

February 2020 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

Question for Pastor...

"Does God love trans-gender people?"

This question came from one of our confirmation students when we were studying the fact that God created human beings: "male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27).

They qualified their question by saying, "Since they don't accept the way that God made them."

The answer is an unqualified "Yes! He still loves them". I read from Romans 8:38-39 which says this:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Nothing (!) can cause God to stop loving us! (That includes things you've done and things that have been done to you.)

And I had to clarify my answer by saying that "Even though nothing can keep Him from loving trans-gender people, that doesn't mean God agrees with what they are doing." 'Love' doesn't mean "I'm okay with what you do or want." Rather, 'love' means "I always want what is best for you." AND the God who designed us and gave us life always knows what is best for us! When we do, say, think or live contrary to how God designed us, it hurts Him, because doing, saying, thinking or living the opposite of the way He designed us always hurts us as well! God gave people the gender that they have, therefore, it's not good for people to want to change their God-given gender.

Then someone else followed up with another question: "Is it wrong for someone - like a teacher - to encourage them to change their gender?"

My answer to that question: "Absolutely, it's wrong!" Encouraging a person who has a tendency to want be something other than what God designed is encouraging them to 'defv' rather than 'relv' on God.

I compared encouraging a gender change to encouraging a person who has a tendency toward alcoholism to "go ahead and drink all you want."

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We'd all agree that encouraging an alcoholic to drink alcohol would be wrong, because we'd be encouraging them to do something that's not good for them. Encouraging a person to change their gender is wrong for the same reason: It's encouraging them to do something that is not good for them. And it isn't good for them, because that's not how God designed them.

Great questions!

Thanks for Asking, Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Who Can You Invite?...

Friendship Sunday (Feb 16)



Includes Fish-fry brunch after worship and Bingo after the meal.

Pray about your invitations. Ask God to give you the words and opportunity. Then 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.)

Ash Wednesday...

traditional service of ashes

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, this year on February 26.

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 February 26.

(Lenten Soup & Sandwich supper will be held before the Ash Wednesday service from 6:00 - 6:45.)

Congregational Outreach....

...AKA "Fun Stuff"

BINGO!

February 16 after our annual Friendship Sunday Meal

Marcia is collecting prizes. If you have any you could donate, please talk to her. Thanks!



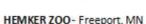
GREEN LAKE CRUISE

- Sunday, June 28 @ 2:00 p.m.
 We will have the entire boat (as long as we get 25 people)
- Reserve your seat for \$20



- Sunday, August 9
- Picnic begins at 12:05 (Game @ 1:05)
- Includes:
 - + Reserved-Seat Game Ticket
 - + All-vou-can-eat Ballpark Buffet

Cost: \$21.58 (Sign up at Church or call Marcia Welsh 320-796-6840)



Saturday, July 25



BREAKFAST at TUTTI FRUITTI

Saturday., May 9



Mark Your Calendar...

Register Now:

Women's Retreat 2020:

"Unfading Beauty" April 17-19

Muskie Lodge, Mille Lacs Lake

Join us as we explore the Unfading Beauty in the body, mind and soul of the Christian woman.

Registration Deadline: April 1. (Early Bird Entry drawing March 1)

\$150 each- includes 2 nights' lodging and meals!

Checks can be given to Tammy Miller, Violet Dauk or Ruth Vegdahl.



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Preparation for First Communion:

Begins Wednesday, February 12 (6:00 p.m.) for 5th & 6th Grade students. The students will have their first communion during Maundy Thursday service on April 9. Please talk to Pastor David if you have questions. Thanks!



Coming in March . . . "Christ in the Passover"

On Tuesday, March 31, (at 6:00 p.m.) Liz Goldstein of the Jews for Jesus organization will present "Christ in the Passover" showing us how each of the various aspects of the Passover meal pointed ahead to Jesus.



(Liz was here in 2013 and presented the Christ in the Passover for us then too!) Mark your calendars - and invite some friends!

Community Outreach News...

We served about 100 meals at the Mexican Fiesta in January. The weather was good for our weekend, but a storm the previous weekend moved all Winterfest activities to that weekend. We received some generous donations of supplies and also cash/checks at the meal, thank you!





Even so, we had to buy most of the supplies so the income will be down. The proceeds go for Community Outreach which has been mainly books and supplies for the Water Days parade.

Thank you to all who donated, worked, invited!!!

(Wrap up meeting for those who worked on the Mexican Fiesta will be Monday at Ruth Vegdahl's. We will have hotdish at 5 pm and discussion after that.)

Email Inspiration...

Robbie Bushway can tell you how God moves in mysterious ways—just ask him. His father, Bob, had hardened his heart for years, yet came to faith in Christ thanks to a violent hurricane.

Air Force Master Sergeant Bob Bushway served in Vietnam where he saw and experienced the ravages of war. A 74-year-old Vietnam veteran, Bob was sick with lung disease and unwilling to evacuate when the fury of Hurricane Michael tore through the Florida Panhandle in 2018. Robbie and his sister LaBelle Street, both hundreds of miles away in Mississippi, prayed for their father's safety. And they continued to pray for his salvation—just like they had been doing for decades. Over the last few years, in fact, Robbie says his entire church in Tupelo had been praying for his father.

The answer to those fervent prayers came in an unexpected way. Months after the hurricane hit, his father still had large downed trees in his yard. Samaritan's Purse volunteers had been in the area since the storm struck and were working to clean up Bob's neighborhood well into spring 2019.

That's when Bob met some "kids" working at his neighbor's house.

"It was kids. Weird the way it happened," Bob later recounted in a text message to his daughter LaBelle. Thinking they were from a tree company, Bob had asked our volunteers for help.

"A few weeks ago a group of people [were] working on a neighbor's vard. I asked if they could come over and give me a price to remove some of mine. Well they came over. They were from Samaritan's Purse."

Robbie said his father had grown up in the Catholic church, but had left religion all together after moving away from home. During his time in the Vietnam War, he lost many friends in combat. He'd also later experienced failed marriages and had lived in a way he thought could never be forgiven. He let suffering and difficulty form a wedge between him and God.

Samaritan's Purse volunteers deared away the trees in Bob's yard in a matter of hours. But our team didn't just move on. They kept returning to check on Bob, who was frail from COPD and emphysema. Robbie says his father was also weak from the stress of the storm.

Our team didn't just move on. They kept returning to check on Bob.

It was during these visits that volunteers shared the Gospel with Bob, a

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message he was able to accept following all the kindness shown him. He prayed to receive Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior just a few short days after his yard was deared.

He texted his daughter again: "I guess they could see I wasn't very well. They just took [me] under their wing and got Jesus involved in my life. Awesome experience. Life has definitely taken a turn for the better. I guess when the Lord is ready for me, he will take me. I am okay with that. I had a good life. When it's time I will be ready. I have asked Jesus recently to forgive me for my sins, to come into my heart and take control of my life."

Not even six months after his conversion, retired Air Force Master Sergeant "Bob" Bushway died at the age of 74. The first few sentences of his obituary read like this: "Just months before his death and through the ministry of Samaritans Purse, Bob came to know that his only comfort in life and death was that he was not his own. He belongs with body and soul, both in life and now in death, to his faithful Redeemer Jesus Christ. Jesus fully paid for Bob's sins with His precious blood, and has set him free from the power of pain and death. His family grieves and will miss him deeply, but they grieve as those with Hope. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints"— Psalm 116:15."

Robbie says that for the last several months of his father's life, they talked by phone about his new relationship with Jesus. "He had always been a very anxious person, but now he had a calm and contentment in the way that he conversed with me," Robbie said. "He would say 'Did you know that Christ has forgiven all of my sins?' 'Yeah I do.' 'No. I mean all of them.' I don't think he could really fathom it because of a lot of the struggles that he had been through in his life.

"Whenever I spoke with him, he would tell me he was reading his Bible and praying every day. He'd say, 'I really don't understand much of what I'm reading but I can see myself in a lot of it.' It was amazing. It was the seeds of many people over many years and then God used Samaritan's Purse at just the right moment."

His daughter LaBelle says she's grateful that volunteers were willing to follow up with her father and ask him about Jesus. "They went above and beyond," LaBelle said. "They could have done all those repairs for him and that would have been nothing compared to the other thing they did for him-checking on him and just the few simple words 'Do you know Christ? Let me introduce you."

We praise God for His saving grace to Bob.

Opportunities for Growth...

"The Holy Land" Sunday mornings @ 9:00
Filmed on site in the Holy Land. Lessons from
God's Word on living as a Christian in the midst
of a non-Christian society."



Please join us for coffee, goodies and study!

MEET FOR PRAYER - WEDNESDAYS @ 6 p.m. at church

A special invitation to everyone to meet weekly in prayer Wednesdays at 6 p.m. (The Women's Evening Bible Study will follow Prayer Time from 6:30-7:30)

- Prayer is a foundational part of our spiritual life both personally and as a congregation.
- Praying together has power against evil in our family's lives, our church, and our community. We would love to have you join us.



Ephesians 6:12; 18

12 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

18 "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Wednesday Evening Women's Study:

"Heaven: What God Tells Us About It"

Begins February 12 @ 6:30

(On February 5 we will have a one-week video

study on finding a place and time to "get away with God." The study is called: Keeping a 'Secret life'

The study starts at 6:30 p.m. (right after Prayer Time at 6:00) and concludes by the time Confirmation dass is over at 7:30. Please spread the word and bring a friend!

NEW Monthly Morning Women's Study: Wednesday, February 12th at 10:00 AM

Last month we studied Eve. Hard to picture our lives without a Mother or sisters like Eve did. It was interesting to take a look at how her life was.

Please join us this Month as we study Sarah - the only woman God promises to become a foremother of Christ.

- Every month we would like to do a mission project. Last month we took down the Christmas decorations.
- For February we will be packing College Students Care packages.

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(Everyone is welcome to donate to this)

 Wear red (if you think about it), to celebrate Valentines Day and bring something to share for lunch.

Call Leone 354-4665 if you have any questions. Love to have you come and join us.

Men's Group Study—Tuesdays @ 6:30

"The Great Deceiver"

Though popular culture may paint the devil as a buffoon-like character in a red jumpsuit, as needing our sympathy, or as having "gone

down to Georgia," those depictions make light of his sinister and diabolical nature. His approach is straightforward; his objective is final: Separate every man, woman and child from God - forever! Into this sick and twisted plan. God threw the Ultimate wrench: Jesus!

Tuesday Evenings in February @ 6:30 We'll spend some time getting to know our Greatest Enemy - his tactics and the weapons God provides to defeat him! Who can you invite to join you?

Confirmation Class

- + Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.
- + Parents check the "Parent Helper" schedule for your dates to serve

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 and PRAY for...

- The Holy Spirit's power to follow God's Plan everyday in 2020
- Thanking God for all the blessings of 2019 (take time to list them)
- Asking God to open our eyes to see His guiding in the coming year
- People you can invite to any of our studies or events or worship
- Great attendance & good weather for our Mexican Fiesta Dinner
- Thanking God that Jesus is still "Immanuel" (God With Us) today.
- A "Christmas-like" attitude of giving that continues all year
- Safe travel
- Thanking God for the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of our Sunday School and Confirmation students
- The Holy Spirit to work through "Bring It Home and HIGHLIGHT IT!
- For the Holy Spirit to work through the teachers of our classes
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- God's protection, guidance, wisdom & courage for gov't leaders
- Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- Courage to take a stand for Jesus at work AND school
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan



February 2020 - Daily Readings

This month we prepare for Valentine's Day with two weeks of readings about Love. We've had requests for examples of miracles in the Bible, so we finish with Miracles in the Old Testament and in the Gospels of Mark and Luke.

Record your insights from these chapters on the lines provided.

	Wk of Feb 2 Daily Readings What God says about LOVE
b3	Psalm 136
eb4	Mark 12:28-34
eb5	Luke 6:27-36
b6	John 15:9-17
b7	Romans 5:1-11
8 de	Romans 8:28-39
	Wk of Feb 9 Daily Readings: What God says about LOVE
	Wk of Feb 9 Daily Readings: What God says about LOVE Romans 12:9-21 1Corinthians 13
b 11	
b 11	Romans 12:9-21
eb 12 eb 13	Romans 12:9-21
eb 11 eb 12 eb 13 eb 14	Romans 12:9-21
eb 11 eb 12 eb 13 eb 14	Romans 12:9-21

February Daily Readings continued

Feb 18	Exodus 13.7-14:31
Feb 19	Exodus chapter 16
Feb 20	Numbers 21:4-9
Feb 21	Numbers 2221-33
Feb 22	Joshua chapter 3
	Wk of Feb 23 Daily Readings Miracles in the OLD TESTAMENT
Feb 24	Joshua 6:1-20
Feb 25	Joshua 10;1-15
Feb 26	Judges chapter 7
Feb 27	1 Kings chapter 17
Feb 28	1 Kings 18:16-46
Feb 29	2 Kings chapters 4 & 5
	Wk of March 1 Daily Readings Miracles in MARK & LUKE'S GOSPELS
Mar 2	Luke 1:26-38
Mar 3	Luke 5:4-25
Mar 4	Luke 7:1-15
Mar 5	Luke 8:22-56
Mar 6	Mark 7:24-37
Mar 7	Mark 8:1-26

February 2020 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - The Holy Land - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship	5:00 MEX DINNER RE-CAP	6:30 MEN'S STUDY	6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER & 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	6	Sunday Sunday	pper Dates /, February 2nd /, February 16th ed, February 26th
9:00 - ADULT STUDY -The Holy Land - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship	10	6:30 MEN'S STUDY	12 10:00 WOMEN'S STUDY & LWML Planning 6:00 - 1" COMMUNION Class 6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER & 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	13 Mission Winistry 530 ELDERS TEAM 630 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	14	15
9:00 - ADULT STUDY - The Holy Land - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP Wcommunion 11:15 FRIENDSHIP BRUNCH Noon BINGO	olotio Swelay	5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	6:00 - CONFIRMATION 6:00 - PRAYER & 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	20	21	22
9:00 - ADULT STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - WORSHIP 11:15 - Fellowship 11:45 - CHOIR PRACTICE	24	6:30 MEN'S STUDY	26 ASH WEDNE SDAY 6:00 SOUP/SANDWICH 7:00 WORSHIP w/communion	ASH WEDNESDAY	28	29
March 1 9:00 - ADULT STUDY - The Holy Land - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 - Fellowship	2	3 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	4 10:00 MONTHLY WOMEN'S STUDY 5:00 - SOUP/SANDWICH 6:00 - LENT DEVOTION 6:30 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY	Sign up to have this you by e-mail. Se newsletter@li	6 s newsletter nd your ema vingwordlut	sent directly to il address to:

Upcomir	ng Schedules		Pag
Fellowship Serv	<u>ers</u>	П	
Feb 2	Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham	Н	
Feb 9	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson	Н	ıΩ
Feb 16	Friendship Brunch	П	Į į
Feb 23	Bonnie Hansen / _(additional server needed)	П	þě
Mar 1	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson	П	ş
Mar 8	Gwen Ruchti / Ruth Vegdahl	П	l Z
Mar 15	Mike & Brooke Knutson	П	5
Mar 22	Linda VanMeter & Tammy Fuglie	Н	Q
Mar 29	Leone & Kerry Quigley	П	Ħ
Usher Schedule		П	å
Feb 2	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer	П	m
Feb 9	Larry Levin & Carroll Sarsland	П	ä
Feb 16	Derek & Sarah Olson	Н	0
Feb 23	Kevin Welsh & Wally Abraham	Н	Ē
Ash Wed	Duane Hanson & Chuck Weflen	П	One day you'll find someone who doesn't care about your past because
Mar 1	Brent & Lance Sawatzky	П	ō
Mar 8	Jason & Noah/Levi Miller	П	호.
Mar 15	Wendy & Lonny Robbin	П	0)
Mar 22	Brady & Andrew Sharp	П	Ĕ
Mar 29	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer	П	nec.
Elders		П	Ö,
Feb 2/9	Keith Hanson & Joe Johnson	П	펗
Feb 16/23/26	Jason Miller & Ed Vegdahl	Н	i=
Mar 1/8	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson	Н	₹
Mar 15/22/29	Joe Johnson & Jason Miller	П	2
Make A Meal V	olunteers	П	8
Feb	Wendy Robbin & Pam Johnson	П	ס
Mar	Iversons & Mona Hjelle	Ц	Ğ.
Seen on	Church Signboards		
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2 Cold 2	2 Keep Changing Sign	П	a day
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Jesus - Good!

Details Inside

Sin - Bad!

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y want to be part of your future.			

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Scripture Readers			Feb 26	Miller		
Feb 2	N	lykki Foshaug	Mar 4	Rustad		
Feb 9	R	luth Vegdahl	Mar 11	Sarsland		
Feb 16	N	∕lona Hjelle	Mar 18	Sharp		
Feb 23	S	arah Olson	Mar 25	Dahl		
Mar 1	K	evin Welsh				
Mar 8	L	aurel Iverson	Custodia	<u>an</u>		
Mar 15	T	ammy Wachter	Feb	Wendy & Lonny Robbin		
Mar 22	V	Vendy Robbin	Mar	Phil & Jean Lungstrom		
Mar 29	L	inda Dilley				
			Acolyte	(little brothers & sisters)		
Nursery			Feb 2	Rya Sharp		
(more v	olunteers r	needed)	Feb 9	Kala Miller		
Feb 2	Pam John	son	Feb 16	Will Dahl		
Feb 9	Violet Dau	ık	Feb 23	Carter Foshaug		
Feb 16	Mona Hje	lle	Mar 1	Alex Meis		
Feb 23	Volunteer	Needed	Mar 8	Carson Sawatzky		
Mar 1	Pam John	son	Mar 15	Addison Arends-Schmidt		
Mar 8	Violet Dau	uk	Mar 22	Autumn Foshaug		
Mar 15	Mar 15 Mona Hjelle			Jonah Sharp		
Mar 22	Volunteer	Needed				
Mar 29 Volunteer Needed			Accompanying Musicians			
			Feb 2	Sharon Willen		
Altar Gu	<u>iild</u>		Feb 9	Pam Johnson		
Feb	Mona Hje	lle	Feb 16	Pam Johnson		
Mar	ar Nancy Jo Wendt		Feb 23	Carmen Macik		
			Feb 26	TBD		
Confirmation Parent-Helper			Mar 1	TBD		
Feb 5 Sharp			Mar 8	Scott Wachter		
Feb 12	.2 Dahl		Mar 15	Pam Johnson		
Feb 19	l9 Macik		Mar 22	Carmen Macik		
Church Mice		Mar 29	€ TBD			
CHUP	en mic	e (Copyright Karl A. Zorowski		
LORD, WHAT'S	HOULD I TELL THE	You should tell them love is		Do not LOOK OUT FOR US BUYS!		
Treate ran meeting sonry		kind. Love is not envious arrogant or rude it bears		forget the		
200		all things, believes a	II things,	flowerst		
70.5		hopes all things and	endures	Q :, 7		
		all things Oh! You better tell them one		254		
374		other thing too	er thing too			
-				participated - Company		

February Discipleship Verse...

God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us!

Romans 5:8

Miscellaneous Notes...

Food Pantry Reminder

2nd Sunday of each month, please remember to bring your donations for the Food Pantry. Place them in the purple container by the door at church. Thanks to everyone for donating!

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
- January—March Portals of Prayer



SERMONS

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 livngwordlutheran.net_home page)

1-5-20	The Wise Men have what we need to start the year
1-12-20	In His Baptism Jesus reveals
1-19-20	Changing Water to Wine show this about God
1-26-20	Jesus shows us how to FOCUS (on the right things)

CHOIR ...

Please join us after worship February 16 & 23 as we rehearse for singing in worship!



Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Living Word has the option of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account.

Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and muchneeded 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.

Reminders of your scheduled day to serve will be coming to your phone soon.

Pam Johnson has graciously volunteered to give a call or send a text to help us all remember our scheduled dates to serve as ushers, acolytes, fellowship servers, etc...



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Offering Envelope

Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2020

have them available. Just pick up a box of envelopes from under the mailboxes. Write down the # of the box you took. Thanks!

Remember to Wear Your "Living Word" Sweatshirts

Not only are they warm (and look really "cool") but they could also be a conversation starter when people ask things like, "And where is Living Word located?"





Email Wisdom...

Malachi 3:3..."He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver..."

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered yes- he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy...when I see my image in it."

That for a day:

Sunday School...

Meets every Sunday at 9:00.

Thanks ... to everyone who went bowling with us in January! We had 30 bowlers and a great time!









Lessons for February

Feb. 2- Gideon - "A Judge Leads" Judges 7:1-23 Feb. 9- Samuel - "A Prophet Serves" 1 Samuel 3 Feb. 16-Friendship Sunday- Bring a Friend to SS! Feb. 23-David- "A King Forever" 1 Sam. 16:1-13; 2 Sam. 5:1-5; 7:4-17 March 1-Mephibosheth-"The King's Table" 2 Samuel 4:4: 9:1-13

Also a reminder for the kids ... to fill their "Baby Bottle's" for Hope Pregnancy Center and return them by the end of February.

Memorizing the Commandments

We will start up our memory work again with the 3rd Commandment. And then on February 23, we will speak it during church.

 All Kids: "REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY BY KEEPING IT HOLY

 4-6th Grade: "We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it "

"Blessed are they that hear the Word of God 1-3rd Grade: and keep it." Luke 11:28

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." Pre-K:

Thank You from the Jastrams...

We are so happy to have you as part of our missionary team. Your support for LCMS mission work in Asia means a lot to us. Dan & Joan Jastram

Read the latest newsletter at:

https://tinyurl.com/s5hr9tr



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Ways to Show Your Spouse You Love Them:

From "501 Practical Ways to Love Your Wife and Kids" and "SO1 Practical Ways to Love Your Husband and Kids"

Husbands:

- Call your wife during 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 for-
- 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) for something he did
- 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 "SO1 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 just to say "Hi."
- Fix a meal with their favorite foods
- Ask them to help you with an important project around the house

Opportunities to Serve...

4-6th Grade Group:

Volunteers Needed to organize an outing for the group in February. Please talk to Pastor David if you can help with that. 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.

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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.

One More Fellowship Server Needed:

We are looking for someone to team up with one of our current servers serve snacks for after-worship fellowship once every 2 months.

Two More Ushers Needed:

Talk to Pastor if you can help. (Father-Son/Daughter teams are great!)
Thanks!

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

<u>Pick Your Month</u> for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian: You can choose any month from May - December. Talk to Jamie Iverson to sign up or find out more details. 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 Wendy Robbin & Pam Johnson

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

Donate to Living Word 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

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Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.

Teal's rebate in the amount of \$103.66 for 2019 was received and deposited into the building fund. Thank you to all who gave your receipts. Keep them coming!

Teal's Grocery gives a 1% rebate to eligible organizations. There's a box under the mail boxes where you can put in your receipts.

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NEXTMEETING:

Living Word Lutheran Women's Missionary League will have a planning meeting, at church following the "Women of the Bible" study on Wednesday, Feb 12th at 10:00 A.M, Potluck lunch to follow.

VALENTINE GIFT BOXES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS: Our mission project for February is sending gift packages to our two college students. Please bring gift items to church by Wednesday, February 5th, as they will be packaged after our LWML meeting.

SHOES FOR MISSIONS: Thanks to all who have donated shoes. Please bring your shoes, slippers, sandals or boots (in very good condition), in rubber banded pairs, and put them in the collection box at church. This is an ongoing mission project to provide funds for Lutheran Island Camp.

LENTEN SUPPERS:

There will be a sign-up sheet at church for those who wish to provide soup or sandwiches for the suppers prior to Lenten services. The first soup and sandwich supper will be prior to the Ash Wednesday service on February 26, from 6:00-6:45 p.m.

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 sen-



tence to encourage people who drive past to remember that God is the giver of all good things - especially things we take for granted. This past month we thanked God for:

- The Blessings of the Past Year
- Wise Men and Women
- Our Mexican Dinner

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence during February.

That for a day:

Story Behind The Song...

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

Excerpted from "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert Morgan

So many stories have arisen around St. Francis of Assisi that it's difficult to separated truth from fiction. We know he was born in 12182 in central Italy, son of a rich merchant. After a scanty education, Francis joined the army and was captured in war. He came to Christ shortly after his release, renounced his wealth, and began traveling about the country-side preaching the gospel, living simply and seeking to make Christ real to everyone he met.

Francis loved nature, and many stories spotlight his interaction with animals. Once as he hiked through Italy's Spoleto Valley, he came upon a flock of birds. When they didn't fly away, he decided to preach them a little sermon: "My brother and sister birds," he reportedly said, "you should praise your Creator and always love Him. He gave you feathers for clothes, wings to fly, and all other things you need. It is God who made your home in thin, pure air. Without sowing or reaping, you receive God's guidance and protection."

The flock, it is said, then flew off rejoicing!

That perspective is reflected in the hymn Francis composed just before his death in 1225 called, "Song of Brother Sun." It exhorts all creation to worship God. The sun and moon. All birds. All the clouds. Wind and fire. All men of tender heart. All creatures of our God and King. The English version didn't appear until 1919 when Rev. William H. Draper decided to use it for a children's worship festival in Leeds, England.

But is it sound theology to exhort birds and billowing douds to lift their voices in praise? Yes! "All Creatures of Our God and King" simply restates and older hymn- Psalm 148 - which says:

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.
Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the skies.
Praise the Lord ... you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
Lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds...
Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name alone is exalted... Praise the Lord.

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice with us and sing, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Oh, burning sun with golden beam, O silver moon with softer gleam,
O Praise Him, O Praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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O rushing wind that is so strong,

You clouds that sail in heav'n along, O Praise him, Alleluia
O rising morn in praise rejoice, You lights of evening find a voice

O Praise Him, O Praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O all you men of tender heart,

forgiving others take your part, O sing ye, Alleluia!

You who long pain and sorrow bear,

Praise God and on him cast your care.

O Praise Him, O Praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let all things their creator bless,

And worship him in humbleness, O Praise him, Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,

And praise the Spirit, Three in One.

O Praise Him, O Praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Editor's note: Watch a great version by Anthem Lights at

https://youtu.be/JPwmV ATYAw

New Music of the Month...

Easter is still a couple months away (April 12), but this month I am presenting a new song that is perfect for the Easter season from Church of the City called He Lives. Watch at https://youtu.be/AoS69n6-zNE

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



for Minnesota's very own 'Victorious Seekers' all flannel lingerie ad campaign, Mt. 7:7