

LIVING WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

438.9672 CHURCH

JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER



The month of June brought two baptisms to Living Word Lutheran Church. In the top picture, Kohen Dale Cramer was baptized on June 11. Kohen's parents are Zachary & Emily Cramer (left) and his sponsors are Jessica Weinkauf and Samuel Jarman (right). Grandparents are Kevin and Renae Dornbusch. In the bottom picture, Caleb Gean Plaga was baptized on June 18. Caleb's parents are Brad and Nicole Plaga (left) and his sponsors are Jeremy Hepper, Ryan Hepper and Ashley Plaga (right). Grandparents are Dave and Mary Hepper.



BAPTISMS

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THANK YOU



THANK YOU to Jerry & Sharon Brown for the beautiful rose bush in front of the church.

I want to thank everybody that supported me at my Eagle. There were more people there than I thought would be. Thanks to the council for approving the fire pit. I can't wait to use it. I want to thank members that gave me support and encouragement. Thanks for letting me use the church for my ceremony. It was nice. The pit looks great and with the benches, tools, wood and supplies it will hopefully be used by members and even family events.

Thank you!
Gabe Beckman

ON MY HONOR



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A NEW BOARD

Over the years I've had the opportunity to serve on more than one church council, the school board and some other boards for oversight etc. The one area that I become a little lost in has to do with accounting. As an example, I have been asked what happens to money that is given to the church for a particular cause such as supporting VBS, church camps, etc. Those types of questions aren't too hard and I say that the money is placed in that account when it is given and spent at the appropriate time based on direction from the church council or one of the persons designated to authorize expenditures from that account. If the expenditure is over \$500 it requires approval by the church council. These approvals most often take place at our monthly council meetings or by an e-mail request and approval by council members. If you give money for a particular item, it is pretty likely to be spent in the manner you have designated provided it is activity the council, on behalf of the congregation, is in approval. If the gift is for the general fund, the council pays the general bills out of this account as well as uses these moneys to pay for other things budgeted for. The council establishes a new budget each year and follows the budget to make sure we have enough money to operate the rest of the year. This seems to work.

Up until the last few years we were able to operate within the budget but did not have an excess of funds to deal with. As a result, the money was kept in our bank account with enough of a balance to keep us operating for the year. Since inception Living Word Lutheran Church has been fortunate to be the recipient of generous donations through its members and those visiting our church. In the past some of the donations have been in the form of a trust with a certain amount of the trust to be spent

on various activities identified by the benefactor. This too seems to be working well.

The church has also been fortunate in receiving the grounds the church is located on as a gift, with most recently receiving additional grounds that are available when the church decides to additional building. Most recently Living Word Lutheran Church has been the recipient of a donation to be used for new construction or maintenance of our church facilities.

Where all of these gifts become a little fuzzy is not today or tomorrow but in a few years. By that time the church council has turned over at least one time and the original purpose of the gift has had been misplaced. Time to find out, but who do you ask? The funds have been invested and where are they?

The church council has recognized this situation and has appointed a board of three persons to oversee the expenditures, investment etc. of these gifts. It seems like most people know a person that is willing to invest money for us. We felt that the persons on this board should be made up of people that are familiar with safe investing and have been successful over the years with investing. We have asked Dave Hepper, Scott Maas and Paul Anderson to sit on this board to direct investments, track investments and direct spending. In addition to the three we would include the church treasurer to be a non-voting member of the board. This board will be able to track the progress of all the investments and trusts and be able to report on at least a semi-annual basis to the church council. Along with normal church financial activities, these accounts would also be subject to audit.

Thanks to the Lord and all that he does through you.

Gene Vostad, Council President

FUN AT THE LAKE



BOATING

PONTOON RIDES

SWIMMING



GAMES

HOT DOGS,

CHIPS,

BARS, SMORES



VOSTAD CABIN AT FISH HAVEN

SUNDAY JULY 16 AT 3:30

BRING LAWN CHAIRS

EVERYONE WELCOME

SIGN UP SHEET ON TABLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

TO HELP WITH A COUNT FOR FOOD

EVANGELISM CORNER

GREETINGS CHURCH FRIENDS!

As a first-year church council member serving on the evangelism and worship committee, I've been studying more about just what evangelism means. I hear the word often in church, read about it in articles and truthfully, have thought it to be defined as "preaching" or talking to people about God. What I didn't understand was a person doesn't have to be an "Evangelist" to practice "evangelism."

Pastor Melanie's sermon a couple weeks ago really brought this home to me. VBS had concluded that week and it was a total success with approximately 36 kids enrolled. She noted this and explained how everyone, young and old, is capable of performing acts of evangelism. This year's theme was "Shine Jesus' Light", and the kids were encouraged to shine that light daily just as Jesus did; by shining hope, love and forgiveness to everyone in their life.

As adults, we also need to remember this simple, evangelical objective, "Shine Jesus' Light." That can be achieved in everything we do and everywhere we are; work, community, family, etc. Every single person has gifts and abilities God blessed them with and when these talents are shared in acts people do, God is being glorified. The Christian gospel is being

spread and that equals Evangelism! Jesus' light is shining through us, His children.

Yes, it takes wanting to serve, an active effort in finding ways to use your blessings from God and a committed purpose to creating a lifestyle centered around that but it is easier to achieve than people think. Did you know there are 5 P's of evangelism? Yes, and they are a guide to how a person brings evangelism alive.

PRIORITY – decide that evangelism is important and identify ways your talents can be used.

PRAY – ask God to place evangelical opportunities into your daily life allowing you to see and act upon.

PEOPLE – look around and identify people in need.

PROCLAIM – explain more than preach, of how acts of kindness, hope, forgiveness and joy performed make God come alive.

PERSEVERANCE – never give up! The world is a very big place and evangelism begins with ONE. ONE person, ONE act, ONE prayer, ONE connection and ONE success.

So, friends, I ask "How do you practice evangelism? How do you Shine Jesus' Light?"

God bless, **Sandy Christensen**,
Worship & evangelism council member

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 Redepening, 432-6688

Mission Action: Gloria Cooley, 445-1555

Mission Growth: Karen McCrea, 432-6335

Mission Community:

Advisor: Susan Vostad, 434-1825

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

WOMEN OF THE LIVING WORD

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.

Ecc. 3:1

SUMMER! My favorite time of the year!

I pray that all of you are enjoying these longer days. May they be filled with much laughter, love and fun activities.

Our Faith/Mary Martha Circle invites the congregation to **GENE AND SUSAN VOSTAD'S LAKE HOME** on July 16, starting at 3:30 PM, for an enjoyable evening on the pontoon, games and a cookout. Please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall for them to plan for the food. Also, please bring your lawn chairs. This will be the LWLW July General Meeting.

The women of the word **2023 FALL GATHERING** will be held on Saturday, September 16 in Springfield, MN. The cost is only \$20. Please consider attending. I would love to fill my van with anyone that would like to attend!



Thank you to all who donated items for **ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN HYGIENE KITS**. Several members assembled 26 kits to be dispersed to individuals wherever needed.

Also, thank you for the many donations received for the **BEACON CENTER** in Watertown during the month of June. Those items will be taken directly to them.

We will be collecting items for **SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS** in July and August. We welcome donations from anyone in our congregation. The completed kits will be shared with OGT to disperse where needed.

May God's Joy and Peace be yours.

In Christ's Service,
Sue DeJong, LWLW Coordinator



ALWM INTERNATIONAL

DEAR FRIENDS OF ALWM INT'L,

Sally & I are stateside after a fruitful trip to Cambodia & Vietnam, our first time since 2019. Thank you for your prayers, as we continue to see people coming to Christ through our ministries in both countries! Lots of highlights to share in our next newsletter, due out late July. For now, here are a few photos, calls to prayer and calls to action. It's always about people and relationships, like part of our Vital Links team in Vietnam (below) & some emerging young leaders in Cambodia **(1)** Pictured right **(2)** are three young Muslim girls who were at the Preh Vihear Mission School dedication May 26, and will also be students when we open in August! Below **(3)** them is one of our Gospel House kids from Ho Chi Minh City!

This is my favorite photo **(4)** from the dedication, which had 200+ attending! Pastor Sam's Preh Vihear Church members stayed afterward to pray for the ministry of the new school in the lives of students and families in the months and years ahead. For more pictures, videos and info visit alwm.org/dedication.

Pigs for Pastors **(5)** is our new project in Laos, in partnership with Pastor Tom & Deuane Thorstad & Heart for Mission, our ALWM ministry there. Simple and creative way to make a life changing difference.

Cambodia Computer Lab Needed! **(6)**. Local education leaders surprised Pastor Sam as they asked us to teach middle school students, thereby adding computer basics, English, Korean, and Chinese to our Bible teaching and full curriculum! So, we are asking the Lord to provide \$6000 for 12 Lenovo Thinkpads (left). Non-profits can buy them refurbished much cheaper here Sam can get a Lenovo fixed for free by a friend!

The young pastor of Khanh Hiep Church **(7)**, in Vietnam's central highlands worships 200 weekly. There are four ethnic groups in the church, all reached within the last generation, including the E-de people who are now 80% Christian! They desperately need a water filtration system like **(8)** this because the well water is contaminated. For just \$975 we can install a system like the one here, giving clean water for church members and hundreds in the surrounding village for years to come! It's part of our Clean Water - Living Water Ministry.

Summer ministry in Belarus (Pastor Valery & his team) **(9)** and in Laos (Pastor Tom & Deuane Thorstad continues, with the Cambodia Youth Camp coming in August. We speak at LCMC Texas (July 28-29) and the NALC Convocation (Aug 8-11 in OKC).

Our operational income is still running about \$5000+ behind this same time in 2022. God is providing for life changing projects like the school, youth conference, water ministry and much more! We trust Him for operational support, so our expanding ministry to continue and to grow. We are currently revamping the website to reflect the growth and ministry of ALWM International! Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel in prayer and support! To God be the Glory!

In Christ for the nations,
Rev. Bill Moberly, Founder & Director of ALWM
Director of Vital Links, a ministry of ALWM
Co-Founder & Editor of Celebrating Global Mission
(CGMmag.com)



MISSION BOARD MINUTES



LWLC JUNE 15, 2023, MISSION BOARD MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Melanie Reiners, Linda Anderson, Gloria Cooley, Tim and Sue DeJong, Steve and Vicki Strege.

THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED:

1. It was reported that a total of \$5,039.49 was collected thus far this year for the **NOISY CHANGE OFFERING** with the offerings given to the following missions: **January** for Central Global Vision Fund Inc: \$2,660.99. **February** for Ukraine: \$726.99 via Samaritan's Purse. **March** for Turkey: \$443.25 via Samaritan's Purse. **April** for The Beacon Center \$179.56. **May** for The Alpha Center \$483.70.

2. **JULIE SMUDE** was contacted and informed the board that she was continuing in her mission work in Thailand. She is able to take a leave this summer and will be coming to speak at our church on July 16. LWLC will be providing her with hotel accommodations and we will take her out to lunch after the church service. She also expressed an interest in visiting with church members during the coffee hour. We will be setting out a basket to collect an offering for her mission work and we will continue to support her mission work with noisy change offerings as well as a line item on the benevolence section of the church budget. We need to be sure to make the congregation aware that she is coming and that we will be taking up a collection for her.

3. We will follow our regular schedule of **NOISY CHANGE OFFERINGS** for the rest of the year as follows:

June: Call to Freedom

July: Mercy Meals

August: Fellowship of Christian Athletes

September: The orphanage in Sierra Leone

October: Mission work of Pastor Bill Moberly

November: Operation Christmas Child

December: (We will leave this open for now and if we have a new pastor by then we will be able to include his suggestion)

4. **PASTOR BILL MOBERLY** will be coming to LWLC on Oct. 8 to share information about his mission work. We plan to have a mission festival type of service and meal that day to give Pastor Bill the opportunity to meet with the congregation. We also discussed the possibility of supporting members of our church who are interested in traveling with Pastor Bill to Vietnam in the spring and summer of 2024.

5. We discussed the possibility of supporting a speaker at MHS to talk about **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**. Sandy Christensen stopped by the meeting and said she would check into this matter.

6. It was reported that the \$5,000 that was taken out of the **MISSION BUDGET** to match the collection for Michael Sanchez in October was returned to the mission fund after the request to return it was made to the council at the June meeting thus making the total of the mission board at \$10,301.51 as of June 15, 2023.

7. The **MISSION BOARD** was also informed by the council that if they were giving \$500 or more in mission aid it must be approved by the council. This is just a balance and check process.

8. The mission board needs to prepare a set of guidelines for the operation and expenditures of the mission board that will be presented to the council for approval. They will be helpful to promote fair operations of the mission board. This is a work in progress now.

9. The **NEXT MISSION BOARD MTG** is set for Aug. 3, 2023, at 1:30 PM the meeting was adjourned.

PASTOR'S LETTER



FREEDOM

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY OF LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH:

In the next week, we will be celebrating our July 4th, Independence Day! We are so blessed to live in this free country, especially a country in which we are able to worship freely. Every day in the news, we hear of things that seem to be a threat to the freedom this country has known since its birth in 1776. We are thankful that our democracy has survived so well for almost 250 years.

As I was reflecting on "freedom" this week, of course, my thoughts turned to the freedom we have in Christ Jesus. No matter what happens in any other part of our life, our relationship with Jesus Christ is the one single thing that offers us true freedom.

As we approach the 4th of July, let us reflect on just a few of the many Biblical references to "freedom."

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17 *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and*

where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

JOHN 8:36 *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

GALATIANS 5:13 *For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

GALATIANS 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

JOHN 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

As we celebrate the July 4th holiday again this year, let us turn our thoughts to the freedom we have in Jesus and let us celebrate the promise we have of life eternal with him.

*In Christian love, **Pastor Melanie***

COUNCIL MINUTES



LWLC JUNE 14, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Vostad, Pastor Melanie, Steve Strege, Marty Buttke, Dale Prisinger, Kelly Peterson, Sandy Christensen, Tina Balling. Also present were Vicki Strege and Cory Hooth MPD.

OPENING: Pastor gave the devotion and opening prayer.

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

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

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

Month of May	Beginning Balance (4/30/23)	Monthly Income plus Interest	Monthly Expenses	Net Gain or Loss	Ending Balance (5/31/23)
General Fund	\$ 184,149.12	\$ 27,054.72	\$ 11,394.61	\$ 15,660.11	\$ 199,809.23
Dedicated Accounts	\$ 57,516.02	\$ 2,146.84	\$ 15,540.60	\$ (13,393.76)	\$ 44,122.26
Building Fund	\$ 47,983.35	\$ 500,311.50	\$ 1,220.84	\$ 499,090.66	\$ 547,074.01
Thrivent Financial (updated quarterly)	\$ 36,735.78	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,735.78
TOTAL CASH BALANCE					\$ 827,741.28

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor thanked living word for all the gifts that were given to the people of Sierra Leone. There have been three funerals and four baptisms. Living word also hosted VBS with 36 children signed up. It was a very positive experience for all. Bottles of water with a message taped to them were distributed during the food give away. Kelly made a motion to accept the pastor's report and it was seconded by Marty. Motion carried.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: Marty and Dale reported one of the AC units blew a compressor and had to be replaced. Some of the trim/siding is popping off of the nails. They will be screwed on to hold better. A chair lift will be purchased to make moving stacks of chairs around easier. They will look at getting Plunkets out to address the ant problem. Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Sandy to approve the property and management report. Motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM: Sandy will try to include an "Evangelism Corner" in the monthly newsletter. Kelly made a motion and it was seconded by Steve to approve the worship and evangelism report. Motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: Included elsewhere
OLD BUSINESS: The money was moved from the liquid CD to the investments on the broker CD as recommended by Dave Hepper and Scott Maas for the 12,18,24 and 48 month terms.

NEW BUSINESS: Cory Hooth spoke to the council about various safety scenarios and the importance of having a plan in place and to always be observant of our surroundings and anything out of place. Vicki Strege asked the council to have funds returned to the impact fund that should have been taken from the general (evangelism) fund for the Michael Sanchez fundraiser. Steve made a motion, and it was seconded by Marty. Motion carried. Pastor Swanson and his wife will be here the weekend of June 24 to visit the church and community. Details are being worked out. The call committee also interviewed another candidate over zoom the June 13. Steve made a motion, and it was seconded by Dale to propose a position of business manager for the church. Motion carried. Detailed job descriptions will be written for office staff.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for July 12 at 7 PM.

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

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	3 4 Independence Day Church & Office Closed	5 9:00 Quilting	6 7:00 Council	7 9:00 Community Fellowship	8	
9 9:00 Worship/noisy change 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Chapel Communion	10 11 9:00 Quilting	12 7:00 Council	13 9:00 Community Fellowship	14	15	
16 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 August Servant Team meets	17 18 9:00 Faith Circle meets 7:00 Love Circle meets	19	20 9:00 Community Fellowship	21 Newsletter items due	22	
23 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	24 25 9:00 Quilting	26	27 9:00 Community Fellowship	28	29	
30 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Sheila Bien (b.) Jeffrey Buttke (b.) Pat O'Farrell (b.)
2 Sharon Hyde (b.)	3 4 Deb Buttke (b.) Will Pekkelder (b.)	5 Randy & Lori Dockter (w.) Sam Wilson (b.)	6 Betty Kloster (b.)	7 Jeffrey & Julie Berger (w.)	8 Tim De Jong (b.) Charles Heinje (b.) Deven Weinkauff (b.)	
9 Amanda & Adam McMahon (w.)	10 11 Aaron & Teresa Meister (w.)	12 Terry & Heidi Meister (w.)	13 Lance & Sheila Bien (w.)	14 Sharon Brown (b.) Roger Hansen (b.)	15 Beverly Zeigler (b.)	
16 Nancy Kruger (b.)	17 25 Stephanie Hansen (b.)	19 26 Stephanie Hansen (b.)	20 Peggy Brook (b.) Bailey Nolting (b.)	21 Jacqueline Redepenning (b.)	22 Abbey De Jong (b.) Bud Remund (b.)	
23	24		27 Brittany Heinje (b.) Daria Loeschke (b.) Mark Loeschke (b.) Mason Meister (b.) Martin & Shirley Schmidt (w.)	28	29 Alec Bien (b.) Steve & Vicki Strege (w.) Jessica Van Peursem (b.)	
30	31 Jaxon Berger (b.) Larry Brook (b.)					