

LIVING+WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

605-438-9672

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER



EASTER PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

When you come to church on Easter Sunday morning, there will be an opportunity to have your picture taken! There will be an area set aside with an appropriate Easter backdrop and message that you will be able to share with family and friends. We will get the photo to you by email or message; or, you may offer your own phone to be used. We hope you will enjoy this as an additional way to proclaim to others, "He is Risen; He is Risen, Indeed!"

EASTER GARDEN



Bring your Easter Lily or Flowers to the church by **noon on Friday, March 29**. Stop by the church to fill out a form or call the office at 605-438-9672 by **Tuesday, March 26**, to indicate "in honor or in memory of your loved ones", so we can put it in the bulletin.

March Lenten Schedule

Wednesday, March 6

5:30 pm - Supper; barbecues

6:30 pm - Worship

Wednesday, March 13

5:30 pm - Supper; pork loin

6:30 pm - Worship

Wednesday, March 20

5:30 pm - Supper; roast beef

6:30 pm - Worship

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday

9:00 am - Sunday School

9:00 am - Coffee fellowship

10:00 am - Worship

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm - Worship, Communion

Friday, March 28 - Good Friday

6:30 - Community Worship at Living Word

Sunday, March 31 - Easter

No Sunday School

8:00 am - Easter Breakfast

10:00 am - Easter Worship/communion

**WHAT'S
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Heifer Project Needs Continued Contributions

To date, the Heifer International Project has collected approximately \$600 thanks to the goodness of our congregation's hearts. The Sunday School kids are excited and still very determined, to continue building the amount they can send abroad to help those less fortunate. The Heifer Project is designed to assist and teach those people who have so little and who do not know about what it takes to raise animals.

By starting out small, with one or two animals and learning how to feed and care for them, people from third world countries soon realize how these animals provide food and additional resources to help them better their lives. That is what agriculture, teaching and serving is all about.

Please, find it in your hearts to continue making the Heifer Project work through our SS kids. There are approximately 12 weeks left in the SS year and if all goes well, it would be great if that \$600 could be tripled, or even quadrupled. God DOES work in mysterious ways!!!

Here again, are some animal costs in the Heifer Project:

Heifer - \$500

Pig, Goat, Sheep - \$120

Flock of Chickens - \$20

Honeybees - \$30

Thank you again for your support!

SUMMER IS COMING~~~~~



Time to be thinking about going to Bible Camp

<<<<< Ingham Lake Camp (shown)

We are excited to announce several camping opportunities for all ages.

Information is available in the narthex (with more to come.)

Please consider any one of the following camps which are approved by the LCMC:

Ingham-Okoboji – Milford, IA

Mt. Carmel – Alexandria, MN

Big Stone Camp for Christ – Ortonville, MN

Inspiration Point – Vining, MN

Camp Omega – near Mankato, MN

Victory Center Bible Camp – Fort Pierre, SD

Also, there are short retreats with speakers on various topics of interest to teenagers available through **QUAKE** an organization supported, in part, by the LCMS. If you are interested, more information will be gathered for you.

Council President

There is a lot of activity at our church. We have Dynamic Disciples, quilters, Circles, Bible Studies, Sunday School, potlucks, Lenten meals, and I am sure there are other things that are not mentioned. We also have some plans to expand some of our programs but quite often it comes down to where are we going to do it?

When Pastor Kent was here, we were in the process of hiring an associate pastor with the idea of working with our youth. Since that time our focus has moved from trying to find a youth pastor to finding a head pastor. We still don't have a full-time head pastor but we are working on it.

In the mean time we are having a fair amount of interest in Bible studies, Sunday School and other activities at the church. One thing that we say from

time to time, we need more room. We have a "space needs" committee and have identified some of what we need and now are working with an architect. In the past few weeks Scott Maas and Dale Prisinger have met with an architect as have Pastor Melanie and some others. We still don't have what we are looking for but are on the way. Scott Maas will be providing us with some additional information.

Having said the above, we have a fair amount of starter cash in our building account but we are afraid that is just that, a starter amount. Please keep in mind the needs of our church over the next several months.

Gene Vostad
Council President



MISSION TRIP TO VIETNAM

Would you like to join the team traveling to Vietnam in June?

There is room for one or two more people to join them. Due to the therapy following his shoulder surgery, Tim DeJong will be unable to travel, so if you are interested in filling his spot, please contact the church office for more information.



DYNAMIC DISCIPLES



Dynamic Disciples

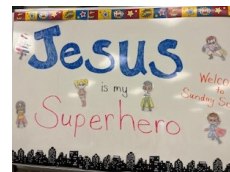
We started the month of February learning about different kinds of love! We learned that God loves us no matter what and he will always be with us no matter what! We made beautiful Valentine crosses that we displayed in the entrance to the church.

The children played Trouble and had to go back to the beginning when they were jumped. We learned how Moses lead his people out of slavery and how then how he committed a grave sin. He had to go back to God's way to start over and God gave him a second chance. If we get into Trouble, we need to admit it, ask for forgiveness, and try to fix things. We need to follow God and he will give us a second chance.

During our last week of February, the disciples learned how to battle (Battleship) against bullying and gossip. We learned there are three things we can do to put an end to these things. First, if someone hurts you, take your feelings to God and not Facebook. Next, when others try to get you to gossip or bully, change the subject, make a joke or just tell them you are not going to play that game. Finally, you need to shut your ears because then you take away the power someone has to hurt you. God made us special and no one can take away his love for us.

Thank you to those who ordered Dynamic Disciple gear.

Jesus is Our Superhero at Sunday School



The Sunday School children have enjoyed learning about Superheroes through skits, demonstrations, music, messages, and crafts. During week 1, we learned how our mom and dad are superheroes and we wrote them thank you notes for all they do for us. The second week, we made stop signs to help us remember to stop and think before we rush into things. God is our source of power and we made our very own super hero puppets. The last week of February, we learned about praying every day and made a sign for a special place we can go at home to pray.

The Sunday School children will be playing bells on March 17th and singing on Palm Sunday. Easter Scavenger Hunt on Easter Sunday during the breakfast from 9-10 a.m.



LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN



LUTHERAN WOMEN TO FOCUS ON HYGIENE KITS

We will finish up layettes and package them in the next couple of weeks.
We are changing the Mission Project for March and April to Hygiene Kits.

Items needed for the HYGIENE KITS include the following:

- I BATH TOWEL
- I WASH CLOTH
- I BATH SIZE BAR SOAP
- I PLASTIC SOAP BOX HOLDER
- I TOOTHBRUSH
- I STURDY COMB
- 6 BANDAIDS
- I SMALL PKG TISSUES
- I PIECE OF CORD



There was a great turn out for the Israel Trip report Pastor Melanie and Roger. Thank you to all who helped and to Pastor and Roger for the program.

Thank you to Sandy Hansen and her family for the gold-colored cart that we have the popcorn machine sitting on now. The two carts we had are now back in the kitchen.

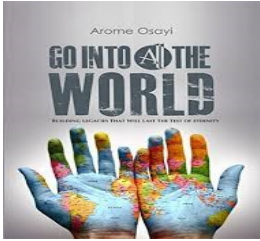
By Marcia Heinje

GOD'S VOICE

SATAN'S VOICE

Stills you	~~	Rushes you
Leads you	~~	Pushes you
Reassures you	~~	Frightens you
Enlightens you	~~	Confuses you
Encourages you	~~	Discourages you
Comforts you	~~	Worries you
Calms you	~~	Obsesses you
Convicts you	~~	Condemns you





IMPACT MISSIONS

The Impact the World Board would like to thank and commend the congregation for the generous giving to our Noisy Change Collection in 2024. We started out the year with the water purification systems in Vietnam. Our 4 Sunday collection totaled \$5,905.93. What a blessing those systems will be to so many people. The ITW board challenged the congregation to give by contributing \$950 which is an approximate cost of an additional system. In February the collection was for Call to Freedom, an organization based in Sioux Falls, SD that provides help to prevent sex trafficking and other forms of abuse. As of February 18th the total collected was \$655.82. The generosity of the members of LWLC is a blessing to those in need. May God bless you as you have blessed others. If you have any

suggestions for worthy causes that you would like to see us support, please contact Pastor Melanie or a board member. Below is a tentative list for the monthly collections for Noisy Change. Please let us know what is on your mind and hearts as we go forward to help our neighbor.

2024

January	Water purification systems in Vietnam
February	Call to Freedom (sex trafficking)
March	Vietnam Trip
April	VBS
May	Alpha Center (right to life)
June	Ukraine
July	Israel
Aug	Dynamic Disciples
September	
October	Beacon Center
November	Operation Christmas
December	

“LEAVE YOUR SHOES AT CHURCH” OVERWHELMING RESPONSE

Thank you to everyone that has brought shoes to the church for the "Leave your Shoes at Church" project! The response has been great. There is still time to contribute shoes. Also, have you checked with your neighbors and friends to see if they have shoes they would like to give? All are welcome and will be shared with Sierra Leone and the Orphan Grain Train.

Thanks!
Gretta



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The “FAITH” Tank Can Be Full or Low to Empty

Faith. It’s a much needed commodity these days. 14 years ago I found out how much I needed it in my life. It was early December and Christmas was in full swing for my family. Holiday time had always been big with both sides of my parents’ families.

That December though, a cloud hovered over our family. My baby brother, the youngest of three and then only 41, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma – yes cancer! Tests, research, appointments – it all began and for my parents and brother the days and nights were full of worry, tears, questions, waiting and more. Yet, for me, who also researched, read, prayed and talked to God; the result was overwhelming faith. It was like I just “knew” he would be “okay.” God would not take my brother this way! That’s how faith was working in me.

Faith DID prevail! Today, 10 plus years later my brother is healthy, going strong, farming approximately 2,000 acres with my nephew as well as running his own landscaping business and serving as a volunteer fireman.

Yet, there is another side to faith in my life that isn’t so positive. I have been searching for a soulmate the majority of my adult life. Even though I have three beautiful, successful children and a very satisfying career of public relations, writing, oral interp/debate coaching and now education, a certain void in me is not filled. That void is loneliness.

The Bible clearly states that God created Eve for Adam. Why? It is simple. No one should be alone. Genesis 2:18 states “...it is not good for man to be alone...” I believe God meant that to be for BOTH man and woman. When he created Eve for Adam he created a partnership; a partnership that would serve many purposes – for God, Adam and for Eve.

As I was growing up my Mom would say, “There is someone for everyone. God made it that way.” Then, I had faith wholeheartedly. I dreamed of not just being a Mom or a wife but of sharing my life with my best friend, experiencing and learning together, laughing, crying and yes, growing old together.

Today, loneliness overtakes me often and my faith waivers. Is there really someone for everyone? Did God make it that way? If not, why would he really want me to be alone? That being said, I wonder if I have lost my faith and is that the issue? Is my faith not strong enough?

In closing, this is not an article solely about my faith. It is about how faith works or does NOT work in any person’s life. Is faith working in your life? How can you improve your faith? Ask yourself these questions. Seek answers. Go to God in prayer. He has the answers even though you may not find them as quickly you want. After all, I too am still searching.

Sandy Christensen
Evangelism Committee

Building Committee Update

– On October 3, 2023, the Space Needs Committee met to assess the current space usage and identify areas of need. The building committee met on December 13th, 2023 to organize and review the Space Need’s recommendations. On January 16, 2024 a committee subgroup met with Ben Gere, Estimator/ Project Manager from Hasslen Construction and architect Jeff Stromgren to review and prioritize the needs. The architect completed a follow up visit with Pastor Melanie and Laurie Maas to get specific details on church office and educational space on February 15, 2024. We are waiting to hear back from Jeff on the timeframe for the conceptual draft.

Scott Maas & Dale Prisinger
Serve as the Building Committee representatives to meet with the architect





PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Church family,

We have entered another busy season in the life of the church-----a very blessed season when we come together, both on Sundays and on Wednesdays, to look more closely to the things of Lent and focus on God's greatest gift of all---his greatest act of love for us-----his sending of Jesus into our world.

I read a beautiful writing about repentance several months ago and I thought it would be most fitting to share it with all of you at this time of the year. The following was written by Ruth Chou Simons in her book entitled, *EMANUEL*. I hope it will be meaningful for you.

*Wishing you a blessed Lenten journey,
Pastor Melanie*

REPENTANCE

There's nothing like finding out that you've been on the wrong road, headed to a destination you didn't intend to go to. These days, with navigation in our cars and the map apps on our phones, it's harder to lose your way. But no one, after realizing that he or she has taken the wrong road, chooses to continue down a path that won't get them where they want to go. Awareness of waywardness bids a response...a change of course.

When God fulfilled His promise for an awaited Savior through Jesus, He did so to show the way back to Him. Jesus taught, demonstrated, and declared again and again that He was the one true Way. God's patience and mercy in sending Christ was a kindness 'meant to lead you to repentance' (Romans 2:4). Repentance is a turning—a complete 180 degrees—from the path you're on. Just as we might turn around and change course when we know we're going the wrong way, we are called to repent and turn from our sin...the path leading to destruction, emptiness, and pain.

This requires not just turning from the wrong way but turning to the right path. Paul and Barnabas said it this way in Acts 14:15 when they confronted the pagan crowds in Lystra: "You should turn from these vain things to a living God who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them." We turn to the holy God when we realize we've been blind to the truth.

Repentance is a transformed heart that declares that God is God and we are not; and turns from believing otherwise. Repentance is an active response to what we come to believe in our hearts. If we believe we have no hope apart from Jesus, we will surrender our self-made efforts as assurance. If we believe His plan for salvation, we will turn from our own solutions. If we believe God's mercy welcomes us, we'll turn from the emptiness we're in and run to Him. God's greatness and majesty call us to depart from our own way and to worship Him. Just as the crowds in Lystra were told to turn from the worship of false gods to the worship of the one true God, we now have the road map for repentance through the Word of God—to turn from our false gods of self-fulfillment and self-sufficiency.

The manger scene—the very condescension of a holy God to earth—is a declaration that God took extreme measures to meet us in the midst of our waywardness and to personally deliver us from the path to destruction. Our hope at Christmas (and now through the Lenten season) is not that we might have temporary fixes to our troubles, but that we would know the permanent change that occurs when we meet the Savior, Jesus Christ, and repent.~~~~~Ruth Chou Simons





COUNCIL MINUTES

LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT FEBRUARY 14, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Vostad, Pastor Melanie, Steve Strege, Moe Reede, Sandy Christensen and Tina Balling. David Kruger was also present. Weather was a factor.

OPENING: Pastor gave the opening prayer.

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

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

January 31, 2024

Income \$ 22,030.74

Expense \$ 17,095.12

Total \$ 4,935.62

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT: Moe made a motion, and it was seconded by Steve to approve the business manager's report. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: ICAP and the Chief of Police appreciates LWLC allowing the use of our parking lot for Feeding South Dakota food distribution. We will continue to do so. The architect will be here February 15th. There has been an email scam going around advertising for an administrative assistant at our church. This is a scam. Also, as a reminder, Pastor or anyone from the council will never text or email asking for gift cards etc.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: Nothing to report.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM: The Heifer International fund has raised \$588 so far toward their goal of \$5000.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: A request was made by the Education Committee to purchase an additional TV. Gene made a motion to authorize the purchase of the additional TV up to \$600. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS: The Easter Sunday breakfast will start at 8am. LWLC will host a Community Good Friday Service. Parkview and Central will be joining. Moe made a motion to split the offering collected at the Lenten meals between the Vietnam mission trip and the Dynamic Disciples. The motion carried. Kelly looked into the question of tax-exempt status. According to the South Dakota Department of Revenue, churches are not exempt from paying sales tax on purchases. Due to the recent problems with our website, Pastor has gotten a quote from Tech Yes! out of Canby to rebuild it. Sandy made a motion to authorize Pastor to accept the quote to rebuild the website. Steve seconded the motion and the motion carried. David Kruger reported on the Call Committee. The Committee has interviewed three applicants. One is waiting on a call from another church and the other two didn't work out. They have one more to interview. David has talked to Randy with the Augustana District. He said there has been a number of ELCA pastors leaving the denomination which makes the interviewing process more complicated. The LCMC is working on a list of tough interview questions to ask during the interview process to make sure former ELCA pastors share the same beliefs that we do. Randy also suggested that if we (LWLC) have any problems or concerns that we fix them before calling a pastor. David also talked to Pastor Tom Christianson and he said it is important to allow members of the Call Committee to leave if they want to. Brian Sandvig has decided to step away from the committee at this time. David stressed that even though there have been many challenges during this process it is important to remember that God is in control. He shared Isaiah 40:31. The Call Committee would like to see some prayer warriors gather and specifically pray for the Call Committee and their endeavors.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for March 13th after the Wednesday Lenten service.

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

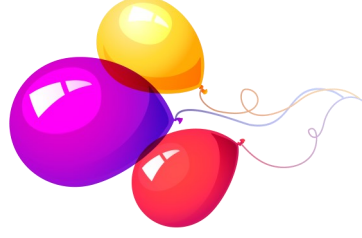
Tina Balling
Council Secretary

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion			3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 5:30 Lenten meal 6:30 Lenten Worship	9:00 Community Fellowship 1:30 Impact		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/noisy change 11:00 Chapel Communion		9:00 Quilting	No Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 5:30 Lenten meal 6:30 Lenten Worship 7:30 Council	9:00 Community Fellowship		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 April Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship		First Day of Spring 9:00 Faith Circle 7:00 Love Circle	3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 5:30 Lenten Meal 6:30 Lenten Worship	9:00 Community Fellowship	Newsletter items due	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship		9:00 Quilting	No Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	Maundy Thursday 9:00 Community Fellowship 6:30 Worship/Communion	Good Friday 6:30 Worship	
31						
Easter 8:00 Easter Breakfast 10:00 Worship						

MARCH BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Happy
Birthday



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Chase Varpness (b.)	2 Ken Kunde (b.) Caleb Plaga (b.)
3 Drew Anderson (b.) Lincoln Berger (b.) Shirley Zahn (b.)	4	5	6	7	8	9 Laura Dallman (b.)
10 Matt Reich (b.)	11	12 Gabriel Beckman (b.)	13 Janice Letze (b.) Marlin Schmidt (b.)	14	15 Josie Dallman (b.)	16 Troy & Tamra Peschong (w.)
17 Bud & Linda Remund (w.)	18 Bernie & Tina Bailing Jr. (w.)	19	20	21	22 Marlin Fenner (b.) Lois Helm (b.) Kyle Weber (b.)	23 Alexander McMahon (b.) Ann Sandbakken (b.)
24	25 Daniel Kalber Sr. (b.) Orgene McCrea (b.)	26 Greg Kasuske (b.) Amanda McMahon (b.)	27	28 Ed Kloster (b.) Linda Wagner (b.)	29	30 Tim & Sue De Jong (w.) Roger & Stephanie Hansen (w.) Marsha Meister (b.)
31 Tayton Reede (b.) Kent & Susan Sime (w.)						

LWLC Committee Contacts

2024 Council Members:

President: Gene Vostad, 605-321-9120
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Vice President: Moe Reede, 605-949-1482
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Treasurer/Finance: Kelly Peterson, 605-237-0316
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Newsletter: Lisa Aker, 605-438-9672, livingword@itcmilbank.com

Living Word Lutheran Women Officers:

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Vice-coordinator: Brenda Seehafer, 605-880-1788
Secretary: Lori Kasuske, 605-949-2032
Treasurer: Annette Redepenning, 605-432-6688
Mission Action: Gloria Cooley, 605-445-1555
Mission Growth: Linda Wagner, 612-201-2110
Mission Community: Susan Vostad, 605-434-1825
Advisor: Sue DeJong, 605-949-1982
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