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**The Newsletter Deadline
is the 20th of the month.**

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



SUPER BOWL CHRISTIANS!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to play in the Super Bowl? It's a long and tough road to get there, and the two teams that make it have put together a rare combination of hard work, determination, and even a bit of luck! Whether you are a Patriots fan or you prefer Rams, at the end of the day we all just want good commercials and a great game.

Did you realize you are a professional "athlete"? Not in the NFL but in a much greater league. There are some fascinating parallels between the Super Bowl and our time serving Jesus here on earth.

#1: Welcome to the Pros!

Yep, you are a professional "athlete," not in the NFL, but in a much greater league that offers an eternal reward that makes winning a trophy look like a free hot dog! Here's the way the Apostle Paul puts it: *"²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷ No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."* (1 Cor. 9:24-27)

Could you name the last 52 Super Bowl winners or MVPs? Most people can't! That is Paul's point here. At the time, those folks thought they had reached the pinnacle of victory, and now the majority of people on earth don't even remember their names. But when we see the Christian life as a daily "all in" competition with our selfish and sinful nature, we will achieve a victory and glory for our Father that will never perish or fade! So wake up each morning with a game day mindset. Tell the Lord that you are ready to walk in His power and follow His will wherever it leads.

#2: Your Time is Limited!

When you watch the Super Bowl, observe how carefully the quarterback keeps his eyes on the clock. He knows that he has only 60 minutes of playing time to make every play count as much as possible. He knows that when the clock runs out and the whistle blows, he may never have a chance for a Super Bowl victory again. As you think about your walk with Jesus Christ, ponder this directive from God's Word: *"¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."* (Eph. 5:15-16)

Each day is like the snap of the ball for the Cause of Christ! When you start to envision your walk with Christ as a trained athlete who is racing against the clock to bring glory to God, the Christian life takes on a whole new level of meaning and excitement! Don't be fooled by all the time we seem to have left, because we are in the fourth quarter at the two-minute warning. Each day is like the snap of the ball for THE Cause of Christ, and we must carefully plan out our "plays" before the whistle blows!

So as you munch on goodies and enjoy Super Sunday with your family and friends, take some time to reflect on the reality of your life with Jesus. Realize that you are on a team (the church) that is competing for the ultimate prize and victory! The stakes are eternal, and like the athletes in the game, we must put ourselves into the strict training of prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and sharing the gospel for the sake of Christ and His Cause!

Adapted from dare2share (www.dare2share.org) internet article by Emily Stodghill

Prayer List

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



In November, members of the men's group re-striped the floor, donated 3 new basketballs and hung new nets at the basketball court and cleaned and repaired the bbq grill for the R.O.O.T. (Reaching Out in Oneness to Teens) facility in downtown Kingman. In January, several church members came together to have a hotdog cookout for the teens, gave away free school shirts and donated three pool cues for the teen recreation area. The project was funded through a Thrivent Action Team and benefited the 33-year-old R.O.O.T. ministry in their outreach of the love of Jesus.

We have Sunday School for children K-5th grade from 9:00-9:45 a.m. before the worship service on Sunday morning. We sing songs, do arts & crafts, pray together, share a snack and a Bible story. During January, we talked about the baptism of Jesus and the first miracle that Jesus performed. Do you know what it was?

(*see next page for clue!)

We encourage all of the church family to invite and bring children to be a part of our Sunday School.



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.

FEBRUARY EVENTS AT LWLC—JOIN IN WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

2/3 Installation of Council during worship

2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27-8 AM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship, 6 PM Men's and Women's Groups

2/10 Pastor Steve Bergeson worships with us, **Pot luck to follow worship!**

2/12 Council meeting 3 PM

2/16- WOW meeting, salad/soup potluck at church 11:30

2/17 Pastor's "Basics of Christian Faith" Class begins 9 AM

2/24 "Basics of Christian Faith" class 9 AM

A PRAYER TEAM IS AVAILABLE If you desire individual prayer, please join members of the Prayer Team in the Prayer Room who are available each Sunday after worship.

February Scriptures

2/3/19 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Psalm 71:1-6, Luke 4:21-30

2/10/19 Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 138, Luke 5:1-11

12/17 Jeremiah 17: 5-10, Psalm 1, Luke 6:17-26

2/24/19 Genesis 45:3-11, Psalm 134, Luke 6:27-38

Note: Scriptures are subject to change.



Greg Jensen Feb. 7

Wayne & Mardell Bohling Feb. 14

Michael & Eneida Birnbaum Feb. 26



ANSWER:



Potluck

Potluck Luncheon
with

Pastor Steve and Lynn

Following Worship 2/10/19

Bring your favorite dish!

DON'T FORGET!

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH (SUMMARY DECEMBER 17, 2018)

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

Meeting opened with prayer. November meeting minutes approved. No items to be added to agenda.

President's Report: Nothing to report this month **Vice President/Financial Report:** November financial report and proposed budget for 2019 of \$ 71,023.00 approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Michael Birnbaum (report on next page) Proposed we consider contracting Pastor Cross for \$3500 to do a congregational assessment. Council would like to keep this in mind for the future. Would like to request a \$5,000 loan. There was a lot of discussion on this issue. Motion made to loan Pastor \$5,000 with explanation at the congregational meeting. Council voted 5 to 1 to approve. Pastor will get with Arlene. This will be a 2 year loan.

Pastor Assistant: Pastor is planning to take Feb 10, 2019 off and Pastor Steve Bergeson is scheduled at this time. We could plan a potluck after worship for that Sunday. Candlelight worship is planned for Christmas Eve (6 pm) and Christmas day (10 am) Special services coming up in 2019: Ash Wednesday March 6th, Easter April 21st Plans for new members class in January. New members will be received before the congregation meeting. 3 Days of Prayer to begin 2019 New visitor cards have been implemented. Anticipate the Church Directory will be emailed in January. Reviewed the constitution and suggested delete 10.7.3 – it conflicts with 10.7.4 Review of the member active voting list.

Mission Coordinator: Review was done of projects over 2018. We did 6 food boxes for Thanksgiving and plan on doing another 6 for Christmas.

Old business:

Review Designated Funds Policy. Policy approved.

New Business: Candidates for Council Members – 2 positions are ending. Mission Coordinator and Vice President. Rosie agreed to continue another service. Ken will pray about it.

Next meeting scheduled for January 14, 2019 4:30 pm Closed with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Peterson, Secretary

LIVING WORD SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES (SUMMARY DECEMBER 20, 2018)

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

Bob called this meeting to further discuss the \$5,000 loan to Pastor. Following much discussion, motion was made to put this loan on hold at this time. We need to make sure this wouldn't affect our 501C standing. This will be researched and presented to the congregation to vote at the next congregational meeting on January 27, 2019, Council approved.

Ken will talk to Pastor and inform him of council's decision.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Peterson, Secretary

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

Pastor's Report for Dec 2018 (Some items may be covered in Parish Admin Report☺...)

- Adding Christmas Day Service at 10 am
- New member Sunday in Jan.
- Travel plans: Dec I'm "here", Jan/Feb will be heavy travel (actually starting Dec 28) but I'll be here on Sundays, with the possible exception of a Sunday in late Jan.
- Out Dec 28 – Jan 3, 7-9, Feb. 4-15 (Bergeson preaching Feb 10. More to be announced.
- Need to increase pastor time either me or Steve B. or?
- Please recombine my salary with the \$200 I asked to be set aside for "Pastor Expenses—that was a mistake on my part.
- Would like to request the other \$200 approved at last meeting be given to me. I will report to IRS, not LW.
- Requesting a \$5,000 loan from LW savings for Pastoral housing, to be repaid with interest via payroll deduction.
- Propose we consider contracting Pr. Cross for an initial \$3500 to do a congregational assessment. Kairos charges \$8500 for sameJ. Item for Cong meeting.
- Once proposed budget is presented to council I may be asking for substantial increases for "marketing" LW, or we can call it "outreach "or ? :)...



What are the three BIG great questions in LIFE?!

1. What is a Christian?
2. What is a *Lutheran Christian*?
3. Where can I get a free cup of coffee?

ALL three questions will be answered at 9 a.m. at Living Word Lutheran Church starting Feb. 17th and continuing for the next six weeks!

Wow! Doesn't that sound like something you'd like to invite a friend to?

Join us for **FREE** coffee and lively discussion as Pastor Birnbaum leads this "Basics of the Christian Faith.

**class is intended for those wanting to be introduced to our faith OR veterans just wanting to review--see you on the 17th! Oh---the coffee cups are FREE as well....:)

Pastor Michael

W.O.W. (Women of the Word) 2019 Planning Meeting January 19, 2019

The **W.O.W.** group held a 2019 planning meeting and luncheon potluck on Saturday, Jan 18th, 9 members attended. The group reviewed the **W.O.W.** activities in 2018 to consider what will be planned for 2019. It was decided the group would **a.** volunteer to schedule Sunday fellowship snacks and greeters sign-ups; **b.** hold a St. Patrick's Day dinner & bunco party; **c.** continue to support the church yard sale in the fall as volunteers and provide the arts & crafts area and bake sale; **d.** request to sponsor a midweek Thanksgiving service and pie fellowship with devotions, songs and prayers; **e.** place a box in narthex for Food Bank donations on an ongoing basis.



Women of the church are encouraged to support the church, **W.O.W.** and activities through participation in: **1.** Communion assistant; **2.** Altar guild; **3.** Power Point operator; **4.** Greeters (before and after services to gather contact information) **5.** Fellowship snacks **6.** Women's Retreat (volunteers needed to plan) **7.** Being active in and supporting **W.O.W.** projects

Our next meeting is February 16, 11:30 am at the church. Mark it on your calendar and plan to join your sisters in Christ!

Designated Fund Policy

Purpose:

Designated Funds provide an avenue for Living Word Lutheran Church (LWLC) Council to report income and expenses from sources both inside and outside the church membership directed towards specific ministries approved by the Church Council and beyond the constraints of the Church Budget.

Policy:

Before a designated fund is established, the Church Council will determine that it either supports an existing ministry of the church OR supports the overall mission/vision of the Church.

A designated fund may be established for specific items not otherwise included in the budget. They may also be established against an in house ministry and if so the designated funds will be spent BEFORE budgeted monies are spent.

Designated funds may be set up for both in house and/or out of house ministries at the discretion of the Church Council and the designated fund will be spent over and above any Church budgeted amount.

A Designated Fund will be dissolved when the ministry is no longer active OR is absorbed into the Church Budget. Out of house ministries or projects will get closed out on a yearly basis.

All Designated funds will be reviewed on an annual basis by the LWLC Budget Committee, with input from the Church Council if required, at the time of the new yearly budget preparation to determine if the fund is still active and to determine if the fund has fulfilled its objective. If the latter is the case any unused funds will be moved to the general operating budget of the Church to an account determined by the Budget Committee.

LWLC Council retains the right to remove the restrictions on a gift to a designated fund when it is in the best interests of the church to do so.

12/2018



Come For a Time of Prayer:

A prayer team is available in the back office area after worship service to pray for anyone who would like to have individual prayers. It may be for health concerns, personal issues, prayers of thanks and praise, or prayers for comfort, whatever the need is for the individual. All prayer matters are treated with confidentiality. We look forward to praying for others during this time and invite you to come for prayer time after the Sunday worship service.

Living Word Prayer Team