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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

# 2019

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**This prayer from Billy Graham, written for *The Saturday Evening Post* in 2008, is just as relevant more than a decade later.**

Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love. In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost. And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end" (Psalm 119:33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come. *Amen.*

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## 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



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

As the grand finale of mission project for repair of the Basketball court at ROOT, we plan to cook hot dogs and provide a meal for the teens on 1/18/19. We will give the renovated grill a good workout as we grill dogs and provide other snacks the teens like to eat! Stay tuned for more details!

An exuberant and happy group of church youth and friends presented a carol of the "Good News Jingle" on Sunday, December 15th for the congregation. Their enthusiasm was outstanding and the presentation was enjoyed by all!



## 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.

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

1/2, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30-8 AM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship, 6 PM Men's and Women's Groups

1/2, 1/16-Living the Word Miller Street Group 6:30 PM Pat Toth's home

1/13-New Members Received, 1/14-4:30 PM Council Meeting

1/19- WOW meeting, salad/soup potluck at church 11:30

1/27-ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING, Pot Luck to follow

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.

**January Scriptures**

1/6/19 EPIPHANY- Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

1/13/19 Baptism of our Lord-Isaiah 43:1-7, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

1/20/19 Sanctity of Life Sunday-1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Psalm 36:5-10, John 2:1-11

1/27/19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Psalm 19, Luke 4:14-21



**Our Annual Congregational Meeting  
is held in January.**

Please notify Pastor Michael if you are interested in becoming a voting member before the Congregational Meeting.



<b>Lula Stroud</b>	<b>Jan. 11</b>
<b>Paul George</b>	<b>Jan. 12</b>
<b>Dale Matheny</b>	<b>Jan. 14</b>
<b>Floyd Morris</b>	<b>Jan. 16</b>
<b>Carol Wostal</b>	<b>Jan. 23</b>

No January anniversaries

**Editor's Note:**

January newsletter looks a little different! This abbreviated edition was done so you would be aware of important January events. (How could we forget birthdays?) Hopefully, things will be back to "normal" for February.!

## LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

(SUMMARY NOVEMBER 5, 2018)

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

Meeting was opened with prayer. Minutes from October meeting approved. Item to be added to agenda: Request from WOW to have kitchen faucets replaced.

**President's Report:** Bob Allison Bob said that the men's groups are doing very well. Bob gave his written resignation effective Jan 2019

**Vice President/Financial Report:** Arlene Allison Reviewed the financial report and found a correction that needed to be made. Motion from last month to set a line item of \$1000 from the yard sale to be used to provide supply pastor for some of the Sundays pastor is off next year was missing. Arlene will make this correction. Report approved as corrected.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Michael Birnbaum (full report attached) We are ahead of schedule in the goal Pastor had for us when he 1<sup>st</sup> joined us, to be in the black. We do need to start thinking about getting a new goal. Getting a full time pastor in 3 years. Pastor supplied us with salary guidelines, this should help us in reaching this goal. We will need to get next year's budget ready by December council meeting. Ken and Arlene will be working together to get this ready. Ken made a motion stating starting in Nov/Dec to have \$200 month for mileage/supplies as a line item for Pastor. Approved Pastor would really like council to consider having Pastor John Cross come preach/meet with council and see what he could offer us. Would like to see this happen Feb/March 2019.

**Pastor Assistant:** Eileen Pressler The sermon series on psalms was well received by the congregation. Memorial service for Shirl Graff will be at the Graff home 11/10 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm with wow helping with refreshments. It was suggested that the pastoral care team (meals on wheels) take over memorial services in the future. Council approved. November worship schedules reviewed. Pastoral care team – has implemented new visitor cards Update on church directory project: anticipate to have email distribution in January and some print copies will be available by request to regular attendees.

**Mission Coordinator:** Rosie Freeman The men completed painting the basketball court, Ken had a few pictures to show. If there is anything left on the card, this should be given to Donna Pederson. The next project is the food baskets and Alice is leading this project for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Rosie had a suggestion on the board that council was looking at putting up with pictures of council/church members on who is doing what. She will be getting together later this month with Pastor.

**Old business:** Living Word mission support policy approved.

**New Business:** Make plans for Jan annual meeting Scheduled for 1/27<sup>th</sup>. Designated funds policy presented It was suggested that council think about this before approving. Action will be taken at next meeting.

Next meeting 12/11 at 4:30 pm Meeting closed with Lords prayer

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Peterson, Secretary

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

**Pastors Report for Oct. 2018 LWLC**

1. We are ahead of schedule in the goal I had for us to be “in the black” as we are there now! Even with a slow Oct (although last Sunday alone was over a third of what we need for Nov.) We are ready to stop worrying about survival and start thinking of **growth**. Let’s start thinking about getting to a goal of a fulltime pastor in three years (not meJ)? I would suggest we contract Pastor John Cross, the consultant our pastor friends have used and recommend, to help LW get into a decision process for growth. I can’t make a motion but I’d like to ask for one to invite him to preach and visit in January or February.
2. I’ve attached a) LCMS Pastor Salary Guidelines, b) generic pastor salary ranges, c) sample mileage forms.
3. Based on #2 above I am at about a one-third salary and I am happy with that if the church is happy with that. I will need to continue using weekdays to do my “other job” ISL.
4. I’d like to ask we schedule an informal congregational coffee-time-let’s talk-about-the budget time for Sunday January 13 or 20. As we grow and our budget and plans increase we need to be more intentional about financial planning. Ken and I have discussed this and agree on the concept of this kind of meeting. This means we need a draft budget to be ready by the previous Sunday (Jan 6?) to be offered after church for those who want to study it. Working backwards this means we need budget input from council members in early December so as to avoid messing with this during Christmas. I am assuming our Annual Meeting will be Jan 27 or Feb. 3?
5. This summer we were worried about income so I volunteered to start paying for church/pastor mileage and meals out of my pocket, but since we are now “in the black” I’d like to ask for a two month supplemental “budget” for mileage and meals related to church business. Ideas?
6. Following up on #3 above, there is an LCMC meeting in PHX I can attend by extending my Wednesday ISL meeting in PHX but will cost a motel and two meals—let me know if you all want to do this, and re-imburse me for it.
7. I will be out of town Nov. 14-16 and 18-22.
8. Progress toward the two goals I set for us (me ☺) is very very good. Goal one was to stabilize us as a congregation in terms of past issues and we are 80-90% there. Goal two was getting us into the black and on our way to a being a fulltime church someday soon. We are in the black and ready to plan getting to being a fulltime congregation-see items above. This is a process and may be 2-4 years.
9. Other items relating to my work are in the Parish Administrators Report (worship, admin, etc).

**Living Word Lutheran Church Mission Support Policy****PURPOSE:**

Ongoing ministries of Living Word Lutheran Church (LWLC) are financially supported through the Operating Budget annually approved by the congregation. However, at times additional funding may be appropriate for specific projects, trips, or ministries, which are not covered by the Operating Budget.

Fundraising activities serve at least two important purposes beside the obvious one of raising needed money for church ministries. First, they highlight the specific mission, importance, and needs of the organization for which funds are being raised. Second, they help to build community within the church and enthusiasm for its ministries.

This policy provides guidance for acceptable fund raising activities, and manages the number and frequency of fund raising activities so as to avoid overburdening the congregation with requests for money.

**POLICY:**

All fundraisers are to be conducted for the benefit of LWLC, its ministries, or causes approved by the Church that further the Kingdom of God specifically.

Every request for a fundraiser must be made in writing to a member of Church Council who will include the request on the agenda at the next Council meeting. Fundraising requests do not carry over from one year to the next.

The number and frequency of all fundraisers shall be limited at the discretion of LWLC Council to avoid excessive and frequent financial demands on the Church members. Fundraisers for local missions shall be limited to a maximum of one per mission per calendar year. Global mission fundraisers shall be considered on an individual basis upon request to Council.

Established Church programs (such as annual Fall Yard Sale and Thanksgiving/Christmas Food Box Programs) are exempt from the request process. However, these programs are required to confirm their intentions to continue these programs during the Church budgeting process each year. Raffles, silent auctions, etc. conducted in coordination with an established Church program do require separate approval.

Groups sponsoring approved fundraisers should provide a follow up report for the first Council meeting following the event. Reports should include:

- Total items sold and/or money collected
- Total expenses, if any, for the fundraiser.
- A specific listing of how much and where the proceeds were used

11/2018