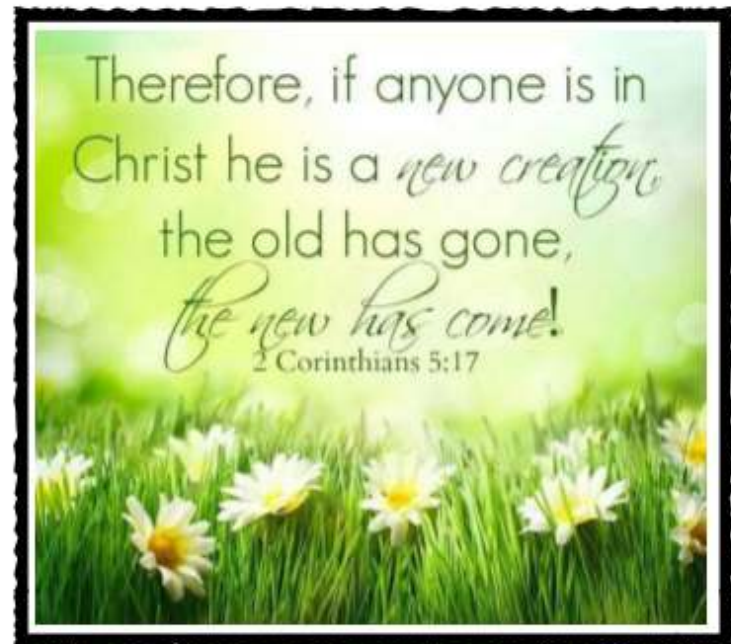



Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



January 2019 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...

What does it mean to be "legalistic"?

Someone recently asked me this question. Maybe you've heard the term as well.

I would define "legalistic" as "An inflexible and extreme emphasis on the keeping of rules."

A great example would be the religious group in Jesus' day known as the Pharisees. The Pharisees were a group of Jews so afraid they might break one of God's rules (like keeping the Sabbath holy, for example) that they created all sorts of extra rules designed to prevent them from even coming close to breaking one of the rules God had given.

If you've read the accounts of Jesus' life in any of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) you know that it was the Pharisee group who really didn't like Jesus. He was constantly breaking the rules they (not God!) had set and were obsessed with. On the flip side, Jesus spent more time chewing out the Pharisees for their legalism than He did any other group.

In my experience, people who tend to be legalistic - obsessed with doing things a very specific way - often suffer from the wrong idea about God. They tend to have what I refer to as "the Muslim view of God." (That ought to be sufficient motivation to get rid of any legalistic tendencies you may possess!)

The Bible presents God as One who has a Father-child relationship with us human beings. He *unconditionally* loves us, because He gave us life! It strikes me that Islam presents God as one who has more of a Master-Slave relationship with us. He is viewed as having no inherent love for people, but is only pleased with them when they do exactly as He tells them.

A legalistic person often develops an extreme obsession with rules, because they feel the only way God will like them or treat them favorably is if they *always* do *exactly* what He wants. That's not only a horrible way to live, it's also not true! Martin Luther had that kind of view of God until he discovered it wasn't a biblical view. Discovering that God deals with us out of love and grace (giving good things we don't deserve) was life-changing for Luther.



Page 3

Our motivation to keep God's rules should not be to earn something from Him. God gives us good things because He loves us, not because we've earned them. He gives good things because *He* is good, not because *we've* been good. Forgiveness and eternal life are prime examples:

John 3:16 says this: "For God so *loved* the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever *believes in* Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16 doesn't read this way: "For God so *rules* the world that He gave His only Son that whoever *obeys His commands perfectly every time* will be rewarded with eternal life."

Of course, this doesn't mean we shouldn't attempt to do what God tells us! God gives us rules for the same reason a loving parent gives a child rules: He knows that keeping them will result in the best life. Not keeping them will result in hurt! It's just that our motivation for keeping His rules should NOT be to earn His favor, but rather should be out of trust that because He loves us *already*, He always has our best interest in mind.

Thanks for Asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Who Can You Invite?...

Two of the prophecies about the Messiah that God promised to send talk of Him as being a "Light to the Gentiles." People who are living without Jesus are living in the dark - and that's no way to live!

Those of us who believe that Jesus is truly the "Light of the World" and our only Savior have the privilege of being like "mirrors" - reflecting the Light of Jesus to those around us.

One great way we can reflect that Light is by a simple invitation to friends, neighbors, relatives. Invite them to join you for one of our special events this month:

- **Making Homemade MITTENS** (Saturday, January 12 @ 10am)
- **Our Annual Mexican Dinner** (Saturday, January 26 - 4:3-7:30)
- **And Coming in February: Friendship Sunday** (February 10)
Includes Fish-fry brunch after worship and
Bingo after the meal.

Pray about it. Ask God to give you the words and opportunity. Then just do it. Ask them to come with you. Offer to pick them up. (And if they don't take you up on your invitation,, keep praying for them and for another opportunity to invite.)

Mark Your Calendar...

Confirmation Class

- Parents check the "Parent Helper" schedule for your dates to serve



3-5th Grade Group December Outing:

Meets again the last Wednesday in January. (the 30th)

Ladies, Save the Date: April 26-28

Those are the dates of Living Word's Annual Women's Retreat. Mark your calendars. As always, it will be a time of fun and growth!

Mexican Fiesta Dinner 2019

Saturday, January 26, 4:30-7:30

This is the same day as Spicer Winterfest, so we hope people are hungry for a good dinner.

We will hold a planning meeting after worship on Sunday January 6th.
Idea: Pre-purchase tickets to give to friends as an outreach.

Cost: \$10.00 for adults,
\$5.00 for kids 5-11,
Free for kids 4 & under



Mexican Fiesta Dinner 2019

How You Can Help:

Serve: + Decorate + Prep food + Set Up
+ Serve Food + Take Down
Donate: + taco meat + salsa + cheese + rice
+ refried beans + black olives + chips + taco shells
+ tortillas + nacho cheese sauce + ice cream

Email Humor...

It was the night of the children's Christmas play and little Johnny was upset because he didn't get the part of Joseph. He was assigned the inn keeper.

Because he was still bitter, when Joseph and Mary arrived at the inn to ask if there was room, little Johnny threw the play by saying, "Sure, come on in!"

Joseph was at first taken aback, but with quick wit, stepped in, looked around and said, "This place is a dump. I'd rather stay in the barn."

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That for a day: I feel like I'm in a rut. Every time I go to bed at night, I find myself just getting up again in the morning

Page 5

Email Inspiration...

CHRISTMAS HOPE

By Dave Veerman

When I hear ...
hateful screams, caustic derisions, posturing pols fostering divisions
I know ...
Love's humble descent, Bethlehem birth, divine
intervention rescuing earth
When I see ...
storms, fires, floods, hurricane's power,
suffering mounting, earthquakes devour
I know ...
the Father's promises, always fulfilled, mercy,
grace ever reaching, sovereign willed
When I sense ...
self imperfection, faults, weakness, sin,
battered, scarred, broken, condemned within
I know ...
countless changed lives, forgiven, free,
Christ's holy work in others and me
When I feel ...
aging aches, waking nights, future fears,
impatience with life, grief, anger, tears
I know ...
This life is fleeting, my Savior awaits,
with home celebration at heaven's gates
Wait lifted, day breaking, I embrace the Son?
the rest in my life has just begun!



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Thanks to ...

Everyone who helped in any way with Laura Albert's funeral!

Thank You from the Jastrams..

Yay! We are so happy to have you as part of our missionary team. Your support for LCMS mission work in Asia means a lot to us. Dan & Joan Jastram

Read the latest newsletter at:
<https://tinyurl.com/y9sjt8aq>



Opportunities for Growth...

"Cultures in Conflict"

Sunday mornings @ 9:00

The culture in Corinth conflicted greatly with the lifestyle that the Apostle Paul proclaimed to those who chose to follow Jesus. In the same way, the church today is called to proclaim the gospel in every environment, showing the world what it looks like when we give our lives to Jesus. Filmed on location in Israel and Greece Cultures in Conflict is part of the That the World May Know series.

Daily Bible readings:

See pages 10 & 11 in this Newsletter

MEET FOR PRAYER -

WEDNESDAYS @ 6 p.m. at church
God tells us (Philippians 4:6) *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition present your requests to God."*



Women's Study - Seamless
Wednesdays @ 6:30

Our 'Seamless' study covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Come when you can. We are going through the New Testament this month.

Men's Group Study—Tuesdays @ 6:30

Perseverance: Learning to persevere from selected Psalms



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That for a day: A new year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

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The Link...

The Link January Newsletter 2019

Happy New Year from The Link!



"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Christmas Joy:

- For Christmas, 15 families were sponsored by churches and or community members. The sponsors provided specific gift requests for all member of the families along with food baskets. This year, The Link also collaborated with Hope Presbyterian Church to provide food baskets for the families served by Hope Care Pantry. Hope put together all of the fixings and The Link provided a turkey voucher, dessert and on site pick-up.
- In mid-November, The Link received 75 turkey vouchers from Melissa Radel, State Farm Agent. They were handed out for Thanksgiving and through the month of December.
- The Link also received a wonderful amount of gift cards that were given to families that expressed a need during the holidays and weren't already being sponsored by a local church.

Christmas Choir Concert:

The Songs & Stories, Celebration of Christmas Choir Concert was a beautiful event! If you missed it, you can still watch it at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UT40jNd7tvs>. You can also go to The Link's Facebook page, find the post and click on the link.

We are very grateful for the time and talent of everyone who participated in the choir concert supporting The Link through song.

Monthly Giving Opportunities:

The Link is now offering monthly giving as a convenient option for our donors. You can set it up online giving through The Link's website at www.youarethelink.org or directly through your bank. Please contact Rhonda at 320-354-LINK or email her director@youarethelink.org for more information.

Tuesday's Table:

January 1st - NO Tuesday's Table

January 8th - Evangelical Covenant Church

January 15th - Faith Lutheran Church

January 22nd - Peace Lutheran Church

January 29th - The Open Door Church at O'Neil's

Chasity Ommodt, 320.354.5555, outreach@youarethelink.org

Simple Ways to Give Your Spiritual Life a Lift:

Resolve (anew) to daily feed on God's Word this year.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." God renews our mind through what we put into it. A couple of things are true regarding what we put into our minds: 1) You tend to believe what you hear most often. 2) What you put into your mind is what comes out in your life. It just makes sense that life goes better when we put the things of God into our minds daily.

Of all the things you can resolve to do this new year, **THE ONE THAT WILL LIKELY GIVE YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE THE BIGGEST LIFT** (not to mention your physical and emotional life) is this one: Read God's Diary (His Word)

Once again, daily Bible readings will be printed in each Newsletter to help you get into God's Diary. God's Word is more than just a reference book to keep on the shelf until you need to find out something. God calls his Word "Living and Active." That means there is power in the Word.

God's Word:	Generates life	Creates faith
	Heals hurts	Produces change
	Overpowers the devil	Infuses hope
	Causes miracles	Overcomes adversity
	Forgives sins	Builds character
	Defeats temptation	Imparts joy
	Transforms circumstances	Releases power
	Guarantees our future forever!	

Here are some of the results God promises from reading. You will . . .

- be able to live a life worthy of the Lord
- please God
- bear fruit like: love, joy, peace, patience, self-control, kindness, faithfulness
- grow in your faith - your trust in God will be strengthened
- tap into God's power for life - physical as well as spiritual
- gain endurance for getting through life
- gain a thankful attitude as you are reminded of all God has done for you and focus on Jesus instead of on your expectations that haven't been met.
- grow in your love - for God and the people in your life
- be able to tell what is good and right
- be completely equipped for every good work.

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That for a day: My new year's resolution is to get better at pretending to know the words to Auld Lang Syne.

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Be it resolved that . . .

1. Make the commitment today: "I commit to feeding my Spirit with God's word daily." Signed _____
2. Pick the time that will work best for you: "I will set aside time at ____:____ each day to spend with God."
3. Set your Bible in a place where you literally will trip over it every day: "I'll put my Bible _____"
4. PRAY. Ask God to help you resist Satan's temptations to quit. "Lord, I know Satan will tempt me by _____. Please help me to resist."

E-mail Wisdom....

(From Jean Matthew Hall's blog "Encouraging Words")

What an unimaginable, incredible, indescribable miracle this season is supposed to celebrate!

- God humbled Himself to become the size of a pencil point.
- He put Himself inside a young girl's womb for nine months.
- He subjected Himself to poopy diapers and learning to walk and talk.
- He became willingly obedient to two flawed human parents.
- He suffered humiliation and prejudice from His earthly "peers" as a child, because He took on the reputation of an "illegitimate" child.
- He put up with squabbling siblings.
- He adopted the menial work of a carpenter.
- He suffered insult and humiliation as a Rabbi.
- He tolerated twelve disciples who just didn't quite get who He was.
- He offered Himself to death on a Roman cross.

Oh, what a Savior!

Choir Notes...

Start out the New Year by joining the choir!

All voices are welcome. Rehearsals will be starting on January 20th after coffee fellowship.

The choir sings the first Sunday each month.

"O Sing to the Lord a new song" Leone



Jan 2019 - Bring It Home Readings

We continue our Bring It Home readings. 5 readings per week, Monday - Friday. We've listed the readings that can be found in The Story Bible (TSB) and Know the Bible Now (KTBN). If you do the readings from the Bible you currently have, simply read the chapters listed on the KTBN [link](#). Record your insights from these chapters on the lines provided.

Week of JANUARY 6

- Jan 7 TSB: Daniel Sees Heaven Daniel 7 pg 245 _____
KTBN: Jesus Rejected at Nazareth Luke 4 pg 244 _____
- Jan 8 TSB A New Temple Ezra 3; 7 pg 249 _____
KTBN: Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man Mark 2 pg 246 _____
- Jan 9 TSB: A New Wall Nehemiah 1-2;4 pg 251 _____
KTBN: The Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5-7 pg 248 _____
- Jan 10 TSB: Esther & the King Esther 2-5 pg 253 _____
KTBN: Jesus Calms a Storm Mark 4 pg 250 _____
- Jan 11 TSB: The LORD Saves Esther Esther 5-9 pg 257 _____
KTBN: Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter Mark 5 pg 252 _____

Week of JANUARY 13

- Jan 14 TSB: Waiting for God's Messenger Malachi 2-4 pg 258 _____
KTBN: Jesus Feeds 5000 John 6 pg 254 _____
- Jan 15 TSB: The Birth of John Foretold Luke 1 pg 267 _____
KTBN: Jesus Walks on Water Matthew 14 pg 256 _____
- Jan 16 TSB: The Birth of Jesus Foretold Luke 1 pg 269 _____
KTBN: Jesus is Anointed Luke 7 pg 258 _____
- Jan 17 TSB: Mary Visits Elizabeth Luke 1 pg 272 _____
KTBN: Peter's Confession/Jesus' Transfiguration Mt 16; Mk 9 pg 260 _____
- Jan 18 TSB: The Birth of John Luke 1 pg 275 _____
KTBN: Jesus Sends Out 72 Luke 10 pg 262 _____

Week of JANUARY 20

- Jan 21 TSB: An Angel Visits Joseph Matthew 1 pg 279 _____

- KTBN: The Good Samaritan Luke 10 pg 264 _____
- Jan 22 TSB: The Birth of Jesus Luke 2 pg 283 _____
KTBN: Jesus Heals a Blind Man John 9 pg 266 _____
- Jan 23 TSB: The Visit of the Wise Men Matthew 2 pg 287 _____
KTBN: The Good Shepherd John 10; Psalm 23 pg 268 _____
- Jan 24 TSB: The Boy Jesus in the Temple Luke 2 pg 290 _____
KTBN: Jesus Raises Lazarus John 11 pg 270 _____
- Jan 25 TSB: John Prepares the Way of the Lord Matthew 3; Luke 3 pg 295 _____
KTBN: The Prodigal Son Luke 15 pg 272 _____

Week of JANUARY 27

- Jan 28 TSB: The Baptism of Jesus John 1; Matthew 3 pg 297 _____
KTBN: Jesus Heals Ten Men Luke 17 pg 274 _____
- Jan 29 TSB: The Temptation of Jesus Mt 4; Mk 1; Lk 4 pg 300 _____
KTBN: Jesus and the Little Children Mark 9-10 pg 276 _____
- Jan 30 TSB: Jesus Calls Disciples John 1 pg 304 _____
KTBN: Jesus and Zacchaeus Luke 19 pg 278 _____
- Jan 31 TSB: Jesus Changes Water Into Wine John 2 pg 307 _____
KTBN: The Triumphal Entry Mt 21; Mk 11; Lk 19 pg 282 _____
- Feb 1 TSB: Jesus Clears the Temple John 2 pg 310 _____
KTBN: The Widow's Coins Mark 12 pg 284 _____

Week of FEBRUARY 3

- Feb 4 TSB: Jesus Teaches Nicodemus John 3 pg 313 _____
KTBN: The Lord's Supper Luke 22 pg 286 _____
- Feb 5 TSB: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman John 4 pg 316 _____
KTBN: Jesus in the Garden Mt 26; Mk 14; Lk 22 pg 288 _____
- Feb 6 TSB: The Disciples Follow Jesus Matthew 4; Luke 5 pg 319 _____
KTBN: Peter Denies Jesus Matthew 26 pg 290 _____
- Feb 7 TSB: Jesus Rejected at Nazareth Luke 4 pg 325 _____
KTBN: Jesus' Trial Matthew 27; John 18 pg 292 _____
- Feb 8 TSB: Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man Mark 1-2 pg 327 _____

January 2019 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 EPIPHANY 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship 11:45 Mexican Dinner Planning	7	8 6:30 MEN'S GROUP	9 6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 CONFIRMATION 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY	10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday, January 6th • Sunday, January 20th </div>	11	12  9:00 LWML 10:00 MITTEN MAKING
13 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:45 NYG YOUTH MEETING	14	15 6:30 MEN'S GROUP	16 6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 CONFIRMATION	17 Mission <i>Ministry</i> 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	18	19 
20 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:45 CHOIR REHEARSAL	21	22 6:30 MEN'S GROUP	23 6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 CONFIRMATION 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY	24  Mexican Fiesta Dinner 2019	25	26 11:00 POLAR PLUNGE 4:30-7:30 MEXICAN FIESTA DINNER
27 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:45 CHOIR REHEARSAL	28	29 6:30 MEN'S GROUP	30 6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 3-5th Grade Group 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY	31	Feb 1	Feb 2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net </div>
Feb 3 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship	Feb 4	Feb 5 6:30 MEN'S GROUP	Feb 6 6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 CONFIRMATION 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY	Feb 7 	Feb 8	Feb 9 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY TOMORROW (Fish-fry Brunch & Bingo)

Upcoming Schedules...

Fellowship Servers

Jan 6 Leone & Kerry Quigley
 Jan 13 Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky / Mary Lee Moore
 Jan 20 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
 Jan 27 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham

Feb 3 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
 Feb 10 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
 Feb 17 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
 Feb 24 Gwen Ruchti / Ruth Vegdahl

Usher Schedule

Jan 6 Derek & Sarah Olson
 Jan 13 Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson
 Jan 20 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
 Jan 27 Brent & Lance Sawatzky

Feb 3 Jason & Noah Miller
 Feb 10 Bo & George Arends-Schmidt
 Feb 17 Wendy & Lonny Robbin
 Feb 24 Brady & Andrew Sharp

Make A Meal Volunteers

Jan Jamie & Laurel Iverson
 Feb Mona Hjelle & Linda Dilley

Elders

Jan 6/13 Ed Vegdahl / Kevin Welsh
 Jan 20/27 Keith Hanson / Joe Johnson
 Feb 3/10 Jason Miller / Ed Vegdahl
 Feb 17/24 Kevin Welsh / Keith Hanson

Custodian

January Phil & Jean Lungstrom
 February Wendy & Lonny Robbin

Seen on Church Signboard...
This year... Try Jesus!
(If you don't like Him, the devil will always take you back.)

That for a day: What do you call a bunch of grandm-asters of chess bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer

Altar Guild

Jan Mona Hjelle
 Feb

Jan 13 Mona Hjelle
 Jan 20 Sarah Olson
 Jan 27 Kevin Welsh

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters)

Jan 6 Kala Miller
 Jan 13 Will Dahl
 Jan 20 Carter Foshaug
 Jan 27 Toby Arends-Schmidt

Feb 3 Laurel Iverson
 Feb 10 Tammy Wachter
 Feb 17 Wendy Robbin
 Feb 24 Linda Dilley

Accompanying Musicians

Feb 3 Alex Meis
 Feb 10 Carson Sawatzky
 Feb 17 Addison Arends-Schmidt
 Feb 24 Autumn Foshaug

Jan 6 Scott Wachter
 Jan 13 Scott Wachter
 Jan 20 Pam Johnson
 Jan 27 Scott Wachter

Nursery

(more volunteers needed...)
 Jan 6 Pam Johnson
 Jan 13 Violet Dauk
 Jan 20 Mona Hjelle
 Jan 27 Laurie Hanson

Feb 3 Sharon Willen
 Feb 10 Scott Wachter
 Feb 17 Pam Johnson
 Feb 24 Scott Wachter

Confirmation Parent Helper

Feb 3 Pam Johnson
 Feb 10 Violet Dauk
 Feb 17 Mona Hjelle
 Feb 24 Laurie Hanson

Jan 9 Sharp
 Jan 16 Dahl
 Jan 23 Macic
 Jan 30 Miller
 Feb 6 Rustad
 Feb 13 Sarsland
 Feb 20 Sharp
 Feb 27 Dahl

Scripture Readers

Jan 6 Ruth Vegdahl

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



January Discipleship Verse...

If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Miscellaneous Notes...

Food Pantry Reminder

Please continue to support the New London Pantry that is part of the Link. Food donations are so important this time of year. Please leave your donations in the purple container in the front of the church marked FOOD SHELF. Thank you so much for supporting this so others can have a happy new year!

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 Bible for adults
- Children's Bible-Story Activity Books
- January Newsletters
- Bring It Home Readings for the week
- Christians magazines & books
- LOTS More



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)

12-2-18	"You are a magnifying glass"
12-9-18	"Come Lord Jesus. It's not just for meals!"
12-16-18	"Unwrapping THE Christmas Gift"
12-23-18	"The Over-sized Advent theme we all need"
Christmas Eve	The Christmas Story - behind the scenes

Living Word Directory... NOW AVAILABLE Online.

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

Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2019

If you like to use dated envelopes for your offerings, we have them available. Just pick up a box of envelopes from under the mailboxes. Write down the # of the box you took. Thanks!



Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Just a reminder that there is 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,

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Thot for a day: An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

Page 17

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.

Reminder: We Have a 'Tough Times' Fund

If you know someone who is going through some temporary financial difficulty and would be blessed to get a gas card or grocery card to use for these expenses, please talk to Pastor David

NEW Portal of Prayer Daily Devotionals

for January - March available in your mailbox and on the "Free Stuff" table.

Living Word Appare!

Watch for a chance to Order Living Word apparel soon. There will be a webpage set up. You will be able to order and pay on that website. To save shipping costs we will have all items delivered to church and you can pick up your items there.

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 (take time to list them)
- Asking God to open our eyes to see His guiding in the coming year
- Asking God for a great turnout for our Mexican Dinner
- Asking God to provide an organizer for our Hot Chocolate Outreach
- Thanking God for the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of our Sunday School and Confirmation students
- The Holy Spirit to continue to work through our Bring It Home readings
- His presence with Laura Albert's family and friends
- Thanking God that Jesus is still "Immanuel" (God With Us) today.
- Safe travels during the winter
- The "giving" attitude of Christmas to continue throughout the year
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- God to embolden our Christian witness in our daily lives
- God to keep strengthening faith through our Bible Studies
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

Congratulations !

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

A Minute for Parents...

Set an example by giving an "After-Christmas" Gift that keeps on giving. (The same one God gave us at Christmas)

By now some of the Christmas presents you gave your kids have become broken. Others have been forgotten. Hopefully some are still in use. But the start of a new year would be a great time to resolve to give your children the present they really want most - your presence.

His presence is the present God gave us at Christmas. It's the one he has promised to give us until the end of time "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Mt. 28:20

Of all the things my parents did to show their love, the things that stick in my mind most are the times they made a special effort to just "be there." Chances are the same can be said for you. And chances are that is what your kids will remember too.

How can you spend more time with your children - collectively and individually? After school? In the evening? On the weekends?

Maybe read them a story instead of reading the newspaper. Play a game with them instead of watching TV. Plan a special project that you can work on together. Have a "Date Your Kid" night once a week. Set aside one night as "Family night." Get their input on what they would like to do on those days. Sit down with them and plan what you will do then put it on the calendar.

"Being there" isn't limited to the kids that still live under your roof. When could you "be there" for your kids that are away at college? When could you "be there" for those children that live on their own?

Follow Jesus' example and give the gift of your presence. It says "I love you" like nothing else.

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. Recently we thanked God for: **Being Immanuel - God With Us !**

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



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That for a day: If we find life on other planets, what would happen to the Miss Universe pageant?

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National Youth Gathering Update:

From NYG Registration Central:

1. **Meeting for ALL attendees & Parents -** Sunday, January 13 after worship (11:46)
2. **Bake Sale Fundraiser total: \$503 !!!**
Thanks to everyone who provided goodies and to everyone who bought goodies !
3. **Remember to check our Facebook page!**
Jason Miller started one for our youth group. It's called Living Word Lutheran Youth Group. It's a place to go for all info needed for the National Youth Gathering.



Thanks to ...

Everyone for their help, support, and prayers for Alyssa, Josh, and baby Weston.

Scott & Tammy Wachter, Alyssa, Josh, & Weston Smith

Thanks to ...

Everyone who remembered us with cards and gifts this Christmas. Your support and partnership in the Gospel is truly a great blessing!

Pastor David & Violet

LWML...

LWML will meet on Saturday, January 12th at church. We will have a planning meeting at 9:00 a.m.



Everyone is welcome to Join us for Mitten Making at 10:00 a.m. (January 12)

Lana Bjork will lead us in creating beautiful homemade mittens that you can use or give as gifts.

- All materials will be supplied unless you choose to bring your own.
- Sign up at church.
- Cost is \$15.00 per person for making one pair of mittens.
- If you can bring a sewing machine, that would be much appreciated.
- Brunch will be provided by the LWML.

Opportunities to Serve...

Provide Light Suppers for Confirmation students:

We we'd like to provide a light supper (sandwiches, hot dogs, etc) for the Confirmation students. Please talk to Pastor David if you could take a turn once a month providing this meal for six students.

Custodians Needed for December & next year

If you or your family could serve as church custodians either of these months, please talk to Jamie Iverson. Thanks!

Help With Our Nursery

We need a couple more volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-6 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help.

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.

One More Fellowship Server Needed: We are looking for someone to team up with another family to take a turn at serving snacks for after-worship fellowship time once every 2 months.

One More Usher Needed: To team up with another usher once every couple months. Talk to Pastor if you can help. Thanks!

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 if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks ! Our January Make-a-Meal volunteers are Jamie and Laurel Iverson.

We are also looking for a person to be the Make-a-Meal coordinator - someone who notifies the meal makers when a meal is needed and who also arranges for the meal to be delivered.

If you could be that person, please talk to Pastor David. Thanks!

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

We'd like to send out a card or two each week to people we prayed for during worship. How you can help: Simply tell Pastor David 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 him with that person's address. It truly is a simple way to brighten the

spirits of someone who's going through a tough time.

We are currently in need of a volunteer to mail the cards. If you could help, talk to Pastor David.



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We need someone to organize our Hot Chocolate giveaway Jan 20.

Last year we had a great outreach giving away hot chocolate during the Winterfest Kid's Ice Fishing Tournament.



We have all the supplies (and "how-to" info) to do another outreach at the event this year, but we need a person or two willing to organize the effort. Please talk to Outreach Director Ruth Vegdahl if you could help. Thanks!



The Polar Plunge

(January 26 @ 11:00 a.m. at Green Lake)

We're looking to put together a Plunge Team. See Brady Sharp if you'd like to take the plunge and raise funds for Special Olympics

Story Behind The Song...

How Many Kings

"How Many Kings" by Downhere is a very powerful Christmas song based on the coming of the Magi (Wise Men) to worship Jesus as the King of the Jews. It really challenges us to think about the sacrifice that our King Jesus made on our behalf. Truly, no other king in the history of the world besides Jesus humbled themselves to come off their throne to become one of their own and become the least...for me. For that, we should be eternally grateful.

Marc Martel, one of the lead singers of Downhere and writer of this song had this to say in 2009 regarding his inspiration and story relative to writing "How Many Kings." ...

"When my record label approached our band about writing original Christmas songs, I set out to write a song that I had never heard said before relative to the Christmas story. My favorite thing about Christmas is that as a believer, I am often challenged by the fact that God's way of doing things often seems to be the opposite of what we would come up with. Instead of the world's way of coming down to earth, which would involve celebrity, riches, arrogance, our God and Savior chose humility, poverty and the ultimate sacrifice of dying on a cross hanging between two thieves. This completely humbles me as a believer. I'm amazed at how God uses the mundane to save us from our sin and ourselves.

My Dad is a pastor at a small church in Canada and he's never come down to Tennessee to see our band perform. The first time my Dad heard this song on the radio last year, he did something he's never done before. He actually called me up on the phone just to tell me how much he liked my song. I was blown away by his reaction since he's always supported my decision to become a musician but has never had that strong of a reaction before. What really struck me was the amazing parallel between what I wrote about in the song "How Many Kings" which is how the heart of a father loving his son the way my father felt when he heard the song is a human example of how God's loving heart for His son Jesus caused Him to give up His son for me. Completely humbling and what Christmas is all about."

So, just read through the words and marvel at what the King of the Universe - God-in-the-flesh - did for you!

Follow the star to a place unexpected
Would you believe after all we've projected
A child in a manger

Lowly and small, the weakest of all
Unlikeliness here, wrapped in his mothers shawl
Just a child. Is this who we've waited for?

Cause how many kings, stepped down from their thrones?
How many lords have abandoned their homes?
How many greats have become the least for me?
How many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that has torn all apart?
How many fathers gave up their sons for me?

Bringing our gifts for the newborn Savior
All that we have whether costly or meek
Because we believe

That for a day: A man has reached middle age when he is cautioned to slow down by his doctor instead of by the police.

Gold for His honor and frankincense for His pleasure
And myrrh for the cross he'll suffer
Do you believe, is this who we've waited for?

How many kings, stepped down from their thrones?
How many lords have abandoned their homes?
How many greats have become the least for me?
How many Gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that has torn all apart?
How many fathers gave up their sons for me?

Only One did that for me
All for me All for you All for me All for you

Editor's note: Downhere is a Christian rock band from Canada that released their first album in 1999. *How Many Kings* was released in 2008 on their 5th album *Ending is Beginning*. See them perform live at <https://youtu.be/lw3EG6kVNTI>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The journey to find baby Jesus took longer than anticipated as these 3 WISE MEN refused to stop and ask directions. **MI. 2:1-12**