



February 2019 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

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Ouestion for Pastor...

Does is 'count' if you do what God asks - even if you don't want to?

In other words, "Would I be better off not doing it, since 'mv heart is not in it'?"

This is a question I've fielded from time to time, and again recently in a Bible study. It's a great question, because we know there are lots of times we just don't 'feel like' doing something God wants.

I'll answer the guestion with a few more guestions:

Do you get paid when you show up for work - even when you don't feel like it?

Do you get an "attendance" mark for showing up to class at school even when you'd rather be doing.... pretty much anything else?

Does your vote on the jury count even if you'd much prefer even sitting in the dentist's chair having a root canal?

Hopefully, the answer is obvious: Of course!

There are many times in life that we need to do the right thing, just because it is the right thing- not because we "feel like it." In fact, if we waited until we felt like it, we may never do the right thing, because the right thing is almost always the harder thing to do.

Unfortunately, our society is extremely focused on "feelings" as a determinator of our actions. For example, "If it feels good, do it!" and the flip side: "If you don't feel like it, then don't do it."

Basing your actions on whether or not you 'feel like' doing something is a sure way to guarantee that the only things you ever end up doing are either 'easy' or 'fun.'

God's ways are often the direct opposite of the ways of the world. For example, in marriage, there will be times when you just don't "feel like" loving the other person. The world says, "If you don't feel it, you can't be

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loving, because love is based on feelings. But God's definition of love is NOT feelings-based. A good definition of love in God's world would be: "Love is a conscious decision to do what the other person needs you to do - even when you don't feel like it." God's way is for you to do loving things - even though you don't feel like it, and - funny how this works -He will bring the feelings of love later!

Jesus may be the prime example of doing the right/loving thing even though He didn't "feel like it." In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed for God to find another way to accomplish the forgiveness of mankind, because He knew that having His back ripped to shreds before being executed as a common criminal was not going to "feel" good. But there was no other way, so He made the supreme sacrifice anyway! He did the right thing, because it was the right thing, not because He "felt" like it.

So, will God bless you for doing the right thing - even though you didn't feel like doing it? Absolutely! Do the right thing, just because it is the right thing. Then pray for God to work a change in your heart and help you "feel like" doing the right things next time.

> Thanks for Asking, Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Who Can You Invite?...

to join you for:

Friendship Sunday

(February 10)

Includes FISH-FRY brunch served by the men of Living Word after worship (We'll also have meatballs for those who aren't 'into' fish)

and BINGO after the meal (with LOTS of cool prizes from A&W, DQ, Coffee & More, Walt's Car Wash, etc...)

GUYS: We'll do our final meal planning Tuesday, Feb 5 at Men's Study

Pray about your invitations. Ask God to give you the words and opportunity. Then just ask them to come with you. Offer to pick them up.

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.)



Opportunities for Growth...

"Cultures in Conflict"

Sunday mornings @ 9:00

The culture in Corinth conflicted greatly with
the lifestyle that the Apostle Paul proclaimed to
those who chose to follow Jesus. In the same



way, the church today is called to proclaim the gospel in every environment, showing the world what it looks like when we give our lives to Jesus.

Daily Bible readings:

See pages 10 & 11 in this Newsletter

MEET FOR PRAYER -

WEDNESDAYS @ 6 p.m. at church

God tells us (Philippians 4:6) "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition present your requests to God."

Women's Study - Seamless Wednesdays @ 6:30

Our 'Seamless' study covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Wednesdays @ 6:30pm. We start our new study: Uninvited later this month.



Men's Group Study—Tuesdays @ 6:30

"Attributes for Men"

In a world where everyone is attempting to define manhood, why not look to God who designed men. God's definition of real manhood is found in the ultimate man - Jesus Christ. Join our men for a new study entitled Attributes For Men. Ten sessions on nine attributes that will empower you to become the man God wants you to be.



New Women's Study - Begins late February

"Uninvited"

In this six-session video Bible study bestselling author Lysa TerKeurst helps women to explore the roots of rejection; the lies we believe as a result; and the truth about who God is, who we are, and what it looks like to 'live loved'.



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Ways to Show Your Spouse You Love Them:

From "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Wife and Kids" and "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Husband and Kids"

Husbands:

- Call your wife in the middle of the day ... ask her out for dinner & a movie
- Bring home some flowers not just on Valentine's Day
- Think of how you've hurt your wife with your words: Ask her forgiveness!
- Serve your wife breakfast in bed make her feel like "Queen for a Day"

Wives:

- Sit next to your husband in the car or truck like you did when you
 were dating. (If you have bucket seats, then sit next to him on the
 couch and watch a movie together.)
- Thank your husband (in front of the kids if they live at home) for something he did today
- Plan a vacation where he wants to go.
- Write "I love you" on a post-it note where he'll see it (or text him).

Husbands & Wives together:

- Write down three or four things you love about your spouse. Then take time to share those with each other.
- Get out the wedding album or watch the video together

Ways to Show Your Kids You Love Them:

From "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Wife and Kids" and "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Husband and Kids"

- Send them a text thanking them for something they did or said.
- Next time you go to the store, bring back a surprise (e,g a favorite snack)
- Read them a favorite story
- Tell them a favorite memory from when they were younger.
- Tell them you are sorry when you acted impatiently with them.
- If they don't live at home, call them up for no special reason, just to say "Hi."
- Fix a meal with their favorite foods
- Ask them to help you with an important project around the house

Thanks from Laurie Hanson ...

I want to say thank you so much to my Church Family for the gift card! Nice!

Mark Your Calendar...

Confirmation Class

Parents check the "Parent Helper" schedule for your dates to serve



3-5th Grade Group December Outing:

Meets Saturday, February 9 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We'll make Valentines Cards for Glen Oaks residents. Then we'll deliver the cards the next day during the Sunday School hour.

Ladies, Save the Date: April 26-28

Those are the dates of Living Word's Annual Women's Retreat. Mark your calendars. As always, it will be a time of fun and growth!



Ash Wednesday - traditional service of ashes The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, (really late) his year on MARCH 6.

Ashes symbolize our mortality, humility and need for repentance before God. In ancient times people showed their grief over sin and repentance by putting on sackcloth and covering themselves with ashes. Ashes also suggest a need for cleansing - which comes to us through the blood of Christ that was shed for us on the cross.

During Ash Wednesday worship, ashes are applied to the foreheads of all worshipers in the form of a small cross. Plan to join us at 7:00pm March 6.

"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4).

An excerpt of a statement from the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in response to recent gubernatorial actions expanding abortion in New York and Illinois.

Complete statement can be found at: https://blogs.lcms.org/2019/lcmspresidents-statement-regarding-gubernatorial-actions-expandingabortion-in-new-york-and-illinois/

On Jan. 22, 2019, the 46th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand, the governors of both New York and Illinois signed laws to extend and promote abortion.

"This is the evolution of humankind in America," said New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo as he signed the Reproductive Health Act into law. In Illinois, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed an executive order to ensure taxpayer funding of abortions, saying that it would make his state "the most progressive ... in terms of women's reproductive rights."

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Life, not death, is the goal of humanity. History testifies that death is never the means through which justice and human rights prevail. We do not advance on the graves of our children. Germany, which sought eugenics as the solution to problems, now has strict abortion laws. To defend and support life is the goal of every just government, and the right to life is the hallmark of a good society.

Yet abortion laws have allowed the abortion of more than 61,000,000 children since Roe v. Wade. That's nearly 50 times the number of American soldiers killed in all wars. The abortion industry and its proponents take great lengths to avoid facing the fact that abortion dismembers a living child in a horrid pool of its own blood. This is barbaric!



The resurrection of Jesus is God's grand statement that life is the goal of this creation. The resurrection of Jesus proclaims that all creatures find the goal of their existence in life. Just as God raised Jesus from the dead, so we learn that God treasures life over death.

We live as citizens in this world, and we seek to be obedient to our nation's laws. We thank God for our leaders and for this great land He has given to us and for its precious freedoms and opportunities. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod advocates strong citizenship and active participation in government. We obey the laws of our land and encourage those around us to do so.

We are, however, bound by our conscience to speak against those laws that are unjust and, especially, those laws that violate God's law and the natural law that binds all mankind. Abortion and other means through which humans kill humans violate these natural and moral laws that form the foundation of society.

Therefore, we stand against these actions and against all laws that sanction abortion or the taking of innocent life. We cannot stand silent when people elected to positions in which they are to protect citizens continue to pass laws and advocate for legislation that undermines the sanctity of human life. Our conscience is bound by both the Word of God and reason to speak for life as a precious gift of God and to speak against any and all who promote the killing of unborn children. We cannot hide the evil of these laws under the banner of "rights" or "privilege." Children's lives are at stake. They cannot speak for themselves. We will speak for them, and we will work to protect their lives.

And we will continue to work to love and support the women who face difficult choices or suffer from the consequences of abortion. We support young mothers who have chosen life for their children. We work to provide adoption and other opportunities to care for children in need. And we continue to show God's mercy to all, just as He, in Jesus, has mercy on all.

We will work, love and pray that all might know the love of Jesus and trust in Him for salvation. "In him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4).

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

The Survey Says....

No, it's not "Family Feud." It's the results of a questionnaire I gave everyone after a sermon about all the things we were reminded of after Jesus' first miracle (turning water into wine). I listed the 8 things below and asked people to choose which they needed to be reminded of most. Take a look at the list and choose the one you would put at the top in terms of things to remember. The results (some of which were a bit surprising) are listed below)

Parties and	always	A SALE LANGE OF	at the second		B. T	E	All the same
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- Not to try to fool people into thinking that I 'have it all together'
- ___ To please my Heavenly Father by keeping His commands!
- ___ Jesus an make good things come from bad things that happen -

or that I do!

- Jesus can do things we can't!
- ___ Jesus uses His power for what is needed!
- Jesus does what is needed to show that He is God!
- ___ To trust in Jesus as the One true and only God!

They are listed in order from the most-often chosen to the least. Here are the percentages that chose each thing to remember: 27%, 18%, 13%, 12%, 10%, 10%, 5%, 5%

Choir Notes...

Rehearsals for choir are Feb. 17th and Feb 24th after coffee fellowship.

Now is the time to join choir if you want to sing for Lent and Easter. We would love to have you.

Choir sings the first Sunday each month unless special services.

Walk in the Light. ~Leone

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Email Inspiration...

Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old fellow who always prayed, "Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side." After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered, "Well sir, you see, it's like this...I got an old barn out back. It's been there a long time; it's withstood a lot of weather; it's gone through a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years. It's still standing. But one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit. So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall. Then I got to thinking about that and how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time. I've withstood a lot of life's storms. I've withstood a lot of bad weather in life, I've withstood a lot of hard times, and I'm still standing too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, 'cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning at times. Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward cussing, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't . So we need to pray, 'Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side,' so we will stand straight and tall again, to glorify the Lord."

Community Outreach News....



Mexican Fiesta Dinner

recap:

The Mexican Fiesta Dinner was held on January 26. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies and helped make this event a success! We have amazing cooks who made all the food and many willing people with great ideas for advertising, setting up, etc... We served about 101 adults and 6 children. Total sales were \$1,115. We'll use those funds to again buy books for our Water Days Parade outreach

Let us know if you have some new ideas for reaching out to people who do not have a church home. Thanks again and God bless you!

Feb 2019 - Bring It Home Readings

We continue our *Bring It Home* readings. 5 readings perweek, Monday - Friday. We've listed the readings that can be found in *The Story Bible* (TSB) and *Know the Bible Now* (KTBN). If you do the readings from the Bible you currently have, simply read the chapters listed on the KTBN Jine. Record your insights from these chapters on the lines provided.

Feb 4 TSB: Jesus Teaches Nicodemus John 3 pg 313 KTNB Jesus Heals Ten Men Luke 17 pg 274 Feb 5 TSB: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman John 4 pg 316 ______ KTBN: Jesus and the Little Children Mark 9-10 pg 276______ TSB: The Disciples Follow Jesus Matthew 4; Luke 5 pg 319_____ Feb 6 KTBN: Jesus and Zacchaeus Luke 19 pg 278 TSB: Jesus Rejected at Nazareth Luke 4 pg 325 Feb 7 KTBN: The Triumphal Entry Mt 21, Mk 11, Lk 19 pg 280 ______ Feb8 TSB: Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man Mark 1-2 pg 327 ______ KTBN: The Widow's Coins Mark 12 pg 284______ Week of FEBRUARY 10 Feb 11 TSB: Jesus Calls Matthew Mark 1-2 pg 331 KTBN: The Lord's Supper Luke 22 pg 286 Feb 12 TSB: Jesus Calms a Storm Mark 4 pg 333 KTBN: Jesus in the Garden Mt 26; Mk 14; Lk 22 pg 288 Feb 13 TSB: Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter Mark 5 pg 336 ______ KTBN: Peter Denies Jesus Matthew 26 pg 290 Feb 14 TSB: Jesus is Anointed Luke 7 pg 339 _____ KTBN: Jesus' Trial Matthew 27; John 18 pg 292 Feb 15 TSB: Jesus Walks on Water Matthew 14 pg 342 KTBN The Crucifixion Matthew 27; Luke 23; John 19 pg 294 Week of FEBRUARY 17 Feb 18 TSB: The Transfiguration Mark 8-9 pg 345 ______ KTBN: The Resurrection John 20 & Luke 24 pg 296 Feb 19 TSB: Jesus Heals a Blind Man John 9 pg 348 _____ KTBN: Jesus Appears on the Emmaus Road Luke 24 pg 298 ______

Feb 20	TSB: The Beatitudes Matthew 4-5 pg 352					
	KTBN: Jesus Appears to Thomas John 20 pg 300					
Feb 21	TSB: The Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5-6 pg 355					
	KTBN: Jesus and Peter John 21 pg 302					
Feb 22	TSB: Jesus Feeds 5000 People John 6 pg 358					
	KTBN: Jesus Ascends to Heaven Mt 28 & Acts 1 pg 304					
Week of FEBRUARY 24						
Feb 25	TSB: Jesus Sends the 72 Luke 10 pg 361					
	KTBN: Pentecost Acts 2 pg 310					
Feb 26	TSB: The Good Samaritan Luke 10 pg 364					
	KTBN: Peter & John heal a lame man Acts 3 pg 312					
Feb 27	TSB: The Good Shepherd John 10; Psalm 23 pg 367					
	KTBN: God's Servant Stephen Acts 6-7 pg 314					
Feb 28	TSB: Jesus Raises Lazarus John 11 pg 371					
	KTBN: Philip & the Ethiopian Acts 8 pg 316					
Mar 1	TSB: Jesus Seeks the Lost Luke 15 pg 374					
	KTBN: The Conversion of Saul Acts 9 pg 318					
Week o	f MARCH 3					
Mar 4	TSB: Jesus Heals Ten Men Luke 17 pg 377					
	KTBN: Peter & Comelius Acts 10 pg 320					
Mar 5	TSB: Jesus & the Little Children Mark 9-10 pg 380					
	KTBN: Peter's Escape from Prison Acts 12 pg 322					
Mar 6	TSB: Jesus & Zacchaeus Luke 18-19 pg 383					
	KTBN: Paul's 1 st Missionary Journey Acts 13-14 pg 324					
Mar 7	TSB: The Widow's Coins Mark 12 pg 386					
	KTBN: Paul's Letters pg 326					
Mar 8	TSB: The Triumphal Entry Matthew 21 pg 389					
	KTBN: Paul & Timothy Acts 16, 1 & 2 Timothy pg 330					

February 2019 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 - ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship		630 MEN'S GROUP	6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 CONFIRMATION 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY			10:00 3-5th GRADE GROUP
10 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 - ADULT STUDY SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 VALENTINE'S BRUNCH 12:15 BINGO NYG Meeting	Sunday	6:30 MEN'S GROUP	11:00 LWML @ Living Word 6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 CONFIRMATION 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY			per Dates February 3rd February 17th
17	18	19	20	21 Mission	22	23
9:00 - ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP wcommunion 11:15 Fellowship 11:45 CHOIR REHEARSAL		6:30 MEN'S GROUP	6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 CONFIRMATION 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY	5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM		
24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1	Mar 2
9:00 - ADULT STUDY - - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:45 CHOIR REHEARSAL		6:30 MEN'S GROUP	6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 3-5th GRADE GROUP 6:30 WOMEN'S STUDY	Sign up to directly to newslette	o have this news o you by e-mail. email address to er@livingwordlu	sletter sent Send your o: theran.net
Mar 3	Mar 4	Mar 5	Mar 6 ASH WEDNESDAY	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9
9:00 - ADULT STUDY - - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP wcommunion 11:15 Fellowship		630 MEN'S GROUP	5:00 SOUP SUPPER 6:00 PRAYER GROUP 6:00 CONFIRMATION 7:00 ASH WED. WORSHIP W	ASH EDNESDAY		

Upcomi	Page 14					
Fellowship Ser	<u>vers</u>	l				
Feb 3 Violet	Dauk / Laurel Iverson					
Feb 10 FRIENI	DSHIP BRUNCH					
Feb 17 Linda	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen					
Feb 24 Marci	a Welsh / Pam Johnson	l lere				
	Ruchti / Ruth Vegdahl	is answered				
	ons & Tammy Fuglie	ן ס				
Mar 17 Leone	& Kerry Quigley					
Mar 24 Wend	y Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky / Mary Lee Moore	Je				
Mar 31 Tamm	y Wachter / Sarah Miller	P				
Usher Scheduk		the only thing worse than having unanswered prayer				
Jan 6 Derek	& Sarah Olson	ĕ				
Jan 13 Kevin	Welsh & Jamie Iverson	&				
Jan 20 Duane	e Hansen & Chuck Weflen	ğ				
Jan 27 Brent	& Lance Sawatzky	5				
Feb 3 Jason	& Noah Miller	l ivi				
Feb 10 Bo & 0	George Arends-Schmidt					
Feb 17 Wend	🔚					
Feb 24 Brady	Feb 24 Brady & Andrew Sharp					
Make A Meal \	/olunteers					
Feb	Mona Hjelle & Linda Dilley	≷				
Mar	Violet Dauk & Bonnie Hansen	jui				
<u>Elders</u>		+				
Feb 3/10	Jason Miller / Ed Vegdahl					
Feb 17/24	Kevin Welsh / Keith Hanson					
Mar 3/6/10	Joe Johnson / Jason Miller	 				
Mar 17/24/31	Ed Vegdahl / Kevin Welsh	.es,				
Custodian		Sometimes, t prayer.				
February	Wendy & Lonny Robbin	ਛੋੜਾਂ				
March	Wendy & Lonny Robbin	% g				
C	Chamb Ciambaand					
seen on	Church Signboard	9				
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"T	THOU SHALT NOT"	¥				
doı	n't you understand?	Thot for a day:				
		 				

Altar Gu	Altar Guild		Wendy Robbin		
Feb	Feb Mona Hjelle		Linda Dilley		
l .		Mar 3	McCartney Knutson		
Acolyte	(little brothers & sisters)	Mar 10	Jason Miller		
Feb 3	Alex Meis	Mar 17	Mark Fuglie		
Feb 10	Carson Sawatzky	Mar 24	Tammy Fuglie		
Feb 17	Feb 17 Addison Arends-Schmidt		Leone Quigley		
Feb 24	Feb 24 Autumn Foshaug				
Mar 3	Mar 3 Jonah Sharp		Accompanying Musicians		
Mar 10	Rya Sharp	Feb 3	Sharon Willen		
Mar 17	Kala Miller	Feb 10	Scott Wachter		
Mar 24	Will Dahl	Feb 17	Pam Johnson		
Mar 31	Carter Foshaug	Feb 24	Scott Wachter		
l .		Mar 3	Sharon Willen		
Nursery		Mar 6 (Ash Wed)			
(more vo	olunteers needed)	Mar 10	Scott Wachter		
Feb 3	Pam Johnson	Mar 17	Pam Johnson		
Feb 10	Violet Dauk	Mar 24	Scott Wachter		
Feb 17	Feb 17 Mona Hjelle				
Feb 24	Laurie Hanson				
Mar 3	Mar 3 Pam Johnson		Confirmation Parent Helper		
Mar 10	Violet Dauk	Feb 6	Rustad		
Mar 17	Mona Hjelle	Feb 13	Sarlsland		
Mar 24	Laurie Hanson	Feb 20	Sharp		
Mar 31	Gwen Ruchti	Feb 27	Dahl		
l .		Mar 6	Macik		
Scripture	Scripture Readers		Miller		
Feb 3	Laurel Iverson	Mar 20	Rustad		
Feb 10	Tammy Wachter	Mar 27	Sarsland		

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February Discipleship Verse...

In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome 1 John 5:3

Miscellaneous Notes...

Food Pantry Reminder

Please continue to support the New London Pantry that is part of the Link. Food donations are so important this time of year. Please leave your donations in the purple container in the front of the church marked FOOD SHELF. Thank you so much for supporting this so others can have a happy new year!

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 Bible
- February Newsletters
- Christian books and magazines
- January March Portals of Prayer
- LOTS More



http://livingwordlutheran.net/sermons.htm (Or just click on "New Sermons Online" at the bottom of the livngwordlutheran.net_home page)



1-6-19 "The Wise Men's First Gift - (It's not

what you think)

1-13-19 "A LOT to learn from Jesus' first miracle"

1-20-19 "God and Old Man Jones" 1-27-19 "God smiles over us when..."

Living Word Directory... NOW AVAILABLE Online.

Email pastor@livingwordlutheran.net and he will send you a link to view the directory online.

Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2019

If you like to use dated envelopes for your offerings, we have them available. Just pick up a box of envelopes from under the mailboxes. Write down the # of the box you took. Thanks!



Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Just a reminder that there is 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 uninter-

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problems, economic serions economists 2 answers á you the ar deceived b t t t give being ay not avoid I ٤ 8 S learn economi /ou'll lear! Studying eat least yo

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

Reminder: We Have a 'Tough Times' Fund

If you know someone who is going through some temporary financial difficulty and would be blessed to get a gas card or grocery card to use for these expenses, please talk to Pastor David

NEW Portal of Prayer Daily Devotionals

for January - March available in your mailbox and on the "Free Stuff" table.

Living Word Apparel

Watch for a chance to Order Living Word apparel soon. There will be a webpage set up. You will be able to order and pay on that website. To save shipping costs we will have all items delivered to church and you can pick up your items there.

Congregational Outreach News...

We have lots of options for fun events and outings this coming year:

- CPR / First Aid Class
- Sunday Afternoon Dinner Cruise on Green Lake
- Family Night at a Stingers' Game
- Big Kahuna for the kids
- Snap Fitness for the kids during Spring Break

Please check the Activities board at church, and sign up for the thinks you are interested in.

P.S. If we don't have your birthday or anniversary dates, you'll find a spot to record those as well!

Thanks from the Family of Laura Albert...

The family of Laura Albert (Hanson) would like to thank our friends and families who helped celebrate her life.

Thank you to Pastor David and the Living Word Lutheran Church family for the compassionate service, prayers and support. Also for serving lunch after the service.

Thanks to the many relatives, neighbors and friends who have shown their sympathy with the many flowers, memorials and love. This has meant so much to us!

Mike Albert, Zac Albert, Carli Johnson & Barrett, Ron & Peggy Doonan, Karl & Cindy Hanson and Linda Van Meter

Thot for a day

Sunday School News...

On January 13th the Sunday School began to learn the 10 Commandments along with the meaning of the commandment and Bible verses that explain each commandment. We will take 2-3 weeks to learn each one and then we will recite these during the Children's Message part of the Worship Service.

We have learned the 1st Commandment and will recite it Sunday, Feb. 3rd.

1st Commandment - "You shall have no other God's." (all kids) What does this Mean?

"We should fear, love and trust in God above all things." (5-6th grade)

Bible Verses: Prov. 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." (pre-K)

Matt. 22:37 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (1-2nd grade)

Psalm 33:8 "Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere Him." (3-4th grade)

2nd Commandment - "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God." (all kids)

What does this Mean? "We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie or deceive by His name but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks." (5-6th grade)

Bible Verses: James 3: 9,10 "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness: Out of the mouth comes praise and cursing. This should not be." (3-4th Gr)

Isaiah 42:8 "I am the Lord, that is my name." (preschoolkindergarten)

Psalm 50:15 "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me." (1-2nd grade)

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 en-



courage people who drive past to remember that God is the giver of all good things- especially things we take for granted. Recently we thanked God for: "Cars that Start!"

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

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LWML...

MITTEN MAKING: On Saturday, January 12th, Lana
Bjork led a mitten-making class for Living Word LWML
members and friends. Everyone crafted a unique pair
of mittens made from 're-purposed' wool sweaters. Below is a picture
of the group showing off their creations



FEBRUARY LWML PLANNING MEETING: Wednesday, Feb 13th, at 11:00 a.m. at church. Each member bring an appetizer.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER-SALAD LUNCHEON: Will be Saturday, May 18th at church. More details to follow in next Newsletter...

LENTEN SUPPERS: LWML members will post a sign-up sheet at church for anyone wishing to provide food for soup and sandwich suppers prior to Lenten services. The first supper will be prior to the Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 6th.

NEW LONDON MUSIC FESTIVAL PIE AND ICE CREAM OUTREACH: We decided to make pies again this year. Anyone wishing to help with making pies, or providing fruit for the pies, please contact Bonnie Hansen at 796-5605...

National Youth Gathering Update:

From NYG Registration Central:

 A HUGE "Thank You" to everyone who braved the weather and supported our fundraiser at Culver's on January 28!



- The students will help on Friendship Sunday (Feb 10) by cleaning up after Brunch and setting up for BINGO.
- Remember to check our Facebook page! It's called Living Word Lutheran Youth Group. It's a place to go for all info needed for the National Youth Gathering.

door for his girlfriend, either the car is new

If you see a young man open the or the girlfriend is.

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Thot for a day:

Opportunities to Serve...

Provide Light Suppers for Confirmation students:

We we'd like to provide a light supper (sandwiches, hot dogs, etc) for the Confirmation students. Please talk to Pastor David if you could take a turn once a month providing this meal for six students.

Help Chaperone a Lock-In for Confirmation Students:

The kids are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to have a lock-in here at church. If you could help by hanging out with them, please talk to Pastor David. (You'll be a hero - maybe even a SUPER hero!)

Custodians Needed

If you or your family could serve as church custodians either of these months, please talk to Jamie Iverson. Thanks!

Help With Our Nursery

We need a couple more volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-6 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help.

One More Fellowship Server Needed: We are looking for someone to team up with another family to take a turn at serving snacks for after-worship fellowship time once every 2 months.

One More Usher Needed: To team up with another usher once every couple months. Talk to Pastor if you can help. Thanks!

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 if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks! Our February Make-a-Meal volunteers are Linda Dilley and Mona Hjelle

We are also looking for a person to be the Make-a-Meal coordina-

<u>tor</u> - someone who notifies the meal makers when a meal is needed and who also arranges for the meal to be delivered.

If you could be that person, please talk to Pastor David. Thanks!

Remember to use our "We Prayed for You" program...

We'd like to send out a card or two each week to people we prayed for during worship. How you can help: Simply tell Pastor David 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 him with that person's address. It truly is a simple way to brighten the

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spirits of someone who's going though a tough time.

We are currently in need of a volunteer to mail the cards. If you could help, talk to Pastor David.



<u>Donate to Living Word</u> when you order from Amazon

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon.com purchases to Living Word. Use this link to have your purchases support Living Word: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1513306

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...

- Thanking God for a great turnout for our Mexican Dinner
- · Who to invite to Friendship Sunday.
- God's power working in the lives of your friends.
- The attendees & volunteers for the National Youth Gathering
- Thanking God for all the kids in our church and all we learn from them
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- The power to LOVE like Jesus did unconditionally.
- Safe travel for everyone in the winter weather
- · An overturn of laws that promote and encourage abortions
- Courage to take a stand for Jesus at school and work.
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- · God to embolden our Christian witness in our daily lives
- . The Holy Spirit to continue to work through our Bible studies
- God to raise up leaders in our nation who seek His will
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

Email Humor...

A teenager who had just received her learner's permit offered to drive her parents to church. After a hair-raising ride, they finally reached their destination.

The mother got out of the car and said, "Thank you!"

"Any time," her daughter replied.

As the woman slammed the door, she said, "I wasn't talking to you. I was talking to God."

That for a day: So

Story Behind The Song...

Jesus Loves Even Me

Because Valentine's Day comes smack dab in the middle of the month, February ends up with a focus on "Love." When it comes to finding great songs and hymns with that theme, we have lots to choose from. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus, Jesus Loves Me, They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love are just a few that come to mind.

One of my personal favorites is Jesus Loves Even Me by 19th Century hymn writer Philip Bliss.

Bliss had come from a service where another song with the "Love" theme, O How I Love Jesus had been sung repeatedly. He thought, "Have I not been singing enough about my poor love for Jesus, and shall I not rather sings of His great love for me?" Soon after Bliss completed both the words and music for one of the all-time favorite children's hymns (which is widely sung and enjoyed by adults as well).

One of his colleagues, George C. Stebbins said of Bliss, "There has been no writer of verse since his time who has shown such a grasp of the fundamental truths of the gospel, or such a gift for putting them into a poetic and singable form."

The third stanza of this simple hymn is especially meaningful when you find that Bliss died suddenly at the age of 38 in a tragic train accident.

I am so glad that my Father in heaven Tells of His love in the Book He has given; Wonderful things in the Bible I see-This is the dearest, that Jesus loves me.

Chorus: I am so glad that Jesus loves me,

Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me; I am so glad that Jesus loves me,

Jesus loves even me.

Though I forget Him and wander away,
Still Jesus loves me wherever I stray;
Back to His dear loving arms I would flee,
When I remember that Jesus loves me. (Repeat Chorus)

Oh if there's only one song I shall sing,

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When in His presence I see the great King, This shall my song in eternity be: Oh, what a wonder that Jesus loves me! (Repeat Chorus)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

[portions excerpted from Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories by Kenneth Osbeck]

Editor's note: This is generally presented as a children's song, but there is a good version by Connie Vandeman Jeffery & Tiffany Campbell Dailey at https://youtu.be/8F6gLLSSE_A

Congratulations!

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

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



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