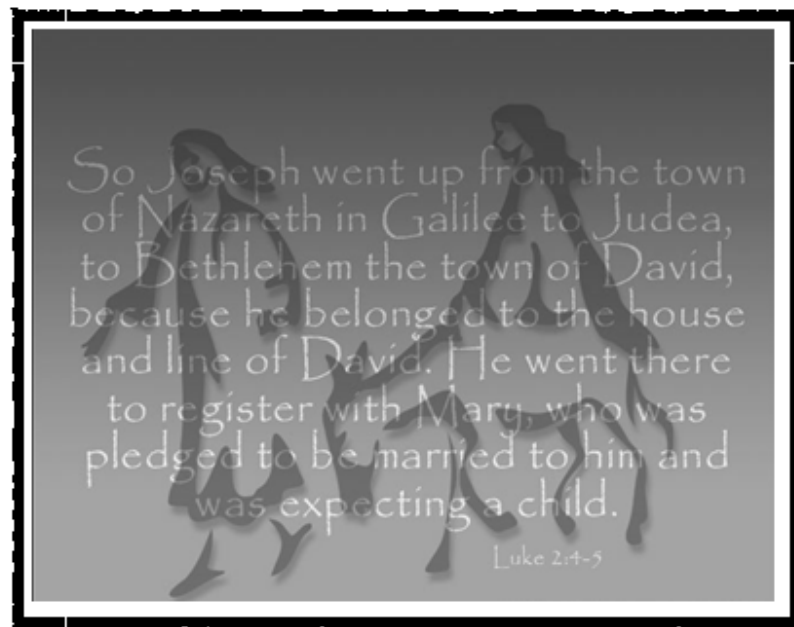


Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

December 2010 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

What we aim to do:
Make disciples for Jesus - as we go, wherever we go.
What we aim to be:
A joyful, caring, Christ-centered family of God.

Question for Pastor...

Questions About Prayer:

In a recent Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5) I received several questions about prayer. Prayer seems to be one of those things people have lots of questions about. Here are just a couple questions and their answers.

Is it ok to talk to God when I'm walking?

The question comes from a sincere desire to pray in a way that is acceptable to God. That's a good desire. From the time we were young, how were most of us were instructed from parents or grandparents or pastors or Sunday school teachers before a prayer was offered? "Fold your hands and close your eyes." When we hear that before almost every prayer it's easy to get the idea that's the only way we can come to God in prayer. But in fact it's not. It's simply one way, not the only way.

I actually like the idea of talking to God while walking. It reinforces the truth that you can (and should) talk to God anywhere, anytime. It also reinforces the truth that you can talk to God like you would talk to someone walking alongside of you - because He truly is "with you always to the very end of the age." It seems to come easy to think of God as "way out there somewhere" and hard to think of Him as being someone who is close enough to walk beside you. Talking while walking can be a good way to pray.

That's not to say that folding your hands and closing your eyes isn't a good posture for prayer. It is. Maybe, especially good for children. It helps us focus our attention on God and not get distracted while talking to Him.

Page 3

When I pray before bed do I need to kneel by my bed?

How many paintings or movies have you seen of where someone is kneeling beside a bed praying? I know I've seen more than a few. The impression can be given that this is the only way to pray before bed.

Kneeling while praying is a great posture for prayer. Kneeling is naturally humbling. It's a posture that says, "I don't deserve to be coming to you with this request. I don't deserve to be in your Presence. I acknowledge you as my King and appreciate you listening to me." Humility, respect and acknowledgment of God as King are essential attitudes to have when we approach Him. Kneeling can help with that, but it's never been prescribed by God as the only posture we must have before praying - let alone praying before bed.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Special Thank-Offering Can Still Be Given

God commanded the Israelites to come to the temple once a year for a joyful celebration of the blessings God provided in the harvest. This harvest festival was called the Feast of Weeks.

"Then celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you." Deuteronomy 16:10

In keeping with the example of the Israelites, on Thanksgiving Eve we came together for a special joyful celebration of the blessings God has provided us. We also brought special Thank-Offerings to the Lord in proportion to the blessings He's given us this past year.

If you weren't here for the Thanksgiving worship, you can still give your Thank-Offering during the month of December. Please use the "Thank-Offering" envelope and simply place it in the offering along with your regular offering at worship. (Thank-Offerings will be applied toward our Matching Fund drive this year.)

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."
King David in 1 Chronicles 29:14

Upcoming Events...

ADVENT MIDWEEK DEVOTION & PRAYER SERVICE

Wednesdays, Dec. 1, 8 & 15 @ 6:30 p.m.

Take time out the first three Wednesday evenings of the month (December 1, 8 and 15) for a time of fellowship, devotion and prayer as a way of preparing your heart for the celebration of Christ's birth. We'll light the Advent wreath and sing some Christmas carols too (in preparation for caroling after the service on the 15th). Please talk to Pastor if you or your study group can provide soup and sandwich for one of the evenings

Schedule :

5:45 - 6:20	Soup & Sandwich Supper
6:30 - 7:00	Devotion & Prayer Service
7:00	Confirmation & Other
	Regular Wednesday Evening Activities

Children's Christmas Program:

The Christmas Program is on Sunday, December 19 @ 4pm followed by the Christmas Dinner @ 5pm

Fall Voters' Assembly -

Tuesday, December 7 @ 7:00
2011 Budget Approval Meeting

Bake Sale @ Kandi Mall -

THIS Sat, Dec. 11, 10am-2pm
Talk to Bonnie Hansen if you can help bake or during the sale.
Thanks!

Sunday School News...

Check us out on facebook "Livingword Lutheran Sundayschool" or email sundayschool.lw@gmail.com to request weekly email updates.

Prayer for the Month:

Ah! dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee. Amen.

Memory Verse for the Month:

"For to us a child is born" Isaiah 9:6

Page 4

Thot for a day: You stop believing in Santa Claus when you start getting clothes for Christmas.

Page 5

Who Can You Invite ?

Two of the prophecies about the Messiah that God promised to send talk of Him as being a "Light to the Gentiles." People who are living without Jesus are living in the dark - and that's no way to live!

Those of us who believe that Jesus is truly the "Light of the World" and our only Savior have the privilege of being like "mirrors" - reflecting the Light of Jesus to those around us.

One great way we can reflect that Light is by a simple invitation to friends, neighbors, relatives. Invite them to join you for one of our special services this Christmas. Who can you invite? 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.)

Kids: Birthday Party for Jesus
(tentative plans for Dec. 19)

Everyone: The Christmas Program
(Sunday, December 19 @ 4pm)

(Special music, songs by the kids and the Christmas story portrayed by Adults for the kids)

Christmas Dinner
(Sunday, December 19 @ 5pm)

Everyone: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
(Dec. 24 @ 5pm)

+ The entire service is done by candlelight.
+ The Christmas Story from Luke chapter two is interspersed with Christmas Carols

Thank God For...

Maybe you've seen the sign board on our land, the beginning of a sentence: "Thank God For..."

Each week we'd like to change the ending of that sentence to encourage people who drive past to remember that God is the giver of all good things - especially things we take for granted. Some things we've thanked God for this past month...

- Freedom to Vote
- Veterans
- Everything

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

Men's Study ~ Bible & Burgers...

Tuesday, Dec 14th @ 6:00 p.m.

We interrupt our regular study for a one-session study, December 14...

"The Real St. Nick: Leader, Legend or Lie?"

St. Nicholas is a character steeped in tradition and known the world over. Is he the great despoiler of Christmas or the persecuted confessor of Christ? Is he a defender of the faith or one who undermines it? To a large extent we determine what role Santa plays in our homes. In this study, Pastor Ken Klaus of Lutheran Hour Ministries looks at the traditions and tries to sort out the usable from that which we should discard along with the Christmas wrapping paper.

Please join us for this study (even if you haven't before). The Burgers are free and the truths from the Bible always satisfy your soul.

Mom's Study...

9:30 Wednesday Mornings
Childcare is provided

NEW Study beginning Wednesday, December 8:

Fruit of the Spirit Study: PEACE - Cultivating Spirit-given character

Throughout the Bible, God's peace comforted people whose lives were in turmoil. Like a thick fog rolling through a valley, God's peace can overwhelm us, so that we see God rather than our circumstances. God's peace isn't the absence of strife, but His presence in the midst of strife.

Join us Wednesdays at 9:30 to learn more about the peace God has for you. Childcare is provided (kids gather at 9:15 for 'adjustment time')

Poinsettias Welcome

Everyone is welcome to bring a poinsettia plant to place in the Sanctuary for Christmas. You may bring the plant any time and set it on the counter. The Altar Guild will take care of it and place it around the altar. Thanks!

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That for a day: It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.

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Couples Study...

Pastor and Violet will host the Fireproof Study at their home on Saturday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. Please let them know if you are planning to attend..

Details: Couples will meet at the Dauks' at 6:00 for the study. After the study everyone is sent off on a date. It doesn't matter if you've been married 6 months or 60 years, you will find this study to be very helpful in strengthening your marriage and commitment to each other.

This month's topic: Forgiveness - Giving and receiving pardon



Women's Study...

"That the World May Know"

Faith Lessons on the Promised Land

"Exploring the land Jesus walked 2000 years ago - finding relevance for your life today."

Wednesdays at noon.

"Exploring the land Jesus walked 2000 years ago -finding relevance for your life today."

That the World May Know is a unique video series that brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance. By weaving together the Bible's fascinating historical, cultural, religious and geographical contexts, Bible teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan reveals key insights into the Scripture's significance to modern believers like you. The result? Illuminating "Faith Lessons" that will solidify your convictions, strengthen your walk with God and inspire you to impact your world..

This past month we've looked at Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and found that to live like Jesus means things like...
Not hiding our faith

The City of Gamla

Home to the Zealot movement of Jesus' time

Sepphoris

"crucifixion city" near where Jesus grew up in Nazareth

We'll also learn about the other Jewish religious groups of Jesus' time - the Sadducees and Pharisees - and what we learn from Jesus' dealings with each group.

“Let’s Read the Bible Together”

SUNDAY EVENINGS @ 6:30

- *What is it?*
An opportunity to get together to simply read the Bible.
- *Will I have to read out loud?*
No. We have people who will read out loud so, you can just follow along in your Bible.
- *Are we using a certain Bible?*
We will be reading from the NIV translation in the Today’s Light Bible
- *Should I bring my own Bible?*
If you have a Bible in the NIV translation, yes. Even better if you have a Today’s Light Bible. If you don’t have an NIV Bible at home, we have Bibles here that you can use.
- *What if I don’t understand something that’s read, can I ask questions?*
One reason we are using the Today’s Light Bible is that it has introductions before and summaries after each section. Those are designed to answer questions that come up and help us stick to our goal, which is simply reading through the Bible. Pastor David will take note of other questions and answer them on a handout the following week.
- *What if I can’t attend every week?*
If you miss you can read on your own
- *What age group is this geared for?*
This is designed to be an inter-generational opportunity. It would be great for families.
- *Is childcare provided?*
We can arrange for it if you need. Just let us know
- *How often will it be held?*
Each week on Sunday evening is the plan.

That The World May Know...

Notes from Meeting With District Mission & Ministry Rep.

On Monday, November 29, Pastor Dave Strohschein, our Mission and Ministry Facilitator from the district office met with our Mission and Ministry Team to talk about plans for the upcoming year

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Thot for a day: God is more interested in tomorrow than yesterday.

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He talked about our building plans and shared with us some information about loans from LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund). Pastor Strohschein told us that we could qualify for a \$250,000 loan (but wouldn’t recommend that level of debt). Our building committee would like to keep our monthly building expense at (or lower) than the \$1210/month we currently pay for rent. Pastor Strohschein informed us that borrowing \$92,000 would give us a monthly payment (principal and interest) of \$600. He also told us that before we could get a loan from LCEF we would have to demonstrate the ability to stay current with our basic expenditures (he estimated six months of staying current).

He challenged us with two goals:

- 1) Develop a plan to address the on-going struggle to stay current on basic expenditures.
- 2) Develop a plan to address how to get to the point of construction of a facility on the property owned by Living Word.

Living Word has been receiving mission funding from our district since the congregation was formed in 2005. Pastor Strohschein presented possibilities for continued mission funding for one more year: He guaranteed us support of \$4567.80 (an amount that has already been donated and designated for Living Word). He informed us that he will also request an additional \$6852 to help cover the Concordia Health plan expenses for Pastor Dauk. Receiving any amount over the guaranteed \$4567.80 will be contingent upon the pledges district receives from its congregations. The amount of those pledges normally isn’t known until mid January.

Pastor Strohschein shared some words of encouragement...

He congratulated us on “growing in the grace of giving” as we’ve gone from offerings of \$1150/week in 2009 to \$1450/week this year. He mentioned that level of giving is very good for a congregation of our size. He also encouraged us to move ahead with building plans. When asked what we needed to do to grow, he told us that we’ve been doing a lot of the right things in an effort to reach out. Then he challenged us to raise our “IQ” (our Invitation Quotient) by having everyone make it a priority to invite people to Bible studies, worship and fellowship activities. He shared with us the challenge his former congregation in St. Cloud faced when their building program called for a loan of one million dollars, and members were saying, “There’s no way we can do that.” Pastor Strohschein said that admission was a good thing, because it opened the door for God to come in and do what they couldn’t. He said it re-focused their trust away from themselves and onto God.

December - Daily Devotionals

We finish up our readings about PRAYER then move on to PROPHECIES of CHRIST'S COMING and descriptions of HIS BIRTH along with RESPONSES to HIS BIRTH. God bless your reading.

Nov 28 **What God Says About PRAYER - Examples from the New Testament**

Nov 29 Luke 1:8-17 _____

Nov 30 John 17:1-26 _____

Dec 1 Acts 4:23-31 _____

Dec 2 Acts 7:54-60 _____

Dec 3 Acts 12:1-17 _____

Dec 4 Ephesians 3:14-21 _____

Dec 5 **What God Says About - PROPHECIES OF THE COMING OF CHRIST**

Dec 6 Genesis 3:15 _____

Dec 7 Genesis 12:1-3 _____

Dec 8 Deuteronomy 18:14-19 _____

Dec 9 Psalm 68:16-20 _____

Dec 10 Micah 5:2 _____

Dec 11 ~~Malachi~~ Malachi 3:1-4 _____

Dec 12 **What God Says About ... PROPHECIES OF THE COMING OF CHRIST**

Dec 13 Isaiah 2:4 _____

Dec 14 Isaiah 7:10-14 _____

“What Does God Say About...?”

Dec 15 Isaiah 9:6-7 _____

Dec 16 Isaiah 11:1-10 _____

Dec 17 Isaiah 42:1-8 _____

Dec 18 Isaiah 61:1-3 _____

Dec 19 **What God Says About ... The Coming and BIRTH OF CHRIST**

Dec 20 Luke 1:26-38 _____

Dec 21 Luke 1:39-25 _____

Dec 22 Luke 1:46-56 _____

Dec 23 John 1:1-14 _____

Dec 24 Luke 2:1-20 _____

Dec 25 Matthew 1:18-25 _____

Dec 26 **What God Says About ... The BIRTH of CHRIST - IT'S TIMING & RESPONSES**

Dec 27 Galatians 4:4-7 _____

Dec 28 Ephesians 1:7-10 _____

Dec 29 Luke 2:21-24 _____

Dec 30 Luke 2:25-35 _____

Dec 31 Luke 2:36-40 _____

Jan 1 Revelation 12:1-5 _____

December 2010 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Prayer Sunday School 10:00 Worship - w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 'Birthday for Jesus' Mtg. 6:30 "Read Bible 2gether"	6 9:00 Circuit Pastors @ Wood Lake	7 7:00 Voter's Assembly (re-scheduled from 11-30) 7:30 Elders' Team	8 9:30 Mom's Study "Peace" Noon Women's Study 6:30 Advent Midweek Devotion Service 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 LWML / Bldg	9	10	11 10:00 - 2:00 Bake Sale @ K&ndi Mall 6:00 Couples' Fireproof Study @ Dauk's
12 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Prayer Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 6:30 "Read Bible 2gether"	13	14 6:00 Men's 'Bible & Burgers' Group "The Real St. Nick"	15 9:30 Mom's Study "Peace" Noon Women's Study 6:30 Advent Midweek Devotion Service 7:00 Confirmation	16	17	18
19 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship ???? Birthday Party for Jesus 4:00 Christmas Program 5:00 Christmas Dinner	20	21 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	22 9:30 Mom's Study "Peace" Noon Women's Study	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 Candlelight Worship (Entire service is done by candlelight)	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00 Christmas Day Worship
26 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Prayer Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 6:30 "Read Bible 2gethe"r	27	28 6:00 Men's 'Bible & Burgers' Group "Citizens of Two Kingdoms"	29 9:30 No Mom's Study This week Noon No Women's Study This Week	30	31	Jan 1
Jan 2 8:45 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum - Prayer Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship / Outreach Mtg 6:30 "Read Bible 2gether"	Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 5 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study 6:30 Senior High Study 6:30 All Stars 4 Jesus	Jan 6 EPIPHANY Noon NL-S Ministerial At Living Word	Jan 7	Jan 8 50 Days Ablaze Kickoff TOMORROW

Upcoming Schedules...

Elders

Dec 5	Brady Sharp & Troy Hansen
Dec 19	Bryson Wachter & Brady Sharp
Jan 2	Jason Miller & Troy Hansen
Jan 16	Bryson Wachter & Brady Sharp
Feb 6	Jason Miller & Troy Hansen
Feb 20	Bryson Wachter & Brady Sharp

Scripture Readers

Dec 5	Jack Kuppich	254-8355
Dec 12	Wendy Robbin	354-9049
Dec 19	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
Dec 26	Phil Iverson	354-4932
Jan 2	Kevin Welsh	796-6840
Jan 9	Carolyn Rossow	952-738-1036
Jan 16	Gerri Wadsworth	796-2294
Jan 23	Paulette Spletter	354-7143
Jan 30	Linda Dilley	235-0235
Feb 6	Mark Fuglie	796-6975
Feb 13	Tammy Fuglie	796-6975
Feb 20	Lu Kiehm	979-0097
Feb 27	Tammy Wachter	796-6222

Usher & Greeter Schedule

<u>Ushers</u>		<u>Greeter</u>
Dec 5	Lonny Robbin & Jack Kuppich	Jack & Bryson
Dec 12	Mark Fuglie & Vern Samuelson	Laurel Iverson
Dec 19	Kevin & Noah Welsh	Lu Kiehm
Dec 26	Linda Dilley & Lu Kiehm	Gerri & Paulette
Jan 2	Tim Geer & Allan Fuglie	Jack & Bryson
Jan 9	Mona Hjelle & Paulette Spletter	Laurel Iverson
Jan 16	Brady Sharp & Wally Abraham	Lu Kiehm
Jan 23	Jamie & Phil Iverson	Gerri & Paulette
Jan 30	Youth	Youth
Feb 6	Brandon Sharp	Bryson Wachter
Feb 13	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter	Laurel Iverson
Feb 20	Brian Tri & Troy Hansen	Lu Kiehm
Feb 27	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weffen	Gerri & Paulette

Fill-in Greeter Bonnie Hansen 796-5605 Please call Bonnie if you aren't able to greet on your scheduled Sunday

Fellowship Servers

Dec 5	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Dec 12	Lu Kiehm / Mona Hjelle
Dec 19	Laurel Iverson / Violet Dauk
Dec 26	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Jan 2	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Jan 9	Wendy Robbin / Stacy Olson
Jan 16	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Jan 23	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Jan 30	Youth
Feb 6	Lu Kiehm / Mona Hjelle
Feb 13	Laurel Iverson / Violet Dauk
Feb 20	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Feb 27	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson

Acolyte

Dec 5	Grace Geer
Dec 12	Michelle Johnson
Dec 19	Matthew Tri
Dec 26	Jacob Beeler
Jan 2	Grace Geer
Jan 9	Michelle Johnson
Jan 16	Matthew Tri
Jan 23	Caleb Beeler
Jan 30	++ Acolyte Needed
Feb 6	Grace Geer
Feb 13	Michelle Johnson
Feb 20	Matthew Tri
Feb 27	Jacob Beeler

Children's Church Schedule

Dec 5	Emily Fuglie	796-6975
Dec 12	Mikayla Geer & Halee Lucas	
Dec 19	Carolyn Rossow	952-738-1036
Dec 26	Mariah Welsh	796-6840
Jan 2	Joe Johnson	354-3545
Jan 9	Kasey Nieland	354-2036
Jan 16	Mona Hjelle	354-4315
Jan 23	Emily Fuglie	796-6975
Jan 30	Mikayla Geer & Halee Lucas	

Feb 6	Carolyn Rossow	952-738-1036
Feb 13	Mariah Welsh	796-6840
Feb 20	Joe Johnson	354-3545
Feb 27	Kasey Nieland	354-2036

Meal Deliveries

	<u>Meal Makers</u>	<u>Meal Takers</u>
December	Mona Hjelle Jamie Iverson	Mona Hjelle Bryson Wachter

Packages for College...

Our youth will be collecting "college survival" items to include in packages they will send to Living Word members who are attending college. Members are encouraged to help out with this collection by bringing things like:

- packaged cookies
- gum
- stamps
- hot chocolate
- beef jerky
- stationary
- newspapers
- ramen noodles
- graham crackers
- candy
- jokes
- snacks
- travel-size toiletries

You could even toss in gift cards for places like Target or Wal-Mart, etc.... Place your items in the collection boxes in back of church. Thanks so much for your help !

11:09... (set the alarm on your cell phone)


PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY AT 11:09 EVERYDAY

(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 things like...

- + God to prepare your heart for Christ to come to you daily
- + God to open hearts at Christmas that have been closed to Him
- + Safe travel for everyone in the winter weather
- + For increased trust that God will continue to provide
- + For those who have recently lost loved ones

Just For Fun...








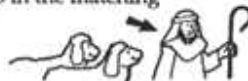




Just for KIDS



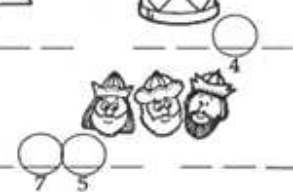
A Special Season

Here are symbols and signs of a special season.
They help us celebrate:

Write the name of each picture on the spaces below it. Write the letters from the numbered circles in the matching numbered spaces above.

December Discipleship Verse...



*For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given,
and the government will be on His shoulders.
And He will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace"*

Isaiah 9:6

Inspirational Story...

Once upon a time, there was a man who looked upon Christmas as a lot of humbug. He wasn't a Scrooge. He was a very kind and decent person, generous to his family, upright in all his dealings with other men. But he didn't believe all that stuff about an incarnation which churches proclaim at Christmas. And he was too honest to pretend that he did.

"I am truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife, who was a faithful churchgoer, "but I simply cannot understand this claim that God became man. It doesn't make any sense to me."

On Christmas Eve, his wife and children went to church for the midnight service. He declined to accompany them. "I'd feel like a hypocrite," he explained. "I'd much rather stay at home. But I'll wait up for you."

Shortly after his family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window and watched the flurries getting heavier and heavier.

"If we must have a Christmas," he reflected, "it's nice to have a white one."

He went back to his chair by the fireside and began to read his newspaper. A few minutes later, he was startled by a thudding sound. It was quickly followed by another, then another. He thought that someone must be throwing snow balls at his living room window.

When he went to the front door to investigate, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They had been caught in the storm, and in a desperate search for shelter had tried to fly through his window.

I can't let those poor creatures lie there and freeze, he thought. But how can I help them?

Then he remembered the barn where the children's pony was stabled. It would provide a warm shelter. He quickly put on his coat and galoshes and tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on the light. But the birds didn't come in.

Food will bring them in, he thought. So he hurried back to the house for bread crumbs, which he sprinkled on the snow to make a trail into the barn. To his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs and continued to flop around helplessly in the snow. He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around and waving his arms. They scattered in every direction - except into the warm, lighted barn.

Page 18

That for a day: Christmas is not a date. It is a state of mind & heart.

Page 19

"They find me a strange and terrifying creature," he said to himself, "and I can't seem to think of any way to let them know they can trust me. If only I could be a bird myself for a few minutes, perhaps I could lead them to safety."

Just at that moment, the church bells began to ring. He stood silently for a while, listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. Then he sank to his knees in the snow.

"Now I understand," he whispered. "Now I see why you had to do it."

E-Mail Humor...

Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands.

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset.

"You're running around with other women," she charged.

"You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth."

The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve. "What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded.

"Counting your ribs," said Eve.

Midterm Exam

The professor of a graduate-school class included a huge amount of material on the midterm exam. As tension in the room built, people were sighing and gasping aloud.

The following week the professor tossed the graded papers on her desk and announced, "Class, after I left here last week, the Lord spoke to me. He said, 'Thanks, professor. I haven't heard from some of those people in years!'"

Generous Giver

A teenager was sitting in church, and when the collection plate was passed around, he quickly pulled a dollar bill from his pocket and dropped it in.

Just then, the person behind him tapped him on his shoulder and handed him a \$20 bill. The boy smiled, placed the \$20 in the plate, and passed it on, admiring the man's generosity.

Then the boy felt another tap from behind and heard a whisper: "Son," the man said, "that was your \$20 bill that had fallen out of your pocket."

E-Mail Wisdom... (received via e-mail)

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE GRAVITY!

- -Gravity affects everybody regardless of who you are. *"Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord"* (Philippians 2:10-11, paraphrase).
- -Gravity is what it is. Its impact on human beings is dependent on how they treat it. *"I am who I am"* (Exodus 3:14).
- -Gravity does not change. *"I, the Lord, do not change"* (Malachi 3:6; see also Hebrews 13:8 & Psalm 89:34).
- -Gravity affects everybody regardless of what you believe about it. *"For there is no partiality with God"* (Romans 2:11).
- -Gravity exists despite its invisible nature. *"God is Spirit"* (John 4:24).
- -Gravity is understood by its evidences. *"That which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made, so that they are without excuse"* (Romans 1:19-20, bold mine).

Most people have no greater knowledge of gravity than the awareness that when they jump up, they come back down. These folks live their entire lives with a general disregard of its power and affect...accept when they are in danger of falling.

There are a few however (very few), who spend their entire lives studying gravity, they have an intimate awareness of it, and their relationship to it. It is their expertise and sacrifice that has enabled man to walk on the moon.*

Such is the Kingdom of God.

*Man first walked on the moon more than 41 years ago in 1969. Way more than 99% of us have no technical idea how it was possible. Today in fact, some believe it was all a hoax. That it never actually happened...but it did!

A REQUEST FROM THE E.C.F.E

We appreciate your kids not using the Early Childhood Family Education and Cub Kids toys that are in the gym storage area and area outside our classrooms. Thanks.

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That for a day: He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree.

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Thanks...

Thanks for the Cookies...

Cookie Bakers from Living Word,

Thank you so much for your donation of cookies to "Operation Chocolate Chip Cookies." With your help we were able to ship over 1800 pounds of cookies on a troop transport to Afghanistan. All together our community donated over a ton of cookies. It was all successful because people like you heeded the call. Thank You! Thank You!

Becky West, President Unit #537
American Legion Auxiliary
New London, MN

Thanks for the Shoeboxes...

... For Operation Christmas Child. We collected 13 boxes filled with the love of Jesus. Thank You!

Thanks for the Batteries...

We the people at the Senior Dining Site in Spicer do thank you for blessing us with batteries for our smoke detectors.

Signed: Gerri Wadsworth, Lil Sluka, Leland Kallevig, Dorothy Schwandt, Hazel Allen, Hallis Matson, Rena Hermann, Arlene Lindstrand, Bert Gronli, Bob Taylor, Harriette Peterson, Blanche E Larson, Phyllis Allen, Irene Brecke, Doris Chase

"50 Days Ablaze" in January...

A Congregation-wide, small-group program (similar to 40 Days of Purpose that we held several years ago)

50 Days Ablaze is designed to get everyone focused on the same thing at the same time (reaching out with the love, power and forgiveness of Jesus) through"

- 1) Daily devotions
- 2) Weekly small group studies
- 3) Weekly worship services



We still need more people to volunteer to host a small group study (at your home or other place of your choice). We already have 4 small group leaders lined up!

Please talk to Pastor David or elder Bryson Wachter if you can help in any of these ways. Thanks!

Story Behind The Song...

"O Come, O Come Emanuel"

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')."

Matthew 1:22-23

"O Come, O Come Emanuel" is a song that bridges the seasons of Advent and Christmas. In fact, in some hymnals this song is listed in the "Advent" section and in others it is listed in the "Christmas" section. The hymn, of Latin origin in the twelfth century, is one of oldest that we sing.

It was originally used in the liturgy of the church in medieval times as a series of antiphons - short musical statements sung for the vespers ("evening") prayer services the week prior to Christmas Eve. Each of the antiphons begins with the plea for the Messiah to come using a different title by which He is referred in the Scriptures

The antiphons of the song were translated from Latin into English by John M. Neal (1818-1866). Mr. Neal was co-founder of the Society of Saint Margaret, an order within the Anglican Church dedicated to nursing the sick. He also wrote original texts that became the well-known Christmas carols Good King Wenceslas and Good Christian Men Rejoice.

The melody for the verses is also of ancient origin - possibly dating back to the 8th century. It is based on one of the earliest forms of sacred melody known as Chant or Plainsong.

**O come, O come Immanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here.
Until the son of God appear.**

Chorus:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee O Israel.**

**O come Thou Lord of Might,
who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.**

**O come O Rod of Jesse free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;**

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Thot for a day: Do not believe in mirades...rely on them.

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**From depths of hell Thy people save,
And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave**

**O come Thou Day-spring come and cheer
our spirits by Thine Advent here
O drive away the shades of night
and pierce the clouds and bring us light.**

**O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.**

Christmas Choir Singers Needed:

We will have special music for our Christmas Program on December 19 and for our Christmas Eve Worship. We'll be singing familiar Christmas songs, so don't be afraid to join us. Practices will be after worship.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



and dat angel of da Lord showed up to ice fishermen watchin' dar lines by night. Doncha-Know. **Luke 2 (MIV)**

Minnesota International Version