

## Calendar

### Wednesday

4:00pm – Christmas Eve Service

### Sunday

8:40am – Prayer Time

9:00am – Worship Service

## Looking Ahead

### January 4

Sunday School for all Ages Resumes

### January 7

Faith 'n' Friends Resumes

## Today:

9:00am - Worship Service

*Please fill out the Connection Card on the reverse side so we can know you were with us today!*

*We'd love to connect with you online as well!  
See below for our most active channels:*

Web: [www.lwflc.org](http://www.lwflc.org)

Facebook:

[facebook.com/livingwordfreelutheran](https://facebook.com/livingwordfreelutheran)

Twitter @lwflc

# What's Happening at Living Word & Beyond?

## The Joy of Christmas

by Pastor David Franz, Salem and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches, Radcliffe, Iowa



Whether the real meaning of Christmas is understood or not, most people would describe Christmas as a time of joy. There is joy to be found in giving and receiving gifts, being with family, eating special foods, and having time off from work or school. The Bible teaches that Christmas is meant to be a time of joy, and this joy is centered on receiving the gift that God gives.

This was the message that an angel of the Lord brought to the shepherds:

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring

you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

When we give gifts to others at Christmas, we usually focus more on giving what we think they want (like an iPad) rather than what we think they need (like some socks). Sometimes we are able to give both what we think they want and what we think they need, and sometimes both with just one gift. In giving His own Son to save us from our sins (Matthew 1:21, I Timothy 1:15), God gave us what we need most. When we are made to see the enormity of our sins and what we deserve because of them, then what God gives becomes something that we want and something that brings us great joy because God freely gives it to us! “And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have

eternal life” (I John 5:11-13).

Immediately after the angel of the Lord told the shepherds the joyful news about the birth of the Savior, “there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest!’” (Luke 2:13-14). What an incredible sight that must have been! What an amazing sound that must have been! What a marvelous gift God gave in giving His own Son to save us from our sins! Glory to God in the highest!

## Lost and Found Items

Please help us spruce up the physical space at Living Word this holiday season by checking the Lost and Found table in the Narthex for items you may be missing. The table will be there through Wednesday, December 31. Remaining items will be donated or disposed of at that time.

## Give Yourself a Gift!

Ladies, if you'd like to receive the gift of a new friendship in 2015, now is the time to do your shopping! A

copy of the book “Face to Face with Elizabeth and Mary” is available for preview at the Welcome Center. This six-week study explores the reciprocal benefits and joys of one generation investing in the next, and will help you form a deeper friendship with one other Woman of the Word. Though we won't begin until January 11, the registration and book order deadline is Monday, December 29. To participate, please complete a pink registration form and place it in the gift box on the desk. For questions, please contact Mallory Hoekman, Carol Barse or Karen Asfeldt.

## Christmas Eve Service

Join us this coming Wednesday at 4 PM as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ through a Christmas Eve candlelight service. Enjoy an intimate time of special music, congregational singing, and a message from Ryan Egan, Director of Worship and Creative Arts at Living Word, looking at our final gift of Christmas: Jesus.

Invite your friends and family to this great way to start the evening on Christmas Eve!

## Pray This Week For:

### Recent Requests:

Please pray for Joe & Betty Volz's friend's grandson, 8-yr-old Tom Rokahr. Tom has had leukemia for over 2 years and received a bone marrow transplant Wednesday.

### Ongoing Requests:

Cancer: Jan Mobley, Pastor Mike Brandt, Pastor Richard Gilman (grandfather of Sara Oakland)

Health: Arden & Dottie Egan, Nancy Brekke's mother (Myrtle), Stephanie Person, Mark Joffer & Sherry DeNeui's mother (Shirley), Cindy Stevens' father (Cliff Hrdlicka), Dakota Case, Chuck & Jennifer Case, Jerry Kratochvil, Angel Luttmann, Randy Marsh's niece, Elizabeth Dutton, Pauline Wolters

Other: Dorene Gaard's brother (Kent Scott), Doreen Miller & family, Kelli Moffitt & family, Marianne Siegfried & family, Barb Sperling & family, Lori Grimes & family

**Baby Coming to:** Craig & Ashley Doeden

**Active Military:** Austin VanMeveren, Garret & Jennie VanMeveren, Clayton VanMeveren

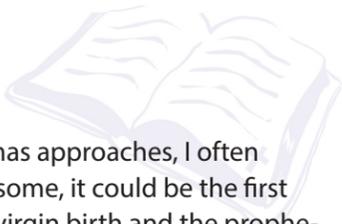
### AFLC Request:

Please pray for the Home Missions Department as they seek God's direction in the best use of His resources as they build new & support existing congregations in bringing the light of Jesus to the world.

**(Please send requests and/or updates to [prayer@lwflc.org](mailto:prayer@lwflc.org))**

## Bible Readings

Week of December 22-28	
Monday	1 Peter 1-5
Tuesday	Hebrews 1-4
Wednesday	Hebrews 5-8
Thursday	Hebrews 9-13
Friday	2 Timothy
Saturday	2 Peter Jude
Sunday	Rest
<a href="http://lwflc.org/ScriptureReadings">lwflc.org/ScriptureReadings</a>	



## Sermon Preview

As the Advent season comes to a close and Christmas approaches, I often wonder how Jesus' birth affects people's lives. For some, it could be the first time they have heard the story of Jesus, about His virgin birth and the prophecies He fulfilled, how He came to save us; Emmanuel (God with us). For others, today could be another Sunday. There is, however, a common message for either of these believers as we prepare for His return.

Today we will study Paul's conversion, a common text that many people may know. We will look at it as an example of what we are to do as we live our lives waiting on our King to return. You see Paul, like many of us, after his conversion was new to the Christian faith. He had to build his knowledge of "The Way", just like we do. How did he change from a Christian-hating Pharisee to one of the Bible's most noted writers? Similarly, how can people with great faith live their lives in such a way to continue to be prepared for life's challenges?

Today we shall review how we should be living our lives in preparation for Jesus' return. Specifically, reading and loving the Word, being prepared to defend and encourage others with its contents, and evangelizing to the world!

Jeff Heikes

## Notes



**What Should We Do? (Acts 9:19b-22)**

Jesus was the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_!

Paul was \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul learned from the \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul \_\_\_\_\_ those around him.

Paul \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

### Preach the Word

Charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound[er] teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

## Connection Card

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note an address change

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Email newsletter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Living Word blog
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prayer Request Notifications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please note an email address change

Please place this card in the offering plate or on the Welcome Table. Prayer requests and updates can be sent to [prayer@lwflc.org](mailto:prayer@lwflc.org).

## Visiting us today?

We are so glad you are with us today! Please visit the Welcome Center for more information about Living Word and sign our Guest Register or fill out the form to the right. Join us for fellowship in the Narthex after the service.

Here are some things you might want to know:

- Nursery is available after the Tithes and Offerings portion of the service for children through three years of age.
- Sunday School for all ages will resume on January 4th. Please visit the Welcome Center to learn more about the Christian Education opportunities for children, youth and adults.
- To find out more about our larger church body, the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC), please visit the Welcome Center or our web site at [www.lwflc.org/freelutheran](http://www.lwflc.org/freelutheran).



# December 21, 2014

**Call to Worship** - Luke 2:10-14

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

**Confession of Sin**

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**Absolution / Assurance**

**Confession of Faith** - John 1:1-5; 14: 16-17

**Announcements**

**Tithes and Offerings** (nursery open for children age 3 and under)

**Prayer Time**

**Scripture Readings:** Luke 1:26-35; 2 Timothy 4:1-5

**Message: What Should We Do?** (Acts 9:19b-22)

*Go Tell It On The Mountain*

**Benediction**