

LIVING WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

438.9672 CHURCH

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

St. Lucia Breakfast



Women of Living Word hosted their eighth annual St. Lucia Breakfast on December 10. Guests enjoyed traditional Swedish food, such as tea rings, fruit soup, Swedish rye bread, cheeses and ginger thin cookies along with music and inspirational readings, all by candlelight.

The program opened with a greeting and prayer by Pastor Melanie. Cailey Sime portrayed Lucia and served the first tea ring. The name Lucia means bringer of light and the legend shows her as a light of hope for all mankind, reminding us of the influence of the Gospel of Jesus as it can be lived through our lives.

The women who attended enjoyed the event and had the opportunity for fellowship and a peaceful time to prepare their hearts for Christmas. A hearty **THANK YOU** to all who helped in any way to make this an event that is looked forward to each year!



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New
Year!*

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from our **COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

I am pretty sure that over the past 12 months we have all been dealt something we wish had not happened during the year. It is not easy to forget some bad things that have happened or to remember some of the great things. With me the worst thing that could happen would be the passing of a family member or good friend. I am pretty sure we all have gone through that at least one time this past year and we will probably go through the same thing next year and the following years. Pastor Kent left our congregation and now we are searching for a new pastor to lead our church. I remember that prior to Pastor Kent's arrival we were looking for a

new pastor. Once we get a new pastor, we realize that he or she will also leave some day. The point I'm making is that things happen that we don't like are going to happen over and over again and that like it or not, we have to deal with it.

I have found that praying about these things don't always change what has happened but sure helps me to deal with it. In the meantime I plan to pray for God to help us through all things that happen and guide us in the direction he wants us to go.

As we move forward, I wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gene Vostad, Council President

CHURCH COUNCIL REORGANIZED

After their installation on Sunday, December 11, newly elected members of the church council joined other council members on December 19 to organize for the coming year. The officer and committee assignments are as follows:

PRESIDENT – Gene Vostad

VICE PRESIDENT – Marty Buttke

SECRETARY – Tina Balling

TREASURER – Kelly Peterson

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – Marty Buttke and Dale Prisinger

Worship and Evangelism – Steve Strege and Sandy Christensen

YOUTH AND EDUCATION – Moe Reede and Rhonda Beckman

NEW PROCESS FOR SERVING HOLY COMMUNION

There have been several requests to try some slight changes as we serve **HOLY COMMUNION**. A new pattern has been drawn in which all people of the two center sections will access the rail through the center aisle. The two outer sections will follow with direction of the ushers to come forward by their inside aisle. All people will return to their pews via the outside aisle of their particular section. With the help of the ushers, we are hoping to make this a simple plan. We will give this method a trial period of a couple of months (we can always go back to the former way if it isn't satisfactory). It seems to be worthy of a try. Thank you for your understanding and willingness to give this a try.

MISSION BOARD REPORT

During the month of November, we began our mission project to help Michael Sanchez, evangelist and church planter from Clark, SD, with his mission work of sharing the good news of salvation with Hispanic dairy workers throughout eastern South Dakota. Pastor Sanchez presently lives in Clark, SD and in order to help them more effectively he needs to move from Clark to Bryant, SD where his church, *Gospel of Fire of Bryant*, is located. There was no housing to be purchased in Bryant, so he bought a house for \$8,500 in Arlington. It cost \$23,000 to move it to Bryant and he needs to add an addition to the main floor and a basement for a total of approximately \$120,000. Not only will he and his family live there, he hopes to provide temporary lodging for immigrants and fellow missionaries as they establish themselves in the community. Pastor Sanchez receives no financial help from his churches that he establishes, he supports himself by doing construction work and teaching martial art classes in addition to his mission duties.

Our mission project to help Pastor Sanchez was very successful. We donated \$9,050 to support his work. The LWLC Mission Board is amazed, awed and so proud of the financial generosity our church as given. As Paul said to Timothy in 1Tim 6: 17-18 *"As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."*

The board thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for your support with this project. We have a couple more projects that we will introduce in 2023 that will offer you the opportunity to share your blessings with others. We also want to remind you to give to those projects out of your generosity that speak to you because you feel called to do so, not because you have to.



WOMEN OF THE LIVING WORD

Happy New Year!

May 2023 be filled with wonderful opportunities for us to serve our Lord by serving others locally and around the world.

I THANK GOD for the amazing women in LWLW that so willingly give of their time and talents in many ways throughout the year. They lovingly quilt, care for our Living Word family that are shut-ins and in care centers, helping our youth with Bible camp costs, providing warm winter wear with the mitten tree and many more opportunities throughout the year. We are Lutheran Women in Mission for Christ!

Our **THREE CIRCLES** meet the third Tuesday of every month at 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. We welcome all women of Living Word to join us at one of the times that fits your schedule for Bible Study and Christian fellowship each month.

The LWLW **GENERAL MEETING** that was scheduled

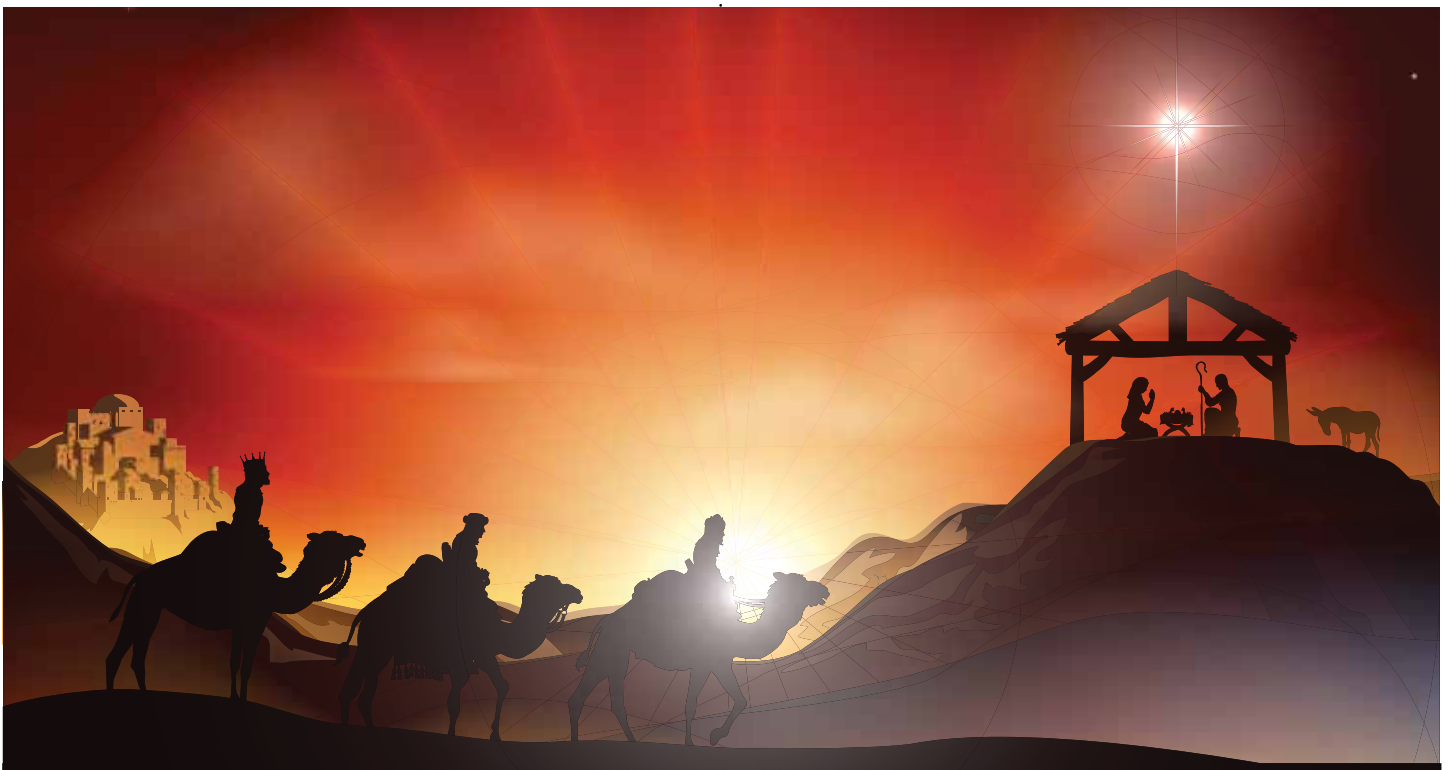


in December has been rescheduled for January 10 at 2:00 PM. Pastor Melanie will be leading us in a special Christmas Bible Study. Please bring 1/2 doz. Christmas goodies to share for our lunch. I pray that our weather will cooperate and you'll all be able to join us that day.

Dear Lord, help us to live and serve and meditate upon your Word in this new year according to your will by the power of your holy Son, Jesus Christ.

May God bless all of you according to His Love and Grace this New Year.

Sue DeJong, 2023 LWLW Coordinator



SERVANT TEAMS FOR 2023

We have experienced a challenge in that no one has accepted the position as Chairman/Co-chairman for the servant team for January.

After long discussion, the council decided to try something different for the first two months of 2023. Everyone on the January and February servant team is being asked for a donation of \$10 per family. No one will need to bake or provide treats. Rolls and breakfast pizza will be ordered from Casey's for each Sunday.

The following assistance is needed from the

combined January/February group:

- Someone to pick up the rolls and pizza on Sunday morning
- Someone to start the coffee (put out plates and napkins) each Sunday
- Someone to be the coordinator of serving should there be a funeral during these two months.

There are sign-up sheets on the table in the narthex. Your participation in this new idea is appreciated. Again, both January and February servant teams are asked to participate. Thank you!

JANUARY SERVANT TEAM

Anderson, Paul & Jen
Balling, Bernie & Tina
Brook, Larry & Peggy
Dahle, Rita
Dornbusch, Kevin & Renae
Kalber, Daniel & Lenore
Keeton, Susan
Larson, Bruce & Linda
Loeschke, Mark & Darla
Ramsey, Tim & Rena
Sandvig, Brian & Janel
Schell, Lisa
Sime, Kent & Susan
Steltz, Joel
Veen, Charles & Nadine
Weinkauf, Deven & Jessica

FEBRUARY SERVANT TEAM

Bien, Lance & Sheila
Brown, Gerald & Sharon
Colberg, Lillian
Foster, Carol
Gullickson, Darrel & Cheryl
Gustafson, John
Hedge, Kevin & Vicky
Kinder, Robert & Mary
Kruger, David
Liebe, Chuck & Evie Nelson
Nelson, Glenn & Joanne
Redepenning, Doug & Annette
Reich, Matt
Strege, Steve & Vicki
Weber, Kyle & Gretchen
Wilprecht, Eileen

PASTOR'S LETTER



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY OF LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH,

Happy New Year! As I write this, we are still “enjoying” the blizzard which just may be ending by Christmas Eve. Nonetheless, we are welcoming a New Year with all the promise it holds — all because of Jesus coming into the world as our Savior!

Christian theologian, C.S. Lewis once said that “Christianity is a religion that you could not have guessed. It is not the sort of thing that anyone would. That the Almighty would humble Himself and become a human being in order to suffer and die on a cross to bring new life to His own creation, well who would have thought it? How odd of God.” Having just come through the Advent season and the celebration of Christmas, we too, have to be amazed, once again, that God would humble Himself to send us a Savior.

Yet, it is here that Christians are distinct from other religions

of the world, we have a Savior! All religions of the world, other than Christianity, place salvation on the shoulders of human beings.

As we begin our times of worship together in the New Year, it will all begin on New Year’s Day, January 1, when we celebrate the coming of the Wisemen — the Epiphany — the sudden realization about the nature or meaning of

something. Jesus was for Luke an epiphany, an appearance of God. For Matthew, it was an appearance of God that enabled him to see the Light, to see what God is doing.

As Christians, the New Year brings us a renewed epiphany. We are to be that Light in today’s world so that all people will come to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Let’s make being the Light, in every way possible, our primary New Year’s resolution!

May it be so!

*In Christian love,
Pastor Melanie Reiners*



January 2023

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/noisy change	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 February Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kelly Peterson (b.)	Joanne Schmig (b.)			Grayson Brotzel (b.) Gretchen Weber (b.)	Jason DeJong (b.) Gary Meister (b.)	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Orgene & Karen McCreia (w.)	Taylor Bailing (b.) Shaylee Pekelder (b.) Dale Prisinger (b.)	Craig Randleman (b.)		Sue DeJong (b.) David Kloster (b.)	Paul & Jennifer Anderson (w.)	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
				Larry & Peggy Brook (w.)		Ron Anderson (b.) Jason McMahon (b.)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Randy Dockter (b.)		Larry & Pat O'Farrell (w.) Carolyn Randleman (b.)			Jamie Pekelder (b.)	
29	30	31				