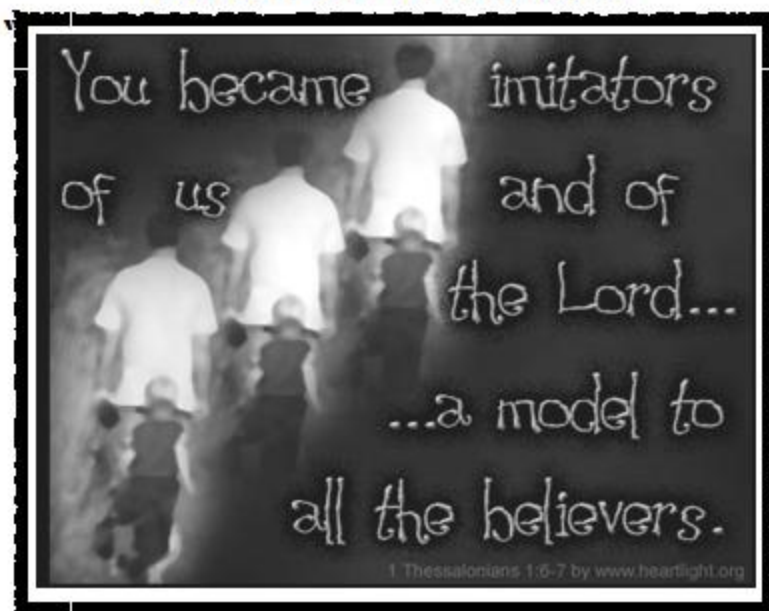


Living Word

Lutheran Church

LCMS

March 2012 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...

"What do you mean, too comfortable?"

When Jade Dols (see article on page 5) visited our Wednesday study groups, we were chatting beforehand. Jade had gone to kindergarten in the Prairie Meadows building that currently serves as 'home base' for Living Word. She asked me how the building works for us. I told her that it's been a great building for us... but that it was too comfortable. She didn't quite understand what I meant by that, so she asked the question listed above.



I told her that the building was in great shape and with two dedicated rooms, we just walk in and everything we need is there. We haven't had to "set up and take down" chairs and tables each week, and haven't needed to worship in the gym (like the Harbor Church did before us) where the acoustics are so bad you can't hear anything. It's quite comfortable. And that's the problem. It's so comfortable it seems we've lacked urgency to "take the next step" of getting into our own building. But thank God (literally) we are finally very close to taking that next step (see Building Update).

But there's a "bigger picture" aspect to getting too comfortable. Satan loves to get us comfortable with where we are at in our walk with Jesus, *so that we don't take the next step toward a "closer walk" with Him.*

After the Holy Spirit has brought us to place our trust in Jesus as our Lord (master) and Savior, His goal is for us to continue to become more like Jesus. In other words, after God has us on the "stairway to heaven" (by His grace, not our good deeds), He

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wants us to continually "take the next step" of becoming more like His Son while we are still on earth.

No matter which "step" we are on, it's a real challenge for each of us to keep from getting so comfortable that we don't seek to take that "next step."

Lent is a season where we focus on "walking with Jesus" as He heads to the cross. It's a tradition to "give something up for Lent," and if you are looking for something to "give up," I'd encourage you to ask God to show you what's keeping you from taking the "next step" in your walk with Jesus. Then ask for the strength to give that thing up.

I'd also encourage each of you to "take something up" for Lent. "Take up" something that will move you off your comfortable step and "up" to the next one.

In an effort to help us identify possible "next steps," each message on the Sundays in Lent will identify aspects of our lives as Christians where God wants us to keep becoming more like Jesus. We'll be challenged to "take the next step" in areas like "Loving God above all *things*," "Loving your neighbor as yourself," "tithes and offerings," "using our talents to help others," and "spending time with Jesus." Those challenges may make us uncomfortable - and that's good. God doesn't want us getting so comfortable ("complacent" may be a better word) that we quit taking the next step in our discipleship.

I started by addressing a question asked of me. I'll close by posing a question for you: "What is the 'next step' God is calling you to take as He seeks to help you become more like Jesus?" Ask God to show you. Then ask His help to take that step - and His help to resist the temptation to become too comfortable on the step you are on.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Thank You!...

Thank you for your visits, caroling and for your involvement in Sun. worship services at Glen Oaks. The residents and staff appreciate your kindness and your thoughtfulness.

God Bless

The Glen Oaks residents and staff



The LINK Update...

News from The Link March 2012

Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other.

From the Director....

Check out what's new!!

We are excited to announce the addition nurse of a **Community Parish Nurse** as a service of the New London Link at the Community Outreach Building. Based on the holistic parish nurse model, our nurse, Nurse Carla, will be available at the NL Link on most Thursdays from 10-2pm. She will be offering blood pressure checks. In addition, she will be able to provide information and referral about our area's health resources.

The Link strives to build community and we are happy to help build a healthier community in this way.

A Free Community Meal Every Tuesday at 6pm!

Tuesday's Table is a great way to enjoy some fellowship and conversation. Invite a friend! Volunteer to help!

TUESDAY'S TABLE

Join us Every Tuesday night at 6pm!

1st Tues @ Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer

2nd Tues @ Evangelical Covenant, NL

3rd Tues @ Faith Lutheran, Spicer

4th Tues @ Crossroads Methodist (March only)

5th Tues @ Hope Presbyterian, Spicer

Tuesday's Table is a great way to enjoy some fellowship and conversation. Invite a friend! Volunteer to help!

Furniture And Donations Needed!

The rooms at the New London Link are looking a little bare. We are happy to receive donations of *gently used* furniture, kitchen ward, linens, bedding, and appliances.

The New London Link is open Tuesdays from 2p- 6pm and Thursdays 10am-2pm to receive donations.

Views and Voices Project

Are you struggling to make ends meet? • Do you have trouble paying your bills? • Do you feel you have no voice? • Would you like to share your perspective with others? • Would you like to share your life experiences with others in a similar situation? • Do you like to take pictures? • Would you like to learn about photography?

The Link is currently recruiting lower income women age 55+ to be a part of The Views and Voices Project. Women will form a group to share with one another about their life situations - especially the struggles and barriers they face and what possible solutions they might create.

Participants will learn from a professional photographer tips for good picture taking, and then share their point of view through photos. At the end of 8 sessions, participants will create a group exhibit of their photos to share with the community at large. Cameras will be provided. For more information, contact Naomi, Director of The Link at 796-2522.

Check out our new website: www.thelinknls.org

Inspirational Message...

BRINGING JESUS TO THAILAND

Jade Dols, who grew up in New London and Kerkhoven, visited our Wednesday Bible study groups a couple weeks ago. Jade has spent the past year doing mission work in Africa and Thailand. She told about how God had worked to change her life and give her a passion for bringing Jesus and His love to people - especially in Thailand. Jade is now on her way back to Thailand and promised to keep us updated about her experiences there. This is the first update.



Jade Dols

"Nothing gets me more excited than seeing Jesus set the captives free. And nothing captivates my heart like His love. So I am on a journey into one of the darkest places on the earth: the sex industry of Thailand with one motive...to combat evil with LOVE and be a LIGHT in the darkness"

THAILAND...

Thailand was amazing! As soon as we arrived in Bangkok I knew that I was where He had called me to be. It was instantly home.

First we partnered with Night Light Ministries. Night Light helps to rescue women from prostitution. The work that they do is truly amazing. They have a center in the middle of one of the various red-light districts in Bangkok. We took teams into the streets, bars, and strip clubs with one mission: to bring the love of Jesus into the darkness. It was great to see

hearts and countenances change as women came into an encounter with pure, untainted love. Our team even baked a bunch of yummy cupcakes and we passed them out throughout the week, inviting to women to a Christmas party at Night Light's center. The Christmas party was a blast! Our team spent the day baking more cupcakes and preparing the center. We decorated like crazy and provided delicious food, games, a manicure station, and foot washing station. The women had a lot of fun and got filled up with both food and the love of Jesus.

During our time in Bangkok we also had numerous opportunities to meet, love on people and build relationships as we walked through the streets, night markets, went out to eat and rode the sky trains. The Lord set up many divine appointments, touching lives spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically.

WHAT'S NEXT?!

The Lord is bringing me back to Thailand to serve long-term ministering in one of the darkest places in the world: the sex industry. This won't be easy, but it will be worth it.

On Feb 26th I fly back to Bangkok to join a scouting trip with Iris Ministries. We will spend 2 weeks in Thailand, starting in Bangkok and then splitting between Pattaya and Issan. After 2 weeks, much of the team will fly to Cambodia and continue another 2 weeks there. However at that time I will stay back in Bangkok and begin to get settled in. The first order of business will be finding a place to live. It is my heart's desire to live in the slums with the poor, being completely immersed in the Thai culture. The second order of business will be language learning. Living in the slums will help a lot, but because the Thai language is tonal and the characters are completely different than the English alphabet, I plan to attend language school to help speed things up.

From my understanding, most of the team will be going back to their homes after the scouting trip, but a few other people will be staying on in Thailand right away. As the year progresses, more and more families will be coming back to stay and serve long-term. Our first year will be devoted to prayer, worship, and learning the language and culture. These components will be essential to the long-term vision of fighting the sex industry. This will also be a good time to connect with churches and local ministries that

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Thot for a day: Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.

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are doing the same thing. If we want to have a lasting impact we must be unified.

PRAYER NEEDS...

I have some very important prayer needs, and I would be honored and grateful if you could stand in the gap with me for them.

--Spiritual protection. Thailand is VERY dark, ESPECIALLY in the area of the sex industry. Quite honestly, this is what I need the most prayer coverage for.

--Physical protection. As time progresses and we dive further into the sex trade, we may face physical threats as we help women and children escape their oppressors.

--Accelerated language learning.

--Adaptation to culture. The East is very different than the West. I have a LOT of learning to do and will need a LOT of grace.

--Provision. I will be able to work, so I must rely on God to provide 100% of my living expenses.

--Relationships and connections. I will be away from all of my friends and family in America and will need to build close relationships in Thailand. Please pray for spiritual parents and close friendships. Also pray for connections with missionaries and local Thais. Pray for unity in the body of Christ in Thailand.

Please keep Jade in your prayers. You can keep tabs on her work as she writes about here experiences on her blog "No Time To Be Normal."

Building Update...

Just a re-cap of the last update, we have received most of the bids, still waiting on the labor of putting up the SIP (Structurally Insulated Panel) building. We have presented our proposal to the MMT (council) and they have "accepted the SIP building plan pending financial arrangements being made". We have initiated the loan process with three different local banks. We are very thankful for all the recent donations to the building fund. A special Voter's Meeting will be forthcoming and will be posted as soon as the date has been set. The Lord has the Master plan for this, and I ask that you continue to pray for this as we continue to move forward.

What's the big deal? ... Or why Lutheran Christians should care about the HHS Birth Control Mandate.

You may have been hearing a lot in the news about the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) recent decision to require nearly all private health plans, including those offered by religious employers, to cover all forms of birth control. This mandate includes all birth control (even those which work post-conception and can cause the death of a baby developing in the womb). Contrary to the language heard in the media, these products are NOT contraception because they can operate after conception to destroy the developing baby in the womb. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) objects to the use of drugs and procedures that are used to take the lives of unborn children, who are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception.

We see this as not only a pro-life issue but also an affront to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This mandate is an infringement of our religious liberties, because never before has our government required religious institutions to obey a course of action that clearly goes against our biblical and moral beliefs.

In response to an immediate outcry, President Obama presented a compromise on this mandate. After rigorous study and consultation with other concerned Christian denominations, we have determined that the compromise did not address any of our previous concerns, and we remain opposed to this mandate, which runs counter to the biblical truth of the sanctity of human life.

So what has been done and what do we do?

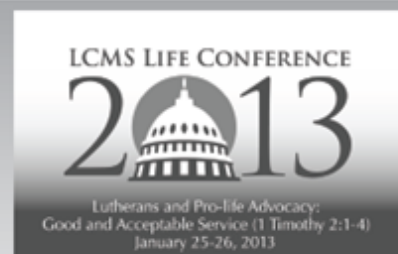
- You can learn more about the LCMS response to this matter and read the statements sent to some 3,500 newspaper, television and radio reporters across the country from LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison by logging on to www.lcms.org/hhsmandate.
- We encourage you to do what you can to add your voice to those of the many others concerned about the implications of the mandate. Please contact your elected leaders and help us create awareness by sharing President Harrison's statements with others in your circle of influence.



"For freedom of religion extends beyond simply our houses of worship; we must be free to put our faith into action in the public square, and in response to Christ's call as we demonstrate His mercy through our love and compassion for all people, of all ages of life."

— The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

40-Year Observance of Roe vs. Wade Ruling ... Learn How to Make a Difference!



- What** LCMS life conference on living and advocating a pro-life message to the world!
- Learn**
- Pro-life advocacy at the local, state and national levels.
 - Theological motivation and practical know-how for Lutherans to become more active in the public square.
 - How to live your vocation as a citizen by becoming involved in government.
- Do** Join 300,000 of your closest pro-life friends as we march in the 40th National March For Life starting at the National Mall!
- Speakers**
- The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 - Dr. Robert Benne, author of *Good and Bad Ways to Speak about Religion and Politics*
 - Mollie Hemingway, Lutheran journalist and blogger
 - Other Lutheran presenters actively involved in pro-life advocacy

Special Youth Track Included!

- When** January 25-26, 2013
- Where** Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel
at Reagan National Airport
2799 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202
703-418-1234

- Conference Cost** \$175/Adult Registration
\$100/Student Registration
- Lodging Rate** \$129 per night
(single, double, triple, quad)

Download registration forms or register online
at www.lcmslifeconference.org



Scan here for current
information on the
Life Conference.



March- Daily Devotionals

This month we begin with a Lenten-themed readings of Self-Denial, Repentance and Fasting. We conclude with Prophecies of Jesus' Suffering and Death and Holy Week Events.

Wk of MAR 4 Daily Readings SELF-DENIAL AND SELF-SACRIFICE

Mar 5 Matthew 16:24-25 _____

Mar 6 Matthew 19:21 _____

Mar 7 Romans 14:21 _____

Mar 8 Proverbs 23:20 _____

Mar 9 Galatians 5:16-25 _____

Mar 10 Luke 18:29-30 _____

Week of MAR 11 Daily Readings: REPENTANCE

Mar 12 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 _____

Mar 13 Psalm 38: 1-4, 18 _____

Mar 14 Psalm 51:1-17 _____

Mar 15 Jeremiah 3:21-4:2 _____

Mar 16 Acts 2:38-39 _____

Mar 17 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 _____

Wk of MAR 18 Daily Readings FASTING

Mar 19 Psalm 35:11-14 _____

Mar 20 Matthew 6:17-18 _____

Lenten-themed Readings

Mar 21 1 Samuel 7:6 _____

Mar 22 Luke 4:1-2 _____

Mar 23 Acts 13:2-3 _____

Mar 24 Acts 14:23 _____

Wk of MAR 25 Daily Readings PROPHECIES OF JESUS' SUFFERING & DEATH

Mar 26 Psalm 22:6-8, 12-18 _____

Mar 27 Psalm 69:19-21 _____

Mar 28 Zechariah 9:9-10 _____

Mar 29 Zechariah 11:12-13, 12:10-14 _____

Mar 30 Isaiah 50:5-9 _____

Mar 31 Isaiah 52:13-53:12 _____

Wk of APRIL 1 Daily Readings HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Apr 2 Matthew 21:1-11 _____

Apr 3 Matthew 21:12-17 _____

Apr 4 Matthew 26:1-30 _____

Apr 5 Matthew 26:31-75 _____

Apr 6 Matthew 27:1-32 _____

Apr 7 Matthew 27:33-66 _____

Easter Matthew 28:1-10 _____

March 2012 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	5 8:30 Circuit Pastors @ Living Word	6 6:00 Men's Group	7 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 5:45 Soup Supper 6:15 Prayer 6:30 Lenten Devotion 7:00 Confirmation	8	9	10
11 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	12	13 6:00 Men's Group 7:00 Willmar Study @ Linda Dilley's	14 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 5:45 Soup Supper 6:15 Prayer 6:30 Lenten Devotion 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 LWML Tea Party	15 6:30 Sunday School Mtg 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	<div> PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY AT 11:09 EVERYDAY <i>(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")</i> </div>	
18 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum: - Sunday School 10:00 Worship - w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	19	20 6:00 Men's Group 7:00 Willmar Study @ Linda Dilley's 7:15 Elders' Team	21 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 5:45 Soup Supper 6:15 Prayer 6:30 Lenten Devotion 7:00 Confirmation	22	23 6:00 Youth Kickball Tourney @ Concordia St P.	24
25 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	26	27 6:00 Men's Group 7:00 Willmar Study @ Linda Dilley's	28 9:30 Moms' Study Noon Bible Study 5:45 Soup Supper 6:15 Prayer 6:30 Lenten Devotion 7:00 Confirmation	29	30	31 10:00 Easter Celebration for Kids
April 1 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	April 2	April 3	April 4	April 5 MAUNDY THURS 7:00 Worship w/ Lord's Supper	April 6 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 7 Last Words Devotion Service	April 7 Tomorrow's Easter Schedule: 6:47 Sunrise Worship 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Easter Worship W/ Lord's Supper

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Mar 4 Scott Wachter
Mar 11 Bryson Wachter
Mar 18 Wendy Robbin
Mar 25 Mona Hjelle

Apr 1 Phil Iverson
Apr 8 Susan Johnson
Apr 15 Kevin Welsh
Apr 22 Linda Dilley
Apr 29 Confirmand Noah Welsh

Confirmation Meal

Mar 7 Pam Johnson
Mar 14 Marcia Welsh
Mar 21 Julie Bajari
Mar 28 Vicky Skotterud

Apr 4 No Class
Apr 11 Marcia Welsh
Apr 18 Julie Bajari
Apr 25 Vicky Skotterud

Fellowship Servers

Mar 4 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Mar 11 Wendy Robbin / Alida Sawatzky
Mar 18 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Mar 25 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller

Apr 1 Mona Hjelle
Apr 8 Easter Breakfast served by Youth
Apr 15 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
Apr 22 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Apr 29 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson

Elders

Mar 4 Jason Miller & Troy Hansen
Mar 18 Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp

Apr 1 Jason Miller & Troy Hansen
Apr 5 (Maundy Thursday) Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
Apr 8 (Easter) Jason Miller & Troy Hansen
Apr 29 Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp

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Thot for a day: Did you hear about the dyslexic, agnostic, insomniac who stayed up all night trying to decide if there really is a Dog?

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Children's Church Schedule

Mar 4 Mona Hjelle
Mar 11 Eve Bajari
Mar 18 Michelle Johnson
Mar 25 Donna Peterson

Apr 1 Mona Hjelle
Apr 8 Eve Bajari
Apr 15 Michelle Johnson
Apr 22 Donna Peterson
Apr 29 OPEN

Acolyte

March & April 2-3rd Graders

Usher & Greeter Schedule

Ushers
Mar 4 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weffen
Mar 11 Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Mar 18 Troy Hansen & Brady Sharp
Mar 25 Lonnie Robbin & Jason Olson

Greeter
Bryson W
Laurel I
Bonnie H

Apr 1 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Apr 8 Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle
Apr 15 Kevin & Noah Welsh
Apr 22 Jason Olson & Wally Abraham
Apr 29 Jamie & Phil Iverson

*Fill-in Greeter Bonnie Hansen 796-5605

Sunday School Schedule...

Meets at 9:00 each Sunday
Classes for pre-school through 9th Grade

March 4 The Prodigal Son
March 11 The Good Samaritan
March 18 Mary and Martha
March 25 The Rich Man and Poor Lazarus
April 1 (Palm Sunday) The Passion of Christ
April 8 (Easter) The Resurrection of Jesus
April 15 Jesus appears to the Emmaus Disciples
April 22 Earth Day
April 29 (Confirmation) Jesus appears to Disciples in Galilee

Sharing the Love of God In Practical Ways...

Make-A-Meal Program Updated

One of our Core Values at Living Word is "Sharing the Love of Jesus in Practical Ways". Several years ago we began the Make-A-Meal program as a way to share Jesus' love with people going through a tough time. We have recently updated the list of people who have volunteered to be meal makers or takers. They are listed below. Please use the Prayer and Care cards in the attendance pad at worship or call Pastor David or Meal Coordinator Linda Dille if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks for Sharing the Love of Jesus in a practical way!

Julie Bajari	Violet Dauk
Pastor David	Linda Dille
Gracie Geer	Mona Hjelle
Jamie Iverson	Laurel Iverson
Pam Johnson	Donna Peterson
Wendy Robbin	Bryson Wachter
Scott & Tammy Wachter	Nancy Jo Wendt

Care Packages

For Living Word's Young Adults
Away at College or the Military

The goal is to have seven packages ready to mail out in February. If you'd like to donate towards this project, items would be welcome such as: microwave snacks, powdered beverages, beef sticks, stamps/envelopes, note pads, gift cards, band-aids, aspirin, tissues... and other items of this nature that you think they could use.

Any questions can be directed to Pam Johnson, Bonnie Hansen, Violet Dauk, Mona Hjelle, or Laurel Iverson.

We're Updating These Serving Lists

- +Ushers
- + Greeters
- + Scripture Readers
- + Fellowship Servers
- + Children's Church Leaders

Please talk to Pastor if you'd like to serve in any of these ways.

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.

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Thot for a day: Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings.

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Upcoming Events...

Lenten Mid-Week Devotions

Each Wednesday in March

Supper served from..	5:45 to 6:20
Prayer Time from...	6:15 to 6:30
Devotion from...	6:30 to 7:00

The Devotions

As we "walk with Jesus" through Lent, we will learn from him about how to pray and what to pray for. Each Wednesday (as well as in the special Holy Week Services) the theme will center around one petition of the Lord's prayer.

The Schedule:

March 7: "Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name

March 14: "Thy Kingdom come"

March 21: "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"

March 28: "And lead us not into temptation

Maundy Thurs "Give us this day our daily bread"

Good Friday "But deliver us from the evil one"

Easter Sunday "For Thine is the kingdom... for ever and ever.
Amen!

When you're looking for something to "Take up for Lent" pray about adding the Midweek Devotions (and supper) to your schedule.

Holy Week Worship Opportunities

- Maundy Thursday (April 5): 7:00 p.m.
Lord's Supper is Celebrated
- Good Friday (April 6): 7:00 p.m.
The Seven Last Words Tenebrae Devotion
- Easter Sunrise (April 8) 6:47 a.m. (actual sunrise)
Worship begins outside watching the sunrise
- Easter Breakfast 8:00 a.m.
Served by Congregation Youth
- Easter Celebration Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Easter Outreach for Kids

Saturday, March 31st from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
(See more details on page 23)

L.W.M.L. TEA PARTY March 14

You're Invited to the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) meeting will be Wednesday, March 14 at 6:30pm. After the Lenten devotion we will have a tea party. The tea is designed as a way to invite and encourage church women of all ages to find out what our LWML is all about. Mark your calendars.

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

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

The "wisdom" to be found in that humorous story is the ability to see that each of us has the tendency to be like Kevin... May God give us the wisdom to seek His forgiveness and His help to take the initiative to be the first one in the relationship who seeks to love the way Jesus did.

E-Mail Humor...

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered. "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, honey," he said. "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

A mom was accompanying her eight-year-old daughter who was selling cookies door-to-door for the Girl Scouts.

After visiting several homes, the girl commented on the different styles of doorbells: some buzzed, some rang, some warbled. They made a game of guessing what the next bell would sound like.

At the precise moment she touched the doorbell at one house, the nearby church tower began to chime. She wheeled around with a look of amazement on her face. "Now that's a doorbell!"

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Thot for a day: A narrow mind and a wide mouth usually go together.

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New Prayer Opportunities...

One of our Core Values at Living Word is "People Praying Together."

Jesus promised His special presence when people get together to pray: *"Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."*

With that in mind we are offering a handful of ways to "get together" to pray .

1) Pray with the Elders after worship. God tells us in the book of James (5:14-15), *"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord."* Our Living Word Elders (Troy Hansen, Kevin Welsh, Jason Miller and Brady Sharp) will be available after worship at the front of the sanctuary to pray with you.

2) Pray on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 (just prior to our Wednesday evening Lenten Devotions). We will gather *together* in the sanctuary to bring our prayers to the Lord.

3) Take home the prayer requests from Sunday worship. We've started printing off the prayer requests from Sunday worship, so you can take those home with you after worship and keep those requests in your prayers during the week.

4) Pray "together" at 11:09. As before, we can pray together even when we are not physically together by taking time to pray at the same time each day (11:09) wherever we are.

5) Ask our Prayer Force to pray. We have updated our Prayer Force prayer chain listing. Special prayer requests that come in during the week will be forwarded via email or text message or phone (you choose), so we can bring those requests to God together even when we are not physically together. If you didn't have a chance to sign up to be part of the Prayer Force but would like to be, please talk to Pastor David (or text him at 320-220-1816)

March Discipleship Verse...



"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Hebrews 13:16

Opportunities for Growth...

THIS MONTH'S STUDY...

What Do _____ Believe ?

This month in our Bible studies we will take a look at the beliefs of groups like

- Jehovah's Witnesses,
- Mormons
- Jews

as well as the differences between Christian denominations.

New Bible Study Opportunity For Willmar Residents:

Tuesday Evenings from 7-8pm.

at Linda Dilley's home. Please call Linda at 320-444-2262 for directions to her home.

Men's Study

We take turns bringing the meal and side dishes.

Meal and prayers start at 6. Study continues after we eat and pray.

Mom's Study

9:30 Wednesday mornings (Childcare provided)

Wednesday Noon Study

Open to guys and gals of all ages

Sunday Morning Study

9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning

Confirmation

Meets Wednesdays March 7, 14, 21 and 28

6:30 - Assist with Lenten Devotion

7:00 - Class

7:30 - Practice for kickball tourney on 3/23 at Concordia

New & Improved...

The new Living Word website is finally done! Check it out at <http://www.livingwordlutheran.net>

Living Word is now on Facebook!

Posting the daily bible readings, church activities, and taking prayer requests! Go to www.facebook.com to sign up for your free account. Already on Facebook? search for Living Word Lutheran Church and add us to your friend list.

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That for a day A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory

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Story Behind The Song...

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Lent is the season of the church year when we seek to "walk with Jesus to the cross." Lent ends with our Good Friday service where we focus on what Jesus accomplished for us by dying on a cross: He (God in the flesh) took the punishment for the sins of the world upon Himself. He made peace between a sinless God and sinful humanity. He reconciled the creatures with the Creator who made them. He tore open the curtain that, without His sacrifice, would have forever separated God and humanity.

As we walk with Jesus through Lent we cannot help but "survey" the cross that stands in front of us. One of the greatest hymns of the season is the one written by Isaac Watts over 300 years ago. In fact, "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross" has been used for many years by the BBC to introduce its 7am broadcast on Good Friday.

From an early age, Watts displayed a propensity for rhyme. Once, he had to explain to his father how he came to have his eyes open during prayers:

A little mouse for want of stairs
ran up a rope to say its prayers.

After getting a spanking for this, he cried:

O father, father, pity take
And I will no more verses make.

Isaac Watts grew up "many more verses make" including some hymns you've likely sung many times: "Joy to the World," "From All That Dwell Below The Skies," "Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed," "Our God Our Help in Ages Past," and "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun."

Isaac Watts penned "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" in preparation for a communion service in 1707. It was first published in 1707 in Watt's collection Hymns and Spiritual Songs. It has often been called "The greatest hymn in the English language." Maybe you list it, as I do, among your favorites as well.

Watts based this hymn on Galatians 6:14. "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Originally, he gave the hymn the title "Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ," following the practice of the day to summarize a hymn's theme in the title. The hymn has been set to more than

one tune, but perhaps the most popular is that of Edward Miller, who wrote his music in 1790, some forty-two years after Watts' death.

Watts wrote five stanzas for the original version of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." However, he put his fourth stanza in brackets, indicating it was the most likely one to be left out, if need be. Chances are you've never sung that fourth verse, as it has been traditionally left out.

"When I Survey The Wondrous Cross" is the first known hymn to be written in the first person, introducing a personal aspect to the singing of hymns. In Watts' day such hymns were termed "hymns of human composure" and they stirred up great controversy. At the time, congregational singing was predominately repetitions of the Psalms. But this hymn gave Christians of Watts' day a way to express a deeply personal gratitude to their Savior. The well-loved song continues to stir our hearts today.

Read through the words. Let them inspire you to humble sacrifice during Lent (and beyond). Renew again your commitment to respond to Jesus' love with "your soul, your life, your all."

*When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God,
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.*

*See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down,
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er His body on the tree;
Then I am dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

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That for a day: A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

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For The Kids...

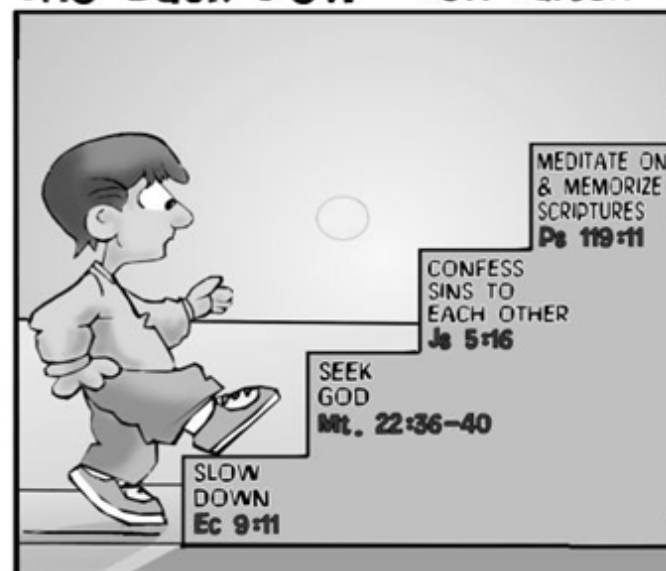
Easter Outreach for Kids

Plans are being made for another Spring Outreach Event for children ages 3-9 (younger and "older" kids are also welcome!) The event is being planned for **Saturday, March 31st** from **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**.

Parents are encouraged to stay and participate with their children. The theme of the event is "The Resurrection Butterfly". The colors of the butterfly will help us to remember the special time when Jesus died and came alive again, for us on the very first Resurrection Day!

This will be a FREE event which includes bible story, snack, craft, activities, song, and springtime "babies" and extra goodies. I am planning for many children so I encourage you to start thinking and inviting those children you know, so we may share the joy of Jesus' resurrection with them! I will be needing volunteer help in many different ways, so please let me know how you can participate in this outreach! I will be making invites soon and if there are any questions please contact me, Mona Hjelle at 354-4315 or via e-mail at rhjelle@tds.net Thank You!

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Four easy steps that even a child can do. So why do I make it so difficult? **Mt. 18:4**