


Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



December 2016 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...

God doesn't tell us to celebrate Christmas, so why do we?

It's true that there's no command in God's Word (the Bible) telling us to celebrate the birth of the Messiah (Christ).

What we are doing in celebrating Jesus' birth is following the example we find in Exodus 12 in the Old Testament. You may remember the story of when the Angel of Death passed over the houses of the Israelites who had followed God's command to sacrifice a lamb and apply the blood to their doorposts. This "pass over" event set in motion the exodus ("going out") of the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt. Of course, on their way they had to cross the Red Sea. God parted the waters so they could walk across on dry land, but brought the waters back on the Egyptian army that was chasing them.

God instructed them (as we read in Exodus chapter 12) to celebrate this miraculous event every year with a special feast called Passover. This annual celebration was designed to serve two purposes:

- 1) To be a reminder of what God had done for them, so they would never forget how God displayed His love, power and salvation in that event.
- 2) It would force them to be sure to tell future generations what God had done, so the memory of it would not die out with the generation that actually experienced it. As Moses said to the people when relaying God's command, "And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean?' you shall tell them..."

I'd say that it is very appropriate to do the same thing with the day God



Page 3

came to earth in human form as that baby in the manger. Celebrating that event each year helps ensure that we don't forget that amazing thing God did. It also ensures that we tell the next generations, because they are going to ask the same kinds of questions as kids did in Moses' day: "What is the meaning of this tree.... and these candles... and why do we give gifts.... and why did God come to earth...?"

I'd invite you to join us for our Sunday School Christmas program, (during worship on December 18 @ 10:00) when the kids will actually answer our questions about the meaning of many of the symbols we use for our Christmas celebrations!

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Who Can You Invite?...

Two of the prophecies about the Messiah that God promised to send talk of Him as being a "Light to the Gentiles." People who are living without Jesus are living in the dark - and that's no way to live!

Those of us who believe that Jesus is truly the "Light of the World" and our only Savior have the privilege of being like "mirrors" - reflecting the Light of Jesus to those around us.

One great way we can reflect that Light is by a simple invitation to friends, neighbors, relatives. Invite them to join you for one of our special services this Christmas. Who can you invite? Pray about it. Ask God to give you the words and opportunity. Then just do it. Ask them to come with you. Offer to pick them up. (And if they don't take you up on your invitation,, keep praying for them and for another opportunity to invite.)

- **The Christmas Program** (Sunday, December 18 @ 10am)
(Special music, songs by the kids and a play revealing the meanings behind the symbols of Christmas)
- **Christmas Dinner** (Sunday, December 18 @ 11:15)
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship** (Dec. 24 @ 5pm)
The entire service is done by candlelight.
The Christmas Story from Luke chapter two is interspersed with Christmas Carols
- **Christmas Day Worship** (Dec. 25 @ 10:00am)

Opportunities for Growth...

Could You Host A Small Group Study This

Winter? One of our Core Values at Living Word is that making disciples (people who are committed to growing to become more like Jesus) happens best in small group settings. For example, it's easier for people to get connected to Jesus through small groups. It's easier to get to know other Christians in small groups. Caring happens best in small groups. With that in mind if you could host a small group study - at your home, a coffee house or at church, please talk to Pastor David. There are many different kinds of studies available. We can find one that fits your situation.

Today's Light Daily Readings:

See pages 10—11 of this newsletter

Sunday Morning Study (9:00)

Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School

Join us as we begin to dig deeper into Paul's letters

Men's Study- Tuesday, Sept 13th @ 6:30

NEW MEN'S STUDY - Begins Tues., Nov. 8
"Fight" -

Winning the Battles that Matter Most

Mom's Study - -

If you'd be interesting in a Mom's study group Tuesday mornings (childcare provided) please talk to Pastor

Wed. Evening Women's Study -

Wednesdays @ 6:30 "The Storm Inside"

3rd-6th Grade Group—

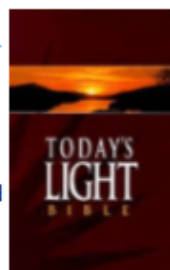
Meets Wednesdays @ 6:30

See page 21 for more information

H.S. Youth Study- December 4th @ noon

Sunday School: 9:00 Christmas Program practice (see info page 20)

Confirmation - Wednesdays @ 6:30



Page 4

That for a day: Christmas is not a date. It is a state of mind & heart.

Page 5

Opportunities to Serve...

Volunteer to help our 3-6th Grader make cookies Our 3-6th graders meet every Wednesday at 6:30. On Wednesday, December 14 they will be making cookies. If you like to bake and could help out, please talk to Violet. Thanks!

Help with the Christmas Dinner Check the "Christmas Dinner" page for items to bring. Help is also needed to set up, take down and serve.

Be "Custodian of the Month" You (or your whole family) can sign up to provide the necessary cleaning. A check-list of duties is posted by the mailboxes. Please consider being a part of this service. Talk to Trustee Jamie Iverson if you have questions or to volunteer yourself or your family. A custodian is still needed for January.

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

Read Scripture in Worship Please talk to Pastor David if you can take a turn once every couple of months reading our New Testament and Old Testament Scriptures.

Serve After-Worship Fellowship Snack We are looking for more folks to take a turn at serving snacks for fellowship time after worship.

Help With Our Nursery We need a couple more volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-4 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help out.

Bring NL Food Pantry Items Every Second Sunday
Please place your donations in the purple 'Food Shelf' box



LWML News...

The LWML planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 14th @ 10:00 at Leone's. It's time to plan for our general meeting for January. All women are welcome to be a part of LWML. Come and be a part of this important ministry. Watch for further details on the general meeting for January.

Get To Know Your...

In an effort to "get to know" your fellow-members, this month we begin a new monthly feature where we introduce you to members of various groups at LivingWord. **We'll start with four of our eight confirmation students.** Next month we'll get to know the other 4.



McCartney Knutson - McCartney is 13 years old in 8th grade at NL-S.

Her Parents: Mike and Brooke Knutson

Siblings: Two younger sisters, Alexa and Ella.

Pets: Horses Junior and Dakota; Dogs Rasco and Link; A rabbit: Fluffy Nibbles; Guinea pigs: Pringle and Abby

Favorite things to do: Horseback riding, 4-Wheeling, writing, reading

Favorite Food: Turkey tetrazzini and pizza

Favorite Class in School: Anything but English (probably Geography)

Extracurricular Activities: Art Club, Dog Bowl, Riding Lessons, Girl Scouts, Softball, 4H, Knowledge Bowl

An important thing I've learned in Confirmation: God loves us and doesn't want us to get hurt (that's why He gives us rules.)



Davis Rustad - Davis is 14 years old and just transferred from Willmar to Paynesville where he's in the 9th Grade.

His parents: Alex Larsen and Dana Rustad.

Siblings: One younger sister, Zoe.

Pets: A dog named Jade

Favorite things to do: Hunt, fish and trap

Favorite food: Mourning Dove

Favorite Class in School: Study Hall

Extracurricular Activities: none

Favorite Person from the Bible (aside from Jesus): Matthew

An important thing I've learned in Confirmation: God is my only God



Lance Sawatzky - Lance is 12 years old in 7th Grade at KMS.

His parents: Alicia and Brent Sawatzky.

Siblings: One younger brother, Carson.

Pets: None

Page 6

That for a day: He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree.

Page 7

Favorite things to do: Hunt, trap, fish and camp

Favorite food: Taco John's

Favorite Class in School: Math and Ag

Extracurricular Activities: none

Favorite Person from the Bible (aside from Jesus): John

An important thing I've learned in Confirmation: Always love God



Noah Miller - Noah is 13 years old and in 8th Grade (home-schooled)

His parents: Jason and Sarah Miller.

Siblings: A younger brother, Levi and younger sister, Mikala.

Pets: 2 dogs

Favorite things to do: Mine Craft

Favorite Food: Pizza dipped in chocolate pudding !

Favorite Class in School: Math

Extracurricular Activities: After-school Art Club Assistant

Favorite Person from the Bible: Abraham & Moses

An important thing I've learned in Confirmation: God is here with us on earth.

Minnesota North branch of Orphan Grain Train...

has sent one semi-load of potatoes from a supplier/donor near Long Prairie. Each load is around 40,000 pounds. The potatoes have been shipped to Ysleta Mission at El Paso, Texas. Distribution is done at the Mission for those in need through churches in Texas and Mexico. Ysleta Mission helps feed the hungry, nurtures their ministries, and educates the leaders in 11 affiliated mission sites in El Paso and northern Mexico.

The cost for this load of potatoes was \$1707 and shipping cost \$3250. Please prayerfully consider doing a congregation fundraiser or collection to help with these costs. (Matthew 25:35-40). Without funds, the branch will not be able to ship these donations. Your gift is greatly appreciated and can be sent to Orphan Grain Train, P.O. Box 61, Morris, MN 56267. Check payable to Orphan Grain Train.

God's blessings! Gene Pasche, Chairman, MN North Branch OGT



Choir Notes...

Our Choir Sings December 4, 18th and on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals are after coffee fellowship on the 4th and prior to worship on the 18th and 24th. Join us to sing praises.

Email Inspiration...

Why Would He Come?

Why? He loves to be with the ones He loves.

Dr. Maxwell Maltz tells a remarkable story of a love like this. A man had been burned and disfigured in a fire while attempting to save his parents from a burning house, but he couldn't get to them. They perished. He mistakenly interpreted his pain as God's punishment. The man would not let anyone see him — not even his wife.

She went to Dr. Maltz, a plastic surgeon, for help. He told her not to worry. "I can restore his face."

The wife was unenthused. Her husband had repeatedly refused any help. She knew he would again.

Then why her visit? "I want you to disfigure my face so I can be like him! If I can share his pain, maybe he'll let me back in his life."

Dr. Maltz was shocked. He denied her request but was so moved by her love that he went to speak with her husband. Knocking on the man's bedroom door, he called loudly. "I'm a plastic surgeon, and I can restore your face." No response. "Please come out." Again there was no answer.

Still speaking through the door, Dr. Maltz told the man of his wife's proposal. "She wants me to disfigure her face, to make her face like yours in the hope that you let her back into your life. That's how much she loves you."

There was a brief moment of silence, and then, ever so slowly, the doorknob began to turn.

The way the woman felt for her husband is the way God feels about us. But He did more than make the offer. He took on our face, our disfigurement. He became like us. Just look at the places He was willing to go: feed troughs, carpentry shops, badlands, and cemeteries. The places He went to reach us show how far He will go to touch us.

He loves to be with the ones He loves.

Prayer

Great God of the universe, I am amazed that You would leave the glory of Heaven and become like me. I come to You with my disfigurement and ask You to touch me with Your love. I want to be with You as well. In Jesus' name, amen.

Excerpted with permission from *In the Manger* by Max Lucado, copyright Thomas Nelson.

Page 8

Thot for a day: Take C-H-R-I-S-T out of Christmas and you're left with a "miss."

Page 9

Thank-offering....

...Can Still Be Given

God commanded the Israelites to come to the temple once a year for a joyful celebration of the blessings God provided in the harvest. This harvest festival was called The Feast of Weeks.

Then celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you. Deuteronomy 16:10

With that in mind we came together on Thanksgiving Eve for a special joyful celebration of the blessings God has provided us. We were each encouraged to bring a special freewill offering in proportion to how God has blessed us this past year.

If you didn't have the chance to attend the Thanksgiving worship, please pray about your Thank-offering proportion.. Use the special Thank-Offering envelope to make your Thank-Offering.

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

King David in 1 Chronicles 29:14



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. **Last week we thanked God for EVERYTHING!** Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week.

If you shop at **Amazon.com**, then try out [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/?ref=astore), select Living Word Lutheran Church as your charitable organization and Amazon will donate a portion of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to support our church.... Same great online shopping with an added benefit to our church!



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

select Living Word Lutheran Church as your charitable organization and Amazon will donate a portion of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to support our church.... Same great online shopping with an added benefit to our church!

December 2016 - Daily Devotionals

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We start the month reading the last book of the Bible, the book that tells us how it all ends - but we interrupt our Revelation reading to go through the Gospel of Matthew during the Christmas season. We'll finish Revelation (and our reading program) in January

(In parentheses are verses to focus on if you are short on time that day)

Dec 4 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**

Dec 5 Revelation 1 (1:1-8) _____

Dec 6 Revelation 2 (2:1-7) _____

Dec 7 Revelation 3 (3:14-22) _____

Dec 8 Revelation 4-5 (5:1-14) _____

Dec 9 Revelation 6-8:5 (7:9-17) _____

Dec 10 Revelation 8:6-9 (9:13-21) _____

Dec 11 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**

Dec 12 Revelation 10 (10:5-11) _____

Dec 13 Revelation 11 (11:1-14) _____

Dec 14 Revelation 12 (12:7-17) _____

Dec 15 Revelation 13 (13:1-10) _____

Dec 16 Revelation 14 (14:1-5) _____

Dec 17 Revelation 15 (15:1-4) _____

Dec 18 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**

Dec 19 Revelation 16 (16:1-16) _____

Dec 20 Revelation 17-18 (18:1-8) _____

Dec 21 Revelation 18:9-24 (18:20-24) _____

Dec 22 Revelation 19 (19:1-10) _____

Dec 23 Matthew 1-2 (1:18-25) _____

Dec 24 Matthew 3-4 (4:1-11) _____

Dec 25 **Use the time today to worship and Celebrate Jesus' Birth**

Dec 26 Matthew 5-7 (5:1-12) _____

Dec 27 Matthew 8-9 (9:1-8) _____

Dec 28 Matthew 10-11 (10:1-42) _____

Dec 29 Matthew 12-13 (12:1-30) _____

Dec 30 Matthew 14-15 (14:1-12) _____

Dec 31 Matthew 16-17 (16:1-12) _____

Jan 1 **Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed**

Jan 2 Matthew 18-19 (18:21-35) _____

Jan 3 Matthew 20-21 (21:1-11) _____







Jan 4 ~~Matthew~~ 22-23 (23:1-39) _____

Jan 5 Matthew 24-25 (25:31-46) _____

Jan 6 Matthew 26-27 (27:32-56) _____

Jan 7 Matthew 28 (28:1-15) _____

December 2016 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 9:00 ADULT STUDY - <i>SS Christmas Pgm practice</i> 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Choir Practice noon YOUTH BIBLE STUDY	5 8:30 Circuit Pastors @ Living Word	6 6:30 MEN'S STUDY <i>Fight</i>	7 6:30 -3 rd -6 th Gr. GROUP 6:30 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY	8	9	10
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #f08080; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, December 4th Christmas Eve—Dec 24th @ 7:00 Christmas Day—Dec 25th </div>						
11 9:00 ADULT STUDY - <i>SS Christmas Pgm practice</i> 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 S.S. TEACHERS Mtg	12	13 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MEN'S STUDY:	14 10:00 LWML 6:30 - 3 rd -6 th Gr. GROUP 6:30 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY	15 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	16	17 
18 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & DINNER 9:00 ADULT STUDY - <i>SS Christmas Pgm practice</i> 10:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 11:15 CHRISTMAS DINNER	19 	20 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	21 6:30 - 3 rd -6 th Gr. GROUP 6:30 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY	22	23 	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT WORSHIP (w/Lord's Supper)
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship		27	28	29	30 6:30 FFAA Night Annual Whist Night for adults Games for kids	31
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #f08080; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net </div>						
Jan 1 9:00 ADULT STUDY SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship	Jan 2 	Jan 3 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	Jan 4 6:30 - 3 rd -6 th Gr. GROUP 6:30 - CONFIRMATION 6:30- WOMEN'S STUDY	Jan 5	Jan 6 EPIPHANY 	Jan 7 CTJ provides music / testimonies at worship tomorrow.

Upcoming Schedules...

Fellowship Servers

Dec 4 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
 Dec 11 Kerry & Leone Quigley
 Dec 18 Christmas Dinner
 Dec 25 No Fellowship
 Jan 1 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
 Jan 8 Potluck
 Jan 15 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
 Jan 22 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
 Jan 29 Gwen Ruchti

Usher Schedule

Dec 4 Brady & Andrew Sharp
 Dec 11 Linda Dilley & Davis Rustad
 Dec 18 Wally Abraham and Joe Johnson
 Dec 25 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
 Jan 1 Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson
 Jan 8 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
 Jan 15 Brent & Lance Sawatzky
 Jan 22 Jason & Noah Miller
 Jan 29 Bo & George Arends-Schmidt

Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)

Dec 4 George Arends-Schmidt & Mona Hjelle
 Dec 11 Davis Rustad & McCartney Knutson
 Dec 18 Christmas Program
 Dec 25 Andrew Sharp & Carson Jaspersen
 Jan 1 Ryland Engler & Mona Hjelle
 Jan 8 Lance Sawatzky & Noah Miller
 Jan 15 George Arends-Schmidt & Davis Rustad
 Jan 22 McCartney Knutson & Andrew Sharp
 Jan 22 Carson Jaspersen & Ryland Engler
 Jan 29 Mona Hjelle & Lance Sawatzky

Altar Guild

Dec Nancy Jo Wendt & Mona Hjelle
 Jan Nancy Jo Wendt

Make A Meal Volunteers

Dec Scott & Tammy Wachter & Nancy Jo Wendt
 Jan Wendy Robbin & Pam Johnson

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Dec 4 Lance Sawatzky
 Dec 11 Andrew Sharp
 Dec 18 Gage Dahl

That for a day: Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity.

Dec 25 Levi Miller
 Jan 1 Eli Sharp
 Jan 8 George Arends-Schmidt
 Jan 15 Carson Jaspersen
 Jan 22 Noah Miller
 Jan 29 Davis Rustad

Elders

Dec 4 Mark Fuglie & Jason Miller
 Dec 18 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
 Dec 24 Ed Vegdahl & Mark Fuglie
 Jan 1 Jason Miller & Kevin Welsh
 Jan 15 Keith Hanson & Ed Vegdahl

Scripture Readers

Dec 4 Linda Dilley
 Dec 11 Mark Fuglie
 Dec 18 Christmas Program
 Dec 25 Tammy Fuglie
 Jan 1 Becky Sarsland
 Jan 8 CTI
 Jan 15 Nykki Foshaug
 Jan 22 Mona Hjelle
 Jan 29 Kevin Welsh

Accompanying Musicians

Dec 4 Sharon Willen
 Dec 11 Scott Wachter
 Dec 18 Sharon Willen
 Dec 24 Susan Johnson
 & Scott Wachter
 Dec 25 Scott Wachter
 Jan 1 Sharon Willen
 Jan 8 CTI
 Jan 15 Pam Johnson
 Jan 22 Scott Wachter
 Jan 29 Scott Wachter

Custodian

December Ed & Ruth Vegdahl
 January Custodians Needed

Congratulations...

- Kelly & Adam Hjelle on the birth of your baby boy Emmett Adam
- On your Sunday School "GREAT ATTENDANCE" Reward Sep-Nov
 Noah Miller
 Levi Miller
 Jonah Sharp
 Anna Sharp
 Rya Sharp
 Cody Wendt
- On your 'Perfect Attendance' Award September - November
 McCartney Knutson
 Noah Miller
 Lance Sawatzky

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

December Discipleship Verse...



The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel which means ' God with us.'

Matthew 1:23

Mark Your Calendars...

Living Word Annual Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 18 11:15 a.m. (After the Christmas Program)

You are invited to Living Word Lutheran's annual CHRISTMAS DINNER following Sunday Services/ Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18th.

Meat (Turkey and Meatballs) will be provided. Each family is asked to bring a dish to pass. There will be a signup sheet at church so that you can indicate what items of food that you would like to bring, and the approximate number of family members attending (so that we can adequately prepare for seating and food amounts), or if you are able to assist with setup, serving, or cleanup. Any questions or additions, please contact Bonnie Hansen at 796-5605 or email [text-books@tds.net](mailto:books@tds.net)

Raisin Sauce	Mustard Sauce
Potatoes (mashed, scalloped, potato hotdish - your choice)	
Spinach Salad	Lettuce Salad
Other Salad	Sweet Potatoes
Squash	Vegetable
Baked Beans	Fresh Vegetables and Dip
Cheese & Crackers	Cranberry Sauce
Gallon of Milk	Apple Pie
Pumpkin Pie	Other Pie or Dessert
2 Dozen Buns/Dinner Rolls/Loaf of Bread (sliced & buttered)	
Plate of Christmas Cookies or Christmas Breads	



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

(Saturday, December 24 @ 5pm)

- The entire service is done by candlelight.
- The Christmas Story from Luke chapter two is interspersed with Christmas Carols
- The Lord's Supper is Celebrated



Grace Living Community of Glen Oaks

1st Annual Fund a Need - Pasta Dinner

Thursday, December 8th, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

All you can eat Pasta Bar and served with salad and Dessert
Evangelical Covenant Church- 208 Main St. N. New London MN.

Tickets in advance are \$15 and \$20 at the door. Kids are \$10

For tickets in advance contact a staff member or call 354-2231

Page 16

Thot for a day: Every evening I turn my troubles over to God. He's going to be up all night anyway.

Page 17

FFAA Night: Friday, December 30 @ 6:30

"Fun For All Ages Nights" are not just for summer any more! We will be hosting the FFAA nights on the last Friday of every month. December's FFAA night is the "Annual Court Whist Party."

Two NEW things about the Court Whist Party this year:

1. It will be held at church. (We've outgrown Pastor & Violet's house.)
2. We will have board games for the kids too.

Bring a friend and an appetizer to share! It will be a fun night!

SAVE the DATE: Sunday, January 8

CTI 14:22 is Coming to Living Word



The CTI group travels the world sharing the Gospel in their music, testimonies and dramas. They're at Living Word during worship on January 8

Meet the group at <https://youtu.be/3SQTp7r4L-s>

Coming in January...

RESET A congregation-wide opportunity

From Sunday sermons to group studies we'll learn how Jesus has the power to Reset our lives.



To reset something is, literally, to set it back to its original purpose, its original design. When an electronic device is functioning in a less-than-optimal way, it can be reset so that whatever was stuck gets unstuck and all the connections can run smoothly again. Similarly, when life is functioning in a less-than-optimal way, it can be reset too. This happens first on the inside, where our deep-seated cravings for significance and satisfaction live.

If you could host a study, please talk to Pastor David.

Week 1: Reset My Heart - It All Starts Here

Week 2: Reset My Mind - I Am What I Think About

Week 3: Reset My Voice - Good News for Bad Times

Week 4: Reset My Hands - Soul at Peace, Hands at Work

Miscellaneous Notes...

Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

Here's just a sampling of what you'll find :

- Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- Today's Light Devotional Bibles
- December Living Word newsletters
- December Today's Light daily Bible readings
- Oct - Dec Portals of Prayer - daily devotionals
- Family Devotion Books



Winter: A Great Time for Direct Deposit Your Offerings

Bad winter weather may keep you away, but direct-deposit can ensure your offerings are still supporting our mission while you are away. Thrivent Financial sponsors Simply Giving, a direct-deposit program that you can set up to have offerings automatically transferred from your bank account to the Living Word's general fund. Please see Jason Miller for more details.

Sermons Now Available in Audio on our Website

<http://livingwordlutheran.net/sermons.htm>

(Or just click on "New Sermons Online" at the bottom of the livingwordlutheran.net home page)



Sermons from this past month:

- Nov 6- The connection between the election and All Saints Day
- Nov 13 - Hope in the middle of weeping, wailing & gnashing of teeth
- Nov 20 - What do you look for in a king?
- Thanksgiving - How is it possible to give thanks in all circumstances?
- Nov 27 - Christmas Gifts for the King - Part 1

NEW: We Prayed For You...



We have started a new prayer ministry where we send out a card or two each week to people we prayed for during worship.

How you can help: Simply tell our card-sender, Nancy Jo Wendt when you feel that someone you asked us to pray for would be greatly encouraged by getting a card. Then just call, email or text Nancy with that person's address. It truly is a simple way to brighten the spirits of someone who's going through a tough time.

Page 18

Thot for a day: Sure, it's the thought that counts, but couldn't people think a little bigger?

Page 19

Poinsettias Welcome

Everyone is welcome to bring a poinsettia plant to place in the sanctuary for Christmas. You may bring the plant any time and set it on the counter. The Altar Guild will take care of it and place it around the altar.

DECEMBER NEWS

Chasity Ormrod, Client Services and Community Engagement | 320.796.2522 | thelinkservices@faithspicer.org



Exciting News:

In response to an emerging need, The Link will be launching a Food Pantry in January 2017. When the New London Area Food Shelf closed in August 2016, it left a gap in resources. The Link's board and staff decided to meet this critical need.

The Need:

- Each week, people from the community request food from either the New London location or at The Link location in Spicer,
- Transportation to the Willmar Area Food Shelf, for some, is difficult, impossible or creates a cost burden,
- Food needs often exceed the 2-3 day food allotment provided by food shelves—the Food Pantry will also play a complimentary role in addition to "filling the gap."

How and Where You Can Help:

The Link has secured the space at our New London site and is embarking on a community campaign to stock the food pantry and elicit financial support to "fill the gap" in food resources in our community. The Link has set a fundraising goal of \$25,000 by December 31, 2016.

Donations can be made to: The Link, 310 Medayto Drive, Spicer, MN 56288 with "food pantry" in the memo. Please contact Chasity or Rhonda with any questions.



Andrea Carruthers from Bethel Lutheran Church delivered the food pantry's first donation.

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

Tuesday's Table

Dec. 6th: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church

Dec. 13th: Evangelical Covenant Church

Dec. 20th: Faith Lutheran Church

Dec. 27th: No Tuesday's Table

Food. Friends. Fellowship.

Annual Christmas Concert:

A Christmas Choir Concert to benefit The Link Featuring Area Church Choirs Sunday, Dec. 4, 3pm Peace Lutheran Church

We are on the move!

In January, Rhonda and Chasity will be moving their offices to the New London site as well. This will provide a one-stop spot for community members and a stronger identity for The Link.

Stock the Pantry:

Key food items: Milk, eggs, bread, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, noodles and sauce, peanut butter, jelly, tuna; please contact Chasity at 796-2522 to make a donation of food.

Merry Christmas

The Link would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas. Your support makes a difference!

Sunday School News...

Class: 9:00 - 9:50

Sunday School staff:

Director:	Mona Hjelle
Music:	Sarah Miller
Pre-K thru Kindergarten:	Our Senior High girls: Gracie Geer, Alana Friehl and Michelle Johnson
1st & 2nd Grade:	Amanda Sharp
3rd & 4th Grade:	Violet Dauk
5th Grade- Jr High	Keith Hanson
Subs:	Jason Miller, Mona Hjelle



- CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
Dec. 18 during the 10:00 AM Worship
Practice during the Sunday School Hour Dec, 4, 11 & 18
- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on SUNDAY DEC. 25, CHRISTMAS DAY
- WE'LL CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR WITH A PARTY
During the Sunday- School Hour- January 1, 2017, New Years Day
- REGULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES - Resume - Sunday Jan. 8, 2017

E-mail Wisdom...

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer.

The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate butter-milk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going.

The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard."

Now the pastor was totally perplexed.

The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."

He paused, "Lord help us to realize when life gets hard - when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing - that we need to wait and see what You are making.

After you get through mixing and baking, we know it'll be something even better than biscuits." Amen to that!

Page 20

That for a day: Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

Page 21

3rd—6th Grade Group...



Meets every Wednesday from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
(Except on days NL-S does not have school or is cancelled)

Meets Wednesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

- Dec 7: We will finish making the backdrop for the Christmas Pageant
- Dec 14: We will be baking Christmas cookies. (If you like baking and could help that night, talk to Violet)
- Dec 21: TBA
- Dec 28: No meeting this week (Christmas Vacation week)

Kids are encouraged to invite friends
(We have postcard invitations they can give to their friends)

Organizers of the group are
Alex Rustad (320-905-1434),
Amanda Sharp (320-979-6285)
Violet Dauk (320-220-0344)

Please feel free to contact them if you have questions or would like to help in any way. Thanks!

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...

- God to open hearts to invitations to celebrate His Son's birth
- Asking God to bless all the students involved in our Christmas Program
- Thanking God for the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of our Sunday School and Confirmation students
- Thanking God for sending His Son to be with us that first Christmas
- Thanking God that Jesus is still "Immanuel" (God With Us) today.
- A great turnout for our Christmas Program and Dinner
- A "giving" attitude all year - not just at Christmas
- Asking God to prepare us for the 'Reset' program coming in January
- Thanking God for an abundant harvest
- Safe travels over the Christmas holiday
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- God to embolden our Christian witness in our daily lives
- The Holy Spirit to work through our Bible studies
- The Spirit's guidance for all those who were elected in Nov.
- God to keep strengthening faith thru the Today's Light Bible readings
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

Story Behind The Song...

"Mary Did You Know?"

Since first being published in 1991, Mary Did You Know has become one of people's favorite Christmas songs - right up there with Silent Night and Joy to the World.

Christian singer, songwriter and comedian, Mark Lowry (a former member of the Gaither Vocal Band) wrote the words to Mary Did You Know in 1984.... The original by Mark and the Gaither Vocal Band can be heard at <https://youtu.be/kpFCbjpm5zk>

In an interview with Martha Drake on AbsolutelyGospel.com Lowry said this, "My Pastor asked me to write the Christmas program for our church, called The Living Christmas Tree, & I wrote some monologue to go in between the songs. I started thinking & wondering if Mary realized the power, authority & majesty that she cradled in her arms that first Christmas. I wondered if she realized those little hands were the same hands that scooped out oceans & formed rivers. I just tried to put into words the unfathomable. I started thinking of the questions I would have for her if I were to sit down & have coffee with Mary...you know, "What was it like raising God?" "...What did you know?" "...What didn't you know?". Over time, it (the song) just happened & I had the lyric.

Mark was quick to give credit to his mom: "My mother was actually the inspiration too, because (she said) "If anyone knew he was virgin born, Mary knew it"...she (Mark's mother) said, the silence of Mary at the cross was the greatest proof to her that the story is true."

The song was first recorded by Christian singer Michael English and then Country singer Kathy Mattea. It has since been recorded by over 400 people with Kenny Rogers & Wynonna Judd having the most popular version. Lowry adds, "There is actually a disco version done by a Christine W. that I heard had played in clubs all across the country during Christmas that year...it's actually pretty good because she enunciates the lyrics so well...my favorite version now though, is Christ Church Choir at <https://youtu.be/cQDnpOvZVSw>...it is amazing."

Mary did you know that your baby boy will some day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?

Page 22

That for a day: An apology is a good way to have the last word.

Page 23

Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God.

Oh Mary did you know
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is the great I am

Editor's note: The versions mentioned in the article are good, but my favorite is by Penatonix at <https://youtu.be/ffcWNSpJGIE>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



OLE THE ANGEL was a last minute transfer from his Hibbing Minnesota outpost to be one of the angels declaring the birth of Jesus. Ole's peculiar dress and language frightened the shepherds. **Luke 2**