

January 2023 Newsletter

"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Sunday School: 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



CHECK OUT OUR CHRIST-MAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

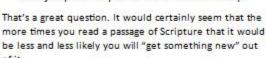
TO HEAR THE BEGINNING OF THIS.

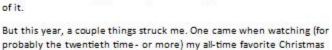
THE GREATEST TRUE STORY EVER TOLD!

https://youtu.be/76scL8NICFg

Questions for Pastor...

"You've told it so many times, does anything new ever jump out at you about Christmas Story?"





I've always loved the scene where Linus tells Charlie, "I can tell you what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown," then steps up on stage and recites the Christmas Story from Luke chapter 2. But this year I noticed something I hadn't before: Prior to that scene, all the kids were acting very self-centered, not getting alone real well, bickering and complaining. And, of course, Charlie was in a funk!

https://youtu.be/KXmGLJ0S1Bs?t=118

special: "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

But everything changed for the kids after Linus reminded them that Christmas was really all about "the good news of great joy about a Savior!" The kids were now more at peace. Cooperation replaced their self-centeredness. Kind comments replaced their bickering. Joy

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permeated the scenes, and Charlie was filled with hope! Being reminded what Christmas is really all about literally changed everything! Why hadn't I noticed that before? I don't know, but I'm glad I noticed it this time around, because Jesus coming does change everything!

The other thing that jumped out at me this year is something I talked about during the Candlelight Service. Of all the made-up Super Hero stories that grab the interest of young and old alike, none can compare with the true story of Jesus that begins in a manger in a little town called Bethlehem. If you weren't able to make it to the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve, please go to our YouTube page and watch/listen again to the beginning of the Greatest True Story Ever Told (see previous page). Why would you want inferior magic or fantasy super-heroes when you can have a real, true Super-Hero with the very power of God!

Thanks for asking! Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

Thank You...

... 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

... everyone who brought Poinsettias!

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

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.

In December we thanked God for...

- Our Live Nativity (even if cancelled due to weather)
- Sunday School Christmas Programs
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

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

Opportunities for Growth...

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sunday mornings at 9:00
Join us for coffee and God's Word!

Monthly Morning Women's Study:

Wednesday, January 11th @ 10:00 a.m. All women are invited to join us!

Evening Women's Study

Wednesdays @ 6:30 at Violet Dauk's home



Men's Study

Tuesdays @ 6:30 Who can you invite to join you?

Small Group Study...



Coming in February:

"I Can Only Imagine"

(Based on the movie)

We are looking for people willing to host a small group study at your house (or a coffeehouse or ???).

It's a great opportunity to invite friends or relatives. Pastor will go through the study with the hosts in January, then you will host your own study during Lent.

Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions or would like to host a study. Thanks!

High School Youth Study...

Wednesday, date TBA

High School Youth Study

At Freedom Center office, Willmar (Becky's workplace)

Our Study:



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knock! Who's there?

Page 5 | Sunday School News...

NO Sunday School on January 1, New Year's Day.

JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES:

During the course of the next few weeks the Sunday School teachers will be teaching a series called "Challenge Accepted!".

We all have challenges that we deal with everyday and some of the hardest challenges is to decide to follow Jesus AND to live that life devoted to God. Some of the challenges that the teachers will teach:

"Waiting to hear from God,"

"Trying to understand Gods plan for us and still be joyful,"

"Moving forward when we don't know what is before us,"

"God is the real deal and can't be imitated or replaced!"

Confirmation News...

Confirmation classes:

Wednesday,

6:00 - 6:50 p.m. for 6-7th Graders

7:00 - 7:50 p.m. for 8-9th Graders

Please check the Parent Helper Schedule

Parents take turns helping out at class

Also Check: The PowerPoint Clicker-Person Schedule

Each student takes a turn operating the "dicker" that changes the PowerPoint screens during Sunday Worship.

LWML News...

LWML MEETING:

Wednesday, January 11th at 10:00a.m. All ladies of the church are welcome to join us!

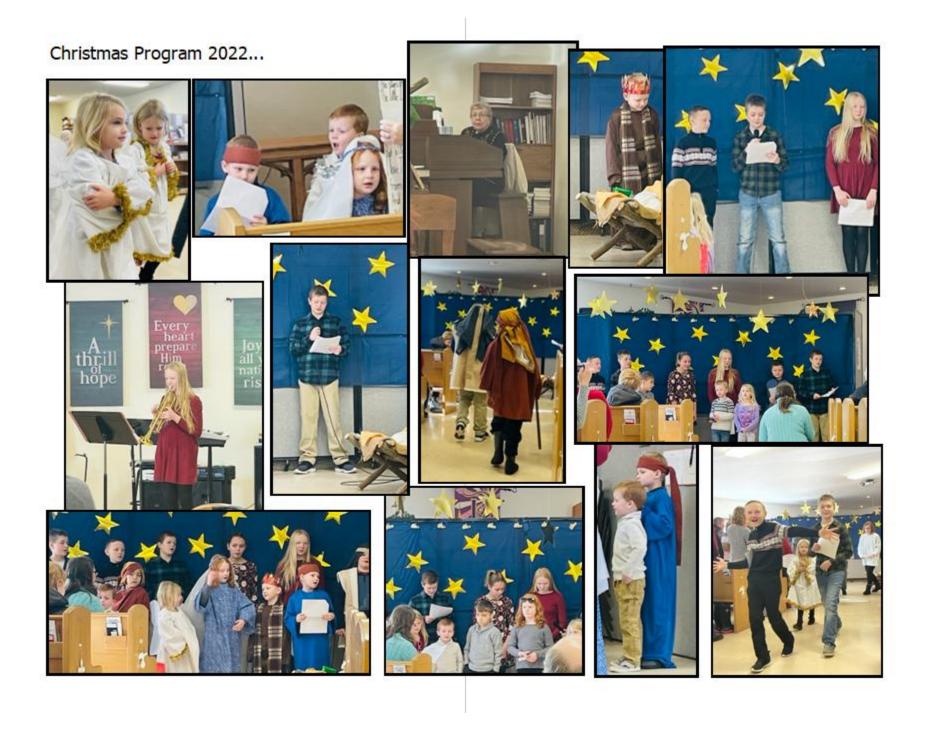
LWML

SHOES FOR MISSIONS:

A huge thank you to all who have donated!

This is a continuing fundraiser for Lutheran Island Camp. Please bring shoes, boots, slippers, sandals (in rubber banded pairs, or with shoestrings tied) to church, and place them in the SHOES FOR MISSIONS box near the entrance.





Mark Your Calendars...

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like

Love

Santa.

Give

Rudolph.

Shine

Voters' Assembly:

Sunday, December 11 Following Worship
Our Fall Assembly is for the purpose of Approving 2023 Budget and
Goals

Mission & Ministry Team

Thursday, January 12th @ 6:30 p.m. Elders' Team @ 5:30 prior to MMT

Building Committee

Next meeting: Thursday, January 26th @ 6:30

Community Outreach News...

Women's Retreat

is scheduled for May 19-21, 2023

@ Willow Ridge Retreat Center in Hutchinson, MN
More details to come!!

Live Nativity Rescheduled for April 1st

(That's NOT an April Fool's joke!)

SLEIGH RIDE

(and lunch!)

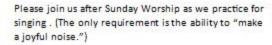
January 22 after worship

Details and sign-up sheet are at church.

Or check with Marcia Welsh.



Church Choir...





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Email Wisdom...

First Grader Nativity

A group of first graders got together and decided to write their own version of the Nativity. It was more modern than the traditional drama. Oh, there were the familiar members of the cast: Joseph, the shepherds, the three wise men, the star, and an angel propped up in the background.

But Mary was nowhere to be seen.

Suddenly behind the bales of hay could be heard some loud moans and groans. Evidently Mary was in labor.

Soon the doctor arrived dressed in a white coat with a stethoscope around his neck. Joseph, with a look of relief on his face takes the doctor straight to Mary, then starts pacing back and forth. After a few moments the "doctor" emerges with a big smile on his face.

"Congratulations, Joseph," he says, "It's a God!"

(Leave it to the kids to get to the heart of the matter!)

Voters' Assembly...

Approved a budget for 2023 as well as these goals:

- Hold a church-wide small group study during Lent (host training in late Jan/early Feb)
- Re-start the "Make A Meal" program
- Expand our Prayer Ministry
- Hold Live Nativity in conjunction with Easter for Kids
- Keep inviting people
- Get more people involved
- Elders host a dinner

If you have ideas for making these goals a reality, please talk with a Mission and Ministry Team member or Pastor David. Thanks!

Bingo Prizes Needed

(For Friendship Sunday in February)

If you have something that would be a good "prize," please talk to Marcia Welsh



That for a day:

Miscellaneous Notes...

Food Pantry Reminder

Please remember to bring your donations for the Food Pantry on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Place them in the purple container by the door at church. Thank to everyone for donating!



Check out our "Free Stuff" Table

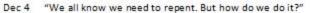
Here's just a sampling of what you'll find:

- LOTS of things for kids to take home!
- Extra Smoke Detector Batteries !!!
- December Newsletters
- Portals of Prayer

Recorded videos of Sermons

Sermons can be found in on our Living Word YouTube channel (New London Living Word) at

https://www.youtube.com/@newlondonlivingword8097/streams



Dec 11 "The Difference Between Thanksgiving and Christmas"

Dec 18 Sunday School Christmas Program

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

"The Beginning of the Greatest (True) Story Ever Told"

Dec 25 "What "gifts" did Jesus bring you? And what to do with them."

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 congression.

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.

Offering Envelopes Are Available for 2023

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 picked up. Thanks!

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Prayer...

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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 HUGELY 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 to PRAY for things like... these VBS Prayers:

- . Thank God for all who came to our Christmas Pgm & Candlelight Worship
- The Holy Spirit's power to follow God's Plan everyday in 2023
- Thanking God for all the blessings of 2022 (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
- · Continued wisdom for guidance and decisions (BIG and small)
- · Courage to take a stand for Jesus at work AND school
- Safe travel (and good weather for traveling)
- Asking God's continued guidance for our Building Committee.
- Asking God to humble you, seek Him and repent (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- . Thanking God that His Word is Truth amidst the lies of the world.
- Protection from the deceitful messages Satan sends your way
- God's protection, guidance, wisdom & courage for government leaders
- The ministry of the Jastrams in Japan.

We STILL have extra batteries

from our outreach!

Please pick some up for your family - and to give to neighbors and friends - from the "Free Stuff" table at church.

That for a day: Knock, knock! Who'

January 2023 - Daily Readings

We Interrupt our Know the Bible Now readings to take our annual January tour through God's "Practical Book of WISDOM" - the Proverbs. Record one bit of wisdom from each day's readings. Keep your list and refer to it throughout the year!

Week of Jan 1 Daily Readings

| Jan 1 | Proverbs 1 |
|--------|------------------------------|
| Jan 2 | Proverbs2 |
| Jan 3 | Proverbs 3 |
| Jan 4 | Proverbs 4 |
| Jan 5 | Proverbs 5 |
| Jan 6 | Proverbs 6 |
| Jan 7 | Proverbs7 |
| | Week of Jan 8 Daily Readings |
| Jan 8 | Proverbs 8 |
| Jan 9 | Proverbs 9 |
| Jan 10 | Proverbs 10 |
| Jan 11 | Proverbs 11 |
| Jan 12 | Proverbs 12 |
| Jan 13 | Proverbs 13 |
| Jan 14 | Proverbs 14 |
| | |

Week of Jan 15 Daily Readings

| Jan 15 | Proverbs 15 |
|--------|---|
| Jan 16 | Proverbs 16 |
| Jan 17 | Proverbs 17 |
| Jan 18 | Proverbs 18 |
| Jan 19 | Proverbs 19 |
| Jan 20 | Proverbs 20 |
| Jan 21 | Proverbs 21 |
| | Week of Jan 22 Daily Readings |
| Jan 22 | Proverbs 22 |
| Jan 23 | Proverbs 23 |
| Jan 24 | Proverbs 24 |
| Jan 25 | Proverbs 25 |
| Jan 26 | Proverbs 26 |
| Jan 27 | Proverbs 27 |
| Jan 28 | Proverbs 28 |
| Jan 29 | Week of Jan 29 Daily Readings Proverbs 29 |
| Jan 30 | Proverbs 30 |
| | Proverbs 31 |

January 2023 - Living Word Lutheran - Calendar of Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 NEW YEAR 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH & ADULT STUDIES 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion | 2 | 3 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY | 4 6:00 -6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00- 8-9th CONFIRMATION | | 6 's Supper D Sunday, Janua Sunday, Janua | ary 1st |
| 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH & ADULT STUDIES 10:00 - WORSHIP | 9 | 10 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY | 11 10:00 - LWML & WOMEN'S STUDY 6:00 -6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00- 8-9th CONFIRMATION | 12 Mission Ministry 5:30 - ELDERS' TEAM 6:30 - MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM | 13 | 14 |
| 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH & ADULT STUDIES 10:00 - WORSHIP w/Communion | 16 | 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY | 18 6:00 -6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00- 8-9th CONFIRMATION | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH & ADULT STUDIES 10:00 - WORSHIP After Worship- SLEIGH RIDE | 23 | 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY | 25 6:00 -6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00- 8-9th CONFIRMATION | 6:30 - BUILDING COMMITTEE | 27 | 28 |
| 9:00 -SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUTH & ADULT STUDIES 10:00 - WORSHIP | 30 | 31 6:30 - MEN'S STUDY | Feb 1 6:00 -6-7th CONFIRMATION 6:30 - WOMEN'S STUDY 7:00- 8-9th CONFIRMATION | "Participate" in W If you can't be here in personel with Sunday services b https://www.youtube.com WUEU22yCYxbhwig/featur | son: Watch or eing livestream n/channel/UCG | our YouTube chan- ned at |

Upcoming Schedules...

After-Worship Fellowship

We've had requests to re-start our after-worship fellowship time (complete with coffee, juice, and maybe even goodies).

COORDINATOR NEEDED

Here's what that would involve:

- + Putting together a rotating schedule of Fellowship Servers.
- + Reminding servers of their date to serve.
- + Making sure there are cups, plates, napkins, etc... to use. If you could take on this ministry to our congregation, there are LOTS of folks who would be extremely grateful for your effort!

Usher Schedule

Wendy & Lonny Robbin Jan 1

Jan 8

Jan 15 Larry Levin & Chuck Weflen

Jan 22 Open

Jan 29 Open

USHERS NEEDED AGAIN:

Since we are back to "normal" after covid restrictions, we are in need of ushers to greet people at the door as well as to usher people to the altar for communion.

Please sign up at church on the table by the door (you can choose which type of ushering you are interested in)!

Scripture Readers

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

Confirmation Parent Helpers

| | 6-7th grade | 8-9th grade |
|--------|-------------|-------------|
| Jan 4 | Knutson | Meis |
| Jan 11 | Sarsland | Miller |
| Jan 18 | Wright | Sawatzky |
| Jan 25 | | B & K Sharp |
| Feb 1 | Foshaug | Foshaug |

Elders

Jan 1, 8, Joe & Duane Jan 15, 22, 29 Steve & Scott

Custodian

Pam J & Linda V

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PowerPoint Operator

Jan 1 Jan 8 See "New Make-a-Meal Program"

Make A Meal Volunteers

Will Page for details

Jan 15 Alex

Jan 22 Carson

Jan 29 Rva Mona Hjelle

Communion Bread Maker

Jan 15 Ella Feb 2 Alex

Accompanying Musicians

Jan 1 Sharon Willen Scott Wachter Jan 8

Jan 15 Open

Altar Guild

Jan 22 Pam Johnson

(Volunteers needed - please

talk to Mona H.)

Jan 29 Open

Seen on Church Signboards...

Will the people praying for a "white" Christmas PLEASE stop!

(There's so much snow now, we'll have a "white" Easter!)

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters PHOOEY! WHY WHY DON'T YOU CAN'T I GET THIS THING TOGETHERP TRY READING THE SOME ASSEMBLY

January Discipleship Verse...

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3

A Minute for Couples...

(from the Prepare-Enrich blog)
Ways to Get Out of a Marriage "Funk"



Do you ever feel like your marriage is in a funk? It's sort of the equivalent of when you're in a bad mood, but you can't quite put your finger on why. Maybe you're both crabby and short with each other a lot lately, you feel like you're speaking different languages, or there's just a vague tension between you that has you both feeling like you're walking on eggshells. What's the deal?

First things first, it's normal to have ups and downs throughout your marriage. Sometimes things are clicking and you feel connected and at ease with each other. Other times, your relationship can feel like a struggle that requires effort and intention from you both. If you've been experiencing an extreme sense of disconnection in your marriage for a long time, it may be wise to seek professional guidance to help you navigate any deeper issues. If this is more the exception than the norm for you, then keep reading. We've got some tips to help you break out of the funk faster – and prevent bigger problems from taking root.

Assess boundaries.

Is work spilling over into home life a bit too much lately? Is there a family member or friend that has been overstepping? Have your kids' activities completely usurped all of your time? Broken, weak, or non-existent boundaries can come in many forms throughout all areas of your life. They often show up in negative ways within your relationship, even if the problem didn't originate there. For example, your work stress might not have anything to do with your spouse, but you may end up taking that stress out on them. Take some time to reflect on whether the tension between you is stemming from a boundary issue. This will require both of you to take responsibility for they ways in which you might be contributing to the problem. Have empathy as you discuss how you might repair the boundary and support each other in upholding it.

Revisit roles and responsibilities.

Do you find yourself grumbling as you complete your share of the household chores? Is the division of labor that felt comfortable as newlyweds now like forcing a square peg into a round hole? It might be time to change things up. After all, a lot can change over time and as you go through different seasons of life. Your careers, schedules, preferences, skills, physical capacity, the list goes on. It makes sense then that the way you split or share roles and responsibilities in your household and marriage may also need to change in order to help you and

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unskilled labor.

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your spouse feel most productive, efficient, and capable. If there is a particular task or role that has been draining you lately, let each other know. You may find that a few simple tweaks to who does what can be like a breath of fresh air.

Address the elephant in the room.

Is there an issue hanging in the air, over your heads, and lurking in the corner of every room? You know the one. The thing you know you should talk about, but you keep avoiding it. Sweeping the issue under the rug might seem to work for awhile, but eventually resentment, tension, or anger will bubble to the surface and come between you. Yes, it can be awkward, uncomfortable, and just plain difficult. You might not even resolve things in one sitting. But being able to communicate and share feelings through conflict is key to a strong relationship. You may end up feeling like a weight has been lifted off your relationship simply by getting things out in open.

Nip resentment in the bud.

A common thread running through all of these tips is a sense of resentment that builds as grievances go unspoken. Maybe you feel you shouldn't complain or that you can just get over the issue if you stay silent. Perhaps you think your partner should be able to figure out on their own that you're upset. However, if something is bothering you enough that you're trying to squash your feelings, then the best way to remedy the problem is to be open and honest about it right away before it grows into toxic resentment. One way to be proactive about this is to have a weekly check-in where you both have a chance to respectfully share anything you'd like to get off your chest while your spouse listens judgement-free. There might not be anything to solve; you may just need to let them know, "Hey, when you made that comment the other day it hurt my feelings." This gives them the opportunity to take responsibility for their actions while you feel heard. Be sure to balance out the negatives by sharing the things you really appreciated about each other throughout the week.



Communion Notes...

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in January on the normal First and Third Sundays, January 1st and 15th

Reminders

- Those who are not comfortable coming to the altar should inform an Elder or Usher, and communion will be brought to you in your pew.
- Gluten-free bread wafers are available for those who have glutensensitive conditions. You will find these wafers in a separate cup in the communion tray.

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Simple Ways to Lift Your Spiritual Life...

Share the Love of Jesus This Month

NOTE: This is a "re-run" of last month's, because our "goodheartedness" shouldn't stop at Christmas.

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

And Read a Chapter-a-day in the Proverbs

Just like the Wise Men, we all need some practical wisdom for everyday life in the New Year. God gives it in the Proverbs. See the daily reading schedule (or just read the chapter that corresponds to whatever day of the month it is).

Email Humor...

The Sunday after Christmas, the Sunday School teacher told her students about an angel appearing to Joseph in a dream, warning him about danger to the baby Jesus and telling him how to escape from it.

After the story time, the students were given an opportunity to draw a picture about the story. Most of the pictures were predictable, but Johnny's had an odd element in it.

"Johnny," began the teacher, "I see Joseph and Mary with the baby Jesus on a donkey, but what is that following the donkey?

"It's the flea, teacher."

"What flea?" she asked.

The boy faithfully replied, "The Bible verse says, 'Take Mary and Jesus and flea to Egypt."



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NEW 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.

On "Make-a-Meal Day" we made about 15 meals (tater tot hotdish and cookies). They are in the freezer at church ready to grab and take to someone you know who could use a meal. They even have a card attached

If you have any questions, please check with Marcia, otherwise, just grab a meal from the freezer and make someone's day!



After-Worship Fellowship

COOKIE-BAKING SCHEDULER NEEDED



We have cookies to ready to bake, and volunteers to bake them. All we need is someone to come up with a baking schedule and let the bakers know when it's their turn to bake. Pretty easy!

If you could take on this ministry to our congregation, there are LOTS of folks who would be extremely grateful for your effort!

A Reminder to Wear Your "Living Word" Sweatshirts (and caps)





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?"

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 Hielle if you can help.

We are also looking for a person to be the Make-a-Meal coordinator -

The coordinator is NOT responsible for making the meals, but rather notifies the meal makers when a meal is needed and then 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.

We are currently in need of a volunteer to mail the cards. If you could help, talk to Pastor David



Help Record our Worship Services . . .

that we livestream and later upload our YouTube channel (New London Living Word). Talk to Pastor David if you can help out with thisjust one Sunday a month. (Hint: It's really not difficult - even Pastor figured it out!)

Remember the Teal's Rebate Program.

Teal's Grocery gives a 1% rebate to eligible organizations. There's a teal-colored box on the back-wall table where you can put in your receipts.



amazonsn

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

Living Word has been issued a \$13.92 donation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1st and September 30, 2022.

Custodian Volunteers Needed.

Pick Your Month for you (or your family) to be our Church Custodian.

We are still in need of volunteers for any month after January. Talk to our Trustee, Lonnie Robbin, to sign up or find out more details.



Page 22 Page 23

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A Minute For Parents (and Grandparents)...

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 (or grandkids) 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 what's on your phone. 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.

Email Humor...

During a final exam in December, one of the questions was: The value of x + x(xx) when x = 2 is: (a) 10, (b) 16, (c) 18, (d) 36, (e) 64

One of the students wrote: "God knows! I don't. Merry Christmas!"

The exam paper came back with the prof's notation: "God gets 100. You get zero. Happy New Year."

attending started 90 ice-cream, make 2 how learn 2 wanted day: O

Email Inspiration...

THE GREAT CHRISTMAS MEMORY. A true story.

Over time Christmas memories begin to fade or blur. The ones that you recall years later can involve heartache, jubilation or both. As the oldest of two brothers and a sisters, I often bore the weight of being the "big sister." We lived in a rural area of eastern Oregon. My Dad had been out of work for a while as Christmas approached. Money was tighter than we could have imagined at such a young age. I was only eight with brothers who were seven and six and a little sister who was five. We didn't know exactly what was happening, but we knew things weren't normal.

Our meals were a little different but the biggest difference was our Christmas tree. It wasn't a sad "Charlie Brown" tree, but the gifts under the tree forced us to realize this would be a unique Christmas. Actually, there weren't any multicolored boxes or any exquisite bows. Instead we had one present, but it was a huge box wrapped with care. We tried for days, but we could not imagine what it was.

Christmas day finally arrived and anticipation consumed us. As always, Dad read the Christmas story from Luke before we could open any present. After the reading he put the big box in the middle of the floor. He directed each us to stand by one side of the present. He told us that the gift was for all of us, and we had to share it nicely. Then he motioned us to open our present.

We ripped the wrapping paper faster than a chain saw!

We had waited all that time for a refrigerator box?! But we discovered that there was something else inside that refrigerator box. Large appliance boxes with medium-sized moving boxes inside of them. Inside the medium boxes were other boxes and then shoeboxes and even more boxes until we finally arrived at the tiny jewelry boxes! Believe it or not but at the bottom of all those boxes was a book called "Things to Make with Boxes."

We made forts and castles, cars and airplanes, boats and trains, sets and scenery for make-believe plays, and all sorts of cool things. My parents still have a box of snapshots of all the things we made with our boxes.

The four of us are now near 40. If asked individually for our best Christmas memory, you will get four variations of the story of a box full of boxes.

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for

Pot Pot

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Story Behind The Song...

"Tis So Sweet to Trust In Jesus"

Too many times we complain about our trials to God. Not seeing that He's only doing it to make us strong because to be a soldier we must have stamina, endurance and backbone. GOD doesn't send trials because he hates us. It's because he LOVES us but due to our human mind we cannot always fathom his plans for us.

Louisa Stead was born in Dover, England in 1850. As a teenager, Stead felt called to be a missionary. She went to America at age 21, and lived for a time in Cincinnati, Ohio. Attending a camp meeting in Urbana, Ohio, she felt the missionary calling even more strongly. Unfortunately, she was not able to go to China as she had intended, due to her frail health. She married a Mr. Stead in 1875 and moved to New York, where the couple had a daughter, Lily.

When Lily was four years of age, the family decided one day to enjoy the sunny beach at Long Island Sound, New York. While eating their picnic lunch, they suddenly heard cries of help and spotted a drowning boy in the sea. Mr. Stead charged into the water. As often happens, however, the struggling boy pulled his rescuer under water with him, and both drowned before the terrified eyes of Louisa and her daughter. Out of her 'why?' struggle with God, during the ensuing days, glowed the meaningful words of the hymn "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" from the soul of Louisa Stead.

Louisa was unable to maintain and support her daughter financially, but somehow whenever Louisa was at her last or had nothing to eat some good soul would feel led to bake a pie, or rest a basket outside her door. So that she and Lily can have something to eat, Louisa saw this as the grace of God that provided for her in her time of trial and need; through this her faith and trust in God only grew stronger

Soon after, Louisa and Lily left for the Cape Colony, South Africa, where

Louisa worked as a missionary for fifteen years. She married Robert Wodehouse, a native of South Africa. Because of her health, the family found it necessary to return to the United States in 1895. Wodehouse pastored a Methodist congregation during these years until, in 1900, they returned to the mission field, this time to the Methodist mission station at Umtali, Southern Rhodesia (present day Zimbabwe).

Louisa passed away after a long illness, in 1917, at her home near the Mutambara Mission. Following her death, it was recorded by the Christians in Rhodesia that: "We miss her very much but her influence goes on as our 5,000 converts continually sing this hymn in their native language".

Perhaps the hymn might be best described as a hymn based on the name of Jesus. Indeed, "Jesus" is sung twenty-five times if one sings all four stanzas and the refrain.

Stanza one is a simple statement of "trust in Jesus."

Stanza two continues the theme of trust, drawing upon the "cleansing blood" of Jesus.

Stanza three stresses that one should die to "sin and self" by "simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace" in Jesus

Stanza four is a personal witness by the author that she is "so glad I learned to trust thee." and with a fleeting eschatological reference, "thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end."

"Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus"

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

Refrain:

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er; Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

Oh, how sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to trust His cleansing blood; And in simple faith to plunge me 'Neath the healing, deansing flood!

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,

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Just from sin and self to cease; Just from Jesus simply taking Life and rest, and joy and peace.

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend; And I know that Thou art with me, Wilt be with me to the end.

https://youtu.be/gbLJmJ3ivfg

Editor's note: AS with most hymns you can find many versions of this song to enjoy. My favorite versions include: Guy Penrod (of Gaither Band fame) https://youtu.be/-6gRAT3sNtO Amy Grant https://youtu.be/5-libaz YZw
Kari Jobe https://youtu.be/GH766djV7oc And Caleb & Kelsey https://youtu.be/MNJK9gWterg Perhaps my favorite is by a quartet that you may not have heard of, but has been together for 30 years—Faith First

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

