

December 2014 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...

What's Your Favorite Proverb ?

This question came from a recent Wednesday evening Women's Study where one of our assignments was to read through the book of Proverbs one chapter a day. The book of Proverbs is filled with practical wisdom for your everyday life, and is one we'd all benefit from reading through every month (which actually works quite well, since there are 31 chapters).



Of course, since this was a women's study, one of the favorites of the group was Proverbs 18:22 *"He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord."* (I envision a lot of wives at this very moment running to their printers to make a copy of that proverb - in a REALLY BIG font - and then taping it to hubby's mirror!)

And with the holiday-gathering season in full swing 17:1 gives us this good reminder to resolve our conflicts : *"Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting with strife."*

Since many of our everyday problems and conflicts result from stuff that comes out of our mouths, many proverbs deal with that subject. Here are a few much-needed reminders

15:1 *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

21:20 *Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down*

21:23 *Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep*

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themselves from calamity.

Another area of life that seems to lead to many problems is the way we handle and view money. Here are a couple really wise reminders:

3:9-10 *Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*

30:7-9 *Two things I ask of you, Lord; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.*

11:24-25 *One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

Pride and always being open to instruction are frequent topics.

13:10 combines the two:
Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

And, the essential remedy for all of our sins,

28:13 *Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

I could list many more "favorite proverbs" but the proverb I find myself coming back to time and again is this one:

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

It seems to me that trusting in the wrong thing is what gets us into the most trouble (and most often that wrong thing is "own understanding".) This proverb reminds us that God's will is always the best. Seek His will, then ask for the courage to trust enough to follow His plan instead of attempting to force your plan on Him. That's the key to a "straight path" through life instead of a "broken road."

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

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** (Sat., Dec. 20 @ 11:30 a.m.)

Everyone:

- **The Christmas Program** (Sunday, December 21 @ 10am)
(Special music, songs by the kids and the Christmas story)
- **Christmas Dinner** (Sunday, December 21 @ 11:30)
- **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
- **Christmas Day Worship** (Dec. 25 @ 9:00am)

Thank God For...

You've seen our sign board out by the road with 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.

Thanksgiving Week we thanked God for Everything!

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



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Thot for a day: The trouble with opportunity is that it's always more recognizable going than coming.

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Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study (9:00)

Join us for our current study: Jesus' Parables:



Weekly Bible readings:

December finds us reading about the Birth of our Savior.

Men's Study - Tuesdays at 6:30

New Studies:

"Joseph, Carpenter of Steel"
and "The Real St. Nick"



Mom's Study - Wednesdays, at 9:30am

(Childcare is provided)

PEW SISTERS: A 12-session study showing God's work in the lives of real Christian women as they struggle with alcoholism, depression, cancer, death of a loved one, chronic anxiety, etc.



Wed. Noon Study -

and

Wed. Evening Women's Study - 6:30

"Growing The Fruit of the Spirit"

Confirmation:

Dec 13 @ 10:30 &

Assist with "Birthday Party for Jesus on Dec 20

4-6th Grade Youth Group - Wed at 6:30pm

HS Youth Group - 1st & 3rd Sundays at 7:00pm

Could You Host A Small Group Study This Winter?

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.

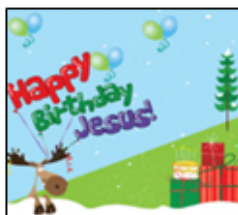
For example, it's easier for people to get connected to Jesus through small groups. It's easier to get to know other Christians in small groups. Caring happens best in small groups. With that in mind we'd like to "plant" more small groups this fall. If you could host a small group study - at your home, 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.

Mark Your Calendars...

Birthday Party for Jesus

Saturday, December 20 at 11:30.

A special time for the kids to celebrate Jesus' birthday with crafts, snacks, and activities. (We will practice for the Christmas program at 10:30 before the Party)



A Night Like No Other!

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 21

at 10:00 a.m.



Please join us as the children of Living Word present the Christmas story."

Make sure to stay after the program for our Annual Christmas Dinner

Annual Christmas Dinner

December 21

11:30 a.m. (After the Christmas Program)

You are invited to Living Word Lutheran's annual CHRISTMAS DINNER following Sunday Services/ Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 21st.



Meat (Turkey and Meatballs) will be provided, Each family is asked to bring a dish to pass. There will be a signup sheet at church so that you can indicate what item(s) of food that you would like to bring, and the approximate number of family members attending (so that we can adequately prepare for seating and food amounts), or if you are able to assist with

setup, serving, or cleanup. Any questions or additions, please contact Bonnie Hansen at 796-5605 or email texbooks@tds.net

Raisin Sauce

Potatoes (mashed, scalloped, potato hotdish - your choice)

Spinach Salad

Other Salad

Squash

Baked Beans

Cheese & Crackers

Gallon of Milk

Pumpkin Pie

2 Dozen Buns/Dinner Rolls

Plate of Christmas Cookies or Christmas Breads

Mustard Sauce

Lettuce Salad

Sweet Potatoes

Vegetable

Fresh Vegetables and Dip

Cranberry Sauce

Apple Pie

Other Pie or Dessert

Loaf of Bread (sliced & buttered)

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That for a day: The easiest way to find a lost item is to buy its replacement.

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Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

(Wednesday, December 24 @ 5pm)

- The entire service is done by candlelight.
- The Christmas Story from Luke chapter two is interspersed with Christmas Carols
- The Lord's Supper is Celebrated

Coming in January...

Read through the Bible

with the Today's Light Devotional Bible.

We will begin reading the first week in January.

(New Bibles are available on the "Free Stuff" table if you don't have one)



Learn about the persecution of

Christians in our country and around the world from Voice of the Martyrs representative Wayne Bloomquist, on Sunday, January 11.

What Does the LC-MS Believe ?

Pastor will be hosting a "What does the Missouri Synod believe" class for those interested in membership at Living Word. Please talk to Pastor David if you'd like to take the class, but don't have that day available. Thanks!



The First-Annual **"Mid-Winter Pancake Feed"**

A Great Reason to go out on the Coldest Day of the Year.

Please Remember to Pray At 11:09 Every day

(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...

- 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

Miscellaneous Notes...

Now Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Living Word is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account.

Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

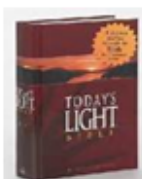
If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.

Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

Here's just a sampling of what you'll find :

- NEW - The Purpose Driven Life books
- NEW - Luther's Small Catechism (and explanation)
- NEW - 365 Family Devotions book
- NEW - Note pads
- NEW - Kids' stocking hats
- Today's Light Bibles
- Project 24 savings banks (to help with our Sunday School mission project)
- Oct-Dec Portals of Prayer - daily
- December Living Word newsletters
- Magazines - like The Lutheran Witness
- Pens
- Local Coupons
- Gospel tracts and booklets



Sing With Our Christmas Choir

The choir has been asked to sing in both the Sunday School Christmas program (Were You There on that Christmas Night) and at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Peace, Peace. Come and be a part of this celebration. The choir will rehearse December 7th and the 14th after the fellowship hour and at 9:30 prior to worship on December 21.

Poinsettias Welcome

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

Medical Equipment Available to Loan

If you have a temporary need for mobility aids (like a walker) please talk to Wendy or Lonny Robbin. They may have what you need.

Please Check the 'Lost and Found' Section

of the coat rack

There are a number of clothing items - maybe one is yours...

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.

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

Stress In Your Life?

(Who doesn't have it this time of year?)

Learn How to Deal With It In our free booklet rack (in front of Pastor's office)

Stress is natural in a world damaged by sin. Stress can actually be a good warning sign - if we heed the warning and deal with it appropriately. But what is "appropriately"? Pick up one of the booklets on Stress - or others like it - from our friends at Lutheran Hour Ministries. Then pass it along to someone else.

Congratulations!

- Andrew Sharp for perfect Sunday School attendance !

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

Dec. 2014 - Daily Devotionals

This month we finish our readings on giving thanks, then spend the rest of December reading about the birth of our Lord and Savior. Prophecies of it, events around it, and purpose of it.

Wk of NOV 30 Daily Readings... GIVING THANKS in the NEW TESTAMENT

Nov 30 Mark 6:35-44 _____

Dec 1 Luke 17:11-19 _____

Dec 2 2 Corinthians 4:13-15 _____

Dec 3 1 Timothy 4:1-5 _____

Dec 4 Revelation 4:8-11 _____

Dec 5 Revelation 7:9-12 _____

Dec 6 Revelation 11:16-18 _____

Wk of DEC 7 Daily Readings... PROPHECIES of CHRIST'S COMING

Dec 8 Genesis 3:15 _____

Dec 9 Genesis 12:1-3 _____

Dec 10 Deuteronomy 18:14-19 _____

Dec 11 Psalm 68:16-20 _____

Dec 12 Micah 5:2 _____

Dec 13 Malachi 3:1-4 _____

Wk of DEC 14 Daily Readings .. Isaiah's PROPHECIES of CHRIST'S COMING

Dec 15 Isaiah 2:4 _____

Daily Readings Available in Audio

...on our website www.livingwordlutheran.net.

Dec 16 Isaiah 7:10-14 _____

Dec 17 Isaiah 9:6-7 _____

Dec 18 Isaiah 11:1-10 _____

Dec 19 Isaiah 42:1-8 _____

Dec 20 Isaiah 61:1-3 _____

Wk of Dec 21 Daily Readings ... THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Dec 22 John 1:1-14 _____

Dec 23 Luke 1:26-56 _____

Dec 24 Luke 2:1-20 _____

Dec 25 Matthew 1:18-25 _____

Dec 26 Luke 2:21-40 _____

Dec 27 Matthew 2:1-12 _____

Wk of DEC 28 Daily Readings. JESUS TELLS WHY HE CAME

Dec 29 Matthew 5:17-18 _____

Dec 30 Matthew 20:28 _____


Dec 31 Luke 4:42-44 _____

Jan 1 Luke 19:9-10 _____

Jan 2 John 3:16-17 _____

Jan 3 John 10:7-10 _____

December 2014 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 Adult Study - Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 7:00 HS Youth Group	1 8:30 - 1:00 Circuit Pastors at LIVING WORD	2 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	3 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:00 - NATIVITY SET UP (W/Potluck Supper) 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	4 <div> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, December 7th Christmas Eve December 24th </div>	5	6 10:30 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE
7 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Choir Practice 11:30 Elders' Team	8	9 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	10 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	11	12	13 10:30 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE 10:30 Confirmation Class
14 9:00 Adult Study: Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Choir Practice 7:00 HS Youth Group	15	16 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	17 9:30 MOM'S STUDY (Childcare provided) noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	18 5:30 Community Outreach Team 6:30 Mission & Ministry Team	19	20 10:30 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE 11:30 BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS
21 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & DINNER 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship/CHRISTMAS PGM w/Lord's Supper 11:15 CHRISTMAS DINNER	22	23 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP (w/Lord's Supper)	25 CHRISTMAS 9:00 CHRISTMAS WORSHIP	26 	27
28 9:00 Adult Study No Sunday School today 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	29 <div> Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net </div>	30	31	Jan 1	Jan 2	Jan 3 10:30 Confirmation Class

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Dec 7 Reader needed
Dec 14 Kevin Welsh
Dec 21 Sunday School students
Dec 28 Linda Dilley

Jan 4 Mark Fuglie
Jan 11 Tammy Fuglie
Jan 18 Duane Hansen
Jan 25 Reader needed

Fellowship Servers

Dec 7 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Dec 14 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Dec 21 Christmas Ham Dinner
Dec 28 Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky

Jan 4 Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Jan 11 Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Jan 18 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
Jan 25 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson

Usher Schedule

Dec 7 Kevin & Noah Welsh
Dec 14 Jamie & Phil Iverson
Dec 21 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
Christmas Eve Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Dec 28 Wendy & Lonny Robbin

Jan 4 Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp
Jan 11 Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Jan 18 Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle
Jan 25 Kevin & Noah Welsh

Elders

Dec 7 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Dec 21 Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Dec 24 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson

Jan 4 Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Jan 18 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson

Make A Meal Volunteers

Dec Michelle Johnson & Sarah Miller
Jan Scott & Tammy Wachter & Nancy Jo Wendt

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That for a day: Ever notice how the people who tell you to settle down are the ones who got you mad in the first place?

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Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Dec 7 Carson Jaspersen
Dec 14 Noah Miller
Dec 21 Andrew Sharp
Dec 28 Levi Miller

Jan 4 Eli Sharp
Jan 11 Lance Sawatzky
Jan 18 George Arends-Schmidt
Jan 25 Carson Jaspersen

Altar Guild

December Mona Hjelle
January Nancy Jo Wendt

Accompanying Musicians

Dec 7 Sharon Willen
Dec 14 Scott Wachter
Dec 21 Sharon Willen
Dec 24 Pam Johnson
Dec 28 Scott Wachter

Jan 4 Sharon Willen
Jan 11 Scott Wachter
Jan 18 Pam Johnson
Jan 25 Scott Wachter

Custodian

Dec Custodian needed
Jan Custodian needed

Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)

Dec 7 Mona Hjelle
Dec 14 McCartney Knutson
Dec 21 Gracie Geer
Dec 28 Michelle Johnson

Dec 7 Mona Hjelle
Dec 14 McCartney Knutson
Dec 21 Gracie Geer
Dec 28 Michelle Johnson

December Discipleship Verse...

"She will give birth to a son and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

E-mail Inspiration...

I showered and shaved.... I adjusted my tie.
I got there and sat....In a pew just in time.
Bowing my head in prayer.....As I closed my eyes..
I saw the shoe of the man next to me....Touching my own. I
sighed.

With plenty of room on either side... I thought, 'Why must our
soles touch?'
It bothered me, his shoe touching mine... But it didn't bother him
much.
A prayer began : 'Our Father'..... I thought, 'This man with the
shoes, has no pride.
They're dusty, worn, and scratched. Even worse, there are holes
on the side!'

'Thank You for blessings,' the prayer went on.
The shoe man said, 'A quiet 'Amen.'
I tried to focus on the prayer, But my thoughts were on his
shoes again.
Aren't we supposed to look our best, When walking through that
door?
'Well, this certainly isn't it,' I thought, Glancing toward the floor..

Then the prayer was ended.....And the songs of praise began.
The shoe man was certainly loud.....Sounding proud as he sang.
His voice lifted the rafters..... His hands were raised high.
The Lord could surely hear. The shoe man's voice from the sky.

It was time for the offering..... And what I threw in was steep.
I watched as the shoe man reached.... Into his pockets so deep.
I saw what was pulled out..... What the shoe man put in.
Then I heard a soft 'clink' . As when silver hits tin.

The sermon really bored me..... To tears, and that's no lie..
It was the same for the shoe man.... For tears fell from his eyes.
At the end of the service..... As is the custom here.
We must greet new visitors, And show them all good cheer.

But I felt moved somehow.....And wanted to meet the shoe man.
So after the closing prayer.....I reached over and shook his hand.
He was old and his skin was dark....And his hair was truly a mess.
But I thanked him for coming..... For being our guest.

He said, 'My names' Charlie.....I'm glad to meet you, my friend.'
There were tears in his eyes..... But he had a large, wide grin.
'Let me explain,' he said..... Wiping tears from his eyes.

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Thot for a day: A moment of patience in a moment of anger saves you a hundred moments of regret.

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'I've been coming here for months..And you're the first to say 'Hi.'"

'I know that my appearance.....'Is not like all the rest.
'But I really do try.....'To always look my best.'
'I always clean and polish my shoes..'Before my very long walk.
'But by the time I get here.....'They're dirty and dusty, like chalk.'

My heart filled with pain..... And I swallowed to hide my tears.
As he continued to apologize..... For daring to sit so near
He said, 'When I get here.....'I know I must look a sight.
'But I thought if I could touch you..'Then maybe our souls might
unite.'

I was silent for a moment..... Knowing whatever was said
Would pale in comparison... I spoke from my heart, not my head.
'Oh, you've touched me,' I said.....'And taught me, in part;
'That the best of any man.....'Is what is found in his heart.'

The rest, I thought..... This shoe man will never know.
Like just how thankful I really am... That his dirty old shoe
touched my soul

Just For Fun...

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 231

Matt 1:16 - 2:5

A	G	C	H	I	L	D	M	A	E	R	D	M	E	O
H	N	B	M	H	P	E	S	O	J	D	A	X	E	W
N	O	G	I	O	L	O	R	D	F	G	I	I	C	L
C	I	L	E	R	T	L	H	A	I	L	R	A	R	N
O	E	G	Y	L	T	H	T	U	E	V	P	D	O	E
N	F	P	R	O	P	H	E	T	S	P	A	T	V	T
C	U	I	A	I	E	E	I	R	E	B	S	D	I	T
E	L	J	M	R	V	R	N	A	A	I	A	G	D	I
I	F	E	E	M	I	D	R	O	R	T	P	N	P	R
V	I	S	M	P	A	E	E	H	I	E	S	I	D	W
E	L	U	S	M	D	N	C	G	O	N	H	K	I	D
D	L	S	C	I	L	B	U	P	D	S	U	F	A	O
S	T	S	E	I	R	P	L	E	R	E	E	Y	R	R
S	W	E	J	U	D	E	A	O	L	L	I	F	E	
F	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	O	K	E	E	P	A	H

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a
Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Birth of Jesus

AFRAID APPEARED
ANGEL CONCEIVED
BIRTH CHRIST
CHILD DIVORCE
DAVID FATHER
DREAM FULFILL
EXILE HEROD
HOLY HUSBAND
JESUS IMMANUEL
JEWS JOSEPH
JUDEA MATTHEW
KING MOTHER
LORD PEOPLE
MAGI PLEDGED
MARY PRIESTS
STAR PROPHET
UNION WORSHIP
VIRGIN PUBLIC
WIFE SPIRIT
WOKE WRITTEN

MORE PUZZLES AT:
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Opportunities to Serve...

"Bakers Needed"

We will be collecting cookies and other holiday 'goodness' to say "Thanks and God's Blessings for all you do" to the teachers in our community! Bring your goodies to the church by Sunday, December 14th. Goodies will be 'plattered up' and delivered to all four schools on Monday, December 15th.



Decorate the Church for Christmas

(Inside and Out) Wednesday, December 6.
Potluck supper at 6:00, then we decorate.

Serve After-Worship Fellowship Snack

We are looking for more folks to take a turn at serving snacks for fellowship time after worship.

Be Part of Our Community Outreach Team

Outreach Coordinator Amanda Sharp will be hosting a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, December 18th for anyone interested in being on the team - or just finding out what it's about. Please talk to Amanda if you have any questions. Thanks !

Be "Custodian of the Month" for December

December is still available. You (or your whole family) can sign up to provide the necessary cleaning for any of these months. A check-list of duties is posted by the mailboxes.. Please consider being a part of this service. Talk to Wendy or Lonny Robbin if you have questions or to volunteer yourself or your family.

Read Scripture in Worship

Please talk to Pastor David if you can take a turn once every couple of months reading our New Testament and Old Testament Scriptures.

Help With Our Nursery

We need volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-4 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help out .

Donate on Food Shelf Sunday

December 14 (always the 2nd Sunday of the month)



Operation Christmas Child...

Thanks for 25 shoe boxes!

More Ideas for Sharing the Love of Jesus This Month

During the busy weeks prior to Christmas thoughtful Christians go out of their way to show their love for others. In fact, "Sharing the Love of Jesus in Practical Ways" is one of our Core Values at Living Word. Here are a few suggestions. You may think of more. The possibilities are limited only by your creativity.

- Babysit for a mom (or dad) while they shop.
- Shovel snow for someone who could use the help this winter (it will snow!).
- Invite at least one person to join you in worship Christmas Eve.
- Drive others to church for worship.
- "Adopt" someone in a care center, not just for Christmas, but for an indefinite period of time.
- Use your special talents (what are they?) where needed.
- Invite someone who is alone for the holidays over for dinner.
- Ask the Lord for guidance in using you in meaningful ways to bring glory to Him - He will direct you

Have Yourself a "Mary" Christmas



You may remember the story of Jesus' visit with Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38-42. Martha we are told "was distracted with much serving" while Mary "sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching." Martha even got mad about that and told Jesus to tell Mary to get up and help. Jesus told Martha that she was "anxious and

troubled about many things" and then went on to remind her, "but one thing is necessary." That one necessary thing was the very thing *Mary* had chosen to do, take time to just sit and listen to Jesus.

This time of year it is very easy to be a "Martha" and get distracted, anxious and troubled about all the food and gifts and events. Make this year a "Mary" Christmas instead. Like Mary, be sure not to overlook the "one necessary thing" - just spending time with Jesus. Talk to Him in prayer. Listen to Him by reading His Word. Spend time with Him in worship.

You will discover Jesus brings a level of peace, joy, hope and love that meals and presents and special events can never accomplish.

Sunday School News...

Classes:

Students start at 9:00 each Sunday with music, prayer requests from the kids and offering (for "Project 24").

December Lessons:

Nov 30: Angel visits Mary	Luke 1:26-38
Dec 7 Joseph's Dream	Matthew 1:18-24
Dec 14 Journey to Bethlehem	Luke 2:1-20
Dec 21 The Magi Visit	Matthew 2:1-12
Dec 28 No Class	

Christmas Program: Sunday, December 21 during worship

Program Practices: Saturday Dec. 6, 13 & 20 @ 10:30

Teachers / Classes:

Pre-school to Kindergarten:	Amanda Sharp
1st to 3rd Grade:	Violet Dauk
4th to 6th Grade:	Keith Hanson
Substitute teachers:	Jason Miller, Tammy Fuglie, Mona Hjelle

Rides are Available

We have volunteers who will pick kids up for Sunday School. Please contact either Mona Hjelle, Amanda Sharp or Keith Hanson

Project 24 - Our Mission Project

Project 24 is committed to building at least 24 orphan rescue centers. Donations help construct safe homes, provide food, clothing, and healthcare for children in need.



Email Humor...

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize Psalm 23 for the Christmas program. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Johnny was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Johnny was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd.... and that's all I need to know."

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

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

25 greatest words to summarize the Bible. -John 3:16

- * **For God** (the greatest giver)
- * **So loved** (the greatest motive)
- * **The world** (the greatest need)
- * **That He gave** (the greatest act)
- * **His only begotten son** (the greatest gift)
- * **That whosoever** (the greatest invitation)
- * **Believes** (the greatest decision)
- * **In Him** (the greatest Person)
- * **Should not perish** (the greatest deliverance)
- * **But** (the greatest difference)
- * **Have** (the greatest certainty)
- * **Everlasting life.** (the greatest possession)

The Fall Voters' Assembly

Approved:

- **A Budget for 2015**
- **These Ministry Goals for 2015:**
 - Increase Sunday School attendance to be able to expand from two to three classes for 1st-6th grade.
 - Have Sunday School kids participate in worship with music, etc..
 - Schedule monthly activities/events people can invite friends to.
 - Organize a fall Craft Bazaar
 - Videotape the worship services to stream on the website
 - Hold a parent/student communion class to enable students to participate in the Lord's Supper prior to confirmation instead of after.
 - Establish a mentor program for new parents and newly-weds
 - Host Christian Bluegrass concerts once-a-month in the summer (e.g. Kingery family, Garms family, etc...)
 - Add more storage space inside the church.
 - Paint parking spaces on the parking lot.
 - Add 2-4 people to the Youth Board to help plan activities
 - Hold Time / Talent / Treasure stewardship emphasis in January.

Nominated:

- Keith Hanson (Jason Miller alternate) rep to 2015 District Convention
- Rev. Dennis Schultz as Circuit Visitor

Story Behind The Song...



"What Child is This"

In a recent Bible study we talked about seeing positive results God brought about in our lives as a result of some 'not so good' circumstances that came our way.

This favorite Christmas carol is another example of God "making all things work for the good of those who love Him" (Romans 8:28). Here's the story:

At the age of 29, English writer William Dix was struck with a sudden near-fatal illness and confined to bed rest for several months, during which he experienced great depression. He called out to God and "met Him in a new and real way," and resulted in the writing of many hymns including this carol. "What Child is This" was taken from a longer poem about Christmas entitled The Manger Throne which was published in 1865. The words are set to the traditional English folk tune "Greensleeves."

The song asks a similar question to the one Jesus posed to His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" It's a question all of us must answer, and the song did a great job of that. This is Christ (the Messiah) the King, the Word-made-flesh. In other words, this baby is none other than God Himself come to earth in human form for the express purpose of taking our punishment for sin. The final stanza gives us instructions about the response God is seeking: "Own him," i.e. claim Him as your God, King and Messiah who alone brings you salvation, then simply rejoice!

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping,
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The Cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word Made Flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;

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Thot for a day: Every year Christmas becomes less a birthday and more a Clearance Sale.

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Come, peasant, king, to own Him!
The King of Kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him!
Raise, raise the song on high!
The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy! joy! for Christ is bom, The babe, the son of Mary!

Editor's note: A great version by one of my favorite groups... Third Day. Watch at <http://youtu.be/ivfiYe0zYA>

Choir News

Choir will be practicing "Were You There on that Christmas Night" for the Christmas Program on December 21 and "Peace, Peace" for Christmas Eve. **We'd love to have add your voice!** Please join us for practices after worship on December 7 & 14 and at 9:30 prior to worship on December 21.

Thanks!

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The MinneFROZEta Live Nativity