

LIVING+WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

605-438-9672

SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Rally Sunday - September 8th

Please join us for our first day of Sunday School on Sunday, September 8th at 8:45 a.m. We have many activities planned for the morning. **Be sure to BRING YOUR BACKPACK for a special blessing.**

8:45-Quick snack in the fellowship hall

9:00-Music in the big Sunday School room

9:10-Photo taken of each student and then head to the den

9:20-Create your own "Piece of the Puzzle" & other activities

9:50-Head back to church for the service at 10 (During the service bibles will be given to preschoolers, 3rd and 6th graders. Seniors will receive a devotional book. All preschool through seniors will bring their backpacks up for a special blessing!)

Following worship, the congregation is invited to lunch and to join the various activities at church. There will be rock painting, face painting, bingo, games and outside inflatables.



Thank you Brad & Jackie Olson and Marlin & Shirley Schmidt for donating the trailer for the float for the parades.

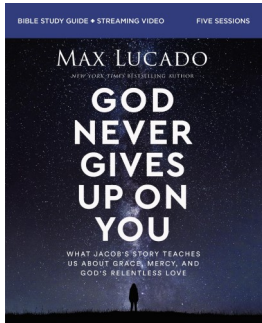
WHAT'S
INSIDE

SEPTEMBER

Bible Studies
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Impact
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September Birth/Ann Calendar



You're invited to a Wednesday Evening Bible Study starting September 11th. Max Lucado is the author of our study where each lesson has a short video paired with discussion questions. A light supper will be provided at 5:30pm with Bible Study starting at 6pm. Please consider signing up on the sheet in the fellowship area. Books for the study will be ordered on August 30th to ensure shipping and arrival by the 11th. Cost of the book is \$10. I'd love to learn and grow in faith together.

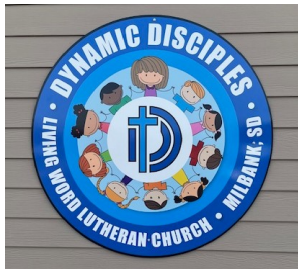
Laura Dallman



There will be a women's Bible Study offered again during the Sunday School hour. This year's study guide (includes video teaching) is called: Matchless—The Life and Love of Jesus, by Angie Smith. Join us as we hear stories of our matchless Savior - His mission, miracles, and message. Through her signature wit and accessible style, Angie unpacks Scripture in a way that's easy to understand, regardless of how long you've been studying the Bible (a great option for new believers!) There is a sign-up sheet on the back table or contact Jackie Olson if you have any questions. Women will meet on Sept 8 for introduction and fellowship, and will start the study on Sept 15.

Jackie Olson

Stay Tuned
more studies to come



DYNAMIC DISCIPLES and SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dynamic Disciples

As I get ready to write for the August newsletter, I started reflecting on our year of Dynamic Disciples. The idea started a year ago in a conversation with Pastor Melanie and myself. The idea of a Wednesday after school program came about as a way for our LWLC children to have an additional opportunity to learn about God in new and fun way. Dynamic Disciples was born and we quickly got the den ready for our church children. All the elementary children from our church attended this program throughout the entire year. We were also fortunate to have TJ Wojahn and Karen Keifer to help each week.



Students had snacks, Bible lessons, crafts, songs and games each week. We learned about Jesus and also how we as children can make a difference in the world around us and tell others about Jesus. There is no charge for the families for this program.

The program will be starting up again in September and we are hoping to add some additional children who attended Vacation Bible School to join us on our Wednesday adventure. Sue D. has volunteered to help teach the larger group of students. We can't wait to learn and grow together.

We appreciate all the support the congregation has given us to start this program for our children. We appreciate your prayers, your words of encouragement, and all the financial help you have given to this wonderful program.

Go into the World.....Go to be a blessing!

Laurie Maas
Education Committee



Dynamic Disciples Wednesday - September 11 3:30-5:00 p.m.

We are excited to begin the Dynamic Disciple program this fall. We are changing things a little bit. Children will meet in the church for snack, music, and skit. Then we will divide into two groups for various activities. Children will rotate to each group. I will be contacting the school to make sure bussing is available and update as we get closer to our start date.

Parents can pick up their children at the church at 5 p.m.

If you have any questions or would like to sign your child up, please text or email Laurie Maas at 320-305-0887 or laurie.a.maas@gmail.com.

See you all soon! *Laurie & Sue*

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMAN



Greetings from LWLW,

Hard to believe our young people are back in school and preparation is being made for Sunday School to start.

We have two Mission Baskets in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue those for the next month. One is for Dynamic Disciples, and one is for Foster Families. Both baskets have a list on them of items that can be used.

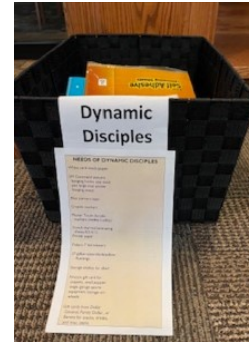
The Fall Gathering of the Augustana District Women will be held in Hutchinson on Saturday, September 21 and there is still time to register. The theme is Praise, Pray, Proclaim! The speaker is Gretchen Ronnevik who is the Author of the book, "Ragged". They have suggested we might enjoy reading the book before attending the activities. The registration form was in last month's newsletter. If you need a copy, just let Lisa or me know. They should be sent by Sept. 9 but close to that will work. Let's try to get a carload to go. Sue DeJong and I are on the Board so will be participating.

We will be having an Executive Board meeting in September to prepare for the fall activities. Love Circle has decided LWLW will fill Mercy Meals and then have a Chili Cook Off for members of the church in Oct. The tentative date is Oct. 13 but that needs to be confirmed. More to come about this next month.

The nominating committee will soon be looking for new officers so prayerfully consider how you can serve your church if you receive a call.

God closed the Lion's Mouth for Daniel
He parted the Red Sea for Moses
He gave Sarah a baby
He raised Lazarus from the Dead
Nothing you'll face today is out of His Control
Trust God.

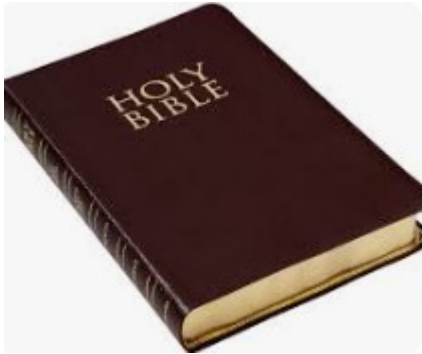
In Christ,
Marcia



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.

Rally Sunday & Sunday School



We are excited to launch Sunday School with Rally Sunday on Sunday, September 8th! We invite everyone in the congregation to participate in the activities and lunch. There will be indoor and outdoor games for all ages! **ALL CHILDREN should bring their backpacks for a special blessing. Bibles will be given to preschoolers, 3rd and 6th graders. Seniors will receive a devotional book. These activities and music by the children will be part of the 10 a.m. service.**

We are thrilled to start off the year with learning more about the Lord's Prayer. Children from 3 years old through adults will be able to participate in Sunday School activities.

Sunday School starts at 8:45. Children should quickly grab a snack and eat in the fellowship hall and join together for music in the big Sunday School room at 9 a.m. Children will be dismissed at 9:50 to their parents.

We would love to have the high school students join us for group discussions during the Sunday School time. We also need help with short skits for the younger children and crafts. We welcome students interested in the puppet ministry, too! Hope to see you there!

We will be having an offering each week which will go towards Pigs For Pastors. There will be more information to come. You can put your offering in the pig or barn by the church office.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday School program December 15th!

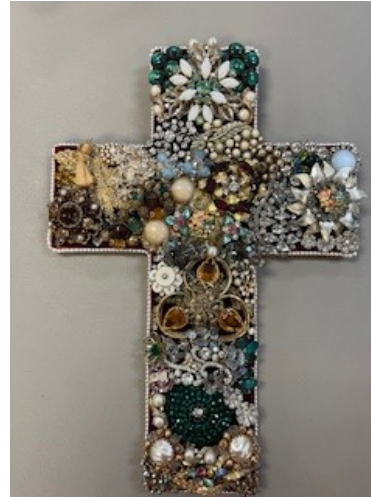
We can't wait to see you at church!

Education Committee - Tina Balling, Sue DeJong, Laurie Maas, Sandy Christensen, Laura Dallman, and Moe Reede.





THANKFUL FOR LIL



The cross is made from Lil's jewelry.

Lillian Colberg celebrated her 97th birthday on Aug. 21 with a few friends and the members of her long time Searchers Bible Study. After living independently alone for over 50 years she is now making her home in St. Williams Care Center in Room 210. Lillian very generously gave her 2003 Ford pickup with its topper to Living Word Lutheran Church. After the mechanic work of Terry Forster the pickup is running and was purchased from the church by Paul Lindquist for \$4000. The years of taking the pickup to the lake and camping in the topper brought great joy to Lillian. The church also benefited from the years of Bible research that Lillian had done as they received the books, studies and video material that she had accumulated over all her years of study. Lillian is looking forward to getting back to church attendance this fall. Her church family is thankful for her gifts, the knowledge she has shared with her years of teaching and her presence at the services.



Pictured are: Marcia Heinje, Gene Vostad,, Lil and Chuck Myklegard.



Pictured are: Paul Lindquist, Terry Forster and Gene Vostad.



Pictured is Paul Lindquist with his new pickup.



COUNCIL MINUTES

LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT AUGUST 14, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Vostad, Pastor Melanie, Moe Reede, Tim DeJong, Laurie Maas, Kelly Peterson, Adam McMahon, Sandy Christensen, Steve Strege 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, the special council meeting and the special congregational meeting were reviewed. Laurie made a motion, and it was seconded by Steve to approve the secretary's report. Motion carried.

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT: The last financial statement was reviewed. Brian Sandvig conducted a review of our accounting system with Kelly. Council agreed to all recommendations that were made. As per one of the recommendations, Gene made a motion to rename the Investment Committee to the Church Finance Committee. Moe seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Kelly will also handle the Non-Profit Corporation report that is done annually. Steve made a motion, and it was seconded by Moe to approve the business manager's report. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

July 31, 2024

Income \$18,322.00

Expenses \$16,462.78

Total \$ 1,859.22

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor reported she continues to clean and organize the office. This will make business go smoother for the next Pastor. Moe made a motion, and it was seconded by Laurie to approve the Pastor's report. Motion carried.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: The Building Committee should receive the conceptual drawing soon. Stained glass window design ideas/samples will be collected. The emergency light was replaced in the room by the kitchen. Gallagher will be coming soon to address the cracks in parking lot and restripe. Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Tim to approve the Property and Management report. Motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM: The next food give away is scheduled for September 11th. Plans to distribute water at the giveaway are being made. Kelly made a motion to approve the Worship and Evangelism report. It was seconded by Adam. Motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION REPORT: The Education Committee met August 13th. Food, games, backpack blessing and advertising for Rally Sunday were discussed. Sue DeJong has volunteered to help with Dynamic Disciples this year. Sunday School teachers and subs are still needed. The Lord's Prayer will be the first subject taught this fall. Plans are being made for various Bible studies. Steve made a motion, and it was seconded by Tim to approve the Youth & Education report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: The Call Committee was meeting with Pastor Curtis at the same time as Council was meeting. David Kruger phoned Gene and informed the Council that Pastor Curtis accepted the offer. Moe made a motion, and it was seconded by Steve to pay half of their health insurance premium up to \$10,000 per year. Motion carried. Scott Maas re-wired the parade trailer, and it will be ready for the Cornfest Parade in Ortonville. The email-to-text feature problems seem to be an ITC issue and will be addressed with them.

NEW BUSINESS: Library books/DVDs and book shelves have been given to the Church by Lil Colberg. We thank her for her generous gift. Posts to Facebook need to happen more frequently and our website needs to be updated often to help keep everyone informed about church happenings. Annual reports are due October 22nd. Amendment G was also discussed.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for September 11th at 7pm.

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

Tina Balling
Council Secretary



A Message from our Council President

Church Vision

During the interview with Pastor Simonson, he asked some questions about our church vision. I felt a good way to get a feel of what our vision would be is to read our church Constitution, our Statement of Faith and Core Values. I believe these things can be found on our church website and if anyone would like a copy, the church office can provide those things.

At one of our call committee meetings, we discussed our church vision and how we would want to present it. One of the committee members suggested that the church vision is more than likely an individual matter.

I think it is important that we as a church have a vision of where we are as a congregation. We also need to have a vision of where we want to go. Without that vision, we don't know where we are headed and how we are going to get there.

The history of the church can be found on our website as well, so I won't spend a lot of time with where we came from. I want to emphasize that the original congregation that started Living Word Lutheran Church were all Christians and believed the answers to our questions can be found in the Bible. At the time Living Word was to be established, we did not have a full-time minister. The first minister we had was the minister most of us had been serving with at the church we had left to start Living Word. We had faithful congregational members. The church was strong in spirit and not quite as strong financially.

Since the church was founded, we have had two full time ministers. Both ministers believed answers to our questions could be found in the Bible. Our congregation continues to have strong Christian values and also believes the answers to our questions can be found in the Bible. We are close to having a full-time pastor. We have an interim pastor that has led us well for the past 2 years. We have been searching for a full-time pastor for about 18 months. (Our pastoral search actually started about 2 years ago when we were attempting to find a pastor to work with our youth in addition to work with the head pastor and work with the remainder of our congregation.) Up until now our success in finding a pastor has not been successful. We have reorganized how the church does "business" with the establishment of an Educational Committee. We have a relatively strong group of youngsters and what I believe is a good plan for keeping them interested in the Lord. Our middle school and high school program is not as strong. We now have a business manager to work with the church secretary, the pastoral staff, and the congregation. We have established a group to manage our investments and to work with everyone to include the business manager. The church does a lot of things in the area of evangelism. We are visible in the community, welcoming all to participate with us, and our community benevolence is generous. We could do more in the area of evangelism, but we need to decide what that is and head that direction. Our church building is a little smaller than we like but it is well taken care of. We are currently in the planning phase of an addition to our church.

The last pastor we had had worked with the congregation to try to figure out what the church vision was. Hiring a youth worker at the time was part of that vision. When the pastor left that vision seems to have left as well. For the past 18 months I feel we have been treading water so to speak waiting for the next new head pastor.

Ministers that have completed all of their seminary work are in short supply. There are more ministers retiring than new ministers becoming available. In order to conduct business in our church being able to provide programs for young, middle age and old we need to consider the use of more lay people. Right now, our younger children are being well tended to. Fortunately, we have some dedicated people on our education committee that are doing a great job. We have hired a "retired" pastor to lead our church during the transition to a new minister. We use pulpit supply to tend to us when our pastor is gone. The youth work is all being done with volunteer help. The business manager is currently on the church council and does the business manager work on a volunteer basis. Many churches, even our size, have a larger full-time staff (ours is 2) than Living Word.

Living Word is blessed with people that have a lot of talent and the ability to get things done. I see it every day when an event takes place, and it appears to have happened flawlessly. (We seem to have some independent thoughts regarding the procedure for communion but that will work its way out.) I see some time in the future that rather than have an all-volunteer service for the education and business manager, we consider hiring someone part time or full time to perform those functions. We currently have those working with the younger children on what appears to be a labor of love. We don't currently seem to have a lot of middle school or high school age youngsters in our church. We need to find a way to minister to those we have. I see that we need to try to invite some youth that currently do not have a church to join us at our church. I can see Dynamic Disciples expanding and our Sunday School classes becoming larger.

Since the departure of Pastor Kent, we have had some good leadership from Pastor Melanie. We have incorporated volunteer workers to work on some of the things we were trying to accomplish with Pastor Kent. (We were looking to hiring a pastor to work with our youth in addition to assisting the head pastor.) I don't feel we have progressed much in the area of the vision Pastor Kent had for our church. Being with an interim minister is not the same as being with a full-time head minister. My opinion is that the congregation, with the assistance of the minister provides the leadership for the church.

While most of the original members of Living Word are ageing nicely, we have a group of younger members that are getting in and taking care of business. What can we do to attract those in our community looking for a church family?

What is your vision for the church?

Gene Vostad
Council President



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Church Family of Living Word,
As the church family prepares to welcome Pastor Curtis Simonson to Living Word, I have been thinking a great deal about the past two plus years of serving as your "interim" pastor. "Interim" is a rather strange word which evolves into different things based on the length of the need for interim service. The Cambridge Dictionary describes the word "interim" as something temporary that is meant to be used until something permanent exists. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve Living Word in this capacity for the past two plus years. I realize as I reflect on my time with you that it has seemed so much more than "interim." I have thoroughly enjoyed being your pastor and that we have continued to show some growth in both membership and programming over these two years. It is a privilege to be the "cheerleader" in a church that is so willing to readily say, "I think we should do it!!" And then, pick up the challenge and make it happen.

I am thankful to know that Pastor Simonson has accepted this position, and I pledge to do everything I can do to make this a great transition time in the church. I have developed a file for him which, hopefully, will put him in touch with all current programs. I will spend time with him over the next few months to assist in whatever way he would like.

We are not sure of the exact date when the Simonsons will be making their move to Milbank, so until then, we will keep on in the same manner as we have over these past couple of years. In all things, to God be the glory!

In Christian love,
Pastor Melanie

PIGS FOR PASTORS CHOSEN FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING



The PIGS for PASTORS program of Awakening Lives to World Missions has been chosen by the Education Committee as the recipient of the Sunday School offering this year. We have heard of this program before through messages from Pastor Bill Moberly.

Gifts to this program work in this way:

*\$2000 buys a shelter, sow,
10 piglets and 6 months of feed,
which enables a Pastor
to start a small pig farm
to support his family.*

Should you wish to join in support of their efforts,
the Little Red Barn will be located in the fellowship hall for financial gifts



SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES

July 30, 2024, SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Members present: Pastor Melanie, Gene, Sandy, Adam, Moe, Kelly, Steve and Tina. David Kruger was also present.

Opening Prayer: Pastor gave the opening prayer.

Council reviewed "Offer of Employment" proposed by the Call Committee. A couple small changes were suggested.

Moe made a motion to cap the total compensation at \$120,000. The motion was seconded by Kelly and the motion passed.

Steve made a motion, and it was seconded by Sandy to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Tina Balling
Council Secretary

AUGUST 11, 2024, SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Gene Vostad called the meeting to order and explained the purpose of the meeting.

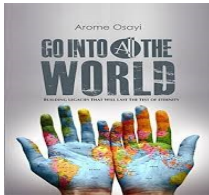
David Kruger, representing the Call Committee, went over the Letter of Employment and the offer proposed for Pastor Simonson. David stressed that Pastor Simonson is still a seminary student and would need our love and support if he accepts our offer. This was followed by a time for questions/comments.

Steve Strege made a motion, and it was seconded by Adam McMahon to approve issuing an Employment Contract to Curtis Simonson. It then went to a paper ballot vote. The vote passed 64 yeses to 5 nos.

Moe Reede made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Don Weber. Motion carried.

Pastor Melanie gave the departing prayer

Tina Balling
Council Secretary



IMPACT MISSIONS

LWLC Mission Board Report

August 2024

The next meeting of the LWLC Mission Board will be on September 10, at 1:30 pm. If you have ideas for mission projects, please contact the office or a board member and we will give your request consideration. After all, the funds we have available to distribute come directly from your various contributions to the church. We are just the hands and feet behind your dollars, and we want to distribute them in a God pleasing way that the congregation is in agreement with.

On September 22nd Pastor Bill Moberly will be visiting LWLC and sharing information about the various mission projects that he is involved with. The projects in Cambodia and Vietnam are only a part of his involvement in sharing the love of Christ with the world. Pastor Bill will be visiting with the

mission board, as well as delivering the sermon that Sunday. Following the church service there will be a potluck meal that will give you the opportunity to visit with Pastor Bill and his wife Sally. Part of the offerings that Sunday will be given to Pastor Bill for his mission work.

We have also received good news from Pastor Bill that the Vietnamese government is allowing clean water to be installed in 2 village churches. This will be a blessing to so many people. Hopefully our church will be able to participate in these projects.

In His Service,
Vicki Strege

September 2024

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3	4	5 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	6	7
8	Rally Day 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/bibles/noisy change 11:00 Chapel Communion	9 Labor Day Office Closed	10 9:00 Quilting 1:30 Impact	11 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 4-5 Feeding SD parking lot 7:00 Council	12 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	13 Milbank Homecoming	14
15	8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 October Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship	16	17 9:00 Faith Circle meets 7:00 Love Circle meets	18 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	14 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	15	16
17	Pastor Bill Moberly here 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	18 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	19 9:00 Quilting	20 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	21 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	22	23
24	8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	25					

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Happy
Birthday



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Steve Strega (b.)	2 Janice Fenner (b.)	3	4 Greg & Lori Kasuske (w.) Joanne Nelson (b.)	5 Tina Balling (b.)	6	7 Lisa Aker (b.) Carter Busack (b.) Roger Christensen (b.) Colby Weber (b.)
8 Linda Anderson (b.) Mary & Deb Buttke (w.) Bergen Nolting (b.) Brock Sime (b.)	9	10 Bruce & Linda Larson (w.)	11 Jackie Olson (b.) Timothy Ramsey (b.) Grant Van Peursesem (b.)	12 Isabella Anderson (b.)	13	14 Trevor Nolting (b.)
15	16 Carol Forster (b.) Jamie & Hope Pekelder (w.)	17 Harold & Beverly Zeigler (w.)	18 Roger & Tammy Christensen (w.)	19 Richard Hansen (b.) Adam McMahon (b.) Mason Wilson (b.)	20 Susan Vostad (b.)	21 Gary & Marsha Meister (w.)
22	23	24 Richard & Sandra Hansen (w.)	25 Ron & Linda Anderson (w.) Lacey Busack (b.) Jack Sandvig (b.)	26	27	28 Karen Hallquist (b.)
29	30 Renae Dornbusch (b.) Melanie Schwandt (b.)					

LWLC Committee Contacts

2024 Council Members:

President: Gene Vostad, 605-321-9120
Email: gene.vostad@gmail.com

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

Secretary: Tina Balling, 605-432-5215
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Moe Reede, 605-949-1482
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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

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

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

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

Website: livingwordmilbank.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 Redepening, 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

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