


Living Word
Lutheran Church
LCMS



January 2021 Newsletter
"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. (vis Zoom)
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (& Facebook Live)

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

Questions for Pastor...

"How was your Christmas?"

I'll bet I'm not the only one on the receiving end of that question! It's probably even one you asked a few times over this past week.



My answer (and maybe yours) typically goes something like this:

- *It was good ! (exclamation point optional)*
- *The Candlelight service was a great way to start things off !*
- *We were able to spend time / Zoom with ... (fill in names of relatives).*
- *We had ... (fill in the special foods you ate / made / choked down).*
- *I got ... (fill in gifts you received).*
- *It was fun to see ... (fill in reaction of kids / grandkids / spouse to gifts)*
- *How about you ?*

But as I thought about my typical answer, I was reminded of a reply I received when I asked that question some thirty years ago while visiting one of my parents' friends in the nursing home in my hometown:

"David (this was said rather sternly while looking me in the eye), Christmas isn't about presents and food or any of those other things! IT'S ABOUT JESUS. And He's always good!"

I need to remember that answer for next year! It's much better than the typical one I've been giving!

Thanks for asking!
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Page 3

Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the First and Third Sundays in November. (January 3rd & 17th)



We have **NEW Wine & Wafer Sealed Communion Packets**. Since the COVID protocols were put into effect, we have been using pre-sealed packets of grape juice and a bread wafer. Pre-sealed packets that contain wine as well as a larger bread wafer have recently been made available. We were able to order some of these new wine/wafer packets and will begin using them in communion starting with the first Sunday in October.

We also now have **available gluten-free bread wafers** for those who have gluten-sensitive conditions. You will find these wafers in a separate cup in the communion tray.

NEW 'SOCIAL DISTANCING' COMMUNION PROCEDURE:

Everyone will remain in their seat for communion. After consecrating the elements, Pastor and the Elders will distribute a sealed packet of both wafer and grape juice to each communicant. After everyone has received their packet, we will all open them and partake of communion at the same time. Pastor will then give the communion dismissal to everyone. (Please continue to pray for an end to the restrictions so we can come to the altar rail for the Lord's Supper again soon!)

A New Way to "Participate" in Worship if you can't be here is person...

Facebook Live

On Sunday, November 29, we began live-streaming the message on the Living Word Facebook group page. Plans are to continue that each Sunday. We will also stream the Scripture readings prior to the message and the Apostles' Creed following it. Tune in around 10:25 (give or take).

Join our Facebook group at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131798513523470/>



Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Study:

Sunday mornings @ 9:00

"Please join us. Bring your coffee and Grow in God's Word!"

Wednesday Prayer Time:

A special invitation to everyone to meet weekly in prayer Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Prayer is a foundational part of our spiritual life both personally and as a congregation. We would love to have you join us.

12 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

18 "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:12; 18

Wednesday Evening Women's Study @

NEW Study begins

Jan. 13 at Violet's Home @ 6:30

We moved the study location, since it's too tough to hear at church with Confirmation classes going on - and we can't "social distance" in Pastor's office.

We will start with Prayer Time @ 6:00 followed by Study at 6:30.



Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Wednesday, January 13 @ 10:00 a.m.

We are studying Women of the Bible.

All are welcome to attend. If weather is inclement please call Leone about meeting. 320-354-4665.

Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m.

"WEIRD: Because Normal Isn't Working"

Please join us Tuesday evenings @ 6:30



Confirmation Class

Jan. 6: There will be no class.

(Use the time to catch up on Sermon Notes and readings)

Jan 13: We will have Zoom class.

+ 6-7th Graders Meet from 6:00 - 6:40 via zoom

+ 8-9th Graders Meet from 7:00 - 7:40 via Zoom

Jan 20: Since NL-S is going back to on-site classes, we will also transition back to on-site classes beginning January 20.



Page 4

Thot for a day: A police officer came to my house and asked where I was between 5 and 6. He seemed irritated when I answered "kindergarten."

Page 5

Remember to Wear...

...your "Living Word" Sweatshirts

Not only are they warm (and look really "cool") but they could also be a conversation starter when people ask things like, "And where is Living Word located?"



Email Thoughts for the New Year...

Happy New Year !

Q: What is a New Year's resolution?

A: Something that goes in one year and out the other.

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up for new year's.

Middle age is when you're forced to.

My New Year's resolution is to stop hanging out with people who ask me about my New Year's resolutions.

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in.

A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

I see no need to make more New Year's resolutions when the ones already on the books aren't being enforced.

This New Year's, I resolved to lead a better life. Now all I have to do is find someone who will trade lives with me.

Q: What's the one group that hates New Year's Day?

A: The New Year's Eve clean-up crew.

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter! :)



The Link...

December 2020 Updates

Christmas is definitely upon us here at The Link! We have been extremely busy with people reaching out, not only looking for help, but offering to help those in need. There has been many food and gift donations, monetary donations and families wanting to shop for other families to ensure children have something to open on Christmas. The staff and volunteers have spent many hours serving families, taking donations and organizing Christmas Joy. Seeing the giving spirit definitely reminds us what Christmas is all about and makes us excited to be a part of such a compassionate and God-serving community.

For Thanksgiving, The Link was able to help provide 116 families and 503 individuals with Thanksgiving meals thanks to those who donated money to help us purchase baskets and those who shopped themselves. There were a lot of people that were able to save a trip to the grocery store in these uncertain times thanks to these food baskets and everyone who picked up expressed extreme gratitude.

In November, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 14 new families, served 41 children, 79 adults and 21 seniors. 3960 pounds of food was distributed and 1688 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches. The Food Pantry has been busier this past month than it has been since March. We have seen an increased need for food and more and more new families calling to sign up for services.

The Wildcat Backpack Program is going to be run a little differently now that school is going to the distant learning model. If you know a family that could benefit from this program, please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

Senior Food Delivery- If you, or someone you know, is interested in hearing more about this program please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

The Link's **Client Outreach** program served 8 families in the month of November by helping with medical bills, utility bills and rental payments. This program also connected families with needed appliances and furniture as well as financial resources outside of The Link to help with bigger bills and necessities. There has also been a lot of referrals to The Hope Care Pantry over the past month for people in need of hygiene items, toiletries and other household essentials as well.

As always, a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has reached out to help in any way, to those who have donated food and/or monetarily

Page 6

That for a day: It's been a strange day! First, I found a hat full of money on the sidewalk. Then I was chased by an angry man with a guitar.

Page 7

and to those who have prayed for and with us here at The Link! God is working in many wonderful ways this holiday season and we are grateful to serve such an amazing community and an even more amazing God! Merry Christmas and God Bless!

Tuesday's Table continues to be cancelled until further notice.

Monthly Giving Opportunities:

The Link makes monthly giving a convenient option for our donors. You can set up online giving through The Link's website at www.youarethelink.org or directly through your bank.

If you would like to make a one time donation, you can send a check to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273 or via Venmo @The-Link-1. Please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555 or email her at ashley@youarethelink.org for more information.

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Thanks to Ondrej Paska (See Matthew 14:24-33)

01-04-2008

PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER

Thank You...

... To everyone who brought Poinsettias!
... To everyone who remembered us with cards and gifts this Christmas! Your support and partnership in the Gospel is truly a great blessing!
Pastor David & Violet

If you have someone you'd like to offer congratulations to, just email Scott at webmaster@livingwordlutheran.net

Email Humor...

If you know a four-year old, you'll smile at these:

One day my son asked me what a certain word meant. I was so proud of my dear, concise definition that was just right for his age. But when I finished, he thought for a moment and said, "I'd better ask Mommy."

At three years old, the first thing he said when he saw his new baby brother was, "Is he my best friend?" (Note: He only asked that once!)

One day our four year old son was making something at the dining room table. His mommy was upstairs taking care of the baby, and his daddy was standing a few feet away. He needed help with what he was doing, so he yelled out, "Mommy, could you come here please?" She called back down, "I'm taking care of the baby, ask Daddy. He's right there." So he replied, "Daddy, could you tell Mommy to come here, please?"

Perhaps just to keep us humble, when my wife or I would be going out the front door, our four-year-old son would call out to us *very loudly*, while the door was wide open and for the whole neighborhood to hear, "Make sure you don't pick your nose!"

One day at church our four year old turned to his mommy and said, "Mommy, I love you even though you are a big sinner."

Our four-year-old came upstairs and said to his mom, "There is a bee downstairs." She replied, "I think it's a fly." He insisted that it was a bee, but she confidently replied, "No, I was down there earlier and saw it. It's a fly." Not to be swayed, our son quickly replied, "Well, it's a bee now!"

My four-year-old son told me that it was his stuffed animal's birthday today. Since this was probably the third birthday this animal had in about as many weeks, I commented that she seems to have a lot of birthdays. He explained, "Well, the older you get, the faster they come!"

Explaining things to his dear old dad, our four-year-old son said, "Sometimes that happens.... and this was a sometimes."

Our four-year-old son's favorite meal is pancakes. This day he had eaten several, but insisted he was still hungry. He was sure he could eat several more. Then I mentioned about being able to go play when he was done eating, and he quickly said, "Daddy, I want to be full now."

Page 8

Apparently RSVPing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time" isn't the correct response.

That for a day:

Page 9 Just For Fun...

Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

More puzzles at:
biblewordgames.com

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

ABRAHAM	HUNDRED
AHAB	ISAAC
BAAL	ISRAEL
BLOOD	JEZEBEL
BROOK	JOURNEY
BULLOCK	KINGDOM
BURNT	KISHON
CARMEL	KNIVES
CAVE	LEAPED
CHILDREN	LORD
CLOUD	MOCKED
CUT	OBADIAH
DRESSED	PROPHETS
ELUAH	RAIN
ESCAPE	SACRIFICE
FORSAKEN	SERVANT
FOUR	SPIRIT
GATHERED	TRENCH
GROVES	WATER
COMMANDMENTS	ANSWERETH

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

_____ Psalm 9

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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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. This past month we thanked God for:

- Thank God for: Our Live Nativity!
- Thanks to All who Drove Through Our Live Nativity!
- Your Hope for 2021: JESUS

Let Pastor know how you'd complete that sentence in January.

Sunday School News...

- Jan. 10- The Baptism of Jesus - Matt. 3:13-17
- Jan. 17- Jesus Turns Water into Wine - John 2:1-11
- Jan. 24- Jesus Calls Andrew, Peter, Phillip and Nathanael - John 1:35-51
- Jan. 31- Jesus Drives out an Evil Spirit - Mark 1:21-28
- Feb. 7- Jesus Heals Many and Prays - Mark 1:29-39

Dear Parents,

It is our Hope that we will begin Sunday School, in-person, some-time in the month of January.

I will continue to send lessons in the mail to those not able to join us.

Please, if there are any concerns or something we can address for you, please let Pastor, Wendy or Mona know.

Hoping to see all of you very soon!

Gods Blessings to you in 2021, Mona Hjelle

Email Wisdom...

A CHRISTMAS LETTER (POEM) FROM JESUS

When you look for me at Christmas,
You won't need a special star.
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right here where you are.

You may not be aware of me
Amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores
And all the decorations.

But if you take a moment
From your list of things to do,
To close your eyes and say a prayer,
I'm waiting here for you.

You're the one I want to be with.
You're the reason that I came!
And you'll find me in the stillness
Where I'm whispering your name.

Page 10

That for a day: Talk is cheap. That's why so many people do so much of it

Page 11 Simple Ways to Give Your Spiritual Life a Lift...

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

God renews our mind through what we put into it. A couple of things are true regarding what we put into our minds:

- 1) You tend to believe what you hear most often.
- 2) What you put into your mind is what comes out in your life.

It just makes sense that life goes better when we put the things of God into our minds daily.

Once again, daily Bible readings will be printed in each Newsletter to help you get into God's Diary. God's Word is more than just a reference book to keep on the shelf until you need to find out something. God calls his Word "Living and Active." That means there is power in the Word.

God's Word:	Generates life	Creates faith	Heals hurts
	Produces change	Overpowers the devil	Infuses hope
	Causes miracles	Overcomes adversity	Forgives sins
	Builds character	Defeats temptation	Imparts joy
	Transforms circumstances		Releases power
	Guarantees our future forever!		

Some results God promises from reading You will . . .

- + be able to live a life worthy of the Lord
- + please God
- + bear fruit like: love, joy, peace, patience, self-control, faithfulness
- + grow in your faith - your trust in God will be strengthened
- + tap into God's power for life - physical as well as spiritual
- + gain endurance for getting through life
- + gain a thankful attitude as you are reminded of all God has done for you
- + grow in your love - for God and the people in your life
- + be able to tell what is good and right
- + be completely equipped for every good work.

Be it resolved that . . .

- 1) Make the commitment today:
"I commit to feeding my Spirit with God's word daily." Signed _____
- 2) Pick the time that will work best for you:
"I will set aside time at ____:____ each day to spend with God."
- 3) Set your Bible in a place where you literally will trip over it every day:
"I'll put my Bible _____"
- 4) PRAY. Ask God to help you resist Satan's temptations to quit.
"Lord, I know Satan will tempt me by _____"
Please help me to stand firm and resist his lies."

January 2021 - Daily Readings

January begins with Epiphany - the celebration of the coming of the Wise Men. We'll read what the Bible says about WISDOM - what it is, who has it, how to get it, how to put it into practice.

Wk of Jan 5 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the Old Testament

- Jan 6 Deuteronomy 4:1-8 _____
 Jan 7 1 Kings 3:5-14 _____
 Jan 8 Job 32:1-9 _____
 Jan 9 Daniel 2:14-23 _____
 Jan 10 Daniel 12:3 _____
 Jan 11 Hosea 14:1-3,9 _____

Week of Jan 12 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the Psalms

- Jan 13 Psalm 2:1-6, 10-12 _____
 Jan 14 Psalm 19:7-11 _____
 Jan 15 Psalm 36:1-4 _____
 Jan 16 Psalm 111:10 _____
 Jan 17 Psalm 119:97-100 _____
 Jan 18 Psalm 104:1-24 _____

Wk of Jan 19 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the Gospels

- Jan 20 Matthew 7:24-27 _____

- Jan 21 Matthew 13:53-56 _____
 Jan 22 Matthew 24:42-51 _____
 Jan 23 Matthew 25:1-13 _____
 Jan 24 Mark 12:28-34 _____
 Jan 25 Luke 2:40-52 _____



Wk of Jan 26 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the New Testament

- Jan 27 Acts 6:1-4 _____
 Jan 28 Romans 11:33-36 _____
 Jan 29 1 Corinthians 1:17-31 _____
 Jan 30 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 _____
 Jan 31 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 _____
 Feb 1 2 Peter 3:14-18 _____

Wk of Feb 2 Daily Readings Words about WISDOM in the New Testament

- Feb 3 Ephesians 1:17-19 _____
 Feb 4 Ephesians 3:7-13 _____
 Feb 5 Colossians 1:9-12 _____
 Feb 6 Colossians 3:12-17 _____
 Feb 7 James 1:5-8 _____
 Feb 8 James 3:13-18 _____

January 2021 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/COMMUNION 	4	5 6:30 MENS' STUDY	6	7	8	9
10 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	11	12 6:30 MENS' STUDY	13 10:00 MONTHLY LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 - PRAYER TIME 6:00 - 6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - 8-9th CONFIRMATION	14 MISSION Ministry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM	15	16
17 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP w/COMMUNION 	18	19 6:30 MENS' STUDY	20 6:00 - PRAYER TIME 6:00 - 6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - 8-9th CONFIRMATION	21	22	23
24 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP 1:00 - BAPTISM: Westyn Ampe	25	26 6:30 MENS' STUDY	27 6:00 - PRAYER TIME 6:00 - 6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - 8-9th CONFIRMATION	28 <div data-bbox="1365 1031 1806 1177"> Lord's Supper Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, January 3rd Sunday, January 17th </div>	29	30
31 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 - ADULT STUDY 10:00 - WORSHIP	Feb 1	Feb 2 6:30 MENS' STUDY	Feb 3 6:00 - PRAYER TIME 6:00 - 6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00 - 8-9th CONFIRMATION	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6

Upcoming Schedules...

Fellowship Servers

We will not be having "Fellowship" after worship until the social distancing guidelines are relaxed. - Please pray for that to happen soon!

Usher Schedule

The Usher schedule is "on hold" until COVID restrictions are eased.

Scripture Readers

NOTE: Pastor David will read the Scriptures in Worship until COVID restrictions are eased

Elders

Jan 3, 10	Ed Vegdahl & Joe Johnson
Jan 17, 24 & 31	Keith Hanson & Kevin Welsh

Custodian

January	Duane & Bonnie Hansen
February	Lonny & Wendy Robbin

Make A Meal Volunteers

January	Bonnie Hansen
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Nursery

Jan 3	Pam Johnson
Jan 10	Volunteer Needed
Jan 17	Mona Hjelle
Jan 24	Violet Dauk
Jan 31	Volunteer Needed

Accompanying Musicians

Jan 3	Sharon Willen
Jan 10	Scott Wachter
Jan 17	Pam Johnson
Jan 24	Carmen Macik
Jan 31	Available

Altar Guild

January	Mona Hjelle
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Seen on Church Signboards...

**What Part of
"Thou Shalt Not"
Don't You Understand?
— God**

Page 16

Thot for a day: Stop telling God how big your storm is. Instead, tell your storm how big your God is.

Page 17

A Minute for Parents...

Set an example by giving an "After-Christmas" Gift that keeps on giving. (The same one God gave us at Christmas)

By now some of the Christmas presents you gave your kids have become broken. Others have been forgotten. Hopefully some are still in use. But the start of a new year would be a great time to resolve to give your children the present they really want most - your presence.

His presence is the present God gave us at Christmas. It's the one he has promised to give us until the end of time "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Mt. 28:20

Of all the things my parents did to show their love, the things that stick in my mind most are the times they made a special effort to just "be there." Chances are the same can be said for you. And chances are that is what your kids will remember too.

How can you spend more time with your children - collectively and individually? After school? In the evening? On the weekends?

Maybe read them a story instead of reading the newspaper. Play a game with them instead of watching TV. Plan a special project that you can work on together. Have a "Date Your Kid" night once a week. Set aside one night as "Family night." Get their input on what they would like to do on those days. Sit down with them and plan what you will do then put it on the calendar.

"Being there" isn't limited to the kids that still live under your roof. When could you "be there" for your kids that are away at college? When could you "be there" for those children that live on their own?

**Follow Jesus' example and give the gift of your presence.
It says "I love you" like nothing else.**

January Discipleship Verse...

*"Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
Then you will win favor and a good name
in the sight of God and man." Proverbs 3:3-4*

Miscellaneous Notes...

Food Pantry Reminder

2nd Sunday of each month, please remember to bring your donations for the Food Pantry.

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 Bible
- Free to be Faithful articles
- 100 or so Key Chapter Bible Reading Booklets
- January Newsletters
- January-March Portals of Prayer



Sermons Now Available in Video on our Website



Find at livingwordlutheran.net. Sermons can be found in our recorded worship services at <http://livingwordlutheran.net/video.htm>

- 12/06/20 "The source of HOPE - Your Light IN the tunnel"
- 12/13/20 "Jesus tells us what He wants 'for Christmas'?"
- 12/20/20 "Where to look for JOY when it's really hard to find."
- 12/24/20 "For God so LOVED the world He gave His only Son. That's Christmas!"
- 12/27/20 "Your Cure for the post-Christmas let-down"

Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2021

If you like to use dated envelopes for your offerings, we have them available. Just pick up a box of envelopes from under the mailboxes. Write down the # of the box you took. Thanks!

Still Available: Direct Deposit for Your Offerings

Living Word has the option of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account.

Our 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.

Page 18

That for a day: A penny saved is actually better than a penny earned because the penny saved has already been taxed.

Page 19

Prayer...

Remember to use "The Prayer Force"



Please continue to call, text (320-220-1816) or email (pastor@livingwordlutheran.net) prayer requests to Pastor David for the Prayer Force prayer chain to include in their prayers. Thanks!

And an Invitation to Join our "Prayer Force"

Being a part of our prayer chain is a HUGE important - and very simple - way you can serve God and His people! When a request to pray comes in, Pastor forwards it via text message (or email for those who don't have a cell phone). Then you simply include that request in your prayers. Text Pastor today and tell him "Yeah, I can do that!" Thanks!

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 and PRAY for...

- Thank God for bringing lots of people to our Drive-Through Live Nativity
- Thank God for a great turnout for our Candlelight Worship
- Thank God for the people who record our Sunday Facebook Live message
- The Holy Spirit's power to follow God's Plan everyday in 2020
- Thanking God for all the blessings of 2019 (take time to list them)
- Asking God to open our eyes to see His guiding in the coming year
- Thanking God that Jesus is still "Immanuel" (God With Us) today.
- A "Christmas-like" attitude of giving that continues all year
- Safe travel
- God to show you opportunities to Share His Love in Practical Ways.
- Asking God for His power to bring healing to our nation - in all ways!
- Asking God to humble you, seek Him and repent (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- God's protection, guidance, wisdom & courage for gov't leaders
- Protection and boldness in witness for all persecuted Christians
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan

Thank You from the Jastrams..

We are so happy to have you as part of our missionary team. Your support for LCMS mission work in Asia means a lot to us. Dan & Joan Jastram



Read the Christmas newsletter at: <https://tinyurl.com/y7vgn4iw>

Community Outreach News....

Drive-thru Live Nativity Wrap-Up :

- We had over 100 vehicles drive through during the two hours!
- We collected 3 huge boxes of food donations for the food shelf!
- We received \$306 in donations (although we didn't ask for any)!
- We heard countless "Thank you for doing this!" comments!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with the Living Nativity in any way. It was a wonderful multi-generational activity and "rumor" is it won't be a one time event!!

Special thank you to Ruth Vegdahl who put many hours of time in crafting the beautiful costumes. Ones that we can use for years!



Page 20

Thot for a day: I don't remember going the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

Page 21





Page 22

That for a day: I've found that growing up in the 60s was a lot more fun than being in my 60s.

Page 23

Mark Your Calendar...

The NEXT National Youth Gathering (2022 in Houston)

Youth Group Meets
9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning
(via Zoom)



The Mission & Ministry Team
Will Meet Thursday, January 14th
(Our normal 2nd Thursday)

LWMLMEETING: Wednesday, Jan 13th 10:00 a.m.
(followed by Ladies Monthly Bible Study "Women of the Bible")

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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Living Word Blog...

Looking for some entertainment or things to do during the pandemic? Check out our Living Word Blog for lots of fun thoughts, ideas, music videos and more. www.livingwordlutheranlcms.blogspot.com



Opportunities to Serve...

Help With Our Nursery

We need a couple more volunteers to help with our during-worship nursery (2-6 year olds). Please talk to Mona Hjelle if you can help.

Operate our PowerPoint display during worship:

In an effort to keep "touchable surfaces" to a minimum, we are projecting the order of worship - Scripture readings, songs, etc... onto the front wall instead of having them in a worship folder. We need some volunteers to "click" from one screen to the next at the appropriate time during worship. Please talk to Pastor if you could do this one Sunday a month. Thanks!

Operate our new Camcorder

to record parts of each worship service that we can later upload to our website. Talk to Pastor David if you can help out with this - at least one Sunday a month.

Pick Your Month for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian: You can choose any month after March 2021. Talk to our new Trustee, Steve Wulf, to sign up or find out more details. Thanks



Make A Meal

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 call Pastor David or our January Make-a-Meal volunteer, Bonnie Hansen if you know of someone who would appreciate a meal. Thanks!

We are also looking for a person to be the

Make-a-Meal coordinator - someone who notifies the meal makers when a meal is needed and who also arranges for the meal to be delivered.

If you could be that person, please talk to Pastor David. Thanks!



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

We'd like to send out a card or two each week to people we prayed for during worship.

Please contact pastor@livingwordlutheran.net with the address of someone you asked us to pray for who would be greatly encouraged by getting a card. We are currently in need of a volunteer to mail the cards. If you could help, talk to Pastor David



Page 24

That for a day: Aliens probably fly by earth and lock their doors.

Page 25

Donate to Living Word when you order from Amazon



Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon.com purchases to Living Word. Use this link to have your purchases

support Living Word: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1513306>

Our latest donation: Living Word Lutheran Church received an AmazonSmile donation of \$30.23 for the July - September quarter!

Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.



Teal's Grocery gives a 1% rebate to eligible organizations. There's a box under the mail boxes where you can put in your receipts. Thanks to every-

one who turned in Teal's Receipts in 2020! We received back \$160 from 700 receipts!

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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Story Behind The Song...

"All Glory Be To Christ"

This month we will feature a song that you may not be familiar with, but I am sure that you will recognize the tune... It is a new hymn, but an old song.. "Auld Lang Syne". The song written by the Scottish poet Robert Burns in the late 1780's.

The song is a sentimental classic and has become one of the most recognizable songs in the world. It has been used in modern media, New Years Eve celebrations, and was even the original tune for South Korea's national anthem. So, how did this old Scots poem about not

forgetting the old times make its way from the Scottish highlands to the church worship time as "All Glory Be To Christ"?

On January 1st, 2012, Dustin Kensrue led worship for Mars Hill Church. One of the songs in which he led the congregation was one that he had been working on for roughly two years. This new hymn of his involved rewriting the lyrics to that old Scots song "Auld Lang Syne." Dustin said that "the song is generally understood to be something of a reminder for us to foster old and dear friendships. While this is a noble thought, I always had the feeling that there was a possibly better use of the most popular melody in the world."

So, with his belief that the melody could be used for much more, he began making a new hymn from that classic melody. The result was "All Glory Be To Christ." In regards to his new hymn, Dustin said, "the idea is that—especially at the beginning of the new year—we would dedicate all our efforts to bringing glory to Jesus Christ, to acknowledge that anything else would be of no value, and to celebrate our redemption in him."

"All Glory Be to Christ" serves as a beautiful reminder that though our efforts fail, Christ's perfect plan does not and will not. His kingdom is coming, and all things will be made new. We can and should glorify Christ with our lives for all He has done for us.

Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ

CHORUS: All glory be to Christ the King,
All glory be to Christ.
His rule and reign, we'll ever sing,
All glory be to Christ!

His will be done
His kingdom come
On earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet

Page 26

Thot for a day: Dance like Frosty, Shine like Rudolph, Give like Santa, Love like Jesus.

Page 27

All glory be to Christ

CHORUS

When on the day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall ere his people be
All glory be to Christ

CHORUS

Editor's note: Here is a great version by my favorite family bluegrass band, The Petersens... <https://youtu.be/EexEDzJ6zIY>

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson

This year is gonna be ZERO fun.

