

# LIVING WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

438.9672 CHURCH

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

## WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

If you haven't made it to the Wednesday night Lenten services you are truly missing out. . .they are a great evening of food, fellowship and sharing of our christian beliefs.

Supper is served by the Women of Living Word at 5 PM, confirmation for 6th-8th grade is at 6 PM and the church service is at 7:00 PM which includes the confirmation students doing a short skit and a member of our congregation sharing his/her faith statement. Everyone is welcome!



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# THANK YOU

**H**ow can we say “thank you” to our Living Word family for all the love you showed to us during Dick’s illness and after his death! We are thankful for Pastor Kent’s visits and calls especially for his long distance call and prayer with us as Dick was near death in Sioux Falls. Thank you for the myriad of cards of encouragement and the generous memorials. Those gifts will go to the charities you chose, and others our family has chosen.

Thank you, Vicki Strege for your uplifting music, and the servant team and all who came forward to help with the lunch. (Tammy wanted salads – and you came with salads! Bless your hearts!).

Dick loved his church family! May God bless you for your love and prayers.

Sincerely, Carol Forster  
Terry, Tammy, Dan and Doug

## YOUTH EVENTS

**On Sunday, February 25 the school kids sang during the service (right). They did a wonderful job.**

**Also on Sunday, February 25, the junior/senior high kids went bowling (below) it was such a fun afternoon!**



# YOUTH NEWS

What an honor it is to serve as youth leader at Living Word! Kent and I are enjoying getting to know the wonderful youth we have in our church and look forward to building an ongoing relationship with them. I have been so impressed with the deep respect we feel from these kids. They love to have fun, but also love to listen, learn, and grow in their relationship with Jesus and that excites me! I continue to pray individually for each youth in our church, that they will come to comprehend more and more how deeply Jesus loves them as well as how they can use their gifts to make a difference in the world. We are trying to meet with every junior and senior high youth individually and are almost done with our senior high list and have started meeting with junior high now. We love getting to know everyone better one on one and look forward to continuing this through the school year and summer months.

During Lent, our confirmation class has been meeting at 6 PM every week on Wednesday to prepare a skit to share for church services that start at 7 PM. What a great confirmation class this is. They are so willing to participate and are so creative. We have really grown to love these kids. Senior high youth group has been meeting every other Sunday at our house from 11:30-1:00 PM. We have food, fun, fellowship, and grow in Christ through a Bible study. It has been so much fun getting to know this

awesome senior high group. We have been meeting on Sunday mornings for Sunday school at 9:00 AM and have been doing a Bible study called "Not a Fan". We are learning about what it means to be a true follower of Jesus, not just a fan that sits in the background cheering Jesus on. It is challenging us to look at the depth of our relationship with Jesus and things we can hopefully do to impact others for Him.

Our Sunday school kids will be singing in church Sunday, March 25 for Palm Sunday. I hope to see more kids coming for our music time which is 8:45-9:00 AM on Sundays. It is a wonderful time to worship and praise Jesus before we go to our classrooms to learn more about God.

There will be some opportunities for youth grades 4-12 to participate in a Spring Recharge Weekend at Okoboji Bible Camp in Iowa in April. The weekends are as follows: Senior High grades 9-12 recharge weekend is April 6-8, Junior High Recharge weekend is April 20-22, and a 4-6th grade recharge weekend is scheduled for April 27-29. I hope that you will seriously consider a Recharge weekend. It is an amazing time to have fun with other kids your age from other churches and learn and grow in your walk with Christ. Please let me know if you are interested and we can get you registered and get information to you.

May Jesus Christ continue to be glorified in everything we do!

*Kay*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Sunday, March 4** — Senior high youth group at our house. 11:30-1:30. We will be watching the movie "God's Not Dead"
- **Saturday, March 10** — Ski trip at Andes Tower Hills in Alexandria, MN. Cost is \$35 for skiing package and \$45 for snowboarding. We will be leaving the church at 8:00 AM and should be home 8:00 PM

- **Sunday, March 18** — Senior high youth group at our house 11:30-1:30
- **Sunday, March 25** — Sunday school sings for Palm Sunday at the 10:00 AM service "Hosanna, Praise is Rising"
- **Thursday, March 28** — Maundy Thursday service 7:00 PM
- **Friday, March 29** — Good Friday service 8:00 PM
- **Sunday, April 1** — Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM
- **Easter Sunday** help serve breakfast 7:30 AM

## WOMEN OF THE LIVING WORD

**CIRCLES** continue with the study of Revelation. March lesson will be #6. Circles meet at the church on the third Tuesday of each month starting at 7:30 AM; two at 9:00 AM and the last one at 3:00 PM. Come join us for study, food and fellowship.

**LENT** began on February 14. Council and circles will serve sandwiches before each Wednesday night service. M/M will be on the March 7 with beef, Love on March 14 with ham and closing on March 21 Dawn with Pork loin.

Support for St. Francis House continues as our **MISSION PROJECT** until April of this year.



Remember also our continuing mission projects: quilting, plastic bags, T-shirts and pillow cases dresses.

Blessings to all as we focus on our Lord during this Lenten season

**Shirley Zahn**  
LWLW Coordinator

## LWLC Committee Contacts

### 2018 COUNCIL MEMBERS:

**President:** Dave Hepper, 432-4478, dkhepp@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Roger Christensen, 237-3355, rcchristensen1958@gmail.com

**Youth & Education:** Brad Olson, 432-9593, bradleyolson@live.com and Mary Kinder, 880-9705, m.kinder@live.com

**Secretary/Worship & Evangelism:** Roslyn Reich, 432-5244, roslynreich@gmail.com

**Worship & Evangelism:** Gerry Brown, 432-4080, gsbrown@itcmilbank.com

**Treasurer/Finance:** Larry Olson, 938-4575, olsonlaa@tnics.com

**Property & Management:** Howard Heinje, 938-4142, mhheinje@tnics.com and Tim DeJong, 432-6953, sdejong99@hotmail.com

**Adult Sunday School:** Deb Buttke, 432-4457, mdbuttke@itcmilbank.com

**Newsletter/Website:** Nancy Kruger, 432-4397, nmfdesign@hughes.net

### Living Word Lutheran Women Officers:

Coordinator: Joanne Schmig, 676-2320

Vice-coordinator: Shirley Zahn, 432-4761

Secretary: Marcia Heinje, 938-4142

Treasurer: Annette Redepenning, 432-6688

Mission Action Chairs: Gloria Cooley, 445-1555 and Karen Kiefer, 432-4050

Mission Growth Chair: Karen McCrea, 432-6335

Mission Community Chair: Carol Grimley, 432-4627

**Quilting:** Carol Forster, 432-6480

**Thrift Store Volunteers:** Annette Redepenning, 432-6688, redpenny@wat.midco.net





# A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

*John 1:1-5*

*"the light shines in darkness..." (v. 5)*

**A**s God did not eliminate the darkness when he called light into existence in the beginning, he does not abolish evil with the advent of Jesus, who is the Light of the world. Darkness seems to be an inseparable part of human existence. Even when God became flesh and walked the earth, he did not escape the terrible suffering of this life. Neither can we escape; no matter how hard we try.

To many, the presence of such great evil in the world betrays the lack of God's presence. It makes others doubt the very existence of God. Times of suffering and trial often either push one away from God or draw one closer. For those whose faith diminishes, they have an impossible time reconciling the present evil with the notion of a powerful and loving God. But for those who desperately seek God out in their troubles, they begin to realize that difficulties become blessed instruments through which a greater intimacy with God is formed, and intimacy that is worth the pain.

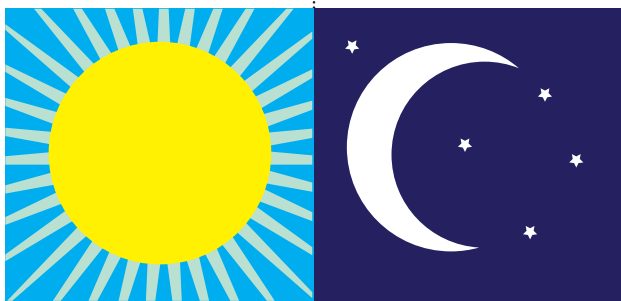
The first chapter of John does not deny the presence

of great darkness in our world but it does shine a brilliant ray of hope from God that cannot be diminished by the darkness and will ultimately triumph. Many people error in thinking in either/or terms on this issue of evil and God's presence. They assume that there

is either evil or the presence of God, suffering or a loving and strong deity, unanswered prayer or a God who cares. In reality, there are both at the same time. Unless we expand our mind to embrace both, we will feel compelled to abandon

our notion of God when things go bad.

Life is full of darkness and light, suffering and God's presence, unanswered prayer and a God who listens and cares but knows best what we really need. We may not be able to fully comprehend that, but we must not let our inability to fathom all things or our demand that God act the way we think is best keep us from the light he extends to us in a dark world. He does indeed shine in the darkness, and the darkness will never snuff it out. In fact darkness will finally be totally illuminated by him who is the great light.



*Shine in our darkness, Lord. Help our ignorance and doubt not to be an obstacle to trusting that you are always present in this evil world and in our trying circumstances. Grab on to our hand and give us the ability to face our suffering with courage, knowing that you will never fail nor forsake us. Through Jesus' name, Amen.*

## COUNCIL MINUTES



**Living Word Lutheran Church Council Minutes,**  
February 13, 2018

**Members Present:** Pastor Groethe, Dave Hepper, Mary Kinder, Roger Christensen, Gerry Brown, Tim DeJong, Howard Heinje and Roslyn Reich. Pastor Groethe opened the meeting with prayer.

Lil Colberg and Vicki Strege discussed with council, the purchase of 125 Best of the Best Song Books at a discounted price \$6 per book. The music books contain contemporary, praise and worship songs. Mary Kinder made a motion to purchase 125 Best of the Best Song Books. Roslyn Reich seconded the motion. Approved.

Meeting called to order. Motion made by Tim DeJong and seconded by Roger Christensen to approve the agenda. Agenda approved.

**Secretary and Treasurer's Reports:** Motions made by Roger Christensen and Howard Heinje. Seconded by Gerry Brown and Mary Kinder to approve. Approved.

**Pastor Observations:** Pastor Kent will be speaking at a church conference April 22 in Sioux City, Iowa. Mid-July he will be attending Okoboji camp as a featured speaker. Pastor Kent encourages the council to continue their spiritual growth with books that he encourages the council to read. To encourage members who are not growing in their faith, small group Bible Studies will be offered. Pastor reports he has completed 104 home visits, with 39 homes left to visit. Kay accompanies Pastor to the homes that have kids. We are all encouraged to sit with visitors during fellowship to make them feel welcomed. Pastor Kent and Kay plan to take our church youth to the LCMC Convention this coming July 17-19. During Lenten Services, Pastor is encouraging Lay people to share their faith.

**Property Management Report:** Howard Heinje is researching various, cost effective shelving for the garage that will meet our needs. We have noticed cracks in the parking lot. Will continue to monitor and check into repair options if needed.

**Worship & Evangelism Report:** Council sign-up for serving communion updated. Mary Kinder and Nancy Kruger continue to work on brochures for the welcome packets for visitors and new members. A motion made by Roslyn Reich to purchase 250 brochures at cost for \$137. Seconded by Tim DeJong. Approved. Dave Hepper and Roslyn Reich met with paid staff to discuss job expectations and satisfaction. We are looking for volunteer members from the congregation to run the screen during church services. If interested contact Pam in the church office. Sue DeJong has volunteered to coordinate co-chairs for servant teams. Dave Hepper continues to pursue expansion of the step railing.

**Youth & Education:** Kay Groethe is implementing a Sunday morning Bible study for senior high youth. Junior High students meet every other Wednesday for games, movies and discussion.

### OLD BUSINESS

Pam is investigating options to purchase a computer that will best meet the church's office needs.

### NEW BUSINESS

Dave Hepper discussed options of a cross for the front of sanctuary. The council was given a copy of the job description of Youth Ministry Director. Any additions or deletions will be discussed at the next council meeting. A letter from Warren and Vesta Erdahl in regard to the Jeannette and Norman Barlund Memorial Fund was read. This generous gift will be directed, per family request for the purpose of spiritual growth, community outreach, marriage enrichment, and financial assistance for youth church related camps or mission trips. A thank-you note for this generous gift will be sent.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

*Respectfully submitted, Roslyn Reich*

# March 2018

| Sunday |   | Monday |                                   | Tuesday |  | Wednesday |   | Thursday |  | Friday |                                    | Saturday |   |
|--------|---|--------|-----------------------------------|---------|--|-----------|---|----------|--|--------|------------------------------------|----------|---|
| 4      | 8:45 Sunday School<br>8:45 Adult Education<br>9:00 Coffee Fellowship<br>10:00 Worship/Communion<br>11:30 Sr-High Youth Group at Pastor Kent and Kay's house   | 5      | 5:30 CBS Leaders meet<br>7:00 CBS | 6       | 11:30 LWLW Soup Luncheon   | 7         | 9:00 Searcher's Bible Study<br>5:00 Lenten Supper<br>5:30 Choir<br>7:00 Lenten Worship                        | 8        | 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship   | 9      | 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship   | 10       | 8 AM - 8 PM<br>Jr./Sr. High Youth<br>Ski Trip at Andes Towers<br>Alexandria, MN |
| 11     | <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b><br>8:45 Sunday School<br>8:45 Adult Education<br>9:00 Coffee Fellowship<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Chapel Communion   | 12     | 5:30 CBS Leaders meet<br>7:00 CBS | 13      | 9:00 Quilting  | 14        | 9:00 Searcher's Bible Study<br>5:00 Lenten Supper<br>5:30 Choir<br>7:00 Lenten Worship<br>7:30 Church Council | 15       | 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship   | 16     |                                    | 17       | 10:00 Confirmation Students and Mentors meeting                                 |
| 18     | 8:45 Sunday School<br>8:45 Adult Education<br>9:00 Coffee Fellowship<br>9:00 Servant Team meets<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:30 Sr. High Youth Group at Pastor Kent and Kay's house<br>6:30 Diabete's Support Group | 19     | 5:30 CBS Leaders meet<br>7:00 CBS | 20      | <b>Spring Begins</b><br>7:30 Dawn Circle meets at the church<br>9:00 Faith Circle meets at the church<br>9:00 Mary/Martha Circle meets at Darlene Eide's<br>7:30 Love Circle meets at the church | 21        | 9:00 Searcher's Bible Study<br>5:00 Lenten Supper<br>5:30 Choir<br>7:00 Lenten Worship                        | 22       | 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship<br>5:30 Youth Backpack event              | 23     |                                    | 24       |   |
| 25     | <b>Palm Sunday</b><br>8:45 Sunday School<br>9:00 Coffee Fellowship<br>10:00 Worship   | 26     | 5:30 CBS Leaders meet<br>7:00 CBS | 27      | 9:00 Quilting  | 28        |   | 29       | <b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship<br>7:00 Worship | 30     | <b>Good Friday</b><br>8:00 Worship | 31       |   |

| Sunday |                        | Monday |                      | Tuesday |                          | Wednesday |                                      | Thursday |                                      | Friday |   | Saturday |   |
|--------|------------------------|--------|----------------------|---------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------|---|----------|---|
| 4      |                        | 5      |                      | 6       | Pastor Kent Groethe (b.) | 7         |                                      | 8        | Chase Varpness (b.)                  | 9      | Ken Kunde (b.)  | 10       | Drew Anderson (b.)<br>Shirley Zahn (b.)     |
| 11     |                        | 12     | Gabriel Beckman (b.) | 13      | Janice Letze (b.)        | 14        |                                      | 15       |                                      | 16     |   | 17       | Matt Reich (b.)                             |
| 18     |                        | 19     |                      | 20      | Terri Holtquist (b.)     | 21        |                                      | 22       | Marlin Fenner (b.)<br>Lois Helm (b.) | 23     |   | 24       | Ken & Frances Kunde (w.)                    |
| 25     | Daniel Kalber Sr. (b.) | 26     | Greg Kasuske (b.)    | 27      |                          | 28        | Ed Kloster (b.)<br>Linda Wagner (b.) | 29       |                                      | 30     | Tim & Sue DeJong (w.)<br>Roger & Stephanie Hansen (w.)<br>Marsha Meister (b.) | 31       | Tayton Reede (b.)<br>Kent & Susan Sime (w.) |