



January 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...

"Why don't we call the church "Bethlehem"?

Sometimes the kids have the greatest insights.

This question came at the end of the Sunday School Christmas program. Come to Bethlehem and See! was the name of the program. I wrapped up the program

by telling everyone that "Bethlehem" is a word that means "House of Bread." Then I asked the question "What will we see when we come to Bethlehem - the House of Bread?"

Most folks were probably expecting an answer like, "The Baby Jesus" or "Immanuel" or "God." But I told everyone that they would find what a person would expect to find at a place called "The House of Bread." They would find bread! Then I went on to tell about the time Jesus referred to Himself as "The Bread of Life."



Jesus used that term to remind us that - like bread fills us up - He truly is the one thing that fills up the emptiness in everyone's life. He is the only thing that truly satisfies our hunger for God.... because He IS God. He alone has all the "nutrients" we need like, Love, Hope, Peace, Forgiveness, Power for Life. Wisdom, etc...

So, it was after that explanation that one of the students asked me the question listed above. He then went on to clarify: "Since Jesus is the Bread of Life and we can always find Him here at church, why don't call this place "Bethlehem?"

A great insight! There was no other way for me to respond but with, "That's a great idea!" Of course, we already have Living Word as our

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official name, so maybe we could just use "Bethlehem" as a nickname. Kind of like the baby in the manger was given the official name of "Jesus" (which means "The LORD saves), but he also had Bread of Life as a 'nickname.'

Thanks for asking Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

# You Can't Fight God...

His ways are always higher than our ways - and His power greater!

Every year around Christmastime, in grinch-like fashion, the national atheist organization based in Wisconsin, Freedom From Religion Foundation, threatens small towns with lawsuits for displaying Christmas

tion, threatens small towns with lawsuits for displaying Christmas nativities on public property.

This year, one of their targets was Wadena, MN, where a nativity was displayed annually for years at a city park. Fearing the lawsuit, Wadena City Council voted unanimously to remove the nativity.

This seemed - from our human perspective - to be another defeat.

But, in God's sovereignty, He turned what seemed to be a defeat into an opportunity to display His glory through His Son in an amazing way in Wadena! Much like 2000 years ago God took a 'pay your taxes' edict from the emperor and the resulting grueling 70+ mile trip to Bethlehem (on foot!) the expecting parents had to make into fulfilment of the prophecy of the coming Messiah!

Wadena's one main nativity was taken down, but that prompted hundreds of new ones to be put on full display on private properties by residents who disagreed with the decision. The residents were attempting to break the standing record of 2500 Nativity displays in one area, and even used social media to help.

The residents of Wadena gave us a great reminder, not only of God's power, but also that it's not our culture's "job" to promote Jesus - that privilege belongs to us, His followers!

Editors note: Read the story and see the Fox 9 report on the Wadena nativity scene at http://www.fox9.com/news/56510202-story

## Miscellaneous Notes...

#### Join Our CHOIR

Rehearsals begin again January 24 and 31st. Easter comes early this year, March 27th so come and join us now to get on these rehearsals. All are welcome.



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



#### Lutheran Witness magazine 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.

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

Shalom Pastor Dauk.

It is one of the most beautiful moments for one of our staff when they have the privilege of praying with a Holocaust survivor. This past year, that exact occurrence became a reality in Hungary during a time of intense evangelism in Budapest. God greatly blessed one of our outreach teams!

Rita meeting with MelissaAvi, who directs our European missionary work, shares this incredible salvation story. "Zsuzsanna" is a 93-year-old Jewish woman who has lived in Budapest all her life. She survived the Holocaust, though everyone else in her immediate family perished. Now, though frail and confined to a wheelchair, her mind is clear, and she gets by every day with the help of a Christian friend.

Her friend brought her to a park where Jews for Jesus held a half-day event during our 17-day-long outreach. Zsuzsanna listened to the music and testimonies, and watched the Israeli folk dancing. Perhaps most importantly, she paid close attention as one of our team members, Barbara, shared the gospel message and told Zsuzsanna of Messiah's love and promise of forgiveness and eternal life when we repent. When Barbara asked Zsuzsanna if she wanted to give her heart to Jesus, she said yes! Please pray for her growth and grounding in the Lord.

We covet your prayers for new believers—no matter their age—and we hope you, too, are encouraged by how God moved in Zsusanna's life, bringing her into a secured eternity with Him.

Your prayers and support are precious to us. Friends like you allow this kingdom work to continue.

Blessings in our Messiah, David Brickner, Executive Director Jews for Jesus

## 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 Jesus is... God. With us.

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

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## CTI Music Ministries Group 14:21...

...will be at Living Word on Sunday, January 3rd. Check them out on their website at <a href="https://www.ctimusic.org">www.ctimusic.org</a> and stay for dinner after the worship and get to know the members of the group. It is always a great time listening to these young people share their faith, their stories, and their music.



#### Keilah Quimby - (seated in back) Team Leader / Vocals

Hometown: Ogden, UT

Along with napping, Keilah also loves drinking good coffee (she's worked as a barista!), reading any and all good books, and spending time with people she loves. Heading into her second year of Fulltime with CTI, she is also returning as the leader for 14:21. Keilah says, "I love life, and I love the Lord, and I am so glad that I get to experience both in big ways every single day!"

#### Bradley Banks -(second from left) Vocals

Hometown: Youngstown, OH

Bradley came from a musical family full of faith. While he grew up in Ohio, he attended Columbia College Chicago where he studied Arts Management. The relocation to Chicago opened the door for him to sing background vocals for some amazing artists! He's really looking forward to this next year!

#### Roxanne Huber (second from right) - Sound Tech

Hometown: Economy, PA

Roxy first heard about God at the age of six. After nine years of searching, she decided to follow Jesus at a church camp. Today, she's graduated as a student of Technical Theater, having minored in music, and is excited to be serving with CTI this year as the sound tech. Fun fact she was born hearing impaired. Besides music, she enjoys sci-fi TV shows,

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cooking, learning more about the Bible and the world we live in.

#### David Albers - (far right) Drums

Hometown: Bakersfield, CA

David grew up on a dairy in the San Joaquin Valley in California. He loved living out in the country and his parents say he's never forgiven them for moving into the city when he was 9. Along with loving being outdoors, music has always been a part of his life. In 5th grade he had the opportunity to play trumpet at Carnegie Hall. This year he's excited to be using his talents as a tool to minister to others and making an impact in the lives of others.

#### Kirsten Kennedy - Vocals

Hometown: Carbondale, IL

Kirsten really loves Zumba, cheese and congee (not together), animals and people watching. Born and raised in a small town, she moved to the greater Chicago area to study Human Development and Psychological Services. After graduating, she worked a bit before joining the Fulltime program last year. Eventually she's interested in getting her master's degree, moving somewhere with mild winters and becoming a therapist. But in the meantime she's excited to be returning for another year with CTI!

#### Matthew Celeste (standing far left)- Guitar

Hometown: Newtown, PA

Over the course of his first year with CTI, Matt became addicted to bubble tea. "Please kids, stay off tapioca pearls." He was the bassist for 14:21 last year and this year as the guitarist, he'll still be lobbying for electric guitar (or at the very least acoustic) to be included in the rhythm section. "Six strings need cool friends too," he says. He stands behind baseball being the greatest sport on earth and if you agree, he'd love to be friends with you. If you disagree, he'll probably still like you anyway.

#### Elisa Tung (kneeling far left) - Keys

Hometown: Markham, Ontario

Born into a Taiwanese-Canadian family, Elisa grew up trilingual. She takes great pride in the fact that her favorite treat is bubble tea, which originated in Taiwan. She hopes to eventually trek across Asia and visit countries like Japan, Thailand, Korea and the Philippines. But if you were to gift her a plane ticket, she'd visit New Zealand to see all the places where the Lord of the Rings movies were filmed. This year she's looking forward to using her degree – music education – to serve with CTI. Unsure of what the future will bring, she's excited to see what God has in store!

#### Samuel Iun - (kneeling, center) Bass

Hometown: Stouffville, Ontario

Sam likes eating spicy foods, believes that 50 degrees Fahrenheit (10 Celsius) is still shorts weather, and is equally adept at typically 'feminine' things like interior decorating or helping girls pick out shoes, as well as typically 'manly' things like cars, grilling, and gutting a fish. "On a more serious note, I'm really excited for the opportunity to grow in my knowledge of the Gospel, grow together with my team, and to serve our ministry partners effectively and with love!"

## Mark Your Calendars...

#### **Annual Court Whist Night**

Friday, January 29 - 6:30 p.m. at Pastor and Violet's





#### What Does the LC-MS Believe ?

Pastor will be hosting a "What does the Missouri Synod believe" class for those interested in membership at Living Word. The class will be held Sunday, January 17 in the afternoon.

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

- What do we believe about God ?
- What do we believe about prayer?
- What are the goals of Living Word?
- What do we believe about the Bible?
- What is the purpose of the Church?
- What do we believe about heaven and hell?
- What do we believe about sin and forgiveness?
- What do we believe about creation and evolution?
- What do we believe about baptism and communion?
- What do we believe about eternal life who will get it and how?
- What do we believe about current issues facing Christians like abortion and same-sex marriages?



This class also serves as the instruction class for those interested in discipleship (membership) here at Living Word. Please talk to pastor if you have questions about the class or would like to attend but don't have the afternoon of January 17 open. (A Saturday morning LUTHERAN is an alternate class time for those who can't attend the Sunday afternoon class.)

#### 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!



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# Link Newsletter, January 2016

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## Tuesday's Table

Food, Friends, Fellowship. January 5th: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church January 12th: Evangelical Covenant Church January 19th: Faith Lutheran Church January 26th: Peace Lutheran Church

Happy New Year! Is It just me or does it seem like 2015 came and went in a blink of an eye₹ I hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas and joyful New Yearl

The Link would like to express our appreciation to all those who made the Christmas Choir Concert a success! If you were unable to attend the concert due to the dense fog or perhaps another commitment, you really missed out! "WOW!" seems like a good word to describe it. The music was amazing and the atmosphere was magical. During the incredible song, "All is Well", I was moved to tears by the glorious sound. The Link is blessed to have so many musically talented men and women who selflessly gave their time and talent to benefit our mission! Approximately 450 people were there either singing, playing an instrument or enjoying the concert. That is a huge turnout considering the weather! In addition to all the volunteer hours, the concert raised \$5,900!! That is up approximately \$1,500 from last year! A huge thank you to everyone involved!

The Link Holiday Dinner was also a triumph! The video that Whit Allen produced and shared at the dinner was remarkable. Without the board members and other volunteers such an elegant event would not be possible. Thank you to all who came and especially to our generous donors! We do not have final numbers yet, but I will share them in our newsletter next month!

The Link has a brand new apportunity 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 Willmar Area Community Foundation to launch the Link Legacy Endowment—an ACORN endowment—a compaign to secure the Link's ability to meet our

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

Warm blessings to you. Chasity Ommodt, Director of Client Services and Community Engagement thelinkservices@falthspicer.org 310 Medayto Drive Spicer, MN 56288 320,796,2522 http://www.thelinknis.org

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

## Congratulations!

Brekkyn Warren Raddatz - baptized on December 27

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

# January 2016 - Daily Devotionals

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We finish the Gospel of Luke we started at Christmas. Then jump back to finish the book of Psalms and then read through the book of practical wisdom for everyday life - Proverbs. (In parentheses are verses to focus on if you are short on time that day)

Luke 14:1-35 (1	4:25-35)
Luke 15:1-16:31	(15:11-32)
Luke 17:1-18:43	(18:1-8)
Luke 19:1-20:47	(19:11-27)
Luke 21:1-22:71	(21:5-36)
Luke 23:1-24:53	(23:26-56; 24:13-32)
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use the time to	day to worship and catch up on any readings you mi
	day to worship and catch up on any readings you mi
Psalms 119 (P	
Psalms 119 (Ps	salm 119:89-76 )
Psalms 119 (Palms 120-125) Psalms 126-134	(Psalm 122)
Psalms 119 (Psalms 120-125 Psalms 126-134 Psalms 135-137	Psalm (133)(Psalm 136)(Psalm 139)
Psalms 119 (Psalms 120-125 Psalms 126-134 Psalms 135-137 Psalms 138-143	Psalm (133)(Psalm 136)
Psalms 119 (Psalms 120-125) Psalms 126-134 Psalms 135-137 Psalms 138-143 Psalms 144-150	Psalm (133)(Psalm 136)(Psalm 139)

Jan 20	Proverbs 5-6 (6:16-19)
Jan 21	Proverbs 7 (7:6-7)
Jan 22	Proverbs 8 (8:12-36)
Jan 23	Proverbs 9 (9:1-12)
Jan 24	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
Jan 25	Proverbs 10-11 (10:1-32)
Jan 26	Proverbs 12-13 (13:1-25)
Jan 27	Proverbs 14-15 (15:1-33)
Jan 28	Proverbs 16-17 (16:1-33)
Jan 29	Proverbs 18-19 (18:1-24)
Jan 30	Proverbs 20-21 (20:1-12)
Jan 31	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
Feb 1	Proverbs 22-23 (23:1-35)
Feb2	Proverbs24-25 (24:23-34)
Feb3	Proverbs 26-27 (27:1-27)
Feb4	Proverbs 28-29 (29:1-27)
Feb5	Proverbs 30 (30:2-16)
Feb6	Proverbs 31 (31:1-31)

# January 2016 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 ADULT STUDY Sunday School - Toy Box 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 6:30 SR HIGH YOUTH STUDY	4	6:30 MEN'S STUDY	6 8:30 MOMS' STUDY 6:15 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	7	Lord's Supper second & fourth 9 • Sunday, Jan • Sunday, Jan	Sundays this month uary 10th
10 LWML Officer Installation 9:00 ADULT STUDY Sunday School- Toy Box 10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Sunday School Teachers	11	5:30 ELDERS'TEAM 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	13 8:30 MOMS' STUDY 6:15 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	14	15	16
9:00 ADULT STUDY Sunday School - Toy Box  10:00 WOR SHIP 11:15 Fellowship  1:00 WHAT the LC-MS BELIEVES  6:30 SR HIGH YOUTH STUDY	Martin Luther King Day	6:30 MEN'S STUDY	20 8:30 MOMS' STUDY 6:15 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	MISSION Winistry 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	22	23
9:00 Adult Study Sunday School - Toy Box 10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE	25	26 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	27 8:30 MOMS' STUDY 6:15 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	28	6:30 ANNUAL COURT WHIST PARTY @ Pastor & Violet's	whist
9:00 ADULT STUDY Sunday School 10:00 WOR SHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV.	Feb 1	Feb 2  6:30 MEN'S STUDY	Feb 3 8:30 MOMS' STUDY 6:15 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	you by e-	Feb 5  nave this newslette mail. Send your en etter@livingwordl	nail address to:

# Upcoming Schedules...

#### Scripture Readers

Jan 3 CTI Jan 10 Tammy Fuglie Jan 17 Duane Hansen Jan 24 Tammy Wachter

Jan 31 Scott Wachter

#### Fellowship Servers

Jan 3 Dinner for CTI

Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky Jan 10 Jan 17 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie Jan 24 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson Jan 31 Tammy Wachter & Sarah Miller

#### Usher Schedule

Jan 3 Jason & Noah Miller Jan 10 Wendy & Lonny Robbin Jan 17 Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp Jan 24 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer

Jan 31 Linda Dilley

#### Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Levi Miller Jan 3 Eli Sharp Jan 10

Jan 17 Lance Sawatzky

Jan 24 George Arends-Schmidt

Jan 31 Davis Rustad

#### Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper) Jan 3 Mona Hielle

Jan 10 McCartney Knutson

lan 17 Gracie Geer Jan 24 Alana Friehl Michelle Johnson Jan 31

#### Accompanying Musicians

Jan 3 CTI Group 14:21 Scott Wachter Jan 10 Jan 17 Pam Johnson Jan 24 Scott Wachter Scott Wachter Jan 31

Feb 7 Sharon Willen Feb 14 Scott Wachter Feb 21 Pam Johnson Feb 27 Scott Wachter

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#### Custodian

January Custodian needed February Custodian needed

#### Confirmation Parent/Assistant

Jan 6 Millers Jan 13 Sawatzkys Jan 20 Jaspersens Rustads Jan 27

Feb 3 Arends-Schmidts

Feb 10 Ash Wednesday Worship

Feb 17 Arends-Schmidts

Feb 24 Knutsons

#### Altar Guild

Jan Nancy Jo Wendt Feb Mona Hjelle

#### Make A Meal Volunteers

January Gracie Geer & Laurel Iverson

#### Elders

Jan 10	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Jan 24	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Feb 7	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Feb 21	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter

# Sunday School News....

#### 9:00 every Sunday morning

Students start each morning with music, prayer re- Classes quests from the kids and offering.

Upcoming Lessons "Lessons from the Toy Box" Bible Lessons based on Toys Beginning Sunday, January 3

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 Hielle or Pastor David)

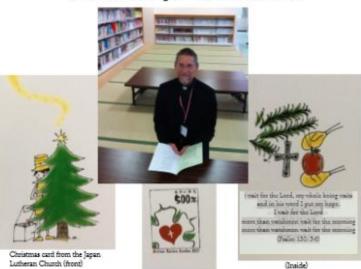
## Janstrams Newsletter...

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December 2015

## A Time of Waiting (まっている あいだ)...



This Advent season has been one of waiting in joyful expectation for our Lord and Savior. Dan and I have also been waiting with great anticipation for our move to Japan! The picture above shows Dan in the Urawa Lutheran School library during his last visit in April of this year. He looks right at home surrounded by books, doesn't he!

#### ...And Preparation (じゅんび)

Earlier this month Dan and I took our last road trip of the year to the Kansas City area. Here he shared with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ his work as theological education facilitator in Northern Asia. Eight days, nine gresentations. Your support is helping us grepare a sustainable network for the long-term.

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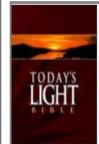
Ficture on the left: Dan with Pastor Brian Stark at Trinity Lutheran Church, Holton, Kansas. Fictured above: Preservice at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Otathe, Kansas.



...With a little relaxation thrown in

Nancy and Mark Ruud were most gracious hosts for our stay in the Kansas City area. Not only did they help arrange for us to speak at their church, but also facilitated a last minute visit to their daughter's church. Here we are on a (rare!) free aftermoon taking in some sights. First a visit to Union Station followed by a drive through the stunning Country Club Plara. And, of course, we topped it off with ribs at the famous Joe's of Kansas City. Mighty fine, indeed. Thank you, Mark and Nancy!





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.

## Opportunities to Serve...

#### A Great Month To Use Our Make-A-Meal Program

One of the best (and simplest) ways to share Jesus' love is by making a meal for someone who is going through a tough time. Please use the Prayer and Care cards in the attendance pad at worship or call Pastor David or Meal Coordinator Linda Dilley if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks! Our December Make-a-Meal volunteers are Laurel Iverson and Gracie Geer

#### Bring Food Shelf Items Every Second Sunday

We received donations of 11 pounds of food in December. Thanks for the support to the local shelf! Please remember to bring food items the 2nd Sunday of each month (January 10 this month). Your donations are greatly appreciated!

#### Be "Custodian of the Month"

You (or your whole family) can sign up to provide the necessary cleaning A check-list of duties is posted by the mailboxes. Please consider being a part of this service. Talk to Wendy or Lonny Robbin if you have questions or to volunteer yourself or your family. Every month in 2016s is available - including the month of January.

#### 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

Yes I do.

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

Church Mice

MY LORD, YOU KNOW WHAT I REALLY WANT?



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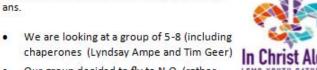
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# National Youth Gathering Update...

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)
- · Registration deadline will be early this month.
- Last month we began our fund raising efforts with "Childcare While You Shop."
- Our next fundraiser will be the Annual Pancake Dinner - early in February (we're hoping to get a tie-in with WinterFest)
- Thanks for your prayers and support

## Email Wisdom...

#### **GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS**

By Heather, Alberta Canada

- ~ Early wake-ups = Children to love.
- ~ House to clean = Safe place to live.
- ~ Laundry = Clothes to wear.
- ~ Dishes to wash = Food to eat.
- ~ Grocery shopping = Money to provide for us.
- ~ Toilets to clean = Indoor plumbing.
- ~ Lots of noise = People in my life.
- ~ Sore & tired in bed = I'm alive.
- ~ Be kind to each other = Endless love for all of you.

# January Discipleship Verse...



"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ they are a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:17

# 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

"Believing Jesus"

#### Mom's Study -

Wednesday, @ 8:30a.m.

(childcare provided)

"Believing Jesus"

#### Confirmation Class

Wednesdays @ 6:15

#### Sr. High Youth Study

1st & 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. THANKS!

#### Could You Host A Small Group Study This Fall?

One of our Core Values at Living Word is that making disciples (people who are committed to growing to become more like Jesus) happens best in small group settings. For example, it's easier for people to get connected to Jesus through small groups. It's easier to get to know other Christians in small groups. Caring happens best in small groups. With that in mind if you could host a small group study- at your home, a coffee house or at church, please talk to Pastor David. There are many different kinds of studies available. We can find one that fits your situation.

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Lisa Harper

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Lutheran Women's Missionary League

## LWML News...

Please join us Tuesday, January 12th @ 6:30 PM, for "New Beginnings" which include a lasagna supper, fellowship, Bible study and our business meeting. All women are welcome to attend.

## 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 who came at Christmas IS STILL HERE!
- God to work through our Financial Peace University class
- Thanking God for all the students involved in our Christmas Program
- Asking God to bring lots of kids to our Birthday Party for Jesus
- Good travel weather
- That the "giving" attitude all year not just at Christmas
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- God to embolden our Christian witness in our daily lives
- The Holy Spirit to work through our Bible studies
- God to keep strengthening faith thru the Today's Light Bible readings
- God to raise up leaders in our nation who seek His will
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

## E-Mail Humor...

#### Position To Pray

Three preachers sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while an electrical lineman worked nearby.

"Kneeling is definitely best," claimed one.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor."

The repairman could contain himself no longer.

"Gentlemen," he interrupted, "the best praying I ever did was hanging upside down from a utility pole!"

hot for a day: People

# Story Behind The Song...

"Hark, The Herald Angels Sing"

Yes, I know that this is January and Christmas is "over." Actually, the Twelve Days of the Christmas Season run through January 5, so technically......

Violet and I were just talking about how we don't get enough time - in the church -

to sing the great Christmas carols. We may hear them on the radio and in stores starting the day after Halloween, but we don't get enough time - twelve days - to sing them in church.

With that in mind, here's the story behind one of my favorites:

"The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Luke 2:10

Upon coming to faith in Christ, Charles Wesley began writing hymns. "Each one was packed with doctrine, all of them exhibiting strength and sensitivity, both beauty and theological brawn," writes Robert J. Morgan in Then Sings My Soul, 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories.

It is said that Wesley's mind flooded with the words to a song while on horseback, prompting him to stop at houses along the road and ask for pen and ink to record the words.

Wesley wrote over 6000 hymns in his life and didn't like it when people would change any of the words. He wrote in one of his hymnals, "I beg leave to mention a thought which has long been on my mind, and which I should long ago have inserted in the public papers, had I not been unwilling to stir up a nest of hornets. May gentlemen have done my brother and me (though without naming us) the honor to reprint many of our hymns. Now they are perfectly welcome to do so, provided they print them just as they are. But I desire they would not attempt to mend them, for they really are not able. None of them is able to mend either the sense or the verse. Therefore, I must beg of them these two favors: either to let them stand just as they are, to take things for better or worse, or to add the true reading in the margin, or at the bottom of the page that we may no longer be accountable either for the nonsense or doggerel of other men."

But one of Wesley's friends, Charles Whitefield, did us all a favor when he changed the first line from "Hark, how all the welkin rings" to "Hark! The herald angels sing." ("Welkin" is an old English term for the "vault of heaven.")

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Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim. "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing. "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored. Christ the Everlasting Lord Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity Pleased as man with men to dwell Jesus our Immanuel Hark! The herald angels sing. "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sins, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Editor's note: Listen to a beautiful version by the group Celtic Woman at <a href="https://youtu.be/Xw38pGhPXlk">https://youtu.be/Xw38pGhPXlk</a>. But my favorite version is a new rendition by Pentatonix. Listen at <a href="https://youtu.be/QJsC0Xr7lq8">https://youtu.be/QJsC0Xr7lq8</a>

## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Ole. the Goalie

Star player for the Mesabi Iron Rangers
of the TRUE NORTH Hockey Club.

Put on the 'GOALIE GEAR', of God, so you
don't become a 'PUCK PINATA' for Satan's
Slap Shots! Eph 6-11 (IRE) Iron Range Edition

That for a day: Faith is the