

Living Word

Lutheran Church

LCMS

January 2013 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

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...

"Where Was God?"

Chances are you heard someone voice that question last month after the unimaginable shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

I heard that question quite a few times. Most of the time it seemed to me the person asking it was in reality making the following statement disguised in question form. "Here's another proof that God doesn't exist."

The truth of the matter is that this horrific event proves nothing of the sort.

The Bible - God's own record of His dealings with mankind - is full of examples where He did not step in to prevent human beings from doing something horrible. Here's just a sampling:

Eve/Adam... and the fruit;
Cain... and Abel,
Herod ...and the babies in Bethlehem;
The Jewish leaders/Pilate... and Jesus.

If God himself told us about these tragedies that He didn't intervene to stop in biblical times, we should not be quite so surprised when He doesn't intervene to stop every tragedy in our time either.

So, while we certainly cannot say the tragedy in Connecticut is proof that God doesn't exist, we can say this: It certainly is proof that evil does exist... and that evil is powerful. (We already knew that, but this was a horrible reminder.)



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But there's another side to the question. An honest, sincere side. One that comes from the correct belief that God really does exist and that God does have power over evil. One that is, in effect, asking, "Why didn't God step in to stop this? He could have. He's done it before.... many times... Why not this time?"

That's the question no one but God can answer. And if He hasn't told us the reason, we'd best not presume to speak for Him. We would do well to remember what God has told us in Isaiah 55:8-9

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

God reminds us that we - because we are not God - will never be able to fully comprehend some of the things He does (or allows). We can take comfort in the fact that He always sees the "big picture" (the really big, ETERNAL picture) while all we see is a very tiny part of the picture - the part right in front of our eyes at one very short point in eternity.

Based on that and other passages of God's Word, we can safely say this:

In each case where God doesn't step in to prevent evil, He sees that big, eternal picture, and He has a plan to bring some greater good out of that evil.

The cross is the ultimate example of His plans to make good come from evil - and His power to actually make that plan happen. But I'm guessing you can take a look at your own life and come up with at least a few instances where God allowed something evil - either to happen to you or to be done by you - that you can find some greater, more eternal good that He brought about as a result.

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33

- Jesus Christ to his disciples just hours before his crucifixion.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Miscellaneous Notices...

Congratulations !

- Wally & Elaine Abraham on the sale of your house in Arizona!
- Anthony Dauk on your new job!

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

Lutheran Witness Magazine Subscriptions

Please talk to Pastor David if you would like a subscription to the official magazine of the LC-MS. You can check out some of the most recent issues on the table on the north wall. Subscriptions are \$21.65/year.

Portal of Prayer Daily Devotionals

Are available in your mailbox and on the "Free Stuff" table.

Collecting Items for a Time Capsule:

Bring something that signifies our faith and church at this point in time. Maybe a cd, movie, book, photos, predictions, news clippings, etc.... Also bring a favorite Bible passage to show even though some elements of our faith and religion change over the years, the most important - the rock-solid foundation that is the Living Word of God - never will.

Slideshow of Building The Church Photos

Is available to watch:

- 1) At our website
<http://www.livingwordlutheran.net/building%20video.htm>
- 2) On DVD - ask Pastor David or Scott Wachter for a copy

Missed the Dedication?

We've got it on video.
Find it at our website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

LWML News...

Our next meeting is January 9, at 7:00 p.m.
Please join us as we make plans for mission projects for the coming year.



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Thot for a day: Depend on the rabbit's foot if you will, but remember it didn't work for the rabbit.

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E-mail Humor...

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS YOU CAN REALLY KEEP

Sick of making the same resolutions year after year that you never keep? Why not promise to do something you can ACTUALLY accomplish?

I resolve to....

- ~ Gain weight. At least 10 pounds.
- ~ Stop exercising. Waste of time.
- ~ Watch more TV.
- ~ Procrastinate more. Starting tomorrow.
- ~ Get in a whole NEW rut!
- ~ Continue hating disco.
- ~ Create loose ends (let someone else tie them up)
- ~ Get more toys.
- ~ Break at least one traffic law each time I get in the car.
- ~ Wait for opportunity to knock.
- ~ Never make New Year's resolutions again.

A young woman brought her fiancé to visit her parents. After a nice dinner, the father invited the fiancé to the library for a talk.

"So what are your plans?" he asked the young man.

"I am a seminary student," he replied.

"A seminary student. Hmmm," said the father. "Admirable, but how will you provide a home for my daughter?"

"I will study," the young man said, "and God will provide for us."

"And how will you buy her an engagement ring, such as she deserves?"

"I will focus on my studies and God will provide for us."

"And how will you support your children?"

"Don't worry, sir. God will provide."

The conversation continued like this; each time the father questioned, the young man insisted that God would provide. Later, when the mother asked about the male conversation, the father sighed, "Well, he has no job and no plan, but the good news is: he thinks I'm God!"



The LINK...

January 2013
Happy New Year!

As the Link looks forward to entering our fourth year of serving people in the Northern Kandiyohi community, we recently "took stock" of some of the work we accomplished in 2012.

Some of our 2012 Successes:

- Fashion Show to benefit the Link at Peace Lutheran Church
- Completed our first Views & Voices (PhotoVoice) Project
- Food booth with the Lions at the New London Music Festival
- \$33,000 paid to vendors to assist our neighbors in need
- Tuesday's Table is 2! The first meal at Our Lady of the Lakes had 34 people and now there are almost 200 people at each meal
- Wonderful evening of music at the Community Choir concert and raised \$5,400
- Link Household Exchange in New London has received increased donations of time and goods
- Continued support of grant funding through the Willmar Area Community Foundation, the United Way and the Otto Bremer Foundation
- Continued support from the community—individuals, through donations of time and resources

Thank you to everyone that has volunteered time or contributed resources in 2012—we look forward to engaging you in 2013!

Gratefully,
Rhonda Otteson, Link Director

Tuesday's Table in January: All are welcome!

- January 1, 2013: Happy New Year! No Tuesday's Table
- January 8, 2013: Evangelical Covenant Church
- January 15, 2013: Faith Lutheran Church
- January 22, 2013: Peace Lutheran Church
- January 29, 2013: Hope Presbyterian Church

Donations can be sent to: The Link
310 Medayto Drive
Spicer, MN 56288
www.thelinknls.org
320.796.2522

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Thot for a day: If winning isn't everything, why do they keep score?

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Opportunities for Growth...

Could You Host A Small Group Study This Fall?

One of our Core Values at Living Word is that making disciples (people who are committed to growing to become more like Jesus) happens best in small group settings.

For example, it's easier for people to get connected to Jesus through small groups. It's easier to get to know other Christians in small groups. Caring happens best in small groups. With that in mind we'd like to "plant" more small groups this fall. If you could host a small group study - at your home, a coffee house or at church, please talk to Pastor David. There are many different kinds of studies available. We can find one that fits your situation.

Men's Study:

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Joseph: Carpenter of Steel

Concludes January 8th



The man driving the Christmas story in this Bible study is none other than Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus. Join us as host Rev. Greg Seltz, Speaker for The Lutheran Hour, sheds light on one of the New Testament's unsung heroes in *Joseph: Carpenter of Steel*. Adding historical perspective to this study is scholar and best-selling author Dr. Paul L. Maier.

A NEW 4-WEEK STUDY BEGINNING JANUARY 15:

"Explaining All The Scary Stuff in REVELATION":

Nobody said demons, plagues, and an appointment with Armageddon would be fun, but it doesn't have to be feared—at least not for the Christian. Check out how our new Bible study, *Explaining All The Scary Stuff In Revelation*, gives both insight and encouragement to those who follow "the bright Morning Star."



Sunday Morning Study:

Sundays at 9:00 am

This month will begin a study on the book of Philippians. "It's all in your attitude."

Mom's Study and Wednesday Noon Women's Study:

On January 9:

We will combine the two studies and meet together at 9:30 for an update by Jade Dols on her first year of ministry in Thailand.

Everyone is invited to hear Jade - even if you aren't currently part of one of the Wednesday groups.

You can check out her latest blog posts about "The \$60 School" and "Dealing with Pain, Struggles and Uncertainty" at jadedols.com

On January 16 and 23: We'll conclude our study:

"The Genius of Generosity"

In this Living On The Edge series, Chip Ingram urges us to consider how to be truly smart when it comes to managing your finances and your very life. The secret? The Bible teaches that the wisest thing we can do with our resources is to learn to invest them in His kingdom; and that becoming a generous person is the smartest way to prepare for an eternal future.



Reminder: Childcare is provided for the Mom's Study which begins at 9:30

Sunday School Theme for December
"Choices"

We have classes for Pre-school through 8th Grade.

- Jan 6: "The Wise and Foolish Builders" from Matthew 7:24-27.
- January 13: "Trust in the Lord with all your Heart" Prov. 3: 1-12
- January 20: Life Sunday: "Hands that Knit- Arms that Hold".
- January 27: "Great and Precious Promises" 2 Peter 1: 3-15

Confirmation

We are on a year-long tour through the Bible. This month:

- Jan 9: David: From Shepherd to King to trials
- Jan 16: Solomon: The King who had it all ...torn in two.
- Jan 23: God's messengers & the beginning of the end.
- Jan 30: The Kingdom's Fall.

Starting Sunday Evening January 13

6:00 p.m.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

What is *Financial Peace University*?

We all need a plan for our money. Financial Peace University (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more!

FPU classes meet for around an hour and a half each week for nine weeks. **Childcare will be provided.**



The average family attending Financial Peace University pays off \$5300 in debt and saves \$2700 in the first 90 days. \$100 will purchase your class membership which includes all the class materials you will need. **Scholarships are available to help with the membership cost - just ask.**

Please talk to class coordinator Troy Hansen for more information or to sign up for the class.

Sunday Night Youth Group

For youth (grades 5+) from 7:00 to 9:00

Please feel free to bring yourself and any friends that want to come to any Sunday night group because the more people we have the better and more fun it will be. We will be starting out taking a look at the characteristics of God and what they mean for us. Sunday nights will include some activities, a short study, and some snacks, along with other special things. Please come and hang out, have some fun, and learn about God. (P.S. we will also try and mix in a special event night every once and a while.)

Top Ten Reasons to have your newsletter sent directly by email:

1. To receive the newsletter at the earliest opportunity.
2. One less thing to carry home from church.
3. It's time to utilize all this "new-fangled" technology.
4. Color... glorious color.
5. Expanded information and clickable links to related web information.
6. Already have too much excess paper laying around the house.
7. Help the church save some money on printing, paper, and postage.
8. Never have to search for the newsletter to see if it's your Sunday for fellowship.
9. It's environmentally friendly! Less trash.
10. Because it is what all the "trendy" non-profits are doing these days.

Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net

January - Daily Devotionals

January begins with Epiphany - the celebration of the coming of the Wise Men. The Bible has to say about wisdom - what it is, who has it, how to get it, how to put it into practice.

Wk of Jan 6 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the Old Testament

Jan 7 Deuteronomy 4:1-8 _____

Jan 8 1 Kings 3:5-14 _____

Jan 9 Job 32:1-9 _____

Jan 10 Daniel 2:14-23 _____

Jan 11 Daniel 12:3 _____

Jan 12 Hosea 14:1-3,9 _____

Week of Jan 13 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the Psalms

Jan 14 Psalm 2:1-6, 10-12 _____

Jan 15 Psalm 19:7-11 _____

Jan 16 Psalm 36:1-4 _____

Jan 17 Psalm 111:10 _____

Jan 18 Psalm 119:97-100 _____

Jan 19 Psalm 104:1-24 _____

Wk of Jan 20 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the Gospels

Jan 21 Matthew 7:24-27 _____

Jan 22 Matthew 13:53-56 _____

Jan 23 Matthew 24:42-51 _____

Jan 24 Matthew 25:1-13 _____

Jan 25 Mark 12:28-34 _____

Jan 26 Luke 2:40-52 _____

Wk of Jan 27 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the New Testament

Jan 28 Acts 6:1-4 _____

Jan 29 Romans 11:33-36 _____

Jan 30 1 Corinthians 1:17-31 _____

Jan 31 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 _____

Feb 1 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 _____

Feb 2 2 Peter 3:14-18 _____

Wk of Feb 3 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the New Testament

Feb 4 Ephesians 1:17-19 _____

Feb 5 Ephesians 3:7-13 _____

Feb 6 Colossians 1:9-12 _____

Feb 7 Colossians 3:12-17 _____

Feb 8 James 1:5-8 _____

Feb 9 James 3:13-18 _____

January 2013 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
J 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum / Sun. School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship / Usher Training 7:00 Youth Group	7	1 12:30 Annual Whist Fellowship At Dawks'	2	3 Noon NL-S Ministerial @ Living Word	4 6:00 Circuit Pastors @ Willmar	5
6 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum / Sun. School 10:00 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 New Member Reception (Potluck) 7:00 Youth Group	7	8 6:30 Men's Study "Joseph: Carpenter of Steel" 7:15 Elders' Team	9 9:30 JADE DOLS REPORTS FROM THAILAND to both Wed. study groups 6:30 Confirmation LWML	LORD'S SUPPER DATES FOR JANUARY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, January 6th Sunday, January 13th 		
13 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum / Sun. School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 6:00 Financial Peace University 7:30 Youth Group	14	15 6:30 Men's Study "Revelation"	16 9:30 Mom's Study "Genius of Generosity" Noon Women's Study "Genius of Generosity" 6:15 Confirm. Meal 6:30 Confirmation	17 6:30 Mission & Ministry Team	18	19
20 LIFE SUNDAY 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum / Sun. School 10:00 Worship - w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 6:00 Financial Peace University 7:30 Youth Group	21	22 6:30 Men's Study "Revelation"	23 9:30 Mom's Study "Genius of Generosity" Noon Women's Study "Genius of Generosity" 6:15 Confirm. Meal 6:30 Confirmation	24	25	26
27 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour - Adult Forum / Sun. School 10:00 Worship 6:00 Financial Peace University 7:30 Youth Group	28	29 6:30 Men's Study "Revelation"	30 9:30 Mom's Study Noon Women's Study 6:15 Confirm. Meal 6:30 Confirmation	31	PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY AT 11:09 EVERYDAY <i>(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")</i>	

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Jan 6 Kevin Welsh
Jan 13 Linda Dilley
Jan 20 Mark Fuglie
Jan 27 Tammy Fuglie

Feb 3 Duane Hansen
Feb 10 Tammy Wachter
Feb 17 Eve Bajari
Feb 24 Terrell Abbott

Fellowship Servers

Jan 6 Wendy Robbin / Alida Sawatzky
Jan 13 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Jan 20 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Jan 27 Mona Hjelle /

Feb 3 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
Feb 10 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Feb 17 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Feb 24 Wendy Robbin / Alida Sawatzky

Children's Church Schedule

Jan 6 Mona Hjelle
Jan 13 Violet Dauk
Jan 20 Michelle Johnson
Jan 27 Grace Geer

Feb 3 Mona Hjelle
Feb 10 Violet Dauk
Feb 17 Michelle Johnson & Eve Bajari
Feb 24 Grace Geer & Terrell Abbott

Confirmation Meal

Jan 2 No Class
Jan 9 Pam Johnson
Jan 16 Julie Bajari
Jan 23 Tim Geer
Jan 30 Pastor David

Feb 6 Vicky Skotterud
Feb 13 Pam Johnson
Feb 20 Julie Bajari
Feb 27 Tim Geer

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That for a day: If you expect the world to be fair with you because you are fair with them, it is like expecting a lion to not eat you because you don't eat lion.

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Make A Meal Volunteers

January	Pam Johnson	Donna Peterson
February	Jamie Iverson	Mona Hjelle
March	Gracie Geer	Laurel Iverson
April	Pastor David	Linda Dilley

Elders

Jan 6	Troy Hansen & Scott Wachter
Jan 13	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
Feb 3	Troy Hansen & Scott Wachter
Ash Wed	Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp
Feb 17	Troy Hansen & Scott Wachter

Custodian

Jan	Brent & Alicia Sawatzky
Feb	Duane, Bonnie, Troy & Ashley Hansen

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Jan 6	George Arends-Schmidt
Jan 13	Carson Jaspersen
Jan 20	Noah Miller
Jan 27	Andy Sharp

Feb 3	Lance Sawatzky
Feb 10	George Arends-Schmidt
Feb 17	Carson Jaspersen
Feb 24	Noah Miller

Usher Schedule

Jan 6	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Jan 13	Lonny Robbin & Jason Olson
Jan 20	Troy Hansen & Brady Sharp
Jan 27	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer

Feb 3	Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle
Feb 10	Kevin & Noah Welsh
Ash Wed	Jamie & Phil Iverson
Feb 17	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
Feb 24	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter

January Discipleship Verse...



*So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,
do it all for the glory of God.*

1 Corinthians 10:31

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

Or lack thereof...

"Man will never reach the moon regardless of all future scientific advances."

-- Dr. Lee DeForest, "Father of Radio & Grandfather of Television."

"The bomb will never go off. I speak as an expert in explosives."

-- Admiral William Leahy, US Atomic Bomb Project

"There is no likelihood man can ever tap the power of the atom."

-- Robert Millikan, Nobel Prize in Physics, 1923

"I have traveled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year."

--The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957

"But what is it good for?"

-- Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip.

"640K ought to be enough for anybody."

-- Bill Gates, 1981

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us."

-- Western Union internal memo, 1876.

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?"

-- David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.

"The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C,' the idea must be feasible,"

-- A Yale University management professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. (Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.)

"Airplanes are interesting toys but of no military value,"

-- Marechal Ferdinand Foch, Professor of Strategy, Ecole Supérieure de Guerre, France.

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That for a day: Don't worry about what people think. They don't do it that often.

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"I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper,"

--Gary Cooper refusing the leading role in "Gone With The Wind."

"A cookie store is a bad idea. Besides, the market research reports say America likes crispy cookies, not soft and chewy cookies like you make,"

-- Response to Debbi Fields' idea of starting Mrs. Fields' Cookies.

"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out,"

-- Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible,"

-- Lord Kelvin, president, Royal Society, 1895.

"If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this,"

-- Spencer Silver on the work that led to the unique adhesives for 3-M "Post-It" Notepads.

"Drill for oil? You mean drill into the ground to try and find oil? You're crazy,"

-- Drillers who Edwin L. Drake tried to enlist to his project to drill for oil in 1859.

"I don't know what use any one could find for a machine that would make copies of documents. It certainly couldn't be a feasible business by itself."

-- the head of IBM, refusing to back the idea, forcing the inventor to found Xerox.

"Louis Pasteur's theory of germs is ridiculous fiction."

-- Pierre Pachet, Professor of Physiology at Toulouse, 1872

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."

-- Ken Olson, president/CEO/founder of Digital Equipment Corp 1977

And last but not least...

"Who then can be saved?"

-- Jesus' disciples after He had answered a question about eternal life.

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

-- Jesus in reply to the disciples' question.

From Jade Dols...

My return to America
Raising support to continue serving in Thailand

6...5...4...3...2...1

As I counted down the months and days it hardly seemed real. But low and behold December 18th finally rolled around and I boarded the plane to embark on the long journey back to America.

What was intended as a holiday vacation has turned out to be an opportunity to raise support; as I have only been receiving a small fraction of what I need to serve full-time in Thailand.



I will be traveling around the country until December 23rd, speaking at various locations to raise \$45,750 in order to continue working with

prostitutes and refugees for at least another 2 years. At present, I only have enough money to continue doing this for a few more months. But I know that God has called me to commit my life to this work.

I would like to ask you, my friends to partner with me in this effort to walk with women out of prostitution and protect the lives of persecuted Christians from around the world. One step at a time, one dollar at a time, we can do this together. I can't do it without your help.

To support me in this work in Thailand...

Visit www.jadedols.com. Click "Donate" or "Reoccurring Donation."

Make checks payable to Xealot, Inc and write "Jade Dols" in the memo or it WILL NOT be credited to me.

The address is: Xealot, Inc
18842 Teller Ave
Irvine, CA 92612

I want to thank everybody who has been taking this journey with me.



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That for a day: All the world's a stage and most of us are desperately unrehearsed.



Kids class is held 5 days a week, while language classes for adults is 2 days a week.

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Thank you for standing up for the poor and oppressed with me. Thank you for bringing hope and healing to those living in the shadows. Thank you for being a part of our community. I sincerely appreciate you.

Love and blessings,
Jade Dols

Jade Dols Reports To Us About Her First Year of Ministry in Thailand
9:30 Wednesday morning, January 9

Everyone is invited to hear Jade - even if you aren't currently part of one of the Wednesday groups.

You can also check out her latest blog posts: "The \$60 School" and "Dealing with Pain, Struggles and Uncertainty" at www.jadedols.com

Inspirational Story...

Three young men were once given three kernels of corn apiece by a wise old sage, who admonished them to go out into the world, and use the corn to bring themselves good fortune.

The first young man put his three kernels of corn into a bowl of hot broth and ate them.

The second thought, I can do better than that, and he planted his three kernels of corn. Within a few months, he had three stalks of corn. He took the ears of corn from the stalks, boiled them, and had enough corn for three meals.

The third man said to himself, I can do better than that! He also planted his three kernels of corn, but when his three stalks of corn produced, he stripped one of the stalks and replanted all of the seeds in it, gave the second stalk of corn to a sweet maiden, and ate the third.

His one full stalk's worth of replanted corn kernels gave him 200 stalks of corn! And the kernels of these he continued to replant, setting aside only a bare minimum to eat. He eventually planted a hundred acres of corn. With his fortune, he not only won the hand of the sweet maiden but purchased the land owned by the sweet maiden's father. And he never hungered again.

The more you give, the more you get. However that should NOT be the reason for your giving.

Sharing the Love of God In Practical Ways...

Enjoy Woodworking?

We need someone to build a frame for the new Living Word sign. Wood is provided, we just need someone to make the cuts and put it together. Talk to Pastor David if you (or someone you know) can help. Thanks !

Childcare Subs Needed

We are looking for a couple people to put on a "Substitute" list of childcare providers for our Wednesday morning Mom's Study. (9:30-11:30) and also for the *Financial Peace University class*. (Sundays 6-7:30) Please talk to Pastor Dave if you can help.

Help Planning Congregational Fellowship Events

Do you like to plan and organize activities that get people together to serve or have fun? Talk to Congregational Outreach Coordinator Linda Dilley for details on how you can help. Thanks!

Immediate Need for Children's Church Leaders

We are in immediate need of Children's Church Leaders. The only pre-requisite is a love for Jesus and for His kids. You read a Bible story or Object Lesson, take prayer requests from the kids and lead them in prayer; and do an activity with the kids that reinforces the lesson. Lessons are provided. You simply show up and lead. Please talk to Pastor David or Mona Hjelle if you could help lead Children's Church once every 6 weeks or so.

Custodian of the Month

Now that we are in our own building, we need to provide our own custodian services. So, we will be starting a Custodian of the Month schedule where you (or your whole family) sign up to provide the necessary cleaning. A check-list of duties will be provided. Please consider being a part of this service. **Choose your month by signing up today on the board at the back of church. Thanks !** (We have volunteers through June - except for May.)

Accompanist Still Needed

We are in need of people who can help in worship by providing accompaniment on piano, organ or keyboard one or two Sundays a month. Please talk to Pastor David if you know of someone who can. Thanks!

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That for a day Life is 10% what you make it and 90% how you take it.

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Elders Available For Prayer After Worship

God tells us in the book of James (5:14-15), "Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray.... Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord." Our Living Word Elders (Troy Hansen, Kevin Welsh, Scott Wachter, and Brady Sharp) will be available each week after worship at the front of the sanctuary to pray with you.

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 or Meal Coordinator Linda Dilley if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks!

You can help with our Support of Heidy

We have committed to \$32/month to help pay for basic needs and Christian education opportunities for Heidy. Donations may be placed in the "Heidy" box on the usher table at church.

Story Behind The Song...

"We Three Kings"

January 6 is the Day of Epiphany in the church year. It's the day we celebrate the coming of the Wise Men (literally "Magi") to worship Jesus as the King of the Jews.

Epiphany has been called "Christmas for the Gentile world," since it represents the first time Jesus was "revealed" (the meaning of the word "epiphany") to non-Jewish people. It seems that lots of the songs we sing at Christmas focus on the part the shepherds (Go Tell It On the Mountain) or the angels (Hark the Herald Angels Sing) played in the Christmas story. Only a couple are dedicated to the Magi and the gifts they brought to Jesus. From beginning to end, the song "We Three Kings" is devoted to those "wise men" and their gifts.

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Chorus: O star of wonder, star of night,

Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign. (Chorus)

Frankincense to offer have I.
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high (Chorus)

Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Chorus)

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia
Sounds through the earth and skies. (Chorus)

Both the words and tune were written by John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891) an Episcopal Bishop. Hopkins would go on to be a deacon, author, illustrator, and designer as well as a music teacher in his seminary. He also enjoyed working in stained glass.

Hopkins composed "We Three Kings" to be sung in 1857 as part of an elaborate Christmas pageant for the students of his alma mater the General Theological Seminary in New York City in 1857.

This song is a prime example of how inaccuracies can creep into our beliefs. The rest of the song does a great job of highlighting the gifts (gold, frankincense and myrrh) and what those gifts *may have been* signifying (gold = Jesus is King, frankincense = Jesus is God, myrrh = He will give his life as a sacrifice). But the first three words plant a couple of incorrect ideas in our minds. First, that the Magi were kings. They were not kings. "Scholars" would be more accurate, but it was probably a lot easier to come up with pageant costumes for kings than for scholars. That first line of the song also gives us the idea there were three of them. The fact is, the Bible doesn't tell us how many there were (but it does work well in a Christmas pageant to have one person for each of the three gifts).

No matter what exactly the Magi were or how many of them came, the song reminds us of the biblical truth that some very important Gentiles followed the guidance of a star for a great distance and presented Jesus some really expensive gifts. Gifts fit for a King (who is also God and who would die as a sacrifice for the sins of the world). The final verse gives us a good way to respond to God's gift of a Savior for both Jews and Gentiles: Sing alleluias (praises) to God throughout the earth.

Editor's note: If you are a fan of collegiate-style a cappella music, here is a great version by the group, Straight No Chaser. Watch at: <http://youtu.be/nqMUaq2vkFs>

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The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Hrrrrrrff.. this year is
going to be **ZERO FUN!**



I've got those New Years Resolution Blues