

LIVING WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

438.9672 CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



GROETHE'S GOODBYE!

Pastor Kent Groethe preached his final message to the congregation on August 14 and reminded those listening that **1. God loves us** **2. Jesus died for us** and **3. God has a plan for us**. The penny he placed on each bulletin was to thank the church for their service to others and challenge them to continue impacting the world. He said, "God can do anything but he chooses not to do everything." During the service the members of the church council came forward and presented Pastor Kent with a desk plaque engraved with his name which was made from Milbank granite. Kay and Kent were presented with a Living Word Church clock and thanked for all they have done. We also gave them a \$500 gift card to help with gas. The service was followed by an open house for them with decorated cake being served. The couple left the next day for Tuscon, AZ where they will make their home as they begin to serve at Desert Hope Church.

IT'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME

We will be having **RALLY SUNDAY** on **SEPTEMBER 11**, from 9-10 AM, with games being played and meeting you teacher.

SEPTEMBER 18 will be the start of normal Sunday school. Times will be 8:45 to 9:45. At 8:45 we will go to music and 9:00 to 9:45 will be lesson time. Sign-up sheets are in the fellowship hall to register or call the church office.

Thanks, **Sue DeJong** and **Susan Sime**

WHAT'S INSIDE



Youth Group
LWLC Community
Women of the Living Word
Pastor's Letters

Council Minutes
September Event Calendar
Sept. Birth/Ann. Calendar

YOUTH GROUP



On August 24 the LWLC youth group and their families got together at the Sandvig's lake home for food, fun and fellowship.



FROM THE COUNCIL

By the time most of us read the newsletter we will have been without Pastor Kent for two weeks. We are going to miss Pastor Kent but thanks to Pastor Melanie we will survive. Melanie will fill in as our interim pastor until we find a replacement. She will be providing information for this newsletter as well and will let you know things from her perspective. From time to time we will also have fill in pastors as we have in the past.

Dave Hepper is the lead of the call committee. He is working on getting candidates. We all need to understand that the search could take a while and we want to get the right person to lead us. Dave will keep us up to date as time goes on. If you know of someone that may be a candidate, please let Dave know. We can all help to find the right person.

We have some very "intense" Christians in our midst. It seems like when we need someone to volunteer to help with anything very qualified persons step up. It can be such a thing as volunteering to be the Sunday school superintendent, helping with the teaching of

confirmation, getting the lights fixed or organizing the kitchen, someone always steps up and gets the job done. There are many other examples we can all think of and the above are just a few. Thanks to everyone. By the way, happy 95th Lil.

As part of a Boy Scout project, Gabe Beckman is planning and will supervise the installation of a fire pit in the vicinity just east of the basketball standard. He is hoping to get the project completed yet this fall. Who knows, Gabe may just call on some of us to assist with this project. Wait and see.

When we initially started Living Word we met with a member of LCMC and in part of his presentation he asked about new members for our church. He caught me a little off guard as I hadn't really thought about where they might come from other than the original members. He indicated that there are a number of "non churched" people in every community. I personally haven't been very good at it but it may be a good idea if we could each reach out to someone that we know does not have a church and invite them to ours. This is just a thought. Have a good month.

Greetings from the Call Committee

A quick note to update the congregation. Members of the call committee are Sheila Bien, Deb Buttke, Dave Hepper, Dave Kruger, Jackie Olson, Brian Sandvig, Gene Vostad and Dave Wagner. The pastor position has been posted on the LCMC website. The website also includes a listing of pastors available for call. This list is being screened to determine which individuals may be a fit to serve as pastor at LWLC. We have contacted Luther House of Study, an institution that works with/through the Sioux Falls Seminary, on strengthening ministries and equipping people to become pastors. The directors of Luther House of Study are aware of our situation and will assist, as appropriate, in helping us

find the right individual to call.

As of August 24, we have not had any applications for the position of pastor. As in every denomination, there is an extreme shortage of pastors available to fill the open positions of Lutheran churches nationwide. We ask that everyone in the congregation pray for the call committee to have discernment and that God is kept front and center in the call process. The Holy Spirit was working when we called Pastor Kent and we pray that happens in this call process as well. If anyone is aware of a potential candidate, please contact a call committee member.

In God's grace,

Dave Hepper, Call Committee Chair

WOMEN OF THE LIVING WORD

With the summer going by way too fast, we are ready to jump in to our fall schedule.

We will be collecting items through September for **SCHOOL KITS** for *Orphan Grain Train*. Items were listed in last month's newsletter.

Your new **BIBLE STUDY** books are here and can be picked up in the office. The charge is \$10.

Remember, if you are planning to go to Comfrey, MN for our **FALL RETREAT**, contact Linda Anderson. She will coordinate rides. The fall gathering will be September 17.

In October there will be **FOUR STUDENTS CONFIRMED**. Also, we will be adding **THREE GRADUATES** to our list of those we remember with cards throughout the year. Be sure to check to keep addresses up to date. Your *circle community action* leader should have new addresses.



On October 9 we will have a **SOUP SUPPER** at 5 PM. Pastor Melanie and her husband, Roger will present a program on their mission work. Mark your calendars. All are welcome.

We are undecided about having a **BAKE SALE** this year. If you have an opinion on this, please voice it to one of the board members.



About 20 members of Living Word joined together on August 10 at **ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN** to pack approximately **800 MERCY MEALS** to be distributed anywhere in the world that is in need. The Mercy Meals packed were funded through your Impact the World dollars. Thank you to all of our congregation for helping to feed the hungry. Continue to *grow in faith to impact the world!*

PASTOR'S LETTER



Pastor Melanie Reiners



Dear Friends at Living Word Lutheran Church,

It is so humbling for me to be asked to assist you through this time of transition from Pastor Kent to the time when you meet just the right person to carry the work of this church forward.

Some of you do not know me, so I thought I would introduce myself and tell you a bit about my call to ministry. My growing up years were spent at what is now Hope Lutheran in Summit. Those were great years — it provided the foundation of my faith as I was baptized, attended Sunday school, and was confirmed there.

I attended Augustana University in Sioux Falls for my first two years of college and finished my college years at Northern in Aberdeen with a degree in business. Most of my career was spent in the eye care field working for an optometrist and

ophthalmologist. The call to ministry was never far from my mind. I wrote my *Statement of Call* when I was in my mid-sixties and became a local licensed Pastor in the Methodist Church in 2011. I served one year as pulpit supply in the Florence United Methodist Church and then served several years under formal appointment in the three-point charge of First UMC in Ortonville, Tabor UMC in Big Stone City, and Parkview UMC in Milbank. I retired from those churches in July 2019.

My husband Roger, is a life-long resident of Milbank and continues to do construction work. I have three children, Monica (Mark) Fischer of Waubay, SD; Marshall (Kim) Dorsett of Aberdeen, SD; and, Morgan (Robin) Dorsett of Webster, SD. I have three grandsons and two granddaughters who range in age from nine to nineteen!

Roger and I are dedicated to the eye care mission in Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa. He began serving there over 40 years ago and it has been a joy for me to serve with him for the past 18 years. We look forward to telling you about our work soon through a presentation here at Living Word.

Again, it is truly my joy to be with you during this time. Please feel free to stop by the church (I'll be there most mornings except Fridays) or give me a call on my cell phone at any time as I would love to visit with you.

In Christ,
Pastor Melanie Reiners

PASTOR'S LETTER



Update & Request

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS;

As partners in the ministry, I write you today with an update and a request.

Since God birthed the passion in me to plant Gospel of Fire Church in Bryant, we have been overwhelmed at his hand of provision. He provided a building for our church at a price that can only be described as a miracle. Our church is a local missionary-hispanic church. The Lord provided teachers for English classes to our hispanic community and immigration-green card lawyers that give us an opportunity to share Jesus while filling a significant and practical need.

Recently, the Lord has provided opportunities to build strong relationships with local law enforcement. The police will call me after a spanish speaker is arrested to help the individual through the process. I also get to connect and minister to them in moments when they are often desperate and open to the message of Jesus.

I am grateful and humbled. But the reality is this ministry is all happening in Bryant, and my home is in Clark, SD. The 35-mile drive back and forth at all hours of the night and day is difficult – on me, on my family, on our finances, and on the growth of

our ministry. It's become clear: our church needs a pastor's residence in Bryant.

The Lord has provided an opportunity to buy a small, 2-bedroom house that is currently in Willow Lake and this will be the church parsonage. To purchase the home, move it to Bryant, and add another bedroom for my kids, it will cost \$95,000. This is more than me – or our church – can shoulder on our own, but we are believing God will provide.

Just to let you know, starting a hispanic church from zero has not been easy, since the hispanic community does not tithe and offers very little due to their immigration problems, only the father works to support the family and some already come with immigration debts. Currently we do not receive any salary from the church, only from our secular work but God has been faithful in providing what has been lacking until now and we are thankful for it.

Thank you for your generosity and your partnership in reaching South Dakota for Jesus.

Sincerely and grateful,
Michael Sanchez, Lead Pastor-Evangelist

COUNCIL MINUTES



LWLC AUG. 10, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Kent, Gene Vostad, Richard Hansen, Marty Buttke, Dale Prisinger, Terry Forster, Moe Reede, Kelly Peterson, Tina Balling and Kay Groethe.

OPENING: Pastor Kent gave the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Marty made a motion, and it was seconded by Dale to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY'S REPORT: Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Moe to approve the secretary's report. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The financial report was given by Kelly. Moe made a motion to accept the financial report and it was seconded by Terry. Motion carried.

Month of July	Beginning Balance (6/30/22)	Monthly Income plus Interest	Monthly Expenses	Net Gain or Loss	Ending Balance (7/31/22)
General Fund	\$ 122,306.31	\$ 18,167.57	\$ 18,327.40	\$ (159.83)	\$ 122,146.48
Dedicated Accounts	\$ 57,567.72	\$ 7,062.82	\$ 14,396.33	\$ (7,333.51)	\$ 50,234.21
Building Fund	\$ 71,338.69	\$ 48.03	\$ -	\$ 48.03	\$ 71,386.72
Thrivent Financial (updated quarterly)	\$ 34,041.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,041.95
TOTAL CASH BALANCE					\$ 277,809.36

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Kent said he and Kay are deeply sad about leaving LWLC. They are thankful for their time spent here and know we will be in good hands with Pastor Melanie and will continue to

pray for us on our mission to find a new pastor. Dale made a motion to accept the pastor's report and it was seconded by Moe.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: Marty and Dale reported that there is a "buckle" on the sign by the highway. They will check on getting it fixed. A motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Moe to approve the property & management report. Motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM: Communion seemed to go more smooth this month. We will continue to make improvements. Dale made a motion and Dick seconded it to approve the report. Motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: The get together at the Sandvigs was attended by 13 kids and 7 adults. Everyone had a good time. Kay also spent two weeks at camps this summer with the youth. Motion was made by Terry and seconded by Moe to approve the youth & education report. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: The council approved Susan Sime as the new Sunday school superintendent and Sue DeJong as her assistant. A motion was made by Moe and seconded by Marty to continue to partner with Pastor Brian (Valley Baptist) for our youth group activities. Motion carried. Pastor gave council notes on various teams/funds that he was a part of and their duties and expectations.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for September 14 at 7 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Dick and seconded by Kelly to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed with the Lord's prayer.

September 2022

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
									1	2	3		
4	9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	5	Labor Day Office Closed	6		7	10:00 Searchers Bible Study	8	9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	9	10		
11	Rally Day 8:45 Sunday School 10:00 Worship/noisy change	12		13	9:00 Quilting	14	10:00 Searchers Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 7:00 Council	15	9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	16	17		
18	8:45 Sunday School 9:00 October Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship	19		20	9:00 Faith Circle meets 10:30 Mary-Martha meets 7:00 Love Circle meets	21	10:00 Searchers Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation	22	9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	23	24		
25	8:45 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	26		27	9:00 Quilting	28	10:00 Searchers Bible Study 1:30 Prayer 3:30-5:00 Confirmation	29	9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	30			

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
									1	2	3		
4	Greg & Lori Kasuske (w.) Joanne Nelson (b.)	5	Tina Balling (b.)	6		7	Lisa Aker (b.) Carter Busack (b.) Roger Christensen (b.)	8	Linda Anderson (b.) Mary & Deb Buttke (w.) Addison Heinje (b.) Bergen Nolting (b.) Brock Sime (b.)	9	10		
11	Jackie Olson (b.) Timothy Ramsey (b.) Grant Van Peurse (b.)	12	Isabella Anderson (b.)	13		14	Trevor Nolting (b.)	15		16	17		
18	Roger & Tammy Christensen (w.)	19	Richard Hansen (b.)	20	Susan Vostad (b.)	21	Gary & Marsha Meister (w.)	22		23	24		
25	Ron & Linda Anderson (w.) Lacey Busack (b.) Jack Sandvig (b.)	26	Hailey Heinje (b.) Gordon Johnson (b.)	27		28	Karen Hallquist (b.)	29		30			