

LIVING+WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

605-438-9672

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

A Message from our Council President



WHAT IS GOING ON AT LIVING WORD???

Right now, we have a lot of things going on at our church. I am not sure I remember any time that a church has had more happening than what we are doing here. We have the Call Committee, the Education Committee and the Building Committee, all doing their thing. The Church Council along with the pastor is responsible for the coordination of these three activities as well as other things that involve the church. Right now, the Church Council has representatives involved or leading each of these committees. At least one time each month the Church Council meets and these three activities, along with other church activities, are discussed and we work to coordinate them.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The question comes, what are these committees supposed to do and what are they doing? We will start with the Education Committee. The Education Committee is responsible for overseeing all of the church activities that involve education. These activities include but are not exclusive to Sunday School, Confirmation, Vacation Bible School, Dynamic Disciples, and adult education. Since establishing the Education Committee a few months ago, we are evolving and doing what needs to be done to get things done. There are more things that need doing; and there are more things that are being done. Dynamic Disciples is an after-school program developed by the Education Committee and Pastor Melanie. Right now, it is limited to Wednesday after school and we have about 10 youngsters that regularly participate. There is no charge for the children right now as it is limited to children of church members. We see a need in the community for this type of service and would like to expand it to 5 days per week. We are fortunate enough that right now we are staffing it with volunteers. Yes, if we expand, we will need to re-evaluate and get more volunteers, hire some staff, and charge a fee. Right now, the program seems to be going well. We have adult and youth volunteers working with the Sunday School and we have had adults come forward to lead Bible studies for adults. The Education Committee is currently led by the Youth and Education members from the church council, Laurie Maas and Moe Reede. Other members of the Education Committee are Tina Balling, Mary Kinder, Sue DeJong, Sandy Christensen, Brad Olson, and Laura Dallman. Council President, Gene Vostad and Pastor Melanie serve as ex-officio members.

CALL COMMITTEE: We have the Call Committee that is responsible for finding a full-time pastor. To date they have interviewed a number of pastors and are still looking for the

right person to lead Living Word. They have a difficult job as there are a lot more jobs for pastors than there are pastors looking for a job. The Call Committee is currently led by David Kruger. The big question is, who are we going to call? Gene Vostad is the representative from the Church Council on the Call Committee. Other Call Committee members are Jackie Olson, Sheila Bien, Deb Buttke, Dave Hepper, and Dave Wagner.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: We are also in the process of considering adding on to the church, so we have more room for church activities. When you go to the church on most mornings, nights, and afternoons, it is easy to get the idea that we have plenty of room. When you come on Sunday mornings, during a funeral and other activities, we do not have enough room. Steve Strege is the leader of the Building Committee. He has conducted a previous study with a Space Needs Survey to find out what people think we need for additional facilities. We are in the preliminary stages and are weighing what we would like to have to what we need and what we are willing to sacrifice in exchange. We are working with an architect to get a better idea. When it comes time to further consider the feasibility of building, the congregation will be asked to approve or decline. This process will come with a significant price tag. In addition to Steve, Scott Maas and Dale Prisinger are working with the architect. Others on the building committee are Vicki Strege, secretary; Gloria Cooley, Linda Anderson, Brian Sandvig, Janel Sandvig, David Kruger, and Gene Vostad. Pastor Melanie serves in an ex-officio position.

A few months ago, I stopped at a Lutheran Seminary in Brookings to see if they could give me an idea of where we might look for a minister. I had a fairly long talk with one of the staff members and he told me that ministers were retiring or leaving the ministry faster than new ministers are being ordained. He went on to tell me that the way ministers are called today is different than in the past. He said that, as an example, churches have been grooming someone in the congregation with sponsorship with the idea that that person would return to be the minister. He also said that churches are enlisting the services of lay persons to assist with some of the activities the minister would have done in the past. Examples would be assisting with visitations, teaching Sunday School, Dynamic Disciples, Vacation Bible School, adult education etc. Although we still do not have a full-time pastor, we do have a great interim pastor and lots of great volunteers. (Is there something you can do?)

Gene Vostad, Council President



DYNAMIC DISCIPLES

Superhero Sunday School

Each week our Sunday School children from preschool to 5th grade start the morning singing praise songs about Jesus! Many of you probably remember songs from your time in Sunday School. Our high school students and a few others morph into the Supreme Diva, Dr. Insidious, and Morbidman to introduce the Bible lesson. The children are learning how God wants them to work together to serve Him and to always have a heart that is willing to help others. They are finding out that there are many ordinary people who are superheroes. The students then do some type of project to reinforce the lesson of the day. It is such a joy to hear their laughter and happiness in church!

We were fortunate to have them lead the opening with palm leaves and sing on Palm Sunday. It was fun to see the Sunday School children join the Dynamic Disciples playing bells in church!

Our Sunday School children and children visiting over Easter enjoyed the Easter Scavenger Hunt in the Sanctuary.



Dynamic Disciples

Our Wednesday Dynamic Disciples children have been busy this month. With their Candyland theme they learned that doing whatever you want is not how God wants us to live. He wants us to make wise choices. The children made bridges to get over Licorice Lagoon and tried to build gummy mountains. We also got a few candy snacks.

The children learned about St. Patrick and how he was captured by pirates and made a slave. During this time Patrick learned about Jesus and shared that news with everyone. Even in bad situations there are good things happening. The children made trinity shamrocks, shepherded their sheep in the sanctuary and enjoyed one outdoor games.

The disciples learned how Jesus humbled himself and came into Jerusalem on a donkey. It was not what you expect from a king. They learned different praise words used to honor Jesus. The children played pin the tail on the donkey and some games with palm branches.

Our last week of the month, the children learned about faith. Faith is a small word with a big meaning. Jesus died on the cross and God raised him from the dead. What a marvelous thing to know that our sins are now forgiven because Jesus died to save us. Of course, we enjoyed games with jellybeans, eggs, and peeps!

Laurie Maas for the Education Committee



LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN



The weather does not look like spring as I sit down to update you on WOW activities this morning. It is a cold snowy morning for the baby calves, goats and lambs that have recently been born into warm sunny weather. We pray that they can all stay healthy in this change of weather.

We will be packing the rest of the layettes soon. Thank you for your generous donations and the busy hands that have sewn items for them. We will have 35 layettes to give to the Orphan Grain Train for distribution.

Our Mission Emphasis for April continues to be the Hygiene Kits. There is a great need for these throughout the world. They include the bath towel, wash cloth, nail clippers, comb, toothbrush, 6 band aids, a small package of tissues, a bar of soap and soap box.

We continue to make an effort to send cards to shut ins. They really appreciate the cards and visits.

I am sure you have noticed the table of prayer shawls. They can be knit or crocheted. For anyone interested in contributing your time to this worthwhile project, there are packages of yarn with simple instructions. You can use any simple pattern of your own and make a shawl that is about 30" x 60". Pastor has been giving these to our members when she makes visits to those who are sick. Thank you to everyone who has given time to this project. I know some of you have purchased your own materials and you are appreciated.

What a generous mission minded group we are part of. Whether it is serving, contributing or praying, you are there to help. Our women's activities are for each of you so take part as you feel led. Circles continue to meet the third Tuesday of each month with fellowship and Bible Study. Quilters could always use more hands and there is a job for everyone whether you sew or not. They meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

We need at least 4 basic elements to survive:

1. Water
2. Air
3. Food
4. Light

And **Look what the Bible Tells Us About Jesus**

1. I am the Living Water
2. I am the Breath of Life
3. I am the Bread of Life
4. I am the Light of the World

Science was Right, **We Need Jesus To Live**

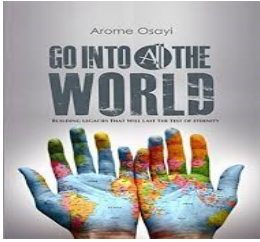
So at this time of year when the Lenten Season has reminded us that Jesus gave his all, His Life for our Sins, let us truly remember why we are so Blessed this Easter and each day as we give our lives to Christ.

Marcia Heinje

Chairman of Living Word Women of the Word

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.



IMPACT MISSIONS

Minutes from the Impact the World Board meeting - March 7, 2024

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

Pastor Melanie opened the meeting with prayer for God's Guidance as we work to show His love to the world. There were no corrections to the minutes from the January 11, 2024, meeting. They were accepted as approved.

Treasure's Report:

The Impact the World payable fund is \$9,008.94 and the Mission's payable account is at 9,354.35. The February Noisy Change Offering for Call to Freedom totaled \$899.18, and the Noisy Change Offering in January for Water Purification in Vietnam totaled \$5,905.93. The March Noisy Change offering for March is for the Vietnam Mission Trip with Pastor Moberly.

Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

The group discussed how we could use our funds to help people locally. One option was to help the school with funds for the hot lunch program as many students are not current with their accounts. Before donating to this cause Vicki will talk with the Milbank School administration for guidance for this project.

Marcia noted that there was a shortage of food for the Wilmot Food Pantry. We plan to set out a basket in the narthex for collection of non-perishable food for the pantry. This will be one of our projects for April. Marcia will contact the administrator, Susan Goodhart, for more information concerning this project. Sue will make an announcement to the congregation this coming Sunday about this project.

We also made plans for the rummage sale to raise money for the Vietnam trip.

-It will be held on April 12 from 12pm to 7pm and on the 13th from 8am to 2pm.

-Sue will be in charge of advertisement of the event with 2 ads in the Grant County Review on April 3 and 10 and on Facebook.

-We will announce the rummage sale to the congregation on March 17 so that they can bring gently used items for the sale. We are accepting gently used clothing, especially infants and children's, adult clothing that is in good condition, and various household items in working condition.

-The items for the sale can be brought to the church on April 10-11.

-Marcia will do an article for the church newsletter and Vicki will be sure to include it in her report.

-Pastor Melanie will provide the change for the sale.

-Sue and Vicki will bring the white dots for pricing.

-All board members will help set up on April 11. All items will have a price tag.

-All board members will clean up on Saturday and unsold merchandise will be given to the Thrift Shop and the Orphan Grain Train.

Thrivent Choice dollars were discussed, and it was noted that those giving their dollars to LWLC should designate specifically where they should be directed. ITW would be happy to accept Thrivent Choice dollars to be used for various projects.

Donating bedding to sleep in Heavenly Peace was discussed as an organization for future mission projects.

The group review the various responses that were returned after the distribution of the 4th quarter of 2023 Benevolence Fund donations.

The next meeting will be held on May 8th at 1:30.



BUILDING BOARD MEETING

MARCH 6, 2024

Members present: Pastor Melanie, Steve and Vicki Strege, Gloria Cooley, Dale Prisinger, Scott Maas, Brian Sandvig, and David Kruger

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Strege and opened with prayer by Pastor Melanie for God's guidance as we considered our space and budget needs as we proceed forward in our church expansion plan. After considering the square footage costs which will be between \$400-\$500 per square foot the board decided to combine rooms and needs so as to reduce the square footage requirements.

-A multi-purpose room will be constructed to the east to meet the needs of Dynamic Disciples and a variety of other uses.

-Increase the size and number of administrative offices with privacy for the pastor's office and a conference room and restroom nearby.

- Build an extended entrance with a portico and separate coat room with storage.

-Possible kitchen expansion

-More restrooms

-This information will be shared with the architect for the purpose of providing a preliminary drawing for our consideration. Board members Scott Maas and Dale Prisinger will be in contact with the architect.

Other Topics of Discussion:

-It was noted that the congregation needs be informed about the Dynamic Disciples program (OST,) in relationship to the needs of the community and the building program.

-Financial considerations and staffing in order to conduct the Dynamic Disciples (OST) program was also discussed.

The meeting closed with prayer by Pastor. Brian made a motion to adjourn, and Vicki seconded it.

RUMMAGE FOR MISSIONS AT LIVING WORD



Come and have some rummage sale fun at Living

Word on April 12 from 12pm to 7pm and on April 13 from 8am to 2pm!

Take part in a silent auction for a beautiful Grandfather Clock donated by clock experts, Craig and Kippy Randleman.

Flat screen TV's and items galore will be sold at amazing prices to go for the Mission Teams at Living Word.

Living Word members are welcome to bring gently used items for the rummage sale to church on April 10 & 11. Start cleaning out those closets, garages and storage sheds now!



PASTOR'S LETTER

CHANGE IS ALWAYS COMING IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER~~~~~

As I sit down to write a message to all of you for April, our weather is showing a huge CHANGE. For some, it is an unwelcome change as we watch the snow falling. It means a challenge for traveling and keeping roads and sidewalks clean; and, yet for our farmers, it brings welcome moisture for the planting season.

CHANGE is like that----sometimes difficult and sometimes welcome! It seems so applicable to the life of a church as well. It is necessary to leave behind certain things and make CHANGES in plans for the future.

What is the future, not just for Living Word Lutheran Church, but for the church of Jesus Christ throughout the world? We are being challenged to keep the church viable at all times and to be more diligent than ever in our evangelism efforts. CHANGE will come, again, to the church, too, when the right pastor is found to serve here at Living Word.

CHANGE comes to all of us in so many ways, but none greater than the CHANGE that comes as we

grow into faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior. When this faith becomes a way of life for us, we realize what we are being called to do. In Job 37:6-7 (paraphrased) we read, *“He directs the snow to fall on the earth.” Snow does basically one thing, it falls. And then He says to the rain shower,... “pour down.” God created snow to snow and rain to rain. It's simple.*” And in the last words of that text we read, *“God simply wants us to become what He's already created us to be.”*

We can be so thankful for the many activities Council President, Gene, has related in his article. Each and every one of those things take a great commitment on the part of a church. Now, I would like to ask you to consider just one more thing----would you be willing to join in an intentional prayer group that would come together regularly to pray for our church as we seek what it is that God wants us to do into the future so that in all things His Name is glorified? If you would like to join this group, please just give me a call or leave your name with Lisa in the office. Thank you! We can be assured that God will provide direction if we but ask in prayer.

In Christ,
Pastor Melanie

Attention 2024 Graduating Seniors

Please email or bring in a senior picture with a little note on what you will be doing after graduation. We need this information by April 19 so we can put them in the May newsletter.





COUNCIL MINUTES

LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT MARCH 13, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Vostad, Pastor Melanie, Steve Strege, Moe Reede, Sandy Christensen, Tim DeJong, Laurie Maas, Adam McMahon and Tina Balling. Scott Maas, Dale Prisinger and Jackie Olson also attended.

OPENING: Pastor gave the opening prayer.

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

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

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

February 29, 2024
Income \$16,536.00
Expense \$12,155.21
Total \$ 4,380.79

PASTOR'S REPORT: The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been revived. As of the end of February \$979.64 has been raised for the Heifer International project that the Sunday School children are working on. Door hangers have been printed with our Easter schedule. Anyone that would like to hang them on their neighbors' doors can take some. The Wednesday Lenten services have been averaging about sixty people. Moe made a motion, and it was seconded by Steve to approve the Pastor's report. Motion carried.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: Two smart TVs have been set up. Bulbs are being replaced in the emergency lights. There is a schedule for changing the furnace filters now so it will be easier to keep track of when it is done and who has done it. The battery in the AED needs to be checked monthly. A schedule for that will be made. Laurie asked that the thistles be sprayed by the Den. Sandy made a motion and it was seconded by Moe to approve the Property and Management report. Motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM: Six hundred and twenty-five pairs of shoes were collected in February! Many people will benefit from this shoe drive. A motion was made by Adam and seconded by Laurie to approve the worship and evangelism report. Motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: The Easter breakfast will be held from 8:30-9:45 Easter Sunday. This is a change in start time. There will be a photo booth set up for pictures that morning. A scavenger hunt will be held in the church for children after they eat and before church starts. VBS is scheduled for June 23-27 and the theme is Scuba! T-shirts will be ordered for the children attending. Steve made a motion, and it was seconded by Sandy to approve the Youth & Ed report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: A second smart TV was purchased for the north Sunday school room.

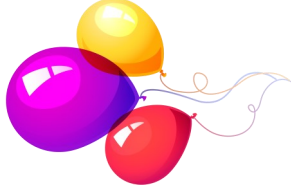
NEW BUSINESS: Scott and Dale asked the council to approve hiring the architect to draft a conceptual drawing. Tim made a motion, and it was seconded by Sandy to authorize the building committee to move ahead with the conceptual drawing. Motion carried. The Call committee reports that they have conducted two interviews, and the search continues. Everything is going great with the Dynamic Disciples. Laurie is looking for a small utility trailer to use for parades etc. Progress is being made on the new website. Tech Yes out of Canby is designing it. The new telephone system will hopefully be up and running in a couple of weeks. The last day of Sunday School will be May 12th. The summer worship time will begin May 26th. Please continue to pray for guidance in securing a pastor. The Call Committee met with Pastor Randy with the Augustana District. Jackie reported that Pastor Randy said communication is important. "The more we fill in the blanks, the less other people will fill in the blanks." He encouraged the Call Committee to keep the Great Commission the main thing. He also said there is one question to keep asking ourselves as we make decisions: What will best serve the Gospel? Due to the recent break-ins in town, the church will be locked over the noon hour.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for April 10th at 7pm.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Tim to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed with the Lord's prayer.
Tina Balling, Council Secretary

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Happy
Birthday



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Alyssa Aker (b.) Kevin Dornbusch (b.) Terie Dorry (b.) Katie Kruger (b.) Brad & Shirley Zahn (w.)	3	4	5	6 Susan Keeton (b.) Randy Redepenning (b.)
7 Ethan Fish (b.)	8 Kevin & Renae Dornbusch (w.) Robert Hornstein (b.)	9	10	11 Gerald Brown (b.)	12 Terry Meister (b.) Melanie Reiners (b.)	13
14 Orlean Lardy (b.)	15 Maci Kasuske (b.) Thea Varpness (b.)	16 Lance Bien (b.) Chuck Liebe (b.)	17	18	19	20
21 Kendall Van Peurseem (b.)	22	23 Gerald & Sharon Brown (w.)	24	25 Mark Veen (b.)	26 Brad Zahn (b.)	27
28	29 Jean Leininger (b.) Nicole Plaga (b.)	30 Zach Aker (b.) Nathan Hansen (b.)				

LWLC Committee Contacts

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