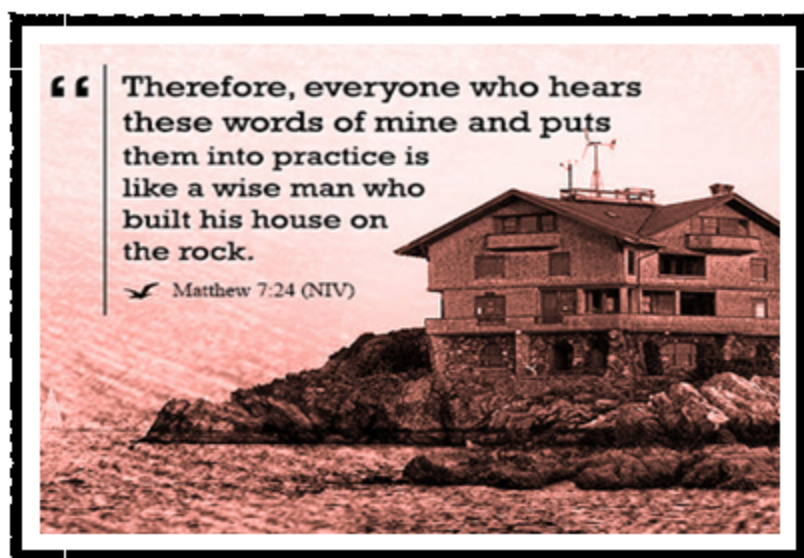



Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



January 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...

Will we be reading through the Bible from front to back?

For a couple months we've been talking about "Reading Through the Bible in 15 Minutes A Day." We will use the Today's Light Bible for our readings which begin Monday, January 5. The question above grew out of a desire to find out how the program will work.



The short answer is "No." Here's an explanation of why:

Because these 66 books of the Bible are bound together into one volume, we get the idea that it is like a typical book that we would read from front to back. But since the Bible is actually a collection of 66 books, it's more like a library than a book. For example, the Bible contains books we might find in a history section of a library (e.g. Genesis), books we'd find in a poetry section (e.g. Psalms), books that give practical wisdom for daily life (Proverbs), books that detail the life of Jesus (the Gospels), books that are actually letters (all the New Testament books by the Apostle Paul), and books of prophecy - messages from God (e.g. Isaiah).

As with books in a library, many of these can be "pulled from the shelves" and read independent of the other books. Some of the history books are helpful to read consecutively (like Genesis and Exodus). Others may be best read at different time. For example Chronicles comes right after Kings in the Bible, but if you read the Chronicles right after Kings you may come away with the thought, "Didn't I just read that?" Chronicles does recount many of the same events recorded in Kings, but it does so from a different

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perspective and with a different purpose.

For that reason we won't read all of the books in order. We will start at the beginning with Genesis and Exodus, and we will end up with the book of Revelation (which does describe the "last chapter" in the book of God's story. In between we will move around the "library," for example during the seasons of Christmas and Easter it just seems natural to read about Jesus' life, so we'll read the Gospel books during those seasons.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Who Can You Invite?...

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



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

One great way we can reflect that Light is by a simple invitation to friends, neighbors, relatives. 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.)

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. Christmas Week we thanked God for Coming to Be With Us, Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week.



Read through the Bible with the Today's Light Devotional Bible.

We begin reading on January 5.

We talk a lot about being disciples of Jesus. In fact, the Living Word mission statement reminds us that making disciples is our goal. Disciples are more than "followers." They follow with a purpose: Learning from the Master in order to continually grow to become more like the Master.

The best way to become like someone is to spend time with them. In fact, it tends to happen naturally that the more time you spend with someone the more you become like them.

That's where the TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE (TLB) comes in. It is designed to help us spend that 15 minutes a day with God. The TLB is divided into daily readings that take 10-15 minutes to read. The real beauty of the TLB is the introductory and summary paragraphs. Each daily reading has an introductory paragraph that tells you what to look for as you read. At the end of each reading is a summary paragraph that explains in everyday terms what you just read - and gives ideas for how to apply what you read in real life.

Many of you have a Today's Light Bible already, but if you don't new Bibles are available on the "Free Stuff" table. (If you would like to contribute to the cost (\$20), you can simply put money for it in the offering plate at worship.

Audio recordings of the daily readings will be available on our website for those who'd rather listen than read.

Simple steps to make 15-minutes a day a reality
(instead of just a "good intention")

1. Make a commitment to read.
Write down your commitment
2. Pick a time to read.
When you are least likely to be interrupted
3. Set your Bible in a spot that you will literally have to pick it up every day.
4. Resolve to not "throw in the towel" when you miss a day or two.

We will spend 10-15 minutes at the start of each Bible study reflecting on the week's readings and answering any questions about them.



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That for a day: Success is more attitude than aptitude.

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Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study (9:00)

Join us for our current study:
"Joseph: Carpenter of Steel"



Weekly Bible readings:

Mon.	Genesis	Tue.	Genesis
Wed.	Genesis	Thu.	Genesis
Fri.	Genesis	Sat.	Genesis

Men's Study - Tuesdays at 6:30

New Studies:
"Noah: The Man, The Ark & the Flood"



Mom's Study - Wednesdays, at 9:30am

(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.



Wed. Noon Study - and
Wed. Evening Women's Study - 6:30
"Growing The Fruit of the Spirit"



Confirmation:

Meets again on January 10th.

4-6th Grade Youth Group - Wed, Jan 7th at 6:30pm

HS Youth Group - 1st & 3rd Sundays at 7:00pm

Could You Host A Small Group Study This Winter?

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

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

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 :

- The Purpose Driven Life books
- Luther's Small Catechism (and explanation)
- 365 Family Devotions book
- Note pads
- Kids' stocking hats
- Today's Light Bibles
- Project 24 savings banks (to help with our Sunday School mission project)
- Portals of Prayer - daily
- Living Word newsletters
- Magazines - like The Lutheran Witness
- Pens
- Local Coupons
- Gospel tracts and 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.

Please Check the 'Lost and Found' Section

of the coat rack

There are a number of clothing items - maybe one is yours...

That for a day: If it is true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

Mark Your Calendars...

Annual Whist Night at Pastor and Violet's....

Friday, February 6th

The First-Annual "National 'Backwards' Day"

(January 31st)

Pancake & Sausage Feed"



We'll do it 'backwards' and have breakfast for supper.

Learn about the persecution of Christians

In our country and around the world from Voice of the Martyrs representative Wayne Bloomquist, on Sunday, January 11. (more info on page 18)

Just For Fun...

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 232

Matt.2:6-16

S	D	L	U	F	E	R	A	C	S	T	L	I	I	N
I	L	E	A	R	S	I	S	Y	R	E	N	A	E	J
B	D	O	R	H	H	D	L	O	G	C	A	I	P	U
D	E	E	R	A	P	T	P	N	E	Y	S	R	A	D
R	W	T	N	D	E	E	A	N	G	T	G	E	C	A
E	O	R	H	R	R	P	S	E	A	I	I	H	S	H
A	B	U	C	L	A	E	P	O	D	N	F	T	E	C
M	E	E	T	D	E	W	T	A	J	I	T	O	C	W
O	S	A	O	E	C	H	I	L	D	C	S	M	O	P
F	U	R	I	O	U	S	E	N	M	I	Y	R	U	R
R	E	A	L	I	Z	E	D	M	A	V	S	R	N	O
H	Y	R	A	M	Y	R	R	H	G	H	U	A	T	P
K	I	N	G	T	P	Y	G	E	I	L	P	T	R	H
E	O	P	F	O	U	N	D	P	E	L	E	S	Y	E
D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	R	T	C	A	X	E	T

Fleeing To Egypt

ANGEL	APPEARED
BOWED	BETHLEHEM
CHILD	CAREFUL
DEATH	COUNTRY
DREAM	FURIOUS
EGYPT	INCENSE
ESCAPE	JOSEPH
EXACT	MOTHER
FOUND	PROPHET
GIFTS	REALIZED
HEROD	REPORT
ISRAEL	ROUTE
JUDAH	RULER
KING	SEARCH
LORD	SECRETLY
MAGI	SHEPHERD
MARY	VICINITY
MYRRH	WARNED
STAR	WORSHIP

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

Email Humor...

A headmaster at a parochial school wanted to provide his new students some advice for appropriate behavior at church. He thought he would try to elicit rules that their parents might give the youngsters before taking them to a nice restaurant.

"Don't play with your food," one second grader cited.

"Don't be loud," said another, and so on...

He then turned to another youngster to ask, "And what rule do your parents give you before you go out to eat?"

Without batting an eye, the child replied, "Order something cheap."

+++

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in all that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."



This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu of a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

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That for a day: Experience is a hard teacher. It gives the test first and then the lesson.

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Sunday School News...

Classes:

Students start at 9:00 each Sunday with music, prayer requests from the kids and offering (for "Project 24").

January Lessons:

Jan. 4- How should we Pray? Jeremiah 29:11-13

Jan 11- The Purpose of Prayer- "ACTS"

(adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication)

Jan. 18-Miracles of Jesus-Water into Wine- John 2:1-11

Jan. 25-Miracles of Jesus-Rising of Lazarus-John 11:1-43

Feb. 1- Worship only God (Golden Calf)- Exodus 32:

Feb.8- Take God at His Word (Jonah)- Jonah 1:1-17

Annual Bowling Outing - coming in Feb, watch for specific date

Teachers / Classes:

Pre-school to Kindergarten: Amanda Sharp

1st to 3rd Grade: Violet Dauk

4th to 6th 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

Project 24 - Our Mission Project

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.



Church Mice

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www.churchmice.net

Jan. 2015 - Daily Devotionals

This month we begin reading through the Bible with the Today's Light Daily Bible Readings - about 10 minutes a day. We begin with the books of Genesis and Exodus. The readings are also available on our website (livingwordlutheran.net) in audio if you prefer to listen to them. The verses in parentheses are shorter readings if you are strapped for time that day. Sundays are for worship and catching up on any readings you missed during the week.

Jan 5 Genesis 1-2 (2:4-25) _____

Jan 6 Genesis 3 (3:1-15) _____

Jan 7 Genesis 4-6:8 (4:1-15) _____

Jan 8 Genesis 6:9-8:22 (6:9-22) _____

Jan 9 Genesis 9-10 (9:1-17) _____

Jan 10 Genesis 11-12:9 (12:1-9) _____

Jan 11 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed.

Jan 12 Genesis 12:10-13:18 (13:5-18) _____

Jan 13 Genesis 14-15 (14:1-8) _____

Jan 14 Genesis 16-17 (17:1-17) _____

Jan 15 Genesis 18-19 (19:1-19) _____

Jan 16 Genesis 20-21 (21:1-8) _____

Jan 17 Genesis 22 (22:1-14) _____

Jan 18 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed.

Jan 19 Genesis 23-23 (24:1-17) _____

Jan 20 Genesis 25-26 (26:1-14) _____

Jan 21 Genesis 27-28 (27:1-14) _____

Jan 22 Genesis 29-30 (29:1-19) _____

Jan 23 Genesis 31-33 (32:24-31) _____

Jan 24 Genesis 34-35 (34:1-15) _____

Jan 25 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed.

Jan 26 Genesis 36-37 (37:1-36) _____

Jan 27 Genesis 38-39 (39:1-23) _____

Jan 28 Genesis 40 (40:1-15) _____

Jan 29 Genesis 41:1-40 (41:1-16)) _____

Jan 30 Genesis 41:41-57 (41:46-52) _____

Jan 31 Genesis 42-44 (42:1-26) _____

Feb 1 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed.

Feb 2 Genesis 45-46 (45:1-28) _____

Feb 3 Genesis 47-48 (47:1-10) _____

Feb 4 Genesis 49-50 (50:15-26) _____

Feb 5 Exodus 1 (1:1-14) _____

Feb 6 Exodus 2 (2:1-10, 23-25) _____

Feb 7 Exodus 3-4 (3:1-15) _____

Daily Readings Available in Audio

...on our website www.livingwordlutheran.net.

January 2015 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 9:00 Adult Study - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 7:00 HS Youth Group	5	6 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "Noah"	7 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #e6e6fa;"> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday, January 4th • Sunday, January 18th </div>		10 10:30 Confirmation Class
11 VOICE of the MARTYRS 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship / VOM presentation 11:15 Fellowship 2:00 Circuit Forum @ Granite Fls	12	13 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "Noah"	14 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	15 5:30 Community Outreach Team 6:30 Mission & Ministry Team	16	17
18 9:00 Adult Study: Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship WHAT LC-MS BELIEVE S class 7:00 HS Youth Group	19	20 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "Noah"	21 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	22 5:30 Community Outreach Team 6:30 Mission & Ministry Team	23	24 10:30 Confirmation Class
25 BAPTISM SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper Josie Arends-Schmidt baptism 11:15 Fellowship	26	27 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "Noah"	28 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #e6e6fa;"> Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net </div>		31 4:30- FIRST ANNUAL 'BACKWARDS DAY' PANCAKE FEED
Feb 1 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	2	3 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	4 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	5	6 7:00 ANNUAL WHIST NIGHT AT DAUK'S	7 10:30 Confirmation Class

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Jan 4 Mark Fuglie
Jan 11 Tammy Fuglie
Jan 18 Duane Hansen
Jan 25 **Reader needed**

Feb 1 Tammy Wachter
Feb 8 Scott Wachter
Feb 15 Bryson Wachter
Feb 22 Wendy Robbin

Fellowship Servers

Jan 4 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Jan 11 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Jan 18 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
Jan 25 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson

Feb 1 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Feb 8 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Feb 15 Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky
Feb 22 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie

Usher Schedule

Jan 4 Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp
Jan 11 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Jan 18 Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle
Jan 25 Kevin & Noah Welsh

Feb 1 Jamie & Phil Iverson
Feb 8 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
Feb 15 Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Feb 22 Wendy & Lonny Robbin

Elders

Jan 4 Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Jan 18 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson

Feb 1 Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Feb 15 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Feb 18 (Ash Wed) Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter

Altar Guild

January Nancy Jo Wendt
February Mona Hjelle

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Thot for a day: I am not as good as I should be. I am not as good as I could be. But thank God I'm better than I used to be!

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Make A Meal Volunteers

Jan Scott & Tammy Wachter & Nancy Jo Wendt
Feb Wendy Robbin & Bryson Wachter

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Jan 4 Eli Sharp
Jan 11 Lance Sawatzky
Jan 18 George Arends-Schmidt
Jan 25 Carson Jaspersen

Feb 1 Noah Miller
Feb 8 Andrew Sharp
Feb 15 Levi Miller
Feb 22 Eli Sharp

Accompanying Musicians

Jan 4 Sharon Willen
Jan 11 Scott Wachter
Jan 18 Pam Johnson
Jan 25 Scott Wachter

Feb 1 Sharon Willen
Feb 8 Scott Wachter
Feb 15 Pam Johnson
Feb 22 Scott Wachter

Custodian

Jan Miller family
Feb Mike Von Rueden

Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)
Jan 4 Mona Hjelle
Jan 11 McCartney Knutson
Jan 18 Gracie Geer
Jan 25 Michelle Johnson

Feb 1 Mona Hjelle
Feb 8 McCartney Knutson
Feb 15 Gracie Geer
Feb 22 Michelle Johnson

January Discipleship Verse...

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **Matthew 7:24**

Stewardship...

Living Each Day as a Steward is our new 3-week stewardship program for 2015 (beginning this month).

Transformed by God's Spirit working through His Word and the Sacraments, we are enabled to understand both our identity and purpose as God's stewards. As a result, we live *each day* as stewards. When God's grace and love fill our hearts and minds, our stewardship is not limited to specific acts, but, instead, becomes a lifestyle. We express our faith in the way we live our lives. The stewardship program emphasizes three themes :



A Steward's Identity:

We don't really want to be stewards. Our first impulse is that we want to be the owners. We want to have possession of things. We want to be important, to be respected, and even to be envied. That's not how it works, though. God owns everything, *"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof..."* (Psalm 24:1).

A Steward's Purpose:

King David wrote, *"The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me"* (Psalm 138:8). Just as God had a purpose for David, so he has for us as well. Have we given much thought to what purpose God may have for your life? By grace, we come to understand that we were created for God's purpose, not ours.

A Steward's Lifestyle:

When God's grace and love fill our hearts and minds, our stewardship is not limited to specific acts, but, instead, becomes a lifestyle. With transformed hearts, we express our faith in the way we live our lives. God's Spirit provides motivation and power to live the Christian life in a growing awareness of redeeming grace.

May God help us all live each day as a steward as we give generously of our time and our talents and our money!

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That for a day: Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak

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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. The class will be held Sunday, January 18 in the afternoon.

We'll tackle questions like the ones listed below and also attempt to answer whatever other specific questions you have about what we at Living Word believe.

- What do we believe about God ?
- What do we believe about prayer ?
- What are the goals of Living Word?
- What do we believe about the Bible ?
- What is the purpose of the Church ?
- What do we believe about heaven and hell ?
- What do we believe about sin and forgiveness?
- What do we believe about creation and evolution?
- What do we believe about baptism and communion?
- What do we believe about eternal life - who will get it and how?

What do we believe about current issues facing Christians - like abortion and same-sex marriages?

This class also serves as the instruction class for those interested in discipleship (membership) here at Living Word. Please talk to pastor if you have questions about the class or would like to attend but don't have the afternoon of January 18 open.

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 prepare your heart for Christ to come to you daily
- God to work through the Today's Light program to strengthen faith
- Safe travel for everyone in the winter weather
- For increased trust that God will continue to provide
- For those who have recently lost loved ones

Learn about the persecution of Christians in our country and around the world from Voice of the Martyrs representative Wayne Bloomquist, in worship on **Sunday, January 11.**

The Voice of the Martyrs is a non-profit, inter-denominational Christian organization dedicated to assisting our persecuted family worldwide. VOM was founded in 1967 by Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand, who was imprisoned 14 years in Communist Romania for his faith in Christ. His wife, Sabina, was imprisoned for three years. In the 1960s, Richard, Sabina, and their son, Mihai, were ransomed out of Romania and came to the United States. Through their travels, the Wurmbbrands spread the message of the atrocities that Christians face in restricted nations, while establishing a network of offices dedicated to assisting the persecuted church.

Voice of the Martyrs ministry is based on Hebrews 13:3:

Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

VOM's Five Main Purposes

1. To encourage and empower Christians to fulfill the Great Commission in areas of the world where they are persecuted for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. To provide practical relief and spiritual support to the families of Christian martyrs.
3. To equip persecuted Christians to love and win to Christ those who are opposed to the gospel in their part of the world.
4. To undertake projects of encouragement, helping believers rebuild their lives and Christian witness in countries where they have formerly suffered oppression.
5. To promote the fellowship of all believers by informing the world of the faith and courage of persecuted Christians, thereby inspiring believers to a deeper level of commitment to Christ and involvement in His Great Commission.

VOM Mission Statement



"Serving the persecuted church through practical and spiritual assistance while leading Christians in the free world into fellowship with them."

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That for a day: Cleaning house with kids around is like brushing your teeth with Oreos.

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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 January Make-a-Meal volunteers: Scott & Tammy Wachter and Nancy Jo Wendt

Serve After-Worship Fellowship Snack

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

Be Part of Our Community Outreach Team

Outreach Coordinator Amanda Sharp will be hosting a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, December 18th 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"

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.

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.

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.

Donate on Food Shelf Sunday

January 11th (always the 2nd Sunday of the month)

Congratulations!

- * Bryan Sharp on your new job !
- * Josie Arends-Schmidt on your upcoming baptism (January 25)
- * Cassie Hunstad and Byron Meis on your engagement !

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



The Link...

January 2015 Newsletter
Dear friends,

A simple "thank you" does not seem to be enough in regards to the generous support the Link has received during November and December! Our Annual Community Choir Concert and Fundraising Dinner were a huge success! The gifts and donations received will allow the Link to continue its mission!

Although this winter has been warmer than last year, families continue to struggle with high heat bills, appropriate warm clothing, car break downs and after-the-holiday-blues. These issues can make it a long and stressful winter!

Although the Link offers financial support, we also realize the importance of relationship. We make a strong effort to connect people to other services and resources, but more importantly, to engage people in our community. This may be by helping families to identify a church to join, a personal invitation to Tuesday's Table and/or the opportunity to share their gifts and talent through volunteerism!

"To effectively impact a life, a relationship must be forged, trust built, accountability established." Robert D. Lupton

The Link's 2015 New Year's Resolution is to work even harder at creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other! Thank you for making this possible! Happy New Year!

Have a blessed New Year!
Chasity Ommodt,
Director of Community Engagement & Client Services

Tuesday's Table

Food. Friends. Fellowship. 6 PM each week.

January 6: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church

January 13: Evangelical Covenant Church

January 20: Faith Lutheran Church

January 27: Peace Lutheran Church

Link contact information:

Director: thelink@faithspicer.org

Client Services: thelinkservices@faithspicer.org

310 Medayto Drive, Spicer, MN 56288 ▼ 320.796.2522

That for a day: One good tum gets most of the blankets.

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

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve.

Old age is when you're forced to. - Bill Vaughn

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better man. - Benjamin Franklin

One resolution I have made, and try always to keep, is this:

To rise above the little things. - John Burroughs

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. - Albert Einstein

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. - King Solomon in Proverbs 16:3

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. - Jesus Christ in His 'Sermon on the Mount' (Matthew 6:31-33)

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ETERNAL LIFE. MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!

Story Behind The Song...

"In the Light"

"Light" is a main theme of the Epiphany Season. The Wise Men followed the light of a star to find Jesus in Bethlehem. We are told that Jesus is the "Light" of the world - a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light the darkness cannot overcome. So,

**I keep trying to find a life
On my own, apart from You
I am the king of excuses.
I've got one for ev'ry selfish thing I do.**

Pre-Chorus

**What's goin' on inside of me?
I despise my own behavior.
This only serves to confirm my suspicions,
That I'm still a man in need of a Savior**

Chorus: **I wanna be in the Light as you are in the Light
I wanna shine like the stars in the heavens
O Lord, be my Light and be my salvation
'Cause all I want is to be in the Light**

**The disease of 'self' runs through my blood
It's a cancer, fatal to my soul
Ev'ry attempt on my behalf has failed
To bring this sickness under control**

Pre-Chorus and Chorus

The song was written by Christian songwriter Charlie Peacock and made popular in 1996 when it was recorded by Christian Rock band dc Talk.

The song is a very honest assessment of both our in-born desire to get right with God (be in the Light) and our inability to get right with Him by the things we do. If we are honest, we will find that many of our good deeds have selfish motives. Sin is definitely a fatal disease that must be cured, a disease whose root cause is selfishness. Jesus is the Savior who provided the cure for that sin disease - a cure that cost Him His life, and results in restoring us to a right relationship with God.

The 'pre-chorus' echoes the Apostle Paul's confession at the end of Romans chapter seven where he says the good things he

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That for a day: Trying to be "normal" can make you crazy.

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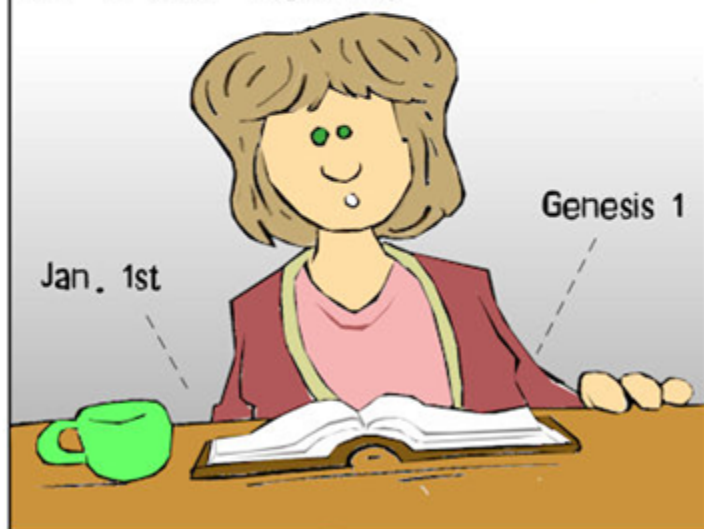
wants to do is not what he actually ends up doing. And as he looks at the evil he ends up doing - in spite of his desire not to - he concludes, "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me...?" To which he answers, "Thanks be to God— through our Lord Jesus Christ." In other words, "I'm still a man in need of a Savior." We can all relate.



Editor's note: Watch DC Talk perform "In The Light" live at <http://youtu.be/nux7tK6Z1d0>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

**Wo.. this is like DEJA-VU
all over again.**



**The time honored but much maligned
New Years Resolution to read through
the Bible in one year begins.. AGAIN!**