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Please email to:
ewpressler@suddenlink.net
or share with her on
Sunday Morning



Watching and Waiting

Another Advent, a new Church Year begins, and people wonder what it is all about. It's some kind of countdown to Christmas, right? Advent doesn't make sense, even to many church members. It sounds like an outdated, old-fashioned season, but you go along with it, as long as it doesn't get in the way of all of the preparations you have to

make for Christmas right? But that is precisely the point of Advent — to prepare for Christmas, or should we say to prepare ourselves for the true, spiritual meaning of Christmas.

Advent has a lot of competition in our modern world. When you look around and see all the decorations at this time of year, how often do you think of them as Advent decorations? Too often Advent just disappears in the rush to get to Christmas. We get caught up in the hype that has become Christmas. It is easy to forget what should be our focus at this time. The Advent season is a time for remembering and rejoicing, watching and waiting.

For many of us, Christmas has evolved into a time when we get presents. Soon we will be seeing a lot of gifts wrapped around our homes, and no doubt some of them will have that little tag on there that says, "Do not open before Christmas." Waiting can be difficult. Just take a look on Sunday morning at our bare Christmas tree, waiting to be decorated! It is a virtue to be patient and part of the Advent preparation is to patiently wait for our Lord's second coming to this earth. But since the prevalent mindset at this time of year is on presents, here's a suggestion for us to consider. Let's think of Advent in a new way. Instead of saying "Do not open before Christmas," there are some things we **SHOULD** Open Before Christmas.

You are invited to join us every Wednesday during the Advent Season for special devotions as we explore the gifts that we should open before Christmas. We will gather at the church at noon and again at 6 PM to share a light meal, devotions, and sing and pray together as we prepare for and anticipate the coming of the Christ Child.

Prayer List

*For continuing comfort and healing-*Carolyn Krick, Lelanie Exbom, Donna Kowalske, Pat Bingham, Vern Parsons, Sue Bernard, Cathy Bain, Connie Ormsby, Judy David

If you know of someone who should be included in the monthly ongoing prayer list, or you yourself would like to be included, please contact Pastor Michael (509-710-3283).

Combined Mission and Youth Report



AND THE MEN'S GROUP SCORES BIG at R.O.O.T.!

Several months ago the directors of the R.O.O.T (Reaching Out in Oneness to Teens) group in downtown Kingman, asked if Living Word would be able to re-furbish the basketball court in back of their building. Teens have met almost every Friday night for the past 25+ years to learn about the love of Jesus for them, have a evening meal together and enjoy playing games or hanging out. The LW men's group finished up painting the court lines, completely refurbishing the backboards, putting on new nets and added a couple of new basketballs then moved on to totally cleaning up the old BBQ grill so it looked almost like "new-with-a-lot-of-character!" Thankful teenagers gave it a good test the first Friday after the paint dried. A hot dog cook-off is planned to celebrate. The project was funded as a Thrivent Action Team. A Big Hurrah to the Men's Group! **Thanks guys!**

P.S. The LW Men's Group had to practice shooting baskets when the work was finished. Honorary member Arlene was the only one who made a basket!



Vision/Mission of Living Word Lutheran Church

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a welcoming, scripturally based community intentionally serving Christ through missions.

Mission Statement

Living and growing in faith together as a spirit filled church with the Word of God as our foundation and reaching out through missions showing the Love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to
Create a hunger in others to embrace the Word of God, salvation through Jesus Christ and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

DECEMBER EVENTS AT LWLC—JOIN IN WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23-ADVENT SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10 AM

12/5, 12/12, 12/19-Noon and 6 PM Advent Mid-week devotions; Bring soup, a loaf of bread, or a light dessert to share a small meal before Advent Devotions, songs and time together as we wait for the birth of our Savior!

12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26-8 AM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship, 6 PM Groups will gather for Advent Devotions

12/9-**Prayer Ministry after Worship**, Need personal prayer? Living Word Prayer Partners will join you in the back meeting room after worship

12/15-Congregation Adult Christmas Party 5 PM (see pg. 4)

12/17-4:30 PM Council Meeting

12/24-Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 6 PM



Mid-week Advent Devotions

Since childhood we've been told to wait until Christmas to open the packages under the tree. But some gifts just can't wait until Christmas! You are invited to join us every Wednesday during the Advent Season for special devotions as we explore the gifts that we should open before Christmas. We will gather at the church at noon and again at 6 PM to share a light meal, devotions, and sing and pray together as we prepare for and anticipate the coming of the Christ Child. Bring soup, a loaf of bread, or light dessert to share.





December 2, 2018

Join us following
worship to celebrate
all December
birthdays and
anniversaries



BIRTHDAYS

Caroline Prather	Dec. 1
Diana Barr	Dec. 1
Donna Ferguson	Dec. 6
Wayne Bohling	Dec 8
Carolyn Krick	Dec. 10
Pat Binghamn	Dec. 18
Pearl Redmon	Dec. 31

Anniversaries

Glen and Sharon Peterson	Dec. 3
Dale and Char Matheny	Dec. 30



W.O.W Women of the Word

**Women of the Word
(W.O.W.)** met for their
November meeting at the
church on Saturday,

November 17th. The women enjoyed a time of thanksgiving in rejoicing with prayers, devotions and singing, accompanied by Karen Shaffer. During a potluck lunch the Thanksgiving dinner on November 19th, results of the \$5 raffle and the end of the Penny War were discussed. Also Eileen Pressler spoke with the group on the fund raising policy recently passed by Council. The group decided that with all the activities during the month of December, W.O.W. will forego a December meeting and plan to meet for lunch on Saturday, January 19th. All women who attend Living Word Lutheran Church are considered members of W.O.W. in support of our church and encouraged to attend. Guests are also welcome. Bring a friend!



UGLY SWEATER, CRAZY GIFT PARTY

and POTLUCK 12/15/18 5 PM

Join us at the church for a fun adult party! Wear your ugliest Christmas outfit! Bring a wrapped gift for a silly gift exchange. The gift can be a White Elephant gift suitable for either male or female. If you can't find a White Elephant gift at home (**REALLY???**) and need to purchase a gift, please spend no more than \$10. Bring a potluck dish to share! This crazy party has become an eagerly anticipated event each Christmas Season. Save the date on your busy December calendars for a fun evening filled with laughter!



LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

(SUMMARY OCTOBER 8, 2018)

President Bob Allison, Pastor Michael Birnbaum, Vice-President Ken Boulrier Treasurer Arlene Allison, Mission Coordinator Rosie Freeman, Pastor Assistant Eileen Pressler & Secretary Sharon Peterson

Bob opened the meeting with prayer. September meeting minutes approved. No new items added to the agenda.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Michael Birnbaum We are planning on doing a baptism on Sunday 11/18. This is for the grandson of Don & Pat Bingham. Also being planned reception of new members on the 1st Sunday of Advent. With Donna Fergusons assistance, we are a Cursillo Church. Looking at getting a short form for visitors to complete (instead of the guest book) which would include phone number & email address. Would like to continue thinking of scheduling LCMC Pastor John Cross regarding stewardship. This would be a long term, 3 to 5 year plan, for our growth toward being able to call a full time pastor.

President's Report: Bob Allison September was a busy month. WOW group organized and put the yard sale together. The final tally was \$1680. Great job. The volunteers pitched in and helped at all activities. It was amazing to watch the support that was given to Mona Anderson for her mission trip to India. I want to thank everyone for all their support.

Vice President/Financial Report: Arlene Allison Financial report reviewed and approved.

Mission Coordinator: Rosie Freeman Very pleased with the results of the yard/craft/bake sale. Bob Alison received an email from Donna Pederson requesting the men's group visit ROOT and see what would be needed for painting the basketball court. Pastor Michael and Ken will plan arrangements with ROOT and discuss the project further with them. The next Thrivent action team is being done by Pat Toth and will be led by Alice Jensen for Food baskets for thanksgiving/Christmas

Pastor Assistant: Eileen Pressler The Homecoming/Reception of New Members/Fellowship meal on Sept 9th was well attended (55) Pastor Dan Storvick & Chaplain Denny Colvig participated. Balloons for the children was enjoyed by everyone. Sept 23rd Hymn Sing worship went well. Will look at using this format in the future. Coming up special services: Oct 28th Reformation Sunday & Nov 18th Thanksgiving worship/baptism and dinner. Dec 2nd is the 1st Sunday in advent. Mid week advent services are being planned. They will be at the same time as last year, noon and 6 pm. Motion was made by Eileen to set a designated line item of \$1000 from the yard sale to be used to provide supply pastors for some of the Sundays Pastor has off for next year. Council approved. Pastoral care team will be having their 1st meeting Sunday after worship

Old business:

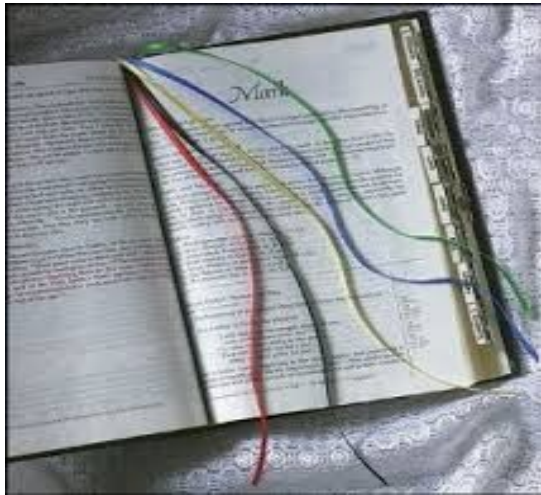
Bob made motion to have Ken purchase 2 new 4x8 signs for each side of the church building. Council approved.. Approved. He also suggested the men's group look at making a new permanent sign.

New Business: General discussion on having a mission support policy. It would be a case by case basis for any mission project reviewed by council.

Next Council meeting will be Monday Nov. 5th 4:30 pm. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Peterson

FULL FINANCIAL AND ATTENDANCE REPORTS FOR EACH MONTH AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN
OFFICE.- STOP IN AND TAKE A LOOK!



12/2 Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
Luke 21:25-36

12/9 Readings

Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 146
Mark 10:17-31

12/16 Readings

Isaiah 12:2-6
Psalm 85
Luke 3:7-18

12/23 Readings

Micah 5:2-5
Psalm 80:1-7
Luke 1:39-45

***Scripture readings are subject to change*



Dear Brothers and Sisters at LW,

As we enjoy this final newsletter of the year (haven't they been GREAT?!) it marks both a beginning and an ending. The calendar year draws to a close but the Church Year begins anew with the beautiful season of Advent. I looked at the wonderful thank you card you all sent to me for Pastor appreciation Sunday, and after reading every greeting again, I am amazed at how short lived your memories must be of my many shortcomings :) and in general, just really patient with me! So join me now as we begin, not only a new Church Year together but another year as pastor and church--I thank God for YOU!. May the Lord bless and keep each and everyone of you!

Pastor Michael



**WELCOME
TO
DYLAN LEE BINGHAM
BAPTIZED
NOVEMBER 18, 2018**





NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY COMING SOON!

Our worship family will be receiving a new church directory soon. It will include addresses, home and cell phone numbers, email addresses, and birthday and anniversary dates. Thanks to Don Bingham, we also will be including current family photos!

The plan is to distribute the church directory in January by email. You'll be able to save it on your computer and/ or print a copy. Print copies will be available by request. Let Pat Toth or Eileen Pressler know if you'd like a print copy.

Luke 3:10-11a: ¹⁰ *The people asked John, "What should we do?"*
¹¹ *He answered, "If you have two shirts, share with someone who does not have one...."*

In this season of giving, we ask you to practice some re-gifting or recycling to help people in need during the upcoming months of cold weather. We would like to gather up some of the surplus warm blankets, quilts, jackets, sweaters, flannel/wool shirts, or sweatshirts hiding in closets or boxes in the garage to be donated to missions in the area of Puerto Penasco, Mexico. A box will be setup in the narthex for the items through **Sunday, December 16th**. Pastor Micheal and Eneida will deliver the donations during their mission trips to Mexico.

Cash donations may be made by check payable to Living Word with a notation "Warm Donation" or in the canister at the back of the sanctuary.

This is an international mission project supported by Living Word.

Questions? Please contact Donna Pederson at 928) 753-5762.



Our Annual Congregational Meeting is held in January.

Please notify Pastor Michael or Eileen Pressler if you are interested in attending Membership Classes in order to become a voting member before the Congregational Meeting.

1st Quarter Worship Assistant Sheets are posted!

Check the bulletin board in the fellowship area to sign up to be an assistant in some part of our worship. We need greeters, readers, communion assistants and fellowship treat providers!



Tidbits!

Pastor Steve's Retirement Party—Save the Date

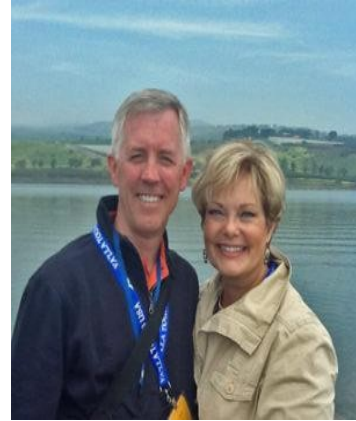
You are invited to Pastor Steve's retirement party on **Saturday, January 12, 2019** from 2:00 - 5:00 pm.

The event will begin with a program in the Sanctuary at 2:00 pm, followed by an early dinner in the Fellowship Hall and on the patio.

The following day on **Sunday, January 13** we invite you to hear our Rev. Dr. Steve's last sermon as Sr. Pastor at Shepherd of the Hills. Each service will be followed by a time of Fellowship. There will be NO Adult Education.

We encourage you to bring/mail a card of love to Pastor Steve and Lynn. If you would like to donate to their going away gifts you may send a check or drop it in the offering plate. Make it out to SOTH and mark "retirement." Questions, email Julia@sothaz.com.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 16150 E. El Lago Blvd. Fountain Hills, AZ 85268



With a challenge from the women of W.O.W. to the men of our congregation, the race to accumulate pennies and to sabotage the other team with silver and bills began slowly in September. In late October, in checking the jars, it appeared that the men were obviously out front. Finally the day of the grand counting arrived ... and with an overall total of \$199.95 (give or take a penny or nickel) to be donated to the church, the women were ahead \$9.75 (give or take that same penny or nickle) and were declared the **WINNERS**. Women, plan to enjoy a meal prepared by the men soon!! **Thanks to all who participated in this fun challenge!**

Giving your offering is an act of Worship! There are two different ways of giving to consider:

Each Sunday the offering plate is passed so you can place your check or cash. We encourage you to put cash in an envelope marked with your name so you will get a year end receipt for taxes.

OR ...

Schedule one time or recurring payments from your online bank account directly to Living Word. Each bank has a slightly different way to sign up for this service. Our treasurer, Arlene Allison, will provide the information you will need when you check with your bank about setting up this process. When you give this way, the bank mails our church a check and does not charge you or the church anything! It's a great way to give!



Tidbits!



W.O.W. \$500!!

The W.O.W. group began a raffle project, the first part of September, with hopes to sell 120 tickets to award a \$100 prize and to donate \$500 to the church general fund. There were challenges but, in the end, with last minute sales and Judy & Todd Ormsby donating back the \$100 prize, then a \$5 donation to round it off, there was \$500. donated to the Living Word general fund. Thank you to the church family, Judy & Todd for donating the prize money to the church and everyone who supported the program. Once again, we see that God is full of power!



Living the Word Groups

During Advent, the Men's Group will still be meeting at 8 AM on Wednesdays. Other groups will be meeting at noon or 6 PM for Mid-week Advent Devotions.



We will be working on boxes of everything that is needed for a special

Christmas dinner that will be donated to families in need. As at Thanksgiving Thrivent Action Team funds will be used to cover costs of meat but we will be passing around a sign-up sheet for contributions to cover all the side dishes. Thanks to all who donated to the Thanksgiving boxes! Alice Jensen will be guiding this second part of Living Word's annual project. Do you have a friend or neighbor who would benefit from one of these baskets? Please let Alice know.



"We Can Have Turkey!"

Greg Jensen reported that when he delivered one of the food boxes to a large family north of Kingman he was greeted by a man and a young boy. The boy grabbed the turkey and said, "See dad, we can have turkey." Greg said the family was thrilled to receive the box. We are so blessed to be to be a blessing to others.



The second annual (early) Thanksgiving Day Dinner on Sunday, November 18th was an exciting day of fellowship in the life of Living Word. A full church during worship followed by tables full of dinner guests was a wonderful time of praise to our Lord. The groups behind the scene were the women of W.O.W. who planned, prepared and served the meal and the men of the Wednesday morning Bible Study group who helped with the setup and cleanup for the meal. Thanksgiving Day Dinner - with thanks and praise to the Lord!