


Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



**March 2014
Newsletter**

**"Communicating
the Love of
Jesus"**

**Worship Hours:
Christian Growth
Hour: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service:
10:00 a.m.**

Living Word Lutheran Church

PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273

Located north of the New London Township Hall on Cty Rd 9 NE

Phone: 320-354-4637

Email: pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

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's the right way to make the sign of the cross (I see you do it different than what I was taught)?

I'm guessing most of you haven't heard of the word *adiaphora*, but that word kind of sums up the answer to this question. *Adiaphora* is a Greek word that means "indifferent things." In the church we use it to refer to "things God has neither expressly commanded or forbidden." In other words, it refers to areas of "Christian freedom." We are free to choose to do things a certain way - or not.

As this relates to the question above, God never instructs us in His Word (the Bible) to make the sign of the cross. This doesn't mean making the sign of the cross is a bad thing - God has not forbidden it either. The sign of the cross can be a very good way to remind yourself of the reality that as a baptized believer in Jesus your sins have been paid for on the cross. (We will have ashes applied to our foreheads on Ash Wednesday in the shape of a cross for this very purpose).

In fact, you may have seen this statement at the beginning of the Divine Services in our hymnal *"The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism."* "May" is a word indicating that the making of the sign of the cross is a suggestion - a good one - but not an absolute requirement. You will also notice little cross symbols during the words of the Invocation, the Lord's Supper and the Benediction. These cross symbols indicate places where the Pastor traditionally makes a sign of the cross.

The key word here is tradition. There are many actions and rituals that have developed in the church over the years as a way to



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teach or remind us of important truths. Again, there is no command from God that we must undertake these traditional actions and rituals - or do them in a certain way. We simply continue to do them because they can be helpful as a visible reminders of important truths. It has become a tradition to make the sign of the cross as a way to remind us of what happened on the cross and that it happened for us.

Over the centuries various branches of Christianity have instituted different ways to make the sign of the cross, (e.g. how to hold your fingers, and which parts of your body to touch - head, shoulders etc... - and in which order). Each variation has a different symbolism designed to remind the one who makes the sign of different aspects of our faith. But the most important thing to remember is that there is no single, universal correct way to do it, because it is not commanded by God. However you do it, making the sign of the cross can be a simple reminder of who you are in Christ.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Thanks!

- To all the guys who fixed/served Friendship Brunch!
- To Linda Dilley and Nancy Jo Wendt for making & serving our Couples' Dinner on February 22!

Congratulations!

- **Jason Miller** on your new job !
- **Emily Fuglie** on the birth of your daughter Lilly Rose

Please email pastor@livingwordlutheran.net if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

REMEMBER...

We Have New *Today's Light* Bibles

- 1) For our Bible Studies
- 2) To take home or give to someone who needs a Bible

These were given in memory of Geneva Olson by her family.



Lenten Calendar...

Ash Wednesday

Traditional Service of Ashes

Yes, Lent is finally here. The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Ashes symbolize our frailty, our mortality, humiliation and need for repentance before God (people in ancient times showed their repentance by putting on sackcloth and ashes). Ashes also suggest a need for cleansing by the blood of Christ and renewal by His Holy Spirit.

During our Ash Wednesday service, ashes will be applied to the foreheads of all worshipers in the form of a small cross. Please join us for this special service, Wednesday, March 5 @ 7:00pm. And Education support, by providing funds so each orphan can attend school.

Wednesday Night Lenten Services

Our Nation Seems to be in a "Moral Free-Fall,"

"Right" has become "wrong" and "wrong" has become "right."
(And, as Don McLean wrote in his old classic song "American Pie," "I saw Satan laughing with delight!")

Things are bad but the important thing is this:

GOD HAS A REMEDY !!

And we as followers of Jesus play a huge part in that remedy:

"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and prayer and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, I will forgive their sins and I will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

So, instead of complaining about the deplorable state of things, each Wednesday during Lent we will do what God says and gather at 6:30 for a devotion and a time of prayer. The devotions will focus on some of the myths about God which Satan's successfully planted in our minds - myths that have served to assist the moral decay in our nation.

Light Supper served from..

6:00 to 6:30

Devotion & Prayer Time

6:30 to 7:00

If you - or your group - could help provide the pre-devotion meal, please talk to Pastor David. Thanks!

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Thot for a day: When in deep water, be sure to keep your mouth shut.

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The Daily Dozen of Christian Parenting

The class is finished, but the parenting never stops, so we'll have excerpts of things we learned in this and future newsletters.



DAILY DOZEN #5 "Leverages"

The basic teaching of the Daily Dozen was this:

More important than anything you DO as a parent is who you ARE - your identity and character as a Child of God.

But this fifth "Daily Dozen" is probably at the top of helpful things you can DO.

A "leverage" is simply defined as "an easier way to move something." Kind of like a two-wheeled dolly is a "leverage" that makes it easier to move a refrigerator. The things you are trying to "move" are the attitudes and actions of your child. Leverages are "wants" that your kids love to do and that you allow them to do as a "privilege." Some examples may be playing on their DS, watching TV, using the internet, eating a certain snack.

Make a list of the top five of these "wants" for each of your children, then prioritize them in order of most important for them to least important.

Here's an example of how you can use these "leverages" to change actions and attitudes:

"If you continue to ignore me when I ask you to do your homework, you will choose to lose half an hour of your DS time after school tomorrow. It's your choice. This is your one warning."

This teaches a very valuable lesson about that actions have consequences and that they have control over both their actions and the consequences.

Thank God For...

You've seen our sign board out by the road with the beginning of a sentence:

"Thank God For..." Each week we'd like to change the ending of that sentence to encourage people who drive past to remember that God is the giver of all good things - especially things we take for granted. This week we thanked God for Honest People. Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week.



Second Sunday of the Month...

Food-Shelf Sunday - March 9

Bring some canned goods to help stock the Link's New London food shelf Sponsored each month by the women of Living Word's LWML

Bake Sale Fundraiser for "1001 Orphans" - March 9

The Confirmation students are holding a bake sale the second Sunday of every month to raise funds to support one (or more) of the million-plus children orphaned in Kenya, Africa. Anyone else who would like to bring baked goods for these monthly fundraisers is most welcome to.

Again, here's some info about the project....

1001 Orphans

1001 Orphans is an opportunity to reach out with Christ's love to orphans and disadvantaged children. The goal: to reach 1,000 children, "plus one lost sheep" – a reminder that there is always one more child who needs care and that the church's work is never done.

1001 Orphans is Coordinated by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); and carried out by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK), an LCMS partner church.

About 1.4 million children in Kenya are orphaned by AIDS, and an estimated 8 percent of Kenyan adults are living with the HIV virus. Poverty (65 percent live on less than \$1/day), drought (three years) and negative attitudes among communities exacerbate the orphans' situations. Most drop out of school because they cannot pay the country's mandatory tuition and are forced into child labor or sexual exploitation.

Through 1001 Orphans, ministry partners aim to guide at-risk children into the homes of loving families and under the wing of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya (ELCK) congregations to help youngsters become educated, responsible Christian adults.

Support to a Kenyan orphan or disadvantaged child provides one year of:

- Family and spiritual-care support, by placing each child with a Christian family with ties to a local Lutheran congregation;
- Economic support, by providing money or food to supplement the already stretched-thin resources of families caring for an orphan; and
- Education support, by providing funds so each orphan can attend school.

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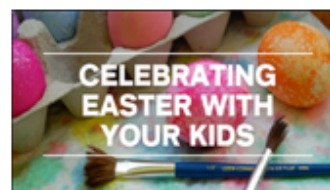
Thot for a day: The squeaky wheel may get the grease, or it may be the first to be replaced.

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Coming In April...

Easter Celebration for Kids
Saturday, April 12
10-11:30 am - Ages 3 and up...

- The Easter Story
- A Craft to take home
- Snack Time
- Baby Animals (Lambs, chicks, bunnies, etc...)
- Coffee/cookies for parents



LUTHERAN
HOUR
MINISTRIES

Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

"MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

What more haunting words could any person speak than "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" How could we endure a moment if our Creator would turn His back and ignore our every plea? Where would we turn for help, comfort, and solace if we could not turn to God?

Sadly there are many moments in life where it seems God has forsaken us. We cry out to God in the midst of illness, financial struggles, unemployment, family problems, yet nothing changes. We wonder if God has heard us - or might He have forsaken us too?

This Lenten season we study those dreadful words coming from the lips of God's only - begotten Son Jesus Christ as He hangs on the cross. But that was not the first time Jesus uttered those words. A thousand years before He spoke those very words through His great ancestor King David. The great psalmist faithfully recorded Jesus' words in the twenty-second psalm. This psalm vividly predicts His bitter sufferings, death, and resurrection. It will be the source of our Lenten devotions as we explore the depths of our Savior's sacrifice for us.

Available to read online at <http://www.lhm.org/lent/dailydevotions.asp> or to hear as a podcast at <http://www.lhm.org/podcasts/> (beginning March 5),

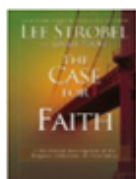
"MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" can also be received as an e-mail subscription throughout the Lenten season. The audio version will begin March 5, 2014.

Opportunities for Growth...

New Men's Study:

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
The Great Deceiver (Satan)

We finish our study on Satan on March 11, then begin the Soul Detox study on March 18.



Mom's Study: Wednesdays at 9:30

Childcare is Provided

The Case for Faith: A Six-session Investigation of the Toughest Objections to Christianity

Wednesday Noon Study: & Sunday Morning Study:

Sundays @ 9:00

1. Lethal Language: Experiencing the power of life-giving words

2. Scare Pollution: Unlocking the chokehold of fear

3. Radioactive relationships: Loving unhealthy people without getting sick.

4. Septic Thoughts: Overcoming our false beliefs

5. Germ Warfare: Cleansing our lives of cultural toxins



Confirmation:

Wednesdays @ 6:30 (meal at 6:00)

This month we get a chance to share what we've learned in Don't Check Your Brains At the Door with the congregation in the Wednesday Lenten devotions.

Mar 5: Assist with Ash Wednesday -

Mar 12: Devotion based on Don't Check Your Brains at the Door

Mar 19: Devotion based on Don't Check Your Brains at the Door

Mar 20: Sit in on MMT Meeting

Mar 26: Devotion based on Don't Check Your Brains at the Door

DON'T FORGET: To take sermon notes on Sundays.

Weekly Bible readings:

(This month our topic is "Miracles" on pages 10 & 11.)

Sunday School

9:00 - 9:45 Sunday mornings.

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That for a day: The greatest of all faults is to imagine you have none.

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Coming In March...

"De-Toxify Your Soul" During Lent

Just as there are all sorts of unseen things that our "toxic" for our physical bodies, there are many things - also unseen - that are toxic to our spiritual lives. Lent begins March 5 this year (Easter is really late - April 20). During the six week of Lent we will have small group studies and a sermon series designed to help us identify these spiritual toxins and "detoxify" our souls.



Could You Host a "Soul Detox" Study During Lent?

Small group studies are a key part of this Lenten series. All you need to be able to host is a DVD player and a willingness to facilitate a study. Videos and study guides are provided. Please talk to Pastor David if you could host a study at your home or at church. Thanks!

LWML News...

- We will gather together again on **Wednesday, March 12 @ 6:30**
- Thanks to everyone who attended our fun Valentines' night.
- Remember to bring your food shelf donations on Sunday, March 9.



Sunday School News...

- **Class Time:** 9:00 - 9:45 every Sunday morning
- **Teachers:** Preschool - K: Amanda Sharp
1-3 grade - Jason Miller
4-6 grade - Violet Dauk

Substitutes still needed. Please talk to Mona if you can help.



- This month we conclude learning about the names & titles of Jesus.
- Our **Bowling Outing is re-scheduled for SUNDAY, MARCH 16**
- Coming in April: Easter Celebration for Kids on Saturday, April 12

March - Daily Devotionals

God is Unchanging. Last month we got a sampling of the miracles God performed in Old Testament times. This month we read about many more miracles God did in New Testament times through His Son and those who were disciples of Jesus.

Audio Recordings of each reading can be streamed from www.livingwordlutheran.net

Record your insights from these chapters on the lines provided.

Wk of March 2 Daily Readings Miracles in MARK & LUKE'S GOSPELS

- Mar 3 Luke 1:26-38 _____
Mar 4 Luke 5:4-25 _____
Mar 5 Luke 7:1-15 _____
Mar 6 Luke 8:22-56 _____
Mar 7 Mark 7:24-37 _____
Mar 8 Mark 8:1-26 _____

Wk of Mar 9 Daily Readings: Miracles in MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

- Mar 10 Matthew 8:14-17 _____
Mar 11 Matthew 9:27-38 _____
Mar 12 Matthew 12:9-28 _____
Mar 13 Matthew 14:13-36 _____
Mar 14 Matthew 17:14-27 _____
Mar 15 Matthew 20:29-34 _____

Wk of Mar 16 Daily Readings Miracles in JOHN'S GOSPEL

- Mar 17 John 2:1-11 _____

- Mar 18 John 4:43-54 _____
Mar 19 John 5:1-15 _____
Mar 20 John 9:1-41 _____
Mar 21 John 11:1-44 _____
Mar 22 John 21:1-14 _____

Wk of Mar 23 Daily Readings Miracles in ACTS

- Mar 24 Acts 2:1-21 _____
Mar 25 Acts 3:1-4:22 _____
Mar 26 Acts 5:1-11 _____
Mar 27 Acts 5:12-41 _____
Mar 28 Acts 8:4-13 _____
Mar 29 Acts 9:1-19 _____

Wk of Mar 30 Daily Readings Miracles in ACTS

- Mar 31 Acts 10:32-43 _____
Apr 1 Acts 12:1-17 _____
Apr 2 Acts 13:4-12 _____
Apr 3 Acts 14:8-20 _____
Apr 4 Acts 16:16-40 _____
Apr 5 Acts 27:10-28:10 _____

March 2014 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 Adult Study <i>Romans</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 4:00 Youth Group	3 8:30 Circuit Pastors @ Granite Falls	4 6:30 Men's Study <i>"Great Deceiver"</i>	5 9:30 Moms' Study <i>Defending your faith</i> noon Wed. Noon Study <i>Romans</i> 6:00 Confirmation 7:00 ASH WEDNESDAY Worship w/communion	6	7	8 11:00 - ?? CRAFTING / SCRAPBOOKING DAY
9 FOOD SHELF SUNDAY (Bring items for NL Food Shelf) 9:00 Adult Study - <i>Soul Detox</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship "1001 Orphans" Bake Sale 11:30 Elders' Team & SS teachers	10	11 6:30 Men's Study <i>"Great Deceiver"</i>	12 9:30 Moms' Study <i>Defending your faith</i> noon Wed. Noon Study <i>Soul Detox</i> 6:00 Meal 6:30 Lent Prayer/Devo 7:00 Confirmation LWML	<div> Lord's Supper Dates In March: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, March 2nd Ash Wednesday, March 5th Sunday, March 16th </div>		15
16 BOWLING OUTING 9:00 Adult Study: <i>Soul Detox</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 12:30 BOWLING @ Kandi Lanes 4:00 Youth Group	17	18 6:30 Men's Study <i>"Soul Detox"</i>	19 9:30 Moms' Study <i>Defending your faith</i> noon Wed. Noon Study <i>Soul Detox</i> 6:00 Meal 6:30 Lent Prayer/Devo 7:00 Confirmation	20 6:30 Mission & Ministry Team	21 MARRIAGE ENRICHM	22 ENT RETREAT
23 9:00 Adult Study - <i>Soul Detox</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 3:30 4-6th Grade Group	24	25 6:30 Men's Study <i>"Soul Detox"</i>	26 9:30 Moms' Study <i>Defending your faith</i> noon Wed. Noon Study <i>Soul Detox</i> 6:00 Meal 6:30 Lent Prayer/Devo 7:00 Confirmation	27	28	29
30 9:00 Adult Study - <i>Soul Detox</i> Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	31	April 1 6:30 Men's Study <i>"Soul Detox"</i>	April 2 9:30 Moms' Study <i>Defending your faith</i> noon Wed. Noon Study <i>Soul Detox</i> 6:00 Meal 6:30 Lent Prayer/Devo 7:00 Confirmation	3	4	5

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Mar 2	Wendy Robbin
Mar 9	Mona Hjelle
Mar 16	Phillip Iverson
Mar 23	Kevin Welsh
Mar 30	Linda Dilley
Apr 6	Mark Fuglie
Apr 13	Tammy Fuglie
Apr 20	Duane Hansen
Apr 27	Tammy Wachter

Fellowship Servers

Mar 2	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Mar 9	Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
Mar 16	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
Mar 23	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Mar 30	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Apr 6	Wendy Robbin / Alida Sawatzky
Apr 13	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Apr 20	Easter
Apr 27	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller

Usher Schedule

Mar 2	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
Mar 5 (Ash Wed)	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Mar 9	Lonny Robbin & Jason Olson
Mar 16	Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp
Mar 23	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Apr 6	Kevin & Noah Welsh
Apr 13	Jamie & Phil Iverson
Easter	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
Apr 27	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter

Altar Guild

March	Nancy Jo Wendt
April	Mona Hjelle

Make A Meal Volunteers

Mar	Michelle Johnson & Sarah Miller
April	Scott & Tammy Wachter. Nancy Jo Wendt

Elders

Mar 2	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
Ash Wed	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Mar 16	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
Apr 6	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter

Thot for a day: The wages of sin are death, but by the time taxes are taken out, it's just sort of a tired feeling.

Maundy Thurs	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
Easter	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter

Custodian

March	Duane & Bonnie Hansen
April	Tammy Fuglie & Laurie Hanson

Nursery

(more volunteers needed, please talk to Mona)

Mar 2	Mona Hjelle
Mar 9	Eve Bajari
Mar 16	Grace Geer
Mar 23	Michelle Johnson
Mar 30	Helper Needed
Apr 6	Mona Hjelle
Apr 13	Eve Bajari
Easter	Grace Geer
Apr 27	Michelle Johnson

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Mar 2	Andrew Sharp
Mar 9	Levi Miller
Mar 16	Eli Sharp
Mar 23	Lance Sawatzky
Mar 30	George Arends-Schmidt
Apr 6	Carson Jaspersen
Apr 13	Noah Miller
Easter	Andrew Sharp
Apr 27	Levi Miller

Accompanying Musicians

Mar 2	Sharon Willen
Mar 9	Scott Wachter
Mar 16	Pam Johnson
Mar 23	Scott Wachter
Mar 30	Scott Wachter
April 6	Sharon Willen
April 13	Scott Wachter
Easter	Pam Johnson
April 26	Scott Wachter

March Discipleship Verse...



"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

1 Peter 5:8

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

(A bit long, but well worth your time to read. See if you don't agree.)

At a Touchdown Club meeting many years before his death, Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant told the following story:

"I had just been named the new head coach at Alabama and was off in my old car down in South Alabama recruiting a prospect who was supposed to have been a pretty good player and I was havin' trouble finding the place. Getting hungry I spied an old cinder block building with a small sign out front that simply said "Restaurant."

"I pull up, go in and every head in the place turns to stare at me. Seems I'm the only white fella in the place. But the food smelled good, so I skip a table and go up to a cement bar and sit. A big ole man in a tee shirt and cap comes over and says, "What do you need?" I told him I needed lunch and what did they have today? He says, "You probably won't like it here, to-day we're having chitlins, collared greens and black eyed peas with cornbread. I'll bet you don't even know what chitlins are, do you?" I looked him square in the eye and said, "I'm from Arkansas, I've probably eaten a mile of them. Sounds like I'm in the right place." They all smiled as he left to serve me up a big plate. When he comes back he says, "You ain't from around here then?"

"I explain I'm the new football coach up in Tuscaloosa at the University and I'm here to find whatever that boy's name was and he says, "Yeah I've heard of him, he's supposed to be pretty good," and he gives me directions to the school so I can meet the boy and his coach. As I'm paying up to leave, I remember my manners and leave a tip, not too big to be flashy, but a good one and he told me lunch was on him, but I told him for a lunch that good, I felt I should pay.

The big man asked me if I had a photograph or something he could hang up to show I'd been there. I was so new that I didn't have any yet. It really wasn't that big a thing back then to be asked for, but I took a napkin and wrote his name and address on it and told him I'd get him one and shook his hand and left."

"I met the kid I was lookin' for later that afternoon and I don't remember his name, but do remember I didn't think much of him when I met him. I had wasted a day, or so I thought. When I got back to Tuscaloosa late that night, I took that napkin from my shirt pocket and put it under my keys so I wouldn't forget it.

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Thot for a day: When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

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Back then I was excited that anybody would want a picture of me. The next day we found a picture and I wrote on it, "Thanks for the best lunch I've ever had."

"Now let's go a whole buncha years down the road. Now we have black players at Alabama and I'm back down in that part of the country scouting an offensive lineman we sure needed. Y'all remember, (and I forget the name, but it's not important to the story), well anyway, he's got two friends going to Auburn and he tells me he's got his heart set on Auburn too, so I leave empty handed and go on see some others while I'm down there."

"Two days later, I'm in my office in Tuscaloosa and the phone rings and it's this kid who just turned me down, and he says, "Coach, do you still want me at Alabama?" And I said, "Yes I sure do." And he says OK, he'll come. And I say, "Well son, what changed your mind?" And he said, "When my grandpa found out that I had a chance to play for you and said no, he pitched a fit and told me I wasn't going nowhere but Alabama, and wasn't playing for nobody but you. He thinks a lot of you and has ever since y'all met." Well, I didn't know his granddad from Adam's house cat, so I asked him who his granddaddy was and he said, "You probably don't remember him, but you ate in his restaurant your first year at Alabama and you sent him a picture that he's had hung in that place ever since. That picture's his pride and joy and he still tells everybody about the day that Bear Bryant came in and had chitlins with him."

"My grandpa said that when you left there, he never expected you to remember him or to send him that picture, but you kept your word to him and to Grandpa, that's everything. He said you could teach me more than football and I had to play for a man like you, so I guess I'm going to."

"I was floored. But I learned that the lessons my mama taught me were always right. It don't cost nuthin' to be nice. It don't cost nuthin' to do the right thing most of the time, and it costs a lot to lose your good name by breakin' your word to someone."

"When I went back to sign that boy, I looked up his Grandpa and he's still running that place, but it looks a lot better now; and he didn't have chitlins that day, but he had some ribs that woulda made Dreamland proud and I made sure I posed for a lot of pictures; and don't think I didn't leave some new ones for him, too, along with a signed football."

"I made it clear to all my assistants to keep this story and these lessons in mind when they're out on the road. If you remember anything else from me, remember this. It really doesn't cost anything to be nice, and the rewards can be unimaginable."

Sharing the Love of Jesus in Practical Ways...

Please Fill Out an Orange "Opportunities to Serve" Insert...

...if you haven't done so yet. You can place it in the offering plate

A Great Month to Use Our Make-A-Meal Program

One of the best (and simplest) ways to share Jesus' love is by making a meal for someone who is going through a tough time. Please use the Prayer and Care cards in the attendance pad at worship or call Pastor David or Meal Coordinator Linda Dilley if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks!
Our March Make-a-Meal volunteers: Michelle Johnson & Sarah Miller

Can You Be Part of an Easter Choir?

Please talk to Pastor David or Leone Quigley

Don't Forget to Collect Band Aids...

For The Link sponsored "Just the Basics" giveaway this April (Saturday the 26th from 9-10:30). Each church in the area will provide 300 of the items they are responsible for. So, add "band aids" to your shopping list. We will begin 'stock-piling' them at church, so bring them here after you purchase them. Thanks!

Bring Food Shelf Items Every Second Sunday

The women of our LWML will be collecting canned and dry goods the second Sunday of each month. These will be delivered to the New London Food Shelf that is sponsored by the Link.

Purchase Some Baked Goods Every Second Sunday

Our confirmation students will be selling baked goods after worship the 2nd Sunday of each month. They are raising funds to support an orphaned child in Kenya. Their goal is to support at least one child (\$33/month).

Last month they raised \$75.... THANK YOU!

Help With Our Nursery

We still need volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-4 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you'd like to help out one Sunday a month. Thanks!

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That for a day: with faith you can move mountains. With doubt you can create them.

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Who Can You Invite?...

March finds us finally entering the Lenten Season. It's traditionally a time to focus on growing closer to Jesus by doing things He did. One thing Jesus did was to make a simple invitation for people to follow Him.

Here are some special opportunities to follow Jesus' example and invite people this month:

1. Crafting / Scrapbooking Day

SATURDAY, March 8 @10:00 a.m.

Bring your projects and enjoy a day working and conversing.

2. Marriage Enrichment Retreat

Pastor and Violet will once again lead a Marriage Enrichment Retreat. The retreat will be held at Lake Geneva in Alexandria. Cost will be \$160 per couple and include lodging for one night plus three meals (in addition to the sessions). The tentative date for the retreat is MARCH 21-22 (Friday night/ Saturday morning.)

Please talk to Pastor or Violet if you are interested (or if you are interested but can't make it that weekend.) Scholarships are available to help with the cost if you are low on funds right now - just ask.

3. Any of our Soul Detox studies

+ Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

+ Men's study Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

+ Wednesday noon

4. Wednesday Evening Lenten Prayer & Devotion

Each Wednesday during Lent we will gather at 6:30 for a devotion and a time of prayer. The devotions will focus on some of the myths about God which Satan's successfully planted in our minds - myths that have served to assist the moral decay in our nation.

Light Supper served from 6:00 to 6:30

Devotion & Prayer Time 6:30 to 7:00

5. Our Bowling Outing -

Re-scheduled for Sunday, March 16 After Worship

We will begin bowling at the Kandi Lanes in Willmar at 12:30. Bowling will be followed by pizza.

6. Our New 4-6th Grade Group

4-6th Graders will meet for 1 ½ hours of fun, snacks and God's Word the 4th Sunday of each month from 3:30- 5:00. Rides are available. Please talk to Bryson if your student will need a ride.

Miscellaneous Notes...

Need Assistance with Heating Bills ?

In response to the increases in propane and heating oil costs, additional federal resources have been allocated to Minnesota through the LIHEAP program, also known as energy assistance.

A hotline has been set up where you can get information about local resources. In our area, the hotline number is 1-800-657-3504.

Now Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Living Word is pleased to announce the introduction of an **electronic option for making regular offerings**. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account.

Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.

Daily Readings Now Available in Audio

If you are among the folks who find it easier to listen to the Bible than to read it, you will be glad to hear that Pastor David has recorded the December Daily Bible Readings. You will find the audio recordings of those daily readings on our website www.livingwordlutheran.net.

Email Humor...

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like.

"We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods."

The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in.

At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

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That for a day: People who live in stone houses shouldn't throw glasses.

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Additional page—web version only



The LINK...

Link Newsletter, March 2014

Dear Friends, Over the past two years, the Link has been engaged in a community effort to raise awareness and seek solutions to the issues of homelessness in our community. **Yes, homelessness exists right here, across Kandiyohi County.** Whether it is the loss of a job, the high cost of housing or health challenges, our neighbors seek help from the Link to prevent homelessness or to escape it. In our rural community, homelessness looks different and fewer resources exist to house our neighbors.

Two efforts have grown out of these community conversations:

1. Designated giving to **Safe Harbor**, at Heartland Community Action Agency, to lease additional motel rooms in Willmar to provide temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness; more info? call Jason at Heartland 320.235.0850, x1138

2. Development of **Family Promise of**

Kandiyohi County, an organization that partners with churches to provide evening shelter and hospitality to families experiencing homelessness (up to 14 people at a time.) Currently, eight congregations have agreed to host and many more are in conversation (13 hosts are needed and many more support congregations are also critical)! more info? call Sherman, Board Chair, at 320.894.4808

I have included handouts on Safe Harbor and Family Promise of KC to this newsletter for more information. Both of these efforts are needed in our community to address the homelessness of our neighbors.

Finally, a story: the Link recently assisted a family that had frozen pipes in their home. Without help or the equipment to do the job safely, the \$800 estimate was too much to afford, even with both parents working. With the help of the Link, a plumber was hired and the pipes were unfrozen. The plumber worked out a payment agreement with the Link and the family—with the family paying the majority of the bill! What a blessing the Link can be to our neighbors. Thank you for your continued support.

Warm blessings to you,

Rhonda Otteson, Link Director
thelink@faithspicer.org
310 Medayto Drive

Mark your calendars: "Just the Basics" event

Cross Roads Community Church
Set up: Friday, April 25
Distribution: Saturday, April 26

Call the Link to sponsor an item or volunteer!



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING HEARTLAND'S KANDIYOHI COUNTY SAFE HARBOR MOTEL ROOMS

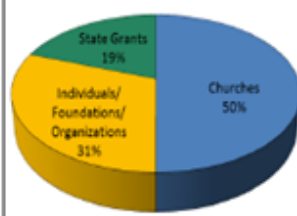
How Did Heartland use my Safe Harbor Donation?

Heartland uses Safe Harbor donations to lease five motel rooms in Willmar to provide emergency shelter for homeless families in Kandiyohi County. In the past, Heartland assisted families for 1-7 nights' stay using motel vouchers, but many households returned to situations that were dangerous or returned to homelessness. The households were so focused on meeting their basic shelter needs for that night or that week that the household had a difficult time moving forward in other areas such as permanent housing, education, employment, or health. Heartland realized that in many cases families and individuals experiencing homelessness may need more time to secure stable housing, which is why Heartland now uses leased motel rooms to provide longer stays to help ensure families leave on a more solid footing.

What other assistance does Heartland provide the families in the motel rooms?

People staying in the motel rooms must contact Heartland's staff weekly to show they are working toward goals they identify with Heartland, such as finding employment and permanent housing. Heartland also assists them with budgeting, finding housing, and referrals for employment.

Kandiyohi County Safe Harbor Annual Funding Breakdown



How many households received emergency shelter thanks to my donation?

From November 1, 2012 through October 31, 2013, Heartland served 36 homeless households in Kandiyohi County through the Safe Harbor motel rooms. Of these 36 households, 27 were families and 9 were singles. They included 98 people, 51 of which were children. Households stayed for an average of 41 days and 78 percent exited to more stable housing.

Is there still a need for Safe Harbor motel rooms in Kandiyohi County?

During that same period, 263 households, an average of about 22 households per month, came to Heartland seeking emergency shelter in Kandiyohi County. Unfortunately, Heartland was unable to assist the majority of these families simply because of lack of funding.

Who can I contact with additional questions?

You can contact Jason Haug at 320.235.0850 extension 1138 with any questions.

Helping People.
Changing Lives.



41 DAYS

The average length of stay of a homeless individual or family in one of Heartland's Safe Harbor Kandiyohi County motel rooms.

78 PERCENT

The percentage of homeless individuals and families who exit one of Heartland's Safe Harbor Kandiyohi County motel rooms to more stable housing.



Summary of Program Benefits

For Guests

- Safe, homelike shelter where families can stay together.
- Guests cite the caring of volunteers as one of the most important benefits; "I never knew so many people cared."
- Intensive case management by Network director to assist in finding housing and jobs and meeting other needs.
- Guest families secure long-term housing.

For Volunteers

- Opportunity to help homeless families directly; to make a difference.
- Opportunity to do outreach within their own congregation or a nearby location.
- Wide range of volunteer activities to vary schedules and levels of commitment.
- Opportunity for families to volunteer together.

For Congregations

- Opportunity for outreach (within the congregation's own facilities) focusing on the needs of people in the community.
- Opportunity for participation in the community interfaith project.
- Increased sense of community among members as they share the effort.

For Community

- Cost-efficient mobilization of community resources.
- Does not duplicate services already in the community; works with social service agencies to provide counseling, job training, help with housing search, etc.
- Does not institutionalize shelter as a solution to homelessness.
- Becomes a catalyst for other community initiatives, such as job counseling, parenting workshops, transitional housing, etc.

2008 National Program Services Report

Total individuals served	41,229
Percent of guests who are children	59% (46% are age 5 or under)
Average length of stay (days)	58
<u>Housing Status at Exit</u>	
Percent of families securing permanent housing	60%
Percent of families securing transitional housing	20%
<u>Family Composition</u>	
Two-Parent Families	27%
Female Headed Single Parent Families	63%
Male Headed Single Parent Families	6%
Other Family Composition/not reported	4%

From the District...



LCMS initial reaction to Thrivent's 'Financial Neutrality Policy'

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, guided by the Word of God, is unabashedly and actively pro-life. Thus we are deeply concerned by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' decision, announced Feb. 6, 2014, to adopt a "Financial Neutrality Policy" effective immediately to guide its decisions for outreach funding of charitable organizations.

Under this new policy, neither pro-abortion nor pro-life organizations are eligible to receive outreach support or funding from any of Thrivent's charitable assistance funding programs. While we applaud the restrictions on funding pro-abortion organizations, this is not the outcome we had envisioned for the more than 50 pro-life charitable organizations that have received Thrivent assistance in the past to provide key support for women, children and families. Sadly, this leaves many Christian pro-life agencies providing these pivotal services in a position of unexpected financial shortfall.

Synod leadership is keenly aware of these troubling events and is in the process of reviewing the details and implications of this new policy to determine a course of action in response to it.

In the meantime, under the new policy, we understand that LCMS members may earmark their Thrivent Choice Dollars® for their local parish, and we encourage LCMS parishes receiving these funds to use them to fund pro-life organizations. We further encourage LCMS Thrivent members to contact Thrivent directly with any questions or concerns about its policy.

Story Behind The Song...

"Christ the Life of All the Living"

Hymn # 420 in our hymnal ("Christ the Life of All the Living") has always been one of my favorites of the Lenten season. In spite of the fact that its tune was composed in 17th century Germany it is quite singable. (I'm not sure why, but more often than not that doesn't seem to be the case with old German tunes.)

"Christ the Life of All the Living" is the most widely used hymn written by German hymn-writer Ernst Christoph Homburg (1605-1681)

In early life, Homburg was a writer of love songs and drinking songs. After a difficult time of family illness he experienced a religious conversion, and his poetry took a more serious turn. Some 150 of his hymn texts were published in his *Geistliche Lieder*.

Homburg, a lawyer by profession, wrote most of these hymns for his own devotions, and described this eight-stanza text (we only have seven in our hymnal) as a "hymn of thanksgiving to his Redeemer and Savior for his bitter sufferings." The translation of selected stanzas is by Catherine Winkworth, who published them in her *Chorale Book for England* (1863).

Here is the text of the hymn that recounts both the sacrifice God's Son made for us and the results of that sacrifice for all who believe in Jesus. My favorite part is the refrain repeated at the end of each verse. A refrain that reminds us again and again of our most proper response to the gift of eternal life Jesus purchased by His death. Read through the hymn, then think of a few of the thousand ways you can thank Jesus today.

**Christ, the Life of all the living,
Christ the Death of death, our foe,
Who Thyself for us once giving
To the darkest depths of woe,
Patiently didst yield Thy breath
But to save my soul from death;
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**Thou, O Christ, hast taken on Thee
Bitter strokes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God,
Only thus for me to win
Rescue from the bonds of sin;
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

Thou didst bear the smiting only

That it might not fall on me;
 Stoodest falsely charged and lonely
 That I might be safe and free;
 Comfortless that I might know
 Comfort from Thy boundless woe.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
 Treating Thee with shameful scorn
 And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee,
 All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne
 That as Thine Thou mightest own me
 And with heavenly glory crown me.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee
 That from pain I might be free;
 Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee,
 Thence I gain security;
 Comfortless Thy soul did languish
 Me to comfort in my anguish.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction,
 And hast borne it patiently,
 Even death by crucifixion,
 Fully to atone for me;
 Thou didst choose to be tormented
 That my doom should be prevented.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought our pardon,
 For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
 For Thine anguish in the garden,
 I will thank Thee evermore;
 Thank Thee with my latest breath
 For Thy sad and cruel death,
 For that last and bitter cry
 Praise Thee evermore on high.

Editor's note: Hear this song at <http://youtu.be/kixtOmfpDPE>

Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by
 e-mail. Send your email address to:
newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net

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Thot for a day: If you want to eat healthy, don't eat food with commercials.

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Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

(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...

- + Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- + The power to be a FRIEND like Jesus -
 - love unconditionally all the time
 - sacrifice when you need to
 - be honest, say what your friend needs (not wants) to hear
 - lead them closer to God
- + Safe travel for everyone in the late winter weather
- + An overturn of laws that restrict our religious freedom
- + Courage to take a stand for Jesus at school and work.
- + Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- + God's power working in the lives of your friends.
- + Power to be self-controlled this Lent and give up something that's keeping you from getting closer to God's plan for your life

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The I HATE WINTER scripture 2

People ruin their own lives by their own foolishness, and then are angry at God.

Ps 19:3 (meaning... don't blame God cuz you chose to live in Minnesota)