



Volume 2020 Issue 1

Living Word Lutheran Church

Worship address: 2570 Northern Avenue

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Kingman, Arizona

January Devotion-

A New Year with Jesus!

I love New Year's. It's not because of the New Year's Eve celebration; it's not because the busyness of the holidays is over. I love New Year's because it signifies the end of a chapter, one that probably didn't reach my highest expectations yet holds the hopes, the dreams, and the possibilities of a whole new year.

Even though a new year almost seems "artificial" in some ways — only minutes from one to the next — I see it as a brand new start, a start that I need every year to help me get past the past. A New Beginning in Jesus Christ.

No matter how hard we try to plan and maintain a handle on (or control of) our own lives, each year all of us are faced with situations and circumstances that are completely out of our control.

At times like these, Jesus speaks to us just as he did to a father named Jairus when he found out his daughter had just died: "Don't be afraid. Just trust me" (*Mark 5:36, NLT*).

Looking back at last year, I see disappointments in relationships, I see friends and family who have gone through sickness, loss, and pain. I see poor decisions in how I reacted to situations and how people reacted to me. I see how I hurt others and others have hurt me. But in order for me to

encourage my fellow Christians to do the same. Forgive and receive forgiveness. *Proverbs 17:9* says, "He who covers and forgives an offense seeks love, but he who repeats or harps on a matter separates even close friends."

Isn't it wonderful to know as you begin this New Year that you have God's Spirit with you, His Spirit carrying you, leading you, and guiding you? Do you realize that this New Year can be a year in which you can serve God with a fresh new excitement? As you're walking with Him and being obedient to Him, you will feel the sense of His pleasure in your life.

Pleasure doesn't come in the pursuit of happiness, but in the pursuit of holiness. As you set new goals, new priorities for the days ahead, check out where God is in your plans and decision-making.

One thing will always remain: God. And because He is immutable-unchanging-He will always be the same, and He will never leave you nor forsake you. (*Heb.13:5*)

He is always there with arms opened wide, your everlasting Father God. With this New Year, cling to the fact that He will never change.



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In this New Year, where will you run? When the hounds of trouble, worry, and fear pursue you; when your energy is spent; when weakness saps you; when you feel you cannot run any longer, where do you turn? Who is your refuge? If you desire a fresh new start, determine He will be the One you will run to. Run to Him and bury yourself in the security of all He is.

Special points of interest:

- Christmas Projects at Living Word Pg. 3
- January Celebrations Pg. 4

*Adapted from an article by
Pastor Peter Okerke Jr.
Living Word Ministries,
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January Scriptures

1/5/20 Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Matthew 2:1-12

1/12/20 Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Matthew 3:13-17

1/19/20 Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, John 1:29-42 (Pastor Steve Bergeson worships with us!)

1/26/20 Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, Matthew 4:12-23

Prayer Requests

For continuing comfort and healing

Carolyn Krick, Lelanie Exbom, Donna Kowalske, Pat Bingham, Vern Parsons, Sue Bernard, Cathy Bain, Char and Dale Matheny, Barbara McCord, Floyd Morris, Holly Vautier, Carol Wostal

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).



SAVE THE DATE!! January 26, 2020 Reception of New Members and Annual Congregation Meeting



New Members Are Joining

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” (Romans 15:7, ESV)

Each week our worship guide notes that Living Word is a “growing family of faith”. On 1/26/20, we grow even larger as

we welcome new members into our church family!

After worship we join together for our Annual Congregation Meeting! Our busy agenda will include annual reports, proposed changes to our Constitution, election of Council members and approval of a budget for 2020! WHEW!!

All that work we do in the Annual Meeting will surely make us hungry! Join us after the meeting for our first Pot- Luck Dinner of 2020 and a chance to enjoy fellowship with our new members and each other!

Don't miss out on the decisions made during the meeting, the fellowship at the New Member's reception and Pot-Luck, and of course, the great food!

1/26/20 SAVE THE DATE!!



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

From Pastor Michael

Dear Living Word Family,

What a joy and privilege it has been to serve with you this past year. In spite of (or maybe because of... ☺) my health related absences this year we continue to grow our little church. As our Baptist friends say : "All the time God is good, God is good all the time...!!!" Let that be both our thanksgiving for His presence among us this past year and our

faithful anticipation of His loving presence among us in 2020!!! May our faithful Lord bless and keep each and every one of you and your loved ones.

Resolve to let the Word of God infiltrate your mind and heart and change you to be more like Him as we begin this wonderful new year of worship and life together – IN HIM!

Pastor Michael



CHRISTMAS PROJECTS AT LIVING WORD

Tieg Masterson, an 8 year old Wolf Scout, helped distribute Christmas food boxes as part of his work on his God & Country Boy Scout badge. He helped the Mission team pack boxes with lasagna, Italian bread, salad mixes, desserts and bags of candy for the children. In delivering the boxes, Tieg asked if he could share a Christmas joke when we delivered the boxes. It turned out that the recipients were happy to hear some humor along with receiving the boxes.

At the end, Tieg was how he felt about delivering food boxes. He said felt "a little good" because the people got food to help them but he also felt "a little sad" because some people looked really poor. We agreed that we were thankful that God had blessed us so that we could share Christmas food with others to celebrate Jesus' birth.

A couple of Tieg's jokes were: Knock, knock. Who's there? Cheddar. Cheddar who? "You cheddar watch out, You cheddar not cry."

Why do grapes like Christmas? "Tis the season to be jelly."



One Sunday, as Eva & Eric listened to Pastor's Michael's sermon, Eva heard him telling her that children of God should be alert and listen for God's call. Later when she was out shopping, she struck up a conversation with a clerk working in a local discount store. The clerk told her how Thanksgiving and Christmas would be difficult for her family since her work hours had been reduced to 15 hours per week. Eva heard a "God Alert"! She arranged for food boxes at Thanksgiving and Christmas. She invited the family to attend the Thanksgiving gathering at Living Word and many members were delighted to meet them. An appeal went out to the WOW group for Christmas gifts for the children (girls ages 12 & 10 and a little guy 4 years old). The children's wishes were sweet and simple; fairy lights for one girl's bedroom, big bow hair ribbons for the other and something "Paw Patrol" for the little boy. A week before Christmas gifts for each child had been donated, as well as cash for extras. Eva invited the mother for lunch at her home and together they went through the gifts and wrapped them all. There was delight and joy in that family's home and a mom's grateful heart that her cry had been heard and answered. We rejoice with this family as they were blessed in receiving and we were in our giving because the God alert did not go unanswered. We praise You, Lord, for opening our hearts to Your call!

W.O.W. (Women of the Word)

The women of the W.O.W. group gathered in December to make tamales to raise funds for projects to refresh the interior of the church and to add landscaping around the parking lot. After creating and selling 327 tamales and deducting costs, the proceeds of \$273 will be available to undertake the projects. Be on the lookout for

All women who attend church at Living Word Lutheran Church are members of W.O.W. (Women of the Word) and are encouraged to join in activities to serve and support our church. Please contact Donna Pederson (928-753-3762) or Karen Shaffer (775-513-8367) for more Information! Join your Sisters in Christ!



Living Word Council Minutes-Meeting Summary 11/12/19

Pastor Michael Birnbaum, Pastor Assistant Eileen Pressler, President Ken Bourlier, Vice-President Bob Pressler, Treasurer Arlene Allison, Mission Coordinator Rosie Freeman & Secretary Sharon Peterson. Meeting opened with prayer. Minutes from last meeting approved. Items to be added to agenda: New Cross, Senior Church-Advertising

Pastor's Report: Really enjoyed our big service on Nov 3. It was a blessing to see how many people showed up. Recent events in Mexico have thrown a wrench in my other job. We are having teams canceling for fear of security issues. I ask for patience as I have to work things out. Health continues to be good. Nothing is planned for the future. Will be finalizing Advent/Christmas plans. I will be planning a Sunday off in January. There has been a new organization in Kingman called Acts of Kindness. This organization provides businesses the opportunity to give back to the community. Please review the organization at aok@giveactsofkindness.com to see if we want to become a sponsor.

Pastor Assistant: Combination Reformation, All Saints, Celebration of life Paul George (11/3) was well attended (43) Reception that followed was great. Thanksgiving

worship 11/24 with potluck to follow. Wow is working on evening worship with Pie fellowship to follow. Advent begins 12/1. Mid-week advent small groups will begin on 12/4 noon and 6 pm. Christmas Eve- Candlelight worship. Have annual reports for review at December meeting. Council positions open: President: Ken's appointment as president in 3/19 needs congregational approval and he can run for a full 2 year term. Bob Pressler appointment as VP in 3/19 needs congregation approval. Secretary – Sharon can run again for a second 2 year term. Look over the constitution for changes/updates.

President's Report: Cross: Greg's brother-in-law has made a 12 ft by 6 ft metal cross. This will bring in some curb appeal. Pastor said he will be in Phoenix area and pick it up. The old cross is up by the sign. WOW would like to have a light shining on it.

Financial Report: Council approved.

Mission Coordinator: Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets enough for 8 families. It is a Thrivent action submitted by Pat Toth. WOW will be making tamales.

New Business: Eileen presented an idea that was given to her by Donna Ferguson. Outside pantry (take what you need). Gave it to the men's group to see if they could make it. Rosie presented an idea by WOW on

on painting around the banners to give them depth. WOW would like to use the money they get from making Tamales. Special project approved by council.

Bob will get with Arlene for a Budget Meeting. Ken: would like to advertise us as a Senior/Mature Church. Would like us all to think and pray on this and on activities we can do as a church.

Next meeting December 10th at 1:30 pm
Meeting was closed with Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted:

Sharon Peterson, Secretary

January Celebrations



Jan. 14	Dale Matheny
Jan. 16	Floyd Morris
Jan. 16	Eva Hofflund
Jan. 23	Carol Wostal



No January anniversaries

January, 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3	4 <i>10 AM Support Group</i>
5 <i>Celebration Sunday</i>	6 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord Matt. 2: 1-12 Council 9 AM</i>	7 <i>10 AM YOGA</i>	8 8 AM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship	9	10	11 <i>10 AM Support Group</i>
12	13	14 <i>10 AM YOGA</i>	15 8 AM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship	16	17	18 10 AM Support Group <i>WOW-time and place to be determined</i>
19 Pastor Steve Bergeson worships with us	20	21 <i>10 AM YOGA</i>	22 8 AM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship	23	24	25 <i>10 AM Support Group</i>
26 <i>New Members Received Annual Meeting and Pot Luck to follow</i>	27	28 <i>10 AM YOGA</i>	29 8 AM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship	30	31	

Living Word Lutheran Church



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We're on the web!

www.livingwordkingman.com

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.

Welcome to 2020!

The great thing about having a friendship with God is that there is always the opportunity to start anew - God always offers us a new day and a new dawn, no matter what has gone before. At the start of the New Year, why not take a moment to thank Him for last year, ask His forgiveness for where you have failed, and dedicate this new year to Him - to serve Him and love Him afresh.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord,

You make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our Spirits to be born again. Thank you for this new year, for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise Your glorious name. Amen

