

Living Word Lutheran Church PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273

# Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

## November 2005 Newsletter

"Communicating the Love of Jesus"



Traditional Worship: 8:00 a.m. Christian Growth Hour: 9:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship: 10:30 a.m.

## L Sunday Services...

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Located on the West of Spicer on Cty Rd 10 in old Prairie Meadows building PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273 Phone: 320-796-0742



## Questions for Pastor...

Why do we change colors on the altar and pulpit - green, red, purple, etc...?

The colors on the altar change with the changing seasons and celebrations of the Church Year, so maybe it would be best to start with a little explanation of the Church Year - what it is and why we have it.

Just as our calendar year is divided into months and seasons that repeat each year, the Church Year is divided into seasons and festivals that we repeat each year. The six seasons are: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. The purpose of the repetitive festivals and seasons is to make sure that we don't forget to commemorate important events and teachings in the life of Jesus. e.g. In the Old Testament God commanded His people to celebrate the Passover every year at a certain time, so 1) they would never forget what God had done for them and 2) so they would be forced to tell their children about it when the kids ask "Why are we doing this?" We celebrate Christmas and Easter each year for the same reasons.

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

1 Chronicles 16:8

## Opportunities to "Share the Love of Jesus in Practical ways"...

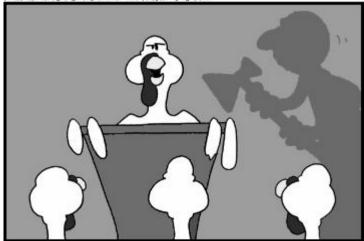
Coordinate our "Make-and-Take A Meal" Program

We are looking for someone to take over the coordination aspect. This position is responsible for collecting names of people going through a tough time (people who could use a meal). It is also responsible for contacting the people who have volunteered to make and take meals to let them know when a meal is needed. If you can serve the Lord in this position, please contact Tammy Fuglie. Thanks!

#### Help with Children's Church Once a Month

During the sermon message in the sanctuary, you will lead children in a Bible story, activity based on the story (e.g. coloring pictures) and prayers. Bible story and activity is provided. All you need to do is show up and lead the kids. Please talk to Violet Dauk if you can serve the Lord in this way..

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(See 1Thessalpnians 5:1-3)

11-25-199

LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOUR TIME ON THIS EARTH WILL RUN OUT page 18 page 3

The idea of a "church year" can't be attributed to a certain person who "sat down one day and came up with the idea." Rather, the idea of a "church year" developed slowly. At first

#### Lessons From Bible Guys: The Man With No Name

There are many guys who go nameless in the Bible, guys who set us positive examples of faith in action. Guys like the centurion in Matthew 8. Guys like the man born blind in John 9. Here's another from Luke 17:

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. [12] As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance [13] and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

[14] When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

[15] One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. [16] He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him--and he was a Samaritan.

[17] Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? [18] Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" [19] Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

The obvious lesson from this nameless man is to remember to thank God. How often do you ask God for something - maybe even beg - and when He gives it, you forget to go back and say "thanks"?

We don't just do that with God, do we. Do you ever forget to say "thanks" to your spouse for something she did or said? Do you ever forget to thank your kids for things? How about the people you work with or your neighbor or .... Yeah, I forget too. Thank God (no pun intended) that he doesn't just give us things when we remember to say "thanks"! Thank God that He forgives us for our lack of gratitude! But that doesn't mean we need to settle for being "thank"less.

Ask God right now to help you make a point of remembering to thank Him - and the people He puts into your life. What better month than this to become like the man with no name.

**White** symbolizes innocence and holiness, majesty and glory, festivity and joy. Thus, white is the color of the Christmas and Easter seasons. It is also used on All Saints day and days of giving thanks (like Thanksgiving).

**Red**, the color of fire and blood, symbolizes the Holy Spirit, martyrdom, fervor, and love. Red is used on Pentecost Day, confirmation day and Reformation Day.

**Green** symbolizes life and growth. It is the color used during the Pentecost and Epiphany seasons when we focus on the words and actions of Jesus that bring life and growth.

**Violet** is the color of penitence and mourning, so it is the appropriate color for the Lenten season.

**Black** symbolizes humiliation, sadness, deep mourning, and death and is only used on Good Friday.

**Blue** is the color of hope and thus is used for the Advent season, the season of hope for the coming of Immanuel, the God who came to be with His people.

New Years Day, Mothers' Day, weddings and funerals are not part of the church year and thus have no special colors. The color of the season they occur in is used.

One very important thing to remember about the colors and seasons and festivals of the Church Year. Their use is not commanded by God, rather they are used to help us remember God. That means using a certain color on a certain day isn't as important as always keeping our focus on Jesus in everything we do.

Thanks for asking,

Pastor Dave

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## My "Thank You God" List

God does so many things for us, but it's easy to forget them, because we don't have visible reminders. Use the space below to write out your list of things to thank God for. Then tack it up someplace you will see it each day as a reminder of all God has done for you. Don't forget the "everyday things" like shelter, work, evesight.

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<sup>\*\*</sup> Much of the information for this answer came from the official website of the Missouri Synod: <a href="www.lcms.org">www.lcms.org</a>. The "Christian Cyclopedia" under the "Belief and Practice" tab has a wealth of information. The FAQ's tab also has answers to many questions about our beliefs or practice.

## Simple Ways to Give Your Spiritual Life a Lift...

Life is a series of choices.

One choice we have every day is the choice...

1) To give thanks for what God has given

2) To complain about what he hasn't given. OR

It doesn't take a rocket-scientist to figure out which choice gives you a lift and which choice brings you (and everyone around you) down.

I always remember the advice of the Pastor who did our wedding ceremony. He told me that when he had a particularly tough day, one of those where everything seemed to go wrong and everyone seemed to be against him, he would force himself to take out a piece of paper and write out a list of all the things God had blessed him with. He said that invariably the result would be a change in his own attitude from one of "poor me" to a humble, "Thank you, Lord"

Don't wait until Thanksgiving Day to give thanks. Start right now, so that by the time November 24 rolls around. you'll be into the thanksgiving habit and out of the complaining habit.

Take a moment to turn to the "My Thank You, God" List and write down the things God *has* given you. Don't forget the spiritual blessings like forgiveness and eternal life. And don't complain about what God hasn't given. Instead, thank him for what he hasn't given - because if it was good for you at this time, he'd have given it.

In the Old Testament, people would set up piles of stones to help them remember what God had done for them at that place. (e.g When they would pass that place, they'd see the pile of stones and it would remind them of what God had done.) Take your "Thank You God" list and place it somewhere that you'll see it everyday and be reminded of all that God has done for you. Then bring it to Thanksgiving Eve Worship as a "Thank" offering to God.

Cultivating an attitude of gratitude will give your spiritual life a lift!

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## page 5 MMT minutes...

MMT leaders met October 20, 2005 with guest Pastor Dave Stroshein, Mission and Ministry Facilitator from the MN north District

Pastors Devotion was taken from the New Member Class. which asked, "What are we (the Church) really about?" And that is that we want to point people to Jesus--We are to keep our eves fixed on Jesus--We don't want people to see us, but to see Jesus through and in us.

Treasurer's Report: We will be going through State Farm Insurance for our Church liability Insurance. It will cost us \$550 a year and they need 25% down by November 1, which is \$130. Paid outstanding bills with the exception of Amundson Attorney.

Moved on to setting the budget for 2006. Pastor Dave Stroshein will ask the district for \$12.600 in subsidy funds. And hope for us to be self-funding by the year 2008.

We set the agenda for the Voter's Meeting.

- 1. Land Up-date
- 2. 2006 Budget
- 3. 3-Year Plan
- 4. Board Reports-Calendar
- 5. Treasurer's Report

Have set the Children's Christmas Program for Sunday December 18, at 4:00 P.M. with Ham Potluck Supper to follow.



### A Minute for Parents...



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## Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday School Classes: 3 years to 9<sup>th</sup> grade 9:15 -10:15

**Sunday Adult Study:** *Martin Luther: The Movie and the Man* Beginning Nov. 6 we will take a close look at the man God used to return the church to its true teaching.

## Women's Bible Study: "Breaking Free" 11:00 - noon Mondays

An in-depth, Beth Moore study designed to help us break free of the "strongholds" that keep us from experiencing the blessings God has planned.

## "What do Missouri Synod Lutherans Believe " 6:30 pm Mondays November 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

Find out (or refresh your memory) what our church believes about God, the Bible and current issues. This class serves as the instruction class for those interested in discipleship (membership) at Living Word

## **Tuesday Prayer and Bible Study** - Romans 9:30 @ Agape' Coffee

Join us for a great time of fellowship and walking through books of the Bible. We learn what if means to be righteous in the book of Romans.

**Men's Group** - Is God really our father? Study of 1 John 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays

All Stars 4 Jesus (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Graders) Wednesday -6:00 p.m.

Join us at 6:00 for a light supper followed at 6:30 by lots of fun growing closer to Jesus.

## 7-8th Graders: Confirmation classes - 6:00 p.m. Wednesday

We get to know God by reading His Diary (the Bible) Join us at 6:00 for a light supper before we study at 6:30

#### 9th Graders: 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays

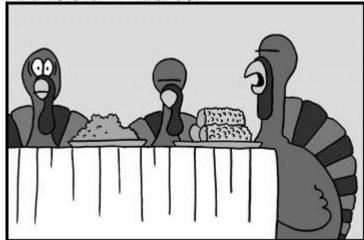
Join us for a light supper at 6:00. We study at 6:30 how to become "Just Like Jesus". After that we help out with All Stars 4 Jesus

#### 10-12 Graders: 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays

Join us to learn what it takes to become "Just Like Jesus"

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WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THE BOUNTY THAT FARMER BOB HAS BLESSED US ALL WITH THESE PAST FEW MONTHS

#### Where are YOU Going?

Dr. Curtis Hutson, former editor of The Sword of the Lord, and before he became a full time pastor, worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Decatur, Georgia. One day at the post office he was sharing the gospel with a lady, telling her that there was only one way to obtain salvation and an eternal home in heaven - through Jesus Christ. The lady offered an alternative analogy. She said she believed getting to Heaven was similar to how several people had gotten to the post office that day. Some had come by bus, some by car on the expressway, some driving across town and some even walking. She pointed out that, that no matter how they got there, whatever route they took, they all ended up at the same place.

Politely, Dr. Hutson replied, "Yes, ma'am, but that's only true if, when you die, you're going to the post office."

#### page 1

duce a plum instead of an apple. It will naturally produce a plum if it's attached to a plum tree. The apple branch doesn't have to "work hard at" producing an apple instead of a pear. It *naturally* produces an apple - if it's attached to the apple tree.

So it is with us. The fruit we produce (in this case, the beliefs our children grow to have) is a natural product of what we are attached to. How strongly are you attached to Jesus? Do you need to get connected again? Sunday worship is a great place to start.

#### What Do Missouri Synod Lutherans Believe?

Pastor is planning a class that covers the basics of our faith. We'll answer questions like the ones listed below. We'll also attempt to answer whatever other specific questions you have about what we at Living Word believe.

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

This class also serves as the instruction class for those interested in discipleship (membership) here at Living Word.

The first class will be Monday, October 3, from 6:30 - 8:30.

Please talk to pastor if you have questions about the class or would like to attend.

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#### God's Goal for You....

After God has brought you to place your faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

His goal is for you to become more like Jesus. (Romans 8:29)

Here's what we've already seen In our sermon series "Becoming Like Jesus":



- + GOD CAN CHANGE YOU.. Even in those areas of your life that you think "*I can't change that's just the way I am.*" So, you don't have to settle for "that's just the way I am" for the rest of your life.
- + God's Word is the place we learn what it means to be "Just Like Jesus" AND God's Word is also the power to help us become what we learn.

The first Sundays in November we will see how becoming like Jesus means being faithful with the gifts God entrusts to us. Jesus is the ultimate model of a good steward.

Sunday, November 20 will be a special "Faith-Promise" Sunday where we will make commitments to God about the use of the gifts He's entrusted to us. Gifts of our time, our talent and our treasure.

## November Discipleship Verse...



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## **Special Services**

#### **Advent Midweek Worship**

Begins Wednesday, November 30 @ 7:30 Join us for special services that prepare us to celebrate the coming of Christ.

#### Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 23 @ 7:30

Join us for a special time of giving thanks to the One "from whom all blessings flow."

We will bring special "Thank Offerings" (see "Give Your Spiritual Life A Lift" article) and celebrate the Lord's Supper (one of the titles for the Lord's Supper is "Eucharist" which means "thanksgiving.").

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(See Psalm 100)

11-28-2002

HAS IT ALREADY BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE WERE THANKFUL?

## Opportunities to Learn...

Martin Luther: *The Movie and the Man* Sunday Mornings, November 6, 13 and 20

A 3-week study of the man God used to bring the church back to its biblical roots. On November 6 and 13 we will watch the 2003 motion picture *Luther*. Then on the following Sunday, we will talk about some of Luther's accomplishments that are still with us today.

Please join us at 9:15 for coffee, cookies and an excellent movie.

"Doubts About Creation? Not After This."
Starting November 27:

With court cases all over the country trying to prohibit the teaching of creation, it's easy to get talked into the idea that this is one of those "separation of church and state" issues. It's not. It's also easy to get brainwashed into thinking that the *theory* of evolution is "science" and the teaching of creation is "religion." Again, that's not true either. We will take a look at the facts. Facts that show we don't have to apologize for believing in creation by a Creator God.

Please join us at 9:15 for coffee, cookies and the truth of God's Word.

## **Christmas Program...**

This year's Living Word Children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday December 18, at 4:00 P.M. with a Ham Potluck Supper to follow.

Mark your calendars and we hope to see everyone there!



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#### November 5-Minutes-a-day Devotional Readings

This Month's Readings: More "Bible Overview in 125 readings (plus Psalm & Proverb)

( Pead the major passages of the Bible along with the confirmation students )

	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
Oct 31	Exodus 20:1-21
Nov 1	Exodus 32:1-24
Nov 2	Psalm 13
Nov 3	Exodus 34:1-7
Nov 4	Leviticus 18:1-19
Nov 5	Proverbs 2:1-11
Nov 6	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
Nov 7	Numbers 13:1-33
Nov 8	Numbers 14:1-24
Nov 9	Psalm 19
Nov 10	Numbers 22:21-38
Nov 11	Deuteronomy 6:1-25
Nov 12	Proverbs 3:1-12
Nov 13	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
Nov 14	Joshua 2:1-24
Nov 15	Joshua 6:1-27
Nov 16	Psalm 23
Nov 17	Joshua 24:1-31
Nov 18	Judges 2:6-19
Nov 19	Proverbs 3:27-35
Nov 20	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
Nov 21	Judges 16:4-31
Nov 22	1 Samuel 1:1-28
Nov 23	Psalm 24
Nov 24	Luke 17:11-19
Nov 25	1 Samuel 3:1-21
Nov 26	Proverbs 4:20-27
Nov 27	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
	1 Samuel 10:1-27
	1 Samuel 16:1-13
Nov 29	1 Samuel 10. I-13

# November Living Word Lutheran Church - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 30  8:00 - Traditional Worship 9:15 - Sunday School  9:30 - VOTER'S ASSEMBLY  10:30 - Contemporary Worship Led by Youth	31 11:00 Women's Study "Breaking Free"	November 1  9:15 - Prayer	5:00 Youth prepare van for painting 6:00 Meal 6:30 All Stars 4 Jesus 7-8th Confirmation 9th Grade Conf. 7:30 10-12th Gr. Study	3 6:30 WOMEN'S CRAFT NIGHT Make dothes and jewelry with beading	Revolve Tour Leave for Target Center After school	Revolve Tour @ Target Center return approx 7:00pm
6 8:00 - Traditional Worship w/ Lord's Supper 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - Bible Study "Luther: The Movie" 10:30 - Contemporary Worship w/ Lord's Supper	7 11:00 Women's Study "Breaking Free" 6:30 Class "What Does The Missouri Synod Believe?"	8 9:15 - Prayer @ Agape' Coffee 9:30 - Bible Study - Romans @ Agape' 7:00 - Men's Study	9 6:00 Meal 6:30 All Stars 4 Jesus 7-8th Confirmation 9** Grade Conf. 7:30 10-12th Gr. Study	10	11	12
8:00 - Traditional Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - Bible Study "Luther: The Movie" 10:30 - Contemporary Worship	11:00 Women's Study "Breaking Free"	9:15 - Prayer  @ Agape' Coffee 9:30 - Bible Study - Romans  @ Agape' 7:00 - Men's Study	6:00 Meal 6:30 All Stars 4 Jesus 7-8th Confirmation 9* Grade Conf. 7:30 10-12th Gr. Study	6:00 Sunday School Teachers 7:00 - Mission & Ministry Team	18	all you do be a done in
20 FAITH-PROMISE SUNDAY  8:00 - Traditional Worship w/ Lord's Supper  9:15 - Sunday School  9:15 - Bible Study "Luther: The Man"  10:30 - Contemporary Worship w/ Lord's Supper	21 11:00 Women's Study "Breaking Free" 6:30 Class "What Does The Missouri Synod Believe?"	9:15 - Prayer  @ Agape' Coffee 9:30 - Bible Study - Romans @ Agape' 7:00 - Men's Study	7:30 Thanksgiving Eve Worship	24	25	LOVE.
8:00 Traditional Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 9:30 - Bible Study "Doubts about Creation? Not After This!" 10:30 - Contemporary Worship	11:00 Women's Study "Breaking Free"	9:15 - Prayer @ Agape' Coffee 9:30 - Bible Study - Romans @ Agape 7:00 - Men's Study	6:00 Meal 6:30 All Stars 4 Jesus 7-8th Confirmation 9** Grade Conf. 7:30 ADVENT WOR SHIP	8:00 Kevin Welsh & Duane Hansen 10:30	CHILDREN'S CHURCH 6,20 - Violet Dauk 13, 27 - Tris Mische  HELPERS 6 - Becca Dauk 13 - Shelby Peterson 20 - Dani Skaggs 27 - Mariah Welsh	USHERS: 8:00 Duane Hansen 10:30 Chuck Weflen Jr. Usher: David G. GREETERS: Jim & Janet Towner Jr. Greeter: Alicia W.