

**Welcome
HOME**

**MATTERS
OF THE
HEART**

Living Word Church
Sunday, October 11, 2009

Welcome to Living Word Church

Welcome

Welcome! We're glad you're here and hope you feel at home. Regardless of your background—whether you are just beginning to ask questions about God or you are a Christian wanting to deepen your faith, Living Word is a place you can call home and find spiritual help, hope, and encouragement.

Thanks for Coming Today

We would be honored to acknowledge your visit today. We won't embarrass you. All we ask is that you please share your name and your choice of contact information—email, address, phone, however you prefer for us to acknowledge your visit.

You can do this by filling out a “WELCOME” card (available from one of our volunteers or on the welcome table in the foyer) and dropping the card in the offering or returning it to a volunteer. We will contact you to thank you for attending and see if we may be of service to you.

It is good to have you with us today. Thanks again for coming!

Welcome to Homecoming

It's Homecoming! Pastor has been praying and preparing a special homecoming message. Families have been preparing their favorite foods to share. All we need now is for you and your family to stick around and join us for a homecoming meal in the fellowship hall following the second service (around noon).

Are you a guest? We want to treat you like a guest and allow you to move to the front of our serving line. Are you a guest of one of our members? Then we ask that they accompany you to the front of the line. After our guests, we would like to serve families with small children. So we ask everyone to look around you in the line and help our guests and families with small children move ahead of you. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration.

Come Join the Fun

Are you 20 or 30 something? There's a new life group just for you. Come hang out with us and join the fun on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Call Danielle or Steve at (843) 475-2140 or (843) 860-3678.

MATTERS OF THE HEART

Welcome HOME

Luke 15:11-32

The parable of the prodigal son is story of a disobedient and irresponsible son who wasted his money on a life of pleasure and later returned home to his father.

THERE IS PLEASURE IN SIN—FOR A SEASON

1. For many of us our happiness depends upon our circumstances.
2. Getting what we want in life does not guarantee our happiness, because human desires cannot bring lasting satisfaction.
3. Sometimes the worst thing that can happen to us is that we receive exactly what we ask for.

LOVE CAN GO WHERE PLEASURE ABANDONS YOU

1. A person's heart is often changed by acts of love.
2. When we turn away from God, sin overtakes us. When we turn back to God, God runs to us.
3. When we have lost our way, God's love, mercy and forgiveness can restore us if we will allow it.

GOD'S PRESENCE IS FAR GREATER THAN LIFE'S PLEASURES

1. You can trust God with your sins, no matter how painful they are.
2. The grace of God enables us to face our sin. True freedom is found in our Father's grace.
3. We all want to go where we are loved and accepted.

LIFE GROUPS — HOMEWORK & DISCUSSION

MY LIFE — Getting to know one another.

LIFE IN THE WORD — Exploring God's Word together.

LIFE AT HOME — Applying God's Word to our daily lives.

MY LIFE

1. Share a story from a time when you learned from a mistake.

2. Have you ever given something and watched as it was wasted by someone with an ungrateful attitude? How did you feel? What did you do when you saw the person again? What would you do differently today?

LIFE IN THE WORD

1. Read Luke 13:1-5. In this passage Jesus discusses one group of people who were brutally murdered and another group that was tragically killed in an accident. After reading this passage do you think that people who suffer such things are worse sinners or more guilty than other people around them? Explain.

6. Read Luke 6:41-42. Here Jesus talks about a log, sawdust, and clear vision. Where is your focus—on the log or the sawdust? Explain.

7. Clearly, the older brother in the prodigal son story could only see sawdust. He not only despised his father's son (he called him "this son of yours," not brother), but he also despised his father's kindness and generous spirit when his father blessed anyone but him. If God rejoices, if there is rejoicing in heaven (Luke 15:7), if angels rejoice (Luke 15:10), if the servants in the house rejoice (Luke 15:24), why can't we get happy with God too? Why do you think this side of God offends some people?

What can we do to celebrate changed attitudes and redeemed lives rather than camping outside, focusing on everyone's mistakes and shortcomings, while censoring God's celebrations?

LIFE AT HOME

This story is about relationships. God loves a good story, but He loves a good relationship even more. Hold the mirror of God's Word to your heart. Take a long look. Do you see what God sees? Do you see any areas in your heart that need to change? God may be showing you that you can swallow your pride, turn around, and head back to a good relationship that you have forsaken. Or maybe God is asking you to look down that long road because He wants to send someone back to you. You can help them save face if you will go to them, forgive them, tell them you love them, and welcome them back. Or maybe God is calling you away from work. Have you put work ahead of relationships? Come out of the field. Let go of the past. Come into the house and celebrate with people who love you and desire to be in your presence. God is asking you to embrace relationships, not religion.

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

First Service	9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Second Service	10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Children's Church	10:30 PM to 12:00 PM
RockSolid Youth	4:00 PM to 7:30 PM

LIFE GROUPS TIME & LOCATIONS

Life Groups are small groups of people who meet weekly in homes throughout the community to study, to share, and to support one another in their Christian lives. Each group is led by a trained leader. A typical meeting lasts about an hour and a half and includes light refreshments. Our current groups are listed here. Call one today for details on their group or call our Life Group coordinators Donald & Retta Lyons (909-8076 or 908-0057). You can also email Donald at dlyons@lowcountry.com.

<u>Sunday 6:00 PM</u>	Location	Focus
Ray & Josie Colson 538-2117	1789 Sidneys Road Walterboro	All ages
Rick & Debbie Linder 562-2417	Smoaks	All ages
Raymond & June Hiott 538-2172	225 Wells Lane (off Bells Hwy)	All ages
Donald & Retta Lyons 909-8076 or 908-0057	5672 Sniders Hwy (4 miles from I-95)	All ages
John & Barbara Steele 549-7751	30 Waverly Street (Longleaf)	All ages
<u>Sunday 6:30 PM</u>		
Joe & Julie Epple Linda Frazier 835-2327	Cottageville	All ages

LIFE GROUPS TIME & LOCATIONS

Tuesday 6:30 PM

Bob & Janet Rogers
599-1011 or 599-1010

Location

Living Word Church

Focus

All ages

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Steve & Danielle Phillips
475-2140 or 860-3678

Living Word Church

20s & 30s

Clyde & Bonnie Reid
532-1708 or 835-5249

202 Stark Drive
(Woodland Terrace)

All ages

Ben Langdale
Shawn Langdale
893-6859

299 Dandridge Road
(Hyde Park)

Teenage Boys

Stacy Langdale
909-0758 or 893-6456

6117 Jefferies Highway
(Walterboro North)

Teenage Girls

Wednesday 7:00 PM

John & Pam Maxlow
217-8395 or 217-8389

21 Prestwick Place
/corner Wexford Way
(right on Wexford—past country club)

All ages

Thursday 7:00 PM

Buddy Buchanan
908-1510

Living Word Church

Men

Andy Harrison
909-1122

Living Word Church

Men

Friday 5:00 PM

Andy Harrison
909-1122

106 James Street
(Forest Hills)

Boys & Girls
6th—8th grade