



Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



December 2015 Newsletter
"Communicating the Love of Jesus"
Worship Hours:
Christian Growth Hour: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church

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

What we aim to do:
Make disciples for Jesus - as we go, wherever we go.
What we aim to be:
A joyful, caring, Christ-centered family of God.

Question for Pastor...

"Why do we give each other gifts at Christmas when Jesus is the One with the birthday?"

That's a really good question.

If you "google" that question (like I did) you'll come up with lots of speculation about the origin of gift giving. Some folks are convinced it was a pagan practice that started as a way of celebrating the fact that the amount of sunlight finally starts to increase again after the winter solstice (Dec. 21). Others explain that Saint Nicholas was noted for giving gifts of money to the poor (and tossing those gifts through windows - not down chimneys - in stockings). Others feel that the gift-giving craze got started in earnest in response to Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, because no one wanted to be called a "Scrooge." And, of course, there is the truth that the practice is fueled by retailers who want to sell stuff, so they convince us to buy their stuff (not for selfish reasons, but to give to others).

Each of those explanations may play a part.

But the real question is, "No matter how it got started, what is our motivation for continuing the practice?"

I'm going to suggest a couple for you. A couple of reasons for giving gifts that are actually found in the Bible.

1) We read at the end of the book of Esther that God's people gave each other gifts as a way to celebrate God sparing His people from being destroyed.

I'd say that motivation translates very well to our Christmas situation. God sent His Son into our world that first Christmas for the express purpose of sparing us from being destroyed by our sin. If the Israelites of long ago celebrated God saving them by giving gifts of food to each other, isn't it



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appropriate to expand the gifts beyond food in response to the greatest salvation of all - our eternal one.?!)

2) Gifts are given to show appreciation and thanks. That's why we bring our offering gifts to God each Sunday. Christmas is as good a time as any to give gifts to other people as a way of saying, "Thanks for what you do."

3) Gifts may be given to show honor. The magi brought their gold, frankincense and myrrh to honor Jesus as the King of the Jews.

4) But mostly gifts are given to show you care. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son....

Bottom line: It really doesn't matter how the practice got its start. What does matter is that you continue the practice for a good reason - and "just because it's always been done that way" isn't a real good reason. Pick one of the reasons listed above and you have a good, biblical motivation for your gift-giving.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Congratulations!

On your Sunday School attendance award:

- Alison Sarlsand,
- Troy Sarlsand,
- Anna Sharp,
- Eli Sharp,,
- Rya Sharp
- Cody Wendt

On your perfect Confirmation Attendance:

- George Arends-Schmidt,
- Carson Jaspersen,
- McCartney Knutson,
- Noah Miller,
- Davis Rustad,
- Lance Sawatzky,
- Andrew Sharp

WAY TO GO STUDENTS (AND PARENTS) !!!

Becca Dauk on your new job with Endeavor Airlines!

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

Miscellaneous Notes...

Join Our CHOIR

Practice for the Sunday School Program will be on December 6th after coffee fellowship. If anyone has a special song you want the choir to sing, let Leone know so we can practice it. All are welcome to come and be a part of the choir



MECHANIC'S TOOLS NEEDED

Tammy Fuglie's dad recently lost his auto mechanic shop in a fire - including all of his mechanic's tools. If you have any good quality tools you could donate please talk to Tammy. Thanks !

Poinsettias Welcome

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



Last Chance to Check the Directory Proof Copy.

A proof copy of the Living Word Church Directory is posted on the white board outside Pastor's office. Check it out and list any changes/additions for you or your family on the copy. If we don't have a picture of you and your family, please email one to Violet - violetdauk@tds.net Thanks!

Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

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

- + Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- + Today's Light Devotional Bibles
- + December Living Word newsletters
- + Local coupons
- + December Today's Light daily Bible readings
- + Oct—Dec Portals of Prayer - daily devotionals
- + Christian magazines & Videos

YOU CAN PLAY HANDBELLS

It's really not that difficult. If you can count, you can play! We have the opportunity to form a Bell Choir to play for worship. Please talk to Jason or Sarah Miller if you'd like to be a part of it!



December "Cookies for Teachers" Outreach

Last December we took plates of cookies for the teachers at each of the NL-S schools as a way of saying "Thanks" for what you do. We plan to

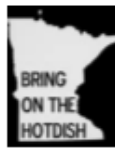
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That for a day: We had cured ham for Christmas dinner. We all wondered what illness it was cured of.

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do that again this December. Talk to Amanda Sharp for details - Cookies need to be here by December 16.

Could You Bring Some Food for the Circuit Pastors' Meeting -



Monday, Dec 7 ?

We will need ...

+ Some breakfast goodies - fruit, pastries, coffee, juice

+ Lunch - hotdish or soup/sandwich and dessert

Please talk to Pastor David if you can provide any of these.

Still 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 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.

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

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare & serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister.

I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will Save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded.

He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

Mark Your Calendars...

Birthday Party for Jesus

Saturday, December 19 @ 11:30

A special time for the kids to celebrate Jesus' birthday with crafts, snacks, and activities. (We will practice for the Christmas program at 10:30 before the Party)



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

(Thursday, December 24 @ 5pm)

- The entire service is done by candlelight.
- The Christmas Story from Luke chapter two is interspersed with Christmas Carols
- The Lord's Supper is Celebrated

Christmas Program -

Sunday, Dec 20 @ 10:00 a.m. (During Worship)

"Come to Bethlehem and See"

(Program practice will be 9:00 Sunday mornings - during Sunday School hour)



Annual Christmas Dinner

December 20 @ 11:30 a.m. (After the Christmas Program)

You are invited to Living Word Lutheran's annual CHRISTMAS DINNER following Sunday Services/ Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 20th.

~Meat (Turkey and Meatballs) will be provided, Each family is asked to bring a dish to pass. There will be a signup sheet at church so that you can indicate what item(s) of food that you would like to bring, and the approximate number of family members attending (so that we can adequately prepare for seating and food amounts), or if you are able to assist with setup, serving, or cleanup. Any questions or additions, please contact Bonnie Hansen at 796-5605 or email textbooks@tds.net

Raisin Sauce	Mustard Sauce	
Potatoes (mashed, scalloped, potato hotdish - your choice)		
Spinach Salad	Lettuce Salad	Other Salad
Sweet Potatoes	Squash	Vegetable
Baked Beans	Fresh Vegetables and Dip	
Cheese & Crackers	Cranberry Sauce	
Gallon of Milk	Apple Pie	Pumpkin Pie
2 Dozen Buns/Dinner Rolls	Loaf of Bread (sliced & buttered)	
Plate of Christmas Cookies or Christmas Breads		

What Does the LC-MS Believe?

Pastor will be hosting a "What does the Missouri Synod believe" class for those interested in membership at Living Word. Please talk to Pastor David if you'd like to take the class. Thanks!

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Thot for a day: He who hesitates is not only lost, but probably several miles from the next freeway exit.

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National Youth Gathering Info Meeting

Sunday, December 6 After Worship -

For Parents & Students (14 & up)

The Youth Gathering is held every 3 years. The 2016 Gathering is this coming July in New Orleans.



Ladies, Save the Date: April 15

(And NOT Because Taxes Are Due Then !!!)

Plans are to hold a Women's Retreat that weekend. Mark your calendars. It will be a time of fun and growth!

Coming in January:



CTI Music Ministries Group 14:21 will be at Living Word on Sunday, January 3rd. Check them out on their website at www.ctimusic.org and stay for dinner after the worship and get to know the member of the group.

It is always a great time listening to these young people share their faith, their stories, and their music.

Sunday School News....

9:00 every Sunday morning

- Classes Students start each morning with music, prayer requests from the kids and offering .
- Upcoming Lessons
 - Nov. 29- Christmas Program Practice
 - Dec. 6 - Christmas Program Practice
 - Dec. 13- Christmas Program Practice
 - Dec. 19 - Christmas Program Practice @ 10:30
 - Dec. 19 - Birthday Party for Jesus @ 11:30
 - Dec. 20 - Christmas Program
 - Dec. 27 - No class
- Teachers / Classes: Pre-school to Kindergarten: Kari Sharp
1st & 2nd Grade: Amanda Sharp
3rd & 4th Grade: Violet Dauk
5th to 8th Grade Keith Hanson
- Rides are Available (Talk to Mona Hjelle or Pastor David)

Christmas Program Practice Begins Nov. 29

I would like to invite your children (or grandchildren, or even the 'kids next door') to participate in our Children's Christmas Program. The program will be Sunday, Dec. 20th during the 10:00 Worship Service. Practice will be on Sunday morning's during the Sunday School hour. Please let me know if they would like to participate, so I can make them a part of it. You can contact me by email (rhjelle@tds.net) or text 320-212-0069. Thanks!

Mona Hjelle, Sunday School Director

Who Can You Invite???

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

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

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



Kids:

- **Birthday Party for Jesus** (Sat., Dec. 19 @ 11:30 a.m.)

Everyone:

- **The Christmas Program** (Sunday, December 20 @ 10am)
Special music, songs by the kids and the Christmas story)
- **Christmas Dinner** (Sunday, December 20 @ 11:30)
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship** (Dec. 24 @ 5pm)
The entire service is done by candlelight.
The Christmas Story from Luke chapter two is interspersed with Christmas Carols
- **Christmas Day Worship** (Dec. 25 @ 9:00am)

Thank God For...

You've seen our sign board out by the road with the beginning of a sentence: "Thank God For..." Each week we'd like to change the ending of that sentence to encourage people who drive past to remember that God is the giver of all good things- especially things we take for granted. Last week we thanked God for Popcorn!

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week.



Link Newsletter, December 2015

Well folks, by the time you receive this newsletter, Thanksgiving will have come and gone! All that will be left to show of it is leftover turkey and a few extra pounds! It is my hope that everyone shared the day with family and gave thanks for all they have!

Now we move on to Christmas! For most people, this is the holiday for which they wait all year! Not me...I can't stand all of the ads and commercials shouting at us to buy, buy, buy! Did you know that in 2012, the average family budget for Christmas was \$749.51? Wow! I am guessing that number is based on a two-parent household with 2.5 children! I don't need any gifts (I am sure my kids don't feel the same), I just want to spend time with family and partake in family traditions. I want to create memories for my kids! What is the one family tradition you can't imagine not taking part in? Mine would be making tamales with my mother. We use to do it with my grandmother before she passed away a few years ago. Now my kids are learning and we share so many giggles while preparing one of our favorite ethnic foods! Memories....

With these thoughts in mind, I can't help but consider those less fortunate and about many of the families the Link serves. It isn't just about the lack of money to buy gifts or to prepare holiday meals, it is bigger than that. It is about creating memories. Giving money is great and I encourage all to do so this time of year! However, fellowship matters greatly. If you know of someone who is struggling this year, I invite you to offer them your time and presence. Treat a single mom and her kids to a movie, have coffee with a senior who lives alone, invite someone to dinner or take them to see Christmas lights. These are the gifts that we should freely give. The best part is, that in return, we are filled with joy for giving more than what money can buy.

Story of Collaboration:

In November, I was invited by a family that the Link serves to a team meeting. This meeting was facilitated by Southern Prairie Community Care. All of the service providers that work with this family came together as a team to assist the family in overcoming a couple of barriers. It was refreshing to see how easily things can be resolved when agencies work together for the common good. The meeting was very empowering for this mother and I could see the stress leave her shoulders. Because of this collaboration, their housing was stabilized, the team learned of ways to support mom's mental and physical health and her 18 year-old son decided to return to school to complete his high school diploma! All that from just one meeting, it just goes to show what can happen when agencies collaborate.



Get Your Tickets While They Last...

This is a FREE event, but seating is limited. Tickets are *required* to

attend and are available through the Link at 796-2522

This is a fundraising event to support the Link's outreach fund assisting local people in need

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air." W.T. Ellis

Tuesday's Table in December:

Food, Friends, Fellowship.
 December 1st: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church
 December 8th: Evangelical Covenant Church
 December 15th: Faith Lutheran Church
 December 22nd: Peace Lutheran Church
No Tuesday's Table December 29th

December 2015 - Daily Devotionals

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We spend the month in the "hymnal of the Old Testament" - the Psalms and jump to the Gospel of Luke in time for Christmas.
(In parentheses are verses to focus on if you are short on time that day)

Nov 29 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**

Nov 30 Psalm 1:1-6:10 (Psalm 1) _____

Dec 1 Psalm 7:1-11:7 (Psalm 9) _____

Dec 2 Psalms 12:1-17:50 (Psalm 17) _____

Dec 3 Psalms 18:1-22:31 (Psalm 22) _____

Dec 4 Psalms 23:1-28:9 (Psalm 24) _____

Dec 5 Psalms 29:1-34:22 (Psalm 32) _____

Dec 6 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**

Dec 7 Psalms 35:1-41:13 (Psalm 37:1-11) _____

Dec 8 Psalms 42:1-47:9 (Psalm 46) _____

Dec 9 Psalms 48:1-53:6 (Psalm 48 & 51) _____

Dec 10 Psalms 54:1-60:12 (Psalm 57) _____

Dec 11 Psalms 61:1-66:20 (Psalm 61) _____

Dec 12 Psalms 67:1-72:20 (Psalm 72) _____

Dec 13 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**

Dec 14 Psalms 73:1-77:20 (Psalm 77) _____

Dec 15 Psalms 78:1-82:8 (Psalm 81) _____

Dec 16 Psalm 83-89 (Psalm 87) _____

Dec 17 Psalm 90-95 (Psalm 90) _____

Dec 18 Psalm 96-101 (Psalm 100) _____

Dec 19 Psalm 102-106 (Psalm 105) _____

Dec 20 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**

Dec 21 Psalm 107-113 (Psalm 110) _____

Dec 22 Psalm 114-118 (Psalm 115) _____

Dec 23 Luke 1 (1:36-38) _____

Dec 24 Luke 2:1-20 (2:1-20) _____

Dec 25 Luke 2:21-3:38 (3:23-38) _____

Dec 26 Luke 4:1-5:39 (4:16-37) _____

Dec 27 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**

Dec 28 Luke 6:1-49 (6:1-11) _____

Dec 29 Luke 7:1-8:56 (7:36-50) _____


Dec 30 Luke 9:1-62 (9:37-45) _____

Dec 31 Luke 10:1-42 (10:1-24) _____

Jan 1 Luke 11:1-12:59 (11:1-13) _____

Jan 2 Luke 13:1-35 (13:22-30) _____

December 2015 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 29 9:00 ADULT STUDY Christmas Pgm Practice 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Choir Practice	Nov 30	1 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	2 8:30 MOMS' STUDY 6:15 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	3	4	5
				<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px;"> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday, December 6th • Christmas Eve, December 24th </div>		
6 9:00 ADULT STUDY Christmas Pgm Practice 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING Parent Info Meeting 6:30 SR HIGH YOUTH STUDY	7 8:30 - 1:00 Circuit Pastors at LIVING WORD	8 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	9 8:30 MOMS' STUDY 6:15 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	10	11	12
				<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px;"> Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net </div>		
13 9:00 ADULT STUDY Christmas Pgm Practice 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship	14	15 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	16 8:30 MOMS' STUDY 6:15 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	17 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	18	19 10:30 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE 11:30 BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS
20 CHRISTMAS PGM & DINNER 9:00 Adult Study Christmas Pgm Practice 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship /CHRISTMAS PGM w/Lord's Supper 11:15 CHRISTMAS DINNER 6:30 SR HIGH YOUTH STUDY	21	22 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP (w/Lord's Supper)	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00 CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP	26
						
27 9:00 ADULT STUDY No Sunday School today 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE	28	29 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	30 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	3	Jan 1	Jan 2

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Dec 6	Linda Dilley
Dec 13	Jason Miller
Dec 20	Christmas Program
Dec 27	Mark Fuglie
Jan 3	CTI
Jan 10	Tammy Fuglie
Jan 17	Duane Hansen
Jan 24	Tammy Wachter
Jan 31	Scott Wachter

Fellowship Servers

Dec 6	Leone & Kerry Quigley
Dec 14	Mike & Brooke Knutson
Dec 20	Christmas Dinner
Dec 27	Becky Sarsland / Mary Raddatz
Jan 3	Dinner for CTI
Jan 10	Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky
Jan 17	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Jan 24	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Jan 31	Tammy Wachter & Sarah Miller

Usher Schedule

Dec 6	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Dec 13	Linda Dilley
Dec 20	Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson
Dec 27	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
Jan 3	Jason & Noah Miller
Jan 10	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Jan 17	Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp
Jan 24	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Jan 31	Linda Dilley

Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)

Dec 6	Mona Hjelle
Dec 13	McCartney Knutson
Dec 20	Gracie Geer
Dec 27	Alana Friebl
Jan 3	Mona Hjelle
Jan 10	McCartney Knutson
Jan 17	Gracie Geer
Jan 24	Alana Friebl
Jan 31	Michelle Johnson

That for a day: Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace

Elders

Dec 6	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Chrs Eve	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Jan 10	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Jan 24	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter

Altar Guild

Dec	Mona Hjelle
Jan	Nancy Jo Wendt

Make A Meal Volunteers

December	Jamie Iverson & Mona Hjelle
January	Gracie Geer & Laurel Iverson

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Dec 6	Davis Rustad
Dec 13	Carson Jaspersen
Dec 20	Noah Miller
Dec 27	Andrew Sharp
Jan 3	Levi Miller
Jan 10	Eli Sharp
Jan 17	Lance Sawatzky
Jan 24	George Arends-Schmidt
Jan 31	Davis Rustad

Accompanying Musicians

Dec 6	Sharon Willen
Dec 13	Scott Wachter
Dec 20	Sharon Willen
Chrs Eve	Susan Johnson
Chrs Day	Scott Wachter
Dec 27	Pam Johnson
Jan 3	CTI Group 14:21
Jan 10	Scott Wachter
Jan 17	Pam Johnson
Jan 24	Scott Wachter
Jan 31	Scott Wachter

Custodian

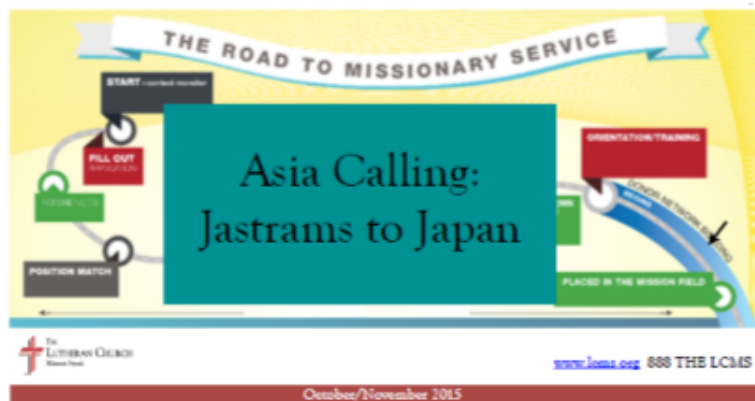
December	Sawatzkys and Marylee Moore
January	Custodian Needed

December Discipleship Verse...



"Surely I am coming soon" Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

Revelation 22:20



Thot for a day: People are like tea bags - you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are.

"What! The Jastrams are still in the States?" Yep! And we're keeping plenty busy these days as we travel around the Midwest building a sustainable network. Enjoy a glimpse of our days this past October and into November.

The Life of an LCMS Missionary Stateside

In the Car:



A Somewhat Office for Dan

Budget work - somebody has to do it! Although we've been on the road most days, Dan still makes time to prepare and submit proposals for the Northern Asia 2016-2017 budget. This work is no stranger to him with his eleven-year stint on the Concordia University System Board and twelve years as treasurer for another national organization. With coffee on hand and trail mix nearby he is set to go.

As theological education facilitator for Northern Asia, Dan collaborates with other LCMS leaders of the Asia team to evaluate and recommend projects that are submitted. For example, a number of proposed projects involve translation work. "Once deployed," Dan remarks "it will be a lot easier visiting face to face for a better feel for...what level of theological education needs most emphasis." Dan looks forward to this time!

And Everything Japanese for Joan

If I'm not sleeping in the car I might be folding origami cranes or leaning forward intently, eyes closed, listening and responding in Japanese to Fumilear's fantastic *Conversational Japanese compact discs* from the local library. Each lesson is 30 minutes long and to be repeated as often as deemed necessary. It's hard work! Let's just say that I'm pressing our network support will be completed well before I've completed this set of CDs. :-)



The Life of an LCMS Missionary Stateside (continued)

And OUT of the car:



Presentations

Since we last wrote, Dan has engaged with fellow Lutherans in over thirty different congregations throughout South Dakota, not to mention those in Minnesota and Wisconsin. They! He energetically shares about the second-generation mission work our Synod has planned for him: to work with our sister church bodies both in Japan, where seminarians patiently await the arrival of their new Greek New Testament professor, and in other Northern Asia seminaries, where he will facilitate stronger theological education ties with the LCMS. He wants to help our dear sister churches hold fast to our common Reformation heritage: *sola gratia, sola fide, sola scriptura.*

And Potlucks

What a pleasure for Dan to preach, present his mission work, and then join members for a potluck afterwards. On Reformation Sunday Dan had that privilege at Zion Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls WITH a special bonus: we shared the potluck meal with the Stedlaks, first generation missionaries who were in Japan when Dan was ten. "It was like sitting down with long-parted friends, a friendship that centers around a common culture and country, neither of which is our own," Dan exclaimed. Erno told him at its highest point the LCMS had forty-six missionaries in Japan. Currently we have ONE second-generation missionary in the area teaching English at Urava Lutheran School. Dan looks forward to doubling that number with your support!



Thank you for your ongoing prayers, support, and encouragement! If you have not yet become a partner and would like to support LCMS Jastram-Asia mission work, please do so through a single donation or a recurring gift in one of three ways:

•Securely online at the LCMS website: <https://www.lcms.org/giveonline/jastram>

•By mail - Send gifts to:
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Mission Advancement
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6061
(Checks payable to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; memo line notation: "Jastram-Asia support.")

•By phone: call 1-888-930-4438.

Operation Christmas Child

Thanks for the Gifts of Hope
Last month we packed a record 40 Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child!



Living Word Fall Craft Bazaar...

+ We had a record 13 vendors display their creations.
+ We also raised a record \$500 to provide Lutheran Island Camp Scholarships.

New 'Project Connect' booklet

"An Ingrate's Guide to CONTENTMENT"

Five Practices for a More Contented Life - No Matter Who You Are

While we may not be completely satisfied with our lot in life - and let's face it, most of us what more - to label oneself as an "ingrate" seems a bit harsh. Nevertheless, that's what the author of this booklet does. Why he does so is because he knows deep down inside that there's more to true contentment than a five-star home, a wife and family, and an expanding bank account.

This booklet offers insight on some key "practices" to implement in your life that will foster the contentment the Apostle Paul talks about in the book of Philippians.



Opportunities to Serve...

A Great Month 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 Dilley if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks ! Our December Make-a-Meal volunteers are Jamie Iverson and Mona Hjelle

Bring Food Shelf Items Every Second Sunday

We received donations of 23 pounds of food in November. Thanks for the support to the local shelf! Please remember to bring food items the 2nd Sunday of each month (December 13 this month). Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Be "Custodian of the Month"

You (or your whole family) can sign up to provide the necessary cleaning. 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.

Read Scripture in Worship

Please talk to Pastor David if you can take a turn once every couple of months reading our New Testament and Old Testament Scriptures.

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 Nursery

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

Fall Voter's Assembly...

Approved the following Ministry Goals for 2016:

Elders' Team Goals

- Re-establish Elder Groups (one more elder needed for this goal)
- Record Sermons for website
- Keep people coming in the door - by continuing to focus on the powerful truth of God's Word

Sunday School Goals

- Continue to increase number of children attending Sunday School (By personal invites and also through Outreach programs)
- Continue to increase children's participation in worship (By recitation of Bible verses, music, skits, acolyte, etc..)
- Have fun events for the kids to invite friends to throughout the year (By movie/pizza night - winter; campout/bonfire - spring)
- Reward attendance (By acknowledging regular attendance every two months)

Outreach Goals

- Focus on doing the best job on the outreach events we currently have, not adding new things
- Continue the FFAA nights in the winter

Stewardship Goals

- Host a "Financial Peace University" refresher in January
- Hold a stewardship emphasis on the Sundays in January
- Increase the utilization of automatic EFT for offerings

Trustee Goals

- Stripe the parking lot.
- Get a light for the Living Word sign
- Seal-coat the parking lot

Youth Goals

- Get maximum participation for the 2016 National Youth Gathering

E-Mail Humor...

Goat for Dinner

The young couple invited their elderly pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having.



"Goat," the little boy replied.

"Goat?" replied the startled man of the cloth, "Are you sure about that?"

"Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.' "

Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study (9:00)
Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School

Today's Light Daily Readings:
See pages 10—11 of this newsletter

Men's Study - Tuesdays @ 6:30
Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School

Wed. Noon Study -
Journey from Unbelief to Faith

Wed. Evening Women's Study -
6:30 Wednesday evenings
"Believing Jesus" (see page 23 for more information)

Mom's Study -
Wednesday, @ 8:30a.m. (childcare provided)
Journey from Unbelief to Faith (see page 11 for more information)

Confirmation Class
Wednesdays @ 6:15

Sr. High Youth Study
1st & 3rd Sunday evenings 6:30 - 7:30 Friends are welcome too!
Lyndsay Ampe leads the study. Please call her 612-325-8960 with any questions or topic suggestions. THANKS!

Could You Host A Small Group Study This Fall?
One of our Core Values at Living Word is that making disciples (people who are committed to growing to become more like Jesus) happens best in small group settings. For example, it's easier for people to get connected to Jesus through small groups. It's easier to get to know other Christians in small groups. Caring happens best in small groups. With that in mind 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.

LWML News...

- Meeting times will switch to Tuesday evening beginning in January.



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Thot for a day: I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger

Page 23

Wed Evening Women's Bible Study...



"Believing Jesus"

What does it mean to believe Jesus? Not just believe in Jesus, but actually believe what He said—and shape our lives around that truth? How would that affect the choices we make? The way we see the world? The way we conduct ourselves with other Christians?

In *Believing Jesus*, Lisa Harper answers these questions by looking at the lives of the believers in Acts and how Jesus' command to spread the gospel forever shaped their lives. You will hear how Peter turned tables on his Benedict-Arnold behavior and became a church-building saint when the power of the Holy Spirit came over him. How the first believers were so gifted at giving they made Santa look bush league. How it cost Stephen and other early believers their very lives to follow Christ. And how Paul's case proves God's grace can change the worst of sinners, making us willing to have our lives interrupted by God and boldly share the gospel to the world.

Today, we are faced with the same decisions the early church faced. Will we, like them, truly believe the words of Jesus and allow them to transform every part of our lives?

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...

- God to work through our Cookies for Teachers Outreach
- God to open hearts to invitations to celebrate His Son's birth
- Thanking God for.... EVERYTHING
- Asking God to bless all the students involved in our Christmas Program
- Asking God to bring lots of kids to our Birthday Party for Jesus
- Thanking God for the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of our Sunday School and Confirmation students
- Thanking God for sending His Son to be with us that first Christmas
- Thanking God that Jesus is still "Immanuel" (God With Us) today.
- Good travel weather for everyone's Christmas travels
- A great turnout for our Christmas Program and Dinner
- A "giving" attitude all year - not just at Christmas
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- God to embolden our Christian witness in our daily lives
- The Holy Spirit to work through our Bible studies
- God to keep strengthening faith thru the Today's Light Bible readings
- God to raise up leaders in our nation who seek His will
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

Bible Wordsearch  Sermons of Jesus 3

Wordsearch 243 Matt 16:19-34

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AWAY BARN
FAITH BIRDS
FEEDS DRINK
FIELD EARTH
FIRE CLOTHE
FOOD DEVOTED
GIVEN DRESSED
GOD ENOUGH
GOOD FATHER
GRASS HEART
GROW HEAVEN
LABOR KINGDOM
LAMP LILIES
LIGHT MASTERS
MOTH MONEY
REAP SINGLE
RUST SOLOMON
SERVE THIEVES
STEAL THROWN
STORE TREASURE
WEAR VALUABLE

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

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2015 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Thot for a day: Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

Story Behind The Song...

(as told on noelnoelnoel.com)

There have been many stories of the origins of the Christmas carol "Silent Night, Holy Night." One of the most popularly told one is as follows:

In the winter of 1818 at St. Nicholas' Church at Obendorf, a village near Salzburg, Austria, Joseph Mohr, the assistant to the priest, faced a dilemma. It was just days before Christmas, and the church organ which was so important to providing music for the Christmas services was broken. Since the organ repairman was not a local of the village it would actually be months before the repair could be made, and Christmas would be long past.

His solution to the problem of the broken organ resulted in one of the most popular Christmas carols of all time. In 1816 Mohr had written a simple poem that the villagers could understand expressing the wonder of the birth of Jesus. He asked his friend Franz Gruber who was the organist at St. Nicholas to write music to accompany his poem so that they could sing it together using a guitar to accompany their singing.

They first performed their newly composed Christmas carol at the Christmas Eve midnight service on December 24, 1818. It did not instantly receive the worldwide recognition it has come to know, however. It was not until years later in 1825 when Carl Mauracher was rebuilding the organ at St. Nicholas that a handwritten copy of the words and music was found in the organ loft.

Mauracher was from an area in the mountains of Tyrol which had many traveling folk choirs who performed throughout Europe. He carried the carol back home, and it became a popular song with the choirs as they traveled and spread its popularity wherever they went.

A manuscript for "Silent Night" in Mohr's hand was discovered in 1995 which is dated 1816. In the manuscript Mohr credits the melody used for the carol to Franz Gruber.

Join us on Christmas Eve as we sing this great Christmas song by candlelight!

Editor's note: Listen to this song at <https://youtu.be/msOzJ6DY7EA>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



OLE THE ANGEL was a last minute transfer from his Hibbing Minnesota outpost to be one of the angels declaring the birth of Jesus. Ole's peculiar dress and language frightened the shepherds. **Luke 2**