

Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

September 2007 Newsletter
"Communicating the Love of Jesus"



Worship Hours (beginning Sept 9th)

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...

What did you do at the Planning Retreat ?

On August 24-25 the members of the Mission and Ministry team met at Lutheran Island Camp (our district church camp) for a planning retreat. Getting away to do some planning was a "first" for us at Living Word. We headed to Lutheran Island Camp with the goal of narrowing our focus for the coming year. Instead of trying to focus on too many things, it's best to focus on just a few of the most important things. This is especially true for a congregation of our size.

Our focus needs to start with accomplishing our mission. Do you know the mission of Living Word? In a word (or two), our mission is to "Make Disciples." So, what is a disciple? Simply this: A Committed Follower of Christ. i.e. A Christian. So, to put it another way, our goal is to "Make Christians."

I posed a question to the worshipers the Sunday prior to our retreat. "What are the key ingredients in the making of Christians?" Here's what you said are the most important "ingredients." (#'s in parentheses indicate number of people who listed this "ingredient.")

Love (12)	Trust / Belief / Faith (11)
Truth / Bible (10)	Dedication/Commitment/Perseverance (8)
People (4)	Respect (4)
Sharing (3)	Holy Spirit (2)
Forgiveness (2)	Obedience (2)
Patience	Team Work
Joy	Understanding

We are one of God's ingredients

We looked at all these answers and decided that there's one of those "ingredients" that needs to take priority over the others. The Holy Spirit is one obvious priority. No one becomes a Christian without the Spirit. So we decided to focus on the main tool the Spirit uses: The Truth of the Bible. Without the Truth of the Bible, we won't know what it means to Love. Without the Truth of the Bible we won't know what to base our Faith on. Without the Truth of the Bible we won't be able to persevere

through all the deceptions Satan throws at us to challenge our Commitment, etc... It all starts with the Spirit working through the Truth of God's Word.

As we discussed the need to be unified around this focus on God's Word, a couple ideas came out:

1) Take the congregation through a 40-Days of Purpose-like study that will get people connected through small group studies where each group is studying the same thing at the same time.

2) Help people to get into the Bible on their own every day with the Today's Light Bible. (The Today's Light Bible is broken down into 15-minute daily readings designed to take you through the whole Bible in two years.) The beauty of the Today's Light Bible is that before each reading there is a short paragraph alerting you to the themes of the reading. At the end of each reading is a summary paragraph that highlights the important points God wanted us to take from the reading. Those introductory and summary paragraphs also explain puzzling things about ancient culture in everyday, layman's terms.) In short, it not only gets you into God's Word, but helps you understand it.

We are still in the planning stages of this program, so watch (and listen) for details as they unfold this month. We would like to kick off our Bible plan the first week of October.

We also came up with the following plans for "So That The World May Know" campaign

1. Create a visual of our land as it sits now compared with how it may look with a church on it.
2. Create a visual of the steps we need to climb (with corresponding dates) before we can think about breaking ground.
3. Create a visual that will keep us updated on the amount of funds pledged.
4. Enlist the congregation in helping put together a "Wish List" for each part of the new building.

e.g. On Sunday, Sept 9, everyone will have an opportunity to add their ideas to a "Sanctuary Wish List." The following Sunday everyone will do the same for a "Sunday School" wish list, then a "Youth area" wish list, etc... until we have a wish list for the entire building.

5. Find Prayer Leaders who can keep us focused on prayer needs for the campaign.

6. Create letters for members to mail to friends/relatives who fall under the category "Friends of the Congregation." In these letters we will ask them to keep our campaign in their prayers and giving them an opportunity to participate financially if God leads them to.

We also spent considerable time answering two questions about these individual aspects of our mission statement:

- Going (outreach)
- Making disciples
- Being Joyful
- Caring
- Being Christ-Centered
- Being a Family

1) What would God commend us for in each of these areas ?

2) What would God challenge us to correct or improve ?

I think it says a lot about the Spirit's work at Living Word that we came up with over an hour's worth of answers to the "commend" question and only about 15 minutes of answers to what God would have us correct.

I don't have space to list all the things God would commend us for, so here are some things we feel God would have us work to correct in each area:

Going.... Train members how to get out of our comfort zone to reach out to non-members

Making disciples... Enlist more members in using their special gifts; hold Bible studies on dealing with people in a Christian way - especially difficult relationships

Being joyful... Quit worrying about and dwelling on what we don't have. Instead, thank God for what He has blessed us with.

Caring... Find a "Sonshine" person who can compile a list of birthdays, anniversaries, and send cards on those dates. Renew our meal program. Keep in touch with people who haven't been to church in awhile.

Christ-centered... Keep asking where God wants us to be going instead of just talking about where we think we should go.

Being a Family... We need to figure out a way to combine fellowship for the two worship services.

To sum it up, our planning retreat was not only a great time of working together, but we accomplished what we set out: Setting the direction for Living Word for the coming year. One of the

participants said that we should make this a yearly event. I wholeheartedly agree. It's on the calendar for next August.

Thanks for asking ,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Youth for Christ Announces another year of music making

Fast Forward kicks off with their annual Fall Retreat, Fri/Sat Sept. 7-8.



Retreat Cost: \$40. Fast Forward is a group for kids in 7-9th grade.

This is a non-auditioned group.

For more info or to register contact: Becca Gardner - YFC Music Director - 235-0119 or becca@yfcminnesota.com.

Weekly rehearsals begin Monday, Sept 10, 6:30 - 7:45 at 1st St. Warehouse.

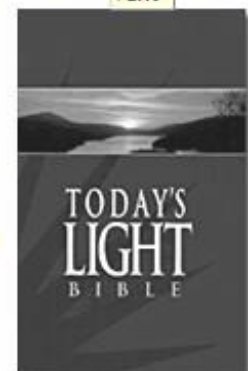
Today's Light Bibles...

Available at huge discount for our Daily Bible Reading kickoff

The Today's Light Bible is broken down into daily readings (with and introductory and summary paragraphs before and after each reading). On October 1 we will kick off a congregation-wide daily reading program utilizing these Bibles. Here's what we've done to make them available to as many people as possible:

1. Reduced the cost to \$19 (normally \$33)
2. Have a limited number available for no charge to those who can't afford \$19 right now.

Bibles should be available by Rally Sunday.



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

Help with our Youth Ministry

Can you help with any of these events :

- Provide a boat for our Fishing Outing (Date to be determined)
- Lead A Bible Study for College-Age Young Adults
- Take a group to the Boundary Waters (whenever it works for you)

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

Join our Prayer Force

One of the most practical ways you can share the love of Jesus is by praying for people in need. That's what people on our "Prayer Force" do. The "Prayer Force" is an e-mail prayer chain. You simply receive requests via email, then take those requests to the Lord in prayer.

Phone or e-mail Pastor David to sign up: dvdauk@mail.tds.net

Welcome New Businesses

This is a brand new outreach! We will be welcoming new businesses by taking them some flowers and cookies and offering to pray for their business needs in Sunday Worship.

How you can help: Do you have flowers or plants that we can use? Please talk to the "Welcome Business" coordinator, Violet Dauk. (It's so much more personal than getting some from a florist).

"SECRET PAUL" Prayer Program

Secret Pauls... have you sent a note to the person you are praying for just to let them know you are praying? If not, please take some time to do that this week. (Don't forget to send a card for their birthday, too!)

Make A Meal Program ...

Give us the names of people you know who could use a meal. Use the Prayer and Care cards in the attendance book and place in the offering plate. Or you can simply tell Pastor David or Meal Coordinator Jack Kuppich of someone who needs a meal.

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Welcome New People

PLEASE Keep your eyes open for people who have just bought or rented a home (or apartment) in your area. THEN .

As soon as possible, notify our Visit Coordinator, Violet Dauk (220-0344) She will notify our cookie bakers and move-in visitors to go make a "welcome" visit. More Cookie Bakers & Visitors are also needed. Please call Violet if you can help with either of these. Of course, don't forget to take your own batch of cookies (or whatever) to the new folks to welcome them to your neighborhood too.

E-Mail Joke of the Month...

While attending a marriage seminar on communication, Tom and his wife Peg listened to the instructor declare, "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other."



He looked at Tom and asked, "Can you describe your wife's favorite flower?"

Tom leaned over, touched his wife's arm gently and whispered, "Pillsbury All-Purpose, isn't it?"

The rest of the story is not pleasant...

September Discipleship Verse...



"Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."

Revelation 1:3

???

Brain-Teaser

What letter comes next in the series?
O,T,T,F,F,S,S,E, . . . ?

???

SPOT THE HIDDEN BOOKS

Hidden in this story are 16 books of the Bible.

I once heard a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, keeping some people looking so hard for facts, while for others it was a revelation. Some were soon in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised, but the truth eventually struck home to numbers of readers. A few found it a breeze, to others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments (or hours) for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will readily admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews up a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now and see how long it will take you to find all sixteen Bible books in this story.

GROAN!
HOW MUCH
FURTHER?!

WHAT ARE YOU
GRUMBLING ABOUT?
WE HAVEN'T EVEN
LEFT EGYPT YET!!



Answer: N, One Two Three Four Five Six Seven Eight Nine
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Parents of Confirmation Students

Meet Wednesday, September 5, @ 7:00 p.m.

Reminder...

Raise Funds for Our Church when you Search the web...

Living Word Lutheran Church is registered on Good Search, (as seen in OPRAH Magazine, ABC News, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and Fortune.) And will now receive a direct donation every time someone uses Good Search to search the Internet.

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates ad revenue, about a penny per search, to the charity its users designate. Use it just like any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get the same great results.

Just go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and enter Living Word Lutheran Church, New London, MN as the organization you want to support.

It costs you nothing: But just 100 supporters searching the Internet just twice a day would bring \$730/year

Download the GoodSearch toolbar -
<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx>

More E-Mail Humor...

(...with a message.)


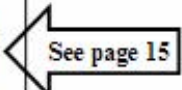
A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of the pastors. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

September

Living Word Lutheran Church - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:00 Bible Study 9:00 Combined Worship With Lord's Supper 10:15 Fellowship	3	4 NOON Bible Study 2 Peter @ Geneva Olson's	5 Noon Bible Study: Revelation 13-14 1:30 Bible Study Plan 7:00 Confirmation Parents Mtg	6	7 After School All-Stars 4 Jesus (3rd-6th Graders) Outing - Bike to DQ	8
9 RALLY SUNDAY 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:15 Sunday School Adult Bible Forum 10:30 Contemporary Worship Noon Bldg. Finance info mtg. Meal served by S.School	10	11 NOON Bible Study 2 Peter @ Geneva Olson's	12 Noon Bible Study: Revelation 15-16 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Sr. High Study (Tentative)	13 6:00 Elders' Team 7:00 LWML meeting	14	15 Ricky Scholl & Nicole Lyndley Wedding
16 8:00 Traditional Worship w/LS 9:15 Sunday School Adult Bible Forum 10:30 Contemporary Worship W/Lord's Supper	17	18 NOON Bible Study 2 Peter @ Geneva Olson's	19 10:30 Outreach Team Noon Bible Study: Revelation 17-18 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Sr. High Study (Tentative)	20 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	21 3:30 CUE: Youth 5-6th Grade Pre-Homecoming Event @ River of Hope Youth Center	22
23 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:15 Sunday School Adult Bible Forum 10:30 Contemporary Worship	24	25 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	26 Noon Bible Study: Revelation 19-20 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Sr. High Study (Tentative)	27	28	29
30 BIBLE READING KICKOFF 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:15 Sunday School Adult Bible Forum 10:30 Contemporary Worship w/ CTI Music Ministries (Carpenter's Tools Int'l) NOON Bible Rdg Kickoff Meal	Oct 1   See page 15	Oct 2 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	Oct 3 Noon Bible Study: Revelation 21-22 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Sr. High Study (Tentative)	Oct 4	Oct 5	Oct 6 New London to Spicer HUMAN PRAYER CHAIN TOMORROW on the Bike Trail

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September

5-Minutes-a-day Devotional Reading

New Reading Program Begins Sept 3: Passages about SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Sept 2 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Sept 3 Colossians 1:9-14 _____

Sept 4 Proverbs 13:20 _____

Sept 5 Hebrews 5:11-15 _____

Sept 6 Hebrews 6:1-3 _____

Sept 7 2 Peter 1:3-11 _____

Sept 8 2 Peter 3:10-18 _____

Sept 9 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Sept 10 1 Peter 2:1-2 _____

Sept 11 Ephesians 4:11-16 _____

Sept 12 Ephesians 4:22-5:2 _____

Sept 13 Romans 12:1-2 _____

Sept 14 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 _____

Sept 15 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 _____

Sept 16 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Sept 17 Psalm 92:12-15 _____

Sept 18 1 Timothy 4:15-16 _____

Sept 19 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 _____

Sept 20 Colossians 1:3-6 _____

Sept 21 Colossians 3:5-17 _____

Sept 22 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 _____

Sept 23 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Sept 24 John 15:5-8 _____

Sept 25 Matthew 13:18-23 _____

Sept 26 Luke 56:46-49 _____

Sept 27 Acts 9:31 _____

Sept 28 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 _____

Sept 29 2 Corinthians 10:15-16 _____

Sept 30 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

SUMMARIZE WHAT YOU LEARNED ABOUT GROWING SPIRITUALLY _____

REMINDER: Go to www.livingwordlutheran.net
Click on "Pastor's Notes" for Pastor David's comments on the daily Bible readings. You can add your own insights by clicking on "comments" below Pastor's comment

LWML News...

Our newly formed LWML has now been meeting for 4 months. The first meeting, in May, was hosted by Fran Wittnedel who helps reorganize and revitalize inactive groups. She helped us get up and running. We've had three brainstorming and planning meetings since that time.



We are excited that our LWML can enhance the women's ministry within our church by providing opportunities for service, Bible study, spiritual growth, outreach and fellowship. We would like to invite the women of the church to join us for our monthly meetings. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm.

Some of the service projects that we are looking into doing are:

- providing layettes for hospitals;
- giving Bibles to all third graders;
- giving Little Visit Devotionals at baptisms;
- using the Living Word cups as a gift for visitors;
- we would like to give support to someone on the mission field or in seminary;
- service projects at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

If you have any additional ideas, please contact Janet Towner or Bonnie Hansen. We are also looking into putting together a new cookbook - start thinking about your favorite recipes to submit.

We have also put together a tentative calendar:

October 7 - Participate in the Human Prayer Chain between New London and Spicer
October 20 - Mexican Dinner
October 27- Regional LWML Rally
November - Thanksgiving Servant Project
December 13 - Decorate the church for Christmas - Church is invited to help
January - Card Party at the Dauk's
February - Progressive Supper
March - Servant Project
April - Spring LWML Rally
April or May - Mother Daughter Brunch
June/July - Servant Projects
August - Ice Cream Social
September - Ladies Retreat

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CTI Music Ministries (Carpenter's Tools International)

September 30 @ Living Word

A music team from CTI Music Ministries, an international music ministry, will be leading worship music at Living Word on Sunday, Sept. 30, during the 10:30 worship service.

Team Members Include:

Brooke Pearson (New London, MN) Vocals
Joe Lee (Flushing, NY) vocals/keys
Vanita Jones (Dillsburg, PA) Guitar/vocals
Joe Gomez (San Francisco, CA) (Guitar/vocals)
Matt Duncan (Jacksonville, IL) drums
Laura Schuh (Woodbridge, IL) bass guitar/vocals
Rebekah Fleck (Lancaster, KY) sound tech/team leader

CTI Music Ministries has been sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the gifts of music, drama, and personal testimonies for over 30 years all over the world. Currently, here in the United States, two teams are traveling to churches, schools, colleges, prisons, and other locations sharing these gifts and their stories of overseas ministry; challenging others to a greater awareness and involvement in missions. During the musicians one-year commitment, they also raise support and recruit other young musicians to join our short-term music teams that minister during the summer with established Christian ministries worldwide.

CTI brings the joy of worship and the excitement of missions together in a concert of modern music and relevant testimonies of the work God is doing here and abroad. One pastor observed, "What an amazing mirror of Christ's love that was shining in our midst."

At CTI, we are mobilizing musicians passionate about sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There will be an opportunity for interested musicians (ages 16-30) to audition for a summer or full-time team after the worship service.

So That the World May Know...

Financing Info Meeting

September 9 at 11:45 (after worship) George Miller, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund rep from the Minnesota North District will walk us through the various financing options for putting up a building.

Capital Fund Raising Campaign:

"When we follow where God guides, He always provides."

As of this week we thank the Lord for the commitments we have received from 27 families with gifts totaling \$90,170. Added to the \$32,000 we have remaining after purchasing land we have \$122,000 - nearly 2/3 of the way toward our goal of \$190,000 ! Pledge cards can still be placed in the offering plate during offering.

Reminder: Please use a separate "So That The World May Know" envelope for your building fund contributions. Thanks so much!

Pie and Ice Cream Social Fund raiser Results:

We raised \$350 for our building fund, but more importantly we had a great time working together making and serving pies and ice cream. Thanks to everyone who helped !

Building Committee People Needed

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

Tell Us Your Building 'Wish List'

Beginning Sunday, September 9, everyone will have an opportunity to give direction to our Building Committee by sharing your "wish list" for the new building. We will have a different "Wish List" each week. For example, on September 9, we will record our SANCTUARY 'wish list' items. On September 16, we will record YOUTH AREA 'wish list items', etc... We will have one 'wish list' per Sunday until we have wish lists for the entire building (and land). Start thinking about your 'wish list' items. (If you can't be in attendance the Sunday we do a specific 'wish list,' you can simply add yours the following week.

Please keep in mind, these are 'wish list' items. We won't be able to incorporate all of them into the building, but they will let

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our Building Committee know what we feel is important.

Thanks in advance for your input!
"So That the World May Know" Team

C.U.E. News...

Introducing CUE...

The CUE (Churches Uniting Everyone) are people from area churches who have been meeting throughout the summer.

The vision of CUE is:

- To unite caring and compassionate adults to work collaboratively to reach out and transform, strengthen, and support our youth.
- To facilitate various opportunities where young people may experience Christian Fellowship.
- To bring together the wisdom of Christian leaders from area churches to better serve our youth.
- To learn and enrich one another's ministries to, for, and with youth.
- To utilize the area churches' resources to positively impact our youth

Praying as a Community: Human Prayer Chain

There is Power in Prayer! Do you believe that? Do you know that the top two killers of our youth are alcohol and drug related accidents and suicide. As you read this, there is someone in our community who is in need of prayer. The CUE (Churches Uniting Everyone) needs your help.

On October 7th, 2007 at 3:30 pm, we are going to make a human Prayer Chain along the bike path between New London and Spicer. Our goal is to spiritually and physically unite our two communities in prayer. This afternoon of prayer will also contain a prayer in unison at 4:06.

Please mark this date on your calendar. Watch for upcoming details in the Lakes Area Review and your church publications.

Rally Sunday...

Sunday School Kicks Off September 9 !

Rally Sunday is September 9th. We will be having Sunday School between services, (9:15) followed by a meal after the second service. The picnic style meal (provided by the Sunday School) will be served by Sunday School students and teachers.

After the meal, George Miller (Minnesota North District finance rep) will be talking to the congregation regarding financing options for the new church building. During this time games/activities will be provide for the younger children.

The schedule for Sunday School is:

9:15-9:25 Opening devotion, and offering

9:25-10:05 Lesson time

10:05-10:15 Music, and Closing

Since Sunday school is between services, it is much appreciated if the children arrive on time. Also please make sure that they bring an offering (if at all possible).

"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).

Tammy Wachter leads the class. For those of you who don't know Tammy, she has been teaching the pre-schoolers in Sunday School this year. Tammy brings a wealth of experience training young kids (and their parents). She has been a childcare provider for over 25 years and also travels around the nation conducting training sessions for other childcare providers.

The goal of this class is to not only give some biblical guidance for parenting, but to also help you connect with other young parents in our congregation (moral support).

If you haven't done so already, we really hope you'll be able to join us. (By the way, this isn't a class that you will be "lost" in if you have to miss a week.)

God bless your efforts to "train up your children in the way they should go."

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Opportunities to Grow...

Wednesday study: Revelation

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 as we begin a study of

2 Peter: How to recognize (and deal with) False Teaching

Sunday Morning Adult Study

9:15 a.m. The Gospel on TV ???

We'll take a look at some TV programs - past and present - and see how the message of the Gospel is presented in through the media. We'll start with the old Andy Griffith Show. We'll also encourage you to look for hints of the Gospel in the shows/movies you watch each week. Please join us.

Senior High Study

See Pastor for Details

All Stars 4 Jesus

3rd - 6th Graders

We will take our annual "Bike to DQ" trip after school on Friday, September 7. Bring your bike to school. We'll leave from there and head down the trail to DQ. We'll return to New London about 5:30

Read Through the Bible

Starting October 1.

Watch for details.

