



## **October 2014 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](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

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 Sunday is Reformation Sunday?

This question came up in one of our planning meetings as we were trying to decide dates for the choir to sing. It's a simple question, but it gives a chance to talk about why we celebrate certain events when we do.



You may have noticed that there aren't a lot of special "Days" in the church that have fixed dates. Christmas is one - we always celebrate it on December 25. And since Epiphany (the Wise Men day) has been fixed at 12 days after Christmas it is always celebrated on January 6. Easter, as you probably know, is a "moveable" date that follows the moon more than it does the calendar. Easter is set as the "First Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox," so it can be anywhere from March 22 to April 25. Since Ash Wednesday (40 days before Easter - not counting Sundays), Ascension Day (40 days after Easter) and Pentecost (50 days after Easter) are all dependent upon the date of Easter, they are never on the same date from year to year either.

Even though we do have fixed dates to celebrate Christmas and Epiphany, we really don't know the exact date Jesus was born or when the Magi showed up. Early on the church settled on those dates as the ones we would set aside to celebrate the birth of Christ and the first Gentiles coming to worship Him.

But there is one event we celebrate that we do know the exact date that it occurred in history - the beginning of The Reformation. It was on October 31 in the year 1517 that Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the school bulletin board on the north door of the University of Wittenberg Castle Church. Those statements served as a notice of an academic debate that Luther hoped would clarify the

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church's teaching regarding the sale of indulgences. The church in that day raised funds through the sale of indulgences that promised the purchaser a reduction in (or total removal of) the punishment for sin. Luther held that this was not Scriptural and hoped a debate would clarify and settle the matter. The debate was never held, but the 95 Theses sparked a movement to restore the church teachings to the truth that we are saved by God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus, not by anything we can do or pay.

However, since October 31 only falls on Sunday once every seven years, Lutheran churches typically celebrate it either the Sunday before or after October 31. This year we will celebrate the Reformation on Sunday, November 2, two days after the anniversary of the posting of the 95 Theses.

Thanks for asking  
Pastor David

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

## Inspire a Love of Reading...



Now that school is in full swing, book lists, reading logs, homework, and journals are everywhere. There's no doubt that reading has many benefits. Studies have shown that kids who read regularly gain confidence, increase their vocabulary, and improve their test scores. Here are some everyday ways to instill a love of reading.

**Read together.** Consider reading the same book your child is reading. Or have your child read to you. As you read, stop and talk about the book. Ask questions. Not only will it help your child with reading comprehension, but you'll also have special time together. If they can't read yet, read to them. It's never too early to start!

**Family devotions.** Kids and adults take turns reading different parts of the Bible story and devotion books and talk about what God has done, is doing, and will do for His beloved children.

**Books before bedtime.** If your children are engrossed in a good book, can bedtime slide a little later? Simply reading "one more chapter" sends a positive message and reinforces a love of reading.

**Be an example.** Let your kids "catch you" reading and meditating on God's Word and turning to Him in prayer. Consider placing your personal devotion materials—your Bible, devotion book, and prayer journal—in a place that is visible to your kids. Encourage them with their very own devotional books.

## Marriage Enrichment Retreat...

... **is History.** But History is something we are supposed to learn from. So we are including some things we learned at the retreat.

Thus far we've highlighted 6 keys for a successful marriage:

1. Never forget that you are a TEAM (with God as your coach)
2. Don't forget this truth: Men and Women ARE Different - by design!
3. Teammates must constantly communicate - don't assume you know!
4. Teammates work together to fight CONFLICT (not each other)
5. Teammates express APPRECIATION & ENCOURAGEMENT
6. Teammates huddle together daily in PRAYER & DEVOTION

### **This month's key: Setting Goals**

The team that doesn't shoot for the best will end up "like all the rest."

And from God's Word:

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." Prov-  
erbs 3:5-6

What does that passage say to you about making plans and setting goals?

### **A Goal-Setting Exercise:**

(Take some time to complete these statements)

- A. In ten years with God's help we will ...
- B. In one year with God's help we will...
- C. In six months with God's help we will...
- D. In one month with God's help we will...

### **Our Action Plan for Accomplishing These Goals :**

(Get SPECIFIC: WHO will do WHAT ? WHEN and WHERE will they do it - and HOW much/often ?)

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

Then pray and ask God to continue to guide and direct and empower your goal-setting and achieving!

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Thot for a day: Don't give up on your dreams...unless your dreams are really, really stupid

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## Mark Your Calendars...

### **Guys Work Project**

Monday afternoon, September 29, we move more dirt from the pile to the edges of the driveway. If you can help, bring a shovel or rake.



### **OCTOBER MOVIE NIGHT:**

(Movie Night will be indoors from now through spring)

This month's movie night is a special one for the guys, so we will be showing it at Men's Group on Tuesday, October 21 at 6:30 (Popcorn provided)

*"Courageous: Honor Begins at Home"*



### **October Food Shelf Sunday**

October 12 (always the 2nd Sunday)

Bring some canned goods to help stock the Link's New London food shelf

Sponsored each month by the women of Living Word's LWML

## A sampling of Goals for 2015

**proposed by the MMT at their Planning Session:**

- Increase Sunday School attendance to be able to expand from two to three classes for 1st-6th grade.
- Have Sunday School kids participate in worship with music, etc..
- Schedule monthly activities/events people can invite friends to
- Organize a fall Craft Bazaar
- Videotape the worship services to stream on the website
- Establish a mentor program for new parents and newlyweds
- Host Christian Bluegrass concerts once-a-month in the summer (e.g Kingery family, Garms family, etc...)
- Add more storage space inside the church
- Paint parking spaces on the parking lot
- Add 2-4 people to the Youth Board to help plan activities
- Have Time / Talent / Treasure stewardship emphasis in January.



## Miscellaneous Notes...

### Now Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Living Word is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account.

Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

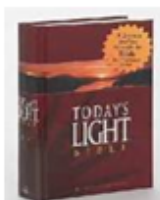
If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.

### Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

Here's just a sampling of what you'll find :

- Project 24 savings banks
- Today's Light Bibles to take home or give to someone who needs a Bible.
- NEW Oct-Dec Portals of Prayer
- October Living Word newsletters
- Religious Freedom info from Focus on the Family
- Magazines - like The Lutheran Witness
- Pens
- Local Coupons
- Gospel tracts & booklets



### Medical Equipment Available to Loan

If you have a temporary need for mobility aids (like a walker) please talk to Wendy or Lonny Robbin. They may have what you need.

### Choir will sing on October 19 & November 2

Leone Quigley leads practice after worship during October. Join us!

## Sunday School News...

Students start each morning with music, prayer requests from the kids and offering (monies going to "Project 24").

### October Lessons:

Oct. 5 - The Apostle Paul - Seeing the Light- Acts 9: 1-19  
Oct. 12- The Apostle Paul- The Great Escape - Acts 9:19-31  
Oct. 19- The Apostle Paul- Thrown in Prison- Acts 16: 16-34  
Oct. 26- The Apostle Paul- Shipwrecked- Acts 27: 13-36  
Nov. 2- Joshua- Joshua Leads Israel- Joshua 1:1-18

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Thot for a day: Don't let people drive you crazy. It's within walking distance.

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### Teachers / Classes:

Pre-school to Kindergarten:	Amanda Sharp
1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade:	Violet Dauk
4 <sup>th</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Keith Hanson
Substitute teachers:	Jason Miller, Tammy Fuglie, Mona Hjelle

### Rides are Available

We have volunteers who will pick kids up for Sunday School. Please contact either Mona Hjelle, Amanda Sharp or Keith Hanson

### Our Mission Project: Project 24

Our Vacation Bible School supported the LCMS-sponsored "Project 24" in Kenya as their mission project last month. The Sunday School will continue that support as their mission this year.



Project 24 is committed to building at least 24 orphan rescue centers. Donations help construct safe homes, provide food, clothing, and healthcare for children in need. As their physical needs are met, each child is told of Jesus' love.

On Sunday, August 3, Candice Bicondoa from the St. Cloud area introduced us to this mission that's changing lives of orphans in Kenya. Please help the VBS kids (and orphans in Kenya) by taking home a 'spare change' bank and filling it with your spare change. Thanks!

### Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

(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")

Remember to take a time-out to be "impudent" and PRAY for...

- Thanking God for the great early fall weather
- Thanking God for bringing lots of kids to Sunday School
- Thanking God for our Sunday School teachers and Superintendent
- Asking God for good weather for our Mexican Dinner day
- Thanking God for money the Sunday School raises for Project24
- Asking God for His Spirit to work through our Bible study groups
- Asking God for a fun and safe time for the 5th graders at Wolf Ridge
- Thanking God for the work of Lutherans for Life and MCCL
- For continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- For the discipline to simply listen to Jesus and do what He says
- A continuing overturn of laws that restrict our religious freedom
- Opportunities to "be Jesus" to someone where you live, work or play
- For the safety and boldness of Christians in Syria and Iraq

## Opportunities for Growth...

**Sunday Morning Study (9:00)** - Join us for our current study: Jesus' Parables: "Earthly Stories with Heavenly Meanings"



### Weekly Bible readings:

October finds us seeking out God's Wisdom for our everyday lives in the book of Proverbs.

Audio recordings of the readings can be found at our website

### Men's Study:

Tuesdays at 6:30—Tuesdays at 6:30 "NEW Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School" - The Gospel of Mark



### Mom's Study

Wednesdays @ 9:30 (Childcare is provided)  
PEW SISTERS: A 12-session study showing God's work in the lives of real Christian women as they struggle with alcoholism, depression, cancer, death of a loved one, chronic anxiety, etc.



### Wednesday Noon Study

"Pew Sisters" - see explanation above

### Working Moms/Women Study:

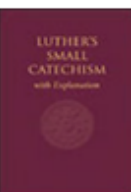
Wednesday evenings @ 6:30

"The Best Yes": *Making Wise Decisions in the Midst of Endless Demands*



### Confirmation

Will meet on Saturdays at 10:30 to study the 6 Chief Parts of Luther's Small Catechism



### 4-6th Grade Youth Group

Wednesdays @ 6:30

## Living Word Lutheran Church on the Web

### Our Website:

Information about our church, calendar of events, schedules, past newsletters, and more at <http://www.livingwordlutheran.net>

### Our Blog:

Keep up with the latest news and scripture lessons from Pastor Dave at <http://livingwordlutheranlcms.blogspot.com/>

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That for a day: Friends are God's way of apologizing for your relatives.

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## Mexican Dinner is Back!!!

When: **Saturday, October 18 from 4:30 to 7:30**

Menu: Chips & Salsa at every table  
Enchiladas Tortilla Soup  
Taco Bar Refried Beans  
Spanish Rice Fried Ice Cream  
Churros Coffee, Lemonade, Milk

Cost: \$9.00 for adults, \$5 for kids 5-11,  
Free for kids 4 & under

Tickets: Packs to sell are available from Amanda Sharp.

Idea: Buy a bunch of tickets to give to friends as an outreach.

### How You Can Help:

- Prep food (Friday evening Oct 17);
- Set Up + Serve Food + Take Down
- Donate: + Chicken breasts + taco meat + salsa  
+ cheese + refried beans + black olives  
+ chips + taco shells + tortillas  
+ nacho cheese sauce.

## Congratulations!

- Living Word - on the 2nd Anniversary of our building!

Please email [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net) if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

# Oct. 2014 - Daily Devotionals

We finish September with a couple of passages about God's Wisdom and head into October and join the Wednesday evening Women's study in reading a chapter-a-day from the "Practical, Daily Wisdom Book" of the Bible - Proverbs (It's easy to remember what to read each day, since there are 31 chapters in Proverbs and 31 days in October, just read the chapter that corresponds to that day's date.) Record your insights from these chapters on the lines provided.

Audio Recordings of the Readings may be streamed from [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net)

## The WISDOM of God's Word

### Wk of Sept 28 Daily Readings

Sept 29 James 3:13-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Sept 30 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 1 Proverbs 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 2 Proverbs 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 3 Proverbs 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 4 Proverbs 4 \_\_\_\_\_

### Wk of Oct 5 Daily Readings:

Oct 5 Proverbs 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 6 Proverbs 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 7 Proverbs 7 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 8 Proverbs 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 9 Proverbs 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 10 Proverbs 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 11 Proverbs 11 \_\_\_\_\_

### Wk of October 12 Daily Readings

Oct 12 Proverbs 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 13 Proverbs 13 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 14 Proverbs 14 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 15 Proverbs 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 16 Proverbs 16 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 17 Proverbs 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 18 Proverbs 18 \_\_\_\_\_

### Wk of Oct 19 Daily Readings

Oct 19 Proverbs 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 20 Proverbs 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 21 Proverbs 21 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 22 Proverbs 22 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 23 Proverbs 23 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 24 Proverbs 24 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 25 Proverbs 25 \_\_\_\_\_

### Wk of Oct 26 Daily Readings

Oct 26 Proverbs 26 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 27 Proverbs 27 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 28 Proverbs 28 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 29 Proverbs 29 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 30 Proverbs 30 \_\_\_\_\_

Oct 31 Proverbs 31 \_\_\_\_\_





Nov 1 Review passages you highlighted

### Daily Readings Available in Audio

...on our website [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net).



# October 2014 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sept 28</b> 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	<b>Sept 29</b>	<b>Sept 30</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	<b>1</b> 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<div>  <b>Lord's Supper Dates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday, October 5th</li> <li>Sunday, October 19th</li> </ul> </div>						
<b>5</b> 9:00 Adult Study - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 7:00 HS Youth Group	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	<b>8</b> 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:30 Confirmation
<b>12</b> 9:00 Adult Study: Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Elders' Team	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	<b>15</b> 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	<b>16</b> 5:30 Community Outreach Team 6:30 Mission & Ministry Team	<b>17</b>  6:00 Food-Prep	<b>18</b> 4:30 - 7:30 MEXICAN DINNER
<b>19</b> 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 7:00 HS Youth Group	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:30 Men's Movie Night: <i>Courageous</i> 	<b>22</b> 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:30 Confirmation
<div> <b>Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you            by e-mail. Send your email address to:  <a href="mailto:newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net">newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net</a></b> </div>						
<b>26</b> CARPENTER'S TOOLS 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School (Kids wear costumes) 10:00 Worship with music by The Carpenter's Tools 11:15 Fellowship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	<b>29</b> 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 	<b>Nov 1</b> 10:30 SMOKE- DETECTOR BATTERY GIVEAWAY Voter's Assembly after worship tomorrow

## Upcoming Schedules...

### Scripture Readers

Oct 5	Tammy Fuglie
Oct 12	Terrell Abbott
Oct 19	Duane Hansen
Oct 26	Eve Bajari
Nov 2	Tammy Wachter
Nov 9	Scott Wachter
Nov 16	Bryson Wachter
Nov 23	Wendy Robbin
Nov 30	Mona Hjelle

### Fellowship Servers

Oct 5	Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
Oct 12	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
Oct 19	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Oct 26	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Nov 2	Wendy Robbin / Alida Sawatzky
Nov 9	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Nov 16	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Nov 23	Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
Nov 30	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson

### Usher Schedule

Oct 5	Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle
Oct 12	Kevin & Noah Welsh
Oct 19	Jamie & Phil Iverson
Oct 26	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weffen
Nov 2	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Nov 9	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Nov 16	Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp
Nov 23	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Nov 30	Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle

### Altar Guild

October	Mona Hjelle
November	Nancy Jo Wendt

### Make A Meal Volunteers

October	Violet Dauk & Julie Bajari
November	Bonnie Hansen & Gerri Strohsen

### Custodian

October	Brent & Alicia Sawatzky
November	Mike Von Rueden

**Thot for a day:** A new government study found that women who carry a little extra weigh live longer than men who mention it.

### Elders

Oct 5	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Oct 19	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Nov 2	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Nov 16	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Nov 26	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter

### Nursery

Oct 5	Mona Hjelle
Oct 12	Eve Bajari
Oct 19	Gracie Geer
Oct 26	Michelle Johnson
Nov 2	Mona Hjelle
Nov 9	Eve Bajari
Nov 16	Gracie Geer
Nov 23	Michelle Johnson
Nov 30	Helper needed

### Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Oct 5	Lance Sawatzky
Oct 12	George Arends-Schmidt
Oct 19	Carson Jaspersen
Oct 26	Noah Miller

### Accompanying Musicians

Oct 5	Sharon Willen
Oct 12	Scott Wachter
Oct 19	Pam Johnson
Oct 26	<b>CTI</b>

### **(Carpenter's Tools group)**

Nov 2	Sharon Willen
Nov 9	Scott Wachter
Nov 16	Pam Johnson
Nov 23	Scott Wachter
Nov 26	Thanksgiving Eve
Nov 30	Scott Wachter



## October Discipleship Verse...

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



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

During a question and answer session at a recent speaking engagement, a university student asked, "Why do you believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God?"

Now this is a very interesting question; and probably one of the most important questions any Christian could ask themselves. What is so special, so unique about the Bible that Christians believe it is literally the inspired word of God.

In answering this student's question, I encouraged him to consider the following facts about the Bible:

First, the Bible is not just one single book. This is a more common misconception than many people realize, especially with people who do not come from a Judeo-Christian background. Rather than being a single book, the Bible is actually a collection of 66 books. These 66 books contain a variety of genres: history, poetry, prophecy, wisdom literature, letters, and apocalyptic just to name a few.

Second, these 66 books were written by 40 different authors. These authors came from a variety of backgrounds: shepherds, fishermen, doctors, kings, prophets, and others. And most of these authors never knew one another personally.

Third, these 66 books were written over a period of 1500 years. Yet again, this is another reminder that many of these authors never knew or collaborated with one another in writing these books.

Fourth, the 66 books of the Bible were written in 3 different languages. In the Bible we have books that were written in the ancient languages of Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic; a reflection of the historical and cultural circumstances in which each of these books were written.

And finally, these 66 books were written on 3 different continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe. Once again, this is a testament to the varied historical and cultural circumstances of God's people.

Think about the above realities: 66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3 different languages, on 3 different continents. Most importantly, this collection of books shares a common storyline- the creation, fall, and redemption of God's people; a common theme- God's universal love for all of humanity; and a common message-salvation is available to all who repent of their sins and commit to following Jesus with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength. In addition to sharing these commonalities, these 66 books contain no historical errors or contradictions. God's word truly is an amazing collection of writings!

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That for a day: For every problem there's a simple solution. Unfortunately, it's usually wrong.

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After I had shared the above facts with this student, I offered him the following challenge: I said to him, "If you do not believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God, if you do not believe that the Bible is of a supernatural origin, then I challenge you to a test." I said to the student, "I challenge you to go to any library in the world, you can choose any library you like, and find 66 books which match the characteristics of the 66 books in the Bible. You must choose 66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3 different languages, written on 3 different continents. However, they must share a common storyline, a common theme, and a common message, with no historical errors or contradictions." I went on to say, "If you can produce such a collection of books, I will admit that the Bible is not the inspired word of God."

The student's reply was almost instantaneous, he emphatically stated, "But that's impossible!"

"But that's impossible!" It truly is impossible, for any collection of human writings. However, the Bible passes this test. The Bible contains 66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3 different languages, on 3 different continents, with no historical errors or contradictions. The entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, bears the mark of Divine inspiration.

The next time you encounter someone who asks you why you believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, try sharing this challenge with them. Better yet, don't wait until you're asked, just go ahead and share this challenge with a friend today..

You don't even have to mention the Bible up front, just ask them if they think it would be realistic to assemble such a collection of books. After they say, "But that's impossible!" you've got a ready-made opportunity for sharing the truth of God's word with somebody.

## Email Humor...

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

## Opportunities to Serve...

### Serve After-Worship Fellowship Snack

We are looking for more folks to take a turn at serving snacks for fellowship time after worship.

### Help With our Mexican Dinner

After a couple years off, the annual Mexican Dinner is back! We will have short planning meetings after worship each Sunday until the dinner on Saturday, October 18. A sign-up sheet to offer your help can be found at church. See page 9 for more details.



### Be Part of Our Community Outreach Team

Outreach Coordinator Amanda Sharp will be hosting a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, October 16 for anyone interested in being on the team - or just finding out what it's about. Please talk to Amanda if you have any questions. Thanks!

### Be "Custodian of the Month" for December

December are still available. You (or your whole family) can sign up to provide the necessary cleaning for any of these months. A check-list of duties is posted by the mailboxes. Please consider being a part of this service. Talk to Wendy or Lonny Robbin if you have questions or to volunteer yourself or your family.

### Suggest a "Thank God For" Message...

You've seen our message board by the road with the beginning of a sentence, "Thank God For..." Each week we want to change the ending of that sentence to encourage people to remember that God is the Giver of all good things - especially things we often take for granted. Last week we thanked God for Trees! Tell Pastor how you'd finish the sentence this week.



### Help With Our Nursery

We need volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-4 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help out.

### Remember to 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 Dille if you

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That for a day: I'm a multi-tasking procrastinator. I can put off all kinds of things at once.

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## More Opportunities to Serve...

### 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 spring. 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.

### Provide Foster Care with Lutheran Social Service

Lutheran Social Service is actively recruiting families in your area who would have interest in becoming a foster parent. **Do you have room in your heart and home for a child who is in transition and needs a safe, supportive home in which to live and grow?** There is need for a few good homes in this area. We need homes for all ages of kids, that need temporary homes, long term and permanent homes/adoptive homes. Please call Foster Care Coordinator Brooke Rustad at 320-235-5411 or email at [brooke.rustad@lssmn.org](mailto:brooke.rustad@lssmn.org) to get more information

### Volunteer with MOPS

New London Mother of Pre-Schoolers (MOPS) is looking for volunteers who feel called to minister to small children and show them the love of Jesus through play, crafts and Bible stories. While volunteers are ministering to children, their moms are encouraged through fellowship, devotions, small groups and speakers. Volunteers are needed the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday mornings of each month (September 9 - May 12), from 9:15 to 11:45am (regularly, once a month or as a sub). If interested please contact Emily Groschens at 612-735-0772 or [mrsjoegro@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjoegro@gmail.com) or Kelsey Steffensen, 320-444-2538 or [kelseysteffensen@gmail.com](mailto:kelseysteffensen@gmail.com). We're also seeking to hire a Moppets Volunteer Coordinator. Job description and application available by contacting Emily or Kelsey. Thank you!



### Thanks!

- To Outreach Team Chairperson Amanda Sharp for organizing the Mexican Dinner this year!
- To the folks who donated our new 'boundary marker' spruce trees!



## The Daily Dozen of Christian Parenting



The class is finished, but the parenting never stops, so we'll have excerpts of things we learned in this and future newsletters.

**DAILY DOZEN #11 Laugh a LOT!** (and then laugh some more)

"Do you know that when we laugh our brain releases good chemicals called "endorphins"? It's a word that literally means "internal morphine." What a deal! When we laugh loud our brain actually releases a chemical that is similar to morphine and those effects can hang out in the brain for twelve to twenty-four hours! So, laugh, laugh and laugh some more; even at yourself.

One caution: Sarcasm is usually not funny to the person it is directed to.

### Questions to ponder:

- Do you laugh enough with your children ?
- Do your children see you laughing a lot with your spouse ?
- What can you do to incorporate some more laughter into your life?

### Ideas:

- Home videos can be filled with laughs. Watch some together.
- Start each meal by asking someone to tell a joke. You could even assign "Jokester of the Day" to each person of the family.
- Watch a comedy movie together.
- Watch Funniest Home Videos together.

## Email Inspiration...

**From Liz Goldstein of Jews for Jesus**

A couple years ago we hosted a "Christ in the Passover" event presented by the Jews for Jesus organization. Liz Goldstein was our presenter. Once a quarter Liz sends an email with an update on her work with Jewish youth. I thought you may find her latest email to be an inspiration.

Dear Pastor David, Let me begin by wishing you a happy new year! The Jewish new year, Rosh Hashanah, begins tonight, on the evening of September 24th. I'm looking forward to what God has in store this coming year, and I'm hopeful and prayerful that there will be many Jewish people who come to faith in Jesus through the NY work of Jews for Jesus.



Over the summer, with Camp Gilgal, there were two campers from unsaved Jewish homes who attended camp and prayed to receive the Lord, one at Junior Camp the other at Teen Camp. Trent came to Junior Camp for the first time, at the invitation of his aunt. He was pretty difficult throughout the session of camp - sometimes he was involved with the program and Bible teaching, other times he was very resistant, but throughout the two week session of camp, it was almost like you could see a cloud of spiritual activity following him wherever he went, like Pigpen from Peanuts.

Many of our staff got to speak with him about spiritual things, including sharing the gospel. I gave a Bible to him and his younger sister at the halfway point in camp, and his Tribe Leader told me that he was reading from it as often as he could. That was very exciting to hear.

On the last day of camp, we have an awards ceremony, where the campers are recognized by their tribe leaders for an area of growth they've shown throughout the session of camp, followed by a gift for first time campers. At the end of this time, Trent raised his hand to say something. I could see by the look in his eyes that it was something important. When I called on him, he said something along the lines of, "I am so happy. And I just want to let everyone know that now that I have faith in God, I can see that my life is going to be different." We were all a little stunned. This was still the last thing I expected Trent to say, but we rejoiced with him for his new life.

The next day, I sat next to him on our school bus ride from camp back home, and we talked. I asked him about how he came to believe in God. I asked him if he understood what sin was. I asked him where and how Jesus fits into this picture. In this conversation, I saw that he does in fact believe in Jesus for his salvation and forgiveness of sin!

At Teen Camp, we had a joint camp session with Camp Gilgal Midwest. Lea was one of the girls from the Midwest. She came at the invitation from a friend, who also attended camp. Lea's from an unsaved Jewish background. The midwest director asked me to have a conversation with her early in the week. And even though I had never met this girl before, on the second day of camp, I approached her while we were walking down the road to a meal, and began a spiritually directed conversation with her. I was intimidated at first, but she responded and told me that she wanted to know God. Talk about being open!

Through the week, she had conversations with her fellow campers and other staff. At our last Tabernacle session, we gave an opportunity for all of the campers to respond, indicating whether or not they'd like to make a first time commitment of faith, and Lea raised her hand! Her Tribe Leader was sitting next to her, and as



soon as we dismissed, she had a conversation with Lea asking about what she understood about what she had done. In that conversation, Lea asked her Tribe Leader if this decision she just made to commit her life to Yeshua was something that she needed to tell her parents. Her Tribe Leader encouraged and told her that should do that, in the near future. I was so encouraged to hear that report, because it shows that Lea sees this as something significant in her own life, and also sees the potential difficulty that her faith might bring into her family life.

There are many more stories I could tell! Please pray for the campers to continue to grow in their faith - especially the ones who re-dedicated their lives to the Lord. Pray also for the staff who served, that they will find places to keep serving in their work-school-lives. And let's praise God together for new life!

Thank you for standing with me, with the work of Jews for Jesus. Let me know how I can be praying for you. I pray a fruitful year for you. L'shana tovah!

In our Messiah,  
Liz G.

## Story Behind The Song...

### "Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet"

This song was from American Christian singer-songwriter Amy Grant's 1984 album *Straight Ahead*, the first Christian set ever to chart on the Billboard pop chart.

Grant and Christian singer-songwriter Michael W Smith wrote the song which is a worshipful hymn based on Psalm 119 v105. The song was recorded at Caribou Ranch recording studio high in the Rocky Mountains.

Michael originally came up with the song's melody and some words for the chorus straight from David's Psalms about God's Word being a light into our path. Amy fell in love with his demo, but as Michael had no idea what the verses were supposed to say, he gave it to her and told her she could finish the tune. "So later that night she starts walking back to her cabin," Michael told us. "And you have to understand Caribou Ranch is an 8,000 acre ranch and it's very dark, and you're in the middle of nowhere. And she got lost. There's bears and all that sort of thing. You've got to really know where you're going. It's obviously a compound with all these cabins and stuff."

"She finally saw a lamp and started walking towards that light, didn't realize that it was her cabin," he continued. "And she walked into that little cabin and sat down with a notebook and pen and wrote the verses to 'Thy Word.'"

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

When I feel afraid,  
Think I've lost my way,  
Still You're there right beside me,  
And nothing will I fear  
As long as You are near,  
Please be near me to the end.

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

Now, I will not forget  
Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide  
And hold me to Your side,  
And I will love You to the end.

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

**Editor's note:** Watch the live version of this song performed by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith at <http://youtu.be/Iq8dO3Vayw>

## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The Pumpkin Epistle: Be transformed by the renewal of your minds **Romans 12:2**