



April 2016 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...

"Can you tell me why we call is "GOOD Friday?" What happened to Jesus was horrible!



A long-time family friend tossed this question my way as we sateating Easter Dinner last week.

On the surface, my friend had a point. It would seem that some title like "Black Friday" might be more appropriate. What happened to Jesus on that Friday was indeed horrible. He had the flesh on His back ripped to shreds by a whip. The King of all kings had a crown of thorns jammed into his scalp by mocking soldiers. The Roman official (Pontius Pilate) who gave the orders to have Him flogged and then executed knew that He was innocent! His mom (Mary) watched Him hang there, treated as a common criminal at a public execution. Nearly all of His closest disciples - who had trained under Him for three years! - ran and fled. One of them betrayed Him into the hands of His killers for 30 silver coins. Another of them (Peter) denied even knowing him - three times! He cried out "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" indicating that not only was He suffering physically, but also spiritually (to be abandoned by God is literally to suffer hell).

And after all that we call it "Good"! Seems a bit inappropriate to our way of thinking. But it really was Good.... For us! Here's why:

It was "good" because of what Jesus' death really meant. Jesus didn't die as an unfortunate victim of circumstances beyond His control. He didn't die as a martyr for a good cause. He didn't die as an example of standing up for your rights. Jesus died as a SUBSTITUTE - ours. The sinless Son of God took the punishment for your sin and mine!

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Our sin - our natural rebellion against God - had erected a wall between us and our sinless God. A wall that, unless torn down, would have separated us from God for eternity. But because God loves us rebellious creatures and didn't want to be separated from us for eternity, He came to earth in the person of Jesus for the express purpose of taking our punishment.

Jesus said from the cross, "It is finished," he wasn't talking about His life. He was talking about His mission - the very purpose He came to this earth!

You may remember that at the moment Jesus died, "the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom" (Matthew 27:51). That curtain had served as a visible reminder of the barrier that our sin had erected between us and our Creator. That Friday is called "Good" because it was on that day the barrier was torn down. Our sin was paid for!

You can think of Good Friday as the day a trade was made. A horrible trade for Jesus. He got our sin - and its punishment. In exchange we are offered His perfect righteousness - a right standing with God that we receive when we repent of our sin and place our trust in Jesus as the God who died in our place to remove our sin!

Of course, we can have total confidence in calling that Friday "Good," because of what happened the following Sunday. Jesus rose from His grave, proof that God the Father had indeed accepted His Son's sacrifice as full payment for all sin!

After I gave our friend that little sermon - or something close to it - I summed it up this way (feel free to use a metaphor from your favorite sport):

That Friday was "Good" because it was the day Jesus "Shut out Satan to win the 7th Game of the World Series. Easter Sunday was the ticker-tape parade celebrating the victory!"

Thanks for asking Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Sermons Now Available on our Website!

This year we have begun making the sermons from Sunday available in audio on the website. Check it out at

www.livingwordlutheran.net/sermons

(Or just click on "New Sermons Online" at the bottom of the LivngWord-Lutheran.net home page)

Miscellaneous Notes...

Choir News...

Only two rehearsals left for the year. April 17th and 24th.. Will be singing May 1st. Thanks to all who shared their voices in the choir this year! What a joy it is to be the choir director. Rehearsals will start again the end of August.



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
- April Living Word newsletters + Local coupons
- April Today's Light daily Bible readings
- April—June Portals of Prayer daily devotionals
- Faith, Hope and Love Scripture bags

Final Directory Proof & Last Call For Pictures!

Please check the proof outside the 1-2nd Grade Sunday School cube for any mistakes or omissions. If we don't have a picture of you and your family to include in our Living Word Church Directory.... please give one to Violet (or better yet email one to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net).

Biblical Tour of Greece and Turkey-

October 4-14, 2016 – "Following the Apostle Paul" –To Corinth, Athens, Philippi, Thessalonica, etc. – Includes a Cruise of the Greek Islands to Patmos & Ephesus – \$3854 from New York – Includes all the flights, cruise, meals, lodging, guides, tips, entrance fees, etc. – Will even make arrangements for the flight to New York from your home! Brochure available – Contact Darold Reiner, retired LCMS Pastor & former International LWML Pastoral Counselor – 406-890-1149 or imhis38@gmail.com

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

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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.

Email Wisdom...

Compared to people in other industrialized nations, Americans work longer hours, take fewer vacation days, and retire later in life.

Busyness, once seen as the curse of the disadvantaged, has become equated with status and importance. Our work increasingly defines who we are. But busyness is not a Christian virtue.

Joel Koester, Christianity Today, p. 54, March 2016.



LWML News...

- Our general meeting April 12th @ 6:00. Come for an evening meal, Bible Study - "Compassion" led by Violet Dauk and short business meeting. Still a lot of planning yet to do for the year. All women are welcome to attend. Come and be a part of LWML.
- A big thank you to Laurie Hanson for coordinating and leading the Lenten suppers. We had a wonderful turn out for the suppers and Lenten services this year.
- A special thank you to Duane and Bonnie Hanson for purchasing 10 service hymnals for the church.

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 that Christ is Risen!

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

Thot for a day: Smart

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 April Make-a-Meal volunteers are Sarah Miller & Michelle Johnson.

Bring Food Shelf Items Every Second Sunday

We received 28# of food items this month! Thanks for continuing to support the food shelf. (Food shelf Sunday this month is April 10 - always the 2nd Sunday of the month.)

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. April is still available.

We're looking for more Ushers

Please talk to Pastor David if you can serve once every other month.

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 out

Remember to Bring Toothpaste . . .



... for The Link's annual "Just The Basics" distribution on Saturday, April 30. Again this year Living Word will provide 300 tubes of toothpaste for the giveaway. You can place your donations in the box by Pastor's office.

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Sunday School News....

9:00 every Sunday morning

- Classes Students start each morning with music, prayer requests from the kids and offering
- Upcoming Lessons:
 We are going to finish the year with "Weird" Stories from the Bible

April 3 - "Weird" Strange Signs in Egypt - Exodus 8:1-19

April 10 - "Weird" Balaam's Donkey - Numbers 21:21-38

April 17 - "Weird" The Man who Never Died - 2 Kings 2:1-18

April 24 - "Weird" Bear Attack - 2 Kings 2:19-25

May 1 - "Weird" Straight from the Fish's Mouth - Matt. 17:24-27

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)
- Sunday School Bowling Outing
- 1:00pm Sunday, April 24, 2016 Kandi Bowl in Willmar Pizza / Pop after bowling 1 game!



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 continue to work through our Financial Peace University class
- Thanking God for the New Members He has brought to Living Word
- Asking God to bring lots of kids to our Easter Celebration for Jesus
- Our Youth Gathering group to find reasonable airline tickets
- God to raise up one more female chaperone for our Youth Gathering
- Asking God to open hearts to the message of the Cross & Empty Tomb
- 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 Holy Week services
- 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

That for a day



Link Newsletter, April 2016

This unseasonably warm spring has got me thinking about summer! And when I think of summer, I think of the Rib Fest! Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Rib Fest on Sunday,

June 12th at the Glacial Ridge Winery. Check out the Rib Fest Facebook page for updates.

I would like to thank the New London Lions and the Spicer Sunrise Lions for graciously hosting the last Tuesday's Table in March. The Link is so grateful to so many generous people, like you, that share their time, talent and treasure to make a positive impact in our community.

Our annual "Just the Basics" event is just around the corner on April 30th! You are invited to volunteer or make a gift to support this event. Anyone needing basic household goods and hygiene products is invited to this event. There is no referral process, all are welcome and will be conducted as a first come. first serve basis.

I have been posting uplifting and educational videos on our Facebook page along with upcoming events. If you haven't already done so, please go "like" our page and share our posts and events. This helps The Link reach more people through social media.

Warm blessings to you,

Chasity Ommodt,

Director of Client Services and Community Engagement

"Just the Basics", Saturday, April 30th from 9am to 10:30am at Cross Roads Community Church

Save the date: 3rd Annual Rib Fest "Smokin for The Link" Sunday, June 12th, 2 - 5pm at the Glacial Ridge Winery

Tuesday's Table

Food. Friends. Fellowship.

April 5th: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church
April 12th: Evangelical Covenant Church
April 19th: Faith Lutheran Church
April 26th: Peace Lutheran Church

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Registration Jamboree

We will be hosting a Registration Jamboree for Summer 2016 Lutheran Island Camp and Christ Serve Ranch registrations on Sunday, April 24. Children 3 and older can sign up for camp that day. Everyone registering that day will receive a free camp backpack!

All Parents should have received a camp brochure in your mailbox. Extras are available on the "Free Stuff" table. Scholarships are also available to help with the cost. Just ask.

Living Word Women's Retreat—April 16-17

"All - In: You are one decision away from a changed life!" is the theme of the retreat which will be held at the Koronis Ministries camp near Paynesville. All women are invited to this Friday evening & Saturday event. Friends are welcome too. Please see Violet Dauk for details about cost and lodging choices.



Mother-Daughter salad luncheon

sponsored by the Living Word LWML is scheduled for May 7th @ 10:30 a.m. Entertainment will be by Shelby Kingman.

Starting April 24: M.E.E. (Marriage Enrichment Evening)

This spring Pastor and Violet will be hosting several gatherings for married couples at their home. We'll do some fun things (e.g. tilling their garden-just kidding!)

as well as spend a little time each evening on a specific aspect of marriage. Our first MEE will be Sunday evening, April 24 (6-8pm)

Note: Pastor wanted to call it a Marriage Enrichment Night- MEN for short. But Violet quickly vetoed that in favor of W.Onderful Marriage Enrichment Night- or WOMEN for short. Pastor said no self-respecting guy would come to something with the word "wonderful" in it. So we compromised on Marriage Enrichment Evening!)

A Note of Thanks:

"I would like to Thank my Living Word Family for all the prayers, hugs, texts, cards, memorials, food that was brought to the visitation and to the family on the passing of my Dad, Harlan Hemingway! I couldn't ask for a better "family" to belong to! You are all very special to me!

Thank you, Mona Hjelle

April 2016 - Daily Devotionals

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READ ING PROGRAM: We move back to the Old Testament for the History of God's people under their kings - as recorded in the Book of Chronides.

(In parentheses are verses to focus on if you are short on time that day)

Apr 3 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Apr 4	1 Chronides 1-4 (3:10-16)
Apr 5	1 Chronicles 5-8 (6:1-49)
Apr 6	1 Chronicles 9-12 (12:1-22))
Apr 7	1 Chronicles 13-14 (13:1-14)
Apr 8	1 Chronicles 15-16 (15:1-29)
Apr 9	1 Chronicles 17 (17:16-27)
Apr 10	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
Apr 11	1 Chronicles 18-20 (18:1-11)
Apr 12	1 Chronicles 21 (21:18-30)
Apr 13	1 Chronicles 22 (22:1-5)
Apr 14	1 Chronicles 23-27 (26:1-19)
Apr 15	1 Chronicles 28 (28:11-20)
Apr 16	1 Chronicles 29 (29:10-25)
Apr 17	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
Apr 18	2 Chronicles 1-2 (2:1-18)

Apr 19	2 Chronides 3-5 (5:1-2,11-14)
Apr 20	2 Chronicles 6-7 (6:12-21)
Apr 212	Chronicles 8-9 (9:1-12)
Apr 22	2 Chronicles 10-11 (10:1-19, 11:13-17)
Apr 23	2 Chronicles 12 (12:1-12)
Apr 24	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
Apr 25	2 Chronicles 13-14 (13:1-22)
Apr 26	2 Chronicles 15-16 (15:1-19)
Apr 27	2 Chronicles 17-18 (17:1-9)
Apr 28	2 Chronicles 19-20 (20:1-25)
Apr 29	2 Chronicles 21-22 (21:1-20)
Apr 30	2 Chronicles 23-24 (24:1-27)
May 1	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
May 2	2 Chronicles 25-26 (26:1-21)
May 3	2 Chronicles 27-28 (28:19-27)
May 4	2 Chronicles 29 (29:1-19)
May 5	2 Chronicles 30-31 (30:1-27)
May 6	2 Chronicles 32 (32:1-23)
May 7	2 Chronicles 33 (33:1-20)

April 2016 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 ADULT STUDY SUNDAY SCHOOL -	9:00 Circuit Pastors @ Wood Lake		9:00 MOMS' STUDY			
10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship				Lord's Supper Da Sunday, April 3		
3:00 NYG YOUTH/PARENT MTG		6:30 MEN'S STUDY	6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	Sunday, April 3rdSunday, April 17th		
6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV.			6:30 - CONFIRMATION			All
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 ADULT STUDY SUNDAY SCHOOL-			9:00 MOMS' STUDY			
10:00 WORSHIP		5:30 ELDERS' TEAM				LIVING WORD WOMEN'S
11:15 Fellowship		6:00 LWML Meal / study	6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY			RETREAT @ Lake
11:30 Sunday School Teachers		6:30 MEN'S STUDY	6:30 - CONFIRMATION			Koronis Camp
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 ADULT STUDY SUNDAY SCHOOL -			9:00 MOMS' STUDY	Mission		
10:00 WOR SHIP w/Lord's Supper				Ministry		
11:15 Felowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE		6:30 MEN'S STUDY	6:30 — WOMEN'S STUDY	6:30 MISSION &		
6:30 SR HIGH YOUTH STUDY			6:30 - CONFIRMATION	MINISTRY TEAM		
9:00 ADULT STUDY	25	26	27	28	29	30
SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship	2 20		9:00 MOMS' STUDY			
11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE 1:00 Sunday School	A		6:30 — WOMEN'S STUDY			
BOWLING @ Kandi Bowl	1	6:30 MEN'S STUDY	6:30 - CONFIRMATION			
6:00 M. E. E. @ Dauk's						
May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6	May 7
9:00 ADULT STUDY SUNDAY SCHOOL			9:00 MOMS' STUDY	Sign up to ha	ve this newslette	er sent directly to nail address to: utheran.net
10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship		6:30 MEN'S STUDY	6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	newslet	ter@livingwordl	itheran.net
6:30 SR HIGH YOUTH STUDY			6:30 - CONFIRMATION			

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Apr 3 Duane Hansen

Apr 10 Tammy Wachter

Apr 17 Scott Wachter

Apr 24 Wendy Robbin

May 1 Linda Dilley

May 8 Jason Miller

May 15 Mark Fuglie

May 22 Tammy Fuglie

May 29 Duane Hansen

Fellowship Servers

Wendy Robbin, Alicia Sawatzky & Mary Lee Moore

Apr 10 Kerry & Leone Quigley

Apr 17 Becky Sarsland / Mary Raddatz

Apr 24 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie

May 1 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson

May 8 Tammy Wachter & Sarah Miller

May 15 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham

May 22 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson

May 29 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen

Usher Schedule

Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen

Apr 10 Brent & Lance Sawatzky

Apr 17 Jason & Noah Miller

Apr 24 Bo & George Arends-Schmidt

May 1 Wendy & Lonny Robbin

May 8 Brady & Andrew Sharp

May 15 Joe Johnson & Wally Abraham

May 22 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer

May 29 Linda Dilley & Davis Rustad

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Carson Jaspersen

Apr 10 Noah Miller

Apr 17 Andrew Sharp

Apr 24 Levi Miller

May 1 Eli Sharp

May 8 Lance Sawatzky

May 15 George Arends-Schmidt

May 22 Davis Rustad

May 29 Gage Dahl

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Altar Guild

Nancy Jo Wendt Mona Hjelle

Make A Meal Volunteers

Gwen Ruchti & Sarah Miller

Scott & Tammy Wachter & Nancy Jo Wendt Mav

Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)

Apr 3 Mona Hjelle & Andrew Sharp

Apr 10 McCartney Knutson & Carson Jaspersen

Apr 17 Gracie Geer & George Arends-Schmidt

Apr 24 Alana Friehl & Lance Sawatzky

May 1 Noah Miller & Davis Rustad

May 8 McCartney Knutson & Andrew Sharp

May 15 Gracie Geer & Carson Jaspersen

May 22 Alana Friehl & George Arends-Schmidt

May 29 Lance Sawatzky & Noah Miller

Accompanying Musicians

Sharon Willen Apr 3

Apr 10 Scott Wachter

Apr 17 Pam Johnson

Apr 24 Scott Wachter

May 1 Sharon Willen

May 8 Scott Wachter

May 15 Pam Johnson

May 22 Scott Wachter

May 29 Open

Custodian

April Custodian needed

Custodian needed

Confirmation Parent/Assistant

Apr 6 Rustads

Apr 13 Arends-Schmidts

Apr 20 Sharps

Apr 27 Millers

May 4 Knutsons

May 11 Sawatzkys

Congratulations!

- Amelia Avery Evenson on your baptism into God's family Mar 20!
- Tabitha Gertken on your new job!
- Linda Van Meter on your new job!
- Kasey Nieland on getting accepted into the O.T. program at UND

If there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to. Please email:

stor@livingwordlutheran.net

Elders

Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter

Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson

May 1 Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter

May 15 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson

Received from our Minnesota North District Public Policy Advocate:

Friends in Christ,

I write today to update you on three of our focus areas in public policy and let you know how you can be involved with them.

Religious Liberty

"...Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) introduced S. 1598, the First Amendment Defense Act (FADA), in the Senate, and Representative Raúl Labrador (R-Idaho) introduced the companion bill, H.R. 2802, in the House. FADA will prohibit the federal government from discriminating, for example in the provision of grants, contracts, tax status, and other programs, against persons for their moral or religious beliefs in natural marriage."

This recently introduced federal legislation is designed to blunt some of the worst side effects of last summer's Supreme Court same-sex marriage ruling. It does so by making the extent of our religious liberties more explicit. The greatest need at this point in time is simply to encourage our U.S. Representatives and Senators to ask that a vote be taken on this bill as soon as possible.

Parental Choice In Education

Three pieces of parental choice legislation are now being considered by the Minnesota legislature. I would urge you to contact your representative and senators and encourage them to support them.

The first bill (the K-12 Education Expense Credit and Deduction bill) is the one we'd like people to concentrate on the most, as it has greatest chance of passage. It's already included in the House tax bill (HF 848), which gives it a good chance to be sent to Governor Dayton for his signature.

The other bills are also moving forward and have committee hearings scheduled in the House for later this month. Passage of any one of these would be a major step forward in achieving our goal of equal treatment for all the state's families regardless of where they elect to educate their children.

Physician Assisted Suicide

A bill that would have legalized physician-prescribed suicide in Minnesota lacked sufficient support among Health & Human Services committee members, so no vote was taken. As a result the bill is effectively dead for this season.

If you have questions regarding any of these, please feel free to call or e-mail me at 507-317-9634 or fred.hinz@mnsdistrict.org.

In Christ, Rev. Fred Hinz Public Policy Advocate MNS / MNN

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National Youth Gathering...

In Christ Alone

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

- Our group decided to fly to N.O. (rather than take a bus) please pray for a reasonable airfare to become available.
- We have 5 people registered (4 youth & One chaperone)
 Lyndsay Ampe Michelle Johnson

Emma Kallevig Gracie Geer

Alana Friehl

- · We received our hotel assignment this past week!
- We are still looking for one more female chaperone
- The "Build Your Own Salad" fundraiser raised a total of \$130!
- We'd welcome any fund-raiser ideas that will help us reach our goal.
- We still need around \$4500 (due to the currently high airfares)
- Thanks for your continued prayers and support!

Email Humor...

The Stethoscope

A nurse on the pediatric ward, before listening to the little ones' chests, would plug the stethoscope into their ears and let them listen to their own hearts.

Their eyes would always light up with awe. But she never got a response to equal four-year-old David's. She placed the disk over his heart. "Listen," she said, "what do you suppose that is?"

He drew his eyebrows together in a puzzled line and looked up, as if lost in the mystery of the strange tap-tap-tapping deep in his chest.

Then his face broke out in a wondrous grin. "Is that Jesus knocking?" he asked.

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

Revelation 3:20

April Discipleship Verse...



In His great mercy He has given us new birth in to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

Welcome to our family...

Tony & Lyndsay Ampe
Mike & Lara Dahl, Gage, Will, Harrison & Drew
Tayah Hinrichs, James Raddatz & Brekkyn
Randy & Mary Raddatz
Gwen Ruchti
Ed & Ruth Vegdahl

In this newsletter we begin to introduce you to the new members we received last month here at Living Word. This month we have bios and pictures of the Dahl family and Gwen Ruchti. If you haven't had the chance already, please introduce yourself and welcome them to Living Word.

Mike & Lara Dahl, Gage, Will, Harrison & Drew



Mike and Lara were both born in Willmar and grew up in New London. We currently live in town in New London.

Mike owns his own construction company, Water's Edge Construction. Lara works at The Happy Sol in New London, as the inventory manager.

Gage is 10 and in the 4th grade. William, or Will, is 7 and 1st grade. Harrison, or Harry, is 3. Drew is 2.

We love to fish together as a family. Ice fishing or fishing from the boat is one of the things we don't get to do as often as we like.

Mike and the boys are also avid hunters. They love to hunt ducks and deer.

Our favorite bible verse: is Philippians 4:6

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving let your requests be know to God"

We love this verse because we are so thankful for many things in our lives. We shouldn't worry about anything because God knows what is

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best for us and only gives us what we can handle. We love our life and what we have been given. We thank God for that each day.

We were attracted to Living Word because you teach the truth - as in: there isn't change as the world's viewpoints change. The Bible hasn't changed so the teachings shouldn't either.

Gwen Ruchti



I was born in the New London area, and moved to Willmar when I was five years old - I started first grade there and graduated from there.

I moved to Minneapolis and started working at Archer Daniels Midland in their offices at the IDS building in downtown Minneapolis. Then I came back here to retire and get away from the big-city rush!

My main hobbies now are my flowers and my 3 "live-ins": 2 chihuahuas and one cat.

I have four grown children - one in this area and three in Minneapolis. Twelve Grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, with another coming in April.

My whole family were members of Redeemer Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) in Wayzata for 40 years, so when I heard that Living Word was part of the Missouri Synod I had to come and visit. I decided to stay, because everyone is so friendly and inviting!

My favorite Bible verse is Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Opportunities for Growth...

Today's Light Daily Readings:

See pages 10-11 of this newsletter

NEW Sunday Morning Study (9:00)

The Challenge of Islam—Part 1: What is Islam?

NEW Men's Study - Tuesdays @ 6:30

The Challenge of Islam—Part 1: What is Islam?

NEW Wed. Evening Women's Study -6:30 Wednesday evenings

Keep It Shut

NEW Mom's Study -

Wednesday, @ 8:30a.m. (childcare provided) "Keep It Shut

Confirmation Class

Wednesdays @ 6:30

Sr. High Youth Study

1st & 3rd Sunday evenings @ 3:00 Friends are welcome too!

Sunday School:

9:00 every Sunday morning

Could You Host A Small Group Study This Spring?

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.

"All In" Women's Retreat - April 16 & 17

All women are invited to this Saturday & Sunday event. Friends are welcome too. Please see Violet Dauk for lodging options and cost details. (Scholarships are available)





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New Bible Studies...

The Challenge of Islam - Part I: What is Islam?

Many people think of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam as ancient religions that all worship the same God, but that would be a tragic mistake.

No one would claim that America "football" and European "football" (i.e. soccer) are the same - even though they share the same name. If two things are defined differently, they are cannot the "same" even if they happen to share a name.

In this study we look at the many ways the god of Islam is defined differently than the God of the Bible. But we will also look at points of connection that will assist us in witnessing to friends, neighbors and co-workers who are Muslim

To the Western mind, the faith and practice of Islam are often a profound mystery. In recent years, this religion has emerged as a prominent -- and misunderstood -- belief system. Listen as Sam Shamoun, an Arab- Christian, unveils some of the mystique surrounding this religion first preached by Muhammad and today practiced by more than one billion people world-

In Part One of this two-part Bible study, the teachings of Islam are brought into focus. In addition to learning about the "Five Pillars of Islam," we will examine what the Quran says about the role of Abraham, the Trinity, angels and jinn (genies), the attributes of Jesus Christ, the character of Muhammad, Judgment Day, and paradise.

"Keep It Shut!"

Got words? Oh yeah, you do! The average woman speaks over 20,000 a day—not to mention the ones she types online.

Karen Ehman — a woman whose words have often landed her in a heap of trouble — shares from experience the how's (and how-not-to's) of dealing with the tongue in her new book Keep It Shut. Using biblical examples, as well as Karen's own personal (and sometimes painful!) stories, Keep It Shut will equip you to know what to say, how best to say it, and when you'd better just keep your lips zipped! This study will teach you:

- The difference between gossip and properly processing with a trusted friend
- A helpful grid for using our digital tongues as we talk online or on social media
- How to pause before you pounce, attacking the problem but not the person
- How to avoid saying something permanently painful just because you are temporarily ticked off
- What the Bible teaches about making our speech laced with grace, as sweet as honey, and yet seasoned with salt

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Why We Believe...

Why We Believe Jesus Rose from the Dead:

If Jesus did not rise from the dead, the Christian faith is a foolish fantasy. However, if the resurrection of Christ did occur, it confirms His life, message, and atoning work. It is the basis of our hope of life beyond the grave. Christ IS alive, and the evidence is overwhelming. Here are some of the reasons we can be so sure.

- 1. Jesus predicted His resurrection so that when it happened everyone would know it wasn't a "fluke." (Matt 16:21; Mark 9:9-10; John 2:18-22)
- 2. The Old Testament prophesied it (Psalm 16:10; compare Acts 2:25-31; 13:33-37).

21:1-9; Acts 1:6-11; 1 Cor. 15:3-8).

- The tomb was empty and the grave clothes vacant. If Christ's opponents wished to silence His disciples, all they had to do was produce a body, but they could not. (John 20:3-9).
- 4. Many people saw the resurrected Christ. They looked on His face, touched Him, heard His voice, and saw Him eat (Matt. 28:16-20; Luke 24:13-39; John 20:11-29; John
- The lives of the disciples were radically changed. Though they fled and even denied Christ at the time of His arrest. they later feared no one in their proclamation of the risen Christ
- 6. The resurrection was the main message of the early church. The church grew with an unwavering conviction that Christ had physically risen from the dead and was the Lord of the church (Acts 4:33: 5:30-32: Rom. 5:24).

(Matt 26:56, 69-75). People are not willing to die for a lie.

Men and women today testify that the power of the risen Christ has transformed their lives.

We know that Jesus is alive not only because of the historical and biblical evidence but also because He has miraculously touched and changed OUR lives

Story Behind The Song...

This month we interrupt our regular article with a humorous look at what may be some favorite hymns of various professions....

~ Astronaut: "Nearer My God, To Thee"

~ Baker: "I Need Thee Every Hour"

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- Page 25
- ~ Baseball Batter: "Seek Ye First"
- ~ Builder: "How Firm A Foundation"
- ~ Carpenter: "The Nail Scarred Hand"
- ~ Civil Engineer: "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross"
- ~ Dentist: "Crown Him With Many Crowns"
- ~ Electrician: "O Joyful Light"
- ~ Fisherman: "Shall We Gather At The River?"
- ~ Golfer: "There Is A Green Hill Far Away"
- ~ Grandparent (with young grandkids) "I Love to Tell the Story"
- ~ Historian: "Tell Me The Old, Old Story"
- ~ IRS: "All To Thee (I Owe)"
- ~ Lifeguard: "Come To The Water"
- ~ Medical Technician: "Revive Us Again"
- ~ Newlywed: "I Need Thee Every Hour"
- ~ Obstetrician: "He Is Able To Deliver Thee"
- ~ Optometrist: "Open Mine Eyes That I Might See"
- ~ Politician: "Standing On The Promises"
- ~ Steeple Builder: "Lift High The Cross"
- ~ Stonecutter: "Rock Of Ages"
- ~ Voice Teacher: "Sing Them Over Again To Me"
- ~ Watchmaker: "In His Time"
- ~ Weatherman: "Heavenly Sunshine"

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



SPRING HOLIDAY SUMMATION

EASTER.. We celebrate our RISEN LORD April 1st.. We recognize the folly of FALLEN MAN