



**January 2017 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 exactly is this "Reset" thing ?

This past September the Living Word Elders' Team set the following as one of their goals for 2017:

*Holding a congregation-wide study similar to the 40 Days of Purpose study we did several years ago.*

After researching several different studies, they chose the Reset study. It seemed to be the best fit for the time of year we wanted to hold a congregation-wide study (January).

A congregation-wide study serves a couple of purposes. First, it helps us all 'get on the same page'. Each of our groups will be doing the same study, plus the sermons on Sunday will focus on the topic covered in the study that week.

The second purpose, is to use this as an opportunity to help friends and neighbors get connected to Jesus. At the start of a new year most people are doing some kind of reflection on changes they'd like to make in their lives as they move forward. So why not invite them to a study that goes beyond the typical "New Year's Resolution" and gets at the heart of what we all need to change? (And taps into the power of the One who can really help us make those changes!) So, who do you know whose not connected to a church right now that you could invite?

You don't have to get involved in one of the small group studies to benefit from Reset. As I mentioned, the sermons on Sunday will focus on the topic of the week, and you'll benefit from hearing those. But I'd encourage everyone to pick one of the weekly study groups to join - even if just for this 4-week study. It's a great way to get to know some of your Living Word family on a deeper level than just saying "Hi" during



## Page 3

Sunday morning greeting time. Please check out Reset on page 17 for even more details.

Thanks for asking  
Pastor David

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

## Who Can You Invite?...

Jesus was born to be the Light of the world - a Light the darkness cannot overcome. One great way we can reflect the Light is by a simple invitation to friends, neighbors, relatives to join you for a church function or worship. 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.)

**The Re-scheduled Christmas Program** - Friday, January 6 @ 7pm

**CTI Music Ministries** in worship - Sunday, January 8 @ 10am

**One of our RESET studies.** (See Reset page 17)

**FFAA Night** - Friday, January 27 @ 6:30

## 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...

- Asking God to bless all the students involved in our Christmas Program
- A great turnout for our re-scheduled Christmas Program
- Thanking God for the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of our Sunday School and Confirmation students
- Thanking God for all the blessings of the past year
- Asking God to open our eyes to see His guiding in the coming year
- Asking God to prepare us for the 'Reset' study
- Asking God for a great Lock-In experience for the 7-9th Youth
- Thanking God that Jesus is still "Immanuel" (God With Us) today.
- Safe travels during the winter
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- God to embolden our Christian witness in our daily lives
- The Holy Spirit to work through our Bible studies
- The Spirit's guidance for all those who were elected in Nov.
- God to keep strengthening faith thru the Today's Light Bible readings
- The mission and ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

## Opportunities for Growth...

### 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.

### Today's Light Daily Readings:

See pages 10—11 of this newsletter

Our Today's Light Daily Bible Readings come to an end this month. What did you find God doing in your life through your readings?

Email Pastor David with your answer to that question: [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)



*Each of our existing study groups will be using this study. (Sunday morning group, Tuesday Men's group; Wednesday Women's group). In addition Jason & Sarah Miller will host a Reset Study at their home on Sunday evenings at 6pm. We'd like to have more in-home studies. If you'd like to host one but have questions. Talk to Pastor David. See page 17 for more details....*

- Sunday Morning Study (9:00)
- Men's Study- Tuesday, Sept 13th @ 6:30
- Wed. Evening Women's Study -  
Wednesdays @ 6:30

### 3rd-6th Grade Group—

Meets Wednesdays @ 6:30

See page 20 for more information

H.S. Youth Study- December 4th @ noon

Sunday School: (see info page 20)

Confirmation - Wednesdays @ 6:30

## Page 4

Thot for a day: Safety is not the absence of danger, but is the presence of God.

## Page 5

## Opportunities to Serve...

### Tell us who could use a "We Prayed for You" card.

Tell Pastor or Nancy Jo Wendt when someone you asked us to pray for would be greatly encouraged by getting a card. Then just give us their address.

### Help Out With the 3rd- 6th Grade Group

Please talk to Violet (320-220-0344) if you could help out once-a-month or so by doing something with the kids that you really enjoy (e.g. ice fishing, snowmobiling, baking, building stuff, etc....) THANKS!

### Be "Custodian of the Month"

You (or your whole family) can sign up to provide the necessary cleaning. A check-list of duties is posted by the mailboxes. Please consider being a part of this service. Talk to Trustee Jamie Iverson if you have questions or to volunteer yourself or your family. Custodian still needed for January

### 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.

### Serve After-Worship Fellowship Snack

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

### Help With Our Nursery

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

### Bring Food Shelf Items Every Second Sunday

The women of our LWML collect canned and dry goods the second Sunday of each month.

If you shop at **Amazon.com**, then try out [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile), select Living Word Lutheran Church as your charitable organization and Amazon will donate a portion of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to support our church.... Same great online shopping with an added benefit to our church!



**amazon smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.



## Get To Know Your...

Confirmation Students will resume NEXT month. This month we 'get to know' the members of CTI Music Ministries who will share the Gospel in their music and testimonies during worship on January 8:



**CTI Music Ministries 14:22** GROUP BIO's (from left to right)

**Jose Silva - Guitar** (Birthday: August 1.

Hometown: Gallup, NM)

Favorite Bible Passage: Romans 5:15

Musical Influences: Post-Rock, Djent, Ambient, Rock, Blues

Favorite Movie: Real Steel

Favorite Book: The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Hobbies: Playing Music (believe it or not), and Longboarding

Though Jose plays guitar for the band, he also plays bass, drums, and ukulele. He'd love to learn even more instruments. He's the oldest of eight kids.

**Nick Black - bass** Birthday: June 24 Hometown: Asheville, NC

Favorite Bible Passage: Philippians 4:4-13

Musical Influences: The Beatles, Boston, Red Hot Chili Peppers

Favorite Movie: The Blues Brothers Favorite Book: The

Phantom Tollbooth Hobbies: Playing music, hiking and back-

packing, running, playing soccer, and being outside. He also

enjoys reading books of all sorts, reading comic books, and

watching superhero movies.

## Page 6

Thot for a day: A friend is a person who listens attentively while you say nothing.

## Page 7

Before coming to CTI, Nick worked as a freelance writer/blogger and played in a polka band that toured the southeastern U.S.

**Elisa Tung- keys** Birthday: May 16

Hometown: Markham, Ontario

Favorite Bible Passages: Philippians 3:7-8, Romans 12:1-2

Musical Influences: Kari Jobe, Audrey Assad

Favorite Movie: The Lord of the Rings trilogy

Hobbies: Journaling, arts and crafts, being outdoors, going to the beach, hiking and enjoying nature, and coloring!

Elisa grew up speaking three languages: English, Mandarin, and Taiwanese. She studied music at Western University in London, Ontario. She loves traveling and would love to travel throughout Asia. This might be due to the fact that she loves (LOVES) bubble tea. Elisa is excited to continue serving with CTI this year. She learned so much during her first year of Fulltime and can't wait to see what else God has in store for her.

**Kae Boyd - Vocals** Birthday: February 14.

Hometown: Rockwell City, IA

Favorite Bible Passage: 1 Corinthians 13

Musical Influences: Hillsong Favorite Movie: McFarland USA

Favorite Book: Pride and Prejudice

Hobbies: Singing, playing the ukulele & piano, eating new and different foods, traveling, and spending time with people she loves.

Kae loves sweet potatoes more than the average person. She loves hugs, too. When people make her snort while laughing, she instantly puts them on her best friend list.

**Lena Kvigne - Vocals, Team Leader**

Born: January 19 in Viroqua, WI)

Favorite Bible Passage: Joshua 1:9

Musical Influences: Andrew Peterson

Favorite Movie: The Sandlot

Favorite Book: All the World by Liz Garton Scanlon, Illustrated by Marla Frazee

Hobbies: Making soup, artwork with crayons, and jewelry.

Lena loves flowers, cloudy/rainy/stormy weather, sunsets, and crystal clear starry nights. She especially loves the color Sea-foam Green.

### **Cameron Zimmerman - Guitar, Vocals, Sound Tech**

Birthday: November 15

Hometown: Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

Favorite Bible Passage: Romans 8:14-17

Musical Influences: Coldplay, Relient K, Foster the People, Muse, Lincoln Brewster, Bethel Music

Favorite Movie: Inception

Favorite Book: Anything suspenseful with a good plot

Hobbies: Reading, watching movies, eating food, ingesting facts and regurgitating them to people around him.

Cameron is a self-described nerd about all things music. He loves to learn about random things.

### **Elijah Steckler - Drums**

Birthday: May 4

Hometown: Modesto, CA

Favorite Bible Passage: Proverbs 2:12

Favorite Movie: Gran Torino

Favorite Book: The Two Towers

Hobbies: Drumming, working out, working with his hands, and spending time with people

Elijah has two differently sized feet; however, this did not prevent him from running a 4:33 mile once. (However, it may have contributed to him biting a hole in his tongue while eating a pizza bagel!)

## **Page 8**

Thot for a day: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they are sticking to their diets.

E-mail Wisdom...

When you make  
a commitment,  
you build hope.  
When you keep it,  
you build trust.

Beacon Uniqueness

## **Page 9**

## **Make A Donation....**

### **ATTENTION KIDS---**

Do you have a pair of shoes/sandals that you have outgrown but still are in good shape???? Ed and Ruth Vegdahl and Keith and Laurie Hanson are going on a Mission Trip to visit the Baja Mexico Orphanage in mid-February and would greatly appreciate your donation of shoes/sandals to hand out to the children their. A box will be provided at church and all donations need to be in by January 22nd.



### **ATTENTION GUYS...**

Can you donate Socks (any size or style), Skivvies (boxers or briefs), or Shavers & Accessories (not electric)? Ed & Ruth Vegdahl and

Laurie Hanson will be heading to Mexico in February for a short-term mission project with FFHM (Foundation for His Ministries) near the Baja Mexico orphanage and mission grounds.. They would like to take as many of these items as possible to assist men in the drug and alcohol rehab at El Rancho

Christo (one of the FFHM ministries). Your donations will bless the men with necessities they often lack as they go through rehab programs and hear about freedom in Christ.

A box will be provided at church and all donations need to be in by January 22nd.



## **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 that **Jesus is Still Immanuel - With Us Always!** Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence next week.

## January 2017 - Daily Devotionals

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE READING PROGRAM: We finish our 2-Year Today's Light readings with the final chapters of Matthew and Revelation. Then we begin readings that coincide with the RESET study weekly themes. God will bless your reading.

(In parentheses are verses to focus on if you are short on time that day)

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

Jan 2 Matthew 18-19 (18:21-35) \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 3 Matthew 20-21 (21:1-11) \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 4 Matthew 22-23 (23:1-39) \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 5 Matthew 24-25 (25:31-46) \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 6 Matthew 26-27 (27:32-56) \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 7 Matthew 28 (28:1-15) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Jan 9 Revelation 20 (20:11-15) \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 10 Revelation 21 (21:1-8) \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 11 Revelation 22 (22:1-17) \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 12 John 20:29-31 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 13 Ephesians 2:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 14 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 15 RESET Week # 1 Reset My Heart

Jan 16 Psalm 24 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 17 Genesis 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 18 Hebrews 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 19 Hebrews 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 20 John 10:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 21 Mark 10:46-52 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 22 RESET Week # 2 Reset My Mind

Jan 23 Psalm 27 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 24 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 25 Matthew 7:24-27 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 26 Mark 5:1-20 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 27 2 Peter 1:12-21 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 28 Isaiah 55:6-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 29 RESET 3Week # 1 Reset My Voice

Jan 30 Psalm 71:14-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 31 Philippians 2:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_



Feb 1 Matthew 1:18-25 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 2 Psalm 141:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 3 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 4 Acts 4:1-22 \_\_\_\_\_

# January 2017 - Living Word Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 NEW YEAR</b> 9:00 ADULT STUDY - <i>Sunday School Party</i> 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Choir Practice noon YOUTH BIBLE STUDY	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY	<b>4</b> 6:30 -3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Gr. GROUP 6:30 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY	<b>5</b>	<b>6 EPIPHANY</b> 6:30 SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (re-scheduled from 12-18)	<b>7</b>
<b>8 CTI MUSIC MINISTRIES</b> 9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/ CTI 11:15 Potluck Fellowship 11:30 S.S. TEACHERS Mtg	<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b> 5:30 ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 MEN'S STUDY:	<b>11</b> 10:00 LWML planning 6:30 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Gr. GROUP 6:30 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY	<b>12</b> <div> <b>Lord's Supper Dates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday, January 1st</li> <li>Sunday, January 15th</li> </ul> </div>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00 7-9th Grade LOCK-IN
<b>15 RESET STUDY KICKOFF</b> 9:00 ADULT STUDY - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP w/communion 11:15 Fellowship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY: "Reset"	<b>18</b> 6:30 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Gr. GROUP 6:30 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY "Reset"	<b>19</b> 6:30 MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 ADULT STUDY - Reset SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 "RE SET" Study @ Millers'	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY: "Reset"	<b>25</b> 6:30 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Gr. GROUP 6:30 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 -WOMEN'S STUDY "Reset"	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:30 FFAA Night	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 ADULT STUDY - Reset SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 "RE SET" Study @ Millers'	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:30 MEN'S STUDY: "Reset"	<b>Feb 1</b> 6:30 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Gr. GROUP 6:30 - CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY "Reset"	<b>Feb 2</b>	<b>Feb 3</b>	<b>Feb 4</b>
				<div>           Sign up to have this newsletter sent directly to you by e-mail. Send your email address to: <a href="mailto:newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net">newsletter@livingwordlutheran.net</a> </div>		



## Upcoming Schedules...

### Fellowship Servers

Jan 1 Mona Hjelle / Elaine Abraham  
 Jan 8 Potluck  
 Jan 15 Violet Dauk / Laurel Iverson  
 Jan 22 Linda Dilley / Bonnie Hansen  
 Jan 29 Gwen Ruchti  
 Feb 5 Mike & Brooke Knutson  
 Feb 12 Friendship Sunday Brunch  
 Feb 19 Marcia Welsh / Pam Johnson  
 Feb 26 Becky Sarsland / Mary Raddatz

### Usher Schedule

Jan 1 Kevin Welsh & Jamie Iverson  
 Jan 8 Duane Hansen & Chuck Weffen  
 Jan 15 Brent & Lance Sawatzky  
 Jan 22 Jason & Noah Miller  
 Jan 29 Bo & George Arends-Schmidt  
 Feb 5 Wendy & Lonny Robbin  
 Feb 12 Brady & Andrew Sharp  
 Feb 19 Linda Dilley & Davis Rustad  
 Feb 26 Wally Abraham and Joe Johnson

### Make A Meal Volunteers

Jan Wendy Robbin & Pam Johnson  
 Feb Donna Peterson & Jamie Iverson

### Altar Guild

Jan Nancy Jo Wendt  
 Feb Mona Hjelle

### Elders

Jan 1 Jason Miller & Kevin Welsh  
 Jan 15 Keith Hanson & Ed Vegdahl  
 Feb 5 Mark Fuglie & Jason Miller  
 Feb 19 Kevin Welsh & Keith Hanson

### Nursery (volunteers needed)

(Amanda Sharp - substitute helper)

Jan 1 Ryland Engler & Mona Hjelle  
 Jan 8 Lance Sawatzky & Noah Miller  
 Jan 15 George Arends-Schmidt & Davis Rustad  
 Jan 22 McCartney Knutson & Andrew Sharp  
 Jan 29 Carson Jaspersen & Ryland Engler  
 Feb 5 Mona Hjelle & Lance Sawatzky  
 Feb 12 Noah Miller & George Arends-Schmidt  
 Feb 19 Davis Rustad & McCartney Knutson  
 Feb 26 Andrew Sharp & Carson Jaspersen

## Page 14

**That for a day:** Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace

## Page 15

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

Jan 1 Eli Sharp  
 Jan 8 George Arends-Schmidt  
 Jan 15 Carson Jaspersen  
 Jan 22 Noah Miller  
 Jan 29 Davis Rustad  
 Feb 5 Lance Sawatzky  
 Feb 12 Andrew Sharp  
 Feb 19 Gage Dahl  
 Feb 26 Levi Miller

### Scripture Readers

Jan 1 Becky Sarsland  
 Jan 8 CTI  
 Jan 15 Nykki Foshaug  
 Jan 22 Mona Hjelle  
 Jan 29 Kevin Welsh  
 Feb 5 Laurel Iverson  
 Feb 12 Tammy Wachter  
 Feb 19 Wendy Robbin  
 Feb 26 Linda Dilley

### Accompanying Musicians

Jan 1 Sharon Willen  
 Jan 8 CTI  
 Jan 15 Pam Johnson  
 Jan 22 Scott Wachter  
 Jan 29 Scott Wachter  
 Feb 5 Sharon Willen  
 Feb 12 Scott Wachter  
 Feb 19 Pam Johnson  
 Feb 26 Scott Wachter

### Custodian

January Custodians Needed  
 February Wendy & Lonny Robbin

## Congratulations...

- Andrew Sharp - on your bowling championship!

Please email

[pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net) if there's someone you'd like us to extend congratulations to.

## January Discipleship Verse...



"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

Mark 12:30



## Email Inspiration...

Modern culture is full of good news/bad news jokes. For example, there is the one about the pastor who stood up on Sunday and declared, "The good news is we have enough money here this morning to pay off the church debt and to build our new building." Then he added, "But the bad news is, it is still in your pockets!"

In Romans 6:23, one of the most informative and inspirational verses in the Bible, we find some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that "the wages of sin is death." But the good news is that "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

### The Bad News

There is some bad news in this verse: "the wages of sin is death." The Greek word for sin is best understood as "missing the mark." The word picture describes an archer who shoots his arrow at the target and misses the bull's-eye. We all find ourselves here as "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). We have all missed the mark, and the bad news is that its cost, or wage, is death.

A wage is what we get for doing something. We work a certain number of hours, and our employer pays us an agreed-upon wage. It is something we have earned, something we deserve. It is something we have coming to us. The Bible says, "the wages of sin is death." It is strange how many men and women sin, thinking it is going to pay dividends of fun and pleasure. But Satan is a liar. Sin pays its wage all right, but its wage is death, which is separation from all that is good.

Payday is coming someday. That is the bad news. When we miss the mark, it costs us greatly.

### The Good News

But the good news is this: "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." It is a gift, a free gift that cannot be earned nor deserved.

We all remember the excitement of opening gifts as children around the Christmas tree. We did not have to pay for those gifts. We did nothing to earn them. We simply opened them and received them. A gift is the opposite of a wage. We earn and deserve our wages. We don't earn or deserve a gift. If we did, it would be a reward and not a gift.

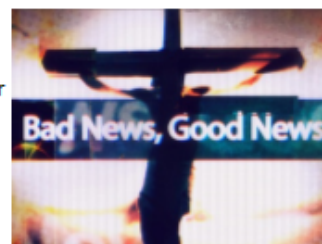
How is this all possible? We still have to deal with the bad news. Jesus made the way possible for us by dealing with the bad news Himself. Two thousand years ago on a Roman cross outside the city walls

## Page 16

That for a day: Ignorance might be bliss to you, but it's agony to everyone around you.

## Page 17

of Jerusalem, Jesus took the bad news and became sin for us. Yes, the wages of sin is death, and He died our death on the cross, paying the penalty for our sin. He paid the price, so now we can finish the verse with this good news, "but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." He made a way out of no way. Our part is to receive this God-provided and free gift by faith alone in Him.



What a difference there is in these two bits of news! The bad news is that sin is costly, and it has a wage attached to it. The good news is that eternal life is free. It is God's gift to us. And that is no joke!

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## RESET in January...

Kickoffs off on January 15!

### RESET

A congregation-wide opportunity  
From Sunday sermons to group studies we'll learn how Jesus has the power to Reset our lives.



To reset something is, literally, to set it back to its original purpose, its original design. When an electronic device is functioning in a less-than-optimal way, it can be reset it so that whatever was stuck gets unstuck and all the connections can run smoothly again.

Similarly, when life is functioning in a less-than-optimal way, it can be reset too. This happens first on the inside, where our deep-seated cravings for significance and satisfaction live.

Each of our existing study groups will be using this study. (Sunday morning group, Tuesday Men's group, Wednesday Women's group). In addition Jason & Sarah Miller will host a Reset Study at their home on Sunday evenings at 6pm. We'd like to have more in-home studies. If you'd like to host one but have questions. Talk to Pastor David.

Week 1: Reset My Heart - It All Starts Here

Week 2: Reset My Mind - I Am What I Think About

Week 3: Reset My Voice - Good News for Bad Times

Week 4: Reset My Hands - Soul at Peace, Hands at Work

## Miscellaneous Notes...

### Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

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

- Read With Me Bibles for toddlers
- Today's Light Devotional Bibles
- January Living Word newsletters
- January Today's Light daily Bible readings
- Jan-March Portals of Prayer - daily devotionals
- Family Devotion Books



### Winter: A Great Time for Direct Deposit Your Offerings

Bad winter weather may keep you away, but direct-deposit can ensure your offerings are still supporting our mission while you are away. Thrivent Financial 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 Jason Miller for more details.

### Sermons Now Available in Audio on our Website

<http://livingwordlutheran.net/sermons.htm>

(Or just click on "New Sermons Online" at the bottom of the [livingwordlutheran.net](http://livingwordlutheran.net) home page)



Sermons from this past month:

Dec 4 "Gifts for the King- Your Testimony"

Dec 11 - "Gifts for the King- Three more "T's"

Christmas Eve - A Christmas Parable from an unlikely place: Facebook  
Christmas Day - The Big Picture of Jesus' Birth (God & Son Restoration)

## We Prayed For You...

Remember to use our "We Prayed for You" program...

In 2016 we started a new prayer ministry where we send out a card or two each week to people we prayed for during worship. Nancy Jo Wendt is our card sender.

How you can help: Simply tell Nancy when you feel that someone you asked us to pray for would be greatly encouraged by getting a card. Then just call, email or text Nancy with that person's address. It truly is a simple way to brighten the spirits of someone who's going through a tough time.



That for a day: Problems that go away by themselves usually come back by themselves.

## JANUARY NEWS



Chasity Omsell, Client Services and Community Engagement • 326.794.2522 • [thelinkservices@faithlutheran.org](mailto:thelinkservices@faithlutheran.org)



### New Year, New Opportunities:

Happy New Year to all! This January is full of new opportunities in the local community.

The Link will be launching a new program: The Link Food Pantry. This program will ensure that your neighbors dealing with hunger will have access to food. In late January, the Food Pantry will be open in the Community Outreach Building (former ACMC Clinic) where the Willmar Area Food Shelf was operated. With your generous support, the Food Pantry will provide key food items and a loving response to the needs of our community.

### New Office Location:

The Link currently operates from two locations with staff offices at Faith Lutheran Church in Spicer and the Household Exchange in New London. In January, Rhonda and Chasity will relocate their offices to the Community Outreach Building. This will allow deeper engagement with The Link volunteers, donors, the community and people in need.

### New Website:

The Link will introduce a new and more resourceful website. The site will allow users to learn more about The Link, find ways to get involved by donating or volunteering and see how your support is making a difference in the lives of others. The new site will be: [youarethelink.org](http://youarethelink.org)

### Your Support:

The Link has raised \$4,300 toward the goal of \$25,000 to open the Food Pantry.

Send donations to: The Link, 310 Medayto Drive, Spicer, MN 56288 with "food pantry" in the memo. Please contact Chasity or Rhonda with any questions.

*Our mission: Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other.*

### Christmas Concert Success:

*The Christmas Choir Concert was a huge success with many attendees declaring that it was the best concert yet! There were many hours spent practicing and it showed! Thank you to all of the area churches and choir members who participated to support The Link.*

### Stock the Pantry:

*Key food items: Milk, eggs, bread, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, noodles and sauce, peanut butter, jelly, tuna; please contact Chasity at 796-2522 to make a donation of food.*

### Happy New Year!

*The Link would like to wish you a Happy New Year!*



Mrs. Tonpa and the third grade class collected over 1,000 food items for The Link Food Pantry.

### Tuesday's Table

Jan. 3rd: Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church

Jan. 10th: Evangelical Covenant Church

Jan. 17th: Faith Lutheran Church

Jan. 24th: Peace Lutheran

Jan. 31st: The Sunrise Lions @ Faith Lutheran Church

Food. Friends. Fellowship.

## Sunday School News...

### • CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

- + Re-Scheduled for Friday evening, January 6 at 7pm.
- + Coffee, cider and cookies will be served following the program.

- **WE'LL CELEBRATE A NEW YEARS DAY PARTY** During the Sunday School Hour- Sunday January 1, 2017, New Years Day
- **REGULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** Will Resume - Sunday Jan. 8, 2017

**Class:** 9:00 - 9:50

### • CURRICULUM: "Video Games"

Jan. 8 - "Incompatible" - Live by the Spirit- Galatians 5:13-18, 22-26  
Jan. 15 - "Multi-Player Mode" - God Makes Eve - Genesis 2:15-24  
Jan. 22 - "Cheater Codes" - Moses Kills the Egyptian - Exodus 2:11-25  
Jan. 29 - "Game Over" - Jesus Prepares a Place for Us - John 14:1-7  
Feb. Curriculum: "Candy Bars"  
Feb. 5 - "Crunch" - Crossing the Red Sea - Exodus 13:20-14:29  
Feb. 12 - "Butterfinger" - Jesus Anointed - Luke 7:36-50

### • PRESCHOOL LESSONS

Jan 8th - "Fruit of the Spirit" Galatians 5:22-26  
Jan. 15 - "Adam and Eve" Genesis 2:15-22  
Jan. 22 - "Life of Moses" Baby Moses Exodus 2:1-10  
Jan. 29 - "Jesus is the Way" John 14:2-6  
Feb. 5 - "Life of Moses" Escape from Egypt Exodus 14:5-31  
Feb. 12 - "Putting Jesus First with our Actions" Luke 7:36-38, 44-48

## 3rd—6th Grade Group...

Meets every Wednesday from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
(Except on days NL-S does not have school or is cancelled)

**This month: January 4, 11, 18, 25**

- We could really use more adult volunteers. Please talk to Violet (320-220-0344) if you could help out once-a-month or so by doing something with the kids that you really enjoy (e.g. ice fishing, snowmobiling, baking, building stuff, etc...) THANKS!
- Kids are encouraged to invite friends  
(We have postcard invitations they can give to their friends)

## Page 20

That for a day: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

## Page 21

## Mark Your Calendars...

**FFAA Night:** Friday, January

"Fun For All Ages Nights" are not just for summer any more! We are hosting the FFAA nights on the last Friday of every month. FFAA Night in January will be Friday, January 27 @ 6:30. Watch the Sunday bulletins and Living Word Facebook page for specific details about this month's FFAA.

### CTI 14:22 is Coming to Living Word

The CTI group shares the Good News of Jesus around the world. They bring their music and testimonies of God's work to us during worship (10 a.m.) Jan. 8. Meet the group at <https://youtu.be/3SQTP7r4L-s>  
Or read about the members starting on page 6 of this newsletter

### Children's Christmas Program

Re-Scheduled for Friday evening, January 6 at 7pm.  
Coffee, cider and cookies will be served following the program.

## Choir Notes...



Choir will again be rehearsing on the 3rd and 4th Sundays this month. We practice after coffee fellowship. Come and join us.

## 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 January Make-a-Meal volunteers are Wendy Robbin & Pam Johnson Thanks!

## LWML News...



Our LWML planning meeting is scheduled for January 11th at 10:00. We will be meeting at the church. Please come and be part of planning for General Meeting and looking over our past year. Hope to see you there



## Story Behind The Song...

### O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Isaac Watts penned some of our best-loved hymns - including a Christmas favorite, *Joy to the World* (which he based, not on the Christmas story, but on verses 4-7 of Psalm 98).

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past* is a great song for starting the new year. It reminds us that we can trust God in the future, because He has always kept His commitments in the past. Appropriately, this song was played by the BBC on the radio as WWII was declared.

The verses were originally written as a paraphrase of Psalm 90 and was originally published in his book *Psalms of David Imitated* (as was *Joy to the World*). I

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne Still may we dwell secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

Thy Word commands our flesh to dust, Return, ye sons of men:  
All nations rose from earth at first, And turn to earth again.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood, With all their lives and cares,  
Are carried downwards by the flood, And lost in following years.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.

Like flowery fields the nations stand Pleased with the morning light  
The flowers beneath the mower's hand Lie withering ere 'tis night.

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last, And our eternal home.

Editor's note: The versions mentioned in the article are good, but my favorite is by Penatonix at <https://youtu.be/ifCWN5pJGIE>

## Page 22

That for a day: Smart young folks know all the rules. Smart old folks know the exceptions.

## Page 23

## E-mail Humor....

### A NEW YEAR PRAYER FOR SENIORS

God, grant me the senility to forget the people who don't like me, The good fortune to run into the ones who do, And the eyesight to tell the difference.

\*\*\*\*\*



A minister, visiting a family's home near Christmas time, sees a beautiful Nativity set.

He asks an adorable tot in the family, "Do you know what this is?"

She replies, "Yes, it's breakable."

