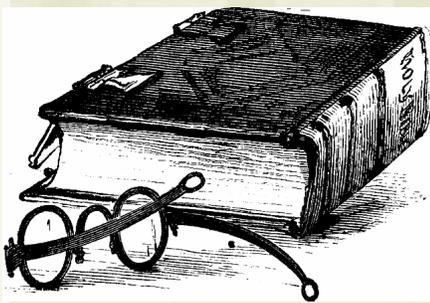


# Some Words on Living Word

L I V I N G   W O R D   L U T H E R A N   C H U R C H

P A S T O R A L   P O N D E R I N G



Recently I came across this quote by a seemingly unhappy author by the name of Peter Dickinson : *"The threat of Christmas hung in the air, visible already in*

*the fretful look of passersby as they readied themselves for the meaningless but necessary rites of false jovialities and ill-considered gifts."*

It seems that someone has lost, or perhaps has never known, the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas is the celebration of God's gift of our Savior, and a time to spread God's message of love, harmony, and peace (not that we shouldn't be doing that all year long.) In that same spirit, we have adopted the custom of giving gifts to others to show our love for them. Thus, for many, Christmas has become a time to give and to get showered with

gifts and good wishes. But ,in the midst of all the commercialism that surrounds the holiday, let us never forget the real meaning and spirit of Christmas. Here are a few quotes from other writers which help us to remember what Christmas is really about.

Author Frank McKibben wrote: *"This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols. But the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift - the Christ."*

Ray Stannard Baker (a journalist, author, and biographer of Woodrow Wilson) wrote: *"I sometimes think we expect too much of Christmas Day. We try to crowd into it the long arrears of kindness and humanity of the whole year. As for me, I like to take my Christmas a little at a time, all through the year. And thus I drift along*

*into the holidays, let them overtake me unexpectedly, waking up some fine morning and suddenly saying to myself: 'Why this is Christmas Day!'"*

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ and author of much of the New Testament wrote: *"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death-- even death on a cross!" ~ Philippians 2:6-8*

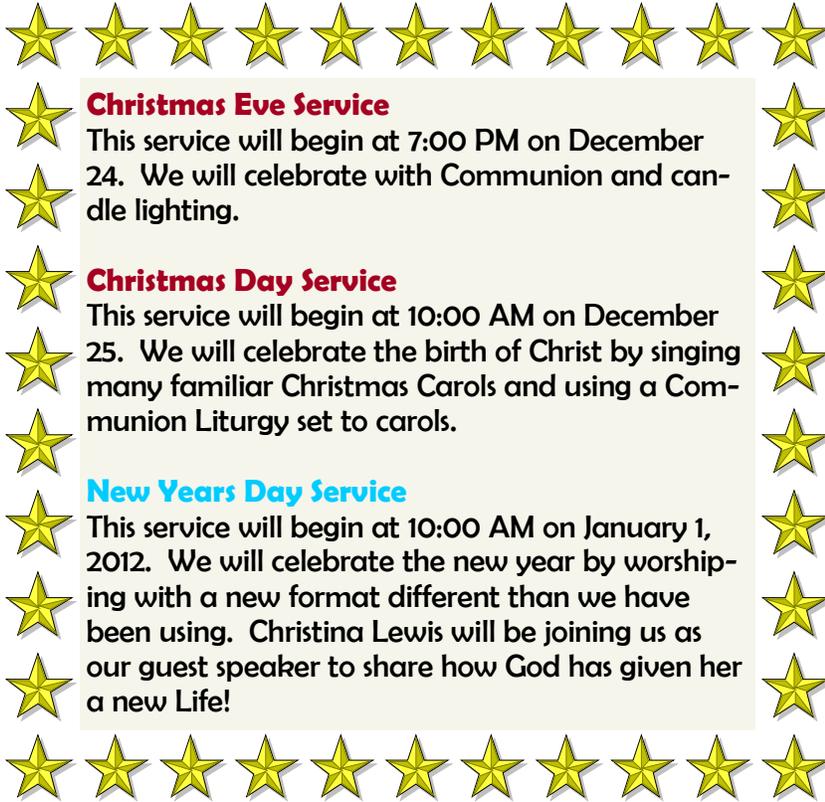
This Christmas, and every Christmas, remember that Christmas is about celebrating the gift of salvation that God has given us in Jesus Christ, and sharing that gift with others.

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*Pastor Mark*

SPECIAL SERVICES PLANS COMING

PRAYER LIST



**Christmas Eve Service**

This service will begin at 7:00 PM on December 24. We will celebrate with Communion and candle lighting.

**Christmas Day Service**

This service will begin at 10:00 AM on December 25. We will celebrate the birth of Christ by singing many familiar Christmas Carols and using a Communion Liturgy set to carols.

**New Years Day Service**

This service will begin at 10:00 AM on January 1, 2012. We will celebrate the new year by worshipping with a new format different than we have been using. Christina Lewis will be joining us as our guest speaker to share how God has given her a new Life!

Please continue to keep the following people in your prayers this month...

- Arlene and Harry Foreback
- Judy and Bob Hutcheson
- Kenny and Sadie Koser
- Evelyn Pague
- Clay and Eleanor Stotler
- Stan and Helen Goodrich
- Mary Kay and John Fanelli



CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS



## OUR BENEVOLENCE AT WORK

Living Word Lutheran Church generously donates to various local organizations on a quarterly basis as well as Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) on a monthly basis, and other organizations as requested when a specific need arises. As mentioned in a previous newsletter article, LCMC does not re-

quest a specific amount and it is the decision of the Congregational Council to donate \$100.00 each month.

Should you have any questions or would like to suggest an organization to which to donate, please contact a member of the Finance Team.

Living Word received a \$500.00 donation from River of Life Lutheran Fellowship. The finance team and the council voted to give the \$500.00 to Pastor Mark and Susan to help with their financial needs.

<b>Our Benevolence through August, 2011</b>	
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ	\$1,200.00
Interfaith Community Food Pantry	\$700.00
The Salvation Army	\$75.00
Maryland Salem Children's Trust	\$125.00
Union Rescue Mission	\$225.00
Family Crisis Resource Center	\$125.00
Christ the King Lutheran Church (Alabama tornado relief)	\$414.00
Revival Fire Ministry (Bibles for our troops)	\$510.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$100.00
Faith Comes by Hearing (Bible sticks for our troops)	\$125.00
<b>Total Benevolence as of August 31, 2011</b>	<b>\$3,669.00</b>

## QUILTING MINISTRY



## NEWS CONCERNING OUR CONGREGATION

BY SADIE KOSER

Congratulations - Christopher Keller, an 8th grade student at Braddock Middle School on making the A/B honor roll for the past semester. He is the son of Rich and grandson of Dick and Pat Keller.

Sunday, November 20th we welcomed Rose Rank, Ed Goss, Scott Carter, and Michael Snyder into our church membership. It is a pleasure having you join us. Living Word's membership now totals 102!

The Woodmen of the World invited the children and youth (up to 15 years) to their annual Christmas party. The event was held on Saturday, December 3rd from 1 to 4 o'clock. Attending from our church were Hannah and Karl Eriksson; Annabeth, Carolyn, and William Hughes; and Connor, Trevor, and Brendon McCabe. The children's parents and some grandparents also attended the party. All enjoyed pizza, cupcakes and drinks prior

to the magic show. Each child received a custom made balloon prior to Santa's arrival, then a gift



from Santa. We appreciate the WOW for extending the invitation to our children each year.



Thursday, November 17th, Paul Eriksson was driving up 9-Mile Hill with Hannah

and Karl when a deer suddenly came in contact with the vehicle. Calls to Dick Keller and Mike and Phyllis Alban, and help arrived to pry the bumper away from the tire. Then the family continued on their way home. We're thankful Paul and their children were okay after their deer ordeal.

Congratulations #6...WES WEEMS, a member of the Mountain Ridge Miners Soccer team, who repeated as the Cumberland Times News area boys soccer champion! The team then continued on to become the Maryland State champion in boys soccer! The season finished with an 18-1 record, their only loss being a 1-0 game to Washington, West Virginia. Since Mountain Ridge opened 5 years ago, the team have a 76-9-2 record!! This is the 5th straight year for the area championship...quite an accomplishment! Wes, son of Adrian and Susan

NEWS CONCERNING OUR CONGREGATION  
CONTINUED

Weems, is a senior.

by vote as Member-At-Large.

*brate God's precious gift to  
you...His Son...Jesus.*

Susan Weems volunteered to be secretary of our council at the annual congregational meeting that was held following the worship service on Sunday, December 11th. Our appreciation to Susan for filling this important position!

**Thought for the month:**

*Everybody likes progress...BUT nobody likes  
change!*

*May God Bless you in the new  
year, 2012, with...Peace...  
Love...Health...and Happiness!*

Susan is replacing Pat Keller who filled in as council secretary several months ago. Thanks, Pat, for a job well-done!

*Note: I want to sincerely thank Lori for making my column look good with the pictures and additional news coverage!*

At the same meeting, Harry "Gene" Cave was approved

*I wish everyone...Peace  
as you cele-*





LIVING WORD  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 1825  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
Meeting at 801 Virginia Avenue

Pastor Mark C. Dill  
pastormarkdill@gmail.com  
301-777-0000

Taking a Living Christ to a Dying World

### December Events

*Saturday Dec. 24:* 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship  
*Sunday Dec. 25:* 10:00AM Worship - No Bible Study

### January Events

*Sunday Jan 1:* 10:00 AM Worship - No Bible Study  
*Every Sunday starting Jan 8:* 8:45-9:30 AM Bible Study  
10:00 AM Worship  
*Sunday Jan 22:* Council Meeting following Worship  
*Monday Jan 23:* 10:00 AM Mid-Atlantic Lutheran Fellowship Meeting, location TBD

Quilters will be meeting one Saturday in January, watch for announcements!

### December Birthdays

- 5 - Kayla Chaney
- 11 - Mildred Deter
- 11 - Wanda Lewis
- 14 - Jim Squires, Sr.
- 15 - Pat Counihan
- 15 - Susan Weems
- 20 - Gene Cave
- 23 - Ken Keller
- 23 - Sharon Snyder
- 23 - Adam Weems
- 27 - Dave Larrick
- 28 - John Rank
- 30 - Mike Alban

### January Birthdays

- 5 - Peggy Robb
- 9 - Carol Lantz
- 9 - Jim Squires, Jr.
- 18 - Christopher Keller
- 22 - Bonnie Keller
- 24 - Louise Gilpin
- 24 - William Hughes
- 27 - Shirley Valentine

### December Anniversaries

- 16 - Dave and Sharon Snyder

