

LIVING WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

438.9672 CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

LENT



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Lent is the period of forty days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter observed by Christians as a season of pondering our bondage to sin and the radical action God has taken to save us from sin and death in Jesus the Messiah. We do not focus on our own “good work” of the Lenten fast, but on God’s saving work for us in Jesus’ atoning death on the cross and resurrection.

The Wednesday night Lenten services are a great evening of food, fellowship and sharing of our Christian beliefs. Supper will be served by the council on March 1 and by the Woman of Living Word all the remaining dates. Supper will be at 5:30 PM and the church service is at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome!

Wednesday, February 22 – Ash Wednesday

6:30 PM – Worship: confession, Imposition of Ashes, communion

Wednesday, March 1

5:30 PM – Supper; pulled pork
6:30 PM – Worship

Wednesday, March 8

5:30 PM – Supper; barbecues
6:30 PM – Worship

Wednesday, March 15

5:30 PM – Supper; beef
6:30 PM – Worship

Wednesday, March 22

5:30 PM – Supper; pork
6:30 PM – Worship

Wednesday, March 29

5:30 PM – Supper; ham
6:30 PM – Worship

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday

9:00 AM – Sunday school
9:00 AM – Coffee fellowship
10:00 AM – Worship

Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday

6:30 PM – Worship, absolution, communion

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday

6:30 PM – Tenebrae Worship

Sunday, April 9 – Easter

No Sunday School

8:30 AM – Youth serving breakfast (tentatively)
10:00 AM – Worship/communion

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LWLC COUNCIL



2023 LWLC Church Council L to R: Back row, Dale Prisinger, Moe Reede, Gene Vostad. Middle row, Steve Strege, Sandy Christensen, Marty Buttke. Front row, Rhonda Beckman, Kelly Peterson, Tina Balling.

2023 LWLC Committee Contacts

2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

Vice President: Marty Buttke, 432-4457,
mdbuttke@itcmilbank.com

Secretary: Tina Balling, 432-5215, tinab@bpimn.com

Youth & Education: Rhonda Beckman,
924-1132, rhonda.m.beckman@gmail.com;
Moe Reede, 949-1482, rreede@midco.net

Worship & Evangelism: Sandy Christensen,
880-4452, sandy@stengeloils.com. Steve Strege,
949-0669, grainbelt01@hotmail.com

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

Property & Management: Dale Prisinger,
432-5052, dlprisinger@tnics.com;
Marty Buttke, 432-4457, mdbuttke@itcmilbank.com

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN OFFICERS:

Coordinator: Sue DeJong, 949-1982

Vice-coordinator: Marcia Heinje, 938-4142

Secretary/Treasurer: Annette Redepenning,
432-6688

Mission Action: Gloria Cooley, 445-1555

Mission Growth: Karen McCrea, 432-6335

Mission Community: Janeen Ingber, 432-9123

Advisor: Susan Vostad, 434-1825

Newsletter/Website: Nancy Kruger, 380-9871,
nmkruger@itctel.com

*Thank you to Heidi Pelzel
and the kids for presenting
the story of Jesus' birth.*



from our COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Several years ago I was watching a movie with the setting during World War II. A general was in the vicinity with several soldiers present. The general was more or less watching what was going on and no one was paying particular attention to him. Suddenly the entire area erupted with enemy fire and U.S. soldiers running every direction reacting to the attack. In the midst of the confusion one of the soldiers, not recognizing who the general was, said who is running this anyway. The general, who did not identify himself, responded by saying "I don't know."

We at Living Word are in the process of calling a minister. We all miss the departed minister but on

the other hand we really look forward to having a new minister. In the mean time, with the leadership Pastor Melanie has provided we are moving forward pretty well. Once in a while something happens that makes one wonder "who is in charge"? How do we answer that? I think we all know that none of us are in charge and that God is watching out for us. Hang in there and don't be afraid to answer the question, "who is in charge here?"

On the topic of calling a minister, we want to thank Dave Hepper for giving us an update on the call process along with the others on the call committee for their work.

Gene Vostad, Council President



Several years ago when a lot of us were looking for a church that was following the Bible and Christian principles, Ardell and Marge Nelson stepped up and led the organization which we all know now as Living Word Lutheran Church. Ardell and Marge have moved from our local area to a suburb in the Twin Cities which turns out be about 10 minute drive to their daughter's home. To help recognize the Nelson's for what they have done for Living Word Lutheran Church and the rest of us, the council voted to recognize them and award them a clock made of granite from our local area. This is a picture of Ardell and Marge with the clock in their new residence. They indicated they would like to hear from their old friends. Their new address is: 5950 W. 130th Lane, Apt 422, Savage, MN 55378. Their telephone number is 605-949-1812.

Highlights of the Impact the World Mission Board Meeting

The Impact the World Mission Board met on January 5. The mission opportunity for the noisy change collection was scheduled through August with the following missions recipients for each month.

JANUARY: Wells for Masingbi

FEBRUARY: Ukraine

MARCH: Fund a speaker for lyceums in the Milbank School System.

APRIL: Beacon Center in Watertown (domestic abuse)

MAY: Alpha Center in Sioux Falls (human trafficking)

JUNE: Call to Freedom

JULY: Mercy Meals

AUGUST: FCA

The Sunday before the collection is received, we will have a video presentation or a speaker that will give information about the mission to the

congregation so as to guide them about the purpose and needs of the person or organization.

Pastor Bill Moberly was contacted concerning his upcoming trip to Vietnam and Cambodia in late May and early June 2023. He would welcome members of our congregation to join him in showing the love of Christ in these countries. There is a possibility he is able to take our members to visit the church that we built there in 2018. In February the mission board will present to the church council the opportunity to contribute financial support to members interested in traveling to Vietnam. There will be more information on this mission opportunity later.

Pastor Bill also provided information concerning the \$7,000 given to Pastor Sam in Cambodia to build a school. Pastor reported that the school project was coming along nicely and there was sufficient funds to complete the project this spring. They will have a dedication service in May when Pastor is present.

WHAT IS LENT?

"Lent" is derived from the Middle English "Lente" which means "springtime."

It's the 40-day period of repentance and renewal preceding Easter.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (this year on February 22) and ends with the Easter Service (this year on April 9.) The forty days of Lent are calculated by counting the weekdays only; Sundays are not counted in the 40 days.

Lent is a special time for:

- Meditation, prayer and penitential practices
- Increased understanding of Christ's sacrifice and Resurrection
- Renewal of baptismal vows and recommitment to the Christian life

taken from LENT, Scriptographic Booklet, Channing L. Bete Co., Inc.

HOUSING

One item that comes up continually with our search for a new pastor is "have you thought about housing?" It is being thought about and right now the answers are not very clear. If someone has an answer to this, we on the council and the call committee would like to know. Think about the answer and if you have an idea (or better yet) a place, let the council or call committee know. Ideal would be a three bedroom or larger home that is affordable.

RIGHTNOW MEDIA

RightNow Media is, most likely, one of the best resources available to everyone in our church. Living Word has a membership and that, in turn, provides a free membership to anyone for full usage of their programming.

RightNow Media is a streaming library of more than 20,000 Bible Study videos for leaders to share with their groups.

Some of the other materials available include:

- Over 2,000 wholesome, educational, and entertaining videos for children
- Great Biblically-based videos on topics like marriage, parenting, youth, recovery, leadership, finances and much more
- Resources for worship services, church programming, etc.

If you haven't used this great resource before, just contact the church office and Lisa will assist you with registration access. Remember, this is a free resource available to all members. Try it – you will like it!

LOST AND FOUND

- Kids Gap medium coat
- A pair of men's gloves
- 1 single women's leather glove
- 1 single knit glove
- A stocking hat
- Scarf
- Miscellaneous baking dishes



Welcome Tim De Jong as pour new janitor! Thank you to Lori Dockter for all the years of service. We wish you well in your retirement.



WOMEN OF THE LIVING WORD

As the women of Living Word, we have been and continue to be blessed to serve our congregation and beyond.

On January 10, fourteen women from our circles attended our **GENERAL MEETING**. Pastor Melanie led us in a beautiful Epiphany Bible study. What delightful and relaxing afternoon it was. Faith Circle is planning our next general meeting on March 7. All women of Living Word are invited to join in for an afternoon of visiting our members at our local care centers and with our shut-ins on March 7 at 2:00 PM. Mark your calendars now!

Our **MITTEN TREE** project provided 4 scarves, 9 hats, 17 pairs of warm socks, 2 pairs of slippers, 35 pairs of gloves and mittens and a cash donation for anything more that may be needed to keep someone warm this winter. Thank you to our congregation for joining us with this project.

Our **MISSION PROJECT** for February and March is Layette Kits for Orphan Grain Train. Everyone is welcome to donate items. A basket with a list of items needed to complete the kits is in the fellowship hall.



Photos from the LWLW general meeting



Our Living Word **LENTEN SERVICES** will start on Ash Wednesday, February 22. There will be meals provided previous to the Lenten services starting on March 1. The church council, the youth of Living Word and all three of our circles will be serving the meals.

On Sunday, March 19, our circles will be hosting a **PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** as a fundraiser for our youth to attend Bible Camp. Please plan to attend. Anyone is welcome to help with the breakfast. Several men have already volunteered to do the cooking!

We have been blessed to serve others wholeheartedly, as we serve the Lord.

Your sister in Christ, Sue DeJong

PASTOR'S LETTER



JESUS, The God Who Knows Your Name

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

It seems we have just concluded our Advent-Christmas season and we are making plans for the Lenten season. We are going to trust that our weather will cooperate as we begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday which falls this year on February 22.

We will begin with worship with Communion at 6:30 PM.

The first of our Lenten fellowship meals will be served starting at 5:30 PM on March 1, with our Lenten meditation to follow at 6:30. I have chosen a Max Lucado, six-session, study as the basis for our weekly gatherings — *JESUS, The God Who Knows Your Name*.

Each service will have hymns and Scripture readings; the message each evening will begin with a 15-20 minute video followed by a meditation. It is my hope and prayer that this series will offer a powerful look at Jesus in ways we had not thought of before. Lucado reveals in this video Bible study, "Because Jesus became human, it is now possible for us to see God and hear his voice. If we want to know what matters

to God, all we need to do is look in the Bible to see what matters to Jesus. If we want to know what God is doing in our world, we need only ponder the words of Jesus. By learning more about the person Jesus was and is, we come to understand more clearly the people we were created to be."



Hopefully, everyone will set aside these Wednesday evenings to, as Lucado has stated, "draw near to the Jesus who loves you just the way you are but refuses to leave you that way;" and, to "understand more clearly the heart of the One who would rather die for you than live without you. We can know not just facts about Jesus, but his heart, his joy, his passion, his pain, and his sorrows, and why he gave so much to save us." Lucado invites us to "Look long into the heart of

Christ and you will see more clearly the person you were created to be."

I am excited to walk this Lenten journey with you! May our times together be of special blessing to you...

In Christian love, Pastor Melanie

COUNCIL MINUTES



LWLC DECEMBER 19, 2022, COUNCIL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Vostad, Pastor Melanie, Marty Buttke, Dale Prisinger, Moe Reede, Steve Strege, Rhonda Beckman, Sandy Christiansen, Terry Forster, Tina Balling

OPENING: Pastor Melanie gave the opening prayer.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES: Gene will remain as president, Marty will be vice president and Tina as secretary. Dale and Marty will remain on the property & management, Steve and Sandy will be on the worship & evangelism and Rhonda and Moe will remain on the youth education committee.

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

APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY'S REPORT: Moe made a motion and it was seconded by Marty to approve the secretary's report. Motion carried.

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

Month of November	Beginning Balance (10/31/22)	Monthly Income plus interest	Monthly Expenses	Net Gain or Loss	Ending Balance (11/30/22)
General Fund	\$ 112,545.22	\$ 37,995.42	\$ 11,102.84	\$ 26,892.58	\$ 139,437.80
Dedicated Accounts	\$ 52,816.40	\$ 7,015.22	\$ 2,430.18	\$ 4,585.04	\$ 57,401.44
Building Fund	\$ 58,417.19	\$ 3,592.49	\$ -	\$ 3,592.49	\$ 62,009.68
Thrivent Financial (updated quarterly)	\$ 34,990.72	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,990.72
TOTAL CASH BALANCE					\$ 293,839.64

PASTOR'S REPORT: Continued prayers are asked for the confirmation students and teachers. We will try something new with communion to help with the flow. Motion was made by Steve and seconded by Moe to accept the Pastor's report. Motion carried.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: Marty and Dale reported that Pastor Melanie and Roger would like to place a manger by the three crosses. The piano bench needs some work. The fire extinguishers have been serviced.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: On the 7th the youth from LWLC combined with Central, American Lutheran and Valley Baptist. They went caroling and then played games and ate some goodies. A motion was made by Marty and seconded by Steve to approve the youth & education report. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Due to the fact that co-chairs could not be found for January's servant group, it was decided that we would combine January and February's groups. These two groups will serve for the two months. A suggested donation of \$10 would be greatly appreciated and would go toward the treats on Sunday mornings. Sign up sheets will be on the tables for all the other duties for the months. A procedure was put in place in the event we would feel it necessary to cancel Sunday worship services due to weather. A storage cabinet will be built in the north Sunday school room.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for January 11 at 7 PM.

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

COUNCIL MINUTES



LWLC JANUARY 11, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING

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

OPENING: Pastor Melanie gave the opening prayer.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Sandy made a motion and it was seconded by Moe to approve the secretary's report. Motion carried.

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

Month of December	Beginning Balance (11/30/22)	Monthly Income plus Interest	Monthly Expenses	Net Gain or Loss	Ending Balance (12/31/22)
General Fund	\$ 139,437.80	\$ 25,818.49	\$ 8,494.69	\$ 17,323.80	\$ 156,761.60
Dedicated Accounts	\$ 57,401.44	\$ 2,733.51	\$ 7,173.97	\$ (4,440.46)	\$ 52,960.98
Building Fund	\$ 62,009.68	\$ 2.63	\$ 3,400.00	\$ (3,397.37)	\$ 58,612.31
Thrivent Financial (updated quarterly)	\$ 34,990.72	\$ 851.00	\$ -	\$ 851.00	\$ 35,841.72
TOTAL CASH BALANCE					\$ 304,176.61

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor will hold a first communion class January 15. A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Dale to move confirmation to May 7. Motion carried. LWLW would like to form committees to help funerals/kitchen etc. duties run more smoothly. Rhonda made a motion and it was seconded by Marty to approve the impact committee's suggestion to designate the noisy change (up to \$7000) collected in January for the

construction of a well in Masingbi Sierra Leone. Motion carried. Motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Moe to accept the Pastor's report. Motion carried.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT REPORT: Marty and Dale reported that Tim DeJong has been hired for the janitorial job. A motion was made by Rhonda and seconded by Kelly to install a snow fence next winter to alleviate the snow build up in front of the doors. Moe made a motion and it was seconded by Kelly to approve the property & management report. Motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: The youth gathering was held at Pizza Hut where they played games and had food. They were joined by some area college students that shared how God continues to be an important part of their lives. A motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Steve to approve the youth & education report. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Steve shared the impact committee's board minutes. The board plans to have specific recipients for the noisy change collected each month. They hope to have a short presentation/speaker the Sunday before the collection to give information about the need for that month. The contract with Kelly Kutters was renewed for 2023. Council plans on taking down the Christmas tree 1-15-23. A motion was made by Sandy and seconded by Rhonda to conduct an annual review for employees of LWLC in October of each year. Motion carried.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for February 15 at 7 PM.

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

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 Searcher's bible study 3:30 Confirmation 6:30 Youth Group	2 9:00 Community Coffee	3	4
5 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion	6	7	8 9:30 Searcher's Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation	9 9:00 Community Coffee	10	11
12 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Noisy Change 11:00 Chapel Communion	13	14 9:00 Quilting	15 9:30 Searcher's Bible study 3:30 Confirmation 7:00 Council	16 9:00 Community Coffee	17	18
19 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 March Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship	20 Presidents' Day Church & Office Closed Newsletter items due	21 9:00 Faith Circle 10:30 Mary-Martha Circle 7:00 Love Circle	22 9:30 Searcher's Bible study 3:30 Confirmation	23 9:00 Community Coffee	24	25
26 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	27	28 9:00 Quilting				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Scott Leininger (b.)
5 Kaitlyn Brook (b.) Brenda Dahle (b.)	6 Rhonda Beckman (b.) Kurt & Jean Flaig (w.) Sullivan Nash (b.)	7 Julie Berger (b.)	8 Linda Larson (b.)	9	10	11
12 Marty Buttke (b.)	13 Rhonda Beckman (b.) Kurt & Jean Flaig (w.) Sullivan Nash (b.)	14 Julie Berger (b.)	15 Glenn & Joanne Nelson (w.) Robert Peizel (b.)	16	17 Kevin & Vicky Hedge (w.)	18 Theo Berdan (b.)
19 Kristi Schladweiler (b.)	20 Chad Bailhagen (b.) Rena & Timothy Ramsey (w.) Angela Varpness (b.)	21 Sally Heinje (b.)	22	23 Richard Kennedy (b.) Annette Redepenning (b.)	24 Jordan Busack (b.)	25