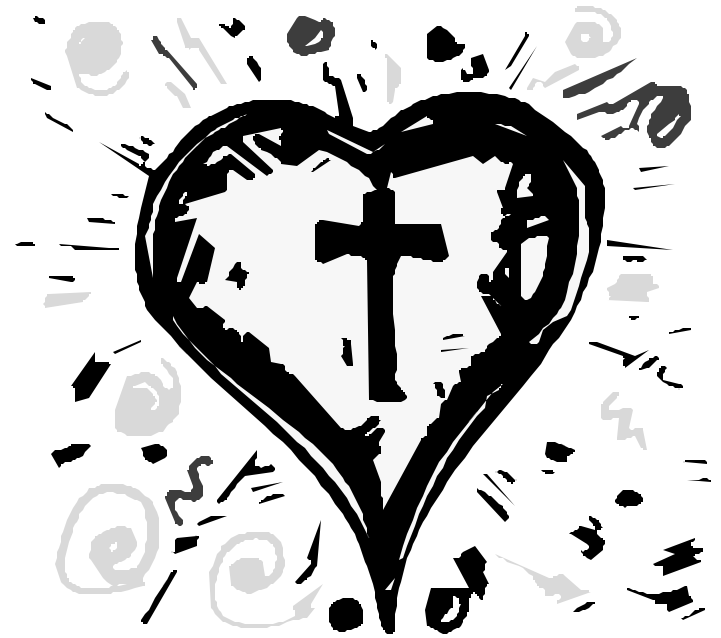


Living Word Lutheran Church

April 2005 Newsletter



"Communicating the Love of Jesus"

Traditional Worship : 8:00 a.m.

Christian Growth Hour: 9:15 a.m.

Contemporary Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church
PO Box 242,
New London, MN 56273



Living Word Lutheran Church

Located on the West of Spicer on Cty Rd 10
in old Prairie Meadows building
PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273 phone: 320-796-0742



Questions for Pastor...

What do you think of the Terri Schiavo situation?

This is obviously a situation that has been on everyone's "radar screen" for the past month. I've heard valid points on both sides and I've had lots of thoughts of my own about the situation. But the challenge here is to separate personal feelings ("what I think") from what God thinks. That really is the challenge with every situation we face. We are always tempted to base our decisions on what we think and feel instead of on what God thinks.

How do we know what God thinks? He's told us in His Word (the Bible):

Some things God has told us in His Word:

- ?? God is the author of life. Acts 17:24-25
- ?? Only he has the authority to end it. Deuteronomy 32:39 / 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- ?? The value of life isn't found in who we are (i.e. what we can do).
- ?? The value of life is found in *whose* we are. Genesis 9:6
- ?? Our lives are valuable to our Creator God in spite of what we do and what we can't do.

Two simple facts show how valuable each person is to God.

1) God created you and knows you - knew you even before he created you (Psalm 139, etc...)

and

2) God sent His own Son to die for you (*because* of the things you do). (John 3:16, etc...)

One thing the Schiavo case brings to light is how we have

Opportunities for growth...

"Doing Life Together"

Video-based study focusing on God's five purposes for our lives

Sunday Evenings (Starting April 10) at 7:00

@ Jay & Sarah Miller's in Pennock

The Passion of Christ

Not the Video - But the Bible Study Based On the Video

Tuesday 12:15 @ Glen Oaks Apts

Wed Evenings April 13,20 & 27

Wednesday Study @ Dan & Tammy Miller's

Wednesdays @ 7:15

Watch for details on the specific study topic

Wednesday Study @ Pam Johnson's

Wednesdays @ 7:30

Topic to be announced

Monday Midday Women's Study

Mondays @ 11:30 beginning April 11

Topic to be announced

"Life Choices - Who Decides ?"

Sunday April 17 @ 9:20

A study prompted by the Terri Schiavo situation

REMEMBER: April 15th is Tax Filing Deadline

¹⁷Then Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

And they were amazed at him.

A Minute for Men...

Lessons from Bible Guys: Peter

"Don't give up when you mess up."

Peter really messed up. He boldly said that he would never deny Jesus. But less than 24 hours later he had publically - and boldly as - stated not once, but three times that he didn't know Jesus.

Naturally, Peter was filled with remorse after the third denial when he heard the rooster crow and looked up to see Jesus looking at him. We are told that he went and "wept bitterly."

Everyone of us has really messed up like Peter. More than once. More than three times. We've all said or done something (or maybe not done something) that told the world "I don't know Jesus."

Both the apostle Paul and the evangelist Luke tell us that after His resurrection, Jesus appeared specifically to Peter. We aren't told about the conversation, but we do know that Jesus held out for Peter the forgiveness that he purchased for each of us on the cross.

The example Peter holds out for us isn't the denials (we can do that just fine on our own). The example is of not letting his sin remove all hope. Peter didn't give up all hope - as Judas did. Peter hung in there. He ran to the tomb when he heard the report that Jesus wasn't in it.

Next time you really mess up and do something you thought you weren't capable of doing, don't give up. Don't throw in the towel. Run to Jesus. His tomb is still empty. He lives and will be holding out for you the same forgiveness He gave to Peter.

"Christmas is the Promise,
and Easter is the Proof."



tried to place value on life based not on God's standards, but on our standards of

"What can that life do?"

Back in the 70's we started to do this by saying that the life of the unborn child is worth less than that of the mother, so that gives us the right to take that life. That is absolutely wrong. No room for if's, and's or but's on that one. Abortion is the taking of a life that God created. That life may be inconvenient. So what! That doesn't give us the right to end it. Only God has that right. Thank God the people around us don't take it into their hands to end our lives when we are "inconvenient" to them!

The thing that I fear with the Terri Schiavo case is that, because the courts got heavily involved, this could do for euthanasia (assisted suicide) what Roe v Wade did for abortion thirty years ago. Roe v Wade made it acceptable (to us - not to God) to take a life that's inside the womb based on our (not God's) definition of the value of that life. I fear the Terri Schiavo case will make it acceptable (to us - not to God) to take a life outside the womb based on our (not God's) definition of its value.

There's a difference between allowing death to come naturally and actually taking away a life. The situation with Terri Schiavo was one of taking away a life. Terri Schiavo was not kept alive by any "heroic" technological means. Just food and water. Taking a person off artificial life support to allow death to come naturally is one thing. Withholding the basics we all need for survival is another.

Once again, the key isn't "What we think."

The key is "What does God think?"

How do we know what God thinks? He's told us in His Word (the Bible). The challenge for Christians is to make sure we are listening to God more than we listen to the people who are only too willing to give us "What they think."

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David



Days of purpose...

A Summary of God's Purposes for Our Lives

God's Main Purpose: Restore the eternal relationship we were created to have with him. Jesus' purpose was to take first step in restoring that relationship by taking the punishment for our sins to 'right our wrongs' against God. The Holy Spirit's purpose is to bring us to faith in Jesus and thus enable us to accept the relationship Jesus died to restore.

After the Spirit brings us to faith in Jesus and accept that restored eternal relationship, He continues to work to empower us to accomplish these purposes:

1. **Worship** - Loving God

Worship isn't something just done in church.

We worship God in everything we do that is done with a focus on pleasing God.

2. **Fellowship** - Loving God's people

Fellowship often starts with coffee and cookies, but true fellowship never ends there. It grows as we get to know each other on a deeper level and care for each other as we care for immediate family.

3. **Discipleship** - becoming more like Jesus.

This is the central purpose. We get this one and all the others fall into place. The Holy Spirit works through God's Word, circumstances and other believers to help us become more like Jesus.

4. **Ministry** - serving God by serving others.

Ministry isn't just something pastors do. It simply means "serving" and God has given everyone a special SHAPE to use in serving Him.

Spiritual gifts - special abilities God gives for building up others

Hearth - things we have a passion for.

Abilities - things we're good at.

Personality - the thing that makes us unique.

Experiences - things we've experienced that help us help others

Your hopes for fulfillment in life

We are tempted to put these eggs into our 'Whatever brings me _____' basket. (You fill in the blank with things like "success," "popularity," "pleasure," "money," "power," etc... Eventually we discover that the bottom always falls out of those baskets. The Resurrection shows us that Jesus' purposes for us are the ones that bring true fulfillment.

Your hopes for a better life right now

What's keeping you from the best life right now? A certain fear that drives you? A certain temptation that always trips you up? A certain addiction that controls you? A certain trouble? A past hurt that you can't forgive? The Resurrection means Jesus has power over everything that would keep you from having the best life right now. Put whatever that is into His basket. He lives to help you overcome it, so you can have the best life now.

Top 10 Reasons the Average Christian Can't Play Baseball...

10. Doesn't practice all week, but expects to start on game day.
9. Gets upset when every ball that's hit doesn't come directly to him.
8. Never swings at a pitch because, "this pitcher doesn't throw like the last pitcher. The game's just not the same since he left."
7. Wants to run home before going to first base.
6. Chatters in order to keep his own teammates from hitting the ball.
5. Doesn't come to the game unless the coach personally calls him on the phone, each week, and invites him to show up.
4. Won't run after the ball if it's more than three feet away. After all, surely somebody will get it sooner or later.
3. Thinks baseball cleats are for leaving neat designs on his teammates backs.
2. Gets upset because the phone line to the bull pen doesn't have call waiting. If it did, he could gripe about how bad the pitcher is doing, and yet never miss out if someone wanted to talk about the catcher.
1. Thinks the game will last so long, that the concession stand will be closed before it's over.



Simple Ways to Give Your Spiritual life a lift:

PUT ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET.

That phrase you usually hear is the opposite:

“Don't put all your eggs in one basket”

The “eggs” are our “hopes.” The idea being that when you put all your hopes in one place, your hopes will be dashed if the bottom falls out of that one place.



Don't put all your eggs in one basket may be a good thing to remember when it comes to your investments. But it's not good when it comes to life.

The Resurrection of Jesus from the grave means you can - and should - put all your hopes for this life and eternal life in Jesus' basket.

Your hopes for eternal life.

Jesus rising from the grave proves that there is such a thing as life after death. It also shows us that He is the only one to place your trust in for obtaining life after death. Everyone else who ever came and said, “Follow me and I'll lead you to eternity” died and stayed dead. Jesus came back to life to prove he is the right one to lead us to eternity.

Your hopes for forgiveness of sin

We usually are tempted not to put our “sin” eggs into any basket. We'd prefer to do the “Easter-egg hunt” thing and hide those eggs. If we do put them into a basket, we are tempted to try to hide them under lots of “good deeds.” But piling good eggs on top of bad ones doesn't get rid of the bad ones. The only way to be rid of bad eggs is to admit that you have them and then have them thrown out. Jesus ‘threw out’ all our bad eggs when he died on the cross. His resurrection proves that God accepted His sacrifice as full payment for all our bad-egg sins.

5. **Mission** - sharing the Good News of Jesus

Everyone who trusts in Jesus for that eternally restored relationship with God has a mission. That mission is to share the Good News that Jesus offers them the same restored relationship. Our mission is to PLANT the seeds of the Good News.

_____ **P**ray for people.

_____ **L**ook for ways to care for needs.

_____ **A**ct in ways that reflect well on Jesus.

_____ **i**nvite people to worship and

_____ **T**alk about the Good News and what God has done for us.

Help wanted...

Can You Help Provide A Scholarship for a Student to Attend Camp at Lutheran Island Camp ?

We have several students interested in attending Camp again this year.

If you can help provide money for scholarships to help them with cost, please contact Bonnie Hansen or Marcia Welsh. Thanks for your help!

Would you like to help create a Church Directory ?

Needed:

- + A Photographer
- + Appointment scheduler
- + Someone to turn the photos and information into a directory.

Please talk to Pastor David if you'd like to help with this.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.LIVINGWORDLUTHERAN.NET

Sharing the love of Jesus in practical ways...

... keep your eyes open for someone who could use a meal.

1) Please keep your eyes open for people in situations where they would appreciate a meal fixed by someone else. People moving; family members sick or hospitalized; working lots of overtime; etc...

2) Call our meal-a-week coordinators Kevin and Marcia Welsh (796-6840) or Pastor David and give them the name

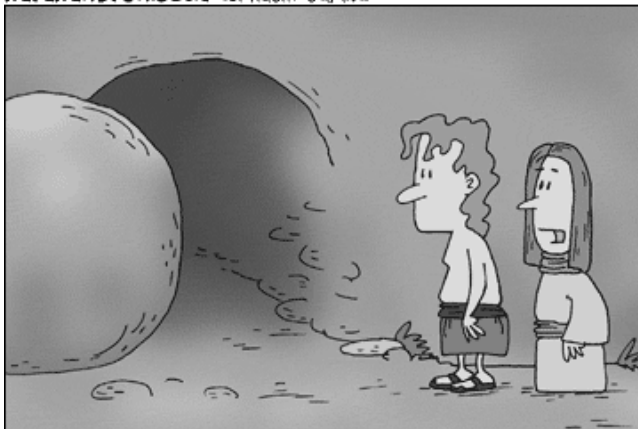
3) Volunteer one week to bring a meal to someone.

By God's grace, we can, in a practical way, keep the command he left us with: "Love one another."



1 Corinthians 16:14

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Thanks to Pam Winn (See John 20:1-18)

04-12-2004

NOTHING IS CERTAIN EXCEPT WHAT AND TAXES?!?

Happenings and events...

Lutheran Hour Ministries Banquet

LHM is our national Men's Ministry organization. All guys who are interested in forming a Men's Ministry group are encouraged to attend. We'll be leaving - Next Sunday, April 17 at 2:45. Talk to Duane Hansen for details.

Parents of 9th Grade Confirmands

Meet Wednesday, April 20 @ 8:15 to discuss plans for this year's confirmation.

Confirmation Classes

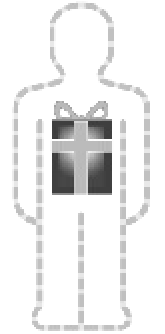
Meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays through April

7-8th Graders

NOTE: Have your past due assignments completed for class on April 6th.

9th Graders

NOTE: Your assignments for the year are due May 1st. Confirmation day is May 15th.



All Stars 4 Jesus

Meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning April 3rd

NOTE: Helpers are needed to supervise game time and craft time.

Please contact Pastor David if you can help.

April discipleship Verse...

Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

John 13:17



april 5-minutes-a-day devotional readings

This Month's Readings: After the Resurrection in the Gospels & Acts

(Use the lines to record the important insights in that reading -
 numbers in parentheses indicate chapter to read in "The Purpose Driven Life")

Apr 3	Matthew 28:5-10	_____
Apr. 4	John 20:10-18	_____
Apr. 5	Luke 24:13-35	_____
Apr. 6	John 20:19-25	_____
Apr. 7	John 20:26-31	_____
Apr 8	Matthew 28:16-20	_____
Apr 9	John 21:1-14	_____
Apr 10	Luke 24:44-49	_____
Apr 11	Acts 1:3-8	_____
Apr 12	Acts 9:1-6	_____
Apr 13	1 Corinthians 15:3-8	_____
Apr 14	Acts 1:12-14,21-26	_____
Apr 15	Acts 2:1-13	_____
Apr 16	Acts 2:14-24, 36-41	_____
Apr 17	Acts 2:42-47	_____
Apr 18	Acts 3:1-10	_____
Apr 19	Acts 4:5-22	_____
Apr 20	Acts 5:1-11	_____
Apr 21	Acts 5:17-40	_____
Apr 22	Acts 6:1-7	_____
Apr 23	Acts 6:8-15; 7:55-8:3	_____
Apr 24	Acts 8:26-40	_____
Apr 25	Acts 9:1-19	_____
Apr 26	Acts 9:32-42	_____
Apr 27	Acts 11:1-18	_____
Apr 28	Acts 12:1-17	_____
Apr 29	Acts 13:1-3	_____
Apr 30	Acts 14:21-28	_____
May 1	Acts 16:16-40	_____
May 2	Acts 17:10-12	_____
May 3	Acts 17:16-34	_____
May 4	Acts 19:11-22	_____
May 5	Acts 28:17-31	_____

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april prayer calendar

Pray for these things for the person or family listed each week

April 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
This week pray for these things for Geneva Olson	Thanks for the great health God has blessed me with to this point	For guidance for the doctors working to correct my heart problem	For God's blessings on my daughter Anita as she starts a new job	For my daughters Anita and Denise to be able to come for a visit - and safe travel when they do	For God's strength for my brother Oliver and family	For God to enable us to sell our old church building and take the next step in getting into a new one
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
This week pray for these things for the Djers family: Harlan and Carol	Thanks for Harlan's good heart report	Pray for successful foot surgery for Carol today	Thanks for blessing us with a great family and for the health of our family	For healing for grandsons Alex (eyes) and Adam (hear murmur)	For God's guidance for Christine	For God's strength for Carol's mom and brother
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
This week pray for these things for our Living Word family	For God's Spirit to keep the momentum going after the 40 Days of Purpose	For continued guidance in selling our old building and buying land	For God to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus	To empower us to always be striving to accomplish our mission of making disciples	For Charlie and Beth Ayards, as they take their marriage vows today.	For God's Spirit to guide our decisions at tomorrow's Voters' Assembly
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
This week pray for these things for the Hjelle family: Mona, Byron, Jeremy and Adam	Thanks for my family at Living Word	For the Holy Spirit to touch those in my family that have fallen away from God	For God's guidance for Jeremy and Aloia in their relationship	For God to allow Living Word to move forward with land and building plans	For the doctors to find an alternative to hip surgery for Mona	For safety in the new growing season and for God to continue to provide
May 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
This week pray for these things for Linda van Meter	Thanks for God's blessings of family and friends	Thanks for the blessing of good health	Thanks for the blessing of being able to serve God by working as a nurse	Thanks for Holy Spirit's continued work in my life to help me make the changes I need to make	For me to accept the work that the Holy Spirit wants to do in my life	Healing for friends struggling with illness: Bill, Uncle Cliff, Lisa, Bob, Barb, Jeff and Troy

Living Word Lutheran Church - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APRIL	USHERS: 8:00 Troy Hansen 10:30 Chuck Weflen JUNIOR USHER: Nic Kranz	GREETERS: 8:00 Jim & Janet Towner 10:30 Walt Flickinger	ELDER S: 8:00 Duane Hansen 10:30 Ron Wothe	CHILDREN'S CHURCH HELPERS: April 3 Rebecca Dauk 10 Cole Erickson 17 Allan Fuglie 24 David Geer	CHILDREN'S CHURCH 3,17 Tris Mische 10,24 Violet Dauk	2
3 8:00 - Traditional Worship w/ L.S. 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - 40 Days Study - Pastor 10:30 - Contemporary Worship w/ Lord's Supper 2:00 - Hillerj Lien Bridal Shower (bride-elect of Mike Miller) 7:00 40 Days Summary Video @ Jay/Sarah Miller's	4 9:00 - Circuit Pastors @ Willmar 6:00 - 40 Days Team Celebration	5 12:15 - Passion of Christ Study @ Glen Oaks Apts	6 6:00 40 Days Group Celebration @ Peterson's 6:30 All Stars 4 Jesus 7:00 - 7-9th Grade Confirmation Groups 7:00- 40 Days Summary	7 9:30 Missionary Pastors @ Love of Christ St Cloud 11:30 - 40 Days Luncheon @ Shelli Block's 6:00 - Elders Team	8 Noon - Prayer @ Church	9
10 8:00 - Traditional Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 Adult Study Group 10:30 - Contemporary Worship 7:00 - Life Together Study @ Jay/Sarah Miller's	11 11:30 Women's Group Passion of Christ Study	12 12:15 - Passion of Christ Study @ Glen Oaks Apts	13 6:30 All Stars 4 Jesus 7:00 - 7-9th Grade Confirmation Groups 7:00- Passion of Christ Study @ Church- Pastor/Violet 7:15- Study @ Dan/Tammy Miller's 7:30- Study @ Pam Johnson's	14 7:30 - Mission/Ministry Team	15 Noon - Prayer @ Church	16
17 8:00 - Traditional Worship w/ L.S. 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - Adult Study Group 10:30 - Contemporary Worship w/ Lord's Supper 4:00 LLL Spring Rally @ Tyro 7:00 - Life Together Study @ Jay/Sarah Miller's	18 11:30 Women's Group Passion of Christ Study	19 12:15 - Passion of Christ Study @ Glen Oaks Apts	20 6:30 All Stars 4 Jesus 7:00 - 7-9th Grade Confirmation Groups 7:00- Passion of Christ Study @ Church- Pastor/Violet 7:15- Study @ Dan/Tammy Miller's 7:30- Study @ Pam Johnson's	21	22 Noon - Prayer @ Church	23 Charlie Arends / Beth Ascherman wedding @ 4:00
24 8:00 Traditional Worship w/ L.S. 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - Voter's Assembly 10:30 - Contemporary Worship w/ Lord's Supper	25 11:30 Women's Group Passion of Christ Study	26 Noon - Study @ Glen Oaks Apts Pastor David leads	27 6:30 All Stars 4 Jesus 7:00 - 7-9th Grade Confirmation Groups 7:00- Passion of Christ Study @ Church- Pastor/Violet 7:15- Study @ Dan/Tammy Miller's 7:30- Study @ Pam Johnson's	28	29 Noon - Prayer @ Church	30