

# ***Living Word Monthly***

## **January 2005**

**Spicer, MN 56288**



What we aim to do: **Make disciples for Jesus - as we go,  
wherever we go.**

What we aim to be: **A joyful, caring, Christ-centered  
family of God.**

**weekly services.....**

**Sunday mornings at 8:00am Traditional Service**

**Sunday mornings at 10:30am Contemporary Service**



**Spicer, MN 56288**

**Jesus Loves:**

## GET GROWING AGAIN.

Jesus compares us to branches connected to a vine. He is the Vine. Our job as branches is to produce fruit - do things that nourish the lives of people around us. Just as a grapevine can only grow and produce fruit when it is attached to the vine, Christians can only grow and produce fruit when attached to Jesus. One of the ways we stay attached to Jesus is by getting into God's Word. If the summer found you not growing very much....

**Here are some opportunities to “get growing” again.**

- Sunday**      **2yrs - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School Classes 9:15 -10:15**
- Adults “Myth or Faith”** Every day we are exposed to many “religious” ideas. Join us at 9:15 to take a deeper look at which of those ideas come from God - and which only ones “sound good” but are actually contrary to what God says.
- Tuesday**      **Midweek Noon Bible Study** - join for a great time of fellowship and walking through books of the Bible.
- Wednesday**      **1st-6th Graders:** The NEW “Living Word All Stars” - Join us at 6:00 for a light supper followed at 6:30 by lots of fun growing closer to Jesus.
- 7-8th Graders: Confirmation classes** - The basics of our faith Join us at 6:00 for a light supper before we study at 6:30
- 9-12 Graders:** “Don’t Check Your Brains At the Door” - at 6:30 we get together to separate myth from truth.
- Men - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays** - join us at 7:00 to study faith issues important to guys
- Women- 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays** - join us at 7:45 to study faith issues important to women
- Friday**      **Pray at Noon.** Join us to “take it to the Lord in prayer”
- NEW 3<sup>rd</sup>-Friday Family Night** - Join us at 6:00 for potluck meal followed by “Parables from the Fishing Hole” a study on God’s plan for our lives as taught in some humorous episodes of the old “Andy Griffith Show.” After watching the video clip adults and kids break into separate groups.

## Questions for Pastor

*“You always say after Confession that God has forgotten the sins we’ve confessed and that we should forget them too. But there are some things you just can’t forget - there are constant reminders of them in my life.”*

Another great question.

It is very true that some of our sins have consequences that follow us around for the rest of our lives. Because of those ever-present consequences, it is next-to- impossible to forget the sin that caused them.

It is important to remember God’s promise:

*“Repent and turn to God and your sins will be wiped away.”* (Acts 3:19)

When God forgives - and forgets - a sin, he has indeed “wiped it off his books.” Jesus took the punishment for that sin. God forgives it the moment we repent. The eternal consequences have been removed and forgotten.

But we also need to remember that God has attached earthly consequences to our sin to remind us not to commit that sin again. These earthly consequences also remind those around us that the sin we committed is not something they should do. Consequences are actually a good thing - keeping us from getting into deeper trouble.

The problem comes when Satan, the “Father of Lies,” (whose name means “Accuser”) comes to you and accuses you with lies like “The reason you can’t forget that specific sin is because God can’t or won’t forgive that one.” He tries to make you feel guilty all over again - even though the guilt was removed when you repented. He casts doubt on God’s ability to forgive. He casts doubt on whether or not you have been forgiven. He wants you to throw up your hands and say that you are going to just forget about God.

As someone said, *“When Satan reminds you of your past, remind him of his future.”* Satan is a defeated enemy. He has lost the war, even though he still wages battles in your life. He does not have to succeed in making you feel unforgiven.

So, while you may not be able to forget the earthly consequences, you

can forget about the eternal consequences. Those were wiped away the moment you repented.

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

MMT Thurs. Jan 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30  
**Upcoming Events**

## REMINDER . . .

**Beginning January 2**, all Living Word activities and worship services will be held at our interim location at the **Prairie Meadows School** just west of Spicer on County Road 10.

**Times will not change - only the location.**

Sunday Worship:	8:00 a.m. Traditional 10:30 a.m. Contemporary
Sunday School	9:15
Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:15
Tuesday Noon Study	noon on Tuesday
ASFJ & 7-8th Confirmation	6:30 on Wednesday (Meal before at 6:00)
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	8:00 on Wednesday
Friday Prayer	noon on Friday
Board of Elders	First Thursday @ 6:00 p.m.
Men's Study	
Women's Study	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday @ 7:45

## Confirmation Parents:

**Mentors & Meal Makers**

**are needed for January and February**

Sign up posted at church in the fellowship area. Thanks!

## Charter Sunday - January 16

All the necessary paperwork has been completed! Living Word Lutheran Church will officially be chartered as a member congregation of the Minnesota North District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

We will have a special "Charter Sunday" worship service with Rev. Dave Strohschein bringing us the message and welcoming us as members of the the Minnesota North District.

All those who wish to be received as "charter members" of Living Word and are not currently members of New Life or Shepherd of the Hills, please talk to Pastor David this week.

## New Tuesday Noon Bible Study: Psalms

During the month of January we will study some of the favorite Psalms:  
Meet us at noon at Prairie Meadows -and bring your favorite Psalm to study.

## New Year's Eve Fellowship

One last get-together at the old church building .  
8:00pm - midnight

Bring a card table and some chairs, a deck of cards and a snack.

We'll play Court Whist and enjoy a good time of fellowship.

At midnight we'll pray for God's blessings and guidance in the New Year.

## Simple Ways to Give Your Spiritual Life a Lift

**Resolve (anew) to daily feed on God's Word this year.**

In order for your body to grow and stay healthy, you need to feed it the right kind of nutrients - daily. The same is true of our spirit. In order for your spirit to grow - and stay healthy, you need to feed it the right kind of nutrients. You need a balance of God's law (the part that shows us our sin) and God's gospel (the part that shows us our savior).

Of all the things you can resolve to do this new year. **THE ONE THAT WILL LIKELY GIVE YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE THE BIGGEST LIFT** (not to mention your physical and emotional life) **is this one:** Read God's Diary (His Word)

Once again, daily Bible readings will be printed in each Newsletter to help you get into God's Diary. Use this as a checklist to help you keep on track. Keeping in mind that the Bible is "God's Diary" in which he reveals himself and his innermost desires, after each reading, record what you learned about God or from God.

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. The same power that caused the universe and everything in it to come into being - remember, God simply *spoke* and things came into being.

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

**Here are some of the results God promises from reading. You will . . .**

+ be able to live a life worthy of the Lord

+ please God  
+ bear fruit, fruit like: love, joy, peace, patience, self-control, kindness, 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 and focus on Jesus instead of on your expectations that haven't been met.  
+ 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 \_\_\_\_\_." Help me to resist.

# December Schedule

**Elder - Early Service**

**Jan.** Duane Hansen

**Feb.** Ron Wothe

**Mar.** Kevin Welsh

**Acolyte**

2- Mariah Welsh

9- Joey Johnson

16- Gabe Mische

23- Emily Fuglie

30- Mariah Welsh

**Fellowship Server**

2-

9-

16-

23-

30-

-

**Junior Greeters**

Rebecca Dauk

**Elder - Late Service**

**Jan.** Tim Geer

**Feb.** Randy Mord

**Mar.** Tim Geer

**Children's Church Helper**

2- Rebecca Dauk

9- Cole Erickson

16- Allan Fuglie

23- David Geer

30- Mari Geer

**Ushers**

Early- Open

Late- Randy Nissen & Walt

Flickinger

**Greeters**

Early- Geneva Olson

Late- Mona Hjelle &

Tammy Fuglie

**Junior Ushers**

Cole Erickson

# A Minute for Men **Findin** **g your** **Purpo**

**se**

During your lifetime you'll spend 21 years sleeping, 5 years waiting in line and 3 years in meetings. Why not spend 40 days discovering your life's purpose?

At Living Word Lutheran Church we will be examining a New York Times #1 best selling book and discovering the answer to the age-old question: "What on earth an I here for?"

Over the course of 40 days, we'll explore God's amazing plan for us-both here and now and for eternity. The message series we'll be coming in February.

Host homes are needed for six weekly video lessons led by Pastor Rick Warren. Please contact Jay and Sarah Miller, Shelly Block, or Bonnie Hansen, if you are interested in being a host.

All participants will receive a free copy of The Purpose Driven Life and a free personal study guide. There's no cost or commitment to participate. Dress is casual and the messages are uplifting. Come join us and discover your purpose!

**Reminder:**

If you are unable to attend church on the Sunday that you are scheduled, please contact someone to take your place or to switch. Thanks

Mercy. It's not only Joseph's example. It's also the example of Jesus' heavenly father as he deals with you. Try it today... and tomorrow... and...

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## Lessons from Bible Guys Joseph (Mary's Husband)

Matthew 1:18-19

*This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. [19] Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

Before the angel told Joseph that God was the father of the baby that Mary was pregnant with, all Joseph knew was this:

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- a) Mary was pregnant and
- b) He was not the father

And how did he respond? According to Jewish law Joseph *could* have taken Mary before the elders, accused her of adultery and had her publically stoned (put to death). He didn't do that. We are told that he didn't even want to do that.

Joseph had decided to deal with Mary on the basis of mercy. Not making a big deal out of her offense. Not wanting revenge. Simple mercy. "Giving something good that is undeserved."

Dealing with people on the basis of mercy is a great example for all fathers and husbands. Deal with the people in your life on the basis of mercy, not revenge. The people you show mercy to may not deserve it. They may continue to do things that offend and hurt you. You can't control what they do. But, like Joseph, you can control how you respond.

# A Minute for Parents

Give an “After-Christmas” Gift that will keep 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

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.

## **January Discipleship Verse:**

**For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of**

## **New Church Secretary**

We are looking for someone to take over as Church Secretary. Position to do weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters. This will need to be done on Friday and Saturdays. Position needs to be filled by the end of January. Please talk to Dan Miller if you are interested.

## **Thank you**

A special thank you to everyone who helped make the move to the school a success this past couple months. We earned \$350.00 from the moving sale which will go towards our building fund. Thanks goes also to all who have helped prepare, pack and move!!! We couldn’t have done it without you. Many, many Thanks!!

## **MMT Meeting**

Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

## **“40 Days of Purpose” Team Meetings**

Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

This meeting will be held at Prairie Meadows School.

## **Women’s Bible Study**

Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:45pm

This meeting will be held at Prairie Meadows School.

