

  
**Living Word**  
**Lutheran Church**  
LCMS



**December 2020 Newsletter**  
"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. (vis Zoom)

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (& Facebook Live)

# 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](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)  
Website: [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net)

## Questions for Pastor...

### "Are We Going to Have . . ."



- 1) **...the Live Nativity? Is it okay with the governor's new guidelines?**  
Yes! Our Drive-Through Live Nativity is Scheduled for Saturday, December 19 from 2:00-4:00 in the afternoon. (We checked to make sure, and we are within the guidelines!)
- 2) **...the Sunday School Christmas Program?**  
Unfortunately, no. Like so many things this year precautions with regard to COVID led to a decision to not hold the Program.
- 3) **...the Annual Christmas Dinner?**  
Unfortunately, no. (See #2)
- 4) **...the Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship?**  
Yes! We will be limited to 100 worshipers, and communion will be served in pre-sealed packets distributed to people in the pews.
- 5) **...Sunday School?**  
5th Grade and below will receive a lesson packet in the mail (snail mail) at the beginning of each week.  
6-12th Grade meets via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:00
- 6) **...Confirmation classes?**  
Yes! Pastor will host Zoom sessions for both groups. (Any parents that are okay with your children participating in-person can bring them! (6:00 start time for the 6-7th Graders and 7:00 start time for the 8-9th Graders.) We are limited to 40 minutes per Zoom session, so everyone should have their Bibles and study books and be ready to go at start time.

Please continue to pray for an end to COVID and thanks for asking!  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

## Special Yearly Thank Offering...

### ...Can Still Be Given

God commanded the Israelites to come to the temple once a year for a joyful celebration of the blessings God provided in the harvest. This harvest festival was called The Feast of Weeks.



*Then celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you. Deuteronomy 16:10*

With that in mind we gathered together on Thanksgiving Eve for a special joyful celebration of the blessings God has provided us. We were encouraged to bring a special freewill offering in proportion to how God has blessed us this past year.

*"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."*

King David in 1 Chronicles 29:14

If you weren't here for Thanksgiving Eve worship, you can still give a special "Thank-Offering" - a special gift to thank God for all the ways He's blessed you this past year. Use a Thank-Offering envelope (in the pew rack) and simply place it in the offering along with your regular offering.

## A New Way to "Participate" in Worship if you can't be here is person...

### Facebook Live

On Sunday, November 29, we began live-streaming the message on the Living Word Facebook group page. Plans are to continue that each Sunday. We will also stream the Scripture readings prior to the message and the Apostles' Creed following it. Tune in around 10:25 (give or take).

Join our Facebook group at  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131798513523470/>





## Opportunities for Growth...

**Sunday Morning Study:** "A Man Named Martin: The Movement"  
Sunday mornings @ 9:00

From Luther's 95 Theses in 1517 to the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, God was at work in the Reformation. Fierce debates over Scripture, church doctrine, and late medieval church practice led to theological positions articulating salvation as God's grace in action, with man being left to add nothing to his own salvation. In A Man Named Martin - Part 3: The Movement we will see how the Reformation transformed European society and, eventually, left a profound impression around the globe.

Please join us. Bring your coffee and Grow in God's Word!



### Wednesday Prayer Time

A special invitation to everyone to meet weekly in prayer Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Prayer is a foundational part of our spiritual life both personally and as a congregation. We would love to have you join us.

Ephesians 6:12; 18

*12 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

*18 "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."*



### Wednesday Evening Women's Study @ 6:30 p.m.

We finish our study on "Heaven," then we'll do a short study on The Jews. You can participate via Zoom if you are not able to attend in person. Just let Violet know you will be attending via Zoom.



### Monthly Morning Women's Study:

December 9th @ 10:00 a.m.

We are studying Women of the Bible.

All are welcome to attend. If weather is inclement please call Leone about meeting. 320-354-4665.

### Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m.

The man driving the Christmas story in this Bible study is none other

## Page 4

That for a day: I put my grandm a on speed dial. I called that Instagram.

## Page 5

than Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus. Join us as we shed light on one of the New Testament's unsung heroes in "Joseph: Carpenter of Steel."



Please join us Tuesday evenings @ 6:30 to learn some important faith lessons from Jesus' foster dad!



### Confirmation Class

+ 6-7th Graders Meet from 6:00 - 6:40  
via zoom (or in-person)

+ 8-9th Graders Meet from 7:00 - 7:40  
via Zoom (or in-person)

## Operation Christmas Child...

Thanks to EVERYONE who packed a shoebox! And thanks to Mona Hjelle for organizing the effort!



We sent 15 shoeboxes this year - great participation considering the year!

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Andrew S.

ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!

12-21-2007



## The Link...

### November 2020 Updates

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and we are once again reminded of what a giving community we live in. There have been a lot of people reaching out for help for Thanksgiving meals and so many people have called to offer to sponsor those families. It has been humbling to see and heartwarming to hear the gratitude from the families who need a little extra.

In October, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 3 new families, served 56 children, 83 adults and 19 seniors. 3695 pounds of food was distributed and 654.5 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches. The need for food for families is really starting to increase as the month of November has already brought 11 new families.

**The Wildcat Backpack Program** is going to be run a little differently now that school is going to the distant learning model. If you know a family that could benefit from this program, please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

**Senior Food Delivery-** The Senior Food Delivery Program continues to serve seniors in need of grocery delivery. With COVID cases increasing in our county, there has been an increased amount of calls of those not wanting to leave home and we are thankful we have a way to serve them. If you are interested in delivering or if you know a senior family (or a family that has a difficult time getting out and about), please call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

The Link's **Client Outreach** program served 5 families in the month of October, which was a little less than normal, however, we have seen a great increase of need now in November. With COVID cases spreading quickly, there are more families out of work to be quarantined and less income coming in for those who have lost their jobs. If you are making a financial donation in the near future, please consider this program or donate to the general fund so the money can be used where it is needed most.

**The Revive and Redeem Thrift Store**, along with The Community Closet continues to be open for the time being. There has been conversation on how to move forward with the new restrictions as safety comes first and foremost. Store changes or closures will be announced on our [facebook](#) page. If you would like to call and check in, we can be reached at 354-5555. Revive and Redeem and The Community Closet are located at 206 Main ST. N. and is open Thursdays and Fridays 10-3 and Saturdays from 9-1.

## Page 6

That for a day: If ignorance is bliss, why aren't most people in a better mood?

## Page 7

With Christmas soon approaching, we have started to have families calling to see if they can get help with gifts. If you or anyone you know would like to adopt a family or donate any gifts or gift cards, please let us know.

As always, The Link is humbled and so grateful for the amount of giving in the community. From volunteers, to those who donate, nothing goes unnoticed. We are blessed to have the ability to continue our mission here by giving to those that need it most. YOU are The Link.

Tuesday's Table continues to be cancelled until further notice.

### Monthly Giving Opportunities:

The Link makes monthly giving a convenient option for our donors. You can set up online giving through The Link's website at [www.youarethelink.org](http://www.youarethelink.org) or directly through your bank.

If you would like to make a one time donation, you can send a check to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273 or via Venmo @The-Link-1. Please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555 or email her at [ashley@youarethelink.org](mailto:ashley@youarethelink.org) for more information.

## Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the First and Third Sundays in November. (December 6th & 20th ) as well as on Christmas Eve (Dec 24th).

**We have NEW Wine & Wafer Sealed Communion Packets.** Since the COVID protocols were put into effect, we have been using pre-sealed packets of grape juice and a bread wafer. Pre-sealed packets that contain wine as well as a larger bread wafer have recently been made available. We were able to order some of these new wine/wafer packets and will begin using them in communion starting with the first Sunday in October.

**We also now have available gluten-free bread wafers** for those who have gluten-sensitive conditions. You will find these wafers in a separate cup in the communion tray.

### NEW 'SOCIAL DISTANCING' COMMUNION PROCEDURE:

Everyone will remain in their seat for communion. After consecrating the elements, Pastor and the Elders will distribute a sealed packet of both wafer and grape juice to each communicant. After everyone has received their packet, we will all open them and partake of communion at the same time. Pastor will then give the communion dismissal to everyone. (Please continue to pray for an end to the restrictions so we can come to the altar rail for the Lord's Supper again soon!)

## Email Humor...

### The Preacher and The Bus Driver In Heaven

The story goes that a preacher and a bus driver both passed away at the same time and were both entering Heavens gate. The Lord welcomed both the preacher and the bus driver in and took them to a place over looking a serene valley with beautiful soft rolling hills just beyond.

To the preacher he said, "My son, do you see that little cottage with the white gate and all the flowers down there in the valley? The one over there just beyond the creek?" The preacher said he did. The Lord then told him that this was now his heavenly home and this is where he would be spending eternity.

The Lord then turned to the bus driver and said, "My son, do you see that big stately mansion up there in the hills? The one just to the right of the waterfall where the golden path leads up to it?" The bus driver said he did. The Lord then told him that this was now his heavenly home and this is where he would be spending eternity.

With this the preacher turned to the Lord and with amazement exclaimed that there must be some mistake. "I have been your loyal servant all of my life." He went on to explain to the Lord that he was truly a man of God. The preacher said, "Lord, I accepted you as my savior when I was just a child. I studied your word as a young man, than preached your gospel the rest of my life. How can it be that I am to spend eternity in this small cottage when the bus driver gets the mansion in the hills?"

The Lord replied. My son, it is true that you have been my loyal servant. And, both of you have been in a position to influence my children.

However, while you preached, my children slept. It was while he was driving they prayed!

+++++

### Child's Play

A young mother was preparing breakfast for her two young sons--a five year-old and a three year-old. They were arguing over who would get the first pancake.

The mother, trying to instill good morals in her sons, asked them to remember WWJD ("What Would Jesus Do?"). She said that Jesus would say: "Let my brother have the first pancake."

The 5 yr-old quickly turned to the 3 yr-old and said, "You play Jesus."

## Page 8

That for a day: One pound of learning requires ten pounds of common sense to apply it.

## Page 9

## Email Wisdom...

From Linus in A Charlie Brown Christmas:

"I guess you were right, Linus. I shouldn't have picked this little tree," said Charlie Brown. "Everything I do turns into a disaster. I guess I don't really know what Christmas is all about. Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?"

"Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about," said Linus. [Linus walks to center stage.]

"Lights, please."

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2:8-14 KJV

Note: You can watch the entire movie on YouTube at

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2jmCffiwM&list=PLLVts612J19Z\\_i9wjm5DDmj5p5gAh9g\\_1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2jmCffiwM&list=PLLVts612J19Z_i9wjm5DDmj5p5gAh9g_1)



## 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.

This past month we thanked God for:

- "If you humbly pray, seek me and turn from sin, I'll heal your land." – God
- Thank God for: Thanksgiving Eve Worship
- Thank God!

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence in December.

## The Parable of the Shopper...

I had been Christmas shopping all day long. When the bus finally arrived, it was packed with holiday shoppers in the same exhausted mood as I. I sank into the only vacant place, near the back, by a very handsome gentleman. He politely helped me to situate my packages and even held some of them himself.

After jovial conversation among the passengers, the gentleman began in a quiet, melodious voice, deepened with experience, to teach me a lesson that I have never forgotten. "Hear now the parable of the shopper. A woman went forth to shop, and as she shopped, she carefully planned. The hard-earned money was divided, and the many purchases were made with the pure joy and delight that is known only to the giver. Then the gifts were wrapped and placed lovingly under the tree."

"In eager anticipation she scanned each face as the gifts were opened."

"What a lovely sweater," said the eldest daughter, "but I think I would prefer blue."

"Thank you for the cassette player, Mother. It's just what I've always wanted," said her son. And then aside, secretly to his sister, he continued, "I told her I wanted the one with the automatic reverse and an extra speaker. I never get what I want!"

"The youngest child spoke out with the spoiled honesty of her age, 'I hate rag dolls! I wanted a china doll.'"

"One gift still lay under the tree. The woman pointed it out to her husband. 'Your gift is still there.'"

"'I'll open it when I have time,' he stated. 'I want to get this bike put together first.'"

"How sad it is," continued his soft, beautiful voice, "when gifts are not received in the same spirit they are given. To reject a thoughtful gift is to reject the loving sentiment of the giver himself. And yet, are we not all sometimes guilty of rejecting?"

He was not talking only to me, but to all of those on the bus. He took a present from my stack.

"This one," he said, holding it up and pretending to open the card, "could be to you."

He pointed to a rough-looking, teenage boy in a worn denim jacket and pretended to read the gift card.

"To you I give My life, lived perfectly, as an example so that you might see the pattern and live worthy to return and live with Me again. Merry Christmas from the Messiah."

## Page 10

**Thot for a day:** One way to find out if you're old is to fall in front of a group of people. If they laugh, you're young. If they panic and start running toward you, you're old.

## Page 11

"The gift of example is a precious yet often rejected gift."

"This one," he said, holding up a pure, white present, "is for you." He held out the gift to a worn-looking woman, who in earlier years must have been a real beauty and was still attractive in her slim black skirt, black tights, and heels. She allowed her tears to slip without shame down her painted face.

"My gift to you is repentance. This Christmas I wish you to know for certain that though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow, and the Lord will remember them no more. Have a happy New Year. Signed, your Advocate with the Father."

"Ah, repentance, something every Christian needs," said my seat mate.

"But that isn't all. No, here is a big, red package." He looked around the group and brought a ragged, unkempt, little child forward. "This big, red package would be for you if He were here. The card would say, 'On this Christmas and always, My gift to you is love. My love is pure! It is not dependent on what you do or what you look like. I love you as you have been, as you are now, and as you will be in the future. From your brother, Jesus.'"

"And this silver package to you, madam," he said with a bow to an aging grandmother two rows behind. "Yes it would be for you, because you would appreciate it most of the time. His precious gift to you would be the gift of salvation. The surety that you will rise from the grave and live again with a perfect, resurrected body. The card would read, 'I give this precious gift freely to you and all men, by laying down My life for you. Signed, Your Saviour.'"

"One final gift," said my seat mate. "The greatest of all the gifts of God. Eternal life! A chance to receive the same quality of life that Christ Himself lives. But though this gift is to all men, it must be assembled. He has given us the instructions. They are here in the scriptures." He tore off the paper to reveal a worn, well-used book. He stood up. He was leaving, making his way slowly down the aisle. He paused just as he reached the front and said, "One last gift. Peace! Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." [John 14:27] With those words, he was gone.

*How we receive these gifts, these precious gifts from the Babe of Bethlehem, is the telling point. Are we exchangers? Is there really anything else we would rather have? Is there a feature missing? It is what we do with a gift long after we have opened it that shows our appreciation. Have we used it, worn it, displayed it, or cherished it? How does Christ feel when we don't even take time to use His gift of repentance, the one He purchased at such a great price? How sad it is when gifts are not received in the same spirit that they are given.*



## December 2020 - Daily Readings

This Month we continue our "100 - or so - Key Chapters of the Bible" readings. Just look for one main thing God has for you to learn in each reading.

Pastor David makes audio recordings of each day's readings (and summarizes some main points at the end of each reading). Find them on the Readings page on our website.

Nov 29 Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed

Nov 30 Psalm 1 & 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 1 Psalm 23 & 27 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 2 Psalm 32 & 46 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 3 Psalm 51 & 91 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 4 Psalm 100 & 127 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 5 Psalm 139 & 145 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 6 Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed

Dec 7 Proverbs 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 8 Proverbs 31 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 9 Ecclesiastes 3-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 10 Isaiah 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 11 Isaiah 52:13- 53:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 12 Isaiah 55 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 13 Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed

Dec 14 Daniel 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer to listen to the recorded version of the daily readings, visit our website.

Dec 15 Daniel 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 16 Daniel 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 17 Jonah 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 18 Joel 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 19 Malachi 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 20 This week we interrupt our chapter readings with readings about Jesus' birth:

Dec 21 Isaiah 7:10-14 & Isaiah 9:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 22 John 1:1-14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 23 Luke 1:26-56 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 24 Luke 2:1-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 25 Matthew 1:18-25 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 26 Matthew 2:1-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 27 Use today to worship & catch up on readings you missed

Dec 28 Matthew 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 29 Matthew 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 30 Matthew 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_






Dec 31 Matthew 13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 1 Matthew 21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 2 Matthew 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Go to <http://www.livingwordlutheran.net/readings.htm>

# December 2020 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> 6:30 MENS' STUDY	<b>2</b> 6:00 - PRAYER TIME 6:00- 6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:00 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00- 8-9th CONFIRMATION	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0e0ff; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <b>Lord's Supper Dates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday, Dec 6th</li> <li>Sunday, Dec 20th</li> <li>Christmas Eve, Dec 24th</li> </ul> </div>						
<b>6</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/COMMUNION 11:15 - LIVE NATIVITY MEETING	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 MENS' STUDY	<b>9</b> 10:00 MONTHLY WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - PRAYER TIME 6:00 - 6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - 8-9th CONFIRMATION	<b>10</b> MISSION Ministry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
						
<b>13</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30 MENS' STUDY	<b>16</b> 6:00 - PRAYER TIME 6:00 - 6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - 8-9th CONFIRMATION	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	2:00 - 4:00 DRIVE-THRU LIVE NATIVITY
						
<b>20</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/COMMUNION	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30 MENS' STUDY	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  5:00 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT w/ Communion	<b>25</b> CHRIST IS BORN TODAY !!!	<b>26</b>
						
<b>27</b> 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:00 - PRAYER TIME 6:00 - 6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00- 8-9th CONFIRMATION	<b>31</b>	Jan 1, 2021	Jan 2
						



## Upcoming Schedules...

### Fellowship Servers

We will not be having "Fellowship" after worship until the social distancing guidelines are relaxed. - Please pray for that to happen soon!

### Usher Schedule

The Usher schedule is "on hold" until COVID restrictions are eased.

### Scripture Readers

NOTE: Pastor David will read the Scriptures in Worship until COVID restrictions are eased

### Elders

Dec 6, 13	Joe Johnson & Keith Hanson
Dec 20, 24 & 27	Kevin Welsh & Jason Miller
Jan 3, 10	Ed Vegdahl & Joe Johnson
Jan 17, 24 & 31	Keith Hanson & Kevin Welsh

### Custodian

December	Phil & Jean Lungstrom
January	Duane & Bonnie Harsen

### Make A Meal Volunteers

December	Violet Dauk
January	Bonnie Harsen

### Nursery

Dec 6	Pam Johnson
Dec 13	Violet Dauk
Dec 20	Mona Hjelle
Dec 27	Volunteer needed

### Altar Guild

December	Mona Hjelle
----------	-------------

### Accompanying Musicians

<b>Confirmation Parent Helper</b>	Dec 6	Sharon Willen
Nov 4 Dahl	Dec 13	Scott Wachter
Nov 11 Foshaug	Dec 20	Pam Johnson
Nov 18 Meis	Dec 24	Available
Nov 25 Miller	Dec 27	Carmen Macik

*Seen on Church Signboards...*

**If You Humbly Pray,  
Seek Me and Turn from Sin,  
I'll Heal Your Land.  
— God**

That for a day: Try to remember that the greener grass across the fence may be due to a septic tank leak.

## Community Outreach News...

### Drive-thru Live Nativity-

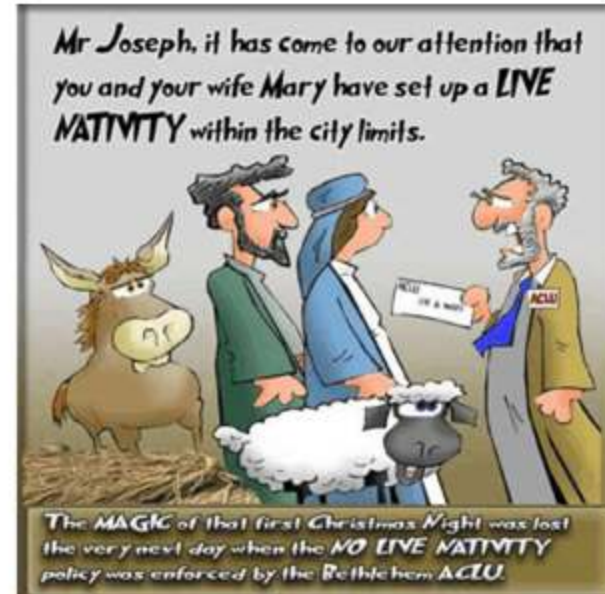
**Saturday, December 19 from 2-4 p.m.**

"Journey to Bethlehem"

Journey through the parking lot at Living Word Lutheran... live animals, live characters... the message of Christmas!

We still need LOTS of help!

- Props/ scenery, signs
- Help that night
- Participate as a Live Nativity Character (no speaking parts - just warm clothes!)
- Advertising
- Setting up music



## December Discipleship Verse...

*"Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."*

*Isaiah 7:14*

## Miscellaneous Notes...

### Food Pantry Reminder

2nd Sunday of each month, please remember to bring your donations for the Food Pantry. Place them in the purple container by the door at church. Thanks to everyone for donating!

### 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
- *Free to be Faithful* articles
- December Newsletters
- October—December Portals of Prayer



### Sermons Now Available in Video on our Website

Find at [livingwordlutheran.net](http://livingwordlutheran.net). Sermons can be found in our recorded worship services at <http://livingwordlutheran.net/video.htm>

- 11/1/20 "The Key to being set free from the prison of deception."
- 11/08/20 "What to pray for after the election."
- 11/15/20 "A Lesson from Hannah: Our God is a God of Justice"
- 11/22/20 "Are We in the End Times & What Should We Do While We Wait?"
- 11/29/20 "Jesus is THE King! So What?!"



### Poinsettias Welcome

Everyone is welcome to bring a poinsettia plant to place in the sanctuary for Christmas. You may bring the plant any time and set it on the counter. The Altar Guild will take care of it and place it around the altar.

### Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Living Word has the option of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can 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.

## Page 18

That for a day: A fool and his money are never around when you need them .

## Page 19

## Prayer...

### Remember to use "The Prayer Force"



Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email ([pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)) prayer requests to Pastor David for the Prayer Force prayer chain to include in their prayers. Thanks!

### And an Invitation to Join our "Prayer Force"

Being a part of our prayer chain is a HUGELY important - and very simple - way you can serve God and His people! When a request to pray comes in, Pastor forwards it via text message (or email for those who don't have a cell phone). Then you simply include that request in your prayers. Text Pastor today and tell him "Yeah, I can do that!" Thanks!

### 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 and PRAY for...

- God to bring lots of people for our Drive-Through Live Nativity
- God to provide all the help we need for the Live Nativity
- People you can invite to the Live Nativity or Candlelight Worship
- An end to COVID
- Asking God to provide for the social needs of those in nursing homes.
- Asking God to replace fear with trust in Him
- God to show you opportunities to Share His Love in Practical Ways.
- Asking God for His power to bring healing to our nation - in all ways!
- Asking God to humble you, seek Him and repent (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- God's protection, guidance, wisdom & courage for gov't leaders
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

### Thank You from the Jastrams..

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/y4e3izyt>



## Email Inspiration...

From David Brickner, Executive Director, Jews for Jesus

Today, I have asked my colleague, Aaron Abramson, to share a story about God working through partners and friends of Jews for Jesus. I know that it will both fascinate and encourage you!

Avi and his wife, Ruth, spent 30 years sharing the gospel in the former Soviet Union. Thousands of people have come to faith in Jesus through their ministry ... but their story began with Jews for Jesus and partners like you. He shared with me:

The fact that I'm Jewish has always been central to my identity, but by the time I was in my 20s, I called myself an atheist. Deep down, I was just mad at God ... I felt my life was pointless, and that infuriated me.

One day, Avi was walking down the street in Manhattan when he came across a young man in a Jews for Jesus T-shirt handing out literature. Avi angrily told the young man that it was impossible to be a Jew and believe in Jesus.

The man responded with kindness, handing Avi a tract with the headline, "Jews should not believe in Jesus unless ..." Inside were a number of Messianic prophecies from the Tanakh.

God began to bring Gentile Christians into Avi's life:

"They prayed for me and cared enough to share. I wrote in my journal, 'I am standing on the threshold of faith.' A few months later, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Messiah!"

Avi joined the staff of Jews for Jesus, and thanks to the gifts and prayers of friends like you, a third generation of Jewish believers are now sharing the gospel, continuing his legacy.

**Note:** Liz Goldberg of Jews for Jesus will again be at Living Word in March with the "Christ in the Passover" presentation.

## Fall Voters' Meeting...

Approved both a 2021 budget and 2021 ministry goals. We also spent time planning for how to better reach Sunday School students and congregation members during the COVID-restrictions. As a result, on November 29 we began mailing Sunday School packets to 5th Grade and below. We also began livestreaming the worship message on Living Word's Facebook Group page.

## Page 20

That for a day: I miss the 90's when bread was still good for you and no one knew what kale was.

## Page 21

## Free To Be Faithful...



### Newsletter — Fall 2020

Fall newsletter discusses the impact of new government guidelines

The Free to be Faithful® newsletter highlights important and relevant details on religious liberty issues that impact the rights of Christians to live faithfully.

In the latest newsletter, read about:

- A recent executive order protecting vulnerable newborn and infant children;
- What Romans 13 teaches Christians about how to respond to authority;
- New instructions issued by the United States Department of Defense to protect the religious liberty of our chaplains and service members;
- The U.S. Department of Education's finalized set of rules to "Protect Free Inquiry and Religious Liberty"; and
- How the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is representing two former Kroger employees who were fired for refusing to wear an emblem they believed contradicted their faith.

Copies of the Free to Be Faithful Fall Newsletter are available at church or online at: <https://blogs.lcms.org/2020/free-to-be-faithful-fall-2020-newsletter/>

## Congratulations...

- Lyndsay & Tony Ampe on the birth of your son Westyn!

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



## Mark Your Calendar...

The NEXT National Youth Gathering (2022 in Houston)

**Youth Group Meets**  
9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning  
(via Zoom)



**The Mission & Ministry Team**  
Will Meet **Thursday, December 10**

(Back to our normal day this month: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)

**Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight Worship**

(Thursday, December 24 @ 5:00 pm)

- The entire service is done by candlelight.
- The Christmas Story from Luke chapter two is interspersed with Christmas Carols
- The Lord's Supper is Celebrated



**Drive-thru Live Nativity -**  
**Saturday, December 19**  
from 2-4 p.m.

(see page 17 of this newsletter)

## Living Word Blog...

Looking for some entertainment or things to do during the pandemic? Check out our Living Word Blog for lots of fun thoughts, ideas, music videos and more. [www.livingwordlutheranlcms.blogspot.com](http://www.livingwordlutheranlcms.blogspot.com)



## Page 22

That for a day: Talk is cheap. That's why so many people do so much of it.

## Page 23 | Just For Fun...

Read the story below. Find and circle the words that are **underlined**. The words can appear in any direction: horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwards.

### Birth of Jesus Foretold - Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."

"How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. "I am a virgin."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That's because what God says will always come true."

"I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would." Then the angel left her.



## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Copyright 2020 Karl Zorowski. All rights reserved. www.churchmice.net

## Opportunities to Serve...

### 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.

### Operate our PowerPoint display during worship:

In an effort to keep "touchable surfaces" to a minimum, we are projecting the order of worship - Scripture readings, songs, etc... onto the front wall instead of having them in a worship folder. We need some volunteers to "dick" from one screen to the next at the appropriate time during worship. Please talk to Pastor if you could do this one Sunday a month. Thanks!

### Operate our new Camcorder

to record parts of each worship service that we can later upload to our website. Talk to Pastor David if you can help out with this - at least one Sunday a month.

Pick Your Month for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian: You can choose any month after 4e March 2021. Talk to our new Trustee, Steve Wulf, to sign up or find out more details. Thanks



### Make A Meal

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 call Pastor David or our December Make-a-Meal volunteer, Violet Dauk if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks !

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.

Please contact [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net) with the address of someone you asked us to pray for who would be greatly encouraged by getting a card. We are currently in need of a volunteer to mail the cards. If you could help, talk to Pastor David



Thot for a day: Told my wife I wanted to be cremated. Made an appointment for me next Wednesday.

Donate to Living Word when you order from Amazon



Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) purchases to Living Word. Use this link to have your purchases

support Living Word: <https://smile.amazon.com/cv/41-1513306>

Our latest donation: Living Word Lutheran Church received an AmazonSmile donation of \$30.23 for the July - September quarter!

### Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.

Teal's rebate in the amount of \$103.66 for 2019 was received and deposited into the building fund. Thank you to all who gave your receipts. Keep them coming!

Teal's Grocery gives a 1% rebate to eligible organizations. There's a box under the mail boxes where you can put in your receipts.



## Story Behind The Song...

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

That title is a little misleading, it should probably read: "The story of how Hark the Herald Angels Sing came to be my favorite Christmas carol." (If you want to know the story behind the carol itself, I'll include a link to that at the end.)

Of all the Christmas Specials that air on TV, I find only a few I consider worth watching. It takes a LOT to get me to sit still in front of a TV for even half an hour, but three shows I will attempt to watch in Decem-



ber are: *It's a Wonderful Life* (during which I can usually catch a "long winters nap,") *Dr Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and my all-time favorite: *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing, jumped to the top of my "Favorite Carol" list by virtue of it being the song the kids sang near the end of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. It has stayed at the top because of the words that tell the result of Jesus' coming to earth. (You can read them below.)

*A Charlie Brown Christmas* is my favorite, because of Linus' answer to Charlie's question: "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" Linus points to Jesus as he quotes from the account of the birth of Jesus in Luke chapter two. [See the "Email Wisdom" section of this Newsletter for the whole quote]

I remember watching a documentary that detailed the behind-the-scenes fight over including the segment with Linus. Creator Charles Schultz was adamant that the scene with Linus was essential to the show. Producers at CBS thought it was too provocative and wanted it left out. (No surprise there!) They also thought that a cartoon character reading Bible verses would not keep the viewers' attention. The documentary described the disagreement as a "fierce battle." Schultz was said to be willing to drop the entire project if the segment with Linus was excluded. "If we don't tell the true meaning of Christmas, who will?" he once said.

In a world where Christmas has been reduced to nothing more than a family gathering centered around food and gifts and a tree (in the house!), we need more folks who, like Schultz (and Linus!), have the courage point to Jesus as "the Reason for the season!"

<i>Hark! the herald angels sing:</i>	<i>"Glory to the newborn King!</i>
<i>Peace on earth and mercy mild</i>	<i>God and sinners reconciled"</i>
<i>Joyful, all ye nations rise</i>	<i>Join the triumph of the skies</i>
<i>With angelic hosts proclaim:</i>	<i>"Christ is born in Bethlehem"</i>
<i>Hark! the herald angels sing:</i>	<i>"Glory to the newborn King!"</i>

<i>Christ by highest Heav'n adored</i>	<i>Christ the everlasting Lord!</i>
<i>Late in time behold Him come</i>	<i>Offspring of a Virgin's womb</i>
<i>Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;</i>	<i>Hail the incarnate Deity</i>
<i>Pleased as man with man to dwell</i>	<i>Jesus, our Emmanuel</i>
<i>Hark! the herald angels sing:</i>	<i>"Glory to the newborn King!"</i>

<i>Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace!</i>	<i>Hail the Son of Righteousness!</i>
<i>Light and life to all He brings</i>	<i>Rising with healing in His wings</i>
<i>Mild He lays His glory by</i>	<i>Born that man no more may die</i>

That for a day: whoever said nothing is impossible: never tried to slam a revolving door.

<i>Born to raise the sons of earth</i>	<i>Born to give them second birth</i>
<i>Hark! the herald angels sing:</i>	<i>"Glory to the newborn King!"</i>

The link for more info on the origin of this hymn is...  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hark!\\_The\\_Herald\\_Angels\\_Sing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hark!_The_Herald_Angels_Sing)

Editor's note: So many great versions I can't choose just one...

- Here is a great version by **for King & Country**:  
<https://youtu.be/nRTV7aUWajE>
- A version sung by **Rend Collective** as only they can do it:  
[https://youtu.be/mT9Aouc\\_4M0](https://youtu.be/mT9Aouc_4M0)
- Here is an acoustic version just released by **Phil Wickham** this month: [https://youtu.be/VWrf\\_efSUw](https://youtu.be/VWrf_efSUw)
- And of course, one of my all-time favorite versions by **Pentatonix**:  
<https://youtu.be/VAMzAIH12yc>

