

October 2011 Newsletter



"Communicating the Love of Jesus"
Worship Hours:

Christian Growth Hour: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church

Located on the West of Spicer on County Rd 10 in old Prairie Meadows building PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273

Phone: 320-796-0742

Website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

What we aim to do:

Make disciples for Jesus - as we go, wherever we go.

What we aim to be:

A joyful, caring, Christ-centered family of God.

Question for Pastor...

I'm wondering about cremation. I'd prefer it to burial, but is it a sin?

This question came during a recent Bible study. We looked in the Bible to see if God addressed the issue in His Word. We didn't find any direct "Thou shalt" or "Thou shalt not" instructions regarding burial vs. cremation, so I promised to check further. I started with the LC-MS website and their FAQ section. Here's what I found there:

The LCMS has no official position on cremation. Cremation is increasing in favor, in part because of space limitations in some cemeteries and because of health considerations. The primary reason for the increase in cremations is economic, however, since it avoids such costs as the purchase of coffins and cemetery plots and substantially lowers the expense of a funeral.

Some Christians continue to oppose cremation, noting that cremation is never referred to positively in the Bible. It is true that early Christians rejected cremation and preferred burial because Jesus Himself was buried and because Greek philosophy looked down on the physical creation and thought that only souls, not bodies, survived death. The Christian burial of bodies was viewed as a way to proclaim the belief that our bodies will be raised from the dead.

In their textbook *Pastoral Theology* (used at our Synod's seminaries), LCMS Pastors Norbert H. Mueller and George Kraus offer this perspective: "Not too long ago, the church viewed cremation negatively. Because the general public associated the practice with heathen religions and/or an attempt to disprove the possibility of the resurrection, Christians were reluctant to consider

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it. In itself, the practice has no theological significance and may be used in good conscience." Synod's Lutheran Service Book Agenda, approved by the LCMS in convention, includes an instruction (rubric) for the committal of a person's ashes, encouraging burial or interment and discouraging the scattering of the ashes.

Those Christians facing the death of a loved one or planning their own funerals are always encouraged to consider the opportunity a Christian's funeral offers to give witness to our faith in Jesus Christ's victory over death and His promise of the resurrection of our bodies for eternal life (John 6:40, 44, 54).

It is therefore beneficial, as we face such occasions and the decisions they involve, to seek our pastor's support, advice, and counsel regarding the entirety of the funeral, including the question of cremation. However, this is a matter of Christian freedom and no Christian who chooses to have a loved one cremated rather than buried should be led to think that such a decision is sinful or in opposition to the Word of God.

Thanks for asking, Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Bible Trivia Questions...

(also from the tent cards on tables at our Mexican Fiesta Dinner)

- What is the only domesticated animal not mentioned in the Bible?
- 2. What animal is mentioned most frequently in both the New and Old Testaments?
- 3. In how many days did God create the Earth?
- 4. What word appears exactly 773,692 times in the King James Bible?
- 5. What weapons was the giant Goliath carrying when he was slain by David?
- 6. How many books of the Bible are named for women?
- 7. What religious movement began with Martin Luther's attack on the sale of indulgences?
- 8. If God is all loving, why doesn't everyone go to Heaven?

Answers on page 20...

E-Mail Humor...

In a certain Sunday School one morning Little Joey raised his hand and proceeded to ask a question that had perplexed him for some time.

"Teacher," said little Joey, "there's something I can't figure out. According to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?"

"Right."

"And the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?"

"Er, right."

"And the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?"

"Again you're right."

"And the Children of Israel fought the Egyptians and the Children of Israel were always doing something important, right?"

"All that is right, too," agreed the teacher. "So what's your question, Joey?"

"What were all the grown-ups doing?"

An elderly lady was well-known for her faith and for her boldness in talking about it. For instance, she would stand on her front porch and shout, "PRAISE THE LORD!"

Next door to her lived an atheist who would get so angry at her proclamations he would shout, "There is no Lord!!"

Hard times set in on the elderly lady, and she prayed for God to send her some assistance. She stood on her porch and shouted, "PRAISE THE LORD. GOD, I NEED FOOD!! I AM HAVING A HARD TIME. PLEASE LORD, SEND ME SOME GROCER-IES!!"

The next morning the lady went out on her porch and noted a large bag of groceries and shouted, "PRAISE THE LORD!"

The neighbor jumped from behind a bush and said, "Aha! I told you there is no Lord. I bought those groceries, God didn't."

The lady started jumping up and down and clapping her hands and said, "PRAISE THE LORD!! He not only sent me groceries, but He made the devil pay for them. Praise the Lord!"

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E-Mail Wisdom... (received via e-mail)

"THAT'S NOT MY JOB

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

NOTE: Here at Living Word we have a couple of those jobs that "Anybody" can do.....

Sharing the Love of God In Practical Ways...

Immediate Need for Children's Church Leaders

We are in immediate need of Children's Church Leaders. The only pre-requisite is a love for Jesus and for His kids. You read a Bible story or Object Lesson, take prayer requests from the kids and lead them in prayer; and do an activity with the kids that reinforces the lesson. Lessons are provided. You simply show up and lead. Please talk to Pastor David if you could help lead Children's Church.

Need for More 'Make a Meal' Volunteers

We frequently have people going through difficult circumstances who could use a meal. Can you fix one for someone? We are updating our list of "Make-A-Meal" volunteers. Let Pastor know if you could occasionally fix a meal for someone. Thanks!

You can help with our Support of Heidy

We have committed to \$32/month to help pay for basic needs and Christian education opportunities for Heidy. Donations may be placed in the "Heidy" box on the usher table at church. Thank you!

That for a day: Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?



The LINK Update...

News from The Link Oct. 2011 Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to

From the director... As previously announced here, The Link has been in the middle of a challenge grant campaign. For each

dollar donated to The Link between June 30 and Sept. 30, 2011, The Thrivent Foundation will supplement by 50 cents up to \$10,000. To maximize this challenge our goal was to raise \$20,000.

As this goes to press, we are only \$4500 away from our goal. I think we will make it! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! As I

"JUST THE BASICS"

Household Item Distribution Event

ALL FREE OF CHARGE- NO PROOF OF INCOME REQUIRED First Come-First Serve!

Saturday, October 15th from 9am-11am Faith Lutheran Church 310 Medayto Dr. Spicer

Come and receive over 20 different items that we all need to stock our shelves at home! Bring your own box and fill it with things like:

paper towels



- > toilet paper
- laundry detergent
- toiletries, and more!

Be watching for the collection at your church!

have said many times over, your donations and support help to keep people sheltered, safe and

warm

Naomi Mahler, Director The Link



Find The Link on Facebook!

Send donations c/o of The Link's fiscal host, Faith Lutheran Church, 310 Medayto Dr, Spicer, MN 56288.

Designate your check for The Link.

If you have any questions or concerns contact Naomi Mahler, the director at 320-796-2522 or flc naomi@tds.net

By the Numbers... Link Outreach Assistance

(rent, utilities, car insurance, auto repairs) Year-To-Date has helped over 80 households with a total of \$ 32,000

New London Link Household Exchange

Serves 20-25 households/ month (avg) 15 households donate /month (avg)

Volunteers serve 10+ hrs/ week @ NL Blda

Tuesdays Table

Attendance 130-150/week # of Volunteers 20 /wk avg Page 6

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Bible Fun Facts...

(from the tent cards on tables at our Mexican Fiesta Dinner)

- 1. The word Bible comes from the Greek word Biblia, meaning books. The Bible is not one book but a collection of 66 books - like a small library. (Including sections of history, biography, poetry, prophecy and reference - but no "fiction" section in this library!)
- 2. An easy way to remember how many books are in the Bible is to recall the numbers 3 and 9. There are 39 books in the Old Testament. Multiply 3 times 9 to equal 27 -- the number of books in the New Testament.
- The longest word in the Bible is Mahershalalhashbaz. (Isaiah 8:1) - the name of the Prophet Isaiah's second son.
- 4. The oldest individual in the Bible was Methuselah, who died at the age of 969. There were two men in the Bible who never died! Their names were Enoch and Elijah, and God brought them to heaven.
- 5. The words, "Don't Be Afraid" appear 365 times in the Bible -- the same amount of days in the year.
- 6. The Bible is the largest seller of all books published. (It's also been said that the Bible is the most shoplifted book.)
- 7. Isaiah prophesied most about the coming of Jesus. Isaiah 52:13-53:12 lists more than 20 things about Jesus, all of which came true.
- 8. The word 'testament' means 'contract' or 'covenant'. Jesus dving for our sins is a New Testament -- we are no longer under the law of the Old Testament, but have salvation through faith in Jesus.

Thanks !!!

.... To Julie Bajari, Pam Johnson and Laurel Iverson for organizing our Mexican Fiesta Dinner last weekend.

... And to everyone who helped make or serve food, sell tickets, set up or take down.

If you have someone you'd like to thank for serving, please email their name and how they served to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

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Building Update...

As mentioned last month and again in the vision above, being in a new building is a major part of our vision. At the recommendation of our planning weekend facilitator, Rev. Mike Ruhl of the LC-MS Center for US Missions, the Living Word Mission and Ministry Team has appointed a 5-member committee whose goal it is to get us into a building next spring. Listed below are the committee members.

- Jamie Iverson chair
- Mark Fuglie
- Mona Hjelle
- Brent Sawatzky
- Kevin Welsh
- Jason Miller alternate

Committee Chair Jamie Iverson has these thoughts to share:

Our overall goal is to come up with a building plan that will best suit the congregation's needs while staying within our budget. There is a lot of excitement among the committee members, I think we've learned a whole lot from our previous efforts and we're eager to take the best ideas and put together a viable plan. We're starting out with a small group at this point, but once the initial planning is completed, I foresee everyone in the congregation getting involved in some form or another. I think it will be a great chance for everyone to really come together and help take this vision that God has given us and make it a reality. After all, this isn't really about a building, it's about impacting our community for Jesus and the best way we can do that is in our own facility.

At this point, I ask that everyone pray for the new building and also pray for the building committee. I know there are forces out there that do not want this building project to happen. Thankfully, our God is much more powerful than them. But we need to pray and ask that God's will be done with this project.

I also ask that if anyone has any questions or concerns, please talk to me. I know that even in a small church, communication is not always the best, so please come to me if you have a question about something.

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Our Vision Statement...

Based on input from participants at our August Envisioning Weekend, the following is "What We See Three Years Down the Road." This vision was adopted by the Living Word Mission and Ministry Team at their September meeting.

We see a new, multi-functional, family-friendly, kidfriendly building that is also available for use by other aroups in the community when not used for our worship, studies and meetings. The building is situated on our land, which is home to a large playground and community garden and is also available for use by community groups. We are expanding our outreach ministry through more small group studies, our Make-a-Meal program, Sunday school, fellowship activities for young families, youth activities and by providing transportation to and from church for those who can't drive. We have a prayer group that meets regularly. We also see people of all ages growing closer to their Lord and to each other. Many of them are involved in worship using their talents in music and skits and visuals that enhance the message - a message that remains true to the Bible and focused on Jesus Christ as risen Lord and Savior. We are looking beyond ourselves and planning for a mission/ministry 'outpost' (possibly in Paynesville)

We are currently seeking people who could take this written vision and turn it into a visual - a drawing/painting/graphic. Please talk to Pastor David if you would be willing to create something like this. Thanks!

Since football season is here...



A three-year-old regularly watched football games with his dad. So much so, that he knew some of the signals the referee makes.

On a recent Sunday, the three-year-old attended church with his family. As the pastor raised his hands high to offer a blessing, the child interrupted the service by shouting, "Touchdown!" (Maybe he wasn't too far off.)

Thot for a day:

rarely make history

Women who behave

October- Daily Devotionals

The Bible is filled with songs, not all of which are in the Psalms. Song express thoughts and emotions about specific situations in life - situations and emotions we can relate to. That's why people love them. As you read some of "God's Favorite Songs", record your thoughts about.

Emotions (E) demonstrated, Principles (P) about God and life that are taught, Mental Pictures (MP) that stick in your mind, and the Life-Situation (L-S) you would find this song helpful for.

** Passages with asterisks have songs or hymns based on them. See if you can figure out what the songs/hymns are.

	Wk of Oct 2 DAILY READINGS	. God's Favorite Songs - in the PSALMS
Oct 3	Psalm 103 [™] E:	MP
		L-S:
Oct 4	Psalm 107 E:	MP
		L-S:
Oct 5		MP
		L-S:
Oct 6	Psalm 116 E:	MP
	P:	L-S:
Oct 7	Psalm 118 th E:	MP
	P:	L-S:
Oct 8	Psalm 121 E:	MP
		L-S:
	Wk of Oct 9 DAILY READINGS	God's Favorite Songs - in the PSALMS
Oct 10	Psalm 127 E:	MP
	P:	L-S:
Oct 11	Psalm 130** E:	MP
	P:	L-S:
Oct 12	Psalm 139** E:	MP
		L-S:
Oct 13		MP
	P:	L-S:
Oct 14	Psalm 145 E:	MP
	P:	L-S:
Oct 15	Psalm 146** E:	MP
	P:	L-S:
	Wk of Oct 16 DAILY READINGS .	More of God's Favorite Songs
Oct 17		MP
	P:	L-S:

"God's Favorite Songs"

Oct 18	Psalm150**E:	MP
		L-S:
Oct 19		MP
		L-S:
Oct 20		MP
		L-S:
Oct 21		MP
		L-S:
Oct 22		MP
		L-S:
	Wk of Oct 23D/	NLY READINGS More of God's Favorite Songs
Oct 24		MP
		L-S:
Oct 25		MP
	P:	L-S:
Oct 26		MP
	P:	L-S:
Oct 27		MP
		L-S:
Oct 28		MP
		L-S:
Oct 29		MP
		L-S:
Oct 31	Luke 1:68-79 E:	DAILY READINGS More of God's Favorite Son
	P:	L-S:
Nov 1		MP
	P:	L-S:
Nov 2		MP
	P:	L-S:
Nov 3		MP
		L-S:
Nov 4		MP
		1.0:
Nov 5		L-S: MP

October 2011 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	3	Men's Group Does Not Meet This Week 8:30 Men's Softball	9:30 Mams' Study Noon Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	6	7	8 -12)
9 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Outreach Meeting	6:00 MMT mtgw/ Dave Strohschein Our District Mission & Ministry Rep.	11	9:30 Mcms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:30 LWML 6:30 Confirmation	13	14	3:30 HAYRIDE from Church to our Land with a BONFIRE and hotdog roast
9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	17	6:00 Men's Group 7:15 Elders Mtg	9:30 Mams' Study Noon Bible Study NO CONFIRMATION	6:30 Sunday School Mtg 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	21	22
23 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	24	25	9:30 Mams' Study Noon Bible Study 6:00 FALL VOTERS' MTG 6:30 Confirmation	27	28	29
30 REFORMATION SUNDAY 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Reformation Worship 11:15 Fellowship	31	Nov 1 6:00 Men's Group	9:30 Mcms' Study Noon Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	Nov 3	Nov 4	Nov 5

Upcoming Schedules

Scripture Readers

Oct 2	Bryson wacnter
Oct 9	Wendy Robbin
Oct 16	Mona Hjelle
Oct 23	Phil Iverson
Oct 30	Kevin Welsh
Nov 7	Linda Dilley
Nov 14	Mark Fuglie
Nov 21	Tammy Fuglie
Nov 28	Tammy Wachter

Confirmation Meal

Oct 5	Pam Johnson
Oct 12	Marcia Welsh
Oct 19	No Class
Oct 26	Vicky Nelson
Nov 2	Pam Johnson
Nov 9	Marcia Welsh
Nov 16	Julie Bajari
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Eve Worship - no meal

Wendy Robbin / Stacy Olson

Fellowship Servers

Oct 2

Oct 9	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Oct 16	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Oct 23	Elaine Abraham / Mona Hjelle
Oct 30	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
Nov 7	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Nov 14	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Nov 21	Wendy Robbin / Stacy Olson
Nov 28	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
<u>Elders</u>	

Oct 2	Jason Miller & Troy Hansen
Oct 16	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
Nov 6	Jason Miller & Troy Hansen
Nov 20	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp

Children's Church Schedule

	Citation Concurs
Oct	Leaders Needed
Nov	Leaders Needed

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Usher & Greeter Schedule Ushers Greeter Oct 2 Lonnie Robbin & Jason Olson Bryson W Oct 9 Mark Fuglie & Time Geer Laurel I Linda Dilley & Mona Hielle Oct 16 Bonnie H Oct 23 Kevin & Noah Welsh Oct 30 Jamie & Phil Iverson Nov 7 Vern Samuelson & Wally Abraham Bryson W Nov 14 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen Laurel I Nov 21 Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter Bonnie H Troy Hansen & Brady Sharp Nov 28

*Fill-in Greeter Bonnie Hansen 796-5605

Meet Your Mission & Ministry Team...

Elder Kevin Welsh

Hi, my name is Kevin Welsh - Marcia's husband and Mariah and Noah's dad. I have been a contractor for the past 21 years. When I'm not constructing or remodeling buildings I like to hunt and fish with Noah, go to movies with my family and just enjoy the outdoors.

I've been a member at Living Word for at least ten years. I really like the family atmosphere and the fact that 'everyone knows everyone.' My favorite Bible story is the "Prodigal Son." It shows that God will take anyone back into his family - no matter the sin - if you ask Him for forgiveness. I look forward to God using me as an Elder and Building Committee member.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY AT 11:09 EVERYDAY

(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 to be "impudent" and PRAY for things like

- · Safety for harvesters and hunters
- · The Holy Spirit to grow your faith
- For God to do what you can't.
- Pray for God to give you faith and courage to do what you can.
- For wisdom to know the difference between what only God can do and what He calls you to do.
- Pray for God to empower us to take our Envisioning Weekend plans and continue to make them a reality

Thot for a day:

Opportunities for Growth...

The Daily Bible Readings ... God's Favorite Songs

There are lots of songs in the Bible - not all of which are in the Psalms. Songs set emotions down in words and music. Emotions that grow out of life-situations we can relate to. That's why people love songs.

Join one of our small group studies this month as we finish going through some of "God's favorite songs" and finding:

- 1) Emotions demonstrated,
- Principles about God and life that are taught,
- 3) Mental Pictures each psalm creates and
- the Life-Situation in which you would find this psalm helpful.
 p.s. If you can't join us in person, use the October Daily Readings to join us in spirit.

Men's "Bible and Burgers" Study

1st and 3rd Tuesdays @ 6:00 p.m. Guys: Join us for our study.

Wednesday Morning Mom's Study

Wednesdays @ 9:30 Childcare is provided

Wednesday Noon Study

Open to anyone who can attend - guys and gals of all ages.

CONFIRMATION - WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30

Parents provide the pre-class meal @ 6:15

Sunday Morning Study

Sunday mornings at 8:45

In our Sunday morning study we will be looking at some of the chapters you would "tear out and keep if you could only have one page.

Sunday School @ 9:00 -

More details in the "Sunday School" section on page 18.

October Discipleship Verse...



Blessed are those who find strength in you. Their hearts are on the road (journey) that leads to you.

Psalm 84:5

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Upcoming Events...

HAYRIDE TO OUR LAND - Sat. Oct 15 @ 3:30

A Sunday School - sponsored event.

We will start out at the church and ride the hay wagon through the backroads and end up at our land where we will have a bonfire and roast hot dogs, etc... for supper. Please plan to join us for this for some good, old-fashioned fun!

Bible Sunday - October 16

Students in Grades 3 - 5 will receive Bibles of their own. Families of younger students will receive a "Read With Me" picture Bible.

Fall Voter's Assembly - Wed. Oct 26 @ 6:00 p.m.

To adopt Mission and Ministry Team's vision, goals and budget for 2012

Membership Class - Coming Later This Month

Pastor is planning a "What does the Missouri Synod believe" class for those interested in membership at Living Word. Please talk to Pastor if you are interested. We'll find a class time that works best.

Trunk or Treat:

Candy! Costumes! Vehides! Party time on Monday, October 31st with Trunk or Treat where everyone dresses up and brings their vehicles to the Spicer Mall parking lot to let kids get treats from our trunks. LOTS of fun for everyone. Please talk to Bryson Wachter @894-6378 if you have questions or would like to participate or donate treats. Thanks

congratulations!...

- Brandon and Shanna Sharp on your new home.
- Brady and Amanda Sharp on your new home.
- Pastor David and Violet on moving back into your home.
- Parker Hjelle on your baptism into the family of Christ.
- Becca Dauk on getting your pilot's license.
- Alyssa Wachter on your new position in Minneapolis

If you have "congratulations" to pass along for someone, please email Pastor: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net Thanks!

Sunday School News...

Our theme verse for the year is Psalm 84:5 - Blessed are those who find strength in you. Their hearts are on the road (journey) that leads to you.

Our Teachers:

- Sunday School Chair/Early Elementary Teacher Violet Dauk
- Co-Preschool to Kindergarten Teachers Jason & Sarah Miller,
- Brent and Alicia Sawatzky and Wendy Robbin
- Late Elementary Teacher Tim Geer
- Youth Director and Teacher Bryson Wachter
- Parents and Two's Teacher Tammy Wachter
- Music Shanna Sharp
- Helper/Planner Donna Peterson
- Helper/Planner Amanda Sharp
- Children's Church Chair and Helper/Planner Mona Hjelle
- Pastor & Confirmation Teacher- Rev. David Dauk

Our Schedule: 9:00 - 9:45

9:00-9:30 - Bible Story, Lesson and Craft

9:30-9:35 - Memory Work

9:35-9:45 - Music and Closing

Our Lessons for the Month:

Oct 2. The Birth of Moses

Oct 9 God appears to Moses in a Burning Bush

Oct 16 10 plagues prepare God's people for leaving Egypt

Oct 23 The Passover

Oct 30 Crossing the Red Sea

Our Family-Fun Activity:

<u>Saturday, October 15 @ 3:30</u> - Hayride from church to our land where we will have a bonfire and roast hotdogs for supper. The congregation is invited to join us.

Bible Sunday

Since the God's Word is the foundation of all that we believe, on Sunday, October 16, students in Grades 3 - 5 will receive Bibles of their own. Families of younger students will receive a "Read With Me" picture Bible.

Our Next Meeting

Thursday, October 20 @ 6:30 - prior to MMT meeting. Thanks to everyone for their love for God's kids.

> Violet Dauk Director, Christian Education - Sunday School

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Youth News...

Youth Studies

Sunday morning @ 9:00:

Grades 7-9+ looking @ what Sunday School stories mean for us and what we can learn from them.

Post-Confirmation or Pre-Confirmation:

Looking to start up a study on Wednesday night @ 7:00 for either grades 9+ or 5th and 6th, so be looking for more info and let me know if this interests you

October Lock In

Planning on having a youth lock-in on **Saturday, October**29th @ 7:00 for anyone in 5th grade or above. Please put this on your schedule and plan on inviting lots of friends. The more people... the more fun. Also, bring a change of clothes and your favorite movie (we might watch it).

Youth Movie Night:

We will plan on getting together on Saturday, October 22nd to see how many movies we can watch in a night and how much fun we can have doing it. Please plan on coming and bringing your friends.

Fall Fundraiser

In October, we will be starting a fundraiser for fun. Be on the lookout for the start up of this because we will have a lot of fun and need a lot of people to help make it successful.

Please contact Bryson Wachter @894-6378 or like me on facebook for more information or to keep up on events in the future.

Latest Letter from Heidy...

(The girl from Ecuador we support through Compassion, Int'l) Dear friends,

Hi, I send you greetings with much love and affection from far away. I hope you are all doing very well. In the project I am learning much more about Jesus Christ's name from the Bible. We have also learned about sexuality, friendship and nutrition. Which sports do you play? I want you to pray for my schooling, for my family and for my decision about not eating junk food. I must close for now, hoping to write to you soon again.

Heidy

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Inspirational Story...

One day a very wealthy father took his son to a very humble farm home. The father wanted the son to see and appreciate everything they have. For the son was never near poverty. The father decided to spend one day and one night with his son at this very humble home. On the next day after spending the night and returning to their beautiful mansion. The father wanted to hear his son's reaction towards the educating trip.

Father: So son what do you think about the trip. Did you see how poor people live?

Son: Yes father.

Father: What do you think? What have you learn from this trip?

Son: I have learn that they have four dogs and we only have one. I have learned that we have a small garden and they have an entire forest. I have learned that we have a small stream on our back yard and they have a full river that has no end. I have learned that our back yard goes to the end of our property and they have an entire horizon. I have learned that we have lamps on our back yard to keep us from the dark and they have the stars. Thank you for showing me how poor we really are.

We sometimes don't realize the blessings of our heavenly father. And that is why we need to be like kids in order to enter into heaven. (Luke 18:17) Lets not worry about what we have or what we need, have faith in God and he will provide. (Luke 12:22)

Trivia Answers from page 3...

- 1. A Cat.
- 2. The Sheep
- Six. On the Seventh day God rested.
- 1. Amen
- A sword and a spear, according to I Samuel 17:45.
- 6. Two Ruth and Esther
- The Reformation.
- 8. God is indeed all-loving, but as a sinless God, He also cannot let sin into his presence. Because of this He sent Jesus to die so everyone's sins can be forgiven and have the opportunity to spend eternity in His presence. Everyone who accepts Jesus as their Savior also accepts His gift of forgiveness and will go to heaven. (Those who don't accept Jesus and what He did are simply declining a gift that God offers to everyone.)

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Story Behind The Song...

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

October 31 is an important day in the Church. It is Reformation Day, the day Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg castle. That event served to "kick off" what has become known as "The Reformation" - the effort to reform the church and bring it back to the true teaching that we are saved by God's grace, not by the things we do or pay. So, it is fitting that this month we look at "The Battle Hymn of the Reformation" whose words and music were written by Martin Luther.

The one hymn that most symbolizes the Reformation is "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." In it, Martin Luther proclaims his confidence in God and rallies all Christians to war against evil. Basing his words on Psalm 46, he victoriously states "We will not fear, for God has willed His truth to triumph through us." Those persecuted and martyred for their convictions during the Reformation sang these words.

Luther understood the power of evil: After he posted his ninety-five theses on the door of Wittenberg's Castle in 1517, he faced years of trials and persecution, he was excommunicated from the Roman church, and he continually faced threats against his life and his freedom. Other reformers had been persecuted and burned at the stake.

But he also knew "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in danger" (Psalm 46:1) and so he wrote "A Mighty Fortress is our God," proclaiming boldly that "the prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him . . . one little word shall fell him." (Of course we know that "little" word is Jesus, the "word of God."

Since he wrote it (somewhere between 1527 and 1529), Luther's hymn has been translated into nearly every language. There are said to be over eighty English translations alone to this hymn. The version most used in the United States is the translation by Frederic Henry Hedge in 1852. (Our hymnal actually uses a "composite" - drawing on several different translations)

The first line of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is inscribed on the tomb of Martin Luther at Wittenberg. And its powerful words and tune continue to live. The hymn was sung at the funeral of President Dwight D. Eisenhower at the National Cathedral in Washington DC, March 1969. And it was also in-

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cluded in the National Service of Prayer and Remembrance, held shortly after the September 11, 2001 attacks against America. (You can even hear it as the doorbell chime tune of the Flanders family - Christian neighbors of the Homer Simpson family on the animated TV comedy)

Although it is nearly 500 years old, the hymn - like the Psalm it is based on - has great meaning for us today. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). With a beautiful reminder of that truth, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" gives us hope amidst the struggles of life. When the storms of life blow in around us, we can find refuge in the constant presence of God who truly is our Mighty Fortress - our shelter from the storm.

In this hymn we also find words of battle. We're reminded of our "ancient foe"—the devil who constantly strives to pull us down with his weapon of choice: deceit. He often strikes at our weakest point, telling us lies and tempting us to give in to despair and sin. He's a formidable enemy, one we cannot defeat on our own power. If we trust in our own strength—as the hymn so eloquently says, "our striving would be losing."

But we also must remember that Satan is a doomed enemy. And in the strains of "A Mighty Fortress," we are reminded that Satan won't triumph. We're fighting on the right side - God's side - and because of that we will win the battle. The victory is ours, but only when we turn to the Mighty Fortress and follow Him into battle.

So the next time you're surrounded by stormy weather, when Satan's attacks spark fear, pain, or indecision, remember the words of our hymn. And instead of trying to win the battle with your own feeble efforts, run instead to your Mighty Fortress. When you put your struggles in the hands of God, you can be confident that you'll survive the battle - and come out on the winning side.

A Mighty Fortress is our God
A sword and shield victorious
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
And wins salvation for us
The old satanic foe Has swom to work us woe
His craft and pow'r are great And armed with cruel hate
On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide Our striving would be losing Were not the right Man on our side

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The Man of God's own choosing
You ask who this may be The Lord of Hosts is He
Christ Jesus mighty Lord God's only Son adored
He holds the field victorious

And though this world with devils filled
Should threaten to undo us
We will not fear, For God has willed
His truth to triumph through us
The prince of darkness grim We tremble not for him
His rage we can endure For lo! his doom is sure
One little Word shall fell him!

God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes who fear it
For God himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit
Were they to take our house Goods, honor, child or spouse
Though life be wrenched away They cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



You believe in one God, good! But the demons believe too, and tremble with fear. James 2:19