

**HAPPY
FATHER'S DAY**

LIVING WORDS

Living Word Lutheran Church

438.9672

June 2023 Newsletter

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Congratulation 2023 Seniors

Emma DeJong, Ben Kasuske, Thea Varpness and Jersey Peschong (not pictured)
Picture below—Gene Vostad recognizing the graduates.





CONGRATULATIONS 2023

Living Word Lutheran Church confirmed its twelfth class of confirmands on Sunday, May 7 with visiting Pastor Craig Werling officiating.

Drew Anderson, Tyler Heinje, Tayton Reede and Sam Wilson received instruction in Lutheran history and doctrine, the Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed under Pastor Melanie Reiners, Linda Anderson, Howard and Marcia Heinje.

We pray that Jesus continues to renew and increase in them the gift of the Holy Spirit - strengthening their faith and witness, their growth in grace, their patience in suffering and the blessed hope of everlasting life. Amen.

Thank you to my church family for all the cards, gifts, prayers, and support for confirmation. Thank you to everyone who organized the coffee hour and made the day special for us. A big thank you to Pastor Melanie, Marcia and Howard Heinje and Linda Anderson for being our teachers.
Drew Anderson



Notes About Noisy Change

From
The Mission Board

The work of two important South Dakota charitable organizations, located in Sioux Falls, will be our emphasis for the months of May and June. Both are supporting young women in need and also men in some cases involving labor trafficking.

The **Alpha Center** is a pregnancy center and is, in the words of a young woman who found encouragement there, “a haven of hope for women who find themselves in a world that has been shaken.”

A caring staff offers counseling, free lab-quality pregnant testing and ultrasounds, along with other resources to walk young women and couples through an unexpected pregnancy.

The Alpha Center offers counseling for women who are making a decision between giving birth to their child or choosing to have an abortion.

Call To Freedom is an anti human trafficking organization which provides supportive services for those affected by human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation in South Dakota. Their Faith Statement is as follows: We model Christ in our approach to restore wholeness to those impacted by sex and labor trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

Trafficking in our state is at high levels during two annual events, fall hunting season and the Sturgis Rally. The crossing of two interstate highways and the large number of Indian Reservations that struggle with poverty and drug use make South Dakota a center for this harmful and illegal activity at all times.

Call To Freedom's mission is to offer safe housing, mental health counseling, addiction assistance, transportation and other supportive services to provide holistic care for their clients.

Call To Freedom has developed a promising approach to supporting recovery among survivors of this slave like operation. Two new apartment complexes have been built and there is need for more. Often this housing is, for survivors, the first place they have been able to call their own.



YOUTH NEWS



Picture above - Sunday School kids played bells on the last day of Sunday School.



The puppets also made an their appearance during worship.

Picture below - last day of Sunday School. The kids received a special treat.



The Core Kinetics Dance Recital was held at the end of May. Katie Kruger, Hailey Heinje and Brittany Heinje all performed.



LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN

Spring has finally sprung! God has provided us with our beautiful and very different seasons in our part of the world. Seize every moment of this Spring!

Our Women of Living Word were able to assemble 20 layette kits for Orphan Grain Train to send wherever needed in the world. Thank you to everyone that willingly gave items or cash donations for the kits.

Through April and May we have been collecting items for Hygiene Kits to be given to OGT as well. There is a list on the basket in the Fellowship Hall of items needed for the hygiene kits. Your donations will be put to good use. Thank you in advance!

Our Mission Project for the month of June will be items for the Beacon Center in Watertown. Items needed are attached to a basket in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider a donation.

Thank you to the quilters for the beautiful quilts they gave to the four High School graduates. May God bless these young adults and keep them safely in His arms.

Our Faith/Mary/Martha Circle is planning on an enjoyable evening on Sunday, July 9th at 5:30pm for our Summer General gathering. Our evening will include a cookout around the church fire pit. All congregational members are welcome to join in! Mark your calendars.

I thank God for our Sisters in Christ that so willingly and gladly serve the Lord with their time and talents. May God be glorified with your acts of love.

In His Service,
Sue DeJong, Coordinator



Pictured with the completed Layettes are, Marcia Heinje, Gloria Cooley, and Karen Kiefer. Not pictured, Karen Hallquist, Beverly Buth and Sue DeJong.

PASTOR'S LETTER



Dear Church Family of Living Word,

There are no words to fully explain the experiences of the past three weeks! We always know that we receive far more than we give on a mission trip and this was no exception.

During the first week, Dr. Steve Yeh from the University of Nebraska brought renewed vision to 20 people through complex retina surgery (each surgery lasted from two to four hours!) He stayed on to help Dr. Debby Gess-Ristvedt who arrived with her husband and a friend for the second week. She performed 60 cataract surgeries and cataract surgery with glaucoma stents during the second week. Many times, she and her team worked late into the evening, sometimes 10:00 pm until she came to the apartment for a bite to eat.

During this last week, a young couple from Alabama and their eleven year-old daughter joined us and will travel back toward the US with us in a couple of days. They have been long-time supporters of the work in Sierra Leone and wanted to "see" this amazing place for themselves. The orphanage has been a great experience for their daughter! We look forward to their return many times in the future.

And, today, Roger and six others are making a trip to the village of Masingbe, the site of the water well. They are planning the next steps of the project (pouring concrete) and the moving of the container to the site. It is a four-hour drive to Masingbe, so by leaving very early this morning, they will arrive for a couple of hours of planning at the site, eat some African food prepared by a wonderful lady there and then return safely by nightfall. We will be able to tell you more and show you more pictures when we get home! See you soon!

In Christian love,

Melanie (and Roger, too!)



COUNCIL MINUTES



LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT May 10, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Vostad, Steve Strege, Marty Buttke, Dale Prisinger, Moe Reede, Rhonda Beckman, Kelly Peterson, Sandy Christensen, Tina Balling

OPENING: Gene gave the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Moe made a motion, and it was seconded by Marty 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.

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

Month of April	Beginning Balance (3/31/23)	Monthly Income plus Interest	Monthly Expenses	Net Gain or Loss	Ending Balance (4/30/23)
General Fund	\$ 182,654.27	\$ 20,116.20	\$ 18,621.35	\$ 1,494.85	\$ 184,149.12
Dedicated Accounts	\$ 57,117.37	\$ 4,464.79	\$ 2,933.25	\$ 1,531.54	\$ 58,648.91
Building Fund	\$ 47,693.35	\$ 290.00	\$ 908.58	\$ (618.58)	\$ 47,074.77
Thrivent Financial (updated quarterly)	\$ 36,735.78	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,735.78
TOTAL CASH BALANCE					\$ 326,608.58

PASTOR'S REPORT:

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: Marty and Dale reported that the lights were adjusted on the three crosses outside. Dale cleaned the rocks off the parking lot that were left after the snow pile melted. One tree that died over the winter was replaced. They will have someone look at the refrigerator to see why it keeps losing freon. Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Sandy to approve the Property & Management report. Motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM:

YOUTH & EDUCATION: Confirmation was held May 7th with Pastor Werling conducting the service for the four confirmands. The last day of Sunday School will be held May 14th. All youth activities are done for the summer until September unless something comes up. A motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Steve to approve the report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: The call committee received one application but didn't feel they were a viable candidate. They have reached out to Luther house to see if there are any new candidates available. Moe made a motion to authorize the finance/endowment committee to make the investments on the broker CD as recommended by Dave Hepper and Scott Maas for the 12,18,24 and 48 month terms. Dale seconded the motion and the motion carried. Living Word Lutheran Church will not financially support ELCA church camps. A list of approved Bible based camps will be available at the church office. If money is an issue, camperships may be available. Gabe Beckman will have his Eagle Scout recognition ceremony and meal at the church May 21st. Gene will present the graduates with a Bible from LWLC May 14th.

NEW BUSINESS: The phone system will need to be updated. Options will be looked into. Steve made a motion to purchase plexiglass for the top of the new cabinets. Kelly seconded the motion and the motion carried. Rhonda made a motion to award Ben Kasuske the \$500 LWLC scholarship. Sandy seconded it and the motion carried. As a reminder all committees have to obtain council approval for all expenditures exceeding \$500. Living Word will change to our summer hours starting June 4th. Church will begin at 9am.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for June 14th at 7pm.

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



LWLC Committee Contacts

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