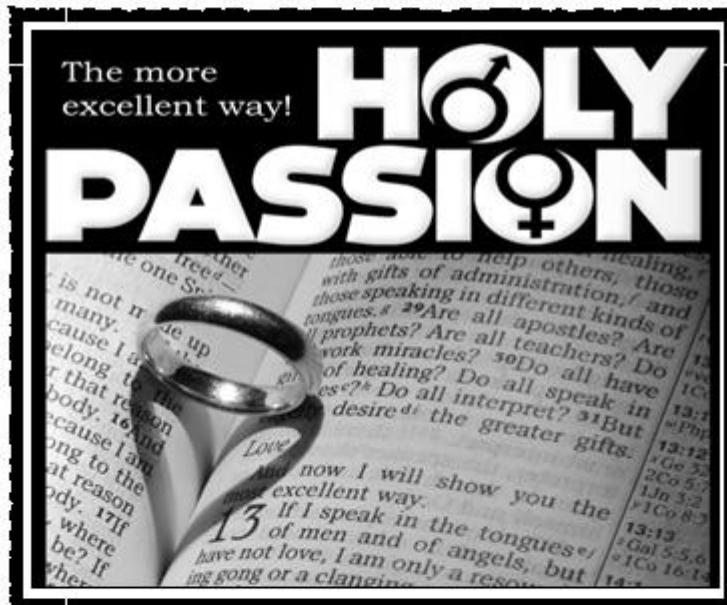



Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS

February 2012 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 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...

What is a "Born Again" Christian?

Chances are good that you've also heard the term and maybe wondered what is the difference between a "born again" Christian and a "regular" Christian. We are in an election year, and it seems that "Born Again Christians" is one of the groups that pollsters include in their statistics. But what are they referring to?

The term "born again" actually comes from this passage of Scripture in John chapter three.

1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

A couple of notes are in order at this point in the story:

First, the Greek term often translated "born again" can also be translated "born from above." ("Born from above" may be a more accurate translation that highlights the fact that this "second" birth comes from God and is spiritual, whereas our first birth came from earth and is physical.)

Second, as the following comment makes clear, Nicodemus was still thinking along "physical" lines...

4 "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus



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asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

A couple more points:

First, Jesus makes it very clear that being "born again" (or "born from above") is absolutely necessary. It is not optional. A person can't be in God's kingdom without it. One commentator put it this way: "Born once - Die twice. Born twice - Die once." The second birth being the one Jesus tells Nicodemus about here, and the second death is the "lake of fire" (hell) described in Revelation 2:11, 20:6, 20:14 and 21:8). The only way to avoid this "second death" is to be "born again."

Second, Jesus seems to be obviously referring to baptism when He talks about such birth being "of water and the Spirit." (It is in baptism that we find the Spirit and water connected.)

9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

Maybe you can relate to Nicodemus. Sometimes we just "don't get it" when it comes to spiritual things. Thank God Jesus doesn't give up on us... (even if He has to get in our face a bit like he does with Nicodemus here:)

10 "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? 11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

Jesus gives an indication in v14 that Nicodemus will eventually see Him lifted up on a stake - the cross. And that everyone who looks to Jesus and what He did for them on that cross will be healed spiritually, just as those who looked at the bronze snake Moses lifted up were healed physically (see Numbers 21:4-9)

The passage continues with a paragraph that includes the most

well-known verse in the Bible:

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

It should be noted that Jesus concludes the passage in verses 19-21 by defining faith as more than just "knowing" that He is the Savior. He defines faith as trusting Him enough to actually change one's life in an effort to live the way He says - in the truth and light.).

Based on that passage, it would seem me that the term "Born again Christian" could simply be shortened to "Christian." Jesus defines "born again" as being baptized and having faith in Him. That simply defines what it means to be a follower of Christ or "a Christian."

That meaning may not be the meaning behind the term as you hear it used, however. In recent years some have sought to make a distinction between Christians by designating as "born again" those who have had a "conversion experience" that led them to change and become faithful followers of Jesus.

It seems to me that the better definition of "born again" is the one that refers to all Christians who call Jesus "Lord." It doesn't matter if that faith started with baptism as an infant or with a specific experience in later years. As the apostle Paul wrote: No one can call Jesus "Lord" except by the [power of] the Holy Spirit.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Friendship Sunday...

Come see what God has to say about love and friendship when you attend church on Friendship Sunday, February 12.

Be sure to stay after the service for the breakfast meal and the Love & Friendship Scavenger Hunt. We'll have objects and photos around the building to create answers to the fun questions you'll be given. For example, a question might be, "Find the pile of mixed-up gold coins to reveal how many times Jesus said we should forgive our brothers and sisters, plus include the colors of the gems." Pick up some invitation cards to invite your friends and family to join us at all for the fun and friendship here at Living Word Lutheran.

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That for a day: My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.

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Sharing the Love of God In Practical Ways...

Make-A-Meal Program Updated

One of our Core Values at Living Word is "Sharing the Love of Jesus in Practical Ways". Several years ago we began the Make-A-Meal program as a way to share Jesus' love with people going through a tough time. We have recently updated the list of people who have volunteered to be meal makers or takers. They are listed below. 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 for Sharing the Love of Jesus in a practical way !

Julie Bajari	Violet Dauk
Pastor David	Linda Dilley
Gracie Geer	Mona Hjelle
Jamie Iverson	Laurel Iverson
Pam Johnson	Donna Peterson
Wendy Robbin	Bryson Wachter
Scott & Tammy Wachter	Nancy Jo Wendt

Valentines Outreach

St. Valentine's Day is a day focused around giving gifts and spending time with loved ones. This can be an especially lonely day for a person who may feel unloved.

With this in mind, we have planned a community outreach to have vases of carnations (or other flowers) available at select public locations such as Java on Main, McKale's restaurant, Jazz, Java and more on February 14. The vases would have a Living Word Lutheran sign that says, "God loves you. Happy Valentine's Day. Please take a free flower." We plan to order a few extra flowers for those of you that may want to take one in person to someone that is lonely or shut-in.

If this is the case or if you have other suggestions, please let Laurel or Pastor know.

Care Packages

For Living Word's Young Adults
Away at College or the Military

The goal is to have seven packages ready to mail out in February. If you'd like to donate towards this project, items would be welcome such as: microwave snacks, powdered beverages, beef sticks, stamps/envelopes, note pads, gift cards, band-aids, aspirin, tissues... and other items of this nature that you think they could use.

Any questions can be directed to Pam Johnson, Bonnie Hansen, Violet Dauk, Mona Hjelle, or Laurel Iverson.



*Linking people.
Building community.*

The LINK Update...

News from The Link February 2012
Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other.

From the Director....Report from 2011:

The Link completed its third year of existence in July and many great things are happening. We served over 90 different households in 2011, and shared over \$40,000 in **Outreach Assistance**, helping with things like rent, utilities, car insurance, auto repairs and medical expenses. This kind of help really makes a difference and families are very grateful for help. One client wrote this:

Dear Friends of The Link Program,

I just want to say thank you so much for your kind financial gift to us during this medical emergency. You are a fine example of God's love and a reminder that God hears us when we ask for help. Thank you again and God bless.

At the **New London Link Household Exchange** on Main Street, we receive donations of used household items such as furniture, kitchenware, bedding and appliances, which are shared with people who have a need. We serve an average of 20-25 households per month. **Volunteers** contribute total 20+ hours a week serving their neighbors at this site.

Through our **Distribution Events** we help meet other needs. The Just the Basics event provided personal products, cleaning supplies and winter outwear and the Spring Drop -n-Shop Clothing Exchange offered families a place to find some "new" clothes. The Link served over 120 households between these two events this past year.

The Link also helps to coordinate **Tuesdays Table**, the weekly community meal served at area churches. After one year, average weekly attendance is 130-150 per week. This wouldn't be possible without the many volunteers each week and support of the participating congregations. The meal is open to anyone in the community who wants to share fellowship and conversation, take a night off cooking and meet some new friends.

The Link continues to mature as an organization. The Link's Director, Naomi, participated in The Minnesota Council of Non-Profits' Performance Management Leadership Institute. As part of a project

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That for a day: If you believe in telekinesis, raise my hand.

Send your donations c/o of The Link's fiscal host, Faith Lutheran Church, 310 Medway Dr, Spicer, MN 56288. Designate your check for The Link.

If you have any questions or concerns contact Naomi Mahler, the director at 320-796-2522 or flc_naomi@tds.net

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for the institute, The Link Board completed a three-year strategic plan that will strengthen the organization and its programs for the future.

Finally, The Link is grateful for **grant funding** from Bremer Foundation, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, The United Way, The Willmar Community Foundation, The Good Samaritan Fund and The Women's Fund of WCF. We are also grateful for support from different **Community Groups** such as TDS, The New London Main Street Merchants, United Minnesota Bank, United Prairie Bank, and the support of community members and the area churches. Without your on-going support, the Link would not be able to exist. Thank you for being a part of our ministry!

Check out our new website: www.thelinknls.org

TUESDAY'S TABLE Join us Every Tuesday night at 6pm!

1st Tues @ Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer

2nd Tues @ Evangelical Covenant, NL

3rd Tues @ Faith Lutheran, Spicer

4th Tues @ Peace Lutheran, New London

5th Tues @ Hope Presbyterian, Spicer

Tuesday's Table is a great way to enjoy some fellowship and conversation. Invite a friend! Volunteer to help!

THANK YOU: From The Link

Dear Living Word Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your \$200 annual gift of support for The Link. Your support, together with other area churches, helps the Link continue its work of connecting people to resources in the community in order to help them meet their basic needs. In 2011, we assisted with over \$40,000 of aid to help families pay for things like rent, utilities, car repairs and medical expenses.

We see many working families who are struggling to make ends meet. In Kandiyohi County, the average annual cost of meeting basic living expenses for a family of four with two workers is about \$51,000. To cover these costs each worker must earn \$12.29 per hour. Forty percent of jobs in our region pay less than this, so affording basic needs can often times be a struggle. You can see that the help The Link gives to families can really make a difference. Thank you for being a part of this ministry through your contribution.

Additionally, thank you for your participation at Tuesday's Table at Faith Lutheran. It is wonderful to be able to work together in service to our neighbors. We are looking forward to our continued partnership.

Gratefully,
Rev. Naomi Mahler
Director, The Link

Youth News...

Get Connected with Living Word Lutheran

If you are not signed up to receive updates or notifications please check out one or all of these options:

- Facebook: coming soon- either friend youth leader Bryson Wachter or search for Living Word Lutheran
- Email- get updates via email by emailing Bryson at brysonwachter@mnmail.us with Living Word Lutheran included
- Text: text your name and youth group to **320.894.6378** (Bryson's #)

Updates will include week-end events, concerts, parties, lock-ins, etc. The whole point is to keep everybody on the same page so that we can have lots of people and lots of fun!!!!

Leap Year 2012

Since there are 29 days in February this year, we are going to celebrate the gift of an extra day from God with a celebration night on **Friday, March 2nd at 7:00 pm**. Included in this will be games, gifts, crafts, fun, and friends. Please mark this on your calendar and invite your friends to celebrate.



Fundraisers

Keep your eyes open for a couple of fundraisers that will be happening in the next couple months. These will help to raise funds for special events and trips that our youth group will do.

Kickball Night

We have temporarily scheduled a trip to Concordia University, for any **7th-12th** graders, on **Friday, March 23rd from 6-10 pm**. More details will come in the near future. Please let Pastor or Bryson know ASAP if you plan on going, so we can get a headcount and finalize registration. Thanks

YMCA Night

Attention all **5th-8th** graders!! On **Friday, April 13th**, we are planning a trip to the Willmar YMCA from **9pm to 12am**. We are limited to 100 kids, so please let Bryson know if you are interested. More details will come soon.

Service Projects

Looking at a couple of service projects that we might do this spring. One of those is in Minneapolis on **Saturday, May 5th**. Keep your ears and eyes open for more details. Open to suggestions if you have some, just talk to me.

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That for a day: You were born an original. Don't die a copy

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Concerts

There are 2 upcoming concerts that you can be a part of if you choose:

- Red, TFK, Manafest on Sunday, **February 12th @7pm** in St. Cloud
- A Night of Worship w/ Michael W. Smith on **Saturday, March, 24th** in St. Cloud

Please talk to Bryson if you are interested in either of these or if you would like more info.

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

A professor - an atheist - was teaching a college class and he told the class that he was going to prove that there is no a God.

He said, "God if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you 15 minutes!"

Ten minutes went by. He kept taunting God, saying, "Here I am God, I'm still waiting"

He got down to the last couple of minutes and a BIG 240 pound football player happened to walk by the door and heard about what the professor said.

The football player walked in the classroom and in the last minute, he walked up, hit the professor full force, and sent him flying off the platform.

The professor got up, obviously shaken and said, "Where did you come from, and why did you do that?"

The football player replied, "God was busy. He sent me."

E-Mail Humor...

Little Bobby was spending the weekend with his grandmother after a particularly trying week in kindergarten.

His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful.

His grandmother remarked, "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?"

Bobby said, "Yes, God did it and he did it left handed."

This confused his grandmother a bit, and she asked him "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?"

"Well," said Bobby, "we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

February- Daily Devotionals

This month we begin with readings about FRIENDSHIP - remember to invite a friend to "Friendship Sunday" on Feb. 12. We finish the month with readings appropriate to the season.

Wk of FEB 5 Daily Readings **PRINCIPLES OF FRIENDSHIP**
(Remember to invite a friend to Friendship Sunday)

Feb 6 Proverbs 17:17 _____

Feb 7 Proverbs 27:6-10 _____

Feb 8 Proverbs 16:27-29 _____

Feb 9 Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 _____

Feb 10 John 15:13-18 _____

Feb 11 James 4:4-10 _____

Wk of FEB 12 Daily Readings **EXAMPLES OF FRIENDSHIP**

Feb 13 Ruth 1:15-18 _____

Feb 14 1 Samuel 20:17 _____

Feb 15 2 Kings 2:2-12 _____

Feb 16 1 Kings 5:1-12 _____

Feb 17 Matthew 11:19 _____

Feb 18 Matthew 27:55-61 _____

Wk of FEB 19 Daily Readings **REQUIREMENTS OF LEADERS**
(in honor of Presidents' Day)

Feb 20 Deuteronomy 17:14-20 _____

Feb 21 2 Samuel 23:3-4 _____

"Friendship"

Feb 22 Proverbs 29:4,12,14 _____

Feb 23 Proverbs 20:28 _____

Feb 24 Deuteronomy 1:9-18 _____

Feb 25 1 Timothy 2:1-6 _____

Wk of FEB 26 Daily Readings **LIONS & LAMBS** (which will March come in as?)

Feb 27 Isaiah 11:1-9 _____

Feb 28 Isaiah 53:3-7 _____

Feb 29 Isaiah 65:17-25 _____

Mar 1 John 1:19-36 _____

Mar 2 1 Peter 5:8-11 _____

Mar 3 Revelation 5:1-10 _____

Wk of MAR 4 Daily Readings **SELF-DENIAL AND SELF-SACRIFICE**
(Lent is here)

Mar 5 Matthew 16:24-25 _____

Mar 6 Matthew 19:21 _____


Mar 7 Romans 14:21 _____

Mar 8 Proverbs 23:20 _____

Mar 9 Galatians 5:16-25 _____

Mar 10 Luke 18:29-30 _____

February 2012 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 29 HERO SANDWICH DAY 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	Jan 30	Jan 31 6:00 Men's Group Supper & Study	Feb 1 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:15 Prayer 6:30 Confirmation	2	3	4
5 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	6 Circuit Pastors @ Willmar	7 6:00 Men's Group Supper & Study 7:00 Willmar Study @ Linda Dilleys	8 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:15 Prayer 6:30 Confirmation / LWML	9	10	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>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></p> </div>
12 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship - Boy Scout Sun. 11:15 FRIENDSHIP BRUNCH noon FRIENDSHIP ACTIVITIES	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 7:00 Willmar Study @ Linda Dilleys 	15 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:15 Prayer 6:30 Confirmation	16	17	
19 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	20	21 6:00 Men's Group Supper & Study 7:00 Willmar Study @ Linda Dilleys 7:15 Elders' Team	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:00 Confirmation 7:00 ASH WEDNESDAY Worship	23 6:30 Sunday School Mtg 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	24	25
26 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	27	28 6:00 Men's Group Supper & Study 7:00 Willmar Study @ Linda Dilleys	29 LEAP YEAR 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:30 LENTEN Devotion 7:00 Confirmation	Mar 1	Mar 2	Mar 3

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Feb 5	Mark Fuglie
Feb 12	Tammy Fuglie
Feb 19	Tammy Wachter
Feb 26	Duane Hansen
Mar 4	Scott Wachter
Mar 11	Bryson Wachter
Mar 18	Wendy Robbin
Mar 25	Mona Hjelle

Confirmation Meal

Feb 1	Pam Johnson
Feb 8	Marcia Welsh
Feb 15	Julie Bajari
Feb 22	Vicky Nelson
Mar 7	Pam Johnson
Mar 14	Marcia Welsh
Mar 21	Julie Bajari
Mar 28	Vicky Skotterud

Fellowship Servers

Feb 5	Tammy Wachter/Sarah Miller
Feb 12	Friendship Sunday Guys
Feb 19	Violet Dauk/Laurel Iverson
Feb 26	Linda Dilley/Bonnie Hansen
Mar 4	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Mar 11	Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky
Mar 18	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Mar 25	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller

Children's Church Schedule

Feb 5	Mona Hjelle
Feb 12	Eve Bajari
Feb 19	Michelle Johnson
Feb 26	Donna Peterson
Mar 4	Mona Hjelle
Mar 11	Eve Bajari
Mar 18	Michelle Johnson
Mar 25	Donna Peterson

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Thot for a day: Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.

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Elders

Feb 5	Jason Miller & Troy Hansen
Feb 19	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
Mar 4	Jason Miller & Troy Hansen
Mar 18	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp

Acolyte

Feb & March 2-3rd Graders

Usher & Greeter Schedule

	Ushers	Greeter
Feb 5	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer	Bryson W
Feb 12	Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle	Laurel I
Feb 19	Kevin & Noah Welsh	Bonnie H
Feb 26	Jamie & Phil Iverson	
Mar 4	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen	Bryson W
Mar 11	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter	Laurel I
Mar 18	Troy Hansen & Brady Sharp	Bonnie H
Mar 25	Lonnie Robbin & Jason Olson	

*Fill-in Greeter Bonnie Hansen 796-5605

Opportunity to Serve...

We're Updating These Serving Lists

- +Ushers
- + Greeters
- + Scripture Readers
- + Fellowship Servers
- + Children's Church Leaders

Use the yellow cards you'll find in your bulletin this month if you'd like to serve in any of these ways.

(You don't need to do anything if you are already on a list and want to continue serving).

February Discipleship Verse...



"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15:12

Ways to Show Your Spouse You Love Them

From "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Wife and Kids" and
"501 Practical Ways to Love Your Husband and Kids"

(Both are in our library. Check them out for lots more great ideas!)

Husbands:

- Call your wife in the middle of the day to ask her out for dinner and a movie.
- Bring home some flowers - not just on Valentine's Day
- Think of how you've hurt your wife with your words: Ask her forgiveness
- Serve your wife breakfast in bed - make her feel like "Queen for a Day"

Wives:

- Sit next to your husband in the car or truck - like you did when you were dating. (If you have bucket seats, then sit next to him on the couch and watch a movie together.)
- Thank your husband (in front of the kids if they live at home) for something he did today
- Plan a vacation - where *he* wants to go.
- Write "I love you" on a post-it note where he'll see it (or text him).

Husbands & Wives together:

- Write down three or four things you love about your spouse. Then take time to share those with each other.
- Get out the wedding album or watch the video together

Ways to Show Your Kids You Love them:

From "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Wife and Kids" and
"501 Practical Ways to Love Your Husband and Kids"

- Send them a text thanking them for something they did or said.
- Next time you go to the store, bring back a surprise (a favorite snack, maybe)
- Read them a favorite story
- Tell them a favorite memory from when they were younger.
- Tell them you are sorry when you acted impatiently with them.
- If they don't live at home, call them up - for no special reason, just to say "Hi."
- Fix a meal with their favorite foods
- Ask them to help you with an important project around the house

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That for a day: A procrastinator's work is never done.

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Upcoming Events...

Friendship Sunday

February 12

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

Games for the kids (and kids at heart) after the meal.

Mark your calendars and start praying about friends you will invite. (Talk to God about your friends, then talk to your friends about God)

Ash Wednesday

Traditional Service of Ashes

Yes, Lent is coming soon. The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Ashes symbolize our frailty, our mortality, humiliation and need for repentance before God (people in ancient times showed their repentance by putting on sackcloth and ashes). Ashes also suggest a need for cleansing by the blood of Christ and renewal by His Holy Spirit.

During our Ash Wednesday service, ashes will be applied to the foreheads of all worshipers in the form of a small cross. Please join us for our special services, **Wednesday, February 22 @ 7:00pm.**

LWML News...

The next LWML meeting will be Wednesday, February 8 at 6:30pm. We will be discussing plans for a tea party that will be part of the meeting in March. The tea is designed as a way to invite and encourage church women of all ages to be part of LWML. We will also be finishing up with the care packages to be sent to our church's young adults that are away at college or the military. More details about the care packages on page 5...



Hero Sandwich Totals:

As of January 22 we have received \$5579 toward our fundraiser. Thank you !

Opportunities for Growth...

New Bible Study Opportunity For Willmar Residents:

Tuesday Evenings from 7-8pm.

We will start the study at Linda Dilley's home on Tuesday, January 10.

Please call Linda at 320-444-2262 for directions to her home.

What Do _____ Believe ?

Beginning this month in our Bible studies we will take a look at the beliefs of groups like

- Jehovah's Witnesses,
- Mormons
- Jews

as well as the differences between Christian denominations.

Men's "Bible and Burgers" is Back

The "Burgers" part is back by "popular demand." In January we began sharing a supper meal prior to our Bible Study. We take turns bringing the meal and side dishes. Meal and prayers start at 6. Study continues after we eat and pray.

This Month we will finish the study on the beliefs of Islam and move onto studies on the beliefs of Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and Jews.

Mom's Study

9:30 Wednesday mornings (Childcare provided)

This Month we will finish the study on the beliefs of Islam and move onto studies on the beliefs of Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and Jews

Wednesday Noon Study

This Month we will finish the study on the beliefs of Islam and move onto studies on the beliefs of Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and Jews

Sunday Morning Study

9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning

This Month we will finish the study on the beliefs of Islam and move onto studies on the beliefs of Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and Jews.

Confirmation

Meets Wednesdays Feb 1, 8, 15, & 29 at 6:30 (Meal at 6:00)

Meets on Ash Wednesday (Feb 22) at 6:00 (no meal)

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That for a day: A clean desk is a sign of a cluttered desk drawer.

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New Prayer Opportunities...

One of our Core Values at Living Word is "People Praying Together."

Jesus promised His special presence when people get together to pray: "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."

With that in mind we are offering a handful of ways to "get together" to pray (a couple of them are new this month).

1) NEW: Pray with the Elders after worship.

God tells us in the book of James (5:14-15), "Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 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 after worship at the front of the sanctuary to pray with you.

2) NEW: On Wednesday evenings at 6:15 (just prior to our Wednesday evening meetings and classes) we will gather together in the sanctuary to bring our prayers to the Lord. This weekly meeting begins January 11.

3) NEW: We will be printing off the prayer requests from Sunday worship, so you can take those home with you after worship and keep those requests in your prayers during the week.

4) As before, we can pray together even when we are not physically together by taking time to pray at the same time each day (11:09) wherever we are.

5) Finally, we have updated our Prayer Force prayer chain listing. Special prayer requests that come in during the week will be forwarded via email or text message or phone (you choose), so we can bring those requests to God together even when we are not physically together. If you didn't have a chance to sign up to be part of the Prayer Force but would like to be, please talk to Pastor David (or text him at 320-220-1816)

Sunday School Schedule...

- February 5 Jesus and the Little Children
- February 12 Friendship Sunday?
- February 19 Jesus Heals a Paralytic
- February 26 Jesus Calms the Storm

Building Update...

The building committee has been meeting every Wednesday evening. Recently we've been meeting with many subcontractors discussing details and getting bids from them. At this point we have a few remaining subcontractors to meet with and get bids from. We hope to have these subcontractor meetings wrapped up by Wednesday, February 8th, so we can have all bids in by the 15th. We've learned new things from each subcontractor we've met with, as each contributes something from their experience. This has been very beneficial and enabled us to refine our initial plans for the heating/AC, plumbing and electrical.

On the financial side, we've initiated the loan process with three different banks. We've been very blessed by the recent donations to the building fund. We greatly appreciate everyone's generous giving. Every dollar in the building fund is one less dollar we'll have to borrow and pay interest on.

We're on target to have a proposal put together for presentation to the Mission and Ministry Team at its next meeting February 23. If the MMT is happy with the proposal, the next step will be for the congregation to approve the plan at a special voter's meeting sometime early in March.

We have drawings of the floor plan available to view in the fellowship area of the church. We invite you to please look over those plans after services on Sunday. The building committee would like to hear your feedback and suggestions! We greatly appreciate your input and your prayers as we move forward with our goal of erecting a building this spring/summer on the land God has blessed us with.



Currently Seeking Applicants

Applicants are selected based on need, ability to pay, and willingness

to partner. Homes are available in New London, Spicer and Willmar. If you or someone you know is interested in applying or would like more information, please call our office at 320-231-2704 or visit our website: www.habitatwcm.org.

Applications will be accepted through February 29, 2012.

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When in doubt, mumble.
That for a day

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Story Behind The Song...

The Hallelujah Chorus

You may wonder, "Why are we looking at a Christmas song in January?" It's true that we hear "The Hallelujah Chorus" more often at Christmas than other times of the year, but the composer originally intended it to be performed (along with the rest of The Messiah) at Lent or Easter. And Lent begins this month - Ash Wednesday is February 22 - so this really is an appropriate time to look at it.

As you may know, The Hallelujah Chorus is a very small part - just one of 53 "movements" - in George Frederic Handel's The Messiah. The Messiah is an oratorio, which the dictionary defines as "a large-scale musical work on a religious theme for orchestra and voices."

Like many of the great composers, Handel was a child prodigy. He began composing operas at young age and by his twenties he was the best-paid composer on earth with people fighting for seats whenever he performed. But fame is fleeting and Handel's music soon came to be viewed as old-fashioned. No matter what Handel tried, his compositions failed. Bankruptcy and depression followed. Handel had a stroke and developed a palsy that crippled his fingers.

It seemed that Handel's career was over. But in 1741 a friend, Charles Jennens who had collaborated with Handel on an earlier opera, sent him a compilation of texts about the life of Christ. The words "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people" from Isaiah 40 inspired Handel. Handel agreed to write the music.

He thought it would take a year to complete. However, when a charitable organization from Dublin gave Handel a generous commission to compose a piece for a benefit, he got busy. On August 22, 1741, Handel started composing music for the texts that Jennens had sent him. Handel was inspired. When he finished less than a month later he had written one of his most famous and successful compositions ever, The Messiah.

Charles Jennens took his scriptural texts from the King James Bible, and from the Psalms included with the Book of Common Prayer (which are worded slightly differently than their King James counterparts). Jennens's text is an extended reflection on Jesus Christ as Messiah, moving from the prophetic phrases of Isaiah and others, through the Incarnation, Passion and Resurrection of Christ to his ultimate glorification in heaven.

Jennens structured the story of Christ into three major "parts" with the "parts" subdivided into "scenes". Each scene is a collection of

individual numbers or "movements"

Part I highlights the prophecies of the Messiah's coming and the Virgin Birth as predicted by the Old Testament prophets. The announcement to the shepherds of the birth of the Christ is represented in the words of St Luke's Gospel.

Part II covers Christ's Passion and his death, his Resurrection and Ascension, the first spreading of the Gospel through the world, and a definitive statement of God's victory and glory summarized in "The Hallelujah Chorus".

Part III begins with the promise of Redemption, followed by a prediction of the Day of Judgment and the "general Resurrection", ending with the final victory over sin and death and the acclamation of Christ.

At the end of his manuscript Handel wrote the letters "SDG"—Soli Deo Gloria, "To God alone the glory".

The Hallelujah Chorus which ends the final scene of Part II, "God's Ultimate Victory," is based on these three passages from the book of Revelation:

"Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder shouting: 'Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns'" Rev. 19:6

"On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

King of kings and Lord of lords." Rev. 19:16

"The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." Rev. 11:15

Here are the words to The Hallelujah Chorus:

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world
Is become the kingdom of our Lord,
And of His Christ, and of His Christ;

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That for a day: The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not cover you.

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And He shall reign for ever and ever,
For ever and ever, forever and ever,

King of kings, and Lord of lords,
King of kings, and Lord of lords,
And Lord of lords,
And He shall reign,
And He shall reign forever and ever,
King of kings, forever and ever,
And Lord of lords,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And He shall reign forever and ever,
King of kings! and Lord of lords!
And He shall reign forever and ever,
King of kings! and Lord of lords!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Friendly Folk Lutheran has such a great Women's Bible Study that it has become the envy of the men's group. So much so that they are starting to spot infiltrators.