simply place it in the offering along with your regular offering at worship.

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."
King David in 1 Chronicles 29:14

Upcoming Events...

Mark Your December Calendars :

Advent Midweek Devotion & Prayer Service

Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12, 19 (Caroling on the 19th)

Take time out the first two Wednesday evenings of the month (December 5, 12) for a time of fellowship, devotion and prayer as a way of preparing your heart for the celebration of Christ's birth. We'll light the Advent wreath and sing some Christmas carols too. The following week (December 19) we will gather for soup and sandwich then head out Caroling. Please talk to Pastor if you or your study group can provide soup and sandwich for one of the evenings

Schedule For Dec. 5 & 12:

5:45 - 6:15	Soup & Sandwich Supper	6:15
	Devotion & Prayer Service	
7:00	Confirmation & Other	
	Regular Wednesday Evening Activities	

Schedule for Dec. 19:

Christmas Caroling

On Wednesday, December 19th we get to share the joy of Christmas with others by Christmas caroling. The details are as follows:

5:45 - Meet at the church for supper.

6:15 - Leave for caroling. (We'll start at Glen Oaks and go till we can't sing any more)

Invite a friend! The more, the warmer!

Cookie Baking Day

Saturday, December 15, at 9:00 a.m.

Bring your cookies to exchange with others - or bring your ingredients and bake 'em here! Whichever you choose it promises to be a fun day of fellowship, laughter and tasty treats.

Sunday School Christmas Program

"Miracle in the Manger"

Sunday, December 16 at 10:00 a.m. (During Sunday morning worship)

Please join us as the children of Living Word present the Christmas story, "Miracle in the Manger."

Make sure to stay after the program for our Annual Christmas Ham Dinner



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Thot for a day: If white wine goes with fish, do white grapes go with sushi?

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Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship

5:00 p.m. Celebrating the Wonder of the Light of the World

- The entire service is held in candlelight.
- The Christmas story in Word and song, plus Lord's Supper

Christmas Day

9:00 am Worship

Celebrating the Word-Made-Flesh come to dwell on Earth

Church Directory Pictures

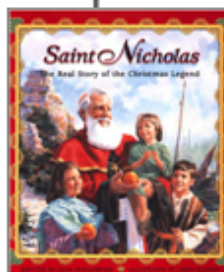
(for those who missed the November dates)

- Saturday, December 8, 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 9, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Sign up for a 15-minute time slot in the fellowship area. Please talk to Linda Dille if you aren't able to make any of the available dates.

Recommended Reading...

St. Nicholas: The Real Story of the Christmas Legend



A board book for children nursery through first grade on sale for \$3.99 at Concordia Publishing House (www.cph.org)

Many parents and teachers struggle with how to approach the Saint Nicholas/Santa Claus dilemma. Many deal with this by telling children that the legends surrounding Santa Claus are based on a real, historical figure named Nicholas, a Christian bishop known for his generosity.

Combining museum-quality artwork and family friendly language, this book dearly articulates how God showered His love upon us through Christ and helps children see that our own gift-giving is a grateful response to the sacrificial gift of God's Son.

Stress In Your Life ?

(Who doesn't have it this time of year?)

Learn How to Deal With It

In our free booklet rack (by the restroom hallway)

Stress is natural in a world damaged by sin. Stress can actually be a good warning sign - if we heed the warning and deal with it appropriately. But what is "appropriately"? Pick up one of the booklets on Stress - or others like it - from our friends at Lutheran Hour Ministries. Then pass it along to someone else.



The LINK...

December 2012

Dear Friends,

The Christmas season is upon us. As each of us plans our holiday shopping lists and considers giving to others, please consider how you might open your heart or your home and invite neighbors to share in the season. Perhaps there is a family in your congregation that has struggled with health issues, experienced recent or long-term unemployment, people that have lost loved ones or people without family in the area. Spreading cheer is often as easy as sharing cookies and a conversation.

If you are looking for an opportunity to give this, I would be happy to share ideas or thoughts! If you would like to partner with the Link, gift cards from Target, Best Buy or Wal-Mart are particularly helpful during this holiday season as people reach out for assistance in providing gifts for family members.

Christmas blessings to you and yours,
Rhonda Otteson, Link Director

Needs:

- Kitchen tables and chairs at the Link Household Exchange in New London.
- New or gently used towels and washcloths at the Link Household Exchange in New London.

Tuesday's Table in December: All are welcome!

- December 4th: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church
- December 11th: New London Evangelical Covenant Church
- December 18th: Faith Lutheran Church
- December 25th: Merry Christmas! (no Tuesday's Table)
- January 1st: Happy New Year! (no Tuesday's Table)

Please consider the Link as you plan your end of the year giving. Thank you for your support!

Donations can be sent to:
The Link
310 Medayto Drive
Spicer, MN 56288
www.thelinknls.org
320.796.2522

Community Choir Concert to benefit the Link

The event was a great success! We raised over \$5,400 to support the work of the Link.

Thank you to all that contributed to the success of this great event: choir directors, choirs, soloists, Our Lady of the Lakes for hosting, ushers, greeters, bakers, speakers, attendees. What a beautiful and inspiring evening!

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That for a day: If the folks at the psychic hotlines were really psychic, wouldn't they call you first?

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Opportunities for Growth...

Could You Host A Small Group Study This Fall?

One of our Core Values at Living Word is that making disciples (people who are committed to growing to become more like Jesus) happens best in small group settings.

For example, it's easier for people to get connected to Jesus through small groups. It's easier to get to know other Christians in small groups. Caring happens best in small groups. With that in mind we'd like to "plant" more small groups this fall. If you could host a small group study - at your home, a coffee house or at church, please talk to Pastor David. There are many different kinds of studies available. We can find one that fits your situation.

Men's Study Kickoff Night:

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Joseph: Carpenter of Steel

Starting Tuesday, November 27



The man driving the Christmas story in this Bible study is none other than Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus. Join us as host Rev. Greg Seltz, Speaker for The Lutheran Hour, sheds light on one of the New Testament's unsung heroes in Joseph: Carpenter of Steel. Adding historical perspective to this study is scholar and best-selling author Dr. Paul L. Maier.

Sunday Morning Study:

Sundays at 9:00 am

We conclude our study *The Intersection of Church & State* the first Sunday of December and then the next two Sundays we'll look at *The Real St. Nick* a man who, next to Jesus Christ, is the most visible figure during the holidays-St. Nicholas or Santa Claus-as we know him in Western culture. Dating back to the third century, St. Nick is attributed with the doing of many benevolent and charitable acts of kindness and generosity.



Mom's Study and Wednesday Noon Women's Study:

Just in time for the "Season of Generosity":

"The Genius of Generosity"

In this Living On The Edge series, Chip Ingram urges us to consider how to be truly smart when it comes to managing your finances and your very life. The secret? The Bible teaches that the wisest thing we can do with our resources is to learn to



invest them in His kingdom; and that becoming a generous person is the smartest way to prepare for an eternal future.

Reminder: Childcare is provided for the Mom's Study which begins at 9:30

Sunday School Theme for December

The Coming of Jesus and His Birth.

We have classes for Pre-school through 8th Grade.

Confirmation Kicks off With . . .

We are on a year-long tour through the Bible. This month:

Dec. 5 - "A few good men... and women" The Judges

Dec 12 - "The faith of a foreign woman" Ruth

Dec 19 - "Standing tall - falling hard" Hannah, Eli, Samuel & Saul

Dec 26/Jan 2 - Independent reading assignments

Sunday Night Youth Group

For youth (grades 5+) from 7:00 to 9:00

Please feel free to bring yourself and any friends that want to come to any Sunday night group because the more people we have the better and more fun it will be. We will be starting out taking a look at the characteristics of God and what they mean for us. Sunday nights will include some activities, a short study, and some snacks, along with other special things. Please come and hang out, have some fun, and learn about God. (P.S. we will also try and mix in a special event night every once and a while.)

Starting Sunday Evening January 13 6:00 p.m.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

What is *Financial Peace University*?

We all need a plan for our money. Financial Peace University (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more!

FPU classes meet for around an hour and a half each week for nine weeks. **Childcare will be provided.**

The average family attending Financial Peace University pays off \$5300 in debt and saves \$2700 in the first 90 days. \$100 will purchase your class membership which includes all the class materials



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Thot for a day: If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?

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you will need. **Scholarships are available to help with the membership cost - just ask.**

Please talk to class coordinator Troy Hansen for more information or to sign up for the class.

Miscellaneous Notices...

Slideshow of Building The Church Photos

Is available to watch:

1) At our website

<http://www.livingwordlutheran.net/building%20video.htm>

2) On DVD - ask Pastor David or Scott Wachter for a copy

Missed the Dedication?

We've got it on video.

Find it at our website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

Collecting Items for a Time Capsule:

Bring something that signifies our faith and church at this point in time. Maybe a cd, movie, book, photos, predictions, news clippings, etc.... Also bring a favorite Bible passage to show even though some elements of our faith and religion change over the years, the most important - the rock-solid foundation that is the Living Word of God - never will.

Usher Training

A new building means learning new ways of doing things - including usher and greeter procedures. We will have brief training sessions after worship on December 2 and 9 to cover some of the changes made necessary by our new facility.

Poinsettias Welcome

Everyone is welcome to bring a poinsettia plant to place in the sanctuary for Christmas. You may bring the plant anytime and set it on the counter. The Altar Guild will take care of it and place it around the altar.

Congratulations !

Joe Johnson on your new job!

Please email pastor@livingwordlutheran.net if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

December - Daily Devotionals

December begins with the Advent season preparing us for the coming of the Christ. Our first readings focus on prophecies of His coming. December ends with the Christmas season as we celebrate His first coming. Our month-end readings focus on that coming and what it means.

Wk of Dec 2 Daily Readings PROPHECIES of CHRIST'S COMING

Dec 3 Genesis 3:15 _____

Dec 4 Genesis 12:1-3 _____

Dec 5 Deuteronomy 18:14-19 _____

Dec 6 Psalm 68:16-20 _____

Dec 7 Micah 5:2 _____

Dec 8 Malachi 3:1-4 _____

Week of Dec 9 Daily Readings Isaiah's PROPHECIES of CHRIST'S COMING

Dec 10 Isaiah 2:4 _____

Dec 11 Isaiah 7:10-14 _____

Dec 12 Isaiah 9:6-7 _____

Dec 13 Isaiah 11:1-10 _____

Dec 14 Isaiah 42:1-8 _____

Dec 15 Isaiah 61:1-3 _____

Wk of Dec 16 Daily Readings BEFORE and AFTER CHRIST'S BIRTH

Dec 17 Luke 1:26-38 _____

Dec 18 Luke 1:39-45 _____

Dec 19 Luke 1:46-56 _____

Dec 20 Luke 2:21-24 _____

Dec 21 Luke 2:25-35 _____

Dec 22 Luke 2:36-40 _____

Wk of Dec 23 Daily Readings The BIRTH of CHRIST

Dec 24 Luke 2:1-20 _____

Dec 25 Matthew 1:18-25 _____

Dec 26 John 1:1-14 _____

Dec 27 Revelation 12:1-5 _____

Dec 28 Galatians 4:4-7 _____

Dec 29 Ephesians 1:7-10 _____

Wk of Dec 30 Daily Readings JESUS TELLS WHY HE CAME

Dec 31 Matthew 5:17-18 _____

Jan 1 Matthew 20:28 _____



Jan 2 Luke 4:42-44 _____

Jan 3 Luke 19:9-10 _____

Jan 4 John 3:16-17 _____

Jan 5 John 10:7-10 _____

December 2012 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Sunday School - Adult Forum: church/state 10:00 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship / Usher Training 7:00 Youth Group	3 9:00 Circuit Pastors @ Madison	4 6:30 Men's Study "Joseph: Carpenter of Steel"	5 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study 5:45 Soup / Sandwich 6:15 Advent Devotion 7:00 Confirmation	6	7	8 10:00-2:00 Church Directory Pictures
9 BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Sunday School - Adult Forum: Real St. Nick 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship / Usher Training noon Birthday Party For Jesus 1:00-3:00 Directory Pictures 7:00 Youth Group	10	11 6:30 Men's Study "Joseph: Carpenter of Steel" 7:15 Elders' Team	12 9:30 Mom's Study "Genius of Generosity" Noon Women's Study "Genius of Generosity" 5:45 Soup / Sandwich 6:15 Advent Devotion 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 LVWML	LORD'S SUPPER DATES FOR DECEMBER : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sundays, December 2 & 16 Christmas Eve (5pm) 		
16 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Sunday School - Adult Forum 10:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 11:15 CHRISTMAS HAM DINNER 7:00 Youth Group	17 	18 6:30 Men's Study "Joseph: Carpenter of Steel"	19 9:30 Mom's Study "Genius of Generosity" Noon Women's Study "Genius of Generosity" 5:45 Pre-Caroling Meal 6:15 Caroling	20 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	21	22
23 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Sunday School - Adult Forum 10:00 Worship - 11:15 Fellowship 7:00 Youth Group	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP (Entire service by candlelight)	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00 CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP	26  HAPPY JESUS' BIRTHDAY	27	28	29 PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY AT 11:09 EVERYDAY <i>(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")</i>
30 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 7:00 Youth Group	31 Youth New Year's Eve Party	Jan 1 12:30 Annual Whist Party @ Pastor & Violet's	Jan 2 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study 6:15 Confirm. Meal 6:30 Confirmation	Jan 3		

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Dec 2	Bryson Wachter
Dec 9	Wendy Robbin
Dec 16	Children's Christmas Program
Dec 23	Mona Hjelle
Dec 30	Phil Iverson
Jan 6	Kevin Welsh
Jan 13	Linda Dilley
Jan 20	Mark Fuglie
Jan 27	Tammy Fuglie

Fellowship Servers

Dec 2	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Dec 9	Mona Hjelle /
Dec 16	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
Dec 23	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Dec 30	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Jan 6	Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky
Jan 13	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Jan 20	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Jan 27	Mona Hjelle /

Children's Church Schedule

Dec 2	Mona Hjelle
Dec 9	Eve Bajari
Dec 16	Children's Christmas Program
Dec 23	Grace Geer
Dec 30	Donna Peterson
Jan 6	Mona Hjelle
Jan 13	Violet Dauk
Jan 20	Michelle Johnson
Jan 27	Grace Geer

Make A Meal Volunteers

December	Wendy Robbin	Bryson Wachter
January	Pam Johnson	Donna Peterson
February	Jamie Iverson	Mona Hjelle
March	Gracie Geer	Laurel Iverson
April	Pastor David	Linda Dilley

Custodian

Dec	Mona Hjelle & Nancy Jo Wendt
Jan	Custodian needed (sign up at church)

Thot for a day: With high-definition TV everything looks bigger and wider. Kind of like going to your 25th high school reunion.

Elders

Dec 2	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
Dec 16	Troy Hansen & Scott Wachter
Dec 25	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
Jan 6	Troy Hansen & Scott Wachter
Jan 13	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Dec 2	George Arends-Schmidt
Dec 9	Carson Jaspersen
Dec 16	Noah Miller
Dec 23	Andy Sharp
Dec 30	Lance Sawatzky
Jan 6	George Arends-Schmidt
Jan 13	Carson Jaspersen
Jan 20	Noah Miller
Jan 27	Andy Sharp

Usher / Greeter Schedule

Dec 2	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer	Bryson Wachter
Dec 9	Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle	Laurel Iverson
Dec 16	Kevin & Noah Welsh	Bonnie Hansen
Dec 23	Jamie & Phil Iverson	
Dec 30	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen	
Jan 6	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter	Bryson Wachter
Jan 13	Lonny Robbin & Jason Olson	Laurel Iverson
Jan 20	Troy Hansen & Brady Sharp	Bonnie Hansen
Jan 27	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer	

Confirmation Meal

Dec 5	Vicky Skotterud
Dec 12	Pam Johnson
Dec 19	Julie Bajari
Dec 26	No Class
Jan 2	No Class
Jan 9	Pam Johnson
Jan 16	Julie Bajari
Jan 23	Tim Geer

December Discipleship Verse...



"But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons."
Galatians 4:4

Fall Voter's Assembly...

On November 14, the Voters' Assembly approved a budget for 2013 along with the following Mission and Ministry Team Goals.

MMT Goals for 2013

Elders Team Goals:

1. Continue increasing participation in small group studies
 - + by emphasizing inviting people to current groups
 - + starting new groups (including a group for young adults)
2. Provide more opportunities for people to use their talents in worship. e.g. Skits, choir, song leaders
Includes finding accompanists for worship each week
3. Continue our emphasis on people praying
Including emailing the prayer requests taken in Sunday worship

Community Outreach Team Goal:

To fill the Director of Community Outreach position

Congregational Outreach Team Goals:

1. Produce a church directory
2. Hold monthly fellowship events
3. Get people on the Congregational Outreach Team who can help the director plan and organize monthly fellowship events

Stewardship Team Goals:

1. Compile a "Gifts & Talents" list
2. Find additional ministry uses for our building
3. Conduct a generosity (tithing) campaign

Youth Team Goals:

1. Reach and maintain a level of 8 youth at each event by getting all youth members currently involved to invite at least one friend to each event
2. Utilize the land to create excitement and fun
3. Start a Bible-reading program teaching youth how to read the Bible
4. Find a time to get H.S. youth involved
5. Get youth involved in regular service projects

Trustee Team Goal:

Involve 12 families in being custodians each month

Christian Education Team Goals:

1. Keep students interested / excited throughout the year
2. Achieve regular and on-time attendance

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That for a day: Money does not talk. It goes without saying.

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Who Can You Invite?...

Two of the prophecies about the Messiah that God promised to send talk of Him as being a "Light to the Gentiles." People who are living without Jesus are living in the dark - and that's no way to live!

Those of us who believe that Jesus is truly the "Light of the World" and our only Savior have the privilege of being like "mirrors" - reflecting the Light of Jesus to those around us.

One great way we can reflect that Light is by a simple invitation to friends, neighbors, relatives. Invite them to join you for one of our special services this Christmas. Who can you invite? Pray about it. Ask God to give you the words and opportunity. Then just do it. Ask them to come with you. Offer to pick them up. (And if they don't take you up on your invitation,, keep praying for them and for another opportunity to invite.)

Kids: **Birthday Party for Jesus**
(At noon after worship on Dec. 9)

Bakers: **Cookie Baking Day**
Saturday, December 15 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Everyone: **Caroling**
(Wednesday., Dec 19 -Leave church @ 6:15)

The Christmas Program
(Sunday, December 16 @ 10am)
(Special music, songs by the kids and the Christmas story)

Christmas Ham Dinner
(Sunday, December 16 @ 11:15am)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
(Dec. 24 @ 5pm)

+ The entire service is done by candlelight.

+ The Christmas Story from Luke chapter two is interspersed



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

From Jade Dols...

Some things you should know....

First of all, I would like to apologize to you all. Many people have given generously to enable me to stay out here and do this work and they have not received a thank-you. I am so sorry for my disorganization. I have no excuse. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your contributions. Without you this would not be possible. Lives are being saved and transformed because of YOU!

Secondly, I want to inform you all that I will be returning to MN from Dec 18th to Jan 15th, however I may be leaving for the DC area a few days earlier. That is still pending at the moment. And I will be in CA from Jan 15th-23rd between San Francisco, San Diego, and Redding.

I will be doing fundraising with the goal being to raise enough to stay and continue this work for at least another 2 years. If you would like to get together please let me know and we can set a date. Time is very short so I need to arrange dates prior to leaving Thailand so that it does not become too hectic upon returning to the states.

And thirdly, when I return to Bangkok in January I will be participating in a 3 month XEALOT residency program for emerging leaders. This program is hands-on and will teach me about leadership, collaboration, and community development.

Let me fill you in on this crazy month!

This past month has been full of surprises! I coordinated a wedding in 3 days with what started out as a budget of \$10 (my \$10) for a refugee couple.

The next week that same family went nearly 2 days without food before I realized what was going on and brought some to their home.

A few weeks after that they were kicked out of their apartment and 2 members of the family were held hostage in another apartment without food, water, or medicine while one of them was extremely ill and suffering from diabetes. We had to deliver these basic necessities in a dark alley under the cover of night.

One of my families was chased by immigration police. They fled to a church where they remained for 7 hours. The children were very shaken.

We opened a Safe House as a joint collaboration between Life Raft International and Generation Miracle with help from members of Newsong Church. There are now 3 refugee families living in the



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Thot for a day: A sure way to forget your troubles is to wear tight shoes.

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home and they are happier than ever!

I have also been actively exploring areas where human and child trafficking are taking place (this is different than willful prostitution). A portion of the trafficking of adult women is open and visible, however many are locked up behind closed doors and all children are locked up.

Two of the Thai girls that we have been building relationships with in one of the red light districts have left their lives of prostitution and will be starting new jobs soon!

Let's stay connected...

I want to stay connected with you as much as possible, so here is my info:

- Email: jade.n.dols@gmail.com **this has changed
- Website/Blog: <http://jadedols.weebly.com/journal.html> will be changing to jadedols.com in December. Until then please refer to the Weebly site for updates.
- Facebook: Jade Dols (page)
- Twitter: twitter.com/JadeDols
- Instagram: [instagram.com/jadedols](https://www.instagram.com/jadedols)
- XEALOT residency: <http://www.xealots.org>
- Giving: <http://jadedols.weebly.com/support.html> **this will change in December when I transition completely to the new website.

Jade will be at Living Word Wednesday morning, January 9, to visit our Wednesday study groups. Everyone is welcome.

E-Mail Humor...

The preacher came to call the other day. He said at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter.

I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time. No matter where I am -- in the parlor, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement -- I ask myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'"

+++++

After the baptism of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."

Sharing the Love of God In Practical Ways...

Use Our Make-A-Meal Program

One of the best (and simplest) ways to share Jesus' love is by making a meal for someone who is going through a tough time. Please use the Prayer and Care cards in the attendance pad at worship or call Pastor David or Meal Coordinator Linda Dilley if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks!

Immediate Need for 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 or Mona Hjelle if you could help lead Children's Church once every 6 weeks or so.

Custodian of the Month

Now that we are in our own building, we need to provide our own custodian services. So, we will be starting a Custodian of the Month schedule where you (or your whole family) sign up to provide the necessary cleaning. A check-list of duties will be provided. Please consider being a part of this service. Talk to Trustee Lonny Robbin if you can help. Thanks.

Elders Available For Prayer After Worship

God tells us in the book of James (5:14-15), "Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray.... Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord." Our Living Word Elders (Troy Hansen, Kevin Welsh, Jason Miller and Brady Sharp) will be available each week after worship at the front of the sanctuary to pray with you.

Help Planning Congregational Fellowship Events

Do you like to plan and organize activities that get people together to serve or have fun? Talk to Congregational Outreach Coordinator Linda Dilley for details on how you can help. Thanks!

Prayer List from Worship Available to Take Home

We have begun printing off the prayer requests from worship, so you can take them home and keep them in your prayers during the week.

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That for a day: If a singer sings their own song during a karaoke party, is it considered karaoke?

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Accompanist Still Needed

Our 1st and 3rd Week accompanist Susan Johnson, has moved to Hudson, WI, so we are in need of people who can help in worship by providing accompaniment on piano, organ or keyboard. Please talk to Pastor David if you can help - or know of someone who can. Thanks!

More Ideas for Sharing the Love of Jesus This Month

During the busy weeks prior to Christmas thoughtful Christians go out of their way to show their love for others. In fact, "Sharing the Love of Jesus in Practical Ways" is one of our Core Values at Living Word. Here are a few suggestions. You may think of more. The possibilities are limited only by your creativity.

- Babysit for a mom (or dad) while they shop.
- Shovel snow for someone who could use the help this winter (it will snow!).
- Invite at least one person to join you in worship Christmas Eve.
- Drive others to church for worship.
- "Adopt" someone in a care center, not just for Christmas, but for an indefinite period of time.
- Use your special talents (what are they?) where needed.
- Invite someone who is alone for the holidays over for dinner.
- Ask the Lord for guidance in using you in meaningful ways to bring glory to Him - He will direct you.

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.

LWML News...

Our next meeting is Wednesday, Dec 12, at 7:00 p.m. (Immediately following the Advent Devotion.) Please join us.

At our November meeting we filled out our year-end reports. We are looking for a young person to represent us at the convention. Scholarships are available. Please talk to Pam Johnson for more info. Thanks!



Story Behind The Song...

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"
(From the website www.sharefaith.com)

In 1907 John W. Works III, a professor at Fisk University and a professional musician, compiled and published Folk Songs of the American Negro, a songbook designed to preserve and promote African American Folk-Work. Included in this book was Works' arrangement of the song Go Tell It on the Mountain (author unknown). This song was known to have been sung by African American slaves since as far back as at least 1865.

In the 1960s Peter Paul and Mary took the liberty to re-write some of the lyrics of Go Tell It on the Mountain, renamed it Tell it on the Mountain, and recorded it as a Civil Rights theme song. In the 1990s, musician Art Paul Schlossel re-wrote the lyrics for kids and renamed the song Go Tell It on the Swingset. It has been popular for many years as a Christmas Carol, and is also sung in some settings as a praise song.

In one format or another since its conception, the anthem of Go Tell It on the Mountain has been sung in the fields, on buses, in the streets, in churches, on school choir platforms and in concert halls. And it has been recorded by more than 20 popular artists, including such big names as Frank Sinatra, Dolly Parton and Simon & Garfunkel.

Go Tell It On The Mountain:

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled
When low above the earth,
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. (Refrain)

And lo! When they had heard it,
They all bowed down to pray,

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Thot for a day: why is it called 'after dark', when it is really after light?

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Then traveled on together,
To where the Baby la-y. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas mo--rn (Refrain)

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7)

Editor's note: A great version sung by Little Big Town
Watch at: <http://youtu.be/N6SZ2NbQWcA>



and dat angel of da Lord showed up to
ice fishermen watchin' dar lines by night.
Doncha-know. **Luke 2 (MIV)**

Minnesota International Version