

LIVING+WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

605-438-9672

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Lent is the period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter observed by Christians as a season of pondering our bondage to sin and the radical action God has taken to save us from sin and death in Jesus the Messiah. We do not focus on our own "good work" of the Lenten fast, but on God's saving work for us in Jesus' atoning death on the cross and resurrection. The Wednesday night Lenten services are a great evening of food, fellowship and sharing of our Christian beliefs. Supper will be at 5:30 pm and the church service is at 6:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

6:30 pm - Worship: Imposition of Ashes, and Holy Communion

Wednesday, February 21

5:30 pm - Supper; pulled pork
6:30 pm - Worship

Wednesday, February 28

5:30 pm - Supper; ham
6:30 pm - Worship

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 - Worship

Sunday, March 31 - Easter

No Sunday School
9:00 am - Easter Breakfast
10:00 am - Easter Worship/communion

happy
Valentine's
day

Shoes/Heifer Project
Impact
Council President
New Directory

Dynamic Disciples
LWLW
Pastor's Letter
Call Committee

Council Minutes
Worship & Evangelism
Feb. Birth/Ann. Calendar
Feb. Event Calendar



WANTED!

SHOES



**Shoes, boots sandals, snow boots
ALL COLORS AND SIZES**

**CRIME: Taking up space in your closet
IF CAPTURED: Bring to church during February**

REWARD

**A Thrivent Action Grant has been
approved in the amount of \$250.00 to
purchase socks to donate with the shoes.**

**Tie each pair securely with strong string and leave them in the
containers at church.**

**Questions may be directed to M. Yaeger at 320-849-2457 or e-mail
rmyager@wat.midco.net**

Musicians Wanted—We would very much like to start a Praise Band. We have a great set of drums and would welcome other instruments, too. Prayerfully consider adding to the music ministry of Living Word. Please call the church office if you would be willing to share your talents.



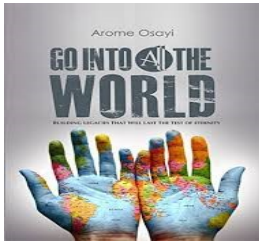
PURCHASE AN ANIMAL, MAKE A DIFFERENCE OVERSEAS

Living Word Sunday School students are donating their weekly offerings to the International Heifer Project. This is a program that allows families in other countries that are less fortunate, to learn about certain animals, how to feed and raise them and incorporate their bi-products (such as eggs, milk or meat) into their diets and means of making of living.

The following animals may be purchased at the costs listed below for designated families overseas in the Heifer Program.

Flock of Chickens (10-50)	\$ 20
I Goat	120
I Heifer	500
I Pig	120
I Sheep	120
I Water Buffalo	250
I Flock of Ducks	20
I Honeybee	30 (includes hives, bee box and beekeeper training)

Individual donations may be placed in the “barn” located on the book shelf outside the church office. Checks may be made payable to **Living Word Lutheran Church, put SS Heifer Project in the memo.**



Minutes from the Impact the World Board Meeting January 11, 2024

Members present: Marcia and Howard Heinje, Sue DeJong, Ron and Linda Anderson, Gloria Cooley, Steve and Vicki Strege, and Pastor Melanie

Pastor Melanie opened the meeting with prayer for God's guidance. The minutes of the November meeting were accepted and approved by a motion from Gloria that was seconded by Marcia. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jordan and Lexie Hins received \$3,510.38 from the Noisy Change collection for the month of December. Jordan is interested in visiting our church when he is in Milbank to share more information about his mission project.

The sale of olive wood Christmas items from Israel brought in \$1,200 for the Vietnam mission trip. There are also Easter olive wood items that might be available for purchase.

The Advent suppers raised \$1,065,00 for the mission trip.

\$7,200 is the current total Vietnam mission trip in June 2024. of money that has been raised and is available for the

Old Business: Pastor Melanie informed the group that the cost of the rolls that are purchased for FCA will be shared equally among the various churches in the community. Pastor Brian McFadden is working to organize this project for this year and future years.

Vicki attended the December church council meeting and received approval to cut the benevolence quarterly

payments to the Grant County Food Pantry from 13% to 8%, the Ortonville Food Pantry from 9% to 8%, and Michael Sanchez from 5% to 4% in order to add the Jordan Hins family to the quarterly payments at 7%. Donations are the only source of income that the Hins family has.

New Business: Vicki suggested that we compose a flyer or letter to share with those in our community who deal with special financial needs that occur unexpectedly. It was decided that this could encourage people to take advantage of the "system" and that there are enough agencies in place in the community to handle these situations. Vicki will contact Dan Snaza, Heidi Wellnitz and Robin Patnoe to see if there are any special needs being overlooked that we could financially help out with.

Linda suggested that we open our monthly Noisy Change campaign with a video or some visual presentation to encourage the congregation in their giving. Linda will see if she can get a video for Call to Freedom in February and Vicki will see if she can get some information from Bill Moberly on water purification systems in Vietnam for January.

April 12 and 13 has been tentatively chosen for the date for the Vietnam fundraiser rummage sale.

As the Dynamic Disciples program moves forward to a 5 day a week after school program it was noted that we should have a scholarship program for families that need financial help. A scholarship application will need to be prepared.

The next meeting was set for March 7 at 1:30.

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting that was seconded by Gloria. Meeting adjourned.



Benevolences

Updates from Our Council President

We have quite a few things going on right now at Living Word. We are in the process of reorganizing how we get business accomplished. We are making some progress but being a little bogged down as well.

As an example, a few months ago the council decided to reorganize a few things in an effort to be a little more efficient and to take a little load off the minister and secretary. We appointed one of our council members too, in addition to her position as treasurer; she would act as the church business manager. (I think I wrote a little about that earlier.) Kelly Peterson is the business manager as well as the treasurer. Shortly after the appointment, Kelly developed a medical issue that is currently under treatment. She is doing well but she is not as available as she, or all of us, would like. In the meantime, some of the questions Lisa and others could answer or do are a little more limited. Please be patient as we pray that Kelly will respond to treatment and be back at 100% in the not-too-distant future. If something is extremely urgent feel free to let Pastor Melanie or myself know and we will do what we can.

Dave Hepper, someone that seems to do about anything he is asked to do, has been heading up our Call Committee. Dave has a health issue he is working on so Dave Kruger has agreed to lead the Call Committee efforts. In the meantime, we ask for prayers for Dave Hepper.

In order for the church to grow, we need more room. The building committee is in the process of working with an architect. They started wanting to work with the architect that designed our current church, only to find out he is no longer in business. They have found an architect to work with and are working with them. Steve Strege is leading the building committee.

We have further reorganized by having an education committee that works with the youth and education members of the church council. The committee is responsible for ALL educational activities that take place in the church. (That does not mean that they themselves do these activities but work to coordinate them and to make sure activities are available.) One of the things that has come about recently is an after-school activity called Dynamic Disciples. Laurie Maas with the help of others has organized this and the program is going well. The program takes place on Wednesday after school and is held in the "garage" near the fire pit and basketball goal. As a result of the reorganization to the Educational Committee, we no longer have a Sunday School Superintendent.

Despite all that is or is not getting done, a lot of things are happening, and we pray that we can get a foothold and do what God wants us to do.

Gene Vostad
Council President

RightNow Media

RightNow Media is a streaming video library of free Bible Studies. We believe the mission of the church matters. And we've seen how God can change lives through video resources. If you are interested in joining RightNow Media, at no charge, contact Lisa at the church office at 605-438-9672.



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS**

**NEW CHURCH
DIRECTORY COMING
SOON**

**VPD Studio will be taking
pictures on April 11, 12, 13.
Sign-up sheets coming in
March.**



DYNAMIC DISCIPLES

Dynamic Disciples

Our disciples started a new adventure after our Christmas break connecting games with God. So far we have learned about Joseph and the ups and downs he had in his life and how God was always there with him and for him. We played Chutes and Ladders and made a coat of many colors art project. We learned how to connect with God ourselves, through our family, and sharing God with others. We had a big game of Connect 4, played and learned how Philip shared God's word and how we can also. Our tic-tac-toe snacks were a hit. With the game of Life, we learned about Solomon's wisdom and how we need to go to God to help us make decisions. The month ended with learning how to say we are sorry and really meaning it.

We were really excited to put on the new music videos for our upcoming VBS program. The students can't wait to "Dive Into Scuba" this summer. They are already learning songs and actions. We look forward to continuing our lessons using games in February, our fun snacks, and crafts and projects!

Dynamic Disciples would like to thank Lisa Aker for helping us add to our children's library in the den! We used her Thrivent Funds to order over \$250 worth of books to aid in our journey with Jesus! A special thanks to Howard and Marcia Heinje for donating their collection of children's books to the library, also! We are blessed to have so much support!

If you are interested in any of the Dynamic Disciple clothing, please get your orders into the office ASAP! Thank you for all your support of this wonderful learning opportunity for our children.

If you would like to order a Dynamic Disciple t-shirt or sweatshirt, please fill out the form on the table in the fellowship hall and return the form and your money to the office by February 18.



LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN



Women of Living Word,

With the wind blowing and below zero weather, we can know for sure that winter has arrived in South Dakota. What a great time to do some indoor projects and enjoy getting out to be with friends at winter activities. Thank you to each one of you for all you do at the church.

Was great to have our first executive board meeting with the new officers. We welcomed Brenda Seehafer as our vice-coordinator, Lori Kasuske as secretary and Linda Wagner as Mission Education. Sue DeJong will be the advisor as the outgoing chairman. Remember our women's organization and activities are for all members of the church and not just those active in the Circles.

We are excited to start the year with a **Family Event on Sunday, February 18, at 5pm**. We will begin the evening with a **Soup Supper** which will be followed with a program by Pastor Melanie and Roger on their trip to Israel. What a great opportunity to hear about Israel since many of us have not had the opportunity to travel there. Hope you are all as excited to hear about the trip as I am. We are asking for **2 soups and a dessert from each of the Circles and Jackie's Sunday School Class**. We will be purchasing French Bread to go with the supper. Everyone is welcome.

Our Mission Project for January and February is **Layette Kits**. The items can be placed in the totes under the north cabinet in the Fellowship Hall. I am applying for a Thrivent Action Grant to purchase the plastic pants and other items. Other items needed for each kit are 4 cloth diapers, 2 washcloths, 1 sleeper, 2 onesies, 1 receiving blanket and 1 blanket. These items can be slightly used or new. Copies of list on cabinet in Fellowship Hall.

We will be **cleaning the kitchen** on Saturday morning, Jan. 27 at 9 AM. I have a sign-up list if you can help. You can come even if you don't sign up.

We still need **Prayer Friends** for some of our students. Susan Vostad, our Mission Community Coordinator, will have the names of students

needing a Prayer Friend available if you are interested. I know many of you already have one or two students that you remember with prayers as well as cards on their birthdays and holidays. Talk to Susan if you would be interested in being a Prayer Friend to a student.

Mitten Tree Items will be given to Food Pantry in Wilmot as the contacts in Milbank had an adequate supply at this time. Thank you for your generosity.

We are pleased to have **Prayer Shawls** to give to some of the members of our congregation with health problems. We could use additional shawls to be able to continue this ministry. We especially have a need for shawls that can be given to men. If there are any of you who knit or crochet that would like to make some that would be great. There is no specific pattern that has to be used, however we do have some simple directions if you are interested. They should be soft and cozy. There is some yarn available at the church so if you are interested just let one of the officers know and we can get you started.

Remember: Those who leave everything in God's hands will eventually see God's hand in everything.

In Christ,
Marcia Heinje



- 4 cloth diapers**
- 2 washcloths**
- 1 sleeper**
- 2 onesies**
- 1 receiving blanket**
- 1 blanket**





PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Church Family at Living Word, It seems we have only recently been preparing our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. Our four weeks of study from Max Lucado's the ***Because of Bethlehem*** was a good opportunity for us to slow down during the busy season and to focus on Christ's coming.

We will soon begin to focus on our understanding of the very purpose for which Christ came into the world---- his death on the Cross of Calvary and the purchase of our redemption---- victory over sin and death.

I am particularly excited to share with you the sequence to ***Because of Bethlehem*** as we spend our Wednesday evenings in Lent looking at, ***He Chose the Nails***. These powerful video presentations speak to the many gifts Christ provided to us at his crucifixion----"not only the gift of the cross, but the gift of the thorns that pierced his brow, the nails that tore his flesh, the seamless robe that he removed for us, and the empty tomb where he forever defeated sin and death."

Lucado said, "There were no accidents on the days surrounding Jesus' death. Jesus' last moments were not left up to chance. God chose the path; he selected the nails. Our Lord planted the trio of crosses and painted the sign. God was never

more sovereign than in the details of the death of his Son. God didn't have to do all these things, you know. The only required act for our salvation was the shedding of blood, yet he did much more. So much more."



We will begin with our Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion on Wednesday,

February 14 at 7:00 pm-----yes, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. It is quite unique to think that our Lenten worship on Valentine's Day will prepare us to understand more fully God's great gift of love for us.

Then, please plan to join us on each of the following Wednesday evenings (**February 21 & 28; March 6, 13 and 20**) as we begin by sharing a meal together beginning at 5:30 followed by worship at 6:30.



On Maundy Thursday, **March 28**, we will gather again for Holy Communion.

My hope is that we can come together during these weeks of Lent. It is preparation for Easter during which we commit to an honest examination of our lives; let go of hindrances; and the exciting new life with Christ that can be ours.

In Christian love,
Pastor Melanie



I am pleased to tell you since we asked for Prayer a month ago, we have had some applicants. Our congregations' needs are somewhat unique. We have many exciting things that are happening with the Dynamic Disciples program, potential building project, along with some challenging family and youth ministry needs along with the skills to lead us through these things. I am confident God has a plan in all this we just need to be patient and seek God's will in this process. We are very blessed to have the leadership of Pastor Melanie at this time and thank her for all she is doing to continue to move us forward growing in our faith here at Living Word. It is easy for us to get anxious, I have experienced this anxiousness in my life many time and have learned that when I have that anxiousness I need to slow down, pray and wait for God to show me the direction I need to go. I believe when we find the Pastor that God has planned for us, we won't be anxious, we will know it is God's plan. In Philippians 4 Paul says: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious

situ-
 about anything, but in every
 ation, by prayer and petition,
 with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And
 the peace of God, which transcends all
 understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds
 in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true,
 whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure,
 whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything
 is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.
 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from
 me, or seen in me—put it into practice.
 And the God of peace will be with you."

Please continue to pray for the call committee as we
 discern God's will as to who he wants to be our next
 pastor.

David Kruger



Forgiveness Does Not Have to Be Difficult,

Ask God To Help You

February is the month of hearts, valentines, love and all that mushy stuff right? But what if we turn it around and simply think about forgiving those we care about or have wronged instead. Some people may not think forgiveness is simple at all. Others run from it, ignore it or try to forget forgiveness. They think they are above it, that it cannot happen for them or maybe they have tried to do it and it doesn't work. The thing is without forgiveness will they ever have peace? Happiness? Move forward? Resolve their issues? Love? For themselves, someone else or even God?

What if forgiveness isn't supposed to be so difficult?
 What if forgiveness is actually what we've been missing
 in all our relational chaos?

In a recent Bible study session I am taking, we focused on forgiveness and the impact it has on our lives. The deep pain of old hurts getting triggered again and again can feel both frustrating and unfair, states Lysa Tyrkeurst in her book *Forgiving What You Can't Forget*. That is so true. But perhaps this is God's way showing us over time

our pain and how to be merciful. That may lead us then to better forgive. Also, we learned that forgiving does not just happen, rather it is a process. Depending on what we have to forgive, the process takes time, perhaps a lot of time.

Do you have someone you need to forgive? Do you wish forgiveness from someone else? Try praying about it. Here are some prayerful words that may help in either situation:

Father, there are things and people in my life that I have been putting off forgiving. It has felt too hard, too unfair or maybe too soon. But when you ask us to forgive others as Jesus has forgiven, you aren't being insensitive to our pain. You are graciously showing us how to get free from all of this hurt.

You are helping us become vessels that pour out grace and kindness instead of words and actions we can never take back. Thank you for not asking us to do this on our own. In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Sandy Christensen
 Worship & Evangelism Committee



COUNCIL MINUTES

LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT JANUARY 17, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Vostad, Pastor Melanie, Steve Strege, Tim DeJong, Adam McMahon, Laurie Maas, Moe Reede, Sandy Christensen, Kelly Peterson and Tina Balling.

OPENING: Pastor gave the opening prayer.

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

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

December 31, 2023

Income \$ 23,581.00

Expense \$ 8,365.63

Total \$ 15,215.37

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT: Kelly reported she had contacted Craig at VPD to do our church directory. Sign-up sheets will be put out in March with pictures to be taken in April. Steve made a motion to accept VPD and to move forward with the new directory. Sandy seconded the motion and the motion carried. Laurie made a motion, and it was seconded by Moe to approve the business manager's report. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Lent will begin with the Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes and possibly communion on February 14th. The following five Wednesdays there will be a meal served starting at 5:30 followed by church at 6:30. The five Wednesday evening services will be based on Max Lucado's "He Chose the Nails". Then in Holy week there will be the Maundy Thursday Communion service at 7pm (no meal).

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: No report.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM: No report.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: The Education Committee met for the first time December 18th. Their next meeting will be January 18th at 7pm. Tim said there is a need for a Sunday morning adult Bible study. A motion was made by Tim and seconded by Sandy to approve the Youth & Ed report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Council will look at staggering council appointments going forward to avoid having two new council members serving in an assignment. This should help with continuity.

NEW BUSINESS: The Building Committee met with Ben from Hasslen Construction and the architect January 16th. The architect will work on plans based on the space needs report. As of now, contractors are already busy for a majority of the next construction season. Laurie reports Dynamic Disciples is going well. Gene reported the Call Committee has interviewed a pastor in Texas and have received two more applications. Natalie Christians is organizing a fundraiser for the Hepper family and would like to have it at LWLC. She will keep us updated as plans are made. The Church will pay for the sandwich meat and buns for the Lenten meals. The servant teams will provide the side dishes. Laurie made a motion and seconded by Sandy to donate \$250 to the 3rd annual If: Gathering (Women's Gathering) that will be held February 23-24 at Central Church. Motion carried.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for February 14th after the Ash Wednesday service.

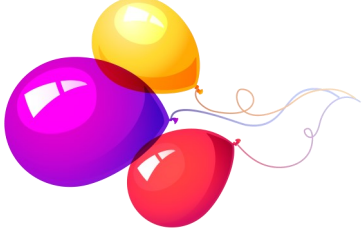
ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Adam to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed with the Lord's prayer.

February 2024

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:00 Community Coffee	2	3
4 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion	5	6	7 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	8 9:00 Community Coffee	9	10	
11 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Noisy Change 11:00 Chapel Communion	12	13 9:00 Quilting	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 6:30 Lenten Worship 7:00 Council	15 9:00 Community Coffee	16	17	
18 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 March Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship 5:00 Family Soup Supper - Reiners	19 Presidents' Day Church & Office Closed	20 9:00 Faith Circle 7:00 Love Circle	21 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 5:30 Lenten Meal 6:30 Lenten Worship	22 9:00 Community Coffee Newsletter items due	23	24	
25 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	26	27 9:00 Quilting	28 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 5:30 Lenten Meal 6:30 Lenten Worship	29 9:00 Community Coffee			

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Happy
Birthday



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Scott Leinger (b.)	5	6 Kathlyn Brook (b.) Brenda Dahle (b.)	7	8 Linda Larson (b.)	9	10
11	12	13 Rhonda Beckman (b.) Kurt & Jean Flaig (w.)	14 Julie Berger (b.) Amelia Dallman (b.)	15 Glenn & Joanne Nelson (w.)	16	17 Kevin & Vicky Hedge (w.)
18 Theo Berdan (b.)	19	20 Marty Buttke (b.)	21 Sally Heinje (b.)	22	23 Richard Kennedy (b.) Annette Redepenning (b.)	24 Jordan Bussock (b.)
25	26 Kristi Schlaadweiler (b.)	27 Chad Ballhagen (b.) Rena & Timothy Ramsey (w.) Angela Varpness (b.)	28 Brian Sandvig (b.)	29		

LWLC Committee Contacts

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