

February 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...

"We all worship the same God, don't we?"

I'm guessing I'm not the only one who has heard this question. (Usually it's not asked as a question but stated as an opinion.)



The idea that all people of all faiths are worshiping the same God is so popular in our time that we really need to know how to respond when we hear it. Here are four major points that I include when I get asked the question (or get the opinion tossed my way):

1. I usually make a comment like this to start:
"I'd say it's correct to say we are all SEEKING the same God."

God created us to have a very close relationship with Him. We see that in the Garden of Eden. He has placed an emptiness inside of every human who has ever lived, an emptiness that can only be filled by having a trusting relationship with God. That emptiness is designed to prompt us to go searching for Him. Kind of like the empty feeling in your stomach prompts you to go searching for food that will fill you up and satisfy your need.

Unfortunately, we try to stuff all sorts of other things into that empty spot only God can fill - things that don't really fill that spot or satisfy. Again, kind of like when we are hungry we often try to satisfy that hunger with "junk food" instead of good, healthy stuff that really satisfies. (You'll probably not be surprised to learn that I'm eating a bunch of ~~Cheez~~ Its as I type this!)

2. At some point I point out the faulty logic behind the idea that we all worship the same God with a statement something like this:

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"It is true that we are all seeking the same God, but we really can't say that we've all found the same God. If two groups define God using TOTALLY CONTRADICTIONARY TERMS then it can't be the same God."

For example, a couple of guys sitting next to each other on an airplane start talking and in the course of their conversation discover that football is their favorite sport. They initially think they have the same favorite sport. But the more they talk, they discover that one of them defines "football" as a weird, kind-of-oblong-shaped brown ball with laces in the middle and pointed ends, while the other one's favorite sport plays with a perfectly round ball made with a combination of black pentagon shapes and white hexagon shapes sewn together. (A soccer ball)

They quickly come to the conclusion that, although they give their favorite sport the same name - "football" - they definitely do NOT have the same favorite sport, since they have each defined "football" with totally contradictory terms.

It's the same kind of thing with God. If two different faith groups define what they worship in totally contradictory terms, then, even though they both give this deity the name "God", they definitely are not worshiping the same God.

Next month, I'll touch on a couple other points that need to be made, but for now, well, those two points make for a good start!

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



February Discipleship Verse...



But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

Miscellaneous Notes...

Join Our CHOIR

Rehearsals are the last two Sundays each month after fellowship. It's not too late to join us for Easter rehearsals!

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

Financial Peace University

Sunday evenings beginning January 31st.

We will 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. You can get more details from Stewardship Chairperson Jason Miller.



YOU CAN PLAY HANDBELLS

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

Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Living Word is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.



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That for a day: Advice is like cooking - you should try it before you feed it to others.

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Email Wisdom...

Why Go To Church

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it. If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper & complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. 'I've gone for 30 years now,' he wrote, 'in 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 & the preachers & priests 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 for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me & 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!' When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical & our spiritual nourishment! B. I. B. L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth! When you are about to forward this to others, the devil will discourage you.

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 LIFE.

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

Ash Wednesday & Lent...

Ash Wednesday - traditional service of ashes

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. This year on **February 10**. Ashes symbolize our mortality, humility and need for repentance before God. In ancient times people showed their grief over sin and repentance by putting on sackcloth and covering themselves with ashes. Ashes also suggest a need for cleansing - which comes to us through the blood of Christ that was shed for us on the cross.

During Ash Wednesday worship, ashes are applied to the foreheads of all worshippers in the form of a small cross. Join us at 7:00 p.m., February 10.

Lenten Soup & Sandwich Suppers...

Each Wednesday during Lent we will provide a soup and sandwich supper prior to the Lenten devotion.

Supper will be served from 5:30-6:20
(Except Ash Wednesday when supper concludes at 6:50)

The devotion will be from 6:30 - 7:00
(Except Ash Wednesday which has a full worship service at 7:00)

Classes and studies will begin at 7:00
(Except Ash Wednesday where worship replaces classes/studies)

Please sign up if you can provide soup or sandwich any of the Wednesdays



LWML News...

If you like to be on the planning end of things, please join us February 10th, @ 11:00 at Leone's house. We have 3 special events to plan for the year and also discuss the upcoming convention to be held this year in Willmar. All are welcome to attend. Let Leone know if you can be there. 354-4665.

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Thot for a day: Prayer is asking for rain. Faith is carrying an umbrella.

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Friendship Sunday...



WHO CAN YOU BRING TO...

Friendship Sunday

February 14

As always, our annual "Friendship Sunday" is a great opportunity to invite some friends to come and meet Our Greatest Friend - Jesus !

Special Friendship Sunday Events:

- Worship celebrating our Greatest Friend
- VALENTINES BRUNCH after worship (prepared & served by the men of Living Word)

Fish Fry	Swedish Meatballs
Potatoes/Onions	Bread
Cole Slaw	Milk / Juice / Coffee
Ice Cream (with lots of toppings!)	

Talk to God about your friends. Then talk to your friends about God (simply invite them to join you for worship & brunch!)

Congratulations!

- Brooklyn Elizabeth Johnson -
on being born to Allie & Joe January 14

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

Sunday School News....



9:00 every Sunday morning

- Classes Students start each morning with music, prayer requests from the kids and offering
- "Lessons from the Toy Box" Bible Lessons based on Toys
Upcoming Lessons
Jan 31 - Honor your Dad & Mom (4th Commandment)
Feb 7 - Reverence of God
Feb 14 - Love for All
- 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)

Mark Your Calendars...

Parents of Confirmation Students:

We'll have a short update/planning meeting at 6:15 before the students have class on February 3.

Coming This Summer @ Lutheran Island Camp...

Trailblazer Dinosaur Week (June 26-July 1, Ages 7-11)

LIC will have their first Trailblazer (7-11) Dinosaur Camp this year. Campers will spend time talking about God's creation, the dinosaur. Campers will receive some of the latest information about dinosaurs. We'll do some digging, learn about fossils, put skeletons together, and see if the Bible talks about dinosaurs. It should be a great week. The cost is \$300. The Living Word LWML has scholarships available.

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, February 5 from 1-4pm

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.

Ladies, Save the Date: April 15

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

Plans are to hold a Women's Retreat that weekend. Mark your calendars. It will be a time of fun and growth! Look for Retreat details in the March Newsletter.



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That for a day: The best things in life may be free, but the optional accessories really run up the bill.

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Start saving Toothpaste

for the Link's annual "Just the Basics" giveaway.

Saturday, April 30th,
9am to 10:30am
at Cross Roads Church.



Link Newsletter, February 2016

February is the month that should warm our hearts with love and please our stomachs with chocolate, but it is hard to think about anything being warm and pleasant when we are preparing for temperatures of 20 below! I can hack it as a Minnesotan, but when my eyebrows crystalize in the time that it takes for me to walk from the office to my car, I am not happy!

The Link would like to thank all of our 2015 Holiday Dinner attendees, sponsors and generous donors. Thanks to the generosity of our community, The Link raised approximately \$28,000 in a single evening! What a blessing to have such a strong community to support our mission. This amount, in addition to the \$6,000 from the Christmas Choir Concert, is critical to continuing to provide services to those who are facing difficult circumstances or experiencing crises in our area.

In December, The Link sponsored a Mitten Tree Project. It was quite the learning experience, but more importantly I got to see the Christmas spirit first hand with over 200 gifts donated! If that wasn't enough, I delivered gifts and saw their excitement and appreciation of knowing someone was thinking of them during the holidays. It is our goal to expand this project next year to other local churches and organizations and make an even greater impact.

On December 29th, O'Neil's and The Open Door Christian Church sponsored Tuesday's Table. It was a first for both, but it was truly a success with delicious food, enthusiastic volunteers and a welcoming atmosphere! The Link is grateful for the growing partnerships and deepening relationships with area businesses and local churches.

The Link has a brand new opportunity to make a lasting impact in Northern Kandiyohi County. With a long-term goal of financial sustainability, The Link has established a partnership with the Wilmar Area Community Foundation to launch the Link Legacy Endowment—an ACORN endowment—a campaign to secure the Link's ability to meet our mission.

For more information, please contact Rhonda Offeson at 320-796-2522.

Warm blessings to you,
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Director of Client Services
and Community Engagement
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Spicer, MN 56288
320.796.2522
<http://www.thelinkinc.org>

"Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other."

February 2016 - Daily Devotionals

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We finish the practical wisdom book of Proverbs then jump to the short book of Joel in time for the start of the season of Lent. After two more of the books in the "Poetry" section of the Old Testament we finish with the prophecies in Daniel and Hosea.

Jan 31 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Feb 1 Proverbs 22-23 (23:1-35) _____

Feb 2 Proverbs 24-25 (24:23-34) _____

Feb 3 Proverbs 26-27 (27:1-27) _____

Feb 4 Proverbs 28-29 (29:1-27) _____

Feb 5 Proverbs 30 (30:2-16) _____

Feb 6 Proverbs 31 (31:1-31) _____

Feb 7 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Feb 8 Joel 1 (1:1-12) _____

Feb 9 Joel 2 (2:12-32) _____

Feb 10 Joel 3 (3:16-21) _____

Feb 11 Song of Songs 1-3 (1:1-17) _____

Feb 12 Song of Songs 4-6 (4:1-16) _____

Feb 13 Song of Songs 7-8 (7:11-8-14) _____

Feb 14 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Feb 15 Ecclesiastes 1-2 (1:1-16) _____

Feb 16 Ecclesiastes 3-4 (3:1-22) _____

Feb 17 Ecclesiastes 5-6 (5:1-20) _____

Feb 18 Ecclesiastes 7-8 (7:19-29) _____

Feb 19 Ecclesiastes 9-10 (9:1-18) _____

Feb 20 Ecclesiastes 11-12 (12:1-14) _____

Feb 21 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Feb 22 Daniel 1 (1:1-7,17-21) _____

Feb 23 Daniel 2 (2:1-13,24-45) _____

Feb 24 Daniel 3-4 (3:1-30) _____

Feb 25 Daniel 5 (5:1-12,22-31) _____

Feb 26 Daniel 6 (6:1-23) _____

Feb 27 Daniel 7-8 (8:1-27) _____

Feb 28 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Feb 29 Daniel 9 (9:1-19) _____

Mar 1 Daniel 10-12 (11:36-12:13) _____



Mar 2 Hosea 1-2 (1:1-11) _____

Mar 3 Hosea 3-4 (3:1-5) _____

Mar 4 Hosea 5-6 (6:1-6) _____

Mar 5 Hosea 7-8 (8:1-14) _____

February 2016 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 31 9:00 ADULT STUDY Sunday School - Toy Box 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Choir Practice 6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV.	Feb 1 9:00 Circuit Pastors @ Wilmar	2 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	3 8:45 MOMS' STUDY 6:15 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 -- WOMEN'S STUDY	4	5	6
7 9:00 ADULT STUDY Sunday School- Toy Box 10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 1:00 "WHAT DOES THE LCMS BELIEVE?" Class 6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV.	8	9 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	10 ASH WEDNESDAY 8:45 MOMS' STUDY 11:00 LWML Planning Mtg 5:30 SOUP SUPPER 6:15 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 7:00 ASH WED. WORSHIP		12	13
14 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 9:00 ADULT STUDY Sunday School - Toy Box 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 FRIENDSHIP BRUNCH 6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV. 6:30 SR HIGH YOUTH STUDY	15 	16 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	17 8:45 MOMS' STUDY 5:30 - SOUP SUPPER 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION 7:00 -- WOMEN'S STUDY -- CONFIRMATION	18 MISSION Ministry 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	19	20
21 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School - Toy Box 10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV. 6:30 SR HIGH YOUTH STUDY	22	23 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	24 8:45 MOMS' STUDY 5:30 - SOUP SUPPER 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION 7:00 -- WOMEN'S STUDY -- CONFIRMATION	25	26	27 4:30 2 nd ANNUAL PANCAKE FEED A National Youth Gathering Fundraiser
28 9:00 ADULT STUDY Sunday School 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV.	29 LEAP YEAR	Mar 1 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	Mar 2 8:45 MOMS' STUDY 5:30- SOUP SUPPER 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION 7:00 -- WOMEN'S STUDY -- CONFIRMATION	Mar 3	Mar 4	Mar 5

Lord's Supper Dates

- Sunday, February 7th
- Ash Wednesday, February 10th
- Sunday, February 21st

Pancake Feed Benefit

Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to:
newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Feb 7	Wendy Robbin
Feb 14	Becky Sarsland
Feb 21	Mona Hjelle
Feb 28	Kevin Welsh
Mar 6	Linda Dilley
Mar 13	Jason Miller
Mar 20	Mark Fuglie
Mar 27	Tammy Fuglie

Fellowship Servers

Feb 7	Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
Feb 14	Friendship Brunch
Feb 21	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
Feb 28	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Mar 6	Mike & Brooke Knutson
Mar 13	Becky Sarsland / Mary Raddatz
Mar 20	Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky
Mar 27	Easter Breakfast

Usher Schedule

Feb 7	Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson
Feb 14	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
Feb 21	Jason & Noah Miller
Feb 28	Wendy & Lonny Robbin
Mar 6	Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp
Mar 13	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Mar 20	Linda Dilley
Mar 27	Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Feb 7	Carson Jaspersen
Feb 14	Noah Miller
Feb 21	Andrew Sharp
Feb 28	Levi Miller
Mar 6	Eli Sharp
Mar 13	Lance Sawatzky
Mar 20	George Arends-Schmidt
Mar 27	Davis Rustad.

Altar Guild

Feb	Mona Hjelle
Mar	Nancy Jo Wendt

Make A Meal Volunteers

February	Linda Dilley & Violet Dauk
March	Bonnie Hansen & Gerri Strohbeen

That for a day: Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)

Feb 7	Mona Hjelle & Noah Miller
Feb 14	McCartney Knutson & Davis Rustad
Feb 21	Gracie Geer & Andrew Sharp
Feb 28	Alana Friehl & Carson Jaspersen
Mar 6	Mona Hjelle & George Arends-Schmidt
Mar 13	McCartney Knutson & Lance Sawatzky
Mar 20	Gracie Geer & Noah Miller
Mar 27	Alana Friehl & Davis Rustad

Accompanying Musicians

Feb 7	Sharon Willen
Ash Wed	
Feb 14	Scott Wachter
Feb 21	Pam Johnson
Feb 27	Scott Wachter
Mar 6	Sharon Willen
Mar 13	Scott Wachter
Mar 20	Pam Johnson
Maundy Thurs	
Good Fri	
Sonrise	Scott Wachter
Easter	Sharon Willen



Custodian

February	Custodian needed
March	Custodian needed

Confirmation Parent/Assistant

Feb 3	Arends-Schmidts
Feb 10	Ash Wed
Feb 17	Sharps
Feb 24	Knutsons
Mar 2	Millers
Mar 9	Sawatzkys
Mar 16	Jaspersens
Mar 23	No Class
Mar 30	Rustads

Elders

Feb 7	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Ash Wed	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Feb 21	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Mar 6	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Mar 20	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
M Thurs	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Easter	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson

Email Humor...

Cousin Thomas

When Alexandra, my niece, was preparing for her first day of school, she confided in her mom that she was concerned about how her cousin Thomas's behavior in the classroom might reflect on her. "He burps and screams, he won't listen and he won't sit still," she lamented.

"Well, how did it go at school?" her mom asked her when she picked Alexandra up at the end of the day. "Did Thomas do anything to embarrass you?"

"Oh, no," Alexandra replied. "All the boys are like that!"

Needed To Be Pushed

A few years ago the battery in my beat-up VW Beetle had died because I left the lights on overnight. I was in a hurry to get to work on time so I ran into the house to get my wife to give me a hand to start the car. I told her to get into our second car, a prehistoric oversized gas guzzler, and use it to push my car fast enough to start it. I pointed out to her that because the VW had an automatic transmission, it needed to be pushed at least 20 mph for it to start.

She said fine, hopped into her car and drove off.

I sat there fuming wondering what she could be doing.

A minute passed by and when I saw her in the rear-view mirror coming at me at about 30 mph, I realized that I should have been a bit clearer with my directions.....

How would you change if you spent just 10-15 minutes a day getting to know God in His Word?

Join us in finding out.

Last January we began to read through the Bible together using the Today's Light Bible

THIS January....

If you haven't started reading yet...
Or started and got 'stuck' in Leviticus....
Or maybe you had good intentions, but ...

Just Jump In With This Month's Readings

The Today's Light Bible is divided into 10-15 minute daily readings with an introductory paragraph before each reading and a summary paragraph after each one.

Bibles are available at church. You may pick one up from the Free Stuff table.



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That for a day: Common sense is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden.

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January 2016

A New Year, a New Beginning

January 6th: First Day of Epiphany

It's 9:30 pm. Dan is working at his computer, but getting ready to close up shop for the night when a new email pops up on his "desktop." Pausing for a moment after he reads it, he then turns to me. "Joan, we've got the green light." The days on the road and the dear fellow Christians we've met run through my mind's eye. I'm flooded with a mixture of happiness and relief to have reached our goal. YOU are the folks that made this happen!

We said a most heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving that night. Our network of support has been deemed "sustainable" and now by the strength of our True Sustainer and Light of the World, we prepare to move to Japan.

Year of the...Snow Monkeys?

In my sister-in-law's recent New Year's letter she informed us that this was the "Year of the Monkey." When I saw the above image of the famous Japanese macaques, I imagined Dan and I as "snow monkeys" headed for the hot springs. Minnesotans sort of look like that around this time of the year. Really.

We will be flying East when our visas are ready - next month! We won't be relaxing in an onsen (hot springs resort) for a while, though. The first order of business when we arrive will probably be decisions about housing. Definitely an apartment, but location to be determined. We will keep you posted.

Keeping Old Family Connections...

We've been squeezing in more family visits here in Minnesota as our departure date approaches as well as planning how to stay in touch with our loved ones when we are apart. Google hang-out? Skype? What's app? Plenty of choices.



Picture on the left: Dan with his mother, the original Janstram missionary, on our last visit. She's proud to have him follow in her husband's footsteps, sad to see him go. Picture on the right: Grandson Everett eating his "nack." "Why?" "Why are papa and grandma going on a plane to Japan?" "To help pastors tell others about Jesus," is my answer.



...and Building New Ones



As I write, Dan is attending symposia in Fort Wayne, Indiana at our Concordia Theological Seminary. He is pictured here with delegates from India and Indonesia, some of whom are in discussion with our LCMS church about church fellowship. They were not prepared for the first days of bitterly cold weather so Dan made a run to the store for thermal underwear as the first order of business!

Along with Dan, nine other LCMS Asia missionaries are also attending the symposia. Besides hosting our Asian church leaders, they have been planning for the New Year in Asia. We look forward to joining them!

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 February Make-a-Meal volunteers are Violet Dauk and Linda Dilley

Bring Food Shelf Items Every Second Sunday

We received donations of 12 pounds of food in January. Thank you for remembering the 2nd Sunday each month to bring your donations, (February 14 this month). Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Be "Custodian of the Month"

You (or your whole family) can sign up to provide the necessary cleaning. A check-list of duties is posted by the mailboxes. Please consider being a part of this service. **We are in need of custodians for both February and March.** Talk to Wendy or Lonny Robbin if you have questions or to volunteer yourself or your family.

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

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



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That for a day: An optimist thinks this is the best of all worlds. A pessimist fears this may be true.

National Youth Gathering Update...

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 Friebl
- We are still in need of one more female chaperone. Please talk to Pastor David if you could help chaperone.
- Our next fundraiser will be the Annual Pancake Feed - February 27
- Thanks for your prayers and support



Just For Fun... Find the hidden Bible verse.

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 245

Matt 7:13-27

Sermons of Jesus 5

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

BEARS AGAINST
BEAT CLOTHING
BROAD EVERYONE
BUILT EVILDOERS
CRASH FEROCIOUS
DEMONS KINGDOM
DRIVE LIKEWISE
ENTER MIRACLES
FALSE NARROW
FATHER PERFORM
HOUSE PRACTICE
LEADS PROPHECY
LORD STREAMS
WATCH THISTLES
WINDS FOOLISH
WOLVES GRAPES
WORDS HEAVEN

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2016 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Opportunities for Growth...

Today's Light Daily Readings:

See pages 10—11 of this newsletter



Sunday Morning Study (9:00)

Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School

Men's Study - Tuesdays @ 6:30

Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School

Wed. Evening Women's Study -

6:30 Wednesday evenings

"Emotionally Healthy Woman"

Mom's Study -

Wednesday, @ 8:30a.m. (childcare provided)

"Believing Jesus—The Book of Acts"

Confirmation Class

Wednesday @ 6:15

Sr. High Youth Study

2nd & 3rd Sunday evenings @ 6:30 Friends are welcome too!
Lyndsay Ampe leads the study. Please call her 612-325-8960 with any questions or topic suggestions.

Financial Peace University

Sunday evenings @ 6:00

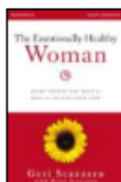


"What Does the LC-MS Believe" - Feb 7, 1-4pm

This serves as a Membership Course for those interesting in becoming members of Living Word. Next class is next Sunday afternoon - we'll be done in plenty of time b4 Super Bowl!). Talk to Pastor Dave if interested.

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.



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Thot for a day: God's faithfulness always surpasses our unfaithfulness.

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New Resource...

How Contented Are You ?

Are you satisfied with your life? Be honest. We live in what may be the most prosperous country in the world - more possessions, freedoms, and opportunities than perhaps anywhere. Yet, we're among the most discontented people in the world. What's so bad about that? Read on...



Lucifer, the brightest star in heaven, was not content. He wanted to sit on the Throne. A third of the angels joined in his rebellion. They were all removed from heaven. They still are not content. Adam and Eve, without sin in the Garden, were not content. They wanted to be like God. And ever since the human race has not been content. Discontentment robs you of the joy and peace that you desire - that God intended! - and it does so on a daily basis.

There is hope. The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 4:11b, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." Despite his high calling in Judaism and his impressive education, Paul confesses that he had to learn contentment and so do we. This "Project Connect" booklet will help you in your quest to find what Paul found - Jesus gives the strength we need to be content in any and every situation. Pick one up in the Project Connect rack by Pastor's office.

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")

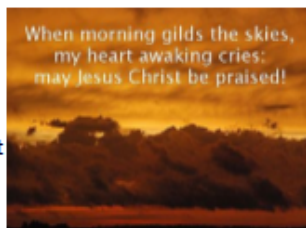
Remember to take a time-out to be "impudent" and PRAY for...

- God to remind us that the Jesus has grace and power for our lives
- God to work through our Financial Peace University class
- Who to invite to Friendship Sunday.
- A reasonable airfare to open up for our National Youth Gathering trip
- Thanking God for all the kids in our church - and all we learn from them
- What to "give up" and what to "take up" during Lent this year.
- A successful Pancake Feed the end of this month.
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- God to embolden our Christian witness in our daily lives
- The Holy Spirit to work through our Bible studies
- God to keep strengthening faith thru the Today's Light Bible readings
- God to raise up leaders in our nation who seek His will
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

Story Behind The Song...

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

One of the great parts of this time of year is the "morning gilds the skies" a little bit earlier every day. So, I thought it would be appropriate to look at the story behind that song.



From the rising of the sun to its setting may the LORD's name is to be praised. Psalm 113:3

That verse from the Psalms is the foundation of this hymn - whose author is unknown - that first appeared in a German hymnal in 1744.

Roughly one hundred years after the song appeared in that hymnal a priest by the name of Edward Caswall translated it into English. Edward had grown up in an Anglican parsonage in Yatley, England (his father was a minister in the Church of England). Edward followed in his dad's footsteps and became a member of the Anglican clergy. He later converted to Catholicism and delighted in translating Latin hymns into English.

While translating the verses of this hymn, Edward added some of his own. The original English translation included 14 stanzas that remind us in many of the aspects of everyday life to keep praise for the Lord in our hearts and on our lips.

Here is the first verse we sing (LSB #807) and a sampling of some great ones that we don't

*When morning gilds the skies, My heart, awaking, cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall, this rings my curfew call:
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*When you begin the day, O never fail to say:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
And at your work rejoice, to sing with heart and voice:
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Whene'er the sweet church bell peals over hill and dell,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
O hark to what it sings, as joyously it rings,
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

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Thot for a day: Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

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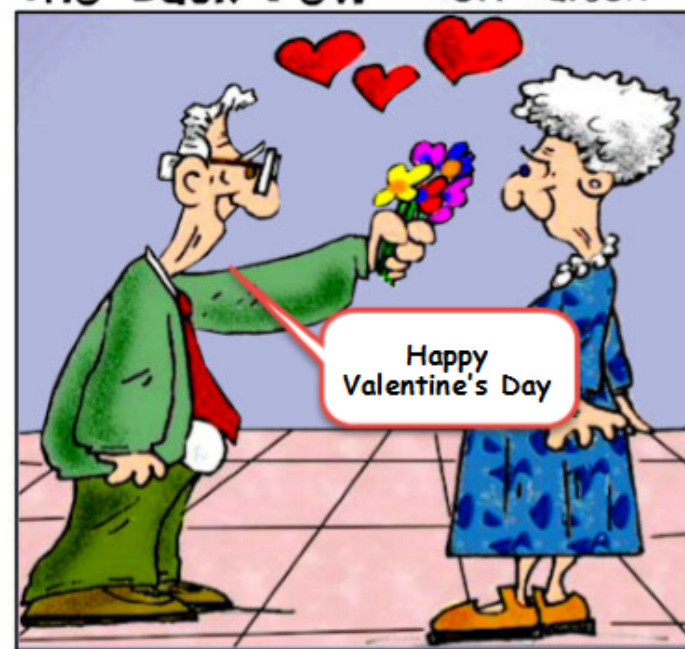
*Be this at meals your grace, in ev'ry time and place
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this, when day is past, of all your thoughts the last
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*When sleep her balm denies, my silent spirit sighs,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
When evil thoughts molest, with this I shield my breast,
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

And the final verse:
*Sing, sun and stars of space, sing ye that see His face,
Sing Jesus Christ be praised!
God's whole creation o'er, for aye and evermore
Shall Jesus Christ be praised!*

Editor's note: Listen to this hymn at
https://youtu.be/m_ZiM2WMSJQ

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Your teeth are store bought and as white as the
hairs on yer head. **Song of Solomon for Seniors**