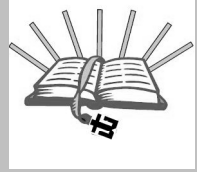


LIVING WORDS



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

August 31, 2011
Volume 6, Issue 9

Living Word Lutheran Church
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"For Freedom Christ has set us free." **Galatians 5:1**

Living Word Lutheran Church is part of a larger church body called the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This past August the ELCA gathered together for our annual Churchwide Assembly. At this assembly our Churchwide Bishop, Mark Hanson, addressed the gathering with a powerful message. Bishop Hanson's message for us and the world began with these words, *"We are a church with clarity about who we are and about our shared commitment to being engaged in God's mission for the life of the world."*

Bishop Hanson continued in his address by saying,

"We are Lutherans. That means that we are evangelical. At the heart of who we are is the good news that in Christ we are free." Did you hear that? Do you believe that? In Christ you are bound to be free—free from bondage to sin, guilt, and shame. Free from the power of death and evil. You are free in Christ from fear—your fear of the future, your fear of the stranger, your fear of failure, fear of discord, disease, and disaster. For some, fear of deportation.

Oh, yes, in Christ, you are not only bound to be free, but in Christ you are freed to be bound—bound to God through faith, bound to God's creation as stewards, bound to the world as peacemakers and justice seekers.

In the words of our assembly theme, we are "Freed in Christ to Serve." This is who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: we are freed to live as everyday evangelists, using our words and deeds to share the good news of Jesus Christ and claiming our daily work as God's calling.

(For the full report you can click on the following link: [Report of the ELCA Presiding Bishop](#) or see the bulletin board by the sanctuary entrance.)

What powerful words! What an even greater witness to what God is doing in our Church, the ELCA! We at Living Word Lutheran Church are one of the 10,000 congregations that make up the ELCA. The ELCA is made up of 4.2 million members including us at Living Word.

So what does this all mean for us, Living Word Lutheran Church, a small gathering of people out here in Arlington, TN? Just as Bishop Hanson shared that the ELCA is clear about its identity and mission, we also want to share in that conviction with you all, the people of God at Living Word. We too have a clear identity and mission. Our identity is that in Christ we are free. Free in all the ways Bishop Hanson mentioned in his address and because of that we know who we are in Christ Jesus. This means that in Jesus Christ we are free us to live out our local mission at Living Word where we strive to live the Word and spread the Word.

We know at Living Word we are working diligently to spread the Word in Arlington and beyond through our Outreach efforts and also in building our new Church facility. However, in the midst of this great undertaking, let us not forget the other part of our mission and that is we need to continue to find ways for us to live the Word in our daily lives.

Recently, we at Living Word celebrated in an amazing Rally Day, the beginning of our new Sunday school year. In doing so we recommitted ourselves to participate in Sunday school, where we are striving to live the Word by growing deeper in the Word. This, of course, is just one way in a list of many ways that we can strive to live the Word.

Fall planning is also well underway at Living Word. Please watch the calendar for board meetings and see if there is a certain board that you might feel called to join so that we can plan our fall and winter activities that are quickly approaching. We also continue to have our small groups that meet on a regular basis including the bi-monthly Bible Study, the Men's Group, the Women's Group, the Spirituality Group, and the Youth and Family Ministry. Come and see how God might be leading you back into one of these ministries.

September and beyond is a wonderful time of the year where we can recommit ourselves once again to the mission God is calling us to at Living Word. We are not just about building a new church building, but rather we are a gathered community of believers who struggle together daily to live the Word and spread the Word in this world. At times this may seem difficult, but then we are reminded that in Christ we are free. We are freed in Christ to serve.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Jason and Pastor Andrea

Thank you to all who participated in our Rally Day and Church Picnic. A fun day was had by all! For more pictures of the event, check out the new pictures on our Facebook page: [Living Word Lutheran Church](#).

September 3rd marks the first day of our new Sunday school year. The Adult class will begin with a Study of the Book of Revelation. The Middle school and High school youth will continue their study of Scripture through their BL4Y (Bible Lessons for Youth). The elementary age group will continue their journey through the Bible learning about key Biblical characters and events through arts and crafts, songs, and story time. Sunday school is from 10:50am-11:50am.

All God's Children are invited!

"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.

*"Oh, come, let us sing unto the Lord; Let us
make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation.*

*Let us come before His presence with
thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto Him
with psalms.*

*For the Lord is a great God, and a great King
above all gods.*

*In His hand are the deep places of the earth;
the strength of the hills is His also.*

*The sea is His and He made it and His hands
formed the dry land.*



Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. Today if you will hear His voice,”
-Psalm 95:1-7

Music is a vital part of worship. When God touches people or performs great works in their behalf, they break into songs of praise! A heart filled with joy and praise cannot help singing to the Lord.

”Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”
-Ephesians 5:10

Scriptures are flooded with references to praising God in song and with instruments.

”Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the psaltery and harp. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals; praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord..
-Psalm 150:3-6

That lays it down pretty completely doesn't it? As far back as I can remember, music has played an integral part in my life. My Mother told me, more than once, that when she was carrying me she would put her hands on her stomach and pray that I would be a church musician. Can I help it if I am biased, especially to Church music? Nevertheless, music seems to be absolutely essential to the expression and fulfillment of God's people in responding to and communing with Him. God has given us music as a marvelous gift of worship. What a wondrous blessing it is! What then should we strive for in our worship music at Living Word Lutheran Church?

Planning is under way for another glorious Christmas Season at Living Word. In October, singers will be invited to gather around food and fellowship and discussion of Christmas Choir planning – the rehearsals – the services

– the music. **All singers, watch for more information in the coming weeks!**

God asks us to give Him our best. Let us, therefore:

” . . . press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 3:14

Quality, richness, diversity, creativity, passionate consecration of heart, diligence, sensitivity, joy . . . may our musical harvest be plentiful . . . may it glorify God!

Wendell Baechler
Organist



(Remember to watch for the announcements of the October event)

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The "Teardrop" Memorial for victims of September 11, 2001 located in Bayonne, NJ

September 11, 2001

*Let us pray,
For all those who lost their lives, those on the ground, as well as those in the planes and all their families who still live with the pain. We pray for those who witnessed the planes as they hit, and those who sifted through the rubble. We pray for all those whose lives have been affected by this event, and*

*for peace,
for the people of the United States, and the people of Afghanistan and Iraq. We pray for better understanding between peoples, and increased Christian-Muslim relations. We pray knowing you listen, we pray knowing you heal, and pray offering our confession. Thank you for your forgiving and lavish grace. We pray to you O Lord, our God, and our protector. Amen.*



Sunday, September 18, 2011

- A Sunday church service dedicated to helping people try church again.
- Four relevant statistics:
 - Most Americans have been to church, and yet only 20 percent are regular attendees. - *The American Church in Crisis*
 - 82 percent of the unchurched are likely to attend church if invited by a trusted friend or relative. - *Dr. Thom Rainer*
 - Only 2 percent of church-going people invite someone to church in a given year. 98 percent of church-goers never extend an invitation in a given year. - *Dr. Thom Rainer*
 - 50 percent of the current U.S. population would be candidates for a Back to Church Campaign. - *Gary L. McIntosh, D.Min., Ph.D.*

Why not invite a relative, neighbor or friend to join you on Sunday, September 18??



4th Annual Awareness Walk

When: Saturday, September 17, 2011 – 9AM
Where: Shelby Farms Patriots Lake, Memphis, TN
Register Online @ www.racesonline.com

OCAF'S 4th Annual Awareness Walk and Silent Auction will be Saturday, September 17th at Shelby Farms Park. A program will begin at 9AM at the Visitor's Center with Kym Clark from WMC Channel 5 news as the emcee and Pastor Andrea will be blessing those who participate in the race and enhancing research . The walking path is around Patriot Lakes, a 1.7 mile path that can be done as many times as you want. The OCAF Store and Silent Auction will be open at 7:30 and will have many items available. The Silent Auction bidding will close at 11. Watch this website www.OCAFoundation.org and/or Facebook for updates. Pre-registration is \$25 - Don't wait!



Special Invitation

You are invited to the ROZE

Benefit Art Show and Sale Thursday, September 29 at the Church Health Center Wellness Center at 1115 Union, Memphis, TN from 4-7 pm. All proceeds will go to the Church Health Center. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is donating a match of \$1000.

Rose Klimek has created over 85 paintings- framed and unframed- in different styles, sizes and media including watercolor, acrylic, oil and ink. They are on paper, canvas and wood.



September Birthdays

- Gene Abbott
- 16 - Martha Menser
- Jennifer Thornton
- 17 - Bruce Woods
- 21 - Doug
- 29 - Shannon

- 5
- 5
- 7 - Kerri Fowler Woods
- 7 - Kate Peterson Fears



September Anniversaries

- 16 - Randy and Diane
 - 26 - Randy and Robin
- Wilson

Living Word Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Summary Report
31 July 2011

September Baptisms

6 - Norm Moody and Robert Moody



Thanks to all for the prayers during Terry's surgery and recovery time. He is healing and getting stronger every day! Pam

TOTALS	<u>JULY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
TOTAL <u>OPERATING</u> INCOME	\$15,910.56	\$86,866.82
TOTAL <u>OPERATING</u> EXPENSE	\$13,342.99	\$90,738.37
DIFFERENCE	\$2,567.57	(\$3,871.55)
TOTAL <u>DESIGNATED</u> INCOME	\$2,391.90	\$10,990.36
TOTAL <u>DESIGNATED</u> EXPENSE	\$1,625.08	\$ 9,237.21
DIFFERENCE	\$ 766.82	\$1,753.15
TOTAL <u>OVERALL</u> INCOME	\$18,302.46	\$97,857.18
TOTAL <u>OVERALL</u> EXPENSE	\$14,968.07	\$99,975.58
DIFFERENCE	\$ 3,334.39	(\$2,118.40)

<u>BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES</u>	<u>CHECKING</u>	<u>MONEY MKT</u>
	*	**
	-	-
	\$ 8,992.81	\$17,332.42

* Includes Designated Funds (\$3,242.43)

** Includes Memorial Funds (\$6,143.76)

<u>BOW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN</u>	<u>PLEDGED</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>TO COME</u>
May 1, 2008 - July 31, 2011	\$261,861.00	\$205,441.00	\$56,420.00

BOW Cash On Hand: \$95,174.79

(Not Inc. \$95 - July 31 Contributions - Tr'fd 8/1/11)

<u>2012 COME & SEE CAMPAIGN</u>	<u>PLEDGED</u>	
As of July 31, 2011	\$ 71,976.00	(Over three years)

If any member requires further details, please contact me.

Marian Gray, Church Treasurer



LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURH'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

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

Web site address

www.livingwordlc.org
