Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

April 2008 Newsletter
"Communicating the Love of Jesus



Worship Hours: Christian Growth Hour: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:00 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

Website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

Question for Pastor...

Can Jewish people believe in Jesus? I have a friend who says that he can't believe in Jesus, because Jews don't do that.



I've heard that many Jewish people make comments like that when asked about Jesus. Many say they are taught that you can't be Jewish and a Christian at the same time. In fact, the Jews for Jesus organization lists that reply as one of the most frequent objections they receive when trying to talk to their Jewish friends about Jesus.

So, to answer your question, I went to the Jews for Jesus web site: www.jewsforjesus.org. On the web site is a YouTube video of some Jewish believers in Jesus who have been asked the question "How can you believe and Jesus and still be a Jew?" Here are some excerpts that say it quite well:

1. If someone had just walked up to me out of a church and said that I needed to believe in Jesus, I would have probably said no. Contemporary Jews are open to many things, but Jesus as we understand "the Christians" believe in him is not an option. Buddhism? Secularism? Those are OK. But Jesus? He's the god of the Gentiles - so we are taught. Yet ...God brought me to an interest in thinking about the real Jesus of the Bible

Once I reached that place, the question wasn't, "Is believing in Jesus a Jewish thing to do?" That's a question we Jews have mostly answered ahead of time in the negative, as though we were leaving a voice mail for an interviewer who will be calling while we're out. The question for me became, "Is the gospel true?" If it was, then of course it was also Jewish to believe it, because shouldn't Jewish people believe in what's true? I concluded that it is true, and that by believing in Jesus, both Jews and Gentiles can come to

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know the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

- 2. "Jesus was Jewish. His first followers, the disciples were Jewish. Just about all the writers of the New Testament were Jewish."
- "It's the most Jewish thing to do. Jesus was Jewish himself. The Messiah was promised to the Jewish people."
 - 4. Really the question ought to be "How can you be Jewish and not believe in Jesus?" You see, if Jesus is the Messiah, the most Jewish thing you can do is believe in Him. I was raised to look forward to the coming of the Messiah. If Jesus is the Messiah, not only can we believe, we should believe

The morning after I prayed to receive the Lord into my life I didn't look into the mirror and see that God had turned me into a Norwegian. I was born Jewish. I'll die Jewish. If Jesus is the Messiah, we Jews must believe in him. If he's not the Messiah then we should have nothing to do with him - and neither should anyone else. It all gets back to the real question: "Who is Jesus? Is he the Messiah or not?" If he's the Messiah we have to believe in him. It doesn't make us ex-Jews. It's an affirmation of our Jewishness not a denial of it."

- To me there's nothing more Jewish than believing in the Jewish Messiah.
 - 6. The way that you can be both Jewish and Christian is the fact that Judaism spoke of a Messiah to come. And when that Messiah came everybody who believed in him didn't lose their Jewishness, they were just Jews who believed in Jesus. The term "Christian" came up because they didn't know what to call people who weren't Jews who believed in Jesus. So they're like "What do we call them? Well, we'll called them "little Christ's" that's where the term (Christian) came from... There wasn't such thing as "a Christian" when Jesus was around. There was such thing as "Jews who believed that God had fulfilled the promise and that this is their Messiah and that now you are to follow him." You can be 100% Jewish and 100% Christian and be the absolutely most fulfilled person. I love it!

I hope that answers the question. I believe these Jewish Christians said it very well.

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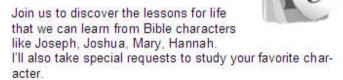
Thanks for asking, Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Upcoming Events...

Wednesday Bible Study:

"Life Lessons from Bible Characters"



<u>Sunday, April 20:</u> "Secret Paul" Kickoff
"Secret Paul" Prayer Partners will receive the names of
young people they will pray for

Sunday, April 20

April Voters' Assembly Annual election of officers for Mission and Ministry Team Update from the Building Committee

April 25 & 26

LWML Rummage Sale Fundraiser

Sunday, May 4

Confirmation Sunday Joe Johnson, Mariah Welsh and Kristina Scholl make their faith commitments

Saturday, May 17

Mother-Daughter Brunch Sponsored by the LWML

Sunday, May 18

Annual Old Fashioned Sunday School Picnic

June 9th through 13th

Living Word Vacation Bible School

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A Message from a Bunch of Seeds...

I've noticed quite often how God gives messages through things that happen. The week before Easter something happened that I'm convinced was an Easter message delivered from God. (If you were at the 2nd Easter worship this will be a "review" for you.)

Two weeks before Easter, Grace Geer and I planted a bunch of morning glory seeds (at least 15 or 20) in a pot as part of a the children's message that day. The Altar Guild members and I kept the soil in that pot watered and in the light over the next couple of weeks. Every day I checked to see how many sprouted. Every day the total was the same: none. That changed just a few days before Easter. One seed sprouted. I kept checking back expecting more to sprout, but still just one. (And that is still, two weeks after Easter, the only one that sprouted.) I was a bit disappointed. Only one seed out of bunches???!!!

Then it hit me that this solitary morning glory flower was the perfect Easter message direct from God. Take a look:

How many people have claimed over the centuries to either be "god" or at least THE person that God sent with the final word on how humans can get to heaven or some kind of afterlife? Bunches. How many of them got "planted" in the ground (i.e. died)? Everyone of the bunch. How many of them "sprouted" up from the ground (i.e. rose from the dead and came to life)? Only One. Jesus Christ.

That one, single morning glory flower that sprouted was a testimony to the great message of Easter:

There is only One person who claimed to be God that you should put your faith in. The One who said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me." Why? Because He's the only One who claimed to be God who "sprouted" up from the ground proving that He was telling the truth.

(Of course, the morning glory was also the perfect flower to illustrate the resurrection: It was on Easter *Morning* that the *Glory* of God was revealed when His Son rose from the grave.)

Christians are like tea; their strength is drawn out by hot water. day: 0 Thot for

E-Mail Humor...

The Explanation of Life...

On the first day, God created the dog and said: "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said: "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?" So God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said: "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said: "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow and said: "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said: "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give you back the other forty?"

And God agreed again.

On the fourth day, God created man and said: "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But man said: "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that

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makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren, and for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you!

E-Mail Inspiration...

There were four clergymen discussing the merits of the various translations of the Bible. One liked the King James Version because of its simple, beautiful English.

Another liked the American Revised Version best because it is more literal and came nearer to the original Hebrew and Greek.

Another liked Moffat's translation because of its up-todate vocabulary.

The fourth minister was silent. When asked to express his opinion, he replied, "I like my mother's translation best."

The other three expressed surprise. They did not know that his mother had translated the Bible. But he assured them, "She translated it into life, every day of her life, and it was the most convincing translation I ever saw."

April Discipleship Verse...

The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the Law.

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 15:56-57



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n the Old Testament there is a story of a city which had no food, and all the people inside the city walls were starving to death! But outside its gates were some people who found huge amounts of food - who were these people?

To find out, fill in the clues, and read the answer down from here:

- 1. Knife and
 2. Big, scary, monster
- human
- 3. Opposite of tie up
- 4. Famous NZ rugby shield
- Something you do with your tongue
- 6. Big animal with big ears
- 7. Brother of a princess
- 8. Beautiful sky arch during showers
- 9. Another word for
- 'bad smell' 10. Handheld
- rain-deterrent
- 11. Thing worn on the feet
- 12. Small rodent with a long tail
- 13. What we hear with
- 14. Sewing tool

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ANSWER: see 2Kings 7:3

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New Schedules...

April/May/June Scripture Readers

If you aren't able to serve on your Sunday, please call someone and switch with them. Thanks!

April 6	Duane Hansen	796-5605	
April 13	Scott Wachter	796-6222	
April 20	Bryson Wachter	894-6378	
April 27	Tris Mische	354-9046	
May 4	Wendy Robbin	354-9049	
May 11	Mona Hjelle	354-4315	
May 18	Wally Abraham	354-2615	
May 25	Kevin Welsh	796-6840	
June 1	Jamie Iverson	354-4932	
June 8	Linda Dilley	235-0235	
June 15	Mark Fuglie	796-6975	
June 22	Wally Abraham 354	I-2615	
June 29	Tammy Fuglie 796	6-6975	

April/May/June Fellowship Servers

If you aren't able to serve on your Sunday, please call someone and switch with them. Thanks!

April 6	Bonnie Hansen	796-5605
April 13	Wendy Robbin	354-9049
April 20	Nancy Jo Wendt	354-2398
April 27	Donna Peterson	354-5247
May 4	Janet Towner	444-0125
May 11	Pam Johnson	354-3545
May 18	Laurel Iverson	354-4932
May 25	Elaine Abraham	354-2615
June 1	Tammy Fuglie	796-6975
June 8	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
June 15	Stacy Olson	212-9647
June 22	Violet Dauk	220-0344
June 29	Youth Serve	

You're Invited...

Please join us in celebrating Joe Johnson's confirmation at a Open House & Luncheon on Sunday, May 4th from 12:00 to 3:00 at our home... 223 3rd Ave SE, New London.

April 2008 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 6 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School Adult Forum: 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Choir Practice	7 8:30 Circuit Pastors @ Boyd	8 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	9 Noon Study: LifeLessons from Bible Characters 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation	7:00 Elders' Team 7:00 LWML	11	12
8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School Adult Forum 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	14	15 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	Noon Study: LifeLessons from Bible Characters 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation	17 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	18	19
20 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School Adult Forum 10:00 Worship wlLord's Supper 11:15 Spring Voters' Assembly	21	22 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	23 Noon Study: LifeLessons from Bible Characters 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation	24	25	26
8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School Adult Forum 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	28	29 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	30 Noon Study: LifeLessons from Bible Characters 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation	May 1	May 2	May 3
May 4 CONFIRMATION DAY 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Sunday School Adult Forum 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship	May 5	May 6 NOON Bible Study @ Geneva Olson's	May 7 Noon Study: LifeLessons from Bible Characters	May 8 7:00 Elders' Team 7:00 LWML	May 9	May 10 LWML Mother- Daughter Banquet

April 15-Minutes-A-Day

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We finish the book of 1 Samuel and take a brief New Testament detour through 1 & 2 Peter before heading on to 2 Samuel.

	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
	1 Samuel 2:1-36 (2:1-11)
	1 Samuel 3:1-21 (3:1-10)
	1 Samuel 4:1-22 (4:1-10)
0	1Samuel 5:1-6:21 (5:1-6:9)
1	1Samuel 7:1-17 (7:7-17)
2	1 Samuel 8:1-22 (8:1-9)
3	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
4	1 Samuel 9:1-10:27 (10:1-16)
5	1 Samuel 11:1-15 (11:1-9)
6	1Samuel 12:1-25 (12:1-15)
7	1 Samuel 13:1-22 (13:1-14)
8	1Samuel 14:1-52 (14:1-23)
9	1 Samuel 15:1-35 (15:1-23)
0	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
1	1 Samuel 16:1-23 (16:1-13)

Today's Light Devotional Readings

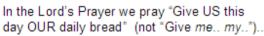
Apr 23	1 Samuel 18:1-19:24 (18:1-16)
Apr 24	1 Samuel 20:1-21:15 (20:1-17)
Apr 25	1 Samuel 22:1-23 (22:11-23)
Apr 26	1Samuel 23:1-29 (23:1-12)
Apr 27	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
Apr 28	1 Samuel 24:1-22 (24:1-13)
Apr 29	1 Samuel 25:1-44 (25:1-33)
Apr 30	1 Samuel 26:1-25 (26:1-11)
May 1	1 Samuel 27:1-29:11 (28:1-25)
May 2	1 Samuel 30:1-31 (30:1-20)
May 3	1 Samuel 31:1-13 (31:1-6)
May 4	Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed
May 5	1 Peter1:1-25 (1:1-21)
May 6	1 Peter 2:1-25 (2:1-10)
May 7	1 Peter 3:1-4:19 (3:18-22)
May 8	1 Peter 5:1-14 (5:5-14)
May 9	2 Peter 1:1-2:22 (21-22)
May 10	2 Peter 3:1-18 (3:1-13)
	

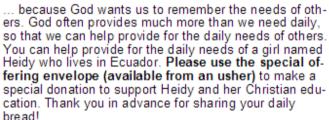
Share the Love of Jesus In Practical Ways...

Make-a-Meal Program

You will notice special "PRAYER and CARE" cards in the worship attendance folders. Please use these cards to give us the names of people you know who could use a meal. (You can also use the cards to give prayer requests for Pastor and/or the Prayer Force prayer chain). The cards can be filled out and placed in the offering plate.

Special Offering For Heidy





"Secret Paul" Prayer Partner Program

Kicks off another year on Sunday, April 20.

Everyone: You can make a difference in one young person's life by praying for them each day this coming year. If you would like to do that, please give a "Secret Paul" sign-up card (found in attendance pad) to Laurel Iverson.

Parents: Please fill out one of the orange "Secret Paul" info sheets for your child, so the person who will be praying for them can know more specifics to pray about.

On Sunday, April 20th, everyone who signs up to be a "Secret Paul" will receive a packet of info and picture of the young person you will be matched up to pray for.

Help with Vacation Bible School

Find out details of how you can volunteer to help with VBS on page 15.

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Vacation Bible School...

HURRAY, IT'S SOON TIME FOR VBS!

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner! This year our theme for it is, "Forever Friend, Jesus Christ." The date is set for June 9th-13th, Monday thru Friday, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. The ages are from 3 years old to thru the 5th grade. An article I read asked, "so what is so special about VBS? And what makes it a unique part of our Living Word's Ministry?"

- VBS gives a solid amount of time with kids. We will have 121/2 hours in 5 days to share the love of Jesus. What an opportunity!
- VBS provides a variety of activities to use to "share the faith" with the children. We share in lesson time - and crafts, playing games, eating, singing and in all the events of the evening. There are lots of ways to touch the life and heart of each child.
- The singing of VBS songs makes the children's enthusiasm soar! (And mine). I know that we will be singing VBS songs in Heaven!!
- 4. And most special is sharing the story of Jesus with a child for the first time. We ask God to send to us at VBS especially children and their parents who have never heard the Gospel - and He does! So, I know that God has chosen me to be a part of his plan to make an eternal difference in the children's lives.

I'm also asking you to be a part of that. We will need teacher's, craft people, people to help advertise, someone to do the music, help at the registration table, also help in the kitchen, as we will serve supper each night, people to reinforce the Bible verses and lesson's through puppet's and skits. So I ask that you start thinking of what your part could be in this. And also encourage you to think of your children attending and also your grandchildren and other neighbor kids that would be able to come and meet their "Forever Friend, Jesus Christ."

Please contact Mona Hjelle or Bonnie Hansen. Thanks!

That for a day: Today is

LWML News & Notes...

Our Lutheran Women's Missionary League group at Living Word has been very active. We encourage all women of our congregation to join us for service to



our Lord, and good fun and fellowship. We meet the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. This month's meeting will be on April 10th.

Some of the activities that we are planning are:

We are currently working on an updated church cookbook, and will be putting out a box for recipes, in the church.

Layettes: We will be doing this as a mission project.

We are planning a Rummage Sale on Friday April 25th and Saturday April 26th at the home of Butch and Donna Peterson. This will be a fund raiser for the benefit of the new church. Please be setting aside items (clothing in good repair, household items, furniture, etc) for this sale. We would request the items donated be not brought to church, but be delivered directly to the Peterson home (16930 77nd St NE New London, between Saturday April 19th and Thursday April 24th.

We are also planning a Mother-Daughter luncheon will be on May 17^{th} .

These activities are only a part of what we have planned. Please come and join us!

Choir Schedule...

We would like to do a choir song for worship on "Secret Paul" kickoff Sunday (April 20) and also on Pentecost (Mothers' Day). We plan to practice after worship the Sundays that Susan is here to play (April 3, April 20). We'll also practice the songs about 15 minutes before the worship service that we'll sing in.

If you didn't join us for the Easter Choir, you are most welcome to join us now - or any time.

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Wanted ...

...to fill Nominations Open for Mission & Ministry
Team Positions:

Chairman - Presides over meetings

Secretary - Takes official notes at monthly meetings and posts notices

Three Elder positions - Provide spiritual leadership of the congregation

Community Outreach Director - Oversees evangelism to the community

Christian Growth: Youth - Promotes fellowship and spiritual growth of youth

Stewardship - Promotes the use of the time, talent, treasure God gives

Director of Trustees - Oversees the care and maintenance of building/grounds

Please indicate any people you wish to nominate on the attendance pad in worship. We will vote on the people nominated for these positions at our April 20th Voters' Assembly.

Today's Light Bible Readings

On Easter we celebrated the greatest day in history: the Day Jesus came back to life. Jesus is still alive and He comes to us daily when we read His word.

If Jesus asked to come to your home would you turn Him down? He's asking. Open up your Bible and take Him up on His invitation.



If you haven't done so yet, resolve to start inviting Jesus into your life by taking home a Today's Light Bible and starting to read the daily readings (found elsewhere in this newsletter).

If you've gotten away from your daily readings...
What better time than now to get back into God's word.

More Opportunities to Grow...

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesdays @ NOON

"Life Lessons from Bible Characters" At Living Word

Join us at noon each Wednesday to discover the lessons for life that we can learn from Bible characters like Joseph, Joshua, Mary, Hannah, Elisha, Gabriel, Rahab

Here are some examples of lessons we've already learned (we can sometimes learn as much from negative examples as we can from positive ones):

Judas:

- Love of money truly is the root of all kinds of evil.
- God sees a person's heart
- · Satan is the real enemy behind the evil that people do
- God can use evil people and evil deeds to accomplish His plan

Pontius Pilate & the nameless thief on the cross

- Fears motivate us to do the things we do.
- When fear of God trumps all other fears, then we are on the right track.

We take requests for this study. Let us know if there's a Bible character that intrigues you.

Tuesday Noon Bible Study

at Geneva Olson's in New London What Does Life Sometimes Seem "Meaningless"? A Study of the Book of Ecclesiastes

Sometimes feel like life has no meaning? You're not alone. "Meaningless" is a term used no less than 37 times in the book of Ecclesiastes.

Join us as we take a look at what caused King Solomon to feel that way. And what you can do when you feel the same.

Sunday Morning Adult Study

Creation: Foundation for All we believe We'll learn about evidence for the Biblical account of creation - thing

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you never hear in the media that seems bent on convincing us of evolution.

Some specific things we'll cover:

- · Did dinosaurs and humans co-exist?
 - + What evidence is there for a young earth (not billions of years old)?
 - + Is it illegal for Creation to be taught in public school?
 - + What was the world like in pre-flood times?
 - + Did God put the Gospel message in the stars?
- Please join us at 9:15 for coffee, baked goods and our study.

Senior High Study

Every other Sunday evening at 6:00

Parenting Young Children

Sunday Mornings while the kids are in Sunday School If you are a parent of a child of pre-school age through 4th grade we'd like to invite you to a special class that meets during the Sunday School hour (9:15 - 10:15).

Sunday School News...

On Sunday April 6th and Sunday April 13th (during the Sunday School hour) pictures will be taken of each Sunday school student for the Secret Paul program.

On Sunday April 20 there will be a special opening (at 8:45a.m.) of Sunday school, to explain the Secret Paul program to the Sunday School students.

Dates to Note:

- Sunday, May 18th is our annual Old Fashioned Sunday School picnic. Everyone is invited for an afternoon of lots of fun, games, and good food.
- June 9th through the 13th from 5:30 8:00P.p.m. there will be Vacation Bible School for preschool (3 years old) through grade 5. The theme of this year's VBS is Jesus Our Forever Friend. Contact Mona Hjelle, or Bonnie Hansen for additional information.

That for a day: