



February 2015 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 is a "virtue"?

This question came up during one of our recent Fruit of the Spirit studies after I had referred to one of the fruits as a "virtue."

Here's how I defined it:

A virtue is a quality or characteristic that is inherently good.

Any of the fruits of the Spirit would fall under that definition - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self-control, etc...

But that definition gave rise to a conversation about the difference between a "virtue" and a "value."

We hear a lot about "values." It seems that "values" is a popular word every group wants to have connected with their cause. We are told to vote for this person or that person because they have "values." We are encouraged to support this group or that group because of their emphasis on "values."

The problem is that every person and every group has something they value. And not everything that is valued is good. For example, maybe a certain person values "winning at all costs." That's not really a good thing to value. Another group may value huge profits - no matter how they are attained. Again, that's not a good value. It could be truthfully said Satan has "values." He values evil and deception. Neither of which are ever good.

The basic problem with values is that they are determined by us! We - individual human beings and groups of human beings - define



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what is valuable to us. And because sin is a reality in all of humanity, that means not everything we value is going to be good.

I told the group that since a virtue is something inherently good, this means only the One who is inherently good (God) can truly determine what a virtue is. Honesty is a virtue. Forgiveness is a virtue. Justice is a virtue. Unconditional Love is a virtue. All of those things come from God.

Bottom line: Don't allow yourself to get fooled into believing in some 'cause' just because it claims to have "values." The real key is this: Is the value also a virtue - something inherently good - as defined by the One who is inherently good.

Thank God He hasn't left us in the dark concerning virtues. He's tells us and shows us in His Word the things that are inherently good, virtuous. So as you read or listen to God's word, see if you can pick out those things God would define as virtues - things He values, because they are inherently good.

Thanks for asking
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

THANK YOU...

To EVERYONE who helped make our First-Annual "National 'Backwards' Day" Pancake & Sausage Feed" a success !!



THANK YOU...

To EVERYONE who brought items for Life Sunday Baby Shower.



THANK YOU...

Thank you so much once again for hosting the baby shower at your church.

What a blessing to HOPE Pregnancy Center! We never know how God is working or what a day might bring.

The total cash and checks in the envelopes was \$535.00.

Thank you again for the wonderful gift and following through with God's leading. We really appreciate it!



Denise Wittman
Office Manager/Client Services Director

NEW Men's Study...

Starting Tuesday, February 3

Mormons: Who They Are and What They Believe



The Mormon Church (aka The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) means different things to different people. From its feel-good, family-oriented TV commercials to its Grammy- and Emmy-winning Mormon Tabernacle Choir to its bicycling missionaries, the Mormon Church is high profile all the way. Founded in the early 19th century, this religious movement boasts more than 15 million members and 85,000 missionaries, ranking it in the top five of "Christian denominations" in the U.S., according to the National Council of Churches.

But what makes this group distinctive and how does it differ from other Christian churches? Questions like these and more are addressed in *Mormons: Who They Are, What They Believe*

As a religious group, Mormons are no strangers to controversy. Let's see, special revelations from God, the murder of its founder, regional expulsion and opposition by various groups, polygamy, and a host of teachings and doctrine peculiar to itself and unlike mainstream Christianity have all put Mormons on the fringe of Christianity.

This Bible study will look at the group's origins (Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon, Brigham Young, and others); the discrepancy between Mormon beliefs and orthodox Christian teaching and faith; the meaning of some of its rituals (baptism of the dead, endowments for the living and dead, temple garments, celestial marriage); and the prominence of the temple in the life of a Mormon. It will feature comments from individuals who have been deeply immersed in the Mormon belief system. It will show how some, upon exiting the Mormon Church, found themselves bewildered and disillusioned, often cut off and ostracized by their families, ready to abandon religious faith altogether. Real-life stories from those on the inside and other expert commentary add depth and authenticity to this engaging study. Join us Tuesday evenings to explore this fascinating topic through Scripture-related passages and Internet links.

Sing with our choir...

Choir rehearses on Feb. 15th and 22nd @ 11:30 following fellowship. Choir will be singing March 1st. Please come and join us!

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Thot for a day: When you're tempted to fight fire with fire, remember: The fire department uses water.

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Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study (9:00)

Join us for our current study:

"Noah: The Man, The Ark, The Flood"



Today's Light Daily Readings:

See pages 10—11 of this newsletter

Men's Study - Tuesdays at 6:30

NEW Study Beginning Tuesday, February 3:

Mormons: Who They Are, What They Believe

(See details on the page 4)

Wed. Noon Study - and

Wed. Evening Women's Study - 6:30

"Growing The Fruit of the Spirit"



Confirmation:

Meets again on February 14th.

4-6th Grade Youth Group - Every Wednesday 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 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.



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. Last week we thanked God for Pancakes! Let Pastor know how you'd complete that

Who Can You Invite?...

February's theme is LOVE. One way we can share Jesus' love is by making a simple invitation to church or a church group or function. Here are four special opportunities to invite people this month:

1. Annual Whist Night

THIS Friday, February 6

Please join us at 7 pm for a great time of fun and fellowship at Pastor and Violet's home. No card-playing experience is necessary. (There will be a prize for the worst score). Just invite a friend and bring a snack to share.

(Please RSVP to Pastor or Violet, so we know how many tables to set up. Thanks!)

2. Friendship Sunday - February 15

As always, our annual "Friendship Sunday" is a great opportunity to invite some friends to come and meet Our Greatest Friend - Jesus !

Special Friendship Sunday Events:

- Worship celebrating our Greatest Friend
- Valentines Brunch after worship (prepared & served by the men of Living Word)

Fish Fry
Swedish Meatballs
Bread
Cole Slaw
Desserts
Milk / Juice



3. Any of our Studies

We have some great new studies beginning this month. You can find them on under "Opportunities for Growth" on page 5 of this newsletter.

What Does the LC-MS Believe?

Pastor will be scheduling another "What does the LC-MS believe" class for those who weren't able to attend the class on Jan 18. Please talk to Pastor David if you are interested. Thanks!

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Miscellaneous Notes...

Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans sponsors Simply Giving, a direct-deposit program that you can set up to have offerings automatically transferred from your bank account to the Living Word's general fund. Please see Stewardship Chair Jason Miller for more details.

Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

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

- NEW - Today's Light Bibles
- NEW - Kids' stocking hats
- Project 24 savings banks (to help with our Sunday School mission project)
- Jan-March Portals of Prayer - daily devotional
- February Living Word newsletters

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...

Email Humor...

A man and woman were married for many years. Whenever there was a confrontation, yelling could be heard deep into the night. The old man would shout, "When I die, I will dig my way up and out of the grave and come back and haunt you for the rest of your life!"

Neighbors feared him. The old man liked the fact that he was feared. Then one evening, he died when he was 98. After the burial, her neighbors, concerned for her safety, asked, "Aren't you afraid that he may indeed be able to dig his way out of the grave and haunt you for the rest of your life?"

The wife said, " Let him dig. I had him buried upside down...and I know he won't ask for directions."

Thot for a day: Marriages are made in heaven. But then again, so are thunder and lightning.



The Link...

February 2015 Newsletter
Greetings from The Link,

How is your new year's resolution holding up? I know that here at the Link, we are working hard on ours!

This is an exciting time for us as we look forward to a year of helping people in northern Kandiyohi County. We continue to create new and better ways to serve our community. Long-term goals and strategies are being developed as we move forward with our new Director, Nancy Johnson.

Johnson and her husband Jeff moved to Spicer from the Twin Cities in 2009. She brings more than 35 years of fund development and planning experience as Director of Development in a number of organizations including Regions Hospital Foundation, HealthEast Care System and Lifetrack Resources. The past four-plus years Johnson served as the Coordinator at Willmar Area Community Foundation. She was the lead Foundation staff person to establish the New London-Spicer Area Fund. Johnson looks forward to visiting with The Link supporters in the months ahead.

It is hard to think spring, but the Link is already planning our annual "Just the Basics" event! We are looking for volunteers and donations to make this event happen! This year the event will be held on Saturday, April 25th at Cross Roads Community Church!

Many of the families that we serve struggle to purchase basic necessities once the bills are paid. Be on the lookout for convenient drop sites to donate specific items, such as: toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex and laundry soap! This event is not possible without caring people like you! Thanks for your kindness.

Also mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Rib Fest on Sunday, June 14th-a fun community event that attracted almost a thousand people in 2014.

Nancy Johnson
Link Director
thelink@faithspicer.org

Chasity Ommott
Director of Client Services
thelinkservices@faithspicer.org

Link contact information:
310 Medayto Drive, Spicer, MN 56288 ▼ 320.796.2522



Tuesday's Table in February:

February 3rd: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church
February 10th: Evangelical Covenant Church
February 17th: Faith Lutheran Church
February 24th: Peace Lutheran Church

The purpose of Tuesday's Table is to build relationships among all of God's people.

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That for a day: Even if you're on the right track, you can still get hit by a train.

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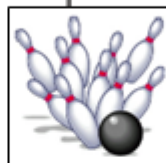
Sunday School News...

Classes:

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

February lessons "Obedience" Theme:

Feb. 1 Worship Only God Exodus 32:1-10, 19-24, 30-35
Feb. 8 Take God at His Word (Jonah) Jonah 1:1-17
Feb. 15 Obey God Completely (Saul) 1 Samuel 15:1-9, 17-23
Feb. 22 Doing What is Right (Samson) Judges 16:1-22
March 1 Pride Gets in The Way (Babel) Genesis 11:1-10



Annual Bowling Outing -

coming in March, watch for specific date

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.



Congratulations!

- Josie Arends-Schmidt on your baptism!
- Arnold Arends on your baptism!
- Kim, Cody and Zoe Strohbeen on Josie, the new addition to your family!
- Shawn, Bethany and Isaac Urban on the new addition to your family

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

Feb. 2015 - Daily Devotionals

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We Read Through the Bible, in Just 15 Minutes a Day
(In parentheses are verses to focus on if you are short on time that day)

Readings are available in audio on at livingwordlutheran.net

Feb 1 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Feb 2 Genesis 45:1-46:34 (45:1-28) _____

Feb 3 Genesis 47:1-48:22 (47:1-10) _____

Feb 4 Genesis 49:1-50:26 (50:15-26) _____

Feb 5 Exodus 1:1-22 (1:1-14) _____

Feb 6 Exodus 2:1-25 (2:1-10,23-25) _____

Feb 7 Exodus 3:1-4:31 (3:1-15) _____

Feb 8 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Feb 9 Exodus 5:1-6:30 (5:1-23) _____

Feb 10 Exodus 7:1-24 (7:1-7) _____

Feb 11 Exodus 8:1-9:35 (8:20-32) _____

Feb 12 Exodus 10:1-29 (10:1-20) _____

Feb 13 Exodus 11:1-12:51 (12:29-51) _____

Feb 14 Exodus 13:1-22 (13:17-22) _____

Feb 15 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Feb 16 Exodus 14:1-31 (14:1-22,29-31) _____

Daily Readings Available in Audio

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

Feb 17 Exodus 15:1-27 (15:1-18) _____

Feb 18 Exodus 16:1-17:16 (17:1-16) _____

Feb 19 Exodus 18:1-27 (18:1-12) _____

Feb 20 Exodus 19:1-20:26 (19:1-8,20:1-17) _____

Feb 21 Exodus 21:1-22:31 (22:21-27) _____

Feb 22 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Feb 23 Exodus 23:1-24:18 (24:1-18) _____

Feb 24 Exodus 25:1-27:20 (25:1-22) _____

Feb 25 Exodus 28:1-29:46 (28:1-12) _____

Feb 26 Exodus 30:1-31:18 (31:12-18) _____

Feb 27 Exodus 32:1-35 (32:1-14) _____

Feb 28 Exodus 33:1-23 (33:12-23) _____

Mar 1 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

Mar 2 Exodus 34:1-35 (34:1-9) _____

Mar 3 Exodus 35:1-36:38 (35:20-35) _____

Mar 4 Exodus 37:1-38:30 (38:21-31) _____

Mar 5 Exodus 39:1-40:38 (39:1-14, 40:34-38) _____

Mar 6 Psalm 1:1-6:10 (Psalm 1) _____

Mar 7 Psalm 7:1-11:7 (Psalm 9) _____

February 2015 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 LIVING AS STEWARDS - P12 9:00 Adult Study - Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 7:00 HS Youth Group	2 9:00 Circuit Pastors @ Redeemer	3 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "The Mormons"	4 noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	5	6 7:00 ANNUAL WHIST NIGHT AT DAUK'S	7
8 LIVING AS STEWARDS - P13 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	9	10 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "The Mormons"	11 noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	12	13	14 10:30 Confirmation Class
15 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Study: Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 FRIENDSHIP BRUNCH 11:30 Choir Practice 7:00 HS Youth Group	16	17 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "The Mormons"	18 ASH WEDNESDAY noon WED. STUDY 7:00 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE	19 5:30 Community Outreach Team 6:30 Mission & Ministry Team	20	21
22 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Choir Practice	23	24 6:30 MEN'S STUDY "The Mormons"	25 noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - Lenten Devotion 7:00 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	26	27	28 10:30 Confirmation Class
March 1 9:00 Adult Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 7:00 HS Youth Group	2	3 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	4 noon WED. STUDY 6:30 - Lenten Devotion 7:00 - WOMEN'S STUDY - 4-6TH YOUTH	5	6	7 COUPLES DINNER & MOVIE NIGHT

Lord's Supper Dates

- Sunday, February 1st
- Sunday, February 15th
- Ash Wednesday, Feb 18th

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

newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net

Upcoming Schedules...

Scripture Readers

Feb 1	Tammy Wachter
Feb 8	Scott Wachter
Feb 15	Bryson Wachter
Feb 22	Wendy Robbin
Mar 1	Bryson Wachter
Mar 8	Wendy Robbin
Mar 15	Mona Hjelle
Mar 22	Kevin Welsh
Mar 29	Linda Dilley

Fellowship Servers

Feb 1	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen
Feb 8	Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson
Feb 15	Friendship Sunday
Feb 22	Wendy Robbin / Alicia Sawatzky
Mar 1	Nancy Jo Wendt / Tammy Fuglie
Mar 8	Tammy Wachter / Sarah Miller
Mar 15	Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham
Mar 22	Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson
Mar 29	Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen

Usher Schedule

Feb 1	Jamie & Phil Iverson
Feb 8	Duane Hansen & Chuck Weflen
Feb 15	Jason Miller & Bryson Wachter
Feb 22	Wendy & Lonny Robbin

Mar 1	Joe Johnson & Brady Sharp
Mar 8	Mark Fuglie & Tim Geer
Mar 15	Linda Dilley & Mona Hjelle
Mar 22	Kevin & Noah Welsh
Mar 29	Jamie & Phil Iverson

Elders

Feb 1	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter
Feb 15	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Feb 18 (Ash Wed)	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter

Mar 1	Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson
Mar 15	Mark Fuglie & Scott Wachter

Altar Guild

February	Mona Hjelle
March	Nancy Jo Wendt

Thot for a day: You cannot make the same mistake twice, because the second time you make it, it's not a mistake, it's a choice.

Make A Meal Volunteers

Feb	Wendy Robbin & Bryson Wachter
Mar	Pam Johnson & Donna Peterson

Acolyte (little brothers & sisters can help)

Feb 1	Noah Miller
Feb 8	Andrew Sharp
Feb 15	Levi Miller
Feb 22	Eli Sharp
Mar 1	Lance Sawatzky
Mar 8	George Arends-Schmidt
Mar 15	Carson Jaspersen
Mar 22	Noah Miller
Mar 29	Andrew Sharp

Accompanying Musicians

Feb 1	Sharon Willen
Feb 8	Scott Wachter
Feb 15	Pam Johnson
Feb 22	Scott Wachter
Mar 1	Sharon Willen
Mar 8	Scott Wachter
Mar 15	Pam Johnson
Mar 22	Scott Wachter
Mar 29	Scott Wachter

Custodian

Feb	Mike Von Rueden
Mar	Custodian needed

Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)

Feb 1	Mona Hjelle
Feb 8	McCartney Knutson
Feb 15	Gracie Geer
Feb 22	Michelle Johnson
Mar 1	Mona Hjelle
Mar 8	McCartney Knutson
Mar 15	Gracie Geer
Mar 22	Michelle Johnson
Mar 29	Helper needed

February Discipleship Verse...

*See what great love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God! And
that is what we are!*
1 John 3:1

Email Inspiration...

A Super Bowl Blessing

Written by Thomas Jeffries

In the end, Susan Wood went to the party because she couldn't bear to be home alone, not tonight. She needed to get out of the house and away from her own thoughts, if only for a few hours. Anything to take her mind off the worry, the panic, the indecision and the morning sickness.

So she walked to a friend's house — to escape, to watch the Saints take on the Colts and to view one of the most talked-about Super Bowl commercials in history. There were maybe 15 people at the party, but they were too busy talking and snacking and laughing to notice that Susan wasn't drinking, that she wore a distracted look and a manufactured smile.

Earlier that , Susan told her boyfriend she was pregnant. Let's just say he did not react well. He saw the first pregnancy test; he insisted on a second. Abortion was the only option. Susan consented, if only to end the conflict. Then he left, and she walked to the Super Bowl party alone.

On the night of Feb. 7, 2010, during the first quarter of Super Bowl XLIV, Focus on the Family's "Celebrate Family, Celebrate Life" commercial aired for the first and only time. Pam Tebow appeared onscreen, reminiscing about her "miracle baby" — son Tim, the 2007-Heisman-Trophy-winner.

Susan, however, had never watched college football. Couldn't identify a single player. Except one. "A few weeks earlier, I was folding laundry alone and the TV was on ESPN," she says. "I was too lazy to change the channel and watched an entire special on Tim Tebow. Literally the only college player in the entire country I could have named or recognized."

The room fell silent while the commercial played. Instead of the strident anti-abortion ad that Susan, her friends and most of America were expecting, they watched a mother's heartfelt story about the survival of her infant son.

"I wanted to be critical," Susan says. "I wanted to bash this horrible 'anti-choice' commercial. But as we watched, everyone agreed that it was a positive commercial with an encouraging message — not one of judgment or condemnation."

As other ads aired, Susan kept thinking about the Focus commercial, and she felt a pit in her stomach. She remained at the

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Thot for a day: There is a guaranteed way to get what you want: Want less.

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party, talking and watching the game, but she couldn't get that ad out of her head.

The Tebows were speaking to me. They were talking about my situation. What am I going to do?

Back home, Susan searched the Web for the ad and for Focus on the Family. She found the commercial, plus an interview with Bob and Pam Tebow, Tim's parents. She learned that Pam had rejected a doctor's advice to abort her unborn son in the face of medical complications. She watched the commercial again, feeling like it was made just to reach her.

Susan emailed Focus on the Family. In return, she says, a Focus staffer responded with encouragement, information and hope.

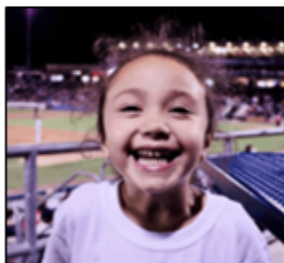
"It was so nonjudgmental," Susan says. "She offered advice but didn't tell me I was wrong. I kept thinking about what she wrote, and the commercial, and what Tim's mom said in the interview, and it all just spoke to my heart."

"I made the decision to keep the baby."

The baby's father never came around. He raged, and threatened, then simply checked out. Sure, Susan had friends and relatives, but she would essentially raise her child alone.

Avita Grace was born that September. It was love at first sight.

Avita is 4 now, and she has brought joy, fun and faith to her mother's life. The little girl loves frilly dresses and bows in her hair, coloring books and talking about Jesus. As a working single mom, Susan now has less money, less sleep, less time, more laundry, more dishes and lots more cleaning. But it's all drowned out by the limitless love she's been given.



"I think about the commercial, Tim Tebow and the people from Focus daily," Susan says. "I am so grateful. If there hadn't been a Super Bowl commercial, if I hadn't been at the party, if someone had responded to my email in a different way . . . I will never be able to express the gratitude and love that I feel."

Editor's note: If you don't remember, see the ad at <http://youtu.be/xqReTDJSdhE>

Stewardship...

Living Each Day as a Steward is our 3-week stewardship program for 2015

Transformed by God's Spirit working through His Word and the Sacraments, we are enabled to understand both our identity and purpose as God's stewards. As a result, we live each day as stewards. When God's grace and love fill our hearts and minds, our stewardship is not limited to specific acts, but, instead, becomes a lifestyle. We express our faith in the way we live our lives. The stewardship program emphasizes three themes:

A Steward's Identity: (January 25)

We don't really want to be stewards. Our first impulse is that we want to be the owners. We want to have possession of things. We want to be important, to be respected, and even to be envied. That's not how it works, though. God owns everything, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof..." (Psalm 24:1).

A Steward's Purpose: (February 1)

King David wrote, "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me" (Psalm 138:8). Just as God had a purpose for David, so he has for us as well. Have we given much thought to what purpose God may have for your life? By grace, we come to understand that we were created for God's purpose, not ours.

A Steward's Lifestyle: (February 8)

When God's grace and love fill our hearts and minds, our stewardship is not limited to specific acts, but, instead, becomes a lifestyle. With transformed hearts, we express our faith in the way we live our lives. God's Spirit provides motivation and power to live the Christian life in a growing awareness of redeeming grace.

May God help us all live each day as a steward as we give generously of our time and our talents and our money!



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Patience isn't the ability to wait. It's how you behave while waiting.

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

10 Things Money Can't Buy:

1. Manners
2. Morals
3. Respect
4. Character
5. Common Sense
6. Trust
7. Patience
8. Class
9. Integrity
10. Love



This came via an email source that, while not really 'politically correct' is also not expressly Christian, so there needs to be added an eleventh and *most important* thing money can't buy:

11. Eternal Life.

Look at the list again.

Isn't it striking that the most important things in life are things you *can't* buy?! So why do we spend so much time and energy chasing after the money needed to buy things that don't even make it into the Top Ten?

Ash Wednesday...



The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. This year on February 18. Ashes symbolize our mortality, humility and need for repentance before God.

In ancient times people showed their grief over sin and repentance by putting on sackcloth and covering themselves with ashes. Ashes also suggest a need for cleansing - which comes to us through the blood of Christ that was shed for us on the cross.

During our Ash Wednesday service, ashes will be applied to the foreheads of all worshipers in the form of a small cross. Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on February 18.

Couples Dinner and Movie Night...

Saturday, March 7
Watch for details...

Opportunities to Serve...

A Great Month To 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! Our February Make-a-Meal volunteers: Wendy Robbin & Bryson Wachter.

Serve After-Worship Fellowship Snack

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

Start Saving Toothpaste for 'Just the Basics'

The Link's giveaway of basic household items ('Just the Basics') will be held this year on Saturday, Apr. 25, 9-10:30 at Crossroads Church. This year Living Word has volunteered to provide 300 tubes of toothpaste for the event, so start purchasing toothpaste. You can bring your toothpaste donations to church and place them in the box outside Pastor David's office. Thanks in advance!

Be "Custodian of the Month"

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

February 8th (always the 2nd Sunday of the month)

Volunteers NEEDED!

Grace Living Community of Glen Oaks is seeking volunteers to assist and be a companion to our residents. It is our mission to provide the best quality of care however we could use you to help us! Volunteers are needed to visit, play games, share in music, crafts and other talents, and join us with friendship and fellowship for the residents we serve. Contact Ruth Templer if interested: Ruth.Templer@bhshealth.org (320) 354-6074

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

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Foster Care with Lutheran Social Service

Lutheran Social Service is actively recruiting families in your area who would have interest in becoming a foster parent. Do you have room in your heart and home for a child who is in transition and needs a safe, supportive home in which to live and grow? There is need for a few good homes in this area. We need homes for all ages of kids. Kids are in need of temporary homes, long term and permanent homes/adoptive homes.

On February 10th Lutheran Social Service office will be holding an informational meeting on becoming a foster parent. Please join us at 1601 HWY 12 E, Suite 6 in Willmar. Please call Foster Care Coordinator Brooke Rustad at 320-235-5411 or email at brooke.rustad@lssmn.org if you have any questions



How would you change if you spent just 10-15 minutes a day getting to know God in His Word?

Join us in finding out.

In January we began to read through the Bible together using the Today's Light Bible

The Today's Light Bible is divided into 10-15 minute daily readings with an introductory paragraph before each reading and a summary paragraph after each one.

Bibles are available at church. You may pick one up from the Free Stuff table.

Audio recordings of the daily readings are available on our website for those who'd rather listen than read.

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 help you to define difficult people as "Children of God"
- God to work through the Today's Light program to strengthen faith
- Safe travel for everyone in the winter weather
- For increased trust that God will continue to provide
- For protection and boldness is witness for all persecuted Christians
- For the ability to love unconditionally and sacrificially
- For those who have recently lost loved ones

Story Behind The Song...

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

In our recent study on the Fruits of the Spirit, we looked at the first and most important of the fruits - Love. As part of that study we read the "Love Chapter" 1 Corinthians 13 (many of you had that as a scripture reading at your wedding). We read these verses:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

Every time I read that I think the same thing, "There's no way. That kind of love is impossible... for everyone except God!"

The idea that God's divine love excels every other love is at the foundation of this song which was written by the great hymn-writer Charles Wesley.

Love Divine, all Loves excelling,
Joy of Heaven to Earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble Dwelling,
All thy faithful Mercies crown;
Jesus, Thou art all compassion
Pure, unbounded love Thou art
Visit us with Thy salvation
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast
Let us all in Thee inherit
Let us find Thy promised rest
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning
Set our hearts at liberty

Come Almighty to deliver
Let us all Thy love receive
Suddenly return and never
Nevermore Thy temples leave
Thee we would be always blessing
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above

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That for a day: Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

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Pray and Praise Thee without ceasing
Glory in Thy perfect love

Finish then Thy new creation
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory
Till in heav'n we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before Thee
Lost in wonder, love and praise!

Editor's note: Wonderful version by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir at: <http://youtu.be/si6x7AokKxo>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



FLANNEL... the fabric of love
for Minnesota's very own 'Victorious Seekers' all
flannel lingerie ad campaign. **Mt. 7:7**