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

**Please email to:**  
[ewpressler@suddenlink.net](mailto:ewpressler@suddenlink.net)

**or share with her on  
Sunday morning**

### JANUARY DEVOTION



January should be a time of reflection and introspection. What has happened the last 365 days? Our time will never be recovered. How have we invested it? How should we improve and invest our time in this new year? These are good questions for all of us. We cannot see what will befall us this year. Thankfully, we have God's Word to guide us daily.

The scripture tells us; "Do not be conformed to this world" (Romans 12:2). That gets harder as we are bombarded with messages from television, radio, the internet, billboards, newspapers and magazines. They vie for our thoughts and seek to divert our hearts and minds from the Lord's wonderful mercies.

As we change the calendar, we can think on all that the Lord hath done. He gave us the Scriptures to reveal His will. He gave us the prophets to call us to repent and return. He gave us the Messiah to redeem us. He gave us the Sacraments. He paved the way to spend eternity with Him in Heaven. He did all this because He loves us!

Today, and all year, we are not left alone. God sent His Holy Spirit to live within us. We just need to listen carefully to Him. Be on guard against the enemy, and stand firm in Christ.

*"Pray and let God worry."* Martin Luther

Let us pray: ***Lord, as we come to this New Year, help us to move forward, trusting Your Leading.*** Amen

Adapted from a devotion in "Portals of Prayer"

## Prayer List

Please remember the following persons in your prayers:

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). For new prayer requests, **Contact Donna Pederson via email: donnaandjim@hotmail.com or phone 753-5762** with prayer requests. She will get the word out!

## Combined Mission and Youth Report



**Youth** of the church enjoyed participating in the lighting of the Advent candles throughout the Advent season.

### Annie's Art Attic Vouchers:

\$45 in vouchers was used to fill two large boxes with baby clothing (NB-18 months) for the mission trip to Penasco, Mexico, December 11-14, arranged by Pastor Michael.

\$50 in vouchers were given in response to an appeal from the Advice & Aid Pregnancy Center so that they could purchase baby/toddler items as needed.

\$100 in vouchers was given to the nurse at Cerbat School to be given to children and families in need. Nurse Elizabeth requested socks be donated for the children

\$20 in vouchers were given to a family in need.

### Other:

7 bags of donated toiletry items (hand soap, shampoo, conditioner, misc) were delivered to Cornerstone Mission.

4 boxes of diapers (130+) were purchased for the mission trip arranged by Pastor Michael to Penasco, Mexico, December 11-14,

Rosie Freeman, through a Thrivent Action Team and donations from the congregation, filled & distributed 10 food boxes to families in need for Christmas meals.

## 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.

**SIGN UP TO BE A WORSHIP HELPER!**

**SIGN UP SHEETS ARE POSTED IN  
THE FELLOWSHIP AREA. SPECIAL  
NEED FOR GREETERS!**



**JANUARY EVENTS AT LWLC—JOIN IN WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP**

1/3, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31 Men's Bible Study and Fellowship 8 AM

1/6 Epiphany

1/7 New Members Received, Reception following worship

1/11 Council Meeting 2 PM

1/20 WOW luncheon and meeting, 11:30 AM, Calico's

1/28 ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING AFTER WORSHIP, Pot Luck after meeting



**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

All that work we do in the Annual Meeting will surely make us hungry! Dig out that casserole you've kept in the freezer and join us after the meeting for our first Pot Luck Dinner of 2018. Don't miss out on the tempting dishes that will be served!

Dessert, anyone?

**It's That Time Again!**

2017 is behind us and what an exciting year it was! Our Annual Congregation Meeting is planned for after worship on January 28, 2018. Our busy agenda will include annual reports, proposed changes to our Constitution, election of Council members and approval of a budget for 2018!

**WHEW!!**

**YOU KNOW YOU'RE  
LUTHERAN WHEN**



**YOU KEEP A CASSEROLE  
IN THE FREEZER  
IN CASE OF POTLUCK**

www.lutheranonline.com



## BIRTHDAYS

Carol Wostal Jan. 23

*Rumor has it that Paul George, Lula Stroud and Floyd Morris are also celebrating January birthdays! January 11, January 12 and January 15???*

## Anniversaries

No anniversaries



## W.O.W Women of the Word:

The Living Word WOW group held their quarterly business meeting at church after worship on December 17th. Led by Alice Jensen, among the many items of discussion were activities for 2018. The group agreed to plan a corn beef & cabbage dinner with bingo event night in March and to support the church yard sale in the fall. The next meeting will be a lunch meeting at Calico's on January 20th.

All women of the church are cordially invited to join us for lunch on January 20. These lunches are casual and fun; an opportunity to share a meal (dutch treat!), get to know each other better, and laugh a lot. Sometimes we talk about events at church but mostly we just talk!

Do you need a ride? Call Eileen (757-9788) or Donna (753-5762). We'll get you there...and even back home again! Remember: *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."* Matt. 18:20

Update on Brooke Moser (Pastor Stan and Julie Simonik's daughter) Dear Living Word family, We hope you had a blessed Christmas. We heard from Brooke today. She went in for her 6th chemo treatment, so she is half-way through. The CT scan showed no abnormalities in the lymph nodes, so this is good news. They are keeping an eye on a couple of things, but the overall report is encouraging. Hopefully, the remaining chemo will result in more good news. Brooke has lost 3 Lbs. since her last appointment, but they had lots of activities around Christmas, so we hope she will bounce back soon. She continues to have a positive attitude. Thank you so much for your prayers and prayers from your church family. May you have a blessed New Year!

Julie & Stan

## LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH (SUMMARY DECEMBER 14, 2017)

Present: Pastor Michael Birnbaum, President Greg Jensen, Vice-President Ken Boulrier, Worship Coordinator Eileen Pressler, Mission Coordinator Donna Pederson, and Treasurer Arlene Allison. Secretary Sharon Peterson was an excused absence for medical reasons. Donna Pederson recorded the Minutes.

Pastor Michael opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes of the November meeting were approved.

**Pastor's Report (attached):** Pastor talked about programs he will be encouraging in the upcoming year, such as Pastoral Care Team Ministry and mission teams, along with other plans. Pastor plans to take a PTO Sunday off middle of January. Council approved.

**President's Report:** President Greg brought up required maintenance of the church as contained in the lease. The lease will be reviewed by all Council members. The election of officers, constitutional changes and other considerations for the Annual Meeting were also discussed.

**VP/Treasurer report (attached):** There was a discussion on possible changes to the benevolence allocations to allow LW to support a worldwide mission also. Arlene will ask Cherie Boulrier to do the annual audit of the church financial records and accounts.

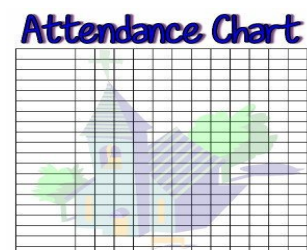
**Worship Coordinator (attached):** It is anticipated that six new members will be received in January. Eileen and Arlene would like to again try the Church Trac computer program for record keeping, together with other uses. Pastor would like to encourage members to sign up on "Amazon Smile" where a percentage of each purchase would be given to the church.

**Missions/Sunday School/ WOW & Youth Report (report is attached):** Many Annie vouchers have recently been distributed, including vouchers for baby clothes for the Mexico mission trip and the Pregnancy Center for baby clothing and vouchers to the Cerbat Elementary School for students' needs. It was agreed that a church calendar, as suggested by Pastor Michael, will be created for 2018 which will include Mission projects.

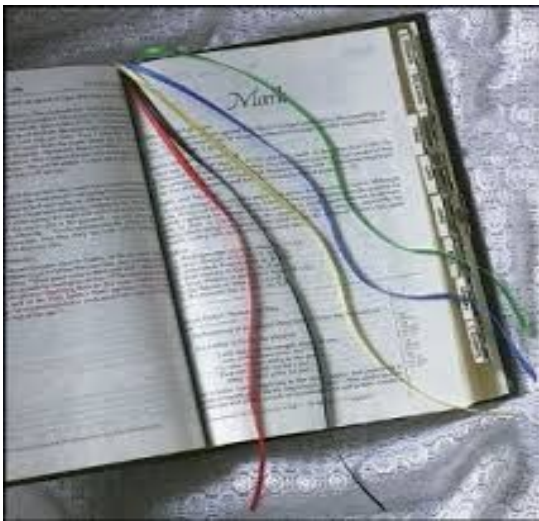
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 2:40 pm. Respectfully submitted, Donna Pederson



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





**1/7 Readings**

Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Mark 1:4-11

**1/14 Readings**

1 Samuel 3:1-10  
Psalm 139:1-10  
John 1:43-51

**1/21 Readings**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
Mark 1:14-20

**1/28 Readings**

Deut. 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
Mark 1:21-28



With the beginning of the new year we will be starting with a fresh list of on-going prayer needs. We gathered a number of them throughout 2017 and now need to hear directly from those who were on the list as to whether or not they want us to continue to list them (or hear from some one close to them).

We will also be starting over with "on-going" prayer lists every quarter in 2018. Please contact Eileen Pressler or me to request to be listed or to discuss.

As we begin the new year, we want to update our church family list (our whole church family, not just voting members list) with up-to-date contact info so that we can be in contact more consistently with more of our "extended" church family. We'd also like to encourage everyone to ask a neighbor, friend, or family member, not currently attending, if they might be

interested in receiving our newsletter. Utilizing our personal networking to increase communications about what we are doing in the Lord's name is an important means of growing a church!



**Ready to "Ask the Pastor"?! Starting with the Feb newsletter I will attempt to answer any and all questions you may have about the church, our worship, a theological issue, Bible question, etc. This could be fun! Send your question by email to me at [Michael@ISLonline.org](mailto:Michael@ISLonline.org)**

*Pastor Michael*

## Mission News!

### Christmas mission program

**Living Word♥ Living Stones:** Boxes full of handmade, new and slightly used children's clothing were prepared and taken to the Living Stones Ministry in Penasco, Mexico by Pastor Michael and his wife Eneida, who is the Director of the Ministry. Approximately 86 t-shirts & tops, 75 pants/leggings, 24 dresses/skirts, 80 pajama tops/bottoms/gowns, 13 outer garments and various other items were provided. A box of small gifts for the children including stuffed animals, beach balls, crazy sun glasses, mini frisbees, crayons and coloring books to be shared, was also sent. Beautiful cards made by a member of the congregation were signed by families in the church and sent with our best wishes. Eneida reported that over 100 children attended the Living Stones Ministry Christmas celebration and "everyone received something."



**A Warm Christmas for Students:** A brunch fund raiser was held after the worship service on December 10<sup>th</sup> resulting in generous donations of \$325 from the congregation to purchase warm sweatshirts (many with school logos) for the youth at the R.O.O.T. ministry center. On December 22<sup>nd</sup> members of Church Council and the youth joined in the R.O.O.T. evening gathering to pass out the sweatshirts to the teens. A total of 50 sweatshirts were available for distribution. It was a cold and windy night and the teens were very thankful to receive the sweatshirts. In addition, Living

Word provided dessert for the group's Christmas dinner that evening. The project was also a Thrivent Action Team project and received seed money of \$250.

“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

— **Mother Teresa**