

LIVING WORDS



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Living Word Lutheran Church
Website: www.livingwordlc.org

11974 Walker Street, Arlington, TN 38002

Phone: 901-377-1010
E-mail: livingwordLC@bellsouth.net

“Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God.” Psalm 85:13

When looking at this month of November, I was taken a back once again how quickly we move from season to season. Beginning with Reformation we go through All Saints' Day, Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving, and then onto Advent, all within a matter of weeks. After spending such a long time in the Green season of the Church year (the time after Pentecost), we move quickly through the seasonal colors of the church year. Red for Reformation, white for All Saints, Christ the King, Thanksgiving, and blue for Advent. Then before we know it Christmas will be here. Upon writing this message for the newsletter, I Googled® how much time there is until Christmas and it quickly came up that there are only 52 days, 13 hours, and 52 minutes left until Christmas. For many of us, this means there is still a lot of preparation that needs to be done. We are all in overdrive.

Upon feeling quite overwhelmed and struggling to keep our heads above water, a friend of ours invited us to check out the website www.adventconspiracy.org. While reading this website I found a beautiful quote that I think set things back into perspective. The quote is, “This year, give presence!” As we all begin our shopping to stay ahead of the ball this year, we are called back to the season of Advent. Advent is a season in which we are called to slow down, wait, and prepare for Jesus' second coming. One way we can do this is through the giving of our presence.

Each year it seems that there are more and more things that demand our attention and it seems like we are rushing from one thing to the next. However, this year instead of only focusing on what presents we are going to give our church, family and friends, maybe we can remember that sometimes just stopping to give someone our time or our presence is a gift in itself. What a wonderful gift to give our God who gives us everything.

Our very presence at Church not only glorifies God, but it blesses those around us as we gather to sing, hear God's Word, and receive one of the greatest gifts God gives us here on earth, Holy Communion. Then as we are refreshed and renewed we are sent back out into the world to share our presence with others.

This Advent/Christmas season presents are nice, but let us work on giving the gift of presence in all aspects of our life.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Jason and Pastor Andrea

Gift Ideas for Relational Giving

Here are a few ideas to get your own creative juices flowing!

The gift of time –

Create a fun certificate stating the gift of time you want to give, for example, help with a project around the house or help with errands. Bring coffee, tea or lunch and flowers when you come, be intentional about really connecting while you're together!

Here are some ideas for spending time together:

- Wrap popcorn, gourmet root beer and a classic DVD for a movie night with a friend;
- Host Monday Night Football and make homemade pizzas
- Wrap two copies of a used classic book to read with a friend;
- Hot cocoa, bundle up and take a walk through the Christmas-lit streets or downtown with friends or family

Give creative coupons:

- Babysitting for your worn out sister-in-law
- Yard work for an elderly person in your life
- Massage for that person who has been working a bit too hard lately
- Road trip to get on an out-of-town adventure with your child
- Free point to get together and talk theology and about how God is moving in your lives
- Car maintenance to change the oil in a friend's car (if you know how!)
- House project to help them build that shed, clean the garage, closets, etc.

Give a certificate for a day together doing something that person is passionate about:

- A new bat and a trip to the batting cages
- A new guitar strap and a trip the guitar center to play with the guitars together
- A day trip with your cameras for the photographer friend
- A day hike together, you bring lunch

Things to make with the kids:

- Simple Scrapbook with pictures of time with the person you're giving it to, pictures of the kids for far away family
- A home "published" story, written and illustrated by the kids (the time you spend with the kids creating it is priceless!)
- A DVD of your life these days for long-distance friends and family

Ask yourself, "What can I do?" And give yourself! "What do they like to do?" Make time to do it with them!

A side note:

This isn't about creating a bunch of new rules to be legalistic about Christmas. It's ok to spend some money (in fact, sometimes creating something cool can be much more expensive – so be aware of that!) don't create a whole separate set of pressures, worry and guilt by feeling like you can't spend a dime. Just step out of the consumerism, be thoughtful and enjoy the celebration!

Don't forget to visit www.rethinkingchristmas.com be give (and receive) ideas from people around the world.



The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love. So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a Savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists. And when it's all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and this empty feeling of missed purpose. Is this what we really want out of

Christmas? What if Christmas became a world-changing event again?

Welcome to Advent Conspiracy, a movement calling us to proclaim Christ in how we celebrate Christmas.

Advent Conspiracy was started in 2006 by five pastors who decided to make Christmas a revolutionary event by encouraging their faith communities to Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More and Love All. The response was overwhelming and the Conspiracy was born. The vision for this project is a collaboration between Rick McKinley of Imago Dei Community in Portland, OR; Greg Holder from Windsor Crossing in St. Louis, MO; and Chris Seay of Ecclesia in Houston, TX.

ENTER THE STORY

Advent Conspiracy is a resource for churches to engage in authentic Worship and Giving at Christmas more fully – a simple idea for you to take and run with. Be as creative and bless those in need by giving relationally as God gave His Son to us at Christmas. No money comes to or through Advent Conspiracy. You decide where and how you would like to Give More to those in need. The concept behind Advent Conspiracy is simple...

[WORSHIP FULLY]

It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. This is the holistic approach God had in mind for Christmas. It's a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift a song up to our God. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns, and a king is celebrated with each breath. It's the party of the year. Entering the story of Advent means entering this season with an overwhelming passion to worship Jesus to the fullest.

[SPEND LESS]

Before you think we're getting all Scrooge on you, let us explain what we mean. We like gifts. Our kids really like gifts. But consider this: America spends an average of \$450 billion a year every Christmas. How often have you spent money on Christmas presents for no other reason than obligation? How many times have you received a gift out of that same obligation? Thanks, but no thanks, right? We're asking people to consider buying ONE LESS GIFT this Christmas. Just one. Sounds insignificant, yet many who have taken this small sacrifice have experienced something nothing less than a miracle: They have been more available to celebrate Christ during the advent season. Looking for a few gifts that don't cost a lot of money? Need some more ideas for relational giving? Head to www.RethinkingChristmas.com today.

[GIVE MORE]

God's gift to us was a relationship built on love. So it's no wonder why we're drawn to the idea that Christmas should be a time to love our friends and family in the most memorable ways possible. Time is the real gift Christmas offers us, and no matter how hard we look, it can't be found at the mall. Time to make a gift that turns into the next family heirloom. Time to write mom a letter. Time to take the kids sledding. Time to bake really good cookies and sing really bad Christmas carols. Time to make love visible through relational giving. Sounds a lot better than getting a sweater two sizes too big, right?

[LOVE ALL]

When Jesus loved, he loved in ways never imagined. Though rich, he became poor to love the poor, the forgotten, the overlooked and the sick. He played to the margins. By spending less at Christmas we have the opportunity to join him in giving resources to those who need help the most. When Advent Conspiracy first began four churches challenged this simple concept to its congregations. The result raised more than a half million dollars to aid those in need. One less gift. One unbelievable present in the name of Christ. For more information, including some videos, be sure to visit www.AdventConspiracy.org.

GIVE PRESENCE



Sunday, November 20 at 5:30pm we'll gather for our **Thanksgiving Dinner**. Please see the posted sign-up sheet.

At 7pm there will be **Thanksgiving Worship Service**. Please invite others to come and eat and worship as we give thanks for one another during this holy time.



**Celebrate the Joyful WORSHIP of Christ regularly”...and bring others with you
to share ‘the joy’
–expanded from the “Principals We Live by Mission Purpose of LWLC.**

Yes, I know it’s the beginning of November. Yes, I know November has the festivals of All Saints Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving Worship, and is where the season of Advent begins on the last Sunday of November this year. However I’m going to talk with you about the advent of Christmas. No, not the Yule Season where folks are Christmas Shopping while a mixture of secular and sacred Christmas Songs fill the air so we will buy, buy, buy and party, party, party. I am going to talk with you about what you can give to our Living Lord at Living Word Church this Christmas Eve...Your time...Your talent.

This is about choir music on Christmas Eve at Living Word Church. Many folks have lists of names of whom they are going to get Christmas gifts for. On your list I ask you to consider adding Living Word Christmas Choir and Living Word Young Peoples Choir. Why? Through these musical groups you can gift back to God the use of your talents he so generously gave to you. On Saturday, November 5, 11:00 AM a group of folks, considering the Living Word Christmas Choir, are meeting to discuss where in the 9:00 PM service anthems might be sung, when the rehearsals will be, how long the rehearsals should be, even some of the music to be sung. Decisions as to rehearsal times will be announced. It is to be hoped you will give of yourselves to a Christmas Eve Choir, for through your talent giving God will certainly be praised.

If you have not yet reached a decision about Christmas Choir I suggest to you that your presence is important, you are part of the whole and each has something unique to contribute. Though abilities may differ, nobody ever has any more than one voice to offer. But, in most cases everyone has no less than one voice either.

Our voice can be the instrument used by God to proclaim, to uplift, and to comfort those who hear it. When we combine our unique voices and practice together, we can become a choir. Anxieties of our own effectiveness in the choir can cause us to be cautious. But, ultimately, we must turn it over to God for nothing will be impossible with God.

The English Christmas Carol “In the Bleak Midwinter” has a final stanza that goes like this:

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him---give my heart.*

God calls us to use our varied voices and to join the chorus of proclaimers that is ancient and ever new. The Christmas Choir needs the gift of your uniqueness. There are many talents that make up Living Word Congregation. It is to be hoped that Christmas Choir will be a way to gather and utilize some of those gifts given to us by God.

Please pray over and for the Christmas Choir. God’s peace be with you...always.

Organist
Wendell B Baechler
Page 6

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Sunday, November 27th 9:30am

Advent Lessons and Carols from Around the World.

This is a special service that begins with “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers” ELW 244 and ends with the prayer and song “Savior of the Nations, Come” ELW 263. During the service we will be hearing lessons from Isaiah and Luke while singing songs from around the globe some very familiar and some new ones too. Some of the nationalities that will be represented are Germany, American, Norwegian, Cameroon, England, and more. Come and take part in this very different, but worshipful event.

Friday December 2nd, 6pm

Christmas Parade float decorating Party at the home of Joe and Mindy Menser.

Saturday December 3rd, 4pm

Arlington Christmas Parade

Advent Midweek Services

The theme for our Advent midweek services this year will be various Advent Reflections from different Biblical witnesses. Come and worship as we gather for Evening Vespers and experience some of the faithful Biblical stories surrounding not only the coming Christ child, but the one who we pray will come again, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, November 30th

6pm - Advent Soup and Sandwich Dinner
7pm Advent Worship

Wednesday, December 7th

6pm - Advent Soup and Sandwich Dinner
7pm Advent Worship

Wednesday, December 14th

6pm - Advent Soup and Sandwich Dinner
7pm Advent Worship

Wednesday, December 21st

7pm - Chrismon Tree Decorating Service

Come and participate in this long held tradition of decorating the Chrismon Tree and singing favorite Christmas Hymns. There will be cookies and refreshments for all. Invite your friends and family to join in the fun!

December 24th Christmas Eve Services

7pm - Family Candlelight Service

There will be special instrumental music from various youth along with bells and choir music from the Living Word Youth Choir

9pm - Traditional Candlelight Service

There will be special instrumental music along with our Christmas Seasonal Choir.

November Days of Celebration



Birthdays

Nov. 1	Alex Fowler	Nov. 18	Stephanie Beckman
Nov. 1	Andre Doyle	Nov. 21	Dorothy Chitwood
Nov. 3	Linda Proseus	Nov. 22	Larry Spitler
Nov. 6	Bev Wagner	Nov. 24	Ronnie Long
Nov. 12	Thomas Moody	Nov. 30	Joan Hemke
Nov. 15	Chloe Swanson		

Anniversaries *None to Share!*



Baptisms

Nov. 14	Mo Baker	Nov. 24	Megan Baker
Nov. 14	Bruce Woods	Nov. 24	Nelleen Hall
Nov. 24	Thomas Moody	Nov. 30	Linda Proseus



“Dear Darvalics Committee,
I would like to thank you for rewarding me the Darvalics Scholarship money. With that I was able to pay for my books for class.
Thank you,
Kerri Fowler”

Our Prayer Concerns:

Members:

Mary Buchschacher; Dorothy Chitwood; Calvin and Ann Daniels; Andrè Doyle; Dave Hudspeth; Elna Larson; Sandy Long; Martha Menser; Jennie Neiswinger; Sandy Stephens



FAMILY & FRIENDS

MaryAnn Sansevere; Kyle; Alex and Conner Buchschacher; Nancy Bannister; Morgan Van Dyke; Troy Van Dyke, Jr.; Brenda Bratton; Paula Hart; Mike Witek; Mary Ann Santucci; Christian Heard; Kathy Lawhon; The Parks Family

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Chris Baker, Marines, deployed to Afghanistan; *SSG Alex Buchschacher*, *SGT Susan Buchschacher*, Army; *Daryll Christopherson*, Air Force, Washington, DC, nephew of the Hudspeths; *Andrew Frazier*, Beale Air Base, CA; *Adam Long*, Army Reserves; *James Menser*, Navy attached to the Army, deployed to Afghanistan; *Victoria Spitler*, Army Basic Training, niece of the Spitlers; *Bruce D. Woods*, stationed in California

Contact Numbers

Pastor Andrea	
Pastor Jason Peterson	
Organist	Wendell Baechler
Office	Pam Dilg
President	Travis Fowler
Vice-President	Martha Menser
Secretary	Jennie Neiswinger
Treasurer	Marian Gray
Council Members	Ron Abbott Michelle Spitler
Prayer Chain	Ann Daniels
Altar Guild	Linda Proseus
Board Chairs:	
Education Bd	Pastors
Fellowship Bd	S. Stephens/ M. Menser
Finance Bd	Marian Gray
Outreach Bd	Roger Schwartz
Property Bd	Travis Fowler
Worship Bd	Pastors
Youth Leaders	Pastors
Council Liaisons:	
Education:	Jennie Neiswinger
Fellowship:	Martha Menser
Finance:	Marian Gray
Outreach:	Michelle Spitler
Property:	Travis Fowler
Worship:	Pastors
Youth:	Ron Abbott



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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

Web site address

www.livingwordlc.org

**LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH'S
Mission and Purpose
Living the Word...Spreading the Word.**

Worshiping

Celebrate the joyful worship of Christ Regularly

Praying

Pray daily for one another and for the community

Sharing

Be a light in the community by sharing our bounty

Proclaiming

Proclaim Living Word of Jesus Christ in Word and Deed

Studying

Grow in Faith and Knowledge in Study of the Bible

Welcoming

Welcome with love and acceptance ALL people

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