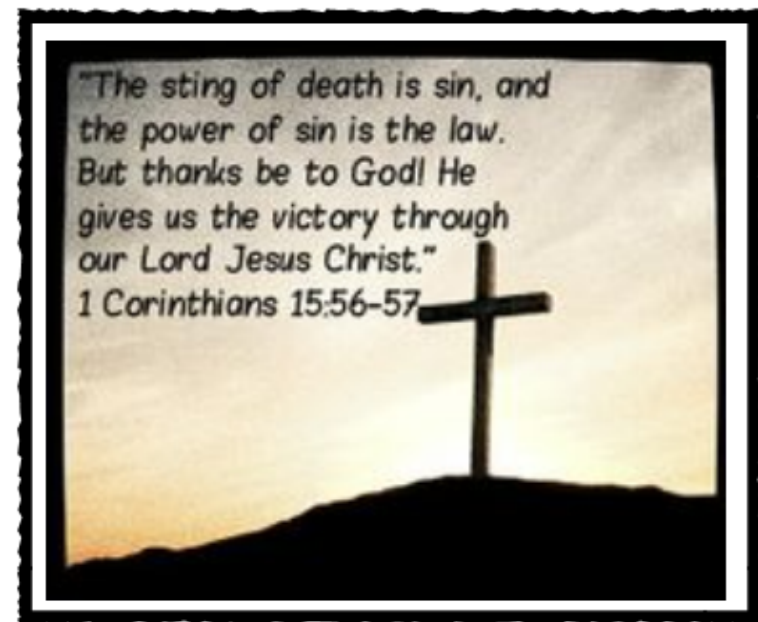



Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



March 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...

"We all worship the same God, don't we?"

A quick review of last month's answer in PART 1:

"I'd say it's correct to say we are all SEEKING the same God. But while it is true that we are all seeking the same God, but we really can't say that we've all found the same God. If two groups define "God" using TOTALLY CONTRADICTIONARY TERMS then it can't be the same God." It's kind of like all the students in a 2nd-Grade classroom can be described as all "seeking" the answer to a math problem, like $2+2=$ _____. But if some students "find" 3, and others 4 and still others 5 as the answer, it's pretty obvious they can't be said to have found the same solution.

The conversation needs to eventually come around to the fact that there is only one right answer to our search for God (just like there's only one right answer to the " $2+2=$ _____" problem). And Jesus - as He has revealed Himself in the Holy Scriptures - is that only right answer. He is the only thing that truly fills our that empty spot only God can fill.

Of course, we need to be ready for the "Isn't that kind of arrogant to say, you Christians have it right and everyone else has it wrong?!"

A couple points are necessary:

First, we need to admit that we can't take any credit for coming to faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit - the very spirit of God - gets all the credit for that. There's no room for a holier-than-thou, "I'm smarter than you" attitude.

Second, I would say something like this, "Would you think it arrogant to say that "4" is the right answer to the equation " $2+2=$ _____"? Of course



Page 5

not, because that IS the right answer. It's the only one that works." At this point we need to be prepared to tell why Christianity "works."

My answer goes something like this:

The thing that sets Christianity apart - "makes it work," if you will - is that it deals honestly with sin.

Sin is kind of like a stick of dynamite that has landed at your feet. You can't get rid of it by pretending it's not there. It will still blow up. You can't get rid of it by piling all sorts of "good stuff" on top of it. It will still blow up. You can't get escape the devastation it brings by claiming that it won't hurt you. The only way to be saved from the blast is to pick it up and throw it as far as you can. The only problem is that you can't likely toss it far enough. Some supernatural power would be needed to do that.

We can pretend there's not such thing as sin, or try to pile all sorts of good deeds on top of it, or pretend that it really doesn't hurt us. But the only solution is to have it removed far from us. We can't remove it on our own. God has to do that. He did that on a Friday we call "Good" when His Son took all our sin upon Himself.

Finally, this key point needs to be made:

Every other belief system teaches that your access to an afterlife is based on what you did for God - or for other people. Christianity teaches that your access to the afterlife is based on what God did for YOU.

I will say something like this:

"If I'm coming down to my last breath and I have these two choices to get me from this life to an eternal life:

1) To trust in what I did for God.

or

2) To trust in what God did for me.

That's the biggest "no-brainer" in the history of mankind... I know me! I'm sure not going to be trusting in what I did - horribly imperfectly - for God. I have got to trust in what God did - perfectly - or me when He paid for my sin on the cross and rose from the dead as proof that His sacrifice was accepted as FULL payment and that Jesus truly is who He claimed to be - the ONLY way to God the Father.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Miscellaneous Notes...

Join Our CHOIR

Choir will be singing the first Sunday in March and also for the 10:00 Easter service March 27th. . Rehearsals continue the last 2 Sundays each month after the fellowship (no rehearsals on March 27th). Come and join us - singing is the universal language.



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
- March Living Word newsletters + Local coupons
- March Today's Light daily Bible readings
- Jan - March Portals of Prayer - daily devotionals
- Faith, Hope and Love Scripture bags

YOU CAN PLAY HANDBELLS

It's really not that difficult. If you can count, you can play! We have the opportunity to form a Bell Choir to play for worship. Please talk to Jason or Sarah Miller if you'd like to be a part of it!

Still 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 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.

Easter Lilies Welcome

If you would like to provide Easter lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter, just bring them to church. Thanks !

Financial Peace University

Sunday evenings at 6 p.m.

Please join us even if you missed the first sessions.

Page 6

That for a day: Promises are like snowballs - easy to make but hard to keep.

Page 7

Email Wisdom...

WHAT IF GOD HAD VOICEMAIL?

We have all learned to live with voicemail as a necessary part of modern life. But you may have wondered, What if God installed voicemail?

Imagine praying and hearing this..."Thank you for calling My Father's House. Please select one of the following options:

- Press 1 for requests.
- Press 2 for thanksgiving.
- Press 3 for complaints.
- Press 4 for all other inquiries."

What if God used the familiar excuse..."All the angels are helping other customers right now. Please stay on the line. Your call will be answered in the order it was received."

Can you imagine getting these kinds of responses as you call on God in prayer?

"Our computers show that you have already called once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow."

"This office is closed for the weekend. Please call again on Monday after 9:00 am."

Thank God, you can't call Him too often! "Then you will call and the Lord will answer, you will cry for help, and He will say, 'Here am I.'" (Isaiah 58:9 NIV)

+++

There are two things I've learned:

- 1) There is a God.
- 2) And, I'm not Him.

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 Pancakes!

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week.

Lenten Services...

Lenten Soup & Sandwich Suppers ...

Each Wednesday during Lent we will provide a soup and sandwich supper prior to the Lenten devotion.

- Supper will be served from 5:30-6:20
- The devotion will be from 6:30 - 7:00
- Classes and studies will begin at 7:00

So far we've compared what God says with what 'The World' says about unanswered prayer and about magic. Join us the first three weeks of March as we focus on more wrong messages we hear from our world.



LWML News...

LWML meets March 9th @ 11:00 at Leone's - 354-4665. Plans are being made for the general meeting to be held in April and also for the Mother Daughter banquet to be held in May. We are also responsible for making the banner for our zone for the District Convention. Looking for helpers for this so let Leone, Bonnie, Nancy Jo or Pam know if you can help. LWML is open to all women of Living Word and we welcome you all to be apart of this organization in anyway you can.

A special thanks to Kevin and Marcia Welsh for providing the knobs and drawer pulls for the kitchen and to Kerry for putting them on.

A special thanks to Laurel Iverson for supplying the wooden hangers for the coat rack.

Food Shelf Reminder...

Food Shelf- We received donations of 23# for the food shelf for the month of February. Please continue to bring non perishable items to church on the 2nd Sunday each month (March 13 this month)

Thank you for supporting the local shelf.

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Thot for a day: The mind is like a television...when it goes blank, it's a good idea to turn off the sound.

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Who Can You Invite?...

1. **To Any of our Bible Studies or FPU course**
Everyone could use the help God has for us in His Word
2. **Maundy Thursday Worship-** March 24 @ 7 pm
We'll look at what Jesus taught in the Upper Room "on the night He was betrayed." Then we'll share communion.
3. **Good Friday - the Seven Last Words** - March 25- 7 pm
Easter is just a "feel-good" story without Good Friday. We extinguish one candle for each of the seven last words Jesus spoke from the cross until all lights have been put out. Join us to be reminded why we call such a dark day "Good."
4. **Easter** - We celebrate the Resurrection on March 27

7:10 a.m. Sunrise Worship - We begin outdoors watching the sun rise (7:10 is actual sunrise time), then move to the sanctuary to finish our celebration of the Greatest Event in History.

8:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast - served following Sunrise service

10:00 a.m. Communion Service - We again celebrate the Greatest Event in all of History at our regular worship time and share in communion as the Feast of Victory

Sunday School News....

9:00 every Sunday morning

- **Classes** Students start each morning with music, prayer requests from the kids and offering
- **"Lessons from the Toy Box"** Bible Lessons based on Toys
Upcoming Lessons
March 6- Jesus Heals the Blind Man John 9:1-12
March 13- The Good Shepherd John 10
March 20 - Palm Sunday- Jesus Enters Jerusalem John 12:12-19
March 27 - Easter Sunday
- **Teachers / Classes:** Pre-school to Kindergarten: Kari Sharp
1st & 2nd Grade: Amanda Sharp
3rd & 4th Grade: Violet Dauk
5th to 8th Grade Keith Hanson
- **Rides are Available** (Talk to Mona Hjelle or Pastor David)



Link Newsletter, March 2016

Spring is near! It seems as though the warmer temps have come a little early, which is fine by me! We hope that you have a fun St. Patrick's Day and a blessed Easter celebration!

Here at The Link we are gearing up for our annual "Just the Basics" event! This is a household item and toiletries distribution and is made possible by the generous donations and support of congregations, volunteers, Prairie Woods Elementary and service agencies! Please mark your calendar for Saturday, April 30th, 2016 from 9am to 10:30am at Cross Roads Community Church. Please share this event with anyone in need or interested in making a donation or volunteering.

There will be a 5th Tuesday's Table this month. It will be sponsored by the New London Lions and the Spicer Sunrise Lions at Faith Lutheran Church. This has been a great collaboration and is enjoyed by all!

Story of Compassion:

The Link was able to make a difference to a man named Bob who was struggling to get to Paynesville for a scheduled surgery. Bob had recently become unemployed due to a work related injury. Without any income coming in, he didn't have the gas money to get the hospital. When I met with Bob, he also mentioned that he didn't have much money for food either. The Link gave him a gas card and called up to a local business to ask if Bob could pick out some groceries and have it charged to The Link. When I went to go pay the bill, this local business informed me that the business covered it and it was their pleasure to take care of the bill. This was a very kind gesture and The Link is proud to live in a community of caring people, especially compassionate business owners!

Warm blessings to you,
Chasity Ommodt, Director of Client Services and Community Engagement

Tuesday's Table

Food. Friends. Fellowship.

March 1st: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church

March 8th: Evangelical Covenant Church

March 15th: Faith Lutheran Church

March 22nd: Peace Lutheran Church

March 29th: Faith Lutheran sponsored by Lion's Club

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That for a day: Because of God's grace, failure is never final.

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Mark Your Calendars...

Coming This Summer @ Lutheran Island Camp...

Trailblazer Dinosaur Week (June 26-July 1, Ages 7-11)

LIC will have their first Trailblazer (7-11) Dinosaur Camp this year.

Campers will spend time talking about God's creation, the dinosaur.

Campers will receive some of the latest information about dinosaurs

We'll do some digging, learn about fossils, put skeletons together, and

see if the Bible talks about dinosaurs. It should be a great week. The

cost is \$300. The Living Word LWML has scholarships available.

Living Word Women's Retreat—April 16–17

"All - In: You are one decision away from a changed life!"

is the theme of the retreat which will be held at the Koronis Ministries

camp near Paynesville. All women are invited to this Friday evening &

Saturday event. Friends are welcome too. Please see Violet Dauk for

details about cost and lodging choices.

"Build Your Own Salad" Sunday, March 13

After-church Fellowship will host a "Build Your Own Salad" event.

Cost: A free-will offering that will help defray expenses of our students who will be going to the National Youth Gathering this July.

God Is Great Concert Monday, March 7th

See page 18 for details...

Easter Celebration for Kids Saturday, March 19th

See page 19 for details...

Congratulations!

- Marcia Welsh on your new job.
- Bryan Sharp on your new job.

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

Start saving Toothpaste

for the Link's annual "Just the Basics" giveaway.

Saturday, April 30th, 9am to 10:30am

at Cross Roads Church.



Put your toothpaste donations in the box by Pastor's office. Thanks!

March 2016 - Daily Devotionals

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: The bulk of our readings will be in the Gospel of John in preparation for the celebration of Jesus' suffering death and resurrection.
(In parentheses are verses to focus on if you are short on time that day)

Feb 28 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Feb 29 Daniel 9 (9:1-19) _____

Mar 1 Daniel 10-12 (11:36-12:13) _____

Mar 2 Hosea 1-2 (1:1-11) _____

Mar 3 Hosea 3-4 (3:1-5) _____

Mar 4 Hosea 5-6 (6:1-6) _____

Mar 5 Hosea 7-8 ((8:1-14) _____

Mar 6 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Mar 7 Hosea 9-10 (10:1-15) _____

Mar 8 Hosea 11-12 (11:1-12) _____

Mar 9 Hosea 13 (13:4-14) _____

Mar 10 Hosea 14 (14:1-4) _____

Mar 11 Jonah 1-2 (1:1-12) _____

Mar 12 Jonah 3-4 (4:1-11) _____

Mar 13 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Mar 14 John 1-2 (1:29-51) _____

Mar 15 John 3:1-21() _____

Mar 16 John 4 (4:1-42) _____

Mar 17 John 5-6 (6:25-58) _____

Mar 18 John 7-8 (7:37-53) _____

Mar 19 John 9-10 (10:1-30) _____

Mar 20 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Mar 21 John 11-12 (11:1-53) _____

Mar 22 John 13-14 (14:1-31) _____

Mar 23 John 15-16 (16:1-33) _____

Mar 24 John 17 (17:20-26) _____

Mar 25 John 18-19 (18:1-11) _____

Mar 26 John 20-21 (20:1-18) _____

Mar 27 Use the time today to celebrate the GREATEST EVENT IN HISTORY !

Mar 28 Micah 1-2 (2:1-13) _____

Mar 29 Micah 3-4 (4:1-13) _____





Mar 30 Micah 5 (5:1-4) _____

Mar 31 Micah 6 (6:1-8) _____

Apr 1 Micah 7 (7:18-20) _____

Apr 2 Nahum 1-3 (1:1-15) _____

March 2016 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 28 9:00 ADULT STUDY Sunday School - Toy Box 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Choir Practice 6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV.	Feb 29	1 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	2 8:45 MOMS' STUDY 5:30 - SOUP SUPPER 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION 7:00 - WOMEN'S STUDY - CONFIRMATION	3	4  Set Your Clocks Ahead Tonight	5
6 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 9:00 ADULT STUDY Sunday School- 10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper 11:15 POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP 6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV. 6:30 SR HIGH YOUTH STUDY	7 9:00 Circuit Pastors @ St Johns Montevideo. 6:30 "God is Great" Concert @ Redeemer	8 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	9 8:45 MOMS' STUDY 11:00 LWMIL @ Leone's 5:30 - SOUP SUPPER 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION 7:00 - WOMEN'S STUDY - CONFIRMATION	10	<div> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, March 6th Sunday, March 20th Maundy Thursday, March 24th Easter Sunday, March 27th </div>	
13 9:00 ADULT STUDY Sunday School - 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 BUILD YOUR OWN SALAD 6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV.	14	15 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	16 8:45 MOMS' STUDY 5:30 - SOUP SUPPER 6:30 - LENT DEVOTION 7:00 - WOMEN'S STUDY - CONFIRMATION	17 MISSION <i>Ministry</i> 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	18	19 10:00 EASTER CELEBRATION FOR KIDS
20 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School - 10:00 WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper Baptism of Amelia Evenson 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 FINANCIAL PEACE UNIV. 6:30 SR HIGH YOUTH STUDY	21	22	23	24 MAUNDY THURS  7:00 WORSHIP w/ Lord's Supper	26 GOOD FRIDAY  7:00 WORSHIP "The 7 Last Words"	27
27 EASTER SUNDAY 7:10 SQRRISE WORSHIP 8:15 EASTER BREAKFAST 9:00 ADULT STUDY Sunday School 10:00 EASTER WORSHIP w/Lord's Supper	28 	29 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	30 8:45 MOMS' STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - CONFIRMATION	31	April 1	April 2

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

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Mar 6	Linda Dilley
Mar 13	Jason Miller
Mar 20	Mark Fuglie
Mar 27	Tammy Fuglie
Apr 3	Duane Hansen
Apr 10	Tammy Wachter
Apr 17	Scott Wachter
Apr 24	Wendy Robbin

Fellowship Servers

Mar 6	Potluck for New Member Welcome
Mar 13	"Build Your Own Salad"
Mar 20	Mike & Brooke Knutson
Mar 27	Easter Breakfast
Apr 3	Becky Sarsland / Mary Raddatz
Apr 10	Kerry & Leone Quigley
Apr 17	Wendy Robbin & Alicia Sawatzky
Apr 24	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie

Usher Schedule

Mar 6	Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp
Mar 13	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Mar 20	Linda Dilley & Davis Rustad
Mar 27	Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson
Apr 3	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
Apr 10	Brent & Lance Sawatzky
Apr 17	Jason & Noah Miller
Apr 24	Bo & George Arends-Schmidt

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Mar 6	Eli Sharp
Mar 13	Lance Sawatzky
Mar 20	George Arends-Schmidt
Mar 27	Davis Rustad
Apr 3	Carson Jaspersen
Apr 10	Noah Miller
Apr 17	Andrew Sharp
Apr 24	Levi Miller

Altar Guild

Mar	Mona Hjelle
Apr	Nancy Jo Wendt

Make A Meal Volunteers

March	Bonnie Hansen & Gerri Strohbeen
April	Michelle Johnson & Sarah Miller

Thot for a day: Constantly torn between "treat others how you want to be treated" and "treat others how they treat you."

Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)

Mar 6	Mona Hjelle & George Arends-Schmidt
Mar 13	McCartney Knutson & Lance Sawatzky
Mar 20	Gracie Geer & Noah Miller
Mar 27	Alana Friehl & Davis Rustad
Apr 3	Mona Hjelle & Andrew Sharp
Apr 10	McCartney Knutson & Carson Jaspersen
Apr 17	Gracie Geer & George Arends-Schmidt
Apr 24	Alana Friehl & Lance Sawatzky

Accompanying Musicians

Mar 6	Sharon Willen
Mar 13	Scott Wachter
Mar 20	Pam Johnson
M Thurs	
G Fri	
Sonrise	Scott Wachter
Easter	Sharon Willen

Apr 3	Sharon Willen
Apr 10	Scott Wachter
Apr 17	Pam Johnson
Apr 24	Scott Wachter

Custodian

March	Brady & Amanda Sharp
April	Custodian needed

Confirmation Parent/Assistant

Mar 2	Millers
Mar 9	Knutsons
Mar 16	Sawatzkys
Mar 23	No Class
Mar 30	Jaspersens

Apr 6	Rustads
Apr 13	Arends-Schmidts
Apr 20	Sharps
Apr 27	Millers

Elders

Mar 6	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Mar 20	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
M Thurs	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Easter	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Apr 3	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Apr 17	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson



Living Word Kids & Parents
are invited to...

**GOD IS GREAT CONCERT
WITH JENNIE WILLIAMSON**



Redeemer Lutheran Church & Preschool

1401 6th St Sw, Willmar MN

Monday, March 7, 2016

10:00am and 6:30pm

Supper served at 5:30pm

All Ages will Enjoy: "Pearly White Gates", "G-O-D"

"FireFlies", "God is Great- I am Unique" & more

Arisonrecords.com

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Thot for a day: I think senility is going to be a fairly smooth transition for me.

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Easter Celebration for Kids...

Easter Celebration for Kids"

Where:

Living Word Lutheran Church

When:

Saturday, March 19, 2016

Time:

Starting at 10:00 AM

This is a free event for children age 3 - 9, (younger and older children are also welcome). Kids will hear the Resurrection story of Jesus, do a craft, have a snack, and other activities! We will also have a Easter Egg Hunt (weather permitting).

For more info or to RSVP, contact Mona Hjelle 212-0069 or Church 354-4637. * Parents are welcome to stay and participate"



How would you change if you spent just 10-15 minutes a day getting to know God in His Word?

Join us in finding out.

Last January we began to read through the Bible together using the Today's Light Bible

THIS January....

If you haven't started reading yet...

Or started and got 'stuck' in Leviticus....

Or maybe you had good intentions, but ...



Just Jump In With This Month's Readings

The Today's Light Bible is divided into 10-15 minute daily readings with an introductory paragraph before each reading and a summary paragraph after each one.

Bibles are available at church. You may pick one up from the Free Stuff table.

March Discipleship Verse...



The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

Opportunities for Growth...

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

Men's Study- Tuesdays @ 6:30

Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School

Wed. Evening Women's Study -

6:30 Wednesday evenings

"Emotionally Healthy Woman"

Mom's Study -

Wednesday, @ 8:30a.m. (childcare provided)

"Believing Jesus—The Book of Acts"

Confirmation Class

Wednesdays @ 6:15

Sr. High Youth Study

1st & 3rd Sunday evenings @ 6:30 Friends are welcome too!

Financial Peace University

Sunday evenings @ 6:00



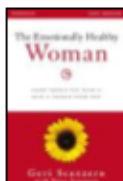
Could You Host A Small Group Study This Spring?

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.

"All In" Women's Retreat - April 16 & 17

"All - In: You are one decision away from a changed life !"

is the theme of the retreat which will be held at the Koronis Ministries camp near Paynesville. All women are invited to this Friday evening & Saturday event. Friends are welcome too.



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Thot for a day: My decision-making skills closely resemble that of a squirrel when crossing the street.

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Email Humor...

While walking in the park one day, I was taking in the beautiful lake, blooming flowers, and just enjoying the oversized wide path that I could walk on but on which people could also jog, run their dogs or ride their bikes.

As I was coming down a hill, I saw an older woman coming toward me, pushing a stroller with two toddlers in it. "We're coming to a hill," the presumable grandmother said to the children, "so you'll have to help me — are you ready?"

I wondered how those little toddlers would be of any assistance, but as I passed them, I heard them earnestly repeating: "I think I can, I think I can..."

+++

A new business was opening and one of the owner's friends wanted to send him flowers for the occasion. They arrived at the new business site and the owner read the card, "Rest in Peace."

The owner was angry and called the florist to complain.

After he had told the florist of the obvious mistake and how angry he was, the florist replied, "Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry you should imagine this. Somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying, 'Congratulations on your new location!'"

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 continue to work through our Financial Peace University class
- Thanking God for the New Members He has brought to Living Word
- Asking God to bring lots of kids to our Easter Celebration for Jesus
- Our Youth Gathering group to find reasonable airline tickets
- God to raise up one more female chaperone for our Youth Gathering
- Asking God to open hearts to the message of the Cross & Empty Tomb
- 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 Holy Week services
- God to keep strengthening faith thru the Today's Light Bible readings
- God to raise up leaders in our nation who seek His will
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

Story Behind The Song...

"Come As You Are"

Every so often a new song hits the Christians radio airwaves that seems to me to be destined for the "Church Songs & Hymns Hall of Fame." *10,000 Reasons* and *I Can Only Imagine* are a couple of the recent ones that immediately come to mind deserving of a place alongside *What A Friend We Have in Jesus* and *Amazing Grace*. The song I want to look at this month is one that also gets my vote: *Come As You Are* by Christian artist David Crowder.

"Come As You Are" is Crowder's first solo single since "I Am," which rose to the number-one position on the Christian Songs chart last year. Explaining the significance of "Come As You Are," Crowder told The Christian Post that the track brings listeners closer to God.

"What I love about 'Come As You Are' is that it makes room for all of us," the singer revealed. "It feels like it throws the doors wide open."

"When you talk about invitations, an invite into something bigger and grander than what you know and experience, 'Come As You Are' feels like one that throws the door really wide," he explained. "I think it's an anchor and hinge for the whole new record 'Neon Steeple.'"

At this point, it may be best to just let the words themselves do the inviting....

Come out of sadness From wherever you've been
Come broken hearted Let rescue begin
Come find your mercy Oh sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow That heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow That heaven can't heal

So lay down your burden Lay down your shame
All who are broken Lift up your face
Oh wanderer come home You're not too far
So lay down your hurt Lay down your heart Come as you are

There's hope for the hopeless And all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table Come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary Rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow That heaven can't cure

So lay down your burden Lay down your shame
All who are broken Lift up your face
Oh wanderer come home You're not too far
Lay down your hurt Lay down your heart

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That for a day: Regardless of how much patience we have, we would prefer never to use any of it.

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Come as you are Come as you are Fall in his arms Come as you are

There's joy for the morning Oh sinner be still
Earth has no sorrow That heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow That heaven can't heal

So lay down your burden Lay down your shame
All who are broken Lift up your face
Oh wanderer come home You're not too far
So lay down your hurt Lay down your heart
Come as you are Come as you are Come as you are

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The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



CUTE TRADITION v **AMAZING TRUTH** @ **LOVE**
Have fun with the cute tradition, BUT be sure to celebrate OUR RISEN SAVIOR.