



January 2018 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

Question for Pastor...

Do you go to heaven if you 'half-believe' and half don't?

At the end of our most recent 4-6th Grade Group meeting, we read through the account of the Magi (wise men) following the star to come and worship Jesus. The story led to lots of questions. (I probably got enough questions for a year's worth of "Question for Pastor" articles! - It was great!)



As usually happens, many of the questions had to do with heaven. The question above is one of those.

It's always a good idea to make sure you and the questioner are thinking along the same lines before giving an answer. Otherwise, you may end up answering a question they really aren't asking. So, I pressed for a little more information about what they meant by 'half-believe.' I found out that they were equating 'believing' with 'understanding.' For example, they couldn't understand how God can be everywhere all at once or how God can hear the prayers of maybe a billion people all at once. Guess what? I don't understand that either!

So, this was my answer: "God doesn't require us to understand everything about Him or everything He says. He realizes that there are lots of things about Him that we won't understand, *because He's God and we aren't.*"

It's similar to how my dogs can understand a few key words I use with them ('treat' and 'ride' come to mind as examples), but if I tell them I can't take them for a ride because I have to write a sermon, they won't have a clue what I am doing or why. They'll never understand what 'writing a sermon' means simply because they aren't human.

We are in good company when it comes to not understanding how God can do something that we can't do. When the angel came to tell Mary that she would become the mother of the Son of God, she asked, "How can this be?" i.e. "I don't understand how this can possibly happen." The angel responded by saying something we would all do well to remember: "Nothing is impossible for God." i.e. "You don't need to

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understand how, just trust that because He's God, He can do it!

I told the kids, "I am *glad* I can't understand everything about God. If I could understand everything about Him, that would mean He's no different than me - no better than me! And I REALLY want a God who is better than I am - as in: more powerful, wiser, more loving, etc..."

Bottom line: John 3:16 doesn't say, ... "whoever *understands* Him will have eternal life." Thank God for that! Rather, it does say, "whoever believes in (trusts) Him will have eternal life."

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study

A Man Named Martin - Part 2: The Moment

Witness the interplay of personalities and events that led to the Lutheran Reformation. From Luther's inner struggles of conscience and faith to his call for debate with the Pope to his scathing rebuke of erroneous church practice. Join us Sundays at 9:00



Men's Study - Tuesdays @ 6:30

January 9: Men's Study Group has a Work Project. ... see Pastor for details. (We'll start at 5:30)

January 16: We begin
"Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School":
The Book of Revelation



Daily Bible readings:

"New" Things - See pages 10 & 11 in this Newsletter



Confirmation -

Confirmation Reminders:

- Classes start at 6 p.m. this year
- Parents check the "Parent Helper" schedule for your dates.
- Students - remember to check your "Sunday School Helper" dates
- Students - remember to bring your Bible and your "Don't Check Your Brains At the Door" book

NEW Women's Wednesday Evening Study:

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30

"Seamless"

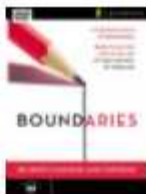
Seamless covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture.



Moms' Study: Wednesdays @ 9:30 am

Our current study: Practical Wisdom in the book of James

Starting January 24, the classic study: Boundaries featuring Dr.'s Henry Cloud and John Townsend, who uncover the secrets to cultivating the habit of setting and maintaining healthy boundaries that provide the framework for rich, productive relationships. These nine interactive sessions can make a life-changing difference. Drawing on principles from the Bible, Boundaries guides small groups on a journey of discovery and practical application.



Could you provide child care for the moms while they do the study? Please talk to Pastor David. Thanks!

4-6th Grade Group

Meets again on Wednesday, February 7

Pastor David & the Confirmation students will again lead our monthly gathering for our 4-6th graders.

(We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.)

Sunday School: See page 19 for information

Bible Story Book / Video lending library:

We have over 100 books in the nursery that you can sign out to read with your children at home. We also have videos to sign out: Adventure in Odyssey (in the old VHS format)! Veggie Tales (dvd) and more!

An Open Invitation to Pray - Wednesdays @ 6:00am

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people..." 1 Timothy 2:1

Living Word has a group of 'prayer warriors' who have been meeting informally for about a year on Wednesday evenings following the Apostle Paul's urging in the above passage.

They start their meetings by looking at an example prayer in the Bible, then they have a time of prayer and praise - including silent time. The group has been expanding by word of mouth, but as we begin a new Christian Growth season, they would like to issue a formal invitation to everyone who has a heart for prayer to join them Wednesdays at 6pm. (Don't worry if you aren't able to attend every week.)

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That for a day: Money can't buy happiness, but it can buy chocolate, which is kinda the same thing.

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Inspirational Message....

Patience is the companion of wisdom.

In 1 Samuel 13:5-15 we read about the Israel's first king, Saul, as he led God's people in battle. Saul and the army were vastly outmanned and out armed and surrounded by vengeful Philistines. He waited for the prophet Samuel to come and make the offerings that would secure the Lord's favor. But Samuel delayed in coming. We don't know why; we just know the longer he delayed, the more desperate Saul became. The moment Samuel was "officially" late, Saul acted. He made the offering himself - even though he was not a priest and had no authority to do so.

Have you ever prayed desperately for God's help, only to see the 'deadline' pass with no reply? God often tests us this way. Providence is slow coming, and so we take matters into our own hands. We don't mean to be disobedient; we just assume that God hasn't answered our prayers and wants us to 'help ourselves.' He doesn't! He's waiting to see what's more important to us: our plan or our obedience to Him.

Would God really give us that difficult a test? Just ask Abraham, or Esther, or Peter. And remember Saul. Our obedience will be tested, usually in smaller degrees. But it always comes down to this:

When things are really desperate, when our whole lives seem to depend on the next step, what will we do:

Take it upon ourselves to intervene as we see fit
OR

Continue to trust God and wait on Him?

Life is filled with little acts of impatience. We pray, but we don't wait long enough for the answer. Like Samuel, we think God is taking too long. Our deadlines pass - not God's, but ours. We may think He's left us 'out to dry,' and that perhaps our prayers were not 'on target' enough. But in reality, what's not 'on target' is our timetable. In His Word God tells us many times - emphatically - to "Wait on the Lord."

Saul's impatience cost him his reign. Like Saul, waiting is not our strong suit. We live in a society that depicts 'waiting' as almost evil. But God's kingdom is exactly the opposite. He greatly values the virtue of waiting on His timing. He tests us to see if we will trust Him enough to wait. His answer and His action on our behalf will come - and it's never too late.

Excerpted from Walk With God by Chris Tiegreen

Mark Your Calendars...



Court Whist Fellowship!

Sunday, January 14th @ 5:30
Bring a snack to share AND some friends!

2018 Women's Retreat

Friday night- Sunday, April 27th-29th.

"Reach Out - Impact Your World!"

Where: Koronis Ministries: Paynesville, MN

Cost: (Price includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals)

Dorm Room Style:

\$130.00 per person (Based on double occupancy)

Hotel room:

\$180.00 per person based on double occupancy.

RSVP: by April 10th to Violet Dauk or Tammy Miller

Money will be due by April 10th as well.

(Checks payable to Koronis Ministries)

This is open to all ladies, so invite some friends!!



Come paint a cross on canvas. Enjoy good coffee and good company. Nicole Santier, a local artist and daughter of Living Word member Lana Bjork, will be the instructor.

- The cost is only \$25. (Payment due the morning of the event)
- All materials will be provided.
- Sign up at church.
- Please invite a friend!

JANUARY NEWS

206 N. Main St., New London, MN 56223 • 320.354.5555 or 354.1198 • youarethelink.org
The Link Staff: Rhonda Ottosen, Chastity Greenleaf & Shauna Broomberg



Christmas Joy and Thanksgiving Baskets!

This holiday season, thanks to many local donors and churches, The Link provided 48 holiday food baskets to families in need. We also coordinated Christmas Joy with Crossroads Community Church and community members to sponsor 12 families for Christmas! Faith Lutheran Church provided The Link with gift cards from their Mitten Tree to share with local families that expressed a financial need during the holidays. It is always a blessing to share the spirit of Christmas with our neighbors who needed it the most!

Wildcat Backpack Program Update:



Each Friday, students participating in the program are receiving two entrees, two breakfast items, two juice boxes and two snacks for the weekend. The goal of the program is to ensure that all students arrive at school on Monday, fed and ready to learn. Because of your generous support, the Wildcat Backpack Program is already serving 65 students each week and participation continues to grow! So far almost \$30,000 has been raised to support kids in our community. Thank you!

Impact:

The Link received a call from a family who's fridge and freezer quit working. The family had just filled it up with food and at the time with the warm, winter weather, storing it outside was not an option. The Link was able to partner with Kandyohi Power Cooperative's Conservation Improvement Program which provided the family with a new, energy efficient fridge.

The Cooperative's CIP program also provided three of the Tuesday's Table churches with energy efficient deep freezers along with upgrading The Link's Food Pantry freezer!

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

Tuesday's Table

Jan 2nd: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church

Jan 8th: Evangelical Covenant Church

Jan 15th: Faith Lutheran Church

Jan 22nd: Peace Lutheran Church

Jan 29th: The New London & Spicer Lions at Faith Lutheran Church

Food, Friends,

Fellowship.

Food Pantry & Household Exchange Hours of Operation and Donations:

Tuesday: 9 am-3 pm
Thursday: 9 am-3 pm
3rd Wednesday:
4 pm - 7 pm

The Work of Christmas
When the song of the angels is still,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music from the heart.

Howard Thurman

Revive + Redeem

Boutique / Thrift

New Hours:

Starting January 11th

Tuesday: 9am-3pm

Thursday: 9am-3pm

Happy New Year!

Miscellaneous Notes...

CHOIR...

Thank you to the loyal choir members that were present for the Christmas Eve Service.. What a joy it was to direct you. Your sound was amazing. God has truly blessed Living Word with your wonderful voices.



Choir practice continues to be the 3rd and 4th Sundays after coffee fellowship. Let me know if there are any special songs that you would like to sing. All are welcome to come and join in praising God through song. Believe in music, Leone

Planning Has Begun for the next LC-MS Youth Gathering

... scheduled for July 11-15, 2019, in Minneapolis, at the Minneapolis Convention Center and U.S. Bank Stadium.

The NEXT PLANNING MEETING for the LC-MS Youth Gathering Will Be in Early January.



- We'll be needing adult leaders (i.e. chaperones).
- We'll plan more fundraising opportunities (we raised almost \$400 at the Bake Sale earlier this month)
- We'll also need to know who's planning to attend.

Interested in a Marriage Enrichment Retreat?

We've had some inquiries about holding another Marriage Enrichment Retreat this winter. If you would be able to attend a weekend retreat late February or early March, please talk to Pastor David or Violet. When we have a commitment from a minimum of 4 couples we will schedule a retreat. Thanks!



Watch for an Elder-Introduction Letter

Coming later this month.

Our mission statement at Living Word states that we exist to "make disciples by being a joyful, caring, Christ-centered family of God." With that goal in mind, our constitution provides for having Elders who are assigned to each family that attends Living Word (those who are members as well as those who attend regularly but are not yet members). Each Elder has been assigned to approximately ten families. Later this month the elder who has been assigned to your family will send a letter introducing himself and giving details about how he is there to assist you.

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That for a day: The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.

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More Miscellaneous Notes...

Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

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

- NEW: Pocket Calendars with Scripture Verse covers
- Wall Calendars
- Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- Daily Bible reading guide
- Daily devotionals
- Family Devotion Books
- Christian Magazines
- Free to be Faithful update on Religious Freedom issues



Sermons Now Available in Audio on our Website

<http://livingwordlutheran.net/sermons.htm>

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

- Dec 5 "Jesus is coming again! Here's your plan."
- Dec 10 - "The absolute best comfort food."
- Dec 17 - "What's up with the pink candle?"
- Dec 24 - "The Prince of Peace defeats the Fear god!"
- Christmas Eve - "God revealed in a most unexpected place"
- Dec 31 - "'Peace without cost' is a myth!"



Offering Envelopes Available for 2018

They are on the table by the mailbox. Please write down the identifying number of the box you picked up. You can begin using them right away.



Elders Available for Prayer After Worship

Each Sunday, after worship two members of the Living Word Elders' Team will be available near the altar to pray with you. Simply come up and tell them your request and they will bring that to the Lord in prayer for you.

Living Word Directory... NOW AVAILABLE Online.

Email pastor@livingwordlutheran.net and he will send you a link to view the directory online.

January... A Great Month For 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. Our December Make-a-Meal volunteers are Wendy Robbin & Pam Johnson.

January 2018 - Daily Readings

God Specializes in NEW Things

As we begin a NEW YEAR we spend our reading time focusing on New Things God brings.

Wk of Dec 31 Daily Readings ... NEW THINGS JESUS BRINGS

- Jan 1 Mark 1:21-27 _____
 Jan 2 John 13:34-35 _____
 Jan 3 2 Peter 3:10-13 _____
 Jan 4 Revelation 3:11-13 _____
 Jan 5 Revelation 5:6-10 _____
 Jan 6 Revelation 21:1-5 _____

Week of Jan 7 Daily Readings ... "NEW" THINGS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Jan 8 Psalm 40:1-5 _____
 Jan 9 Isaiah 40:28-31 _____
 Jan 10 Isaiah 42:5-9 _____
 Jan 11 Isaiah 43:16-21 _____
 Jan 12 Isaiah 62:1-5 _____
 Jan 13 Isaiah 65:17-19 _____

Wk of JAN 14 Daily Readings ... NEW THINGS PROMISED

- Jan 15 Psalm 51:10-12 _____
 Jan 16 Ezekiel 11:17-21 _____

- Jan 17 Proverbs 3:9-10 _____
 Jan 18 Romans 12:1-2 _____
 Jan 19 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 _____
 Jan 20 Titus 3:4-6 _____

Wk of Jan 21 Daily Readings ... SPIRITUAL RE-NEW-AL

- Jan 22 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 _____
 Jan 23 Galatians 6:14-16 _____
 Jan 24 Ephesians 2:11-16 _____
 Jan 25 Ephesians 4:22-24 _____
 Jan 26 Colossians 3:5-11 _____
 Jan 27 1 Peter 1:3-5 _____

Wk of Jan 28 Daily Readings ... PRINCIPLES OF FRIENDSHIP (Remember to invite a friend to Friendship Sunday, Feb 11)

- Jan 29 Proverbs 17:17 _____
 Jan 30 Proverbs 27:6-10 _____
 Jan 31 Proverbs 16:27-29 _____
 Feb 1 Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 _____
 Feb 2 John 15:13-18 _____
 Feb 3 James 4:4-10 _____

January 2018 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship	1 	2 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	3 6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 4-6th GRADE 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY	4 noon NL-S Ministerial @ Living Word	5 10:30 MEMORIAL SERVICE Don Wendt	6 EPIPHANY 7:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL "CHRISTMAS" PROGRAM Refreshments Afterward 
7 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship	8 -	9 10:00 LWML Planning Mtg @ Violet Dauk's 5:30 MEN'S STUDY WORK PROJECT	10 6:00 - CONFIRMATION PARENTS & STUDENTS 6:00 - PRAYER GROUP 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	11	12	
14 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship 2:00 Circuit Convocation 5:30 COURT WHIST NIGHT	15 	16 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	17 6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 CONFIRMATION 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY	18 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	19	20 9:00 - noon Coffee, Tea & PAINTING (see page 6)
21 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT STUDY 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR REHEARSAL	22	23 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	24 6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 CONFIRMATION 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY	25 <div> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, January 7th Sunday, January 21st </div>	26	27 10:30 BAPTISM: Everett Strohbeen
28 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR REHEARSAL	29	30 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	31 6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 CONFIRMATION 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY	Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3 <div> Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net </div>

Upcoming Schedules...

Fellowship Servers

Jan 7 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
 Jan 14 Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky / Mary Lee Moore
 Jan 21 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
 Jan 28 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham

Feb 4 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
 Feb 11 Valentine's Brunch
 Feb 18 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
 Feb 25 Gwen Ruchti / Ruth Vegdahl

Usher Schedule

Jan 7 Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson
 Jan 14 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
 Jan 21 Brent & Lance Sawatzky
 Jan 28 Jason & Noah Miller

Feb 4 Wendy & Lonny Robbin
 Ash Wed Confirmation Students
 Feb 11 Brady & Andrew Sharp
 Feb 18 Linda Dilley & Davis Rustad
 Feb 25 Wally Abraham and Joe Johnson

Make A Meal Volunteers

Jan Wendy Robbin & Pam Johnson
 Feb Donna Peterson & Jamie Iverson

Elders

Jan 7/14 Keith Hanson & Ed Vegdahl
 Jan 21/28 Joe Johnson & Jason Miller

Feb 4/11 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
 Feb 14/18/25 Ed Vegdahl & Joe Johnson

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters)

Jan 7 Zoe Rustad
 Jan 14 Lexi Macik
 Jan 21 Alex Meis
 Jan 28 Carson Sawatzky

Feb 4 Addison Arends-Schmidt
 Feb 11 Gage Dahl
 Ash Wed Levi Miller
 Feb 18 Eli Sharp
 Feb 25 Alison Sasland

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That for a day: The first testicular guard, the "Cup," was used in Hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974. That means it only took 100 years for men to realize that their brain is also important.

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Confirmation Parent Helper

Jan 3 Sawatzky
 Jan 10 Sharp
 Jan 13 Arends-Schmidt
 Jan 20 Jaspersen
 Jan 27 Knutson

Feb 7 Miller
 Feb 14 Rustad
 Feb 21 Sawatzky
 Feb 28 Sharp

Nursery

Jan 7 Pam Johnson
 Jan 14 Violet Dauk
 Jan 21 Mona Hjelle
 Jan 28 Laurie Hanson

Feb 4 Pam Johnson
 Feb 11 Violet Dauk
 Feb 18 Mona Hjelle
 Feb 25 Laurie Hanson

Altar Guild

Jan Mona Hjelle
 Feb Nancy Jo Wendt

Custodian

Jan Angie Jaspersen
 Feb Wendy & Lonny Robbin

Scripture Readers

Jan 7 Kevin Welsh
 Jan 14 Laurel Iverson
 Jan 21 Tammy Wachter
 Jan 28 Wendy Robbin

Feb 4 Linda Dilley
 Feb 11 Jason Miller
 Feb 18 Mark Fuglie
 Feb 25 Tammy Fuglie

Sunday School Helpers

Jan 7 Noah & Davis
 Jan 14 Lance & Andrew
 Jan 21 George & Ryland
 Jan 28 Carson & McCartney

Accompanying Musicians

Christmas Pgm Sharon Willen
 Jan 7 Sharon Willen
 Jan 14 Scott Wachter
 Jan 21 Pam Johnson
 Jan 28 Scott Wachter

Feb 4 Sharon Willen
 Feb 11 Scott Wachter
 Ash Wed
 Feb 18 Pam Johnson
 Feb 25 Scott Wachter



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

Email Humor...

"IS THERE REALLY A SANTA?"

By Bill Allison

Shortly after the birth of our first child, we, as followers of Jesus, were confronted with the challenge of celebrating Christmas accurately. We are NOT the kind of parents who believe that Santa is just a weird way to spell Satan. On the other hand, we really wanted our kids to celebrate the real reason for Christmas - the birth of Jesus Christ - from which we get the word CHRISTmas.

What to do?

For the first several years, we simply focused on Jesus and his birthday - no anti-Santa stuff - and it worked great. However, Stacy and I sensed that with each passing year - as our children grew and became more inquisitive - we would have to deal with the "Santa issue."

As the next Christmas crept up on us, we decided to research Santa. Of course, we found out that Saint Nicholas was a Christian man who lived long ago - and, in short, was famous for helping the poor - get this - by sneaking into homes and leaving gifts. With this information in hand, we patiently waited for one of our brilliant kids to ask about the fat guy in the red suit.

As fate would have it, shortly after we did our research, Billy, my then 3-year-old son, asked my wife (while I was away at work, thankfully), "Is there really a Santa?"

My wife, nervous but poised for this question, launched into something just slightly less than an oral doctoral dissertation entitled, "Santa: Jolly Fat Man in a Red Suit or Good Christian Man of Old?" Throughout the informative historical lecture concerning the original Saint Nick - a Christian man who generously helped the poor - my 3-year-old son listened the best any active little boy could, which was not too good.

Afterward, Billy asked one simple question: "Is Santa still alive today?"

Stacy thought and then responded, "No. But at Christmas many people dress up in honor of him and his generosity to others."

Billy simply said, "Okay." And with that, he went off to play happily, probably torturing his sisters in some creative fashion.

The next day, as my wife was Christmas shopping with our children, one of the well-meaning, grandma-type clerks at Kmart approached my son and asked, "Is Santa going to bring you lots of toys this year little boy?"

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That for a day: One half of the world doesn't understand the other half, and it doesn't matter which half you're in.

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To my wife's absolute horror, my son looked the clerk squarely in the eyes and adamantly said, "Santa's dead!"

Bill is a disciple making missionary with www.cadremissionaries.com and his blog is www.cusojoewithbill.com

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E-mail Wisdom....

A high school coach was attempting to motivate his players to persevere through a difficult schedule. Halfway through, he stood before his team and asked, "Did Michael Jordan ever quit?" The team shouted "No!" "Did Larry Bird ever quit?" The team responded "No!" "Did Magic Johnson ever quit?" Again the team responded "No!" Did Elmer McCallister ever quit?" There was a long silence. Finally one player was bold enough to ask, "Who was Elmer McCallister? We never heard of him." The coach snapped back, "Of course you never heard of him - he quit!"

Children's Ministry Reminders...

Nursery:

We have a Nursery area in the East Classroom at the rear of the fellowship hall. You may take Pre-K children to the Nursery after the Children's Message (or at other times during worship as needed).

Children's Worship Bags:

These contain Bible story coloring pages and Bible story books. They are available for the older children to take back to their pew after the Children's Message.

Bible Story Book / Video lending library:

We have over 100 books in the nursery that you can sign out to read with your children at home.

We also have videos to sign out: Adventure in Odyssey (in the old VHS format)!

New Video additions in DVD format:

- Veggie Tales: All the Shows - Volume 1 (1993-1999)
- Buddy Davis' Amazing Adventures: I Dig Dinosaurs
- Buddy Davis' Amazing Adventures: Extreme Caving
- Buddy Davis' Amazing Adventures: Swamp Man!
- The Wild Brothers: Welcome to Our World
- The Wild Brothers: Jewels of the Jungle
- The Wild Brothers: Paradise Lost

LWML News...

A January planning meeting will be on Tuesday, January 9 at 10 a.m. We will meet at Violet Dauk's house. We will finalize plans for the quarterly event on January 20th and start planning a luncheon for the spring. We're also planning a fall event to sew mittens from sweaters.



Our Quarterly Event - Saturday, January 20th 9 a.m. to noon. Come paint a cross on canvas. Enjoy good coffee and good company. See details on "Christian Paint on Canvas" page.

Future planning meetings will be changed back to Wednesdays or Thursdays. If you have some ideas, please see one of the board: Violet Dauk, Laurie Harson, Nancy Jo Wendt, Bonnie Hansen or myself.

Teal's Rebate Final Tally

Thank you to all who turned in receipts! We turned in 122 receipts and expect a 2% rebate of approximately \$64. A Teal's employee reviews all the receipts and verifies the totals before the check is sent out. The check will be designated for the building fund.

Reminder: LWML Has a 'Tough Times' Fund

If you know someone who is going through some temporary difficulty and would be blessed to get a gas card or grocery card to use for these expenses, please talk to Pastor David. If you would like to donate to the fund, please talk to LWML treasurer, Nancy Jo Wendt. Thanks!

Thanks for supporting the New London Food Pantry.

Thank you so much to everyone that donates food items. Please continue to support this most important community ministry. The second Sunday each month is food shelf Sunday. Please bring your food items and place them in the container close to the entrance at church, marked Food Shelf. Thanks again.

Congratulations

- Tony & Lyndsay Ampe on the birth of your daughter Strykar Maxine on Dec 28

If you have someone you'd like to offer congratulations to, just email Pastor David with the info: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

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That for a day: I know it is supposed to be very easy...But do you actually know anyone who has shot a fish in a barrel?

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Sunday School...



In January we continue with "The Life of Jesus."

+ Daily Schedule 9:00 Welcome, Opening & 'Talk about' Video
9:15-45 Lesson Time
9:45 Clean up & bathroom break

+ Teachers / Classes:

Pre-school to Kindergarten: Lara Dahl
1st & 2nd Grade: Amanda Sharp
3rd & 4th Grade: Mona Hjelle, Alana Frieht
5th & 6th Grade: Kari Sharp
Confirmation Students take turns serving as teacher assistant
+ Rides are Available Talk to Amanda or Pastor David

+Make sure to check out our "Dig In @ Home" weekly wrap-up page. It's in the worship folder you receive at church each Sunday. EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE KIDS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL, there are great faith questions for all ages to ponder by yourself or talk about with your family on the way home from church or during the week over meals.

Sunday School Christmas Program Thanks....

... to the kids, parents & grandparents for making it happen
... to the Sunday school teachers for practicing with the kid
... to Sharon Willen for accompanying us tonight
... to Ruth for making "Mary and Joseph" costumes,
... to Lonny and Wendy for picking up the pizzas for practice
... to our 4-6th Grade & Confirmation groups for the stars above
... to EVERYONE who attended the program

Special thanks to our Program Director Mona Hjelle !

Thank God For...

You've seen our sign board out by the road with the beginning of a sentence: "Thank God For..." This past month we thanked God for...



- Bake Sales
- Candlelight Services
- Jesus still being Immanuel - God With Us
- Furnaces That Work
- Donald Wendt
- Children's Christmas Programs

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

Opportunities to Serve...

Chaperone a Fun Event for:

4-6th Graders or The Confirmation Group

We'd like to have a fun outing (somewhere within an hour drive) for each of these groups during the winter. If you could help with either group this month, please talk to Pastor David or Lyndsay Ampe. THANKS!

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 Trustee Jamie Iverson if you have questions or to volunteer yourself or your family. **Custodian still needed for November & December**

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.

We are looking for adult Nursery Helpers -

"Grandparent-age" is great, so parents can have a break. Talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help in the Nursery once a month.

Thank You...

To EVERYONE who provided food or helped serve at Donald Wendt's memorial service!

We Prayed For You...

Remember to use our "We Prayed for You" program...

In 2016 we started a new prayer ministry where we send out a card or two each week to people we prayed for during worship. Nancy Jo Wendt is our card sender.

How you can help: Simply tell Nancy when you feel that someone you asked us to pray for would be greatly encouraged by getting a card. Then just call, email or text Nancy with that person's address. It truly is a simple way to brighten the spirits of someone who's going through a tough time.



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That for a day: They have a Dial-a-Prayer for atheists now. You can call up and it rings and rings but nobody answers.

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calvin and hobbes



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...

- Thanking God for all the blessings of the past year
- Asking God to open our eyes to see His guiding in the coming year
- Great weather and great turnout for our Christian Paint on Canvas
- Courage to listen to and follow Jesus in the new year.
- Thanking God that Jesus is still "Immanuel" (God With Us) today.
- Safe travels during the winter
- Thanking God for the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of our Sunday School and Confirmation students
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- God to embolden our Christian witness in our daily lives
- The Holy Spirit to continue to work through our Bible studies
- God to provide people for our remaining two Phase 2 Building Committee positions
- Protection for all Armed Forces personnel who serve to keep us free - Especially those connected in some way to members of LW: Allan Fuglie, Jonathan Carter, Shawn Open
- God to continue to open our eyes to opportunities to serve others
- God to open our hearts to be willing servants
- The Spirit's guidance and angels protection for all elected officials
- God to keep strengthening faith thru our daily Bible readings
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

Story Behind The Song...

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

And when they came to the house the Magi (wise men) saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshiped Him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:11

Although the Bible doesn't tell us that there were three wise men, that has been the traditional belief because there were three gifts given. (By the way, 'magi' - even though they brought really expensive gifts - were not kings either). The number of wise men, and their official position isn't important. But what they did in persevering to find Jesus is a very important lesson for us. And the gifts they brought, showed they knew who this baby really was. The gold was a gift for a king. The incense was a gift for God. And the myrrh - a spice used for burial - showed this King who is truly God came to make the supreme sacrifice for His people.

The author, John Hopkins, who also composed the tune, lived from 1820 to 1891, and was an Episcopal minister in Pennsylvania. He is credited with contributing much to the development of church music in that denomination in the 19th century by writing many hymns and tunes.

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign. Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshiping God on high. Refrain

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Thot for a day: To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half-empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

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Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia, Sounds through the earth and skies.

Editor's note: A fun, modern version from this years' animated Christmas movie "The Star" at <https://youtu.be/dxTxu3A1f7k>
Another great updated version by Tenth Avenue North at <https://youtu.be/EJzaQxMa-U0>

Seen on Church Signboard...

"Under same management for
over 2,000 years."

