



“What Ministry “wins” have you had this past month that have moved Living Word forward in spiritual and numerical growth?”

This question was posed by Rev. Michael Ruhl, the Director for the Center for US Missions for the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. Pastor Ruhl has been an integral part of our building and mission planning since leading our strategic planning session in September 2011.

Here are some of the answers we came up with at our January Mission and Ministry Team meeting. (It's quite likely we missed a few...)

- We received two new families as members on January 6:
The Jaspersons: Nate, Angie, Travis and Carson
The Quigleys: Kerry and Leone

You can read about the Quigleys in this month's newsletter and the Jaspersons next month.

- We held the first baptism in our new building:
Austin Lyle Hjelle, son of Kelly and Adam Hjelle, was baptized into the family of the Triune God on January 20. (See pictures elsewhere in this newsletter.)
- We sent two couples to a training session to learn how to teach a parenting course called "The Daily Dozen of Christian Parenting" here at Living Word.

Parents (and grandparents) look for the initial session next month led by Jason and Sarah Miller, Pastor David and Violet. (Course details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter).

- The Elders are excited about planning our annual Friendship Sunday.

Friendship Sunday will be February 10. The men of Living Word are hosting a Fish Fry (and Swedish Meatball) Brunch after worship.

- Consistent and increased involvement in Bible studies.
Our Men's Study began studying the book of Revelation in January.

We have had a great time digging into the book where Jesus unveils the future - and it's looking pretty bright.

The Mom's and Women's study groups finished a study called "The Genius of Generosity" and will be starting to take a look at "Keys to Understanding the Bible."

- We celebrated the first Christmas in our new home.

From our Sunday School Christmas Program on December 16 through our First Candlelight Christmas Eve service, celebrating the birth of Christ in our new building was a great blessing that we've looked forward to for years!

- January was the first month in recent memory that our monthly "Mission-Congregation support" from District was not needed!

God has blessed us with generous offerings at the end of the year.

- One of our Elders, Troy Hansen is hosting Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* class.

Seven families - including two from outside the congregation - are learning the Christian principles of money management each Sunday evening.

- Consistent youth attendance at activities, classes and service projects.

From our dedicated acolyte guys to our Sunday School classes to Confirmation to Sunday evening youth group to providing childcare for *Financial Peace University* our young people are demonstrating that they are not just the future of the church. They are truly an integral part of the church *today!*

- We have received a beautiful cross for the exterior front of our building.

The cross was given in memory of Living Word charter member Randall Nissen by his family. We will hold a special "Cross dedication" as soon as the weather warms and we are able to mount the cross on the front of the building.

Praise God for what He is doing through Living Word !

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net