

# LIVING+WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

605-438-9672

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024



### SCUBA VBS 2024

Living Word Lutheran Church dove into friendship with God during our VBS program in June. We had 38 children attend and many, many youth and adults who helped this event happen. We learned that God is a friend who is real, God is a friend who loves, God is a friend we can trust, God is a friend forever, and God is a friend for everyone!!

Children began each evening with a meal and then headed into the sanctuary for open activities and music. Then they rotated to stations including Bible Adventures, Sticky Scripture, Reef Rec, and Imagination Station. With our under the sea theme, children got to experience scripture and teachings in a super fun way. We had a water night with a very large octopus sprinkler, splash pad, and other water activities. On our last evening together, we invited family and friends and had a program at closing. It was a great adventure and we look forward to True North VBS in 2025.



### WHAT'S INSIDE

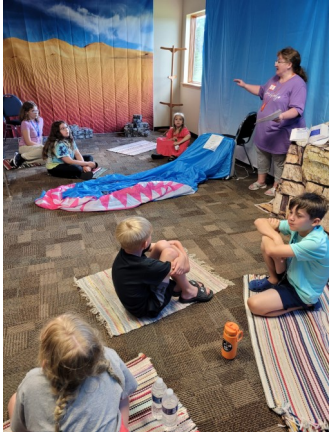


[Thank you Impact Council Minutes Right Now Media](#)

[VBS LWLW Pastor's Report Hospice Program](#)

[July Calendar July Birth/Ann. Calendar President Letter](#)

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



# Thank You



Thank you everyone for guiding me through my spiritual journey as well as your recognition, thoughtfulness, kind words and gifts.

May God always bless you!

Go Jacks!  
Josh Keeton

Kim and Marlene Gustafson wish to personally thank the members of Living Word for their generous gift toward the building of Echo Farm International in Uganda, Africa. With the gift of \$2000 from our Impact Fund and donations of \$1288.92 from May's Noisy Change, the Restore International Uganda Team has watched God open doors and bring into existence many things that did not exist a few months ago.

Earlier this year when an agronomist from Uganda's government visited the village, he asked about the accomplishments of the mission team toward their vision of creating a farm on which to grow vegetables and fruit on a one and a half acre of rich soil. The team's plan began with the digging of a well and they had placed a sign with their motto at the entrance stating, "Your water, Your Life!" The agronomist asked about it and the team leader's answer was "We want

people to come for water they need from the well or spiritual water of Jesus." The leader was impressed with the walls of the well which young men had dug and stated that he wanted to learn from them saying, "We stand with you!"

With his next visit, he brought the team an offer, a special government grant which would provide 75% of the cost of a solar system to power the well, the building of a homemade brick building to house a small office and room for storage, tools, and vegetables for marketing. And so, the team was in need of six thousand dollars or their 25%. More than one half was attained with the help the team received from Living Word. At this time the project has been completed. As a congregation, we can thank God for leading us to being part of His work in a small village in Africa!

Impact Committee

## A Message from our Council President

We continue to search for a minister to lead Living Word. We have interviewed several of them and the congregation has been able to meet some of the candidates. The call committee has decided that all of the candidates the congregation has met were good candidates to lead our church. For various reasons we have not been successful in attracting the right person to lead our church. We are continuing the search and hope to have an answer sooner rather than later. Thank you to the congregation for your patience and to the call committee for their professionalism and persistence. Please keep the call committee in your prayers that the right person is identified to lead Living Word going forward.

By the time you read this newsletter we will have completed another successful Vacation Bible School session with around 40 attendees. The school will have been a success do to great participation on the part of the students and a herculean effort on those putting on the program. Thanks to all volunteers and the Education Committee.

Pastor Melanie will have returned from her latest trip to support eye care in the country of Sierra Leone. In addition to her husband she will have a few of her

family members with her. We continue to pray for success.

Vicki Strege and Sue DeJong have returned from their trip to Vietnam. We thank God that they were able to view the projects our church has helped sponsor.

Keep the date of July 21 open for the church gathering sponsored by the Living Word Lutheran Women. Plans are being finalized but I believe it will involve a picnic type meal in the vicinity of our church fire pit. I am sure there will be more information regarding that in the next few weeks.

Pastor Melanie announced last Sunday that Pastor Kent will be visiting our congregation and will deliver the sermon on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Gene Vostad  
Council President





### **Stain Glass Windows**

These will be done by **Stained Glass Windows**, from **Watertown**. The same company did the stained glass at **Hosanna Lutheran in Watertown**. Cost is \$1324 per window (this includes the longer top portion and the lower portion which opens); Total cost is \$7,944 with pledges already made for two windows in memory of loved ones.

### **ORGAN TO GIVE AWAY**

The church has an older electric organ in storage. It is being offered to church members first before disposing of it. If you would like to have it or know of someone who could put it to use, please let the church office know as soon as possible.



### **DOES ANYONE HAVE A SMALL TRAILER THEY ARE NOT USING???**

The church is looking for a small trailer that could be used in parades. It would need to be large enough for some children to ride on it and, preferably, it would have a ramp that folds up at the back which could hold a sign with the church logo. If you have something like this that we could borrow or buy, please call the church office at 605-438-9672.

### **CPR & FIRST AID TRAINING**

It has been quite some time since members of the church came together to refresh their skills in CPR, First Aid, and use of the defibrillator. The Council is prepared to schedule a training session as soon as interest is determined. If you would consider learning these skills or refreshing your skills, please contact the church office. A date will then be set for someone to come to provide this training right here at the church.



### **SIGN REPLACED**

The colored logo panel on the north side of our church sign near the highway has been replaced due to severe fading and new letters/numbers have been purchased to brighten up the publicizing or our great church-----it helps to tell our story and all the good things we have to offer at Living Word Lutheran Church to everyone who drives by.



# LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN



Greetings from Living Word Women of the Word

As the summer goes on there are still many activities of the church. We thank you for your generosity in supporting them.

Our Mission Project for July and August will be to donate items that can be used for Dynamic Disciples this year. What a great program to share the message with children.

We are excited to tell you about our summer activity. We are planning a family night with a picnic and games. We will use the fire pit that Gabe Beckman built for his Eagle Scout project. This is for everyone so mark your calendars for the evening of Sunday, July 21.

*Marcia Heinje*  
Chairperson Women of the Word

## NEEDS OF DYNAMIC DISCIPLES

White card stock paper

3M Command picture hanging hooks size med and large (not poster hanging ones)

Blue painters tape

Crayola markers

Master Touch Acrylic markers (Hobby Lobby)

Scotch thermal laminating sheets 8.5 X 11

Printer paper

Fiskars 7" kid scissors

27 gallon totes-black/yellow - Runnings

Storage shelves for shed

Amazon gift card for puppets, small puppet stage, garage sports equipment storage on wheels

Gift cards from Dollar General, Family Dollar, or Berens for snacks, drinks, and misc. items

## FAMILY NIGHT JULY 21 - 5PM – CHURCH YARD BRING YOUR GAMES



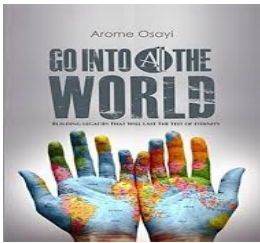
## AND DISH TO PASS



Hot Dogs, Burgers, Buns, Beverages and Chips  
Will be Furnished

Campfire with Music and Devotions (Smores!!)

## JOIN THE FUN



# IMPACT MISSIONS



On Saturday our US team joined with our ALWM Vital Links medical team of volunteers sponsoring a major medical evangelism outreach at Khanh Vinh Church, in Khanh Vinh Province! We arrived at 8 am to a parking lot that was rapidly filling with motorbikes, and many people ready for their doctor visits and the other things brought by our US team. This ALWM partner church is one of the two largest Protestant Churches in Vietnam, with 8000 members! They are also the mother church of many congregations planted throughout the province. Our ALWM Vietnamese team that day included 35 volunteer doctors, pharmacists and nurses. There were approximately 50 volunteers from the host church, plus 6 on our US team. So about 90 volunteers served 475 people from the surrounding villages up to 20 + miles away!



The medical team did health exams for everyone, with prescriptions and meds for anyone who was sick. Medical care is in very limited supply for the poor villagers and church members, and the pastor said this is their best outreach every year. Our US team added crafts, sports, toothbrushes and toothpaste for all, plus reading glasses were matched

to over 225 people including sand seen glass cases from friends in the US. Vietnam is about 2% evangelical and another 8% that the Joshua Project identifies as Christian adherents, linked to the Catholic Churches planted during French colonial occupation.

Our local bus driver said as the day unfolded, "this is great and many of the people are very happy!" In addition to the 475 adults, we had another 100 children take part in the crafts, sports and games, as well as the toothbrush demonstration by the volunteer dentist. We also came with floss for everyone, which Van, our project manager said the kids in the village had never seen before! It was a long warm day, and everyone was tired and grateful for all that happened. It was a memorable day, another example of how ALWM Int'l does effective ministry with gifted and called ministries and partners.

Sunday, we worshipped with a local Vietnamese congregation, followed by visits to several churches where we have installed water filtration systems over the past year.

In Christ,  
Pastor Bill



## Mission

I missed my piano so they allowed me to play a couple hymns on their piano. The languages may be different, but music cuts through the differences.



## Vietnam



## June 2024

## Trip



## PASTOR'S LETTER



Dear friends,

As you read this message, preparations will be made for celebrating our July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day! We are so blessed to live in this free country, especially a country in which we are able to worship freely. Every day, in the news, we hear of things that seem to be a threat to the freedom this country has known since its birth in 1776. We are thankful that our democracy has survived so well for almost 250 years.

As I was reflecting on "freedom," of course, my thoughts turned to the freedom we have in Christ Jesus. No matter what happens in any other part of our life, our relationship with Jesus Christ is the one single thing that offers us true freedom.

As we approach the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, let us reflect on just a few of the many Biblical references to "freedom."

**2 Corinthians 3:17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

**John 8:36** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

**Galatians 5:13** For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

As we celebrate the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday again this year, let us turn our thoughts to the freedom we have in Jesus and let us celebrate the promise we have of life eternal with him.

In Christian love,  
*Pastor Melanie*

## Milbank Hospice Program

We are wanting to educate the community about our hospice services (and home health) that are available right here in the Milbank Community.

**Avera@Home** – Avera is a health ministry rooted in the Gospel. Our mission is to make a positive impact in the lives and health of persons and communities by providing quality services guided by Christian values. If you or a loved one needs assistance in the home or is transitioning from the hospital, Avera@Home Services can help. Our focus is to provide you or your loved one with a successful care experience in the comforts of home.

**Hospice** is an approach to care for those with a terminal illness. It gives people a choice about how and where they want to receive care at the end of their lives. We focus on the quality of life and believe that end of life can be a time of comfort, care, enrichment, resolution and love. For more information or to talk to a nurse, please contact the Milbank Office at 605-622-5875, Jessica Wellnitz RN is the Supervisor.

## 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.





# COUNCIL MINUTES

## LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT MAY 8, 2024

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

**OPENING:** Pastor gave the opening prayer.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Kelly made a motion and it was seconded by Laurie to approve the secretary's report. Motion carried.

**BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT:** The last financial statement was reviewed. Steve made a motion and it was seconded by Moe to approve the business manager's report. Motion carried.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor may be going to Sierra Leone the end of June. Memorial service for Crystal Nelson will be held at the church May 11<sup>th</sup>. Moe made a motion to authorize \$10 gift cards for members that have helped with the church education programs. It was seconded by Kelly. Motion carried. The website is in the final stages and should be up and running soon. The new telephone system is up and running. Feeding South Dakota held a distribution today. Fewer attended the give away. Moe made a motion and it was seconded by Laurie to approve the Pastor's report. Motion carried.

**PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT:** The snow fence has been taken down. Kelly made a motion to approve ordering a new logo sign to replace the brown side and a set of letters to replace the worn/weathered letters. Moe seconded the motion and the motion carried. The roof by the cross is leaking. Hasslen Construction will come and look at it. A new meter was installed by Otter Tail on 4-22-24. LED light bulbs will be installed as needed. Laurie made a motion and it was seconded by Moe to approve the Property and Management report. Motion carried.

**WORSHIP & EVANGELISM:** Easter door hangers were distributed around town before Easter. This was omitted from the April report. The Church parking lot will continue to be used by Feeding South Dakota in the coming months.

**YOUTH & EDUCATION:** The Sunday school children will be doing a Mother's Day craft on the 12<sup>th</sup> and will sing on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The Dynamic Disciples met for the last time this school year on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Plans will be made for the 2024-25 year. Twenty-six children have signed up so far for VBS with more forms still out. Kelly made a motion and it was seconded by Steve to approve the Youth & Ed report. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The conceptual drawing should be ready soon from the architect.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Call Committee is working on an itinerary for Pastor Cole's visit. He will be preaching and a potluck will be held after church on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Bibles and quilts will be given to our five graduating seniors on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Calvary church was broken into. Laurie made a motion and it was seconded by Adam to purchase a new computer for the sound booth. Motion carried. Moe made a motion and it was seconded by Adam to move \$2000 from the Impact fund to Restore International. Motion carried. Laurie made a motion and it was seconded by Moe to move \$1000 out of the mission fund to the Vietnam mission trip. Motion carried. 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 June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

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

*Tina Balling*  
Council Secretary





## COUNCIL MINUTES

### LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT JUNE 12, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gene Vostad, Pastor Melanie, Steve Strege, Moe Reede, Tim DeJong, Laurie Maas, Sandy Christensen, Kelly Peterson and Tina Balling. Marty Buttke was also in attendance.

**OPENING:** Pastor gave the opening prayer.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Sandy to approve the secretary's report. Motion carried.

**BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT:** The last financial statement was reviewed. Sandy made a motion, and it was seconded by Laurie to approve the business manager's report. Motion carried.

#### **Financial Report:**

May 31, 2024

Income	\$15,064.10
Expenses	<u>\$14,530.90</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 615.93</b>

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor will be going to Sierra Leone June 19<sup>th</sup> and return on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The intentional prayer group is going well with 5-6 people praying weekly after the church service. The website is up and running. The new phone system is installed. Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Moe to approve the Pastor's report. Motion carried.

**PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT:** Hasslen Construction used a sealer to fix the leak in the sanctuary. They also worked on the tower light. Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Sandy to authorize Zem's to clean the carpets in the sanctuary and the fellowship hall and the chairs in the fellowship hall. This will be scheduled after VBS. Motion carried. The new Living Word north sign was installed June 12<sup>th</sup>. Steve made a motion, and it was seconded by Moe to approve the Property and Management report. Motion carried.

**WORSHIP & EVANGELISM:** Water was distributed during the food give away June 12<sup>th</sup> and the facilities were open for anyone to use. The Church parking lot will continue to be used by Feeding South Dakota in the coming months. The next giveaway is scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup>. Moe made a motion to approve the Worship and Evangelism report. It was seconded by Laurie. Motion carried.

**YOUTH & EDUCATION:** There are 40 children registered for VBS. Some LWLC youth have signed up to help the adults for this program. VBS will be held June 23-27. Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Tim to approve the Youth & Ed report. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** We are still looking for a small road worthy trailer to use for area parades. If you have one, we could use please contact Lisa in the church office.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Marty Buttke proposed hiring Northern Lights Stained Glass out of Watertown to install windows in the sanctuary. Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Tim to accept the proposal to install stained glass in the six windows in the sanctuary. Motion carried. Nothing new has been received from the architect. The Call Committee has interviewed two more applicants. Background checks are in progress. Steve made a motion, and it was seconded by Moe to compensate Dale Prisinger \$500 for providing his expertise with the building committee planning and the church property. Motion carried. We will look into CPR/first aid training. Moe made a motion, and it was seconded by Steve to reassign the benevolence percentages so that the Impact Committee receives 10%. Motion carried. 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 July 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

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

*Tina Balling*  
Council Secretary

# July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 4TH OF JULY Church and Office closed	5 Church and Office closed	6
7 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	8	9 9:00 Quilting 1:30 Impact	10 4-5 Feeding SD in parking lot 7:00 Council	11 9:00 Community Fellowship	12	13
14 9:00 Worship/noisy change 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Chapel Communion	15	16 9:00 Faith Circle meets 7:00 Love Circle meets	17	18 9:00 Community Fellowship	19	20
21 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 August Servant Team meets	22	23 9:00 Quilting	24 Newsletter items due	25 9:00 Community Fellowship	26	27
28 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	29	30	31			

# JULY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Happy  
Birthday



HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Sheila Bien (b.) Jeffrey Buttke (b.) Pat O'Farrell (b.)	2 Sharon Hyde (b.)	3	4 Deb Buttke (b.) Will Pekelder (b.)	5 Randy & Lori Dockter (w.) Sam Wilson (b.)	6 Betty Kloster (b.)
7 Jeffrey & Julie Berger (w.)	8 Tim De Jong (b.) Deven Weinkauff (b.)	9 Amanda & Adam McMahon (w.)	10	11	12 Terry & Heidi Meister (w.)	13 Lance & Sheila Bien (w.)
14 Sharon Brown (b.) Roger Hansen (b.)	15 Beverly Zeigler (b.)	16	17	18 Aaron & Teresa Meister (w.)	19	20 Peggy Brook (b.) Bailey Nolting (b.)
21 Jacqueline Redepenning (b.)	22 Abbey De Jong (b.) Bud Remund (b.)	23	24	25	26 Stephanie Hansen (b.)	27 Daria Loeschke (b.) Mark Loeschke (b.) Mason Meister (b.) Marlin & Shirley Schmidt (w.)
28	29 Alec Bien (b.) Steve & Vicki Strege (w.) Jessica Van Peurseem (b.)	30	31 Jaxon Berger (b.) Larry Brook (b.)			

# 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  
101 Northridge Ave  
PO Box 301  
Milbank, SD 57252*

*605.438.9672*

*Email:  
livingword@itcmilbank.com*

*Website: livingwordmilbank.com*

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

