

LIVING+WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

605-438-9672

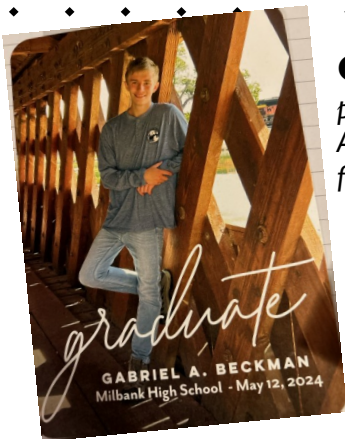
MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Congratulations and Godspeed to Our High School Graduates

Congratulations on your graduation. Your Christian upbringing has equipped you to apply your faith in your daily life. With your faith in your heart, you are ready for whatever you may encounter. Walk humbly the path toward your future, always remembering that God is with you, and is using His Word as a light to your path and a lamp to your feet.

We ask the congregation to keep these special young adults in their prayers as they journey into God's future for them.

The **SENIOR RECOGNITION RECEPTION** will be May 12 at 9:00 AM. Following the reception the seniors will join the congregation at the 10:00 AM service where we will honor and pray for them and give each of them a gift from the congregation.



Gabe Beckman

plans to attend Lake Area Technical College for Large Engines.



Josh Keeton

plans to attend SDSU for civil engineering.

Grant VanPeurse

plans to attend Montana State in Bozeman, MT majoring in business.



Maggie Kruger

plans to attend Northern State University. She will major in Digital Media and compete on the track & field team as a pole vaulter.



Cailey Sime

plans to attend SDSU for animal science and then Iowa State University for my PhD in Animal Nutrition.

WHAT'S INSIDE

SUMMER WORSHIP will begin may 26. Worship will be at 9:00 AM. Coffee Fellowship will be at 10:00 AM.

LWLC
Dynamic Disciples
LWLW
Impact

Pastor's Letter
Council Minutes
May Calendar
May Birth/Ann. Calendar

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Kristopher & Shannon Vietmeier



FIRST COMMUNION
Amelia Dallman, Pastor Melanie,
Josie Dallman, Alex McMahon



The **Dynamic Disciples** learned about burdens and asking for help and praying to Jesus to relieve them. They tried to make a Jenga house out of pretzels and when they used frosting it helped hold it together! It is just like Jesus who holds all of us together! They got to paint the sunken ship that we will be using for vacation Bible school in June. We also enjoyed the outdoors!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR for May 19 as **pastoral candidate, Pastor Ritchie Cole** will be visiting our church and community. He will preach the sermon that Sunday morning. A pot luck dinner will follow the service so Pastor Ritchie and his wife can get to know the congregation better. The call committee is organizing activities along with conducting an interview with him on Saturday. Pastor Ritchie and his wife are from Oshkosh Wisconsin and has been serving Zion Lutheran Church as Associate Minister since 2011 along

with General Manager of Jericho Road, a 501c3 owned by Zion Lutheran Church. He supervised a childcare center; food pantry; senior apartment housing; thrift store; jail ministry; Freedom in Christ Ministry. The call committee is excited to get to know Pastor Ritchie better this weekend as we seek the Holy Spirit's guidance as we consider Pastor Ritchie as our next Pastor. Please pray for the call committee and Pastor Ritchie.

Living Word Call Committee.



VBS

June 23—27

SCUBA

Diving Into Friendship with God

The kickoff for VBS started last Sunday with a skit between Mickey Wey (the astronaut from Stellar) and Coral (a character from SCUBA). They decided they needed to join together to make SCUBA, STELLAR! VBS starts Sunday, June 23rd and runs through Thursday, June 27th. We hope to have a water night on Wednesday of that week and a program on Thursday at the conclusion of our Bible school week. We are hoping to get a T shirt for each child attending Bible school so if anyone wants to make a donation towards them that would be appreciated. It costs \$5 for one T-shirt! Children can come at 5:15 each day for a supper and we will dismiss after closing at 7:30 p.m.

Please help us make our VBS a success by signing up your children and grandchildren. We have 10 students already signed up and have room for 30 more! Sign up sheets are in the fellowship hall and Lisa can mail them out or take information over the phone if needed. Children from ages 3 to 6th grade

are welcome to sign up.

High School students and adults of all ages are needed to help with several areas at VBS! We need **crew leaders** whose job is to lead a group of children to each of the stations each evening. We need **two station leaders** and a couple of **station helpers**.

The stations are **Bible Adventures** where the **leader** teaches the students a lesson each day related to the SCUBA theme. The **Sticky Scripture leader** would help children learn the Bible verse of the day and show the children a short video related to the theme of the day. There are guides to lead you through each lesson. We also need kitchen help to set up the food each day and then stay and help clean up. The meals are simple and the time commitment is short each day. Please prayerfully consider helping. I know that the helpers last year were vital to making VBS a success and had a blast during the week! Lastly, we ask you to pray for VBS and the students, staff, and families involved! We can't wait to Dive Into Friendship with God.

Laurie Maas for the Education Committee



DYNAMIC DISCIPLES

We are coming to the end of our first year of this awesome program! It has been so fun and exciting to learn about Jesus with these wonderful children. We are finishing our game theme with Checkers, Jenga, Operation, and Hungry Hippos.

In checkers, we learned about “jumping” over others to get to the top is not the way God wants us to live. Being at the top or winning, especially if you cheat or hurt others, is not the way to lead a Godly life.

In Jenga, we learn how burdens can pile up if we let them. Jesus can help us relieve these burdens and stresses if we pray and ask him to help!

Operation is a game where you take parts from a sick person. Jesus does not want us to try and “fix” others before we “fix” ourselves. He wants us to support others and help them in their needs.

Getting as many balls as you can is the goal of Hungry Hippos. God does not want us to be greedy with worldly things and getting

the most and best of everything. He wants us to help others and be happy with what we have.

Our final day of Dynamic Disciples will be Wednesday, May 8th. We are planning a pizza and movie party! I found a movie about all the miracles Jesus performed when he was here on earth! The church board approved continuing the program for next year!

Laurie Maas for the Education Committee



Children's Sunday School



Superhero Sunday School

Our children are finishing off April singing songs, learning about Jesus, and making projects! The high school students, along with some adults are having fun with the Superhero skits and participating in the activities. It is so fun to hear their voices when they sing in church and carry those songs home to sing.

We are blessed to have so many people involved in helping our youth in their Christian Education. We will be celebrating our seniors on Sunday, May 12th and the Sunday School children will be making some projects that day. Our Final Day of Sunday School will be May 19th when children get a chance to participate in some Ocean themed activities to get them excited for VBS!

Laurie Maas for the Education Committee

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN



Thank you to all the women of the church for your generosity in time, talents and treasures as we have collected items for the Layettees and Hygiene Kits and have made prayer shawls. The time given to these projects as well as the quilting that has been done to get quilts ready for our seniors and others, and to make a successful rummage sale for the Mission Committee of the Church is really appreciated. I am sure our shut-ins appreciate any visits you have made or cards you sent.

We will continue to collect items for the Hygiene Kits for one more month. The items included a bath towel, washcloth, bath size bar of soap, soap box holder, toothbrush, sturdy comb, small package tissues and a nail clipper. Am sure we have plenty of band-aids. We will get these packed at the end of May. Brenda Seehafer received a Thrivent Action Grant to apply to needed items.

HYGIENE



Thank you for all the donations that are made to the quilters. We will be giving each of the seniors a quilt made by our quilting group. Congratulations to each of them.

Some beautiful prayer shawls have been donated. Thank you. The prayer shawl ministry is not new as Pastor Craig and Pastor Kent participated in it though many of us did not realize it. Pastor Melanie has been distributing the shawls to those with health concerns. What a wonderful ministry as the prayer shawls are lovingly made with prayer, then given with prayer and can be worn in comfort and prayer.



Praise
Repent
Ask
Yield

Marcia Heinje
Chairman of Living Word Women



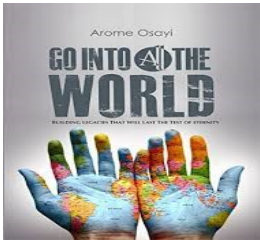
HEIFER DONATIONS NEARING \$2,500

Our Sunday School children are excited to begin choosing several animals to be purchased through Heifer International for donation to people in need throughout the world. Through your generosity, \$2,252.65 has been received. Donations will be accepted until May 1, so that children can select animals before the summer break!

- Flock of Chicks = \$20
- Honeybees = \$30
- Sheep = \$120
- Goat = \$120
- Pig = \$120

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



Impact the World April 2024

Our Impact the World board has had a very busy month of April preparing for the congregational rummage sale. We wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to the congregation for your generosity in supporting our sale. With your help we raised around \$3,500 for our Vietnam trip that will be taking place June 5-18. Susan DeJong and I are excited to go to Vietnam to share the love of Christ with the people we meet as we visit the various communities. The money raised through the rummage sale will be used to help the people with current needs that we see as we travel across the country. The money will be given directly to Vital Links, a service organization that Bill Moberly's organization ALWM partners with, to meet these

immediate needs. By giving the money in this manner we can be assured that it will be properly used for the purpose intended. An example of this was when we were there in 2019. We were at a rural church and a lady kept pointing to the ceiling of the fellowship hall and pulling my husband, Steve, in that direction so he could see the problem. We all agreed that the roof needed fixing so the money was given to Pastor Bill and he gave it to Vital Links and the problem was repaired. We received a picture verifying the repair.

The Noisy Change Offering for March was designated for the Vietnam Mission Trip. A total of \$421.66 was raised. We thank you for your generosity in supporting this mission. The Noisy Change Offering in April is in support of Vacation Bible School. Please give as your heart moves you to give. Vacation Bible School is a great opportunity to share Jesus with the community. If you have an idea for a Noisy Change Offering, please let Pastor or a board member know about it. We are always looking for opportunities to help those in need. Again, many thanks to everyone who has donated to our collections and rummage sale.

God loves your cheerful giving! Sue and I will do our best to represent LWLC and our loving God on our trip in June by showing His love to those he puts in our path. Be sure to check in on Facebook for updates on our trip as I will be posting photos and information about what we did and saw as we visit various churches in the country. Upon reading Portals of Prayer on April 20th I came across this passage. It really admonishes us to take care of our brothers and sisters.

1 John 3:17-18

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Vicki Stregre
Impact Secretary



LIVING WORD QUILTERS

On two Tuesday mornings each month, several women come together to make quilts. The mission programs of Orphan Grain Train, Sierra Leone Orphanage, and others when the need becomes known. Everyone would be surprised at the number of quilts that are completed each month!!! Over the past year, 100 quilts have been made and sent to missions. We are planning to show the work of this committed group by having quilts on display in the sanctuary on Sunday, May 19. If there is anyone who would like to join this group, more hands are always welcome---please just call the church office to express your interest or just come at 9:00 on the second and fourth Tuesday mornings each month! We'd love to have you join us!





PASTOR'S LETTER

PENTECOST-----What is it?

Pentecost Sunday will be celebrated this year on Sunday, May 19, marking the 50 days after Easter. Pentecost Sunday is a holiday marked each year in liturgical churches such as ours. It is the day when Christians around the world celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit which marks then, the birth of the Christian Church. We could rightly say, "Happy Birthday, Church," and be most accurate as it marks the day when Jesus' disciples began to share the story of Jesus and invite others to share their faith in their faith as the Son of God. So, Pentecost is much more than a historical event as we, too, continue the work of the disciples, sharing the story of Jesus in the world today and inviting others to join us in our faith.

At Christmas, Christians celebrate the incarnation--Christ became human in the form of a person. At Easter, we celebrate the Resurrection----our firm belief that Jesus rose from the dead; a sign of the promise of resurrection given to all God's people. And, at Pentecost, we celebrate the Holy Spirit---the gift of God's comfort, power, and strength to God's people.

The liturgical color for the Sunday of Pentecost is red----thus, the paraments on the altar and pulpit change to red for that Sunday. The red color symbolizes the apostles "tongues of fire" and also the blood of the martyrs. Sometimes people will wear red clothing to worship on that day. (You are welcome to do that on May 19th if you would like.) Those red paraments don't appear again until Reformation Sunday at the end of October----used only on those two Sundays of the church year.

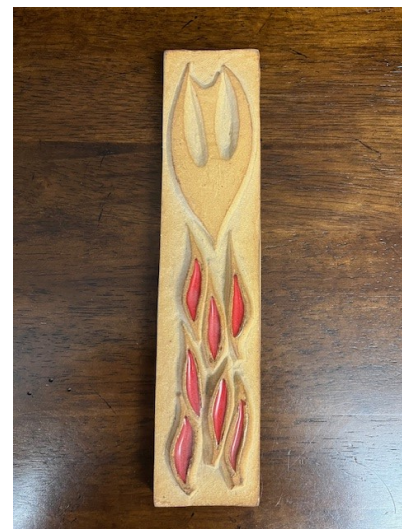
The small picture that appears with this article is of a plaque I received from my pastor and his wife when I left for college and I have treasured it for over 60 years holding an honored place in our home. It is a special reminder of the constant presence of the Holy Spirit in my life over all these years.

The Book of Acts speaks to the signs of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. In Acts 2:1-3 we hear these words, *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues, as of fire, appeared to them and rested on each one of them.* We must also remember the dove as a symbol representing the Holy Spirit; and that the Holy Spirit descended "like a dove" and hovered over Jesus when he was baptized. The dove became the symbol of peace.

Just as the Holy Spirit turned the lives of the Apostles upside down, the Holy Spirit has a way of turning our lives upside down, too. As we learn more and more about the life of Jesus and as are called to share in the blessings that faith in him offers, the Holy Spirit becomes an active part of our faith and ministry. The Book of Acts is all about how the lives of the disciples got turned upside down and they, in turn, turned the world upside down in the name of Jesus.

As we approach Pentecost in 2024, may you find peace in knowing the Holy Spirit is with you as your comforter, guide, intercessor, and encourager. May the power of the Holy Spirit lead and guide you each day.

In Christian love,
Pastor Melanie





COUNCIL MINUTES

LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT APRIL 10, 2024

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

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: Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Moe 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:

March 31, 2024

Income \$26,364.00

Expense \$15,378.15

Total \$10,985.85

PASTOR'S REPORT: The Altar Guild met and made some changes to the communion distribution process. For the most part it seemed to go smooth. Pastor will leave her microphone on so people can hear when she gives the blessing at the rail. We will get pricing to change the other side of the sign by the road and also inventory the letters for the sign. Many of the letters are faded/worn and need to be replaced. Sandy made a motion, and it was seconded by Moe to approve the Pastor's report. Motion carried.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: New twine was used to fix the snow fence. We will probably need to look at replacing the fencing before next winter. The emergency lights are working again. Moe made a motion, and it was seconded by Laurie to approve the Property and Management report. Motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM: A motion was made by Adam and seconded by Moe to approve the worship and evangelism report. Motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: The scavenger hunt and photo booth went well at Easter time. The Easter breakfast was well attended. May 8th is the last day for Dynamic Disciples for the school year. Steve made a motion, and it was seconded by Adam to approve the Youth & Ed report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS: The architect was here a couple of weeks ago and ideas were discussed on multi-use spaces. Plans are being made for a possible Pastor candidate to come and preach May 19th. More information to come. Sandy made a motion, and it was seconded by Kelly to designate the outgoing council members from November 2023 (Marty, Dale, and Rhonda) to the nominating committee. Motion carried. The summer worship time will begin May 26 with worship at 9am. We are still looking to find a small trailer to use for parades. Ingham Okoboji will be here April 21st. Tech Yes sent over the draft for the website. Nancy Kruger will look at it and make any suggestions if they are needed. Thank you, Nancy, for your help with this. The new phone system is installed. Work will begin next week on the email to text. Sheila Dailie will hold a piano recital April 14th and Kristi Seehafer will hold one on April 28th at the Church. Feeding South Dakota will possibly be using our parking lot for food distribution May 8th, June 12th, July 10th, September 11th and October 9th. We encourage members to continue to pray for guidance for the Call Committee on securing a Pastor.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for May 8th at 7pm.

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

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	2 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	3	4
5 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion	6	7	8 1:30 Impact 3:30 Last day of Confirmation 3:30 Last day of Dynamic Disciples 4-5 Feeding SD parking lot 7:00 Council	9 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	10	11
12 Mother's Day Senior Recognition 9:00 Last day of Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/noisy change 11:00 Chapel Communion	13	14 9:00 Quilting	15	16 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	17	18
19 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 June Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship	20 Newsletter items due	21 9:00 Faith Circle 7:00 Love Circle	22	23 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	24	25
26 Summer Worship Begins 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28	29	30 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	31	

MAY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Happy
Birthday



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Carol Grimley (b.)	Bernice Herreid (b.) Jenny Wellnitz (b.)	Lenore Kalber (b.) Scott Maas (b.) Eugene Vostad (b.)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Moe & Rochelle Reede (w.)			Kurt Flaig (b.)	Jersey Peschong (b.)	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Susan Sime (b.)	Bob Nelson (b.) Brad & Nicole Plaga (w.)			Mark & Ashlie Veen (w.)	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Barbara Kanthak (b.)		David & Mary Hepper (w.) Kristopher Vietmeier (b.)	Sally Maze (b.) Bradley Olson (b.)			Lori Kasuske (b.)
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Jeremy Hepper (b.) Eileen Willprecht (b.)		John Gustafson (b.) David & Nancy Kruger (w.) Jennifer Maas (b.) Rena Ramsey (b.)	Ardell & Marge Nelson (w.)			

LWLC Committee Contacts

2024 Council Members:

President: Gene Vostad, 605-321-9120
Email: gsvostad@tnics.com

Vice President: Moe Reede, 605-949-1482
Email: mreede97@yahoo.com

Secretary: Tina Balling, 605-432-5215
Email: tinab@bpimm.com

Youth & Education: Laurie Maas, 320-305-0887
Email: laurie.a.maas@gmail.com

Moe Reede, 605-949-1482
Email: mreede97@yahoo.com

Worship & Evangelism: Sandy Christensen, 605-880-4452
Email: sandy.christensen@k12.sd.us

Steve Strege: 605-949-0669
Email: grainbelt01@hotmail.com

Treasurer/Finance: Kelly Peterson, 605-237-0316
Email: kpeteomm@gmail.com

Property & Management: Tim DeJong, 605-949-0422
Email: t_dejong54@hotmail.com

Adam McMahon, 320-760-4158
Email: adam.l.mcmahon@gmail.com

Newsletter: Lisa Aker, 605-438-9672, livingword@itcmilbank.com

Living Word Lutheran Women Officers:

Coordinator: Marcia Heinje, 605-237-0373
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
Pastor: Melanie Reiners, 605-438-9672

Living Word Lutheran Church
PO Box 301
101 Northridge Ave
Milbank, SD 57252

605.438.9672

Email:
livingword@itcmilbank.com

Website: livingwordmilbank.com

Pastor Melanie Reiners
Cell: 605.949.0624
Email: mmreiners@itcmilbank.com

