

# Living Word

## Lutheran Church

LCMS

**May 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](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

Website: [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://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...

What do you think about the proposed Gay Marriage law ?

I'm not sure there's enough room in one newsletter to do justice to all aspects of that question, but here are a few of my thoughts:

First of all, this is one of those situations where I need to say,

*It really doesn't matter what I think. The only thing that matters is: What does God think?*

We live in a society where we are encouraged to give our opinion on everything. American Idol contestants are chosen based on "What we think." Talk Radio thrives on "What we think." We are encouraged to write comments about every article we read in the online newspaper - and if we don't feel like posting a comment we are encouraged to give our "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" reaction to the comments that are made. We have the opportunity to "like" all sorts of pictures and posts on Facebook and are urged to do so (and maybe even feel guilty if we don't).

In this environment where extreme importance is placed on our personal opinions, it is so very crucial to remember that if God has spoken on the particular subject then our opinion doesn't "amount to a hill of beans." (If you're not sure what that old saying means, go ask your parents.)

And God has certainly spoken on both the subject of homosexuality and the subject of marriage. In Leviticus chapter 20 God calls homosexual acts "detestable." In Romans chapter 1 He refers to



## Page 3

them as a "perversion" - not the way He designed things to be.

After God created the first man, Adam, and brought all the animals to him, Adam realized there was still something very necessary missing in his life. So what did God create to fill that "empty spot"? Another guy? No! He created the first woman, Eve. Right away in the second chapter of the Bible God describes marriage: "*For this reason* (the reason that man and woman are incomplete without each other) *a man shall leave His father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*" Jesus quoted that verse when asked about marriage and divorce in Mark chapter 10.

It seems to me that a logical argument can be made for just about any side of an issue. You've probably heard some of the "logical" arguments people have made in favor of gay marriage. But you cannot make a biblical argument for gay marriage. The Bible is quite clear that God created man for a lifelong relationship with a woman, and vice versa. The Bible is also quite clear that homosexuality is not something God is "ok" with.

In confirmation classes, I try to impart lots of biblical principles to the students. One principle that I hammer away at over and over is this:

*"Do what God wants and good things will happen. Don't do what God wants and bad things will happen."*

That's a basic truth of life.

Gay marriage (or a gay lifestyle apart from marriage) is not God's will. If it becomes legal and thus is encouraged as a viable option, you can be assured there will be bad consequences for adults, kids, society in general. It really is as simple as that.

But there are a couple thoughts I have that may be worth sharing as well:

The first is an attempt to answer the objection:

*But if they are born "that way" aren't we discriminating?*

First of all, it appears to me that homosexuality is primarily a choice - one that society is currently promoting. But, *for the sake of argument*, let's say there is a physical propensity toward being homosexual. The following is from Rev. John Piper as quoted in *World Magazine* (with some explanatory comments added by me in italics)

"Having a physical root makes nothing right. Physically based, aggressive tendencies may lead to violent behavior, but we don't condone it. Physically based lethargic tendencies may lead to laziness and neglect, but we don't condone it. Frenetic tendencies may lead to disruption and workaholicism *which we try to correct*. A gloomy bent may lead to suicidal thoughts, *and we try to fix that*. An anxious bent may lead to paranoia *and we try to fix that*. Addictive tendencies may lead to alcoholism or bondage to gambling or deadly smoking - *all conditions that we try to discourage and correct*. A low frustration threshold may lead to outbursts of rage *which we discourage*. Strong sexual desires may lead to adultery or polygamy - *which is prohibited due to the detrimental effect on society*.

In other words, in a world where the effect of sin permeates to the roots of nature and disorders all of life, we cannot define as good and natural whatever has physical roots. There must be a higher norm than fallen nature. There are many physically based abnormalities in the world. Therefore having a physical base or root is not sufficient reason for condoning anything as natural or good. "

The other thought I'd like to share is that there's one thing that really bothers me about our opposition to homosexuality and gay marriage. I fear that most of the opposition doesn't often come from a sincere desire to help others do God's will. More likely it comes from a desire to point fingers at a sin that is "safe" for us to oppose, because it's a sin that doesn't ever tempt us.

If we are truly so concerned about doing God's will, why aren't we loudly voicing our opposition to, for example, lying? As just one example, we find politicians lie to us quite frequently, *and we expect it!* Don't we even *like it* when they lie to us - as long as what they tell us is something that we want to hear? Or why don't we voice our opposition to gossip, for example?

The answer seems obvious to me. We choose homosexuality as a lightning rod for our opposition, because we cannot ever see ourselves engaging in it. But lying, gossiping, etc...? It's hard to oppose something you can see yourself doing - even though you know you shouldn't.

We need to remember that our opposition to gay marriage must not come from a "holier than thou" attitude. We need to first repent of that attitude - and the sins we find ourselves drawn to.

That for a day: The speed of time is one second per second.

And then... we can and should let our legislators know we'd appreciate their vote to keep marriage defined the way God has defined it: One man, One woman. Period.

State reps for the New London/Spicer and Willmar area

#### House of Representatives

Mary Sawatzky (District 17B, DFL)  
433 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-6206  
Email: [rep.mary.sawatzky@house.mn](mailto:rep.mary.sawatzky@house.mn)

#### Senate

Lyle Koenen (District 17, DFL)  
124 Capitol  
651-296-5094  
E-mail: [sen.lyle.koenen@senate.mn](mailto:sen.lyle.koenen@senate.mn)

Thanks for asking  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)

#### WE HAVE NEW PEW BIBLES!

These were given in memory of Geneva Olson by her family.

#### We Also Have New *Today's Light* Bibles

- 1) For our Bible Studies
- 2) To take home or give to someone who needs a Bible

These were also given in memory of Geneva Olson by her family.

## Sunday School News...

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

- May 5 - "Trustworthy Leader" Hebrews 12:1-28
- May 12- "Words to Live by" Hebrews 13:1-25
- May 19- "Be Transformed" Romans 12:1-8

Last day for Sunday School will be May 19th.

During the summer we have plans to do an activity with the kids on a weeknight during the month of June and also July.

VBS is set for late August. Possibly Aug. 22-23 (2 sessions with celebration service). Celebration Service on the 25th.

## Mark Your Calendars...

### **Mission & Ministry Team**

Meets on the 3rd WEDNESDAY of the month for the summer months (May - August)

### **CTI Music Ministries** *see more info on page 7*

at Living Word Sunday Morning, May 26

CTI (formerly known as Carpenter's Tools, International) will be providing the music for worship on Sunday, May 26. Make sure to put the date on your calendar and bring some friends.

The Living Word Elders' Team will host a meal of grilled burgers and brats after the worship to kick off the summer season!

### **"Old - Fashioned Church Picnic"**

**Sunday, May 19**

After worship - behind the church

Picnic, Softball, volleyball, cake walk, gunny sack races, etc..

Bring a friend and a dish to pass.

### **Coming Soon: Outdoor Worship**

One Saturday a month during summer. 5pm

Watch for details ....

### **Church-League Softball**

Another Season starts on

Thursday, May 16

Come and cheer on your team



### **Spring Voters' Assembly**

Offices up for election this year (to take office July 1) with names of those nominated for the positions listed beside.

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Vice Chairman            | Tim Geer                 |
| • Treasurer                | Jason Olson              |
| • Congregational Outreach  | Linda Dilley             |
| • Elders (two):            | Mark Fuglie, Kevin Welsh |
| • Christian Growth - Educ. | Mona Hjelle              |

### **May is Foster Care Month!**

Lutheran Social Services is holding an informational meeting about therapeutic foster care. If you would like get more information about foster care and how you can make a difference in the life of a child. Please join us on May 11th from 9:00AM-10:30AM at Bethel Lutheran Church in Willmar or call Brooke Rustad at 320-235-5411.



CTI...

### **CTI VISION:**

CTI is a community of young people who combine their common passion for music with their mutual desire to share the love of Christ, and a vehicle through which these young people are trained, equipped and mobilized into ministry opportunities where they can use their gifting to impact their generation.

### **CTI SUMMER PROGRAM:**

During the months of June, July, and August, we train and mobilize several short-term teams to minister internationally. These teams partner with existing ministries (usually Youth for Christ or Youth With a Mission) in support of their mission to reach the youth of their country with the Gospel.

Summer teams give concerts in schools, prisons, orphanages, street corners, parks, churches, and any other location where our partners are working. Team members use the impact of music to share their faith with young people in the host culture and connect them with our ministry partners and the local church.

The teams go at the invitation of our hosts. They support the efforts of our partner ministry through their focus on servanthood, modeling the example of Jesus, who did not come to be served, but to serve.

The summer program is an experience through which participants grow in Christian character and servant posture, deepen their understanding of the Great Commission, and learn to actively share their faith. At the conclusion of the experience, team members return home with a more missional mindset, an expanded worldview, a deeper understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Christ, and a desire to impact others with what God has shown them.

Participants in our summer program must be at least 16 years old by the beginning of their training. Applications will be individually considered for exceptionally qualified 15-year-olds who will turn 16 during the summer of their participation. Applicants who are married or over the age of 30 will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Thank-you!** To everyone who prayed for me during my time of illness and surgery. You really have no idea how great of a blessing you have been. Violet



## Opportunities for Growth...

### **Sunday Morning Study:** Sundays at 9:00 am "God's Resurrection Power for His People"

We continue our study on the book of Ephesians. The power that God displayed when He raised Jesus from the grave is also available for the church - all believers in Jesus. Join us Sunday mornings to find how that Power is available to you.

### **Men's Study:** Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

April 30: Revelation Summary  
May 7: Visit Larry's Museum (meet at church)  
May 14: No Class  
May 21: New Study

### **Mom's Study:** Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

#### "Explaining All The Scary Stuff in REVELATION":

May 1: Revelation 20-22  
May 8: Revelation Summary  
May 15: No Class  
May 22: New Study begins

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

### **Wednesday Noon Women's Study:**

#### "Genesis: The Foundation of the Bible"

Please join us as we discover what God reveals to us about Himself and His plan for us in this all-important first book of the Bible.

### **Confirmation**

We continue our year-long tour through the Bible. This month:

May 1: Finish our study on the Bible  
May 8: Take our test (Reading assignments due)  
May 15: No Class  
May 22: Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

### **Could You Host A Small Group Study This Spring?**

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 spring. If you could host a small group study - at your home, a coffee house or at

## Page 8

That for a day: If a tomato is a fruit, does that make ketchup a smoothie?

## Page 9

church, please talk to Pastor David. There are many different kinds of studies available. We can find one that fits your situation.

### **Sunday Night Youth Group**

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

Sunday nights will include some activities, a short study, and some snacks, along with other special things. Please come and hang out, bring some friends, 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.)

### **Choir Singers Needed for Pentecost**

We will be having a choir anthem during our Pentecost worship service on May 19. Practices will be after coffee fellowship on May 5 and May 12. Please join us - even if you were not able to sing with us for Easter!

## E-Mail Humor

Jacob and Judith are getting very worried about their teenage son David, because he's been behaving in a loutish and insensitive manner for some months. But when they tell him how they feel, David says things that shock them to their core.

Next day, Jacob goes to see Rabbi Bloom. "Rabbi," he says, "Judith and I are very worried about our boy David. We've done everything possible to ensure that he grows up to be a nice Jewish boy. Not only did we give him a wonderful and very expensive bar mitzvah, but we also spend many tens of thousands of pounds sending him to the best private Jewish school. But then yesterday, rabbi, out of the blue, he tells us that he wants to be a Christian. Oy vey rabbi, where did we go wrong? What can we do to change his mind? How can you help us?"

"What a coincidence!" replies Rabbi Bloom. "I too brought up my son Hershel in the Jewish manner, and I too spent a fortune putting him through University. But then one day, just like your David, he informs me that he wants to be a Christian."

"You must be joking, rabbi," says Jacob.

"No I'm not," says Rabbi Bloom. "So I turned to Hashem (Jewish way of referring to God) for an answer."

"And what did God say?" asks Jacob.

"He said, 'What a coincidence! About 2,000 years ago, I too had a son.....'"

# May - Daily Devotionals

We begin the month finishing our readings about Jesus' Resurrection. On May 19 We celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The remaining May readings focus on various aspects of the Holy Spirit.. Record your insights as you read. God will bless your reading!

## Week of Apr 28 Daily Readings The POWER of the RESURRECTION for US

Apr 29 Ephesians 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Apr 30 Ephesians 2 \_\_\_\_\_

May 1 Ephesians 3 \_\_\_\_\_

May 2 Ephesians 4 \_\_\_\_\_

May 3 Ephesians 5 \_\_\_\_\_

May 4 Ephesians 6 \_\_\_\_\_

## Wk of May 5 Daily Readings The HOLY SPIRIT in the OLD TESTAMENT

May 6 Genesis 1:2 \_\_\_\_\_

May 7 Numbers 11:23-30 \_\_\_\_\_

May 8 Judges 3:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_

May 9 Judges 14:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

May 10 1 Samuel 16:10-13 \_\_\_\_\_

May 11 Isaiah 63:7-10 \_\_\_\_\_

## Wk of May 12 Daily Readings: CHARACTERISTICS of the HOLY SPIRIT

May 13 Isaiah 11:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

May 14 John 14:15-17 \_\_\_\_\_

May 15 John 14:25-27 \_\_\_\_\_

May 16 John 16:7-8 \_\_\_\_\_

May 17 John 16:12-15 \_\_\_\_\_

May 18 Galatians 5:22-26 \_\_\_\_\_

## Wk of May 19 Daily Readings Examples of being FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

May 20 Acts 2:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

May 21 Acts 4:5-13 \_\_\_\_\_

May 22 Acts 4:31 \_\_\_\_\_

May 23 Acts 13:6-12 \_\_\_\_\_

May 24 Acts 13:46-52 \_\_\_\_\_

May 25 Exodus 35:30-36:1 \_\_\_\_\_

## Wk of May 26 Daily Readings Important WORK of the HOLY SPIRIT

May 27 2 Peter 1:19-21 \_\_\_\_\_

May 28 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_




May 29 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_

May 30 Romans 8:26-27 \_\_\_\_\_

May 31 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 \_\_\_\_\_

June 1 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 \_\_\_\_\_

# May 2013 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>April 28</b> 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour Adult Forum/ Sun. School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Spring Voters' Assembly 7:00 Youth Group	<b>April 29</b>	<b>April 30</b> 6:30 Men's Study "Revelation Summary"	<b>1</b> 9:30 Mom's Study "Revelation" Noon Women's Study "Genesis" 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation	<b>2</b> Noon NL-S Ministerial	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour -Adult Forum / Sun. School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship Choir Practice 7:00 Youth Group	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:30 Men's Study Meet at church to car pool to Larry Levin's	<b>8</b> 9:30 Mom's Study "Revelation" Noon Women's Study "Genesis" 6:00 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 LWML	<b>PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY AT 11:09 EVERYDAY</b> <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>		
<b>12</b> 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour -Adult Forum / Sun. School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship Choir Practice 11:30 Elders' Team 7:00 Youth Group	<b>13</b> MN STATE	<b>14</b> PASTOR'S	<b>15</b> CONFERENCE 6:30 Mission & Ministry Team	<b>16</b> TBA Church League Softball	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> PENTECOST / SS PICNIC 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour -Adult Forum / Sun. School 10:00 Worship - w/ Lord's Supper 11:15 Picnic 7:00 Youth Group		<b>21</b> 6:30 Men's Study	<b>22</b> 9:30 Mom's Study TBA Noon Women's Study Genesis	<b>23</b> TBA Church League Softball	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> CTI SUNDAY 9:00 Growing in Christ Hour -Adult Forum 10:00 Worship - with CTI 11:15 Grilled Brats & Burgers 7:00 Youth Group	<b>27</b> MEMORIAL DAY 	<b>28</b> 6:30 Men's Study	<b>29</b> 9:30 Mom's Study TBA Noon Women's Study Genesis 7:30 Baccalaureate at NL-S	<b>30</b> TBA Church League Softball	<b>31</b> <b>LORD'S SUPPER DATES IN MAY:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday, May 5th</li> <li>Sunday, May 19th</li> </ul>	<b>June 1</b>

## Upcoming Schedules...

### Scripture Readers

May 5 Duane Hansen  
May 12 Tammy Wachter  
May 19 Eve Bajari  
May 26 Terrell Abbott

June 2 Scott Wachter  
June 9 Bryson Wachter  
June 16 Wendy Robbin  
June 23 Mona Hjelle  
June 30 Phillip Iverson

### Fellowship Servers

May 5 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller  
May 12 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham  
May 19 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson  
May 26 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen

June 2 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson  
June 9 Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky  
June 16 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie  
June 23 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller  
June 30 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham

### Children's Church Schedule

May 5 Mona Hjelle  
May 12 Violet Dauk  
May 19 Michelle Johnson & Eve Bajari  
May 26 Terrell Abbott & Grace Geer

June 2 Mona Hjelle  
June 9 Violet Dauk  
June 16 Michelle Johnson & Eve Bajari  
June 23 Terrell Abbott & Grace Geer  
June 30 LEADER NEEDED

### Usher Schedule

May 5 Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle  
May 12 Kevin & Noah Welsh  
May 19 Jamie & Phil Iverson  
May 26 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen

June 2 Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter  
June 9 Lonny Robbin & Jason Olson  
June 16 Troy Hansen & Brady Sharp  
June 23 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer  
June 30 Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle

## Page 14

**Thot for a day:** Baseball - what a great job! Where else would a .250 efficiency rate get you a \$10 million raise?

## Page 15

### Make A Meal Volunteers

May Violet Dauk & Julie Bajari  
June Bonnie Hansen

### Confirmation Meal

May 1 Vicky Skotterud  
May 8 Pam Johnson  
May 15 No Class  
May 22 A & W after Adopt-a-Highway

### Custodian

May Wally & Elaine Abraham  
June Chuck Weflen

### Elders

May 5 Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp  
May 19 Troy Hansen & Scott Wachter  
June 2 Kevin Welsh & Brady Sharp  
June 16 Troy Hansen & Scott Wachter

### Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

May 5 Noah Miller  
May 12 Andy Sharp  
May 19 Lance Sawatzky  
May 26 George Arends-Schmidt

June 2 Carson Jaspersen  
June 9 Noah Miller  
June 16 Andy Sharp  
June 23 Lance Sawatzky  
June 30 George Arends-Schmidt

## LWML News...

At our next meeting will be **May 8 at 6:30.**  
Thanks to everyone who helped make the  
Spring Rally a success!



## May Discipleship Verse...



*If my people, who are called by my name, will  
humble themselves and pray and seek my face and  
turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from  
heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal  
their land.*  
2 Chronicles 7:14



## Is it really a hard decision?

### How Christianity Started

After a public ministry,  
Christ was killed publicly

Christ rose from a public  
tomb publicly



Christ publicly showed him-  
self to the public

The public told everyone  
what they saw

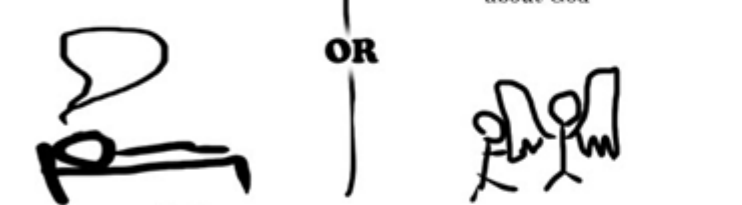


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### How Other Religions Started

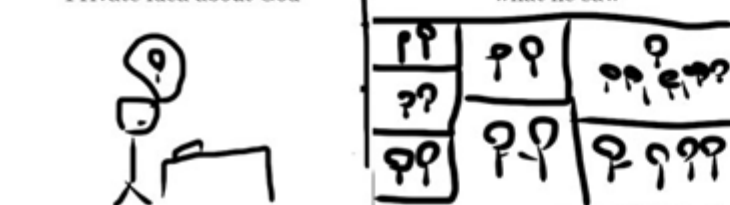
Private dream about God

Private angelic encounter  
about God



Private idea about God

One person told everyone  
what he saw



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Page 16

That for a day: If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way your wife told you to.

Page 17

## Update from Jade Dohls...

### Could You Give Away Your Last Dollar?

On Easter Sunday Bethany arrived at church with only 10 baht (33 cents) to her name. That was enough to get home, but not enough to buy the food and water that she so desperately needed. The only thing that she knew to do was pray, asking God to provide for her needs.

At the service another refugee walked up to her and handed her 100 baht (\$3.33) saying, "I feel like I am supposed to give this to you." Bethany rejoiced while knowing in her heart that this was not her money to keep. She gave thanks saying, "God, I give this money back to you," as she slipped it into the offering bucket.

The very next day Bethany received 1,000 baht (\$33)!

Her story reminds me of the woman in Mark 12:41-43



*"Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came in and put in two small mites (a fraction of a penny).*

*Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They gave out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty, put everything in- all that she had to live on."*

Bethany made a great sacrifice in the midst of her great need. She stepped out in courage and faith, fully trusting God to meet her needs when it didn't look logistically possible. I can't help but wonder if I would have that same courage and faith. If I am to be completely honest, I don't think that I would at this point. But I pray to God that someday I will. Now I challenge you to ask yourself-would you?



## TEN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LIVING AND DEAD CHURCHES

1. Live churches are filled with folk with Bibles in hand; dead churches are not.
2. Live churches are intense and earnest about praise; dead churches are not.
3. Live churches have parking problems; dead churches do not.
4. Live churches have lots of "noisy" youth; dead churches do not.
5. Live churches move by faith; dead churches inch along by sight.
6. Live churches support missions very heavily; dead churches keep all their money "at home."
7. Live churches focus on people; dead churches focus on problems.
8. Live churches are filled with tithers; dead churches are filled with tippers.
9. Live churches have the fresh wind of love blowing; dead churches are given to bickering.
10. Live churches evangelize; dead churches fossilize.

### Living Word Lutheran Church on the Web

#### Our Website:

Information about our church, calendar of events, schedules, past newsletters, and more at <http://www.livingwordlutheran.net>

#### Our Blog:

Keep up with the latest news and scripture lessons from Pastor Dave at <http://livingwordlutheranlcms.blogspot.com/>

#### Facebook:

Posting the daily bible readings, church activities, and taking prayer requests! Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) to sign up for your free account. Already on Facebook? Go to <http://www.facebook.com/people/Living-Word-Lutheran-Church/100002935463148>

*\*Link is also found on home page of our website*

Page 18

Page 19



The LINK...

May 2013

Over the past year, the Link has been involved in researching and collaborating to find solutions to homelessness in our community. Two options have been identified to meet the local need:

- Increasing motel capacity to serve households experiencing homelessness in partnership with Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc. through a designated fund
- Forming of new affiliate organization called Family Promise of Kandiyohi County.

#### Quick facts about homelessness:

- Did you know that in October 2012, there were 10,214 people in Minnesota that were homeless? Experts note the actual number is higher since the number only reflects people that could be found in homeless situations and interviewed.
- On January 23, 2013, 36 people were homeless in Kandiyohi County; the majority of the people experiencing homelessness were families.

Family Promise is unique because it engages communities of faith to open their doors and host families in the evening. A Family Promise van brings families to school, work or to the day center in the morning for the day. Churches

provide hospitality: meals, fellowship and overnight accommodations. The project serves 3-5 families at a time. To learn more about Family Promise, visit their website: <http://www.familypromise.org/> Currently, Family Promise has affiliates in Brainerd, Anoka County, Rochester, Minneapolis and Cambridge. Thirteen partner congregations are needed as hosts to launch the project.

*Thank you to all of our partners making the Just the Basics event a success!*

Evangelical Covenant Church  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Green Lake Lutheran Ministries  
The Harbor  
Hope Presbyterian Church  
Living Word Lutheran Church  
MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers)  
New London Lions  
Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Spicer Lions  
Willmar Area Food Shelf  
and numerous volunteers!

### Tuesday's Table in May: All are welcome!

May 7, 2013: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church  
May 14, 2013: Evangelical Covenant Church  
May 21, 2013: Faith Lutheran Church  
May 28, 2013: Peace Lutheran Church

### Donations can be sent to:

The Link  
310 Medayto Drive  
Spicer, MN 56288  
[www.thelinknls.org](http://www.thelinknls.org)  
320.796.2522

Spring cleaning time! Donate gently used household goods to the Link Household Exchange! **Currently, the Link Household Exchange is in need of basic furniture items.** Check out our

## Opportunities to be a Friend Like Jesus...

### Use Our Make-A-Meal Program

Several years ago we began the Make-A-Meal program as a way to share Jesus' love/mercy with people 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 could use a meal as a reminder that we are thinking of them. Thanks !

### Lead Children's Church

We are still in need of Children's Church Leaders. The only prerequisite 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. Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you could help.

### Be a Childcare Substitute

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) Please talk to Pastor

### 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 to pray with you.

### Still 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..

### Be a Custodian of the Month

We still need families to volunteer for July-December. A checklist of duties is provided. Talk to Trustee Lonny Robbin and choose your month. Thanks !

## Page 20

Thot for a day: Become richer instantly...desire less.

## Page 21

### Grow a Row ~ Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Help support our neighbors in need by providing locally grown fresh produce to the food shelf.

By working together we can pioneer new ways to reduce waste, better utilize resources available in this land of plenty and help bring more food to those in our community who are hungry.

How Can You Help? It's easier than you think...

- Plant an extra row — plant an extra row of produce in your garden.
- Dedicate a row — take your existing garden plot and dedicate one specific row to donate the "fruits of your labor" to the food shelf.
- Surplus produce — if you are or know a backyard gardener blessed with sun, soil, rain and luck to give you more produce than you and your friends or family can use, please consider sharing it with your local food shelf.



### Landscaping Activities To Watch For

(and maybe even volunteer to help with)

- Dragging the ground
- Picking rocks
- Planting grass
- Installing sidewalk pavers on south side
- Installing the new Living Word sign
- Installing the new cross in front of building
- Planting trees / shrubs
- Designing a picnic area
- Designing a playground area
- Expanding the parking lot (to the southwest)

Please talk to one of our Landscape Team members (Tim Geer, Jason Miller, Brent Sawatzky, Mona Hjelle, Pastor David) if you'd like to help with (or coordinate) any of these activities. Thanks !

### You can help with our Support of Heidi

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



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

### ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

Jerry was the kind of guy you love to hate. He was always in a good mood and always had something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a unique manager because he had several waiters who had followed him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the waiters followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?" Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood."

Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life."

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested.

"Yes it is," Jerry said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life." I reflected on what Jerry said. Soon thereafter, I left the restaurant industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Jerry did something you are never supposed to do in a restaurant business: he left the back door open one morning and was held up at gunpoint by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, his hand, shaking from nervousness, slipped off the combination. The robbers panicked and shot him. Luckily, Jerry was found relatively quickly and rushed to the local trauma center.

After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Jerry

## Page 22

Thot for a day: A friend is someone who reaches for your hand, but touches your heart.

## Page 23

was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body. I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?"

I declined to see his wounds, but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. "Then, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live, or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked. Jerry continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the emergency room and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read, 'He's a dead man.' I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well, there was a big, burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. 'Yes,' I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Bullets!' Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.'"

Jerry lived thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

## Story Behind The Song...

### "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, JOY . . ." Galatians 5:22

This hymn is generally considered by hymnologists to be one of the most joyous expressions of hymn lyrics in the English language. Its author, Henry van Dyke, was born at Germantown, Pennsylvania, on November 10, 1852. During his lifetime he had quite a list of "claims to fame." He was recognized as one of the ablest Presbyterian preachers and leading liturgy figures in America. In addition to achieving fame as a preacher, he served as a professor of literature at Princeton University from 1900-1923, became a Navy chaplain during World War 1, and represented his country as an ambassador to Holland and Luxembourg under an appointment by President Wilson. He was a prolific writer of devotional material with many of his books being best-sellers.



But the one legacy that has stood the test of time is his hymn, "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee." Van Dyke stated the purpose for writing this hymn as follows:

*"These verses are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires in this present time, hymns of today that may be sung together by people who know the thought of the age, and are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy their religion or that any revolution on earth will overthrow the kingdom of heaven. Therefore this is a hymn of trust and hope."*

The final stanza concludes with an invitation for all of God's children to join the mighty chorus of joy begun at creation's dawn (Job 38:7) and, in so doing, to find the encouragement needed for any circumstance of life.

The text for this hymn was written while van Dyke was a guest preacher at Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts. It is said that one morning van Dyke handed the manuscript to the college president, saying, "Here is a hymn for you. Your mountains (the Berkshires) were my inspiration. It must be sung to the music of Beethoven's 'Hymn of Joy.'" It was first included in van Dyke's Book of Poems, published in 1911.

The tune, "Hymn of Joy," comes out of the final movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, composed from 1817-23, and published in 1826. Although Beethoven never wrote a tune specifically for a hymn text, a number have been adapted from his many famous works. This is the most widely used of these adopted hymn tunes.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, JOY . . ." Galatians 5:22

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in  
Thee.**

## Page 24

Thot for a day: Nothing makes a person more productive than the last minute.

## Page 25

**Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blessed,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,  
all who live in love are Thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus,  
which the morning stars began;  
Father love is reigning o'er us,  
brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.**

**Editor's note:** A great traditional hymn that can be heard at: <http://youtu.be/3fkvyYnsjPc> Casting Crowns plays a contemporary version of this song at: <http://youtu.be/NXUCqN8b3o8> And, of course, the memorable version from the movie Sister Act 2 at: [http://youtu.be/OaEH1e\\_DLm0](http://youtu.be/OaEH1e_DLm0)

## The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. **Mt 6:28-29..** but at least Solomon didn't look like a pansie