Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

November 2007 Newsletter "Communicating the Love of Jesus"



Worship Hours:

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

Living Word Lutheran Church

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

Website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

Questions for Pastor...



"Have you told them that?"

Four times a year Pastor Strohschein from the District Office hosts a conference for pastors who are planting new churches. He started this week's meeting by telling us that he has a new appreciation for how tough the task of starting a new congregation can be. (His son was recently put in charge of planting a new congregation in Arizona.)

Pastor Strohschein shared how his son was frustrated with the reality that planting a church at times can seem to be "one step forward and two steps back." He'd recently been through one of those "two steps back" times. Some folks who had been part of the core group involved in founding the church had left. He said it was apparent that they had an agenda of things they wanted to have happen in the new church, and when those things didn't come about the way they wanted, they left - and tried to get others to leave with them.

I commented that I think pretty much everyone has some kind of "agenda" - things we would like to see happen. I said that I greatly appreciate the people of Living Word, because I see how they have been willing to set aside whatever agendas they may have in order to follow God's agenda (which most often isn't the same as ours). I see a definite willingness to set aside what you want and instead seek to find out what God wants.

I continued by saying that I feel greatly blessed to be leading a congregation where people have been very committed, dedicated and have "hung in there" in those "one step forward and two steps back" times. I told the folks at the conference that I get paid to persevere and hang in there when things don't happen as fast or just the way I want. You don't. And I greatly appreciate the fact that you hang in there anyway.

Pastor Strohschein's response was the "Question for Pastor" at the

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top of this article.

October was Pastor Appreciation Month, and it was so neat to have you show your appreciation to me and my family with the special gift certificate and cake after worship a couple Sundays ago. But the phrase "Pastor Appreciation" could also mean: Pastor expresses appreciation. In some of our Elders' Team meetings I've expressed my appreciation for your commitment to Living Word and to following Jesus Christ. But now you've all had a chance to hear it. THANK YOU! God bless you for seeking God's agenda!

Thanks for asking,

Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

What Do Missouri Synod Lutherans Believe?

BEGINS: TUESDAY, November 6, from 6:30 - 8:00.

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

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

This class also serves as the instruction class for those interested in discipleship (membership) here at Living Word. Please talk to pastor if you have questions about the class or would like to attend. The initial plan is to meet every-other Tuesday for three or four sessions. Please talk to Pastor if you are interested.

Reflections On Orlando...

The youth and chaperones who attended the LC-MS National Youth Gathering in Orlando were asked to reflect on their experience. The youth were given questions to answer while the chaperones got a "blank sheet of paper. This month we include the reflections Rebecca Dauk. Next month we'll hear from Allan Fuglie, Danielle Skaggs, David Geer, Peter Erickson and Joe Johnson.

One of the sessions I found really helpful was "The Jesus Painter." This young man was in front of the auditorium with a large canvas. He started painting little images on it. In about ten minutes the little images came together into an amazing painting of Jesus. After he finished painting, he told us about how he got started doing these "Jesus paintings." He reminded us that God has something special for everyone to do.

I saw God working in my family group just in the fact that even though we were in three small rooms together for nine days - we didn't really get into any big fights.

My goal in going to the National Youth Gathering was to grow in my faith (and, of course, have some fun and get away from mom and dad). One way that goal was accomplished was in having to read my Bible and spend time with God every day, because I don't always do that.

One thing I want to change as a result of what I experienced in Orlando: I want to be a better Christian and actually want to read my Bible and go to church.

What I wish the rest of you could have seen, heard and experienced: The constant reminders that we are all Chosen and that God wants all of us in His family.

The most important thing for me to remember about "Being Chosen with Others": We need to be nice to everyone, because God chose them too.

Becca Dauk

November Discipleship Verse...



Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of iov. Psalm 107:22

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Operation Christmas Child...

Operation Christmas Child (Shoe Boxes)

In the next few weeks millions of caring people like you will be praying for children in the poorest areas of the world and filling shoe boxes with gifts for them. On Sunday, No-



vember 18, we will dedicate to the Lord all the shoe boxes that we collect. The next day they will be delivered to the Youth for Christ office in Willmar. From there they will be transported to a large distribution center in the Twin Cities where they will be sorted and packaged for shipping to locations in over 100 countries.

Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse, says, "Sometimes people ask me how much difference a shoe box can make in the life of a child who is poor, sick, hungry or traumatized by war. I tell them that the gifts are only the beginning. Church partners who hand out the boxes on our behalf also reach out to the children and their families, sharing the hope of the Gospel. By God's grace, every year hundreds of thousands of these children receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior through the Gospel storybooks and discipleship program."

"Let me give you an example. In 1993 in snowy Bosnia, an 11-year-old girl named Leila received one of our very first shoe box gifts. 'That's when I knew God loved me,' she said. Raised in a non-Christian home, she didn't know who Jesus was. When one of our team shared the Gospel with her, Leila prayed to accept Christ as her Lord and Savior. Today, living in Pennsylvania after marrying a soldier who was in Bosnia on a peacekeeping mission, Leila Allison is packing boxes for over 50 children, and we are planning to take her back to Bosnia this winter to help hand out gifts and minister to children in her homeland."

You can help with this special ministry by packing a shoe box for a girl or boy (you choose the age). Bring the shoe box to church on or before our Dedication Sunday. Thank you for your partnership in sharing the Gospel!

So That The World May Know...

Wish List Update:

Here are the items people included on our October "Wish Lists" for the new building:

Kitchen

A dishwasher

LOTS of storage

food

A garbage disposal

A center island

2 stoves

2 sinks (one 3-section and one 2-section)

2 Refrigerators

1 small freezer

Plenty of walk space, so people don't keep bumping into each other

Narthex / Entry Area

A BIG door (that God can come in)

Colorful, vertical banners on walls

Warm, inviting colors

BIG space - plenty of room to hang around and talk

Well-lit; natural lighting

Christian artwork on the walls

(invite the Jesus Painter from the youth gathering to do a mural of Jesus)

A Coffee Shop

A water fountain

Outdoors (Landscaping/Parking/Extra space)

A Playground

Trees - plant some and move some larger ones in

A Prayer Garden

A "walk area"

Benches

A Gazebo

Place for outdoor worship & concerts

Basketball courts

A field goal

Outside youth room

Parking lot close to the door (on south side of building)

A sign over the entrance welcoming people to God's house

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as you drive in and welcoming you to God's world as you leave.

Large, grassy space close to church for picnics and games

Office/Altar Guild/ Janitor room / Rest rooms

Office. Pastor Study and Restrooms near front entrance Janitor room near back entrance

Altar Guild room near sanctuary

Plenty of space to hang banners in the altar guild room Have a separate church office and Pastor's study Need windows on both outside and inside walls in the offices We need a library room that is very visible and accessible

The Next Steps:

1. FINISH OUR WISH LISTS:

Oct 28 Windows / Lighting Nov 4 Gym / Fellowship Area

NOTE: If you aren't able to be here for a certain Sunday, you can add your "wish list" items to the sheets posted on the back wall.

2. FILL OUT OUR BUILDING COMMITTEE

We still need several people to fill out our Building Committee. Please talk to Kevin Welsh if you may be interested. Thanks!

Steps Completed This Month:

The Mission and Ministry Team completed the step of determining the amount of loan we would be willing to take on for Phase One of construction. They determined that \$300,000 would be the maximum loan amount we would apply for. (We would qualify for a loan between \$250,000 and \$400,000). Couple this with the \$120,000 we have pledged and we will have \$420,000 available for building expenses. That figure could go up (or the loan amount go down) should we receive more pledges or special gifts.

MEXICAN DINNER FUND RAISER

We served approximately 100 people and raised close to \$600 after expenses. Thanks to everyone who made the dinner a success!

E-Mail Wisdom...

WORTHY

By Michael Halleen

Bring the best robe and put it on him,. (Luke 15:22)

Pete was one of my best friends in high school. He was an only child, the kind of kid on whom some parents dote. Mr. and Mrs. T. would do anything for Pete. When he went off to Harvard, his parents, despite being cramped in a condo, maintained his room just as it was, pennants and posters in place. It was Pete's room -always.

Pete had a dog, an old black lab named Frankie, who had been his pet from the time he was a young boy. I used to visit Mrs. T. occasionally when I was in the neighborhood to pick up the latest news about Pete. At each of my visits, lying on his rug in the corner of the living room, there was Frankie-ugly, old, half-blind, unable to do more than totter around because of arthritis. He was neither useful nor ornamental. Once I made an uncomplimentary remark about the dog, and Mrs. T. said, "Mike, Frankie's no burden to us. We'll love him till he dies because he's Pete's dog." This totally dependent, odd-looking creature had meaning, dignity and worth in their eyes just because he belonged to the son they adored.

The father of the prodigal told his servants to put the best robe on the boy when he returned home - and a ring and some good sandals too. Having done everything wrong and on a fast track to nowhere, the son finally had decided that throwing himself on the pity of his father was his only hope of survival. Instead of pity he found love. His father saw past the mistakes and recognized one whom he adored-worthy of care and of the best gifts he could offer

A seminary classmate, a Coast Guard veteran, had a hard time with his studies in his first year out of the service. He kept a dress uniform in his closet, and sometimes in the midst of a rough afternoon in the library, he said he was going home to polish his medals. I know that at least once he put them on again. It was his way to reestablish a sense of worth.

An old dog, a runaway boy, a struggling student - bring out the best for them! Each was worthy. We can be encouraged to know that, like them, we - whether old and past our prime, Page 8 Page 9

or detoured on a path sideways to our best interests, or just feeling inadequate to the expectations laid on us - are worthy too. Why? **Because we belong to the SON!**

E-Mail Humor...

Kids Misinterpret

- ~ One young fellow asked his mom, "When are we gonna talk to Howard again?" The mom didn't know any "Howard," so the boy explained, "When are we gonna talk to God?" This, of course, puzzled mom even more. "You know, Our Father who art in heaven, Howard be your name..."
- ~ I recall reading about the Pledge of Allegiance. Some child thought it began, "I led the pigeons to the flag."
- ~ Another child finally got up the nerve to ask her teacher who Richard Stands was. You know: "I pledge allegiance to the flag. And to the republic for Richard Stands."
- ~ A six-year-old boy thought the Apostles' Creed taught us that Jesus was allergic to flowers, because "He suffered under a bunch of violets"
- ~ And finally, a certain young boy was quite disappointed to grow up to learn that when he prayed the Lord's Prayer, he wasn't really praying for his little sister to get into trouble. He had thought it said: "And lead a snot into temptation."

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HAS IT ALREADY BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE WERE THANKFUL?

NOV Living Word Lutheran Church - Calendar of Events

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:15 9:15 9:00 9:15 9:15 0:30	Traditional Worship Sunday School FALL VOTER'S ASSEMBLY Contemporary Worship Sr. High Study / Bowling	Oct 29	Oct 30 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	Oct 31 Noon Bible Study: Revelation 19 3:30 "Trunk or Treat" @ Spicer Mall NO CONFIRMATION (Students instead help w/battery outreach & Adopt-A-Hiway this week)	Nov 1 ALL SAINTS DAY	Nov 2	Nov 3 11:00-1:00 SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERY GIVEAWAY
8:00 9:15 10:30	Traditional Worship Sunday School Adult Bible Forum Contemporary Worship	Pastors' Conference @ Wood Lake	6 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's Picture 6:30 "What LC-MS Lutherans believe"	Noon Bible Study: Revelation 20 6:00 Meal 6:30 FAITHfully Parenting Teens 6:30 All Stars 4 Jesus	7:00 Elders' Team 7:00 LWML meeting	9	10
8:00 9:15 10:30 6:00	Traditional Worship Sunday School Adult Bible Forum Contemporary Worship Sr. High Bible Study	12	NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	10:30 Outreach Team Noon Bible Study: Revelation 21-22 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation	7:00 Mission & Ministry Team Meeting	16	17
	Traditional Worship Sunday School Adult Bible Forum	19	20 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's 6:30 "What LC-MS Lutherans believe"	No Revelation Study NO CONFIRMATION 7:30 THANK SGMING EVE WORSHIP	22 THANKSGIVING	23	24
9:15 10:30	Traditional Worship Sunday School Adult Bible Forum Contemporary Worship Sr. High Bible Study	26	NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	Noon Bible Study: Revelation Summary 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation	29	30	9:30 Christmas Program Practice 11:00-4:00 Christmas Shopping /Childcare Outreach

November 15-Minutes-a-day Today's Light Readings

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We Read Through the Bible Together, in Just 15 Minutes (In parentheses are verses to focus on if you are short on time that day) a Day Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed Oct 28 Genesis 45:1-46:34 (45:1-28) Oct 30 Genesis 47:1-48:22 (47:1-10) Oct 31 Genesis 49:1-50:26 (50:15-26) Exodus 1:1-22 (1:1-14) Nov 2 Exodus 2:1-25 (2:1-10.23-25) Exodus 3:1-4:31 (3:1-15) Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed Exodus 5:1-6:30 (5:1-23)_____ Exodus 7:1-24 (7:1-7) Exodus 8:1-9:35 (8:20-32) Exodus 10:1-29 (10:1-20) Exodus 11:1-12:51 (12:29-51) Nov 10 Exodus 13:1-22 (13:17-22)_____ Nov 11 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed Nov 12 Exodus 14:1-31 (14:1-22,29-31)_____ Nov 13 Exodus 15:1-27 (15:1-18)

Nov 14	Exodus 16:1-17:16 (17:1-16)
Nov 15	Exodus 18:1-27 (18:1-12)
Nov 16	Exodus 19:1-20:26 (19:1-8,20:1-17)
Nov 17	Exodus 21:1-22:31 (22:21-27)
Nov 18	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
Nov 19	Exodus 23:1-24:18 (24:1-18)
Nov 20	Exodus 25:1-27:20 (25:1-22)
Nov 21	Exodus 28:1-29:46 (28:1-12)
Nov 22	Exodus 30:1-31:18 (31:12-18)
Nov 23	Exodus 32:1-35 (32:1-14)
Nov 24	Exodus 33:1-23 (33:12-23)
Nov 25	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
Nov 26	Exodus 34:1-35 (34:1-9)
Nov 27	Exodus 35:1-36:38 (35:20-35)
Nov 28	Exodus 37:1-38:30 (38:21-31)
Nov 29	Exodus 39:1-40:38 (39:1-14, 40:34-38)
Nov 30	Psalm 1:1-6:10 (Psalm 1)

REMINDER: Go to <u>www.livingwordlutheran.net</u> to find past monthly devotional readings.

Help With Youth Ministry...

Help with our Youth Ministry Can you help with events or activities for youth? Some immediate needs are to:

- + Organize our Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up THIS SATURDAY (or after school)
- + Chaperone a service project (and fun outing) in the Twin Cities

Please talk to Pastor if you can serve the Lord in any of these ways.

Bell Ringer Outreach...

The Salvation Army would like our assistance in taking a turn at bell-ringing.



The Salvation Army Christmas kettle has been a familiar part of the Christmas scene in America for over 100 years! It is their major fund raising effort for the year and is crucial to their ability to continue serving the needs of Kandiyohi County. Not only does it support the special seasonal projects such as food baskets and toys for low income families, but it enables the Salvation Army to provide assistance to area families throughout the year.

We plan on ringing at the Green Lake Mall. Saturday, December 8. Please sign up to take a turn at ringing for an hour or two on the sheet in the back.

Smoke Detector Battery Giveaway...



Sunday School Students & Parents... We have a special community outreach, and we'd like your help. It's our annual "Smoke Detector Battery Giveaway"

We simply go door-to-door in Spicer and give people a new battery for their smoke detector. It makes a great family outreach, because it's something adults and kids can do together. It's fun to see the looks on the faces of the people when you tell them you are

giving them something and you don't want any money for it.

This year's event is Saturday, Nov. 3 from 11-1pm.

We plan on heading to DQ after the outreach.

Please let us know if you can help - and how many people will be helping. THANKS!

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Trunk Or Treat...

Wednesday evening, October 31st, is Halloween. Join us for a Halloween alternative outreach.

Decorate the trunk of the your car and join us at the Green Lake Mall at 3:30 on Halloween. We will be handing out candy and Gospelmessage handouts.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship...

A Special Thank-Offering Will Be Collected

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

In keeping with the example of the Israelites, this
Thanksgiving Eve we will come together for a special joyful
celebration of the blessings God has provided us. Each of us
will be encouraged to bring a special freewill offering in
proportion to how God has blessed us this past year.

If each of us thanked God for His blessings by giving Him a special thank-offering of just \$1 for each week this past year we could make up most of our current budget deficit. If we each thanked God by giving back just \$2 for each week of blessings we'd be able to wipe out our deficit - with some left over for special outreach projects in December.

Please pray about your Thank-offering proportion. Use the special Thank-offering envelope when you come on Thanksgiving Eve. If you aren't able to be here that Wednesday, you can give your Thank-Offering either the Sunday before or after Thanksgiving.

"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



Help Support Heidy...

Heidy is a young girl from Ecuador that the confirmation students have been supporting through Compassion, Int'l. Heidy lives with her father and mother. She is responsible for caring for children, making beds and running errands. Her father is sometimes employed as a laborer and her mother maintains the home. There are three children in the family. Singing, playing house, and art are Heidy's favorite activities. Heidy attends primary school as well as church activities, Bible class and Vacation Bible School.

Here is the most recent letter Heidy wrote to us:

Dear friends.

Hi. Greetings from my family and me to all of you. We send you many kisses and hugs. I am so grateful for the help you give me everyday. I hope God will bless and keep you. I took two trips, I went to the Jambeli Island and I went on a trip with the brothers from the church and my aunt. I also took a trip with the children of my group and the tutors. I enjoyed the trips very much, because in one of the trips I saw the sea and in the other trip I enjoyed some swimming pools and slides. I had a lot of fun. Do you like the sea? Please pray for my grandfather who underwent a surgery for his eyesight. Good-bye with much love. Bye

Heidy Maylis Vizueta Pluas

We would like to extend the opportunity to the rest of the congregation to help in supporting Heidy as well as in praying for and corresponding with her. Check out the display at church. If you can help us support Heidy please make checks payable to Compassion, Int'I. THANKS!

Parents of Confirmation Students

Our next "Parent" class is Wednesday, November 7.

We'll take a look at another aspect of "FAITHfully Parenting Teens" I'll also update you on your student's progress in confirmation. Then I would like to spend a little time getting your input on some youth activities for the coming year, so bring your ideas (and your teen's ideas) on some fun, faithbuilding events and mission trips, etc...

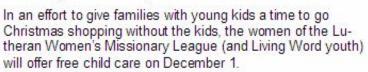
REMINDER: The Students will host the All Stars for Jesus that night.

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LWML News...

LWML Sponsors Child Care While You Shop

Saturday, December 1, from 11:00 - 4:00



We will serve lunch and a snack in the afternoon, but we have room for only 20 kids, so sign up right away.

(We are also looking for people to volunteer for two-hour shifts)

LWML Elects Officers

Recently elected to serve Living Word's LWML group

- President: Janet Towner
- Vice President: Tammy Fuglie
- Secretary: Bonnie Hansen
- Treasurer: Lu Kiehm
- Christian Growth: Violet Dauk

Give us Your Favorite Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving

Wednesday evening, November 21, we will gather to thank God for all that He is and all that He does. Our verse of the month reminds us that

one way we do that is with songs of joy, so in addition to our Thankofferings, we will thank and praise God with lots of songs.

We'd like to know which songs of praise and thanksgiving are your favorites. They can be traditional hymns or contemporary songs. We may not be able to use them all on Thanksgiving Eve, but we will try to include as many as we can. And we will use the rest in coming weeks.



All Stars for Jesus...

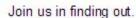
Wed., Nov. 7: A fun evening for 1-3rd Graders and 4-6th Graders

This year I asked the confirmation students to come up with a service project they would like to do while their parents are learning to FAITHfully Parenting Teens. They decided they wanted to host a once-a-month night of faith and fun for younger kids: All Stars 4 Jesus.

The All Stars 4 Jesus will have two groups: 1-3rd Grade and 4-6th Grade. Each group will have a Bible story time, craft time and game time. Rides can be provided and friends can come. Just let us know. We'll start at 6:30 and conclude by 7-45

Today's Light...

How would you change if you spent just 15 minutes a day getting to know God through His Word?



We have just begun to read through the Bible together using Today's Light.

The Today's Light Bible is divided into 15-minute daily readings with an introductory paragraph before each reading and a summary paragraph after each.

Bibles are available TODAY. Donations have reduced the cost to just \$19 (normally they are \$33). You may pick one up from the Today's Light table. Money for your Bible can be placed in the box on the table.

An added incentive: We decided to have a contest of sorts. Getting into God's Word benefits all of us by bringing God's power and wisdom into our daily lives. We decided that it can also benefit us in our new building. We are going to put a "Bible Reading Jar" on the Today's Light table. Place a dollar in the jar for each week you do the readings (even if it's the short ones). If we have just 25 people reading each week that will add up to \$2500 over the twoyear reading period. Enough to purchase a projector and screen to use for worship in the new building.

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More Opportunities to Grow...

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesdays @ NOON

Bring a friend and join us over lunch as we take a look at the book with this promise from God:



*Blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it "

Tuesday Noon Bible Study

Join us at Geneva Olson's at noon on Tuesdays.

Sunday Morning Adult Study

Creation: Foundation for All we believe

We'll learn about evidence for the Biblical account of creation thing you never hear in the media that seems bent on convincing us of evolution.

Some specific things we'll cover:

- + Why is belief in the Biblical account of creation important?
- + Did dinosaurs and humans co-exist?
- + What evidence is there for a young earth (not billions of vears old)?
- + Is it illegal for Creation to be taught in public school?
- + How accurate are dating methods?
- + What was the world like in pre-flood times?
- + Did God put the Gospel message in the stars?

Begins Sunday, November 4

Please join us at 9:15 for coffee, baked goods and our study

Senior High Study

Every other Sunday evening at 6:00 (BOWLING on October 28)



Parenting Young Children

Sunday Mornings while the kids are in Sunday School

If you are a parent of a child of pre-school age through 4th grade we'd like to invite you to a special class that meets during the Sunday School hour (9:15 - 10:15).

