

WHAT'S INSIDE

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News

Living Word Lutheran Church

438.9672

August 2023 Newsletter

A Message From Our Council President

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Women

SOMETHING TO THINK



* Pastor's
Letter

A few years ago, Living Word had a full-time pastor that with the help of the congregation had a vision for our church. Part of the plan was to hire an associate pastor with the idea of the primary purpose was to work with our youth along with other activities he and the congregation felt needed to be doing. Of course, that associate pastor would be responsible and available whenever the lead pastor wasn't available. A call committee was established, and we started looking for an associate pastor and even had interviewed some for the job. That plan sort of fell by the wayside when Pastor Kent decided it was time to leave Living Word. We are now in the process of trying to find a head pastor and once that is done, redeveloping a vision for our church. I believe the new pastor will agree in a large degree with the direction Pastor Kent had us headed but that person may have some different ideas as to how we are going to get them accomplished.

sometimes feel like the guy that looked around and saw alligators and snakes all around him. When that is what you see, it is difficult to remember that the primary goal was to drain the swamp. I am not saying we have a swamp or snakes and alligators to worry about but that it is difficult to keep in mind where we as a church are headed and where God wants us to go.

The next few months will be interesting, and I ask that all continue to pray for our church and that we go in the direction God wants us to go. Thank you to all for your contributions for the entire duration of Living Word. Contributions of time, effort and Other resources are what keep us going. Special thanks to Pastor Larson for filling in for the past few months. He has been conducting some visitations to assist Pastor Melanie and he filled in for her when she was in Sierra Leone. Pastor Larson will continue to look for additional interim pastorship.

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* Wednes-
day after
school
program

While the church continues to operate and do most things well, I

Gene Vostad, Council President

YOUTH/SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Sunday School Planning Begins

Volunteers met recently to discuss plans for the upcoming 2023-24 Sunday school year. Please note that Rally Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 10. Planning is underway with carnival-type games and activities being the focus. Everyone is encouraged to attend, especially families with Sunday school-age children but also any church member who is interested and wants to enjoy a “Fun” day. If you know families who either had children in vacation bible school, or are not affiliated with a particular church, please invite them. Rally Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to introduce new families to Living Word and promote evangelism by sharing God’s glory with our youth.

Upcoming needs of the 23-24 Sunday school year are in the planning stages and anyone having talents, ideas, or a willingness to work with youth, Pre-school through 12th grade, are welcome to become involved. Ideas that are being looked at include puppet skits, readers theater presentations, music videos and more. Perhaps you are someone who would like to team teach SS....there is a place for you. If you prefer teaching solo, there is a spot for you also, AND high school students....we WANT you too, to be a helper/teacher and share your talents. Remember you would receive High School Community Service hours for it. If questions or you would like to be a part of the exciting 23-24 SS year, contact Pastor Melanie, Susan Sime, Tina Balling, Sandy Christensen, Sue DeJong or Laurie Maas.

CONFIRMATION CLASS TO BEGIN

Attention families with seventh graders!!!! Planning is underway for Confirmation Class to begin for young people entering seventh grade. Letters have been mailed to families who are on our membership list, but if you are aware of others who should be included, please call the office to let us know. Confirmation Class will begin on Wednesday, September 13th after school. Classes will follow the school schedule for holidays and other times of “no school” and consideration will be given to days when there is an “early out” for teacher in-service.

Confirmation is such a formative part in the life of our children. Classes will include the study of the Ten Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Apostle’s Creed including current topics of today’s world. Emphasis will also be placed on learning about the Bible and how to make daily reading a part of life.

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN



Greetings to all of our Sisters in Christ!
What an amazing God we serve. He has blessed us richly to be a blessing to others!

Thank you to everyone that generously gave items to the Beacon Center in Watertown. Your gifts were greatly appreciated, including the four baby quilts and the gift of money to buy more needed items.

LWLW is collecting items in July and August for school supply kits to be dispersed by Orphan Grain Train. A list of needed supplies is attached to baskets in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you in advance for your support.

Our Women of the Word 2023 Fall Gathering will be Saturday, September 16th in Springfield, MN. The cost for the one-day event is only \$20.00. Please consider attending. We can carpool in my vehicle!



Thanks to Susan and Gene Vostad and the Faith/Mary Martha Circle for hosting the General gathering on July 16th! There were about 40 people in attendance. It was a fun time with games, food, and fellowship!

Please mark your calendars for October 1st at 3:30pm when Love Circle will host the Fall General meeting. We will be packing Mercy Meals at Orphan Grain Train, followed by a light supper back at the church. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Thank you to these beautiful women who so eagerly serve our Lord with willing hands and feet.
To God be all glory, honor, and praise!

Your Servant in Christ,
Sue DeJong, LWLW Coordinator





PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Living Word Church Family,

This month marks the completion of a full year for me as your interim pastor. There are no words to tell you how much I have enjoyed this time-----you are a kind and wonderful church family!

Of course, it is my hope that the “right fit” for the position of senior pastor here at Living Word will be found soon; but I have nothing but deep respect and appreciation for the efforts of your Call Committee.

They are a dedicated, prayer-filled, hard-working group for which we all must be very thankful.

It is time to start thinking about Fall programs. Sunday School will begin with Rally Sunday on September 10th. New curriculum and an excellent “Current Topics” program for our high school students are being planned. After our wonderful days of Vacation Bible School, we hope to encourage some of those children to join us for Sunday School as well. Another exciting plan “in the works” is the launch of a

Wednesday After-School Program---
-watch the bulletin and next month's newsletter for more information.

We will also be focusing on activities for high school youth in addition to Sunday morning. Watch for a special mailing through which you can indicate some of the activities you would like to see incorporated into a youth program.

Also, we will be looking for volunteers to assist during this interim time as we wait for a new pastor. Please prayerfully consider assisting with this program.

We will be receiving new members in early August. If there is someone you know who would like to consider membership here at Living Word, please contact me so that I can contact them.

In Christian love,
Pastor Melanie





COUNCIL MINUTES

LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT JULY 19, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Vostad, Pastor Melanie, Steve Strege, Marty Buttke, Dale Prisinger, Kelly Peterson, Sandy Christensen, Moe Reede, Rhonda Beckman, Tina Balling. Laurie Maas, Dave Hepper and Dave Kruger were also present.

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:
Not available.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Sandy made a motion to accept the financial report and it was seconded by Marty. Motion carried.

June 2023

Income - \$14,873.00
Expenses - \$19,182.41**
Total - (\$4,309.41)

** Annual Insurance Premium paid.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor reported they are working on fine tuning job descriptions to make sure all duties are covered. She would also like to rearrange the Pastor's office. Steve made a motion to accept the Pastor's report and it was seconded by Rhonda. Motion carried.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: Dale reported that there seems to be a humidity problem in the shed. They will keep an eye on this and have Tim check the dehumidifier when he is at the church. A motion was made by Rhonda and seconded by Steve to accept the estimate from Dewey's for planting bushes. Motion carried. This will be done this fall. There will be a "clean and organize the shed" gathering August 5th starting at 10am. Anyone/committees etc. that have stored items in the shed should plan on attending. We want more

organization out there and to get rid of items no longer needed. Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Moe to approve the Property & Management report. Motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM: Moe made a motion, and it was seconded by Kelly to approve the Worship & Evangelism report. Motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: No youth activities took place last month. They are looking at possible speakers this fall. Motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Dale to accept the Youth & Ed report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Kelly will assume her business manager position September 1st. Dedicated contributions will be handled a little different going forward. They will be shown on the accounts payable list with their balances.

NEW BUSINESS: Council decided to charge a \$25 fee for small non-church member meetings/activities held at the Church. This will be looked at on a case-by-case basis. The Impact Committee submitted their job description. We will ask the Impact Committee to look at the benevolence list to see if they have recommendations for any changes. Laurie Maas reported on VBS and its success. She is already looking into next year's theme and adding a preschool aspect as well. They are also looking at more curriculum for Sunday School. Rhonda made a motion to approve \$250 from the Barlund Fund to go toward the Community Women's Fellowship gathering in September. Motion carried. Dave and Dave reported on the Call Committee.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for August 9th at 7pm.

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



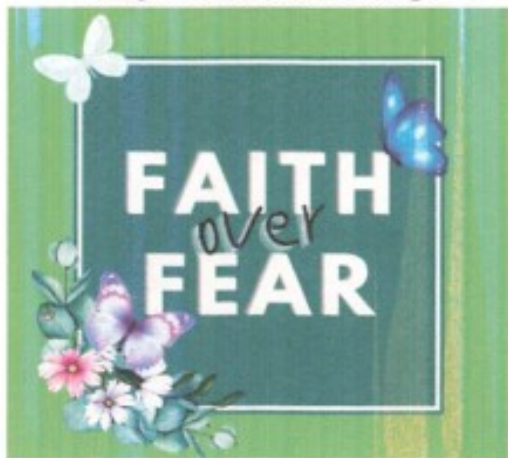
*"Behold God is my salvation
I will trust and will not be
afraid for the Lord God is my
strength and my song and he
has become my salvation."
~ Isaiah 12:2*

Women of the Word 2023 Fall Gathering

Saturday, September 16, 2023

Hosted by
St. Johns Church
Springfield, MN

Registration form available at
augustanadistrict.org



CLEANING THE GARAGE

Just like our garages at home, the church garage is in need of cleaning. The date has been set for Saturday morning, August 5th at 10:00 am. It would be especially helpful if those who have worked with the items stored in the garage could be available to assist. There are church records, Christmas decorations, firepit items, among many other things. Many hands make light work! Call the office with questions.



Be a Blessing

“Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Matthew 19:14

We have a wonderful opportunity to go out and be a blessing for our children and community. We are in the early stages of planning a Wednesday afterschool program at Living Word this fall. Right now we are looking for teachers, helpers, and substitutes so we can begin this ministry.

Please pray and ask God how you can help make this program succeed. Our VBS program had so many wonderful volunteers of all ages helping which led to everyone shining Jesus’s light throughout the week. Please prayerfully consider signing up in the fellowship hall and share the gifts God has blessed you with.

Go into the world.....Go be a blessing!



Projects/Organizations

Every year there are a number of projects/ organizations that Living Word includes in its Benevolence Fund. Is there a particular project, organization or group you would like included in the upcoming year? If you do have an idea or suggestion, please pass it along to either Pastor Melanie or a council member. Thank you ahead of time for your input.

August 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4	5
6	9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	8 9:00 Quilting	9 7:00 Council	10 9:00 Community Fellowship	11 Threshing Show
13	14 9:00 Worship/noisy change 10:00 Chapel Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship Threshing Show	15 9:00 Faith Circle meets 7:00 Love Circle meets	16 1st Day of School in Milbank	17 9:00 Community Fellowship	18 9:00 Community Fellowship
20	21 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Sept Servant Team meets	22 9:00 Quilting	23	24 9:00 Community Fellowship Newsletter items due	25
27	28 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	29	30	31 9:00 Community Fellowship	26

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Kent Sime (b.)	8 Elaine Hallberg (b.)	9 Beverly Buth (b.) Carol Weber (b.)	10 Aaron & Lacey Busack (w.) Betty Dockter (b.) Heidi Meister (b.) Joel Steltz (b.)	11 Douglas Forster (b.) Rlita Raffety (b.)	12 Karen Kiefer (b.) Presley Peschong (b.) Arnold & Donna Rehn (w.)
13	14 Marcus McMahon (b.)	15 Dale Aker (b.) Cody McMahon (b.) Oliver Weinkauff (b.)	16 Susan Capp (b.) Collis Dahle (b.) Andrew Maas (b.)	17 Dale & Linda Prisinger (w.)	18 Phil Seehafer (b.)	19
20	21 Lillian Colberg (b.)	22	23 Howard Heinje (b.)	24	25 Marlin & Janice Fenner (w.) Charles Myklegard (b.)	26 Bernie Balling Jr. (b.) Aaron Busack (b.) Ardell Nelson (b.)
27	28 Zoe Lewno (b.)	29 Collis & Brenda Dahle (w.)	30 David & Linda Wagner (w.)	31 Donald & Carol Weber (w.)		

LWLC Committee Contacts

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