

  
**Living Word**  
**Lutheran Church**  
LCMS

**January 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](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net)

What we aim to do:

**Make disciples for Jesus - as we go, wherever we go.**

What we aim to be:

**A joyful, caring, Christ-centered family of God.**

## Question for Pastor...

### What happens when we die?

This question actually came on a couple of separate occasions in Bible studies last month.

As with all questions, we look to God to see what He has told us in His Word (the Bible), otherwise we end up merely speculating based on our very limited knowledge. There are lots of things about heaven and eternity that God hasn't given us specific details on.

That makes sense when you think about it. It would be like you or I trying to describe one of God's gorgeous sunsets to a person who was born blind.

God hasn't given us all the details, but He has given us basic answers to our "heaven" questions. You may remember that while Jesus was dying on the cross, one of the criminals next to him came to realize that Jesus was truly who He said: The Son of God. This criminal turned to Jesus and said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." To which Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:42-43)

That simple conversation tells us that the moment we die, the spirits of those who place their trust in Him (even at the very last minute) go to be with Jesus in place He calls paradise. We usually refer to it as "heaven." While the spirits of those who believe in Jesus immediately go to be with Jesus, our mortal bodies go to their burial place.

On the day Jesus returns (His Second-Coming or "Judgment Day")



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the Bible tells us that the bodies of all who have died will rise from their graves and be re-united with their spirits in a new, "imperishable" form. (1 Corinthians 15:42-58) These "imperishable" bodies will be like the body Jesus had after he had risen from the grave: a physical body that is not limited by time and space. (Remember Jesus just "appeared" to his disciples in the room they were locked in.)

Sometimes people get the wrong idea about where believers will spend eternity after Jesus returns. They think we will be floating on clouds strumming harps or something. (To me that sounds like it would only be exciting to meteorologists and classical musicians). Thankfully, that's just a myth. In Revelation 21 God tells us that He will create new heavens and a new earth for believers to inhabit. "New" as in "perfectly restored to its original condition," not "new" as in "totally unrecognizable." It is this new earth that we will live on for eternity. In Revelation God paints a picture of a new earth that will be like the one He originally created for Adam and Eve and the animals. A place where we will live in the physical, visible presence of God. A place where there will be no death or pain; no evil or sin - NOTHING to fear. A perfect earth.

God also tells us there is a horrible place where those who rejected His Son spend eternity. He calls it the "lake of fire" - also known as "hell." (Revelation 20:7-15) But God promises His "family inheritance" - the new earth - to all who "overcome" the trials and temptations of life and hang onto their faith to the end (Revelation 21:7) That's something to look forward to!

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

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

## Thanks !!!

...To everyone who remembered us this Christmas with cards and gifts. We greatly appreciate your support and partnership in the Gospel !

*Pastor David, Violet, Anthony and Rebecca*

If you have someone you'd like to thank for serving, please email their name and how they served to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

## 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'n 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.

### **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!

That for a day: You can't keep trouble from coming, but you don't have to give it a chair to sit on.

## LWML News...



LWML recently held new officer elections.

Pam Johnson is now the President of our Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Bonnie Hanson is Secretary and Laurel Iverson is Treasurer. Mona Hjelle has agreed to the position of Christian Growth and Violet Dauk is in charge of Human Care.

A current project that LWML is working on is care packages for our church's young adults that are in college and 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 one of the above listed church women.

## Sunday School Schedule...

- January 1 The Presentation of Jesus
- January 8 Boy Jesus in the Temple
- January 15 The Baptism of Jesus
- January 22 The Temptation of Jesus
- January 29 Calling the First Disciples
- February 5 Jesus and the Little Children
- February 12 Friendship Sunday?
- February 19 Jesus Heals a Paralytic
- February 26 Jesus Calms the Storm

## Confirmation...

Meets each Wednesday at 6:30 (Meal at 6:00)

**NOTE:** Parents also meet on January 4 at 6:30 for an update.

## Worship Planning Meeting...

Sunday, January 15 after worship.

For everyone interested in participating in worship through music.



## The LINK Update...

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

**From the director...** Thank you to everyone who participated in The Link's Christmas Concert, *Child of Joy, Child of Peace*. It was a wonderful evening of music and fellowship and we raised over \$2400 in our offering to help our neighbors in need.

This past month we have helped families with basic needs such help with the electric bill in order to keep the heat one, we have helped with emergency car repairs and we have helped a few families be able to buy some Christmas presents.

**Send your donations** c/o of The Link's fiscal host, Faith Lutheran Church, 310 Medayto 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](mailto:flc_naomi@tds.net)

One client came in to ask for gifts for her sons. When I asked her what she wanted, she paused, choked up a bit and said, "No one has asked me what I wanted for Christmas in 20 years!" When I pressed her she said, "Well maybe some new shoes for work because I'm on my feet all day." Your generosity gives hope and support to people in our community in many different ways! Thank you so much for remembering The Link this season and for all that you share!

Naomi Mahler  
Director, The Link

Check out our new website: [www.thelinknls.org](http://www.thelinknls.org)

### Let's Make 2012

#### The Year Minnesota Resolves To End Homelessness.

Homeless advocates are embarking on a year-long campaign to engage Minnesotans of every walk of life, from every county, every city, in pledging to do their part to end homelessness. We know we cannot end homelessness in one year, but we can significantly move public will.

#### Will you make a resolution to do your part in 2012?

Here's how it works: Record a short video that includes the words "I resolve..." with your personalized message. Email your video clip to [videos@mnhomelesscoalition.org](mailto:videos@mnhomelesscoalition.org) and we will share it through social media and other sources.

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Thot for a day: When you have a choice between stupidity and ignorance, pick ignorance. It's curable.

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#### Instructions & Tips

Please keep video to one minute or less.

Title your video - consider using your city/region or resolution theme. Please consider resolving to do actions that truly get at ending homelessness. Think about where you have influence. What can you do with that influence to help end homelessness?

Email your video to [videos@mnhomelesscoalition.org](mailto:videos@mnhomelesscoalition.org)

#### Examples of actions you might consider taking:

- I resolve to have my business contribute volunteers and financial resources to build and sustain housing.
- I resolve to give my employees the option to participate in employee giving
- I resolve to participate in Homeless Day on the Hill on March 8, 2012
- I resolve to dedicate a percentage of my rental units to housing people who are transitioning out of homelessness
- I resolve to raise \$1,000 to help homeless advocacy and/or The Link
- I resolve to greet warmly every homeless person I meet
- I resolve to meet with my legislators to share facts about homelessness
- I resolve to visit my local homeless program to educate myself about homelessness
- I resolve to sponsor one family transitioning out of homelessness by helping to stock their apartment with kitchen and bathroom necessities
- I resolve to volunteer on one Habitat for Humanity house
- I resolve to include people experiencing homelessness in my daily prayers
- I resolve to have my students do a book/research report on homelessness.
- I resolve to provide a free ride to a homeless person who needs a ride to shelter.
- I resolve to donate food from my farm to somebody transitioning out of homelessness to stock their fridge/freezer.
- I resolve to offer a free haircut to a homeless person at my salon.
- I resolve to listen to the facts without preconception.
- I resolve to learn how I can make a difference.

Thank you for your commitment to ending homelessness!

#### TUESDAY'S TABLE

Join us Every Tuesday night at 6pm!

1<sup>st</sup> Tues @ Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer

2<sup>nd</sup> Tues @ Evangelical Covenant, NL

3<sup>rd</sup> Tues @ Faith Lutheran, Spicer

4<sup>th</sup> Tues @ Peace Lutheran, New London

5<sup>th</sup> Tues @ Hope Presbyterian, Spicer

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

## Inspirational Message...

A well known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?"

Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple the dollar bill up. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air.

"Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now all crumpled and dirty.

"Now who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air.

"My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value in God's eyes. To Him, dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to Him.

Psalm 178 states that God will keep us, "as the apple of His eye."

**THOUGHT:** *The worth of our lives come not in what we do or who we are but by WHOSE WE ARE! You are special – Don't ever forget it!*

## E-Mail Humor...

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents the week before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs.

"I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE! AND AN XBOX 360! AND I PRAY FOR THE NEW IRON MAN COMIC BOOK!"

His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf."

To which the little brother replied, "No, but Grandma is!"

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That for a day: A hard boiled egg is hard to beat.

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

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

- What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- What if we gave it to kids as gifts? bible1.jpg
- What if we used it when we traveled?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go....hmm...where is my Bible?

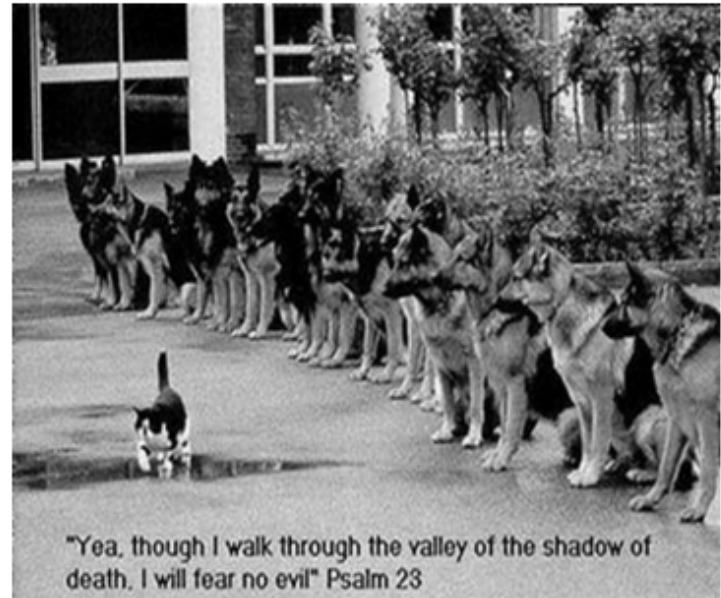
Oh, and one more thing.

Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected, because Jesus already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think 'where are my priorities'?

...And no dropped calls!

## This is Courage...



"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" Psalm 23

# January- Daily Devotionals

This month we begin with readings about responses to Christ's birth. Then, as we enter a NEW year, we look at NEW things God has given and promises to give.

Wk of Jan 1 DAILY READINGS JESUS TELLS WHY HE CAME

Jan 2 Matthew 5:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 3 Matthew 20:28 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 4 Luke 4:42-44 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 5 Luke 19:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 6 John 3:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 7 John 10:7-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Wk of JAN 8 DAILY READINGS... "NEW" THINGS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Jan 9 Psalm 40:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 10 Isaiah 40:28-31 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 11 Isaiah 42:5-9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 12 Isaiah 43:16-21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 13 Isaiah 62:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 14 Isaiah 65:17-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Wk of JAN 15 DAILY READINGS ... NEW THINGS PROMISED

Jan 16 Psalm 51:10-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 17 Ezekiel 11:17-21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# "The Old Has Gone, The New Has Come"

Jan 18 Proverbs 3:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 19 Romans 12:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 20 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 21 Titus 3:4-6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Wk of JAN 22 DAILY READINGS ... SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Jan 23 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 24 Galatians 6:14-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 25 Ephesians 2:11-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 26 Ephesians 4:22-24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 27 Colossians 3:5-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 28 1 Peter 1:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Wk of JAN 29 DAILY READINGS NEW THINGS JESUS BRINGS

Jan 30 Mark 1:21-27 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 31 John 13:34-35 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Feb 1 2 Peter 3:10-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Feb 2 Revelation 3:11-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Feb 3 Revelation 5:6-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Feb 4 Revelation 21:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# January 2012 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:00 Men's Group Supper & Study	<b>4</b> 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:30 Confirmation	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship /Outreach Mtg 2:00 Circuit Convocation	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00 Men's Group Supper & Study 7:00 Willmar Study @ Linda Dilley's	<b>11</b> 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:15 Prayer 6:30 Confirmation	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY AT 11:09 EVERYDAY</b>  <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>	
<b>15</b> 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Worship Planning Mtg.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00 Men's Group Supper & Study 7:00 Willmar Study 7:15 Elders' Team	<b>18</b> 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:15 Prayer 6:30 Confirmation	<b>19</b> 6:30 Sunday School Mtg 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00 Men's Group Supper & Study 7:00 Willmar Study	<b>25</b> 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:15 Prayer 6:30 Confirmation	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> HERO SANDWICH SUNDAY 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Hero Sandwich Celebration Meal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:00 Men's Group Supper & Study 7:00 Willmar Study	<b>Feb 1</b> 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:15 Prayer 6:30 Confirmation	<b>Feb 2</b>	<b>Feb 3</b>	<b>Feb 4</b>

## Upcoming Schedules...

### Scripture Readers

Jan 1           Mona Hjelle  
 Jan 8           Phil Iverson  
 Jan 15          Susan Johnson  
 Jan 22          Kevin Welsh  
 Jan 29          Linda Dilley

Feb 5           Mark Fuglie  
 Feb 12          Tammy Fuglie  
 Feb 19          Tammy Wachter  
 Feb 26          Duane Hansen

### Confirmation Meal

Jan 4           Pam Johnson  
 Jan 11          Marcia Welsh  
 Jan 18          Julie Bajari  
 Jan 25          Vicky Nelson

Feb 1           Pam Johnson  
 Feb 8           Marcia Welsh  
 Feb 15          Julie Bajari  
 Feb 22          Vicky Nelson

### Fellowship Servers

Jan 1           Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson  
 Jan 8           Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen  
 Jan 15          Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson  
 Jan 22          Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky  
 Jan 29          Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie

Feb 5           Tammy Wachter/Sarah Miller  
 Feb 12          Mona Hjelle  
 Feb 19          Violet Dauk/Laurel Iverson  
 Feb 26          Linda Dilley/Bonnie Hansen

### Elders

Jan 1           Jason Miller & Troy Hansen  
 Jan 15          Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp

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

### Acolyte

Jan & Feb           2-3rd Graders

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**Thot for a day:** The FOUR stages of man: He believes in Santa Claus - He doesn't believe in Santa Claus - He is Santa Claus - He looks like Santa Claus

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### Children's Church Schedule

Jan 1           Mona Hjelle  
 Jan 8           Eve Bajari  
 Jan 15          Michelle Johnson  
 Jan 22          Donna Peterson  
 Jan 29          Leader needed

Feb             Leaders Needed

### Usher & Greeter Schedule

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
Jan 1	Jamie & Phil Iverson	Bryson W
Jan 8	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen	Laurel I
Jan 15	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter	Bonnie H
Jan 22	Troy Hansen & Brady Sharp	
Jan 29	Lonnie Robbin & Jason Olson	
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	

\*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).

## January Discipleship Verse...



*"Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"*

2 Corinthians 5:17



## A Minute for Parents...

Set an example by giving an "After-Christmas" Gift that keeps on giving.

(The same one God gave us at Christmas)



By now some of the Christmas presents you gave your kids have become broken. Others have been forgotten. Hopefully some are still in use. But the start of a new year would be a great time to resolve to give your children the present they really want most - your presence.

His presence is the present God gave us at Christmas. It's the one he has promised to give us until the end of time "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Mt. 28:20

Of all the things my parents did to show their love, the things that stick in my mind most are the times they made a special effort to just "be there." Chance are the same can be said for you. And chances are that is what your kids will remember too.

How can you spend more time with your children - collectively and individually? After school? In the evening? On the week-ends?

Maybe read them a story instead of reading the newspaper. Play a game with them instead of watching TV. Plan a special project that you can work on together. Have a "Date Your Kid" night once a week. Set aside one night as "Family night." Get their input on what they would like to do on those days. Sit down with them and plan what you will do then put it on the calendar.

"Being there" isn't limited to the kids that still live under your roof. When could you "be there" for your kids that are away at college? When could you "be there" for those children that live on their own?

Follow Jesus' example and give the gift of your presence.

It says "I love you" like nothing else.

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Thot for a day: Take my advice. I don't use it anyway.

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## "You're A Hero Sandwich" Update...

Our Hero Sandwich fundraiser has been going great --- we are nearly halfway to our goal of \$10,000!

To keep this momentum going, we are extending the program until the end of January. Then on Sunday, January 29, we will have our Build your Own Hero Sandwich meal with provided soup and all the sandwich fixings.

Feel free to bring any salads, chips or desserts that you'd like to fill out the meal. In the meantime, you can continue to donate certain amounts\* to build the "You're a HERO Sandwich", then may select the sandwich fixings to put on the felt board at church. Every dollar that we gather for these past financial obligations is a step closer to being in our new church building.

\*\$500=Bacon, \$200=Salami, \$150=Ham, \$100=Cheese, \$75=Lettuce, \$50=Tomato, \$30=Onion, \$20=Peppers, \$10=Pickle

## Bible Wordsearch Babylon has Fallen

Wordsearch 196

G	A	L	L	N	E	V	A	E	H	P	S	T	F	A	ANGEL	LORD
H	R	E	P	D	E	A	T	H	R	T	P	A	N	H	BIRD	LUXURY
N	A	E	L	C	N	U	T	I	N	E	M	G	T	B	BURNED	NATIONS
E	N	C	A	G	E	O	S	A	E	I	E	A	J	U	CAGE	PEOPLE
L	E	N	G	T	R	O	H	U	N	L	R	O	U	R	DEATH	PLAGUES
L	E	A	U	M	N	C	N	E	T	W	P	P	D	N	DEMONS	PRISON
A	U	D	E	G	R	O	H	S	T	T	L	O	G	E	DRUNK	QUEEN
F	Q	N	S	E	L	E	G	I	I	W	E	E	E	D	FALLEN	REPAY
H	T	U	M	Y	A	O	S	N	R	Y	I	R	S	P	FAMINE	RICH
C	P	B	B	R	R	A	R	S	I	W	A	D	L	L	FIRE	SINS
I	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	Y	P	L	O	P	O	Y	FOUL	SORROW
R	B	I	R	D	E	M	O	N	S	I	L	R	E	W	GLORY	SPIRIT
W	O	R	R	O	S	G	N	I	K	S	D	E	K	R	GREAT	TORMENT
E	K	N	U	R	D	Y	O	H	A	T	E	D	W	S	HATED	UNCLEAN
U	F	O	U	L	U	X	U	R	Y	E	R	I	F	D	HEART	UTTERLY
															HEAVEN	WIDOW
															JUDGES	WORKS
															KINGS	WRATH
																ABUNDANCE
																DWELLING
																MERCHANTS
																BABYLON

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Psalm 67

MORE PUZZLES AT:  
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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## 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." Beginning Tuesday, January 3 we will again be sharing a supper meal prior to our Bible Study. We'll 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:

*WEIRD: Because Normal Isn't Working*

### **Mom's Study**

9:30 Wednesday mornings (Childcare provided)

We finish up our study

*WEIRD: Because Normal Isn't Working.*

Then we'll follow up with the study

*"What Do \_\_\_\_\_ Believe?"*

### **Wednesday Noon Study**

We'll be starting the study

*"What Do \_\_\_\_\_ Believe?"*

### **Sunday Morning Study**

9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning

We finish up our study

*WEIRD: Because Normal Isn't Working.*

Then we'll follow up with the study:

*"What Do \_\_\_\_\_ Believe?"*

## 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)

### **Living Word is now on Facebook!**

Posting the daily bible readings, church activities, and taking prayer requests! Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) to sign up for your free account. Already on facebook? search for Living Word Lutheran Church and add us to your friend list.

## Story Behind The Song...

### "Jesus, Name Above All Names"

January 1 is the date set aside in the Church Year to celebrate the naming of Jesus. One of the songs we sing in church lists many of His names/titles. Names and titles that describe for us who He is. Each of the names/titles is found in God's Word as referring to Jesus. There are many more names/titles for Jesus that are not listed in this song, but these are some of the major ones. The lines from the song are underlined. The Bible verse the name is take from is listed below it in *italics*.

As you read... cirde the name that describes a characteristic of Jesus that you need to remember at this point in your life.

#### Jesus, name above all names...

*8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!  
9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him **the name that is above every name,**  
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*      Philippians 2:8-11

#### Beautiful Savior,

There are numerous passages that refer to Jesus as "Savior." One that we have recently heard from the angels in the Christmas story from Luke 2: *Today in the town of David **a Savior** has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.* Luke 2:11

#### Glorious Lord

"Lord" means "ruler" or "master." There are about 25 times more passages that refer to Jesus as Lord than passages that call him Savior (maybe because we need more reminders that He is our master than we need reminders that He came to save us). Here's one:

*I keep asking that the God of our **Lord** Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.* Ephesians 1:17

#### Immanuel, God is with us,

Another passage we've heard a lot recently. It comes from the Christmas story and was our verse of the month for December.

*"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**"—which means, "**God with us.**"* Matthew 1:23

#### Blessed Redeemer,

To "redeem" someone literally means to "pay a price to purchase them from slavery." Redeemer is a very appropriate title for Jesus who paid the price of His life to purchase our freedom from sin.

*But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to **redeem** those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.* Galatians 4:4-5

#### Living Word.

In John chapter one Jesus is called the "Word of God... who became flesh and lived among us." Peter adds, *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the **living and enduring word** of God.* 1 Peter 1:23

#### Jesus, Loving Shepherd,

One of the most-loved images of Jesus is that of Him as the Shepherd of us wandering sheep.

***"I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.*      John 10:11-16

#### Vine of the branches,

Jesus talks of His relationship with us as being like a vine and branches...

***"I am the vine; you are the branches.** If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.* John 15:5

#### Son of God.

Again, many passages refer to Jesus as the Son of God. Mark begins his gospel account of Jesus' life, death and resurrection

this way:

*The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, **the Son of God.** Mark 1:1*

Prince of Peace,

Some of the titles we have for Jesus are actually used in prophecies of His coming. "Prince of Peace" is one such title, coming to us from Isaiah:

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

Isaiah 9:6

Wonderful Counselor, - *Isaiah 9:6 - see above*

Lord of the universe,

Not only is Jesus the Lord of all who believe in Him, He is the Lord of all things: *"But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and **through whom he made the universe.**"* Hebrews 1:2

Light of the world.

Another favorite image of Jesus - one that we highlighted at Christmas with our children's program - is that of Jesus as a Light shining in a dark world: *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "**I am the light of the world.** Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* John 8:12

Jesus, Way of salvation,

Peter and John boldly proclaim this truth about Jesus:

***Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.**"* Acts 4:12

King of kings, Lord of Lords,

This title came from the book of Revelation long before it was sung in Handel's Messiah: *On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*** Revelation 19:16

The Way, the Truth and the Life,

Jesus' point-blank statement meant to dispel all doubt about who He is:

That for a day: Having amnesia and déjà vu at the same time. I think I've forgotten this before.

*Jesus answered, "**I am the way and the truth and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6*

Mighty Creator,

Here we find the truth that Jesus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Trinity, existed long before He came to earth as the baby in the manger: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. **Through him all things were made;** without him nothing was made that has been made.* John 1:1-3

My Savior and Friend.

One of our greatest hymns states, "What a Friend We have in Jesus." Jesus spoke these words to His disciples: *Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. **You are my friends if you do what I command.** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.* John 15:13-15

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Hrrrrmmff.. this year is going to be **ZERO FUN!**



I've got those New Years Resolution Blues

