

Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

**January 2007
Newsletter**

"Communicating the Love of Jesus"



**Traditional Worship : 8:00 a.m.
Christian Growth Hour: 9:15 a.m.
Contemporary Worship: 10:30 a.m.**

Living Word Lutheran Church

Located on the West of Spicer on Cty Rd 10
in old Prairie Meadows building
PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273
Phone: 320-796-0742
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Questions for Pastor...



"What is this "Network" thing we are doing in January ...

... sounds like it has something to do with television or computers."

First off, *Network* has nothing to do with computers or television. But it has everything to do with God's vision. God's vision for His church (and remember, the church is people). A couple examples from Scripture:

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.... Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant... There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." From 1 Corinthians 12:

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

From 1 Peter 4

God's vision for His church is that each of us would use the spiritual gifts we have been given - and we have all been given gifts. We use the gifts God gave us to help others and give God glory (pointing others Jesus by our actions).

Ephesians 2:10 says, *"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do."*

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In other words:

- Before all creation, God prepared some ministry opportunities for you to do ("ministry" means "service")
- God created you
- God sent Jesus to make a relationship possible with you
- He called you to be part of His family through faith in Jesus
- He gave you His Holy Spirit who brought you to faith in Jesus
- He gave you a Spiritual gift to use
- He gave you the power of the Holy Spirit to minister to the body of Christ (church) with that gift.
- He identified the works He has for you to do.
- He promises His continuous presence to help you.

Network is a study that will help you discover:

1. Specific Spiritual gifts God has given you;
2. Specific aspects of ministry you have a passion for and
3. Ministries you can use your passion and gifts in.

Just as each part of the human body has a specific ability and task that the rest of the body needs. Likewise, each Christian, as part of the body of Christ, has a specific ability and task that the rest of the body needs. Make a point to come to *Network* and discover your spiritual gifts, your passion for ministry. The church (the rest of the body) needs you and your gift.

Network is a one-hour/week, six-week study. It will be held Monday evenings @ 7:00 p.m. (at Dan & Tammy Millers' home) beginning January 15. It will also be held at church on Sunday mornings @ 9:15 beginning January 20.

By the way, why the name *Network*? I checked a dictionary and found this definition of the word "network": *"An interconnected or interrelated group."* That definition fits pretty well with God's vision for His church. He designed us to be an interconnected and interrelated group of believers.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

What did Jesus Bring at Christmas...

God's PRESENT to us at Christmas
is the gift of His PRESENCE

Wrapped up in His Presence are these other gifts



Comfort

- There's great comfort in knowing your sins can be forgiven
- There's great comfort in knowing that in a world where everything changes, God's word never does. If He said it, you can bank on it. He won't change His mind.
- There's great comfort in knowing you aren't alone. God is there.
- There's great comfort in knowing that the God who is there is a God who loves you - no matter what.

Joy

- There is joy in actually receiving forgiveness of your sins.
- There is joy in knowing that because God kept His promise to come the first time, You can be sure He will keep His promise to return.
- There is joy in knowing that when He returns, you and all who believe in Jesus will rise in a renewed body to live forever on a renewed earth

Peace

- Jesus brought peace between sinful creation and a sinless God.
- We receive that peace when we surrender to Jesus and trust Him for eternal life
- We receive that peace daily when we surrender our will to Jesus' will.

Love

- Love is essential for life. We do all sorts of hurtful things when we don't get it.
- Love is not something to just talk about. The Bible is clear that love is something that must be demonstrated with actions. Jesus is "Love With Skin On"
- Love is "Doing for others what they can't do when it is in your power to do it."
- God showed that real love when He came to earth to pay the way for us to get into heaven (something we could

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never have done due to our sin)

We need each of these gifts not just at Christmas time but every day.

But how do we "unwrap" the gift of God's Presence and receive them?

- **Come to Worship** -
"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them"
- **Come to the Lord's Supper** -
God's presence comes to us individually in the most personal of ways.
- **Open Your Bible and Read** -
God is present with His wisdom, guidance and power for your life.
- **Pray** -
God is present to listen and answer with the best answer

The Example of the Wise Men

We don't know a lot about these guys. We don't know exactly how many there were or exactly where they came from. We don't know their names or exactly what they spent their time doing. But we do know one very important thing:

They made a priority of seeking Jesus and worshiping Him.

One way they worshiped Jesus was by bringing Him gifts.

One of those gifts was gold - earthly treasure.

Some things haven't changed over the past 2000 years. One of the ways we have of giving Jesus our worship is by bringing Him our gifts of earthly treasure. And in one of our daily Bible readings (1 Chronicles 29:14) King David reminds us that all of our earthly treasure comes from God. We acknowledge that fact by giving back to God a portion of the earthly treasure He's given us. (Our tithes and offerings)

This month each of us will have the opportunity to determine the gifts of earthly treasure that we will commit to bring to God as an act of worship.

Please take some time to read the January Daily Bible Readings for January 8-13 for guidelines from God about our gifts of treasure.

Opportunities to "Share the Love of Jesus in Practical ways"...

Join our Prayer Force

One of the most practical ways you can share the love of Jesus is by praying for people in need. That's what people on our "Prayer Force" do. The "Prayer Force" is an e-mail prayer chain. You simply receive requests via email, then take those requests to the Lord in prayer.

Phone or e-mail Pastor David to sign up:
dvdauk@mail.tds.net

Welcome New People

Keep your eyes open for people who have just bought or rented a home (or apartment) in your area. As soon as possible, notify our Visit Coordinator, Violet Dauk (220-0344). She will notify our cookie bakers and move-in visitors to go make a "welcome" visit.

We also need more:

Cookie Bakers & Move-in Visitors

Please call Violet if you can help with either of these. Of course, don't forget to take your own batch of cookies (or whatever) to the new folks to welcome them to your neighborhood too.

Help with our "All Stars for Jesus" Program

Our Wednesday evening program for 4-6th graders still needs

- 1) A meal coordinator to schedule meal providers
- 2) an adult group leader for Bible stories & memory work
- 3) an activity leader for games and crafts

Please talk to Pastor David if you can help. Thanks!

Be a "Secret Paul"

One of the things the Apostle Paul was noted for was praying daily for people. Paul prayed for their protection. He prayed for them to grow in their faith. He prayed for them to grow in putting their faith into action. He prayed prayers of thanks for them. **See details on page 16**

Be a Meal-Maker ...

The only requirement is ability to cook a meal (or go out and

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buy one). One of our most successful ways of sharing the love of Jesus is by bringing a meal to someone going through a tough time.

If you could take a turn making and delivering a meal once in awhile, please talk to Meal" coordinator Jack Kuppich or Pastor David. And please remember to tell Jack or Pastor David when you know of someone whose going through a tough time and could use a meal. Thanks!

Take the "POLAR PLUNGE"

Saturday, January 27

We jump in Green Lake to raise funds for Special Olympics

THIS YEAR WE WANT A BIG GROUP, BECAUSE....

We would like to share a Gospel message with the spectators. For example, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." We plan on having each "plunger" (how's that for a title?!) wear one word of that Gospel verse on their t-shirt, so we share the message one word-at-a-time as we take the plunge. So, to use that verse we'd need 24 people. The fewer the "plungers" the fewer verses we will be limited to. (e.g. "Jesus wept." would be our only choice is all we have is two people)

Sign up by the door to the sanctuary or talk to Bryson Wachter

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THIS YEAR, FOR NEW YEARS, I AM RESOLVING TO DO ALL SORTS OF BAD THINGS SINCE I NEVER EVER STICK TO MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Mark your calendars...

Charter Sunday & New Member Reception

January 14:

It has been two years since Living Word was chartered as an official member of the Minnesota North District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We will celebrate by receiving a group of new members in worship. We will then celebrate with a special potluck meal following the second service.

Make sure to join us as we thank God for our first year and kick off year # 3.

Youth Lock-In

Weekend of January 12.

Exact date and times to be determined.

Please talk to Pam Johnson if you'd like to help out or be part of the Lock-In



Secret Paul Prayer Program Kicks off January 21

Our "Secret Paul" prayer partner program will kick off Sunday, January 21. That's the day you will learn the name of the person you will be a "Secret Paul" to.

If you haven't already done so, please fill out your "Secret Paul" information card (more are available by the mailboxes at church) and place it in the special walnut "Secret Paul" box on the ushers' table. We need all the information cards by Sunday, January 14, so we can pair people up.

See page 16 of this newsletter for more details...

Annual Whist Tournament

on Friday January 12th at 7:00 pm here at the church.



It is always a night full of fun, laughter, competition and Prizes! Please bring a snack to share...Soft drinks and coffee will be provided. Prior experience is not required.

Talk to Tammy M if you have any questions.

Youth Servants...

We have lots of servants waiting to serve (and raise funds for the Igniters' Youth).

Please check this list and then sign up to rent a servant.




Anthony Dauk	Yard work; playing music, "just about anything."
Cole Erickson	Anything you need help with
Peter Erickson	Anything you need help with
Joe Johnson	"Pretty much anything"
Jesse Medalen	Any outside stuff Take someone fishing
Sierra Cobb	Babysit; Petsit; Mow lawn Yard work
Rebecca Dauk & Dani Skaggs	Babysitting; house cleaning; groom animals; (Servant team) Baking; Yard work (no cleaning 'doggy-do')
Alicia Willer	Baby sit; Clean house
Allan Fuglie	Math tutoring "Pretty much anything - with instructions"
Mariah Welsh	Babysit Clean house Laundry Pet sit Yard Work
Bryson Wachter	Anything you need help with.
Pastor Dave	Paint a room Take someone to a Twins game
Chuck Weflen	Haul stuff in pickup truck



We need funds for our 2007 National Youth Gathering, so when you 'rent a servant' it's a Win-Win Situation: You not only get some work done, The Igniters' get funds for stuff like the National Youth Gathering. Thanks!

January

Living Word Lutheran Church - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 31 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School Adult Forum: Kaballism 10:30 Contemporary Worship 11:45 Fellowship	1 Happy New Year 	2 NOON Bible Study "Mark" @ Geneva Olson's	3 6:00 Meal 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 All Stars 4 Jesus 7:00 Confirmation Parents Mtg	4 6:00 Elders' Team 7:00 Capital Fund- Raising Meeting w/ Pastor Strohschein from District	5 Circuit Pastors' Gathering @ Granite Falls	6 
7 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School Adult Forum: 10:30 Contemporary Worship 11:45 Fellowship	8 9:00 Circuit Pastor Conference @ Willmar	9 NOON Bible Study Mark @ Geneva Olson's	10 6:00 Meal 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 All Stars 4 Jesus	11 2:00 Outreach Team	12 7:00 Annual Whist Tournament YOUTH LOCK-IN	13 YOUTH LOCK-IN
14 2 nd ANNIV. CHARTER SUNDAY New Member Sunday 8:00 Traditional Worship. 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School / Adult Forum 10:30 Contemporary Worship 11:45 NEW MEMBER Welcome Meal	15 7:00 NETWORK Study @ Millers'	16 NOON Bible Study Mark @ Geneva Olson's	17 6:00 Meal 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 All Stars 4 Jesus	18 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	19	20
21 8:00 Traditional Worship/ L.S. 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School Adult Forum: NETWORK Study 10:30 Contemporary Worship/LS	22 7:00 NETWORK Study @ Millers'	23 NOON Bible Study Mark @ Geneva Olson's	24 6:00 Meal 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 All Stars 4 Jesus	25	26 	27 2:00 Polar Plunge Team Dives into Green Lake
28 8:00 Traditional Worship. 9:15 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School / Adult Forum 10:30 Contemporary Worship	29 7:00 NETWORK Study @ Millers'	30 NOON Bible Study Mark @ Geneva Olson's	31 6:00 Meal 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 All Stars 4 Jesus	Feb 1 6:00 Elders' Team	Feb 2	Feb 3

January 5-Minutes-a-day Devotional Reading

New Reading Program Begins Jan 8: Using the GIFTS God gave you

Readings this week focus on prophecies of Christ's Second Coming

Jan 1 Matthew 24:36-44 _____

Jan 2 John 14:1-3 _____

Jan 3 Matthew 25:31-46 _____

Jan 4 Matthew 26:59-68 _____

Jan 5 2 Peter 3:3-10 _____

Jan 6 Revelation 22:12-20 _____

Jan 7 Readings this week focus on God's gifts of your TREASURE

Jan 8 1 Chronicles 29:6-9 _____

Jan 9 1 Chronicles 29:10-14 _____

Jan 10 Malachi 3:8-12 _____

Jan 11 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 _____

Jan 12 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 _____

Jan 13 Matthew 6:19-21 _____

Jan 14 Readings this week focus on using God's gift of your TALENT / ABILITY

Jan 15 Proverbs 11:24-28 _____

Jan 16 Matthew 25:14-30 _____

Jan 17 1 Peter 4:7-11 _____

Jan 18 Romans 12:1-8 _____

Jan 19 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 _____

Jan 20 Ephesians 4:11-16 _____

Jan 21 Readings this week focus on God's gift of your TESTIMONY

Jan 22 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2 _____

Jan 23 Mark 5:14-26 _____

Jan 24 John 4:28-30,39-42 _____

Jan 25 Acts 1:4-8 _____

Jan 26 Acts 4:12-20 _____

Jan 27 Matthew 29:18-20 _____

Jan 28 Readings this week focus on God's gift of your TIME / TEMPLE (body), etc..

Jan 29 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 _____

Jan 30 Colossians 3:15-17 _____

Jan 31 Ephesians 5:1-21 _____

Feb 1 Ephesians 5:7-8 _____

Feb 2 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 _____

Feb 3 Psalm 96 _____

SUMMARIZE WHAT YOU LEARNED ABOUT USING GOD'S GIFTS

REMINDER: Go to www.livingwordlutheran.net

Click on "Pastor's Notes" for Pastor David's comments on the daily Bible readings. You can add your own insights by clicking on "comments" below Pastor's comment

A Minute for Parents...

Set an example by giving an "After-Christmas" Gift that keeps on giving.

(The same one God gave us at Christmas)

By now some of the Christmas presents you gave your kids have become broken. Others have been forgotten.

Hopefully some are still in use. But the start of a new year would be a great time to resolve to give your children the present they really want most - your presence.

His presence is the present God gave us at Christmas. It's the one he has promised to give us until the end of time *"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* Mt. 28:20

Of all the things my parents did to show their love, the things that stick in my mind most are the times they made a special effort to just "be there." Chances are the same can be said for you. And chances are that is what your kids will remember too.

How can you spend more time with your children - collectively and individually? After school? In the evening? On the weekends?

Maybe read them a story instead of reading the newspaper. Play a game with them instead of watching TV. Plan a special project that you can work on together. Have a "Date Your Kid" night once a week. Set aside one night as "Family night." Get their input on what they would like to do on those days. Sit down with them and plan what you will do then put it on the calendar.

"Being there" isn't limited to the kids that still live under your roof. When could you "be there" for your kids that are away at college? When could you "be there" for those children that live on their own?

Follow Jesus' example and give the gift of your presence.

It says "I love you" like nothing else.

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A Question:

What if Living Word earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? **We can!**

Living Word Lutheran Church has just been registered on **GoodSearch**, (as seen in OPRAH Magazine, ABC News, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and Fortune.)

Starting January 3, 2007, Living Word will now receive a direct donation every time someone uses **GoodSearch** to search the Internet.

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates ad revenue, about a penny per search, to the charity its users designate. Use it just like any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get the same great results.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and enter Living Word Lutheran Church, Spicer, MN as the organization you want to support.

It costs you nothing: But just 100 supporters searching the Internet just twice a day would bring \$730/year

Download the GoodSearch toolbar—
<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx>

THANK YOU...

I want to thank each of you for your prayers and concern before and after my mom's death. Thanks also to Living Word for the wonderful plant you sent in my mom's memory. I greatly appreciate having such a caring church family. God has worked through you to help me in this difficult time. God bless you all.
Violet Dauk

THANK YOU...

To everyone who remembered us this Christmas with cards and gifts. We greatly appreciate your support and partnership in the Gospel!

Pastor David, Violet, Anthony and Rebecca

Be A Secret Paul...

This spring at Living Word we went through a study called "Battle Cry for a Generation." **We were reminded of the need to be involved in the lives of the young people of our congregation and to be for them what a church should be - a caring, extended family.**

One idea that came out of our study was to pair up each young person with an adult who would commit to pray for them daily. As a way of also getting the young people involved it was suggested that we have each one of them commit to pray daily for an adult in the congregation. We then expanded on that idea and decided to include the entire congregation in the prayer program. **"Secret Paul" is the name we have chosen for this "prayer pal" program.**

In coming up with a name for our program we were reminded that the Apostle Paul was noted for praying for other believers every day. Paul prayed for their protection. He prayed for them to grow in their faith. He prayed for them to keep putting their faith into action. He said prayers of thanks for them. **We will seek to follow Paul's example and be in prayer daily for each other.**

The **"Secret"** part of the program name comes from the fact that we will not reveal who is praying for whom until the end of the year at a special banquet. We will be "secret prayer pals" or "Secret Pauls" for each other.

As part of the program **each person will receive a packet of information about the person you are paired up to pray for.** That packet will include a picture, birth date, hobbies/interests and special prayer needs.

That brings us to what we need from you right now: **Please fill out and return the information card you received in your mailbox at church.** It will include information you want put in the packet to be given to the "Secret Paul" who will pray for you.

This is a church-wide program, but if you don't want to be included please let us know. If you have questions about the program or would like to be involved but can't physically get an information card turned in by January 14, please contact one of our "Secret Paul" coordinators Violet Dauk @ 354-4103 or Gwen Anfinson at 796-2452

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E-mail Joke of the Month...

It was the day AFTER Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church was looking at the manger scene when he noticed that the baby Jesus figure was missing from the cradle. He immediately turned and went outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon walking down the street. In the wagon was the figure of the infant Jesus. So he walked up to the boy and said "Son, where did you get that little baby Jesus that's in your wagon?"

The little boy replied, "I got Him from the church."

"And why did you take Him?" asked the pastor.

The little boy replied, "Well, about a week before Christmas, I prayed to the Lord Jesus and told him that if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give Him a ride around the block in it."

Have You Seen Our Sign ?

Head out County Road 9 between New London and Spicer and check out the new "Future Home of Living Word" sign. Thanks to Jamie Iverson for designing and producing the sign.

Still to come: 4' x 8' letterboard under the sign for changeable messages.

NEW in our booklet rack...

For Better, For Worse

Maintaining a Healthy Marriage.

Soaring divorce rates indicate that good marriages don't just happen. So, what makes a good marriage? A good marriage requires a firm foundation and effective ways to deal with key areas such as financial concerns, decision-making processes, and child rearing. *For Better, For Worse* shares four principles of a healthy marriage and provides practical recommendations to maintain the love that brought couples together in the first place.

Simple Ways to Give Your Life A Spiritual Lift...

Resolve (anew) to daily feed on God's Word this year.

Our Discipleship Verse for January reminds us: *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* God renews our mind through what we put into it. A couple of things are true regarding what we put into our minds: 1) You tend to believe what you hear most often. 2) What you put into your mind is what comes out in your life. It just makes sense that life goes better when we put the things of God into our minds daily.

Of all the things you can resolve to do this new year, **THE ONE THAT WILL LIKELY GIVE YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE THE BIGGEST LIFT** (not to mention your physical and emotional life) **is this one:** Read God's Diary (His Word)

Once again, **daily Bible readings will be printed in each Newsletter to help you get into God's Diary.** God's Word is more than just a reference book to keep on the shelf until you need to find out something. **God calls his Word "Living and Active."** That means there is **power in the Word.**

God's Word:	Generates life
Creates faith	Heals hurts
Produces change	Overpowers the devil
Infuses hope	Causes miracles
Overcomes adversity	Forgives sins
Builds character	Defeats temptation
Imparts joy	Transforms circumstance
Releases power	Guarantees our future forever

Here are some of the results God promises from reading. You will . .

- be able to live a life worthy of the Lord

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- please God
- bear fruit like: love, joy, peace, patience, self-control, kindness, faithfulness
- grow in your faith - your trust in God will be strengthened
- tap into God's power for life - physical as well as spiritual
- gain endurance for getting through life
- gain a thankful attitude as you are reminded of all God has done for you and focus on Jesus instead of on your expectations that haven't been met.
- grow in your love - for God and the people in your life
- be able to tell what is good and right
- be *completely* equipped for every good work.

Be it resolved that . . .

Make the commitment today:

"I commit to feeding my Spirit with God's word daily."

Signed _____

Pick the time that will work best for you:

"I will set aside time at ____:____ each day to spend with God."

Set your Bible in a place where you literally will trip over it every day:

"I'll put my Bible _____"

PRAY. Ask God to help you resist Satan's temptations to quit.

"Lord, I know Satan will tempt me by _____ Please help me to resist."

January Discipleship Verse...



Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

1 Chronicles 29:14