

Living Word

Lutheran Church

LCMS



March 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...

Who created God?

I've been asked this question at least three times in the past couple of months - each time by people who had no relationship with the other folks who asked the question. It made me wonder if someone had published a "Top Ten Questions to Ask Pastors" list and this was at the top. Whatever the case, it was pretty obvious that this is a question God wanted me to address in this newsletter column.



One person who asked this question was my "little brother" Kevin. (Long ago I was part of the Big Brothers program in the Twin Cities.) Kevin sent me a text and said that his son-in-law asked him who created God. Kevin said that he told his son-in-law that the answer is in the Bible, and asked if he needed a Bible.

I was impressed with Kevin's answer. He showed a lot of wisdom. I've said many times that we can look at the Bible as "God's Diary." In it he reveals who He is, what He is like, what He likes, His hopes and dreams, and what He thinks about us. When we dig into His "diary" we find that God truly does reveal the answers to the questions we have about Him and about life.

Here's what God says in His Word...

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. Isaiah 40:28

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2

In other words, God has always existed. He is the Creator of all that exists and He alone is the 'Un-created.'

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Some have compared this question to questions like, "To whom is the bachelor married?" Or "What does the color blue smell like?" Just as bachelors by definition are not married, and colors by definition have no smell, so too, God by definition, has no beginning. As bachelors fit into the "unmarried" category and blue fits in the "having no smell" category, God fits into the "uncreated" category, so to ask who created an 'uncreated' being would be comparable to asking what the color blue smells like.

Well, that's kind of the "logical" answer. More logic leads us to conclude that, since God created 'time,' He cannot be subject to the constraints of time. Even though we can apply some logic to the answer. It's all still a bit "mind-boggling" since we exist in 'time' and everything we've experienced in life has a beginning and an end. (So, eternity - a life that never ends - is also pretty mind-boggling, but that's a topic for another time.)

Aside from our logical explanations, the fact that God has always existed is really not an easy concept for us to understand. In fact, I'm going to say that *as God said* in the Isaiah 40 passage above, it is one of the things about Him that we really cannot understand or "fathom."

But when you think about it, it really does make sense that we cannot 'wrap our minds around' this idea that God has always existed. I mean, He is God and we are not. That simple fact means that there are things about Him that we as human beings are not ever going to understand.

As I told Kevin, "It's like this: You are sitting there at your table pounding out a text message. Your dog is sitting there watching you do it. He has no idea what you are really doing. He can watch you texting for the rest of his life and will never, ever be able to understand what you are doing... simply because he's a dog and not a human. But he doesn't need to understand what you are doing when you are texting. He trusts that you know what you are doing and that is enough for him, because he knows he can trust you to give him the things he does understand. Food, shelter, exercise."

It's the same with us and God. No matter how long we live there will be things we will never understand about God, simply because He's God and we are not. But the fact that we can't understand everything about Him doesn't mean we can't trust Him. We may not know why He does some things the way He does them, but because He's God, we know that *He* knows why. And that's enough for us.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

NEW Study...

Men's Study - Tuesdays @ 6:30

And Sunday Morning Study @ 9:00

Mormons: Who They Are and What They Believe



The Mormon Church (aka The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) means different things to different people. From its feel-good, family-oriented TV commercials to its Grammy- and Emmy-winning Mormon Tabernacle Choir to its bicycling missionaries, the Mormon Church is high profile all the way. Founded in the early

19th century, this religious movement boasts more than 15 million members and 85,000 missionaries, ranking it in the top five of "Christian denominations" in the U.S., according to the National Council of Churches.

But what makes this group distinctive and how does it differ from other Christian churches? Questions like these and more are addressed in *Mormons: Who They Are, What They Believe*

As a religious group, Mormons are no strangers to controversy. Let's see, special revelations from God, the murder of its founder, regional expulsion and opposition by various groups, polygamy, and a host of teachings and doctrine peculiar to itself and unlike mainstream Christianity-have all put Mormons on the fringe of Christianity.

This Bible study will look at the group's origins (Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon, Brigham Young, and others); the discrepancy between Mormon beliefs and orthodox Christian teaching and faith; the meaning of some of its rituals (baptism of the dead, endowments for the living and dead, temple garments, celestial marriage); and the prominence of the temple in the life of a Mormon. It will feature comments from individuals who have been deeply immersed in the Mormon belief system. It will show how some, upon exiting the Mormon Church, found themselves bewildered and disillusioned, often cut off and ostracized by their families, ready to abandon religious faith altogether. Real-life stories from those on the inside and other expert commentary add depth and authenticity to this engaging study.

Join us Tuesday evenings or Sunday mornings to explore this fascinating topic through Scripture-related passages and Internet links.

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Thot for a day: He who laughs last thinks slowest.

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Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study (9:00)

Join us as we finish our study on Noah, the ark and the flood, then begin the study on the beliefs of Mormons



Today's Light Daily Readings:

See pages 10-11 of this newsletter

Men's Study - Tuesdays at 6:30

Mormons: Who They Are, What They Believe
(See details on the page 4)

Wed. Noon Study - and

Wed. Evening Women's Study - 6:30

"Growing The Fruit of the Spirit"



Confirmation:

Meets March 14th & 28th

4-6th Grade Youth Group - Every Wednesday 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 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.

Come Grow With Us!
www.livingwordlutheran.net

THANK GOD
YOUR MOM CHOSE
LIFE

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

Who Can You Invite?...

1. Wednesday Evening Lenten Prayer & Devotion

Each Wednesday during Lent we will gather at 6:30 for a devotion and a time of prayer. The devotions this year will focus on the Six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism..

Light Supper served from...	6:00 to 6:30
Devotion & Prayer Time	6:30 to 7:00
Regular Wednesday Eve Activities	7:00

2. **Couples Dinner** - Saturday, March 7 @ 6:30
Please sign up at the back of the sanctuary. Thanks!

3. **Bowling Outing** - Sunday, March 8 @ 12:30
Please sign up at the back of the sanctuary. Thanks!

4. **Crafting Day** - Saturday, March 21 - @ 11:00
Bring a friend and your craft/art/scrapbook projects and enjoy a day of fellowship

5. **Easter Celebration for Kids** - Saturday, March 28 @
Details can be found page 17 in this newsletter.

Miscellaneous Notes...

Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans sponsors Simply Giving, a direct-deposit program that you can set up to have offerings automatically transferred from your bank account to the Living Word's general fund. Please see Stewardship Chair Jason Miller for more details.

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.

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions

If you already receive the Lutheran Witness magazine, please tell Pastor if you'd like to renew for another year (Cost is \$22). New Members receive a complimentary subscription for the first year.

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Thot for a day: To know the road ahead, ask those coming back.

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Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

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

- NEW - Today's Light Bibles
- NEW - Kids' stocking hats
- Project 24 savings banks (to help with our Sunday School mission project)
- Jan-March Portals of Prayer - daily devotional
- March Living Word newsletters

Keep Saving Toothpaste for 'Just the Basics'



The Link's giveaway of basic household items ('Just the Basics') will be held this year on Saturday, Apr. 25, 9-10:30 at Crossroads Church. This year Living Word has volunteered to provide 300 tubes of toothpaste for the event, so start purchasing toothpaste.

You can bring your toothpaste donations to church and place them in the box outside Pastor David's office. Thanks in advance !

Financial Peace University

We are planning to again host Dave Ramsey's FPU course here at Living Word. \$100 will purchase your class membership which includes all the class materials you will need. Scholarships are available to help with the membership cost - just ask.



WON'T YOU JOIN US FOR A FUN AFTERNOON OF FAMILY BOWLING!!!!!!

You and your family are invited to come and enjoy an afternoon of family bowling, Sunday, March 8, as we head to Willmar to the "Kandi Bowl"! We will gather at 12:30 p.m. and bowl 1 game (about an hour) and then enjoy Pizza and Pop!

This is a "free" event and if the kid's would like to invite a friend along they are most welcome! If anyone needs a ride, please contact me. We would like you to sign-up on the sheet at church or just let me know so I can give the "Kandi Bowl" a head count so they have enough lanes reserved for us and also for the pizza.

If there are any questions or to rsvp, you can contact me. My cell is 212-0069 and can also text me.

It will be a fun time as we gather and enjoy our families and each other!

Sunday School News...

Classes:

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

March lessons "Obedience" Theme:

March 1	Pride Gets in the Way (Babel) Genesis 11:1-10
March 8	Don't Reject God's Call (Balaam) Numbers 22-23:16-26, 31:16
March 15	Defeating the Enemy (Gideon) Judges 6:11-16, 36-40, 7:1-22
March 22	Easter Series - the First Communion John 13:1-17
March 29	Easter Series - Death on a Cross Mark 14:43-51; 15:1-15, 22-37
April 5	Easter Series - The Resurrection Luke 24:1-4

Annual Bowling Outing -

coming in March, see page 7 for more details

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.



Mark your calendars:

"Just the Basics" event

Cross Roads Community Church

Set up: Friday, April 24, 2pm to 4pm

Distribution: Saturday, April 25, 9am to 10:30am

Call the Link to sponsor an item or volunteer!

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That for a day: Some people are wise; some are otherwise.

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The Link...

March 2015 Newsletter
Dear Friends,

I have had the opportunity to work with The Link for nearly five months and I cannot tell you enough what an honor it has been to work so closely with our community members! I get calls from people wanting to volunteer or donate items on a daily basis. Several service organizations have been willing to help The Link with special events.



**Tuesday's Table
in March
600 – 6:30 PM**

March 3rd: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church
March 10th: Evangelical Covenant Church
March 17th: Faith Lutheran Church
March 24th: Peace Lutheran Church
March 31st: Faith Lutheran Church (Lions Club)
The purpose of Tuesday's Table is to build relationships among all of God's people.

We are happy to report there are three sponsors for months that have 5 rather than the usual 4 Tuesday's Table. March will be sponsored by the New London and Spicer Lions Clubs, June will be sponsored by Living Word, and September will be hosted at Hope Presbyterian! What a blessing to have these community organizations rise up to make a difference!

We are still looking for a 5th Tuesday's Table sponsor in December Tuesday. Please contact me if you are interested!

I continue to work with local churches and organizations to help fundraise for our "Just the Basics" event. We are accepting donations for many items including razors, laundry soap, trash bags, shampoo/conditioner, and body soap (etc.). Contact me for more details!

We have a special story to share: The Link recently assisted a mom who is a full-time nursing student and part-time employee. She relies on her vehicle to get to work and school. With only part-time income, her budget was tight. After a car accident almost totaled her vehicle, she was devastated. Her car insurance provided her with a loaner vehicle to continue getting to work and school, but she was more concerned about having to pay the insurance deductible to get her vehicle repaired! This mom's pastor referred her to The Link. We were able to assist her in paying the deductible. She was so grateful and has since shared our mission with her fellow college peers. They have chosen to serve The Link through volunteer work! What a wonderful way to express gratitude! Thank you for your continued support.

Chasity Ommott
Director of Client Services
thelinkservices@faithspicer.org

March 2015 - Daily Devotionals

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We Read Through the Bible, in Just 15 Minutes a Day. After Leviticus we detour to the New Testament, in order to read the Gospel of Mark during Holy Week (In parentheses are verses to focus on if you are short on time that day)

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

Mar 2 Exodus 34:1-35 (34:1-9) _____

Mar 3 Exodus 35:1-36:38 (35:20-35) _____

Mar 4 Exodus 37:1-38:30 (38:21-31) _____

Mar 5 Exodus 39:1-40:38 (39:1-14, 40:34-38) _____

Mar 6 Leviticus 1:1-17 (1:1-9) _____

Mar 7 Leviticus 2:1-3:17 (3:1-17) _____

Mar 8 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Mar 9 Leviticus 4:1-6:30 (4:27-35) _____

Mar 10 Leviticus 7:1-9:24 (8:1-36) _____

Mar 11 Leviticus 10:1-11:47 (10:1-20) _____

Mar 12 Leviticus 12:1-15:33 (13:38-46) _____

Mar 13 Leviticus 16:1-17:16 (16:1-34) _____

Mar 14 Leviticus 18:1-19:37 (19:1-37) _____

Mar 15 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Mar 16 Leviticus 20:1-22:33 (20:1-27) _____

Mar 17 Leviticus 23:1-25:55 (25:1-43) _____

Mar 18 Leviticus 26:1-27:34 (26:1-13) _____

Mar 19 Ephesians 1:1-23 (1:1-14) _____

Mar 20 Ephesians 2:1-22 (2:1-10) _____

Mar 21 Ephesians 3:1-21 (3:1-13) _____

Mar 22 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Mar 23 Ephesians 4:1-32 (4:17-32) _____

Mar 24 Ephesians 5:1-6:24 (5:1-21) _____

Mar 25 Mark 1:1-2:28 (1:1-15) _____

Mar 26 Mark 3:1-4:41 (3:20-35) _____

Mar 27 Mark 5:1-6:56 (5:25-34) _____

Mar 28 Mark 7:1-8:38 (8:27-38) _____

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

Mar 30 Mark 9:1-50 (9:30-50) _____

Mar 31 Mark 10:1-52 (10:32-45) _____

Apr 1 Mark 11:1-33 (11:12-19) _____

Apr 2 Mark 12:1-13:37 (12:28-44) _____

Apr 3 Mark 14:1-72 (14:10-25) _____

Apr 4 Mark 15:1-47 (15:24-47) _____

Daily Readings Available in Audio

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

March 2015 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Adult Study - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 7:00 HS Youth Group	2 9:00 Circuit Pastors @ Montevideo	3 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "The Mormons"	4 noon Wed. Study 6:00 Pre-Devotion Meal 6:30 - Lenten Devotion 7:00 - Women's Study - 4-6th Youth	5 <div> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, March 1st Sunday, March 15th </div>	6	7 6:30 COUPLES DINNER
8 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 12:30 BOWLING OUTING	9	10 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "The Mormons"	11 noon WED. STUDY 6:00 Pre-Devotion Meal 6:30 - Lenten Devotion 7:00 - Women's Study - 4-6th Youth	12 <div> Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net </div>	13	14 10:30 Confirmation Class
15 BAPTISM SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Study: Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper & Josie Strohbeen Baptism 11:15 Fellowship	16	17 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	18 noon WED. STUDY 6:00 Pre-Devotion Meal 6:30 - Lenten Devotion 7:00 - Women's Study - 4-6th Youth	19 5:30 Community Outreach Team 6:30 Mission & Ministry Team	20	21 11:00 - ?? CRAFTING / SCRAPBOOKING DAY
22 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 New Member Potluck meal 11:30 Choir Practice	23	24 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	25 noon WED. STUDY 6:00 Pre-Devotion Meal 6:30 - Lenten Devotion 7:00 - Women's Study - 4-6th Youth	26	27	28 10:00 - 11:30 EASTER CELEBRATION FOR KIDS
29 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Choir Practice	30	31 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	April 1	2 MAUNDY THURS 7:00 Worship W/Lord's Supper	3 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 Tenebrae Worship	4 Easter Services Tomorrow: 6:54 Sunrise 10:00 Regular

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Mar 1 Bryson Wachter
Mar 8 Scott Wachter
Mar 15 Mona Hjelle
Mar 22 Kevin Welsh
Mar 29 Linda Dilley

Apr 5 Jason Miller
Apr 12 Mark Fuglie
Apr 19 Tammy Fuglie
Apr 26 Duane Hansen

Fellowship Servers

Mar 1 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Mar 8 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Mar 15 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
Mar 22 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
Mar 29 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen

Apr 5 Easter Breakfast
Apr 12 Leone Quigley
Apr 19 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Apr 26 Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky

Usher Schedule

Mar 1 Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp
Mar 8 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Mar 15 Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle
Mar 22 Kevin & Noah Welsh
Mar 29 Jamie & Phil Iverson

Apr 5 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
Apr 12 Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Apr 19 Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Apr 26 Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp

Elders

Mar 1 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Mar 15 Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Apr 2 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Apr 5 Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Apr 19 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson

Altar Guild

March Nancy Jo Wendt
April Mona Hjelle

That for a day: The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it.

Make A Meal Volunteers

Mar Pam Johnson & Donna Peterson
Apr Jamie Iverson & Mona Hjelle

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Mar 1 Lance Sawatzky
Mar 8 George Arends-Schmidt
Mar 15 Carson Jaspersen
Mar 22 Noah Miller
Mar 29 Andrew Sharp
Apr 5 Levi Miller
Apr 12 Eli Sharp
Apr 19 Lance Sawatzky
Apr 26 George Arends-Schmidt

Accompanying Musicians

Mar 1 Sharon Willen
Mar 8 Scott Wachter
Mar 15 Pam Johnson
Mar 22 Scott Wachter
Mar 29 Scott Wachter
Apr 5 Sharon Willen
Apr 12 Scott Wachter
Apr 19 Pam Johnson
Apr 26 Scott Wachter

Custodian

Mar Tammy F & Gwen R
Apr Custodian needed

Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)

Mar 1 Mona Hjelle
Mar 8 McCartney Knutson
Mar 15 Gracie Geer
Mar 22 Michelle Johnson
Mar 29 Helper needed
Apr 5 Mona Hjelle
Apr 12 McCartney Knutson
Apr 19 Gracie Geer
Apr 26 Michelle Johnson

March Discipleship Verse...

Render your hearts and not your garments. "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; Joel 2:13

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

One of my responses after seeing the American Sniper movie was "Most of us in America have no idea of the horrible stuff our Armed Forces people go through to keep us free. We really take them and their families for granted." This email is a great reminder not to do that...

True story...

In September of 2005, a social studies schoolteacher from Arkansas did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with permission of the school superintendent, the principal, and the building supervisor, she took all of the desks out of the classroom. The kids came into first period, they walked in; there were no desks. They obviously looked around and said, "Where's our desks?"

The teacher said, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn them."

They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades."

"No," she said.

"Maybe it's our behavior."

And she told them, "No, it's not even your behavior."

And so they came and went in the first period, still no desks in the classroom. Second period, same thing. Third period. By early afternoon television news crews had gathered in the class to find out about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of the classroom. The last period of the day, the instructor gathered her class.

They were at this time sitting on the floor around the sides of the room. She said, "Throughout the day no one has really understood how you earn the desks that sit in this classroom ordinarily. Now I'm going to tell you."

She went over to the door of her classroom and opened it, and as she did 27 U.S. veterans, wearing their uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. And they placed those school desks in rows, and then they stood along the wall. By the time they had finished placing the desks, those kids for the first time perhaps in their lives understood how they earned those desks.

Their teacher said, "You don't have to earn those desks. These guys did it for you. They put them out there for you, but it's up to you to sit here responsibly, to learn, to be good students and good citizens, because they paid a price for you to have that desk, and don't ever forget it."

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That for a day: Nothing in the known universe travels faster than a rumor.

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Thanks...

...for all the food items collected for the Food Shelf.

- December 26#
- January 32#
- February 19#

Donations are the 2nd Sunday of every month to help support this needed program.



Jesus Makes All Things New

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Easter Celebration for Kids"

Where: Living Word Lutheran Church

When: Saturday, March 28, 2015

Time: Starting at 10:00 AM

This is a free event for children age 3-9, (younger and older children are also welcome).

Kids will hear the Resurrection story of Jesus, do a craft, have a snack, and other activities! We will also see some "new life!"



For more info or to RSVP, contact Mona Hjelle 354-4315 or Church 354-4637.

Parents are welcome to stay and participate!

Stewardship...

LIVING EACH DAY AS A STEWARD.

A review of our 3-week series .

A Steward is . . .

. . . Someone given the privilege and responsibility to take good care of 'stuff' that belongs to another person - according to the instructions given by that person.

The Principle on which our Stewardship is based:

It's ALL God's 'Stuff' !

(Our lives and everything in them belong to Him, and He's entrusted them to us as His stewards.)

Our Identity is the Key to being good Stewards:

We take care of God's 'stuff' not as 'hired hands' but as family! We are Children of God!

The Purpose of Every Steward . . .

... is to Give God Glory

(We use our talents to serve others, thus shining the spotlight on the God who calls us to serve.)

The Motivator for the Generous Lifestyle of Stewards:

We give generously of the time, talent, treasure and testimony God has entrusted to us out of gratitude for the Ultimate Gift: The Eternal Life that Jesus purchased for us by His death!

Action Items . . .

Please take a moment to pray and then fill out and return...

- 1) A 2015 Time / Talent Survey
- 2) A 2015 Commitment Card

Thank You from Operation Christmas Child:

Hi Mona,

I just wanted to send you a note to thank Living Word and you for collecting 22 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This program is such a blessing to children and families around the world. The US collected 7,991,643 boxes in 2014 and internationally the number was 10,440,333. Remarkable! As we approach Easter, I am thankful that we can share our eternal Easter message of Jesus' love, death and resurrection with others. Have a blessed Easter.

In Christ,
Ann Frederickson



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Thot for a day: Flexible people never get bent out of shape.

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What's Up With the 99 Envelopes?

As Stewardship Chairperson Jason Miller told us at the end of our Stewardship series, 2015 is a milestone year for Living Word. It is the first year that we will be financially "on our own." Every year since Living Word was chartered as an LC-MS congregation, our Minnesota North District has provided us with mission-funding dollars. This year we've "cut the cord," so to speak.

While this is a great step forward for us, it also presents a challenge to replace the \$6000 of funding we received from District last year. Our 99 Envelope Board is a fund-raising effort to replace the majority of that . (We began with 99 envelopes on the board - each with a dollar amount from \$1 to \$99. If we fill up every envelope with the amount listed on the envelopes we'll raise \$ 4950.)

So we are asking you to prayerfully consider grabbing an envelope from the board and filling it with the dollar amount listed on the envelope. You may simply place it in the offering plate any Sunday.

Please keep in mind that The 99 Envelope Board Challenge is in addition to your regular offering, so take an envelope off the board only if you are able to fill it with money would be over-and-above your regular offering.

An idea: It's tax refund time. If each of us gave 10% of our tax refund we'd likely fill the envelopes and get a good start on another hundred envelopes!

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 help you "give up" the things that are keeping you from Him
- God to help you "take up" the things that will get you closer to Him
- 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 protection and boldness is witness for all persecuted Christians
- For the ability to love unconditionally and sacrificially
- For those who have recently lost loved ones

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 March Make-a-Meal volunteers: Pam Johnson and Donna Peterson

Serve After-Worship Fellowship Snack

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

Be "Custodian of the Month"

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

March 8th (always the 2nd Sunday of the month)

Volunteers NEEDED!

Grace Living Community of Glen Oaks is seeking volunteers to assist and be a companion to our residents. It is our mission to provide the best quality of care however we could use you to help us! Volunteers are needed to visit, play games, share in music, crafts and other talents, and join us with friendship and fellowship for the residents we serve. Contact Ruth Templer if interested: Ruth.Templer@bhshealth.org (320) 354-6074

Sing with our choir...

Choir rehearses on March 22nd & 29th @ 11:30 following fellowship. Choir will be singing on Easter. Please come and join us! No auditions necessary.

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Thot for a day: Why do they call it 2% milk, if its 2% fat, not milk?

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Story Behind The Song...

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Lent is the season of the church year when we seek to "walk with Jesus to the cross." Lent ends with our Good Friday service where we focus on what Jesus accomplished for us by dying on a cross: He (God in the flesh) took the punishment for the sins of the world upon Himself. He made peace between a sinless God and sinful humanity. He reconciled the creatures with the Creator who made them. He tore open the curtain that, without His sacrifice, would have forever separated God and humanity.

As we walk with Jesus through Lent we cannot help but "survey" the cross that stands in front of us. One of the greatest hymns of the season is the one written by Isaac Watts over 300 years ago. In fact, "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross" has been used for many years by the BBC to introduce its 7am broadcast on Good Friday.

From an early age, Watts displayed a propensity for rhyme. Once, he had to explain to his father how he came to have his eyes open during prayers:

A little mouse for want of stairs
ran up a rope to say its prayers.

After getting a spanking for this, he cried:

O father, father, pity take
And I will no more verses make.

Isaac Watts grew up "many more verses make" including some hymns you've likely sung many times: "Joy to the World," "From All That Dwell Below The Skies," "Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed," "Our God Our Help in Ages Past," and "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun."

Isaac Watts penned "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" in preparation for a communion service in 1707. It was first published in 1707 in Watt's collection Hymns and Spiritual Songs. It has often been called "The greatest hymn in the English language." Maybe you list it, as I do, among your favorites as well.

Watts based this hymn on Galatians 6:14. "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Originally, he gave the hymn the title "Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ," following the practice of the day to summarize a hymn's theme in the title. The hymn has been set to more than one tune, but perhaps the most popular is that of

Edward Miller, who wrote his music in 1790, some forty-two years after Watts' death.

Watts wrote five stanzas for the original version of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." However, he put his fourth stanza in brackets, indicating it was the most likely one to be left out, if need be. Chances are you've never sung that fourth verse, as it has been traditionally left out.

"When I Survey The Wondrous Cross" is the first known hymn to be written in the first person, introducing a personal aspect to the singing of hymns. In Watts' day such hymns were termed "hymns of human composure" and they stirred up great controversy. At the time, congregational singing was predominately repetitions of the Psalms. But this hymn gave Christians of Watts' day a way to express a deeply personal gratitude to their Savior. The well-loved song continues to stir our hearts today.

Read through the words. Let them inspire you to humble sacrifice during Lent (and beyond). Renew again your commitment to respond to Jesus' love with "your soul, your life, your all."

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God,
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down,
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er His body on the tree;
Then I am dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all

Editor's note: Wonderful mix version by the Chris Tomlin and Matt Redman at: <http://youtu.be/ylihJUH0gP4>

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That for a day: The second mouse gets the cheese...

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Email Humor...

Not What You Expected

Walking along the beach, Dave tripped over a half-buried kerosene lantern. He rubbed its side and sure enough, a genie materialized.

"I can't grant your wishes," explained the freed spirit, "but I'll give you three gifts for releasing me: a potion to cure ill health, a very large diamond, and a dinner date with a famous movie star. By tomorrow afternoon, you will have received all these gifts."

When Dave returned home from work the next evening, he excitedly asked his mother if anything had been delivered.

"Yes," she replied. "It's been an unusual day. At 2 p.m., a 55-gallon drum of chicken soup arrived. About a half-hour later, a telegram came saying that a long-lost relative had left you a minor-league baseball stadium. Ten minutes ago, MGM called, inviting you to dinner with Lassie tonight."

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Now the shamrock here in me
hand is the perfect picture of
the blessed Holy Trinity.
Where the Father, Son,
and the Holy Ghost
exist all in one
body.



A great object lesson presented by **Old St. Paddy**