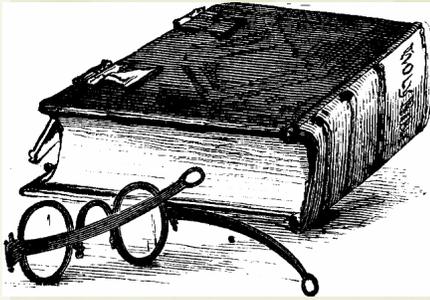


Some Words on Living Word

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



Like many of you (apparently) I have recently been pondering the subject of 'worship'.

Worship can be defined as 'the act of showing religious devotion toward a supreme being'. For us, of course, that being is the one and only true God, the Lord God Almighty, made know to us in the Trinity as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But the question that still remains is, "How do we show our religious devotion to Him?"

Based on this definition worship is much more comprehensive than just our Sunday morning service. It includes everything we do, corporately and individually, to show our religious devotion. That means when we set aside time to read and study God's Word - it is an act of worship. When we feed the hungry, clothe the na-

ked, and visit the sick - it is an act of worship. When we share our faith with another person by telling them about Jesus and what he has done in our life - it is an act of worship. And certainly, when we come together to offer him praise, hear His Word read, taught, and proclaimed, give our tithes and offerings, lift up our prayers, and receive Holy Communion - it is an act of worship. But how do we best do that?

Ron Boatwright has written a Bible study on 'Worshipping God in Spirit and Truth' (John 4:24). Here are a few quotes from his study:
"There is an erroneous idea today that the main reason we attend worship is to 'get something out of the service', rather than going there to give our worship to God. This is a selfish motive on our part. This is the reason people cannot be satisfied with

the worship service when their emphasis is not on the proper object of worship, God. People want to 'do their own thing' in the worship of the church."

"Many people seem to think that God will accept anything they offer and be glad to get it."

"The purpose of our worship is to glorify, honor, praise, exalt, and please God. Our worship must show our adoration and loyalty to God for His grace in providing us with the way to escape the bondage of sin, so we can have the salvation He so much wants to give us."

"Our worship not only honors and magnifies God, but it is also for our own edification and strength. Worship helps us develop a God-like and Christ-like character."

With that being said, the question still remains,

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PASTORAL PONDERING - CONTINUED

"How should we structure our Sunday morning worship today?" Ask three different people that question and you're liable to get four different opinions. What pleases some won't necessarily please others. Some like the familiarity of what they've always known - familiar liturgy and hymns. Others like to mix things up a bit with new words, praise choruses, and contemporary songs. Some like 'high church' practices ... stained glass windows, robes, chanting, preacher in the pulpit, etc., while others prefer more informal practices. Some like to be finished in an hour or less, others wouldn't be upset if the service lasted two or three hours. Is one right and the others wrong? No, it is usually a matter of past experience and personal preference.

For instance; some would say that a man should never wear a hat inside a building, and especially not in church. Wearing a hat in church is disrespectful. However, a Jewish man wouldn't dare enter the synagogue without having his head covered... that would be disrespectful. Is one right and the other wrong? No, it is most likely a matter of past experience and personal preference.

As we all know, it is impossible to please all the people all the time. So, the majority of our worship services have been liturgically based as far as the order of worship (confession and forgiveness, reading the Word, sermons, offer-

ing, prayers, communion) but using modern language which relates specifically to the scriptures for the particular day. But we sporadically use different models from time to time (LBW setting 2, 'Thematic' services such as our anniversary celebrations, decorating the tree with Chrismons, a 'New Beginnings' service on New Year's Day with guitar music and a testimony by Christina, etc.). Inevitably, no matter what form of worship we have used, some people have loved it, but others have not been pleased at all.

So, as we move into a new year, trying to keep the old but at the same time trying some new things, may we all remember that the purpose of worship is to show our devotion to God as we give Him our best and seek to become more like Him in all our ways.

Pastor Mark



PRAYER LIST

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

Arlene and Harry Foreback
Judy and Bob Hutcheson
Evelyn Pague
Clay and Eleanor Stotler
Stan and Helen Goodrich



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.

| Our Benevolence through December, 2011 | |
|--|-------------------|
| 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 |
| Total Benevolence as of December 31, 2011 | \$3,669.00 |



NEWS CONCERNING OUR CONGREGATION

BY SADIE KOSER

Frostburg State University's BURG Peer Education Network and advisor were recently honored at BACCHUS Network's annual General Assembly in Reston, Virginia. BURG network received the National Outstanding Network Affiliate award for the second straight year. At the conference, peer educators across the country gather to share what they are doing on their campuses. BURG promotes healthy choices on campus and provide alternatives to drug and alcohol use and other activities at Frostburg State university and the community. One of the honorees is member Caitlin Weems, daughter of Adrian and Susan!! Congratulations, Caitlin!!

Sincere sympathy to the family of John Fanelli who passed away on Tuesday, December 20th at Western Maryland Regional Medical Center at the age of 74. John's memorial service was held at Scarpelli Funeral home on December 23rd with Pastor Mark officiating.

Our choir participated in the service and Connor McCabe sang a beautiful selection with Chris being the piano accompanist for the choir and Connor. Inurnment was held at Restlawn Memorial Gardens with a luncheon following in our church hall location catered by LWLC.

Among the survivors is his wife Mary K., 8 children, 15 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.

Our Christmas Eve service was held at 7 o'clock with 78 parishioners attending. Some members of the congregation were out of town spending the holidays with their families. At the beginning of the service, Jordon Chaney sang "The first Noel" in her very angelic voice. Jordon is the daughter of Steve and Lisa Chaney and granddaughter of Bob and Kay Chaney!

Pastor Mark delivered a meaningful sermon on the birth of Jesus. Following the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the candlelight service was held, ending with the

hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night" sung by the congregation.

The next morning, Christmas Day, at 10 o'clock Pastor Mark delivered the sermon. We pray everyone has a most happy and healthy 2012.

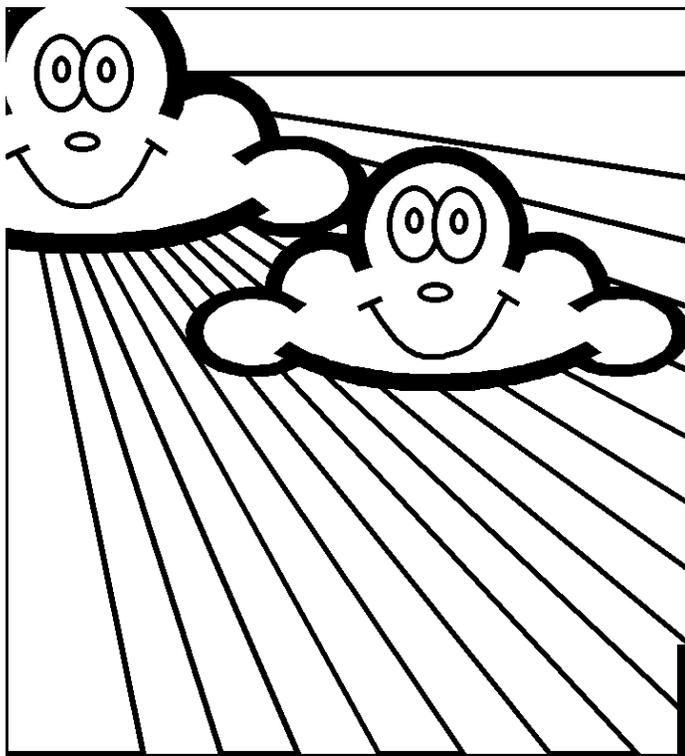
The altar of LWLC had new paraments for the Christmas season when Chris McCabe designed and handmade them. This time he copied the design from a picture of holly leaves/berries that were on the front of the Christmas bulletins. The top holly leaf had the white imprint of the cross. Another beautiful creation of Christmas paraments by Chris McCabe!

Samantha Rudy, was listed on the "high honor's deans list" at California University of Pennsylvania for the fall semester. Sami is a Freshman at the college and is one of Bob & Kay Chaney's granddaughters. Congratulations Sami!!

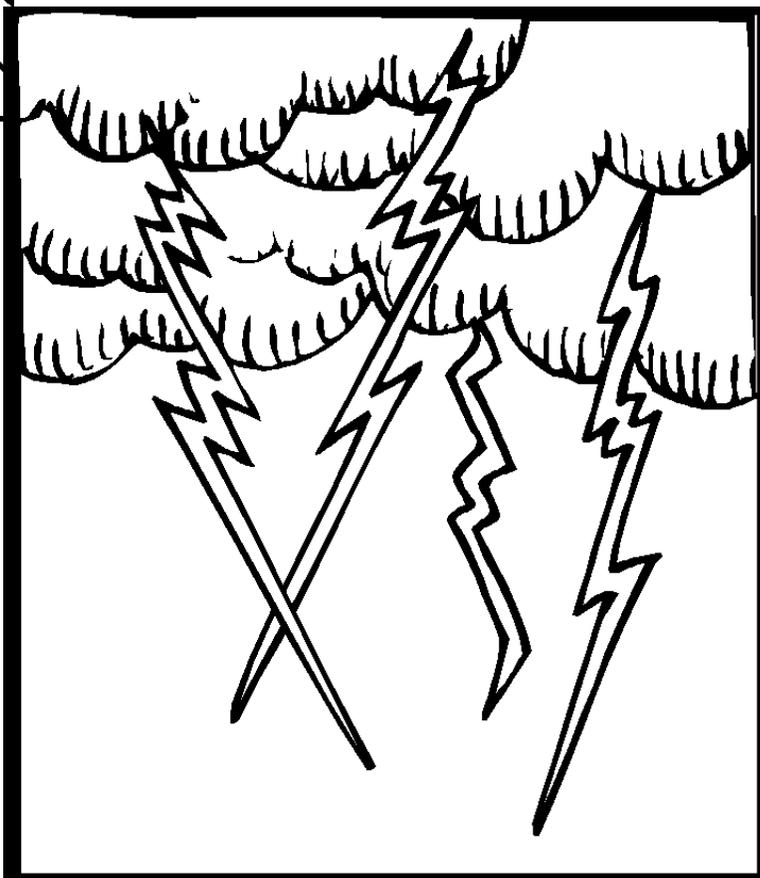
Thought for the month:

God is bigger than all the problems we face!

FOR THE CHILDREN (YOUNG AND OLD)



On the first day, God separated light from darkness.



Genesis 1:1-5 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.



LIVING WORD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Meeting at 801 Virginia Avenue

Pastor Mark C. Dill
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301-777-0000

Taking a Living Christ to a Dying World

February Events

Every Sunday: 8:45-9:30 AM Bible Study

10:00 AM Worship

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

February Birthdays

- 3 - Kay Chaney
- 9 - Clay Stotler
- 10 - Sadie Koser
- 10 - Lori Squires
- 15 - Karl Eriksson
- 19 - Paula McIntosh
- 25 - Donna Lewis
- 26 - Clint Larrick

February Anniversaries

- 7 - Michael and Karen Tamorria



To all my good friends of Living Word,
Thank you for your caring and constant prayers for John during our time of uncertainty.

My deepest and sincere gratitude for your compassion and expressions of sympathy when uncertainty became a sorrowful reality.

John told me many times to have a party when he passed to celebrate his new life. Thanks to many of you, our family and friends were together after the service for a luncheon and shared many memories of John. He would have been pleased.

I thank God for my wonderful friends at Living Word.

Because of God's promise of eternal life through our Savior Jesus Christ I know John is at peace in the presence of God.

With Love
Mary K