

LIVING WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

438.9672 CHURCH

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

By the time the March newsletter gets to most of us, we will have survived the blizzard and be ready for the next one? Anyway, I am assuming we all will make the best of it. There are some exciting things happening at our church. I am excited to think that we may soon have a full time pastor. I expect that we will know the final answer to that within the next month. In the mean time I am thankful for having Pastor Melanie.

During one of the meetings with the call committee the question came up as to what are our plans going forward regarding a second pastor. The long term plan would be to get to the point that we have two full time pastors. (That was where we were headed prior to the departure of Pastor Kent.) At that time we were looking for a youth pastor to work in conjunction with Pastor Kent. It so happens that the candidate that the call committee felt was most viable for our congregation is very interested in working with youth. Should Pastor Andrew accept our call, we would then consider hiring a second full time pastor that would work more with the senior members of the church. It can be a simple working relationship or a complicated one. That is up to the two pastors that may be involved, members of the congregation and the church council. Everyone has

to work together. My opinion is that it can be done and work well. For right now, I think our priority should be to get a full time pastor on board.

Should Pastor Andrew accept our call, Pastor Melanie has agreed to stay on up to a year to fulfill the duties that Pastor Andrew needs help with and help him get started on the right foot.

I want to thank Nancy Kruger for the work she does in putting together the newsletters. They have been professionally done and fun to read. Nancy has indicated that she has other obligations that are taking her time but has agreed to assist with the newsletter on an every other month basis. The plan going forward is that Nancy will assist with the newsletter for the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November. We are still planning to have newsletters for the other months so the congregation will continue to be informed. Sandy Christensen has agreed to work with Lisa to produce the newsletter during the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. Nancy has assisted with the publication of this newsletter.



SPRING IS ON THE WAY??!!
Gene Vostad, Council President

**WHAT'S
INSIDE**



LWLC Family
Asia Mission Trip
Women of the Living Word

Camp Okoboji
Pastor's Letter
Council Minutes

March Event Calendar
March Birth/Ann. Calendar

LWLC FAMILY



Marlin Fenner with puzzle pictures he made for the church.

OUR YOUTH ARE IMPORTANT

We just want to thank all the parents that have given support for our youth. We have had some great conversations and even better suggestions. We have put out information for summer camps and hope that many are able to go. If you need assistance, please let the church know. We are planning a skating event in town and a movie night one Sunday evening. Please check emails and our Facebook page for updates.

Thanks again for attending and please continue to share ideas and suggestions!

Rhonda Beckman
Moe Reede
Youth & Education

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:

Advisor: *Susan Vostad*, 434-1825

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



**2023 SE
Asia
MISSION
TRIP!**

**Vietnam
May 31 -June 14**

Cambodia
May 24 -31**

****2 WEEK OPTION TO
CAMBODIA / VIETNAM**

*“Great trip,
and the work
in Cambodia
and Vietnam
was
awesome!”
team member*



**COST: \$1295 +
Int’l Airfare + visa**

- 📍 Gospel Kids Orphanages
- 📍 Medical - Evangelism – Reading glass Outreach in rural villages
- 📍 College Student Outreach Conference with InterVarsity C.F.
- 📍 Teach conversational English to nurses
- 📍 Medical Professionals needed for professional workshops with the Vietnamese Nurses Association



**Visit Cambodia to serve
Pastor Sam & his team
Preh Vihear, Youth
Conference & Eye Glass
ministry (\$800 + visa)**

For more Information and
**optional 2 week Cambodia
& Vietnam write
missionshelp@alwm.org or
visit alwm.org

WOMEN OF THE LIVING WORD

The winds continue to blow and the snow comes down, but the **WOMEN OF LIVING WORD** are still busy with the activities of the church.

We look forward to **VISITING** some of our special friends who are shut in as the activity for the month of March. We will meet at the church next Tuesday, March 7 and divide into groups to go to the facilities and homes in Milbank where our members that can't get out are living. Following the visiting we will return to the church for devotions and lunch. We are asking all women of the church to join in this mission whether you regularly attend circles. All of you are a welcome part of the ministry of our women.

We also look forward to seeing each of you at the **PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BRUNCH** on March 19. There will be a sign up sheet on the table in the fellowship hall so you can sign up to help with this event. Supplemental funds have been received from Thrivent and all money raised will be used to help our campers with their expenses. March 19 has



turned into a camper Sunday as a representative from the Camps at Lake Okoboji will be here that day too.

The **CIRCLES** are helping to serve the Lenten suppers. Love circle will be serving barbecues on March 8, faith circle will serve pork loin on March 22 and the circles will work together to serve a ham supper on March 29. This is always a fun time of sharing.

Living Word vice-coordinator
Marcia Heinje

**ALL
LW WOMEN
ARE INVITED**
TO AN AFTERNOON OF
VISITING OUR MEMBERS AT
CARE-CENTERS

AND THOSE
SHUT-IN

LET'S REACH OUT
MARCH 7 **2 PM**
MEET AT THE CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW
DEVOTIONS **LUNCH**

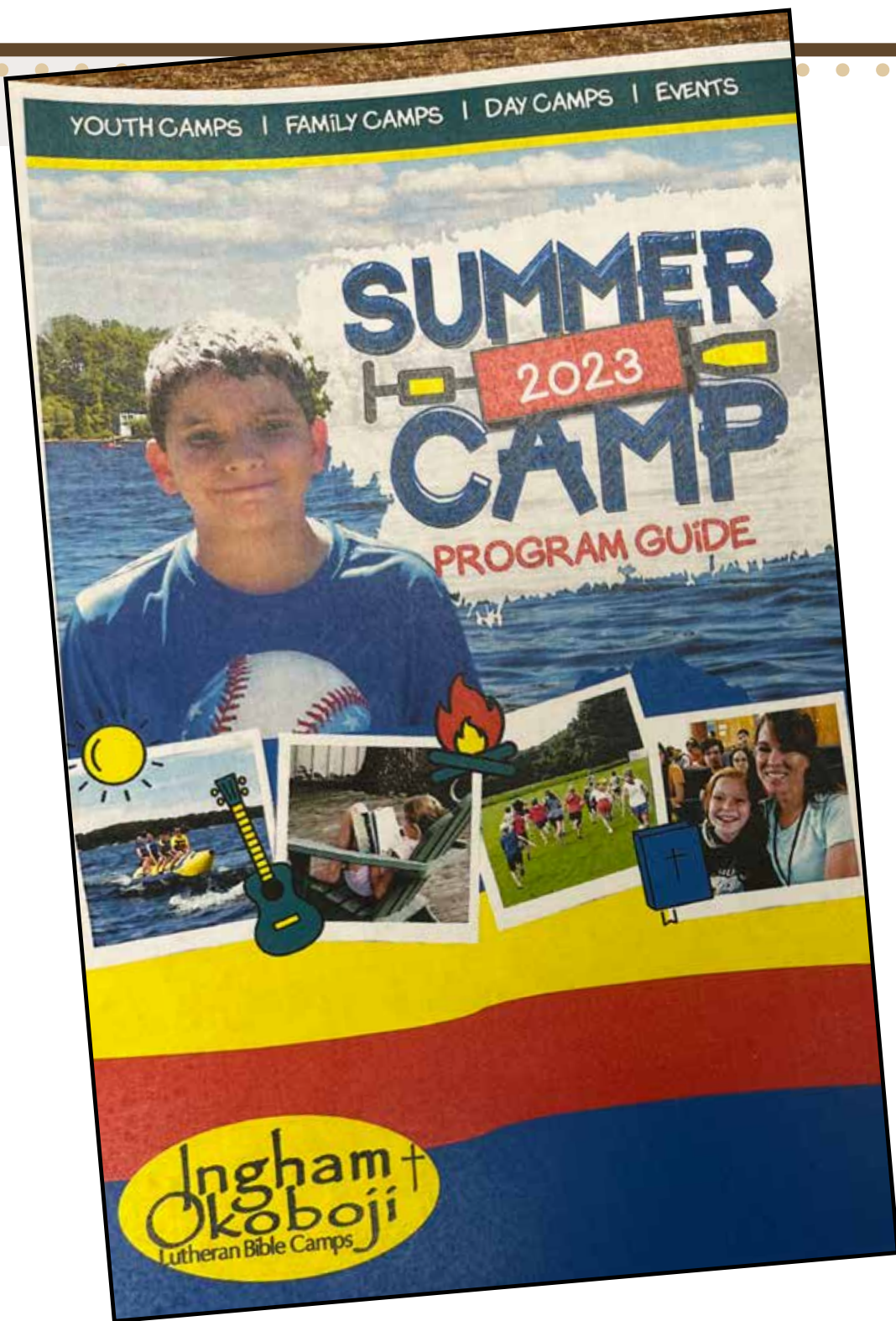


**PANCAKE
AND
SAUSAGE BRUNCH**

**BIBLE CAMP
FUNDRAISER
FOR LIVING WORD
YOUTH**

MARCH 19 **11-1PM**
SPONSORED BY
**LIVING WORD WOMEN
AND THRIVENT FINANCIAL**

YOUTH



Camp Sunday with Pancake Meal

Sunday, March 19, serving from 11 AM – 1 PM

A representative from Ingham Okoboji will be present to visit with youth.

PASTOR'S LETTER



In the Footsteps of the Savior

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY AT LIVING WORD,

My words to you are being written on Ash Wednesday — I had hoped to share the evening with you, but the weather definitely changed our plans. We will plan to incorporate as much of the Ash Wednesday service as possible into our next times together as we come to Holy Communion again on March 5 and throughout our mid-week Lenten gatherings.

As I prepared for our mid-week services, I ordered two video series from which I would choose to focus our times together. I immediately received word that one of the studies was on hold as it was not yet released. And then, just when I was a bit disappointed, a package arrived — it was the desired basis for Lent. We will be following the path of Jesus from the *Cradle to the Cross* through the use of Lucado's newest study, *"In the Footsteps of the Savior."*

The six-session study takes us on an inspirational journey with Jesus. We hear of his ministry, his teaching and healing; we will hear of the challenges he faced and his victorious mission as he went to the cross for us.

I hope you will join us each week — Wednesday evenings will begin with a meal at 5:30 followed by worship at 6:30. Consideration is being given in that it is a "school night" so the goal will be no more than 40 to 45 minutes for the service. It should be a great time of reflection and worship for all ages.

OTHER THOUGHTS

The amazing attendance numbers at our worship on Sunday, February 19, did not go without notice. We are praying that within the next weeks, we will be able to announce the acceptance of a *Letter of Call* by the young family who visited with us that day. I just want to encourage all of you to continue to bring your children to church and give direction to the programs we are ready to make available for all ages — we just need the children here and some volunteering from the families. We are somewhat on the edge of a revival and a return to the churches we adults remember from our own childhood. Let's make that a priority for our children again today! If you are willing to assist us, we will seek to provide inspiring activities for all of our Living Word young people. Thank you to those who have attended the two Sunday morning listening times during which we have heard some of your wishes as we move forward. If you were unable to join in those sessions, please don't hesitate to call, email, or stop by the church office so that we can respond to your ideas. In Christian love,

*In Christian love,
Pastor Melanie
Interim Pastor*

COUNCIL MINUTES



LWLC FEBRUARY 15, 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 and Susan Sime.

OPENING: Pastor Melanie gave the opening prayer. Susan shared with the council some of her concerns on Sunday school attendance and lack of a middle school teacher.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Rhonda 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 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 Marty. Motion carried.

Month of January	Beginning Balance (12/31/22)	Monthly Income plus Interest	Monthly Expenses	Net Gain or Loss	Ending Balance (1/31/23)
General Fund	\$ 156,761.60	\$ 16,748.78	\$ 19,147.57	\$ (2,398.79)	\$ 154,362.81
Dedicated Accounts	\$ 52,787.66	\$ 3,214.03	\$ 404.12	\$ 2,809.91	\$ 55,597.57
Building Fund	\$ 58,612.31	\$ 1.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (9,999.00)	\$ 48,613.31
Thrivent Financial (updated quarterly)	\$ 35,841.72	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,841.72
TOTAL CASH BALANCE					\$ 294,415.41

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor reported that the ear clip for her microphone needs to be replaced. Motion was made by Marty and seconded by Sandy to replace the ear clip. Lent starts next week with Ash Wednesday February 22. Pastor suggested people could bring in Easter flowers for an Easter "garden". Four young men will be confirmed May 7. Pastor Melanie will be gone for a few weeks after

confirmation. She will be going back to Sierra Leone. Motion was made by Moe and seconded by Steve to accept the Pastor's report. Motion carried.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: Marty and Dale reported that a new faucet/sprayer has been installed in the kitchen. Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Moe to approve the property and management report. Motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM: Helpers for the potluck February 19 have been lined up. March servant team can decide whether to bring money to buy treats or bring treats for Sunday coffee hour. Motion was made by Marty and seconded by Dale to approve the worship and evangelism report. Motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: The youth gathered at Pizza Hut on February 1. They ate, played games and had a time of devotion. A motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Sandy to give \$25/month toward the cost of the food. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: The tables and cabinets have been installed and look wonderful.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made by Sandy and seconded by Rhonda to allow a baby shower to be held at the church March 4. Motion carried. Marty will look into getting the lights fixed on the cross behind the altar. A motion was made by Moe and seconded by Steve to buy a new chair for Pastor's office and a new floor mat for Lisa's desk. Motion carried. Pastor Andrew and his wife will be here February 17. He will give the sermon on the 19th along with the children's message and special music. There will be a potluck after the service on the 19th. A special meeting will be held after church on February 26 to discuss a possible call to Pastor Andrew. A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Sandy to use money from the impact fund to pay for Bibles and t-shirts for FCA. Motion carried.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for March 8 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.

March 2023

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion			1 9:30 Searcher's Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:30 Lenten meal 6:30 Lenten Worship 6:30 Youth Group	2 9:00 Community Fellowship	3	4
12	Daylight Saving Time Begins 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion	6	7	8 9:30 Searcher's Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:30 Lenten meal 6:30 Lenten Worship 7:00 Council	9 9:00 Community Fellowship	10	11
19	8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 April Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship 11-1 Youth Pancake Breakfast	13	14 9:00 Quilting	15 9:45 Searcher's Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:30 Lenten meal 6:30 Lenten Worship	16 9:00 Community Fellowship	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
26	8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	20 First Day of Spring	21 9:00 Faith Circle 7:00 Love Circle	22 9:30 Searcher's Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:30 Lenten Meal 6:30 Lenten Worship	23 9:00 Community Fellowship	24 Newsletter items due	25
		27	28 9:00 Quilting	29 9:45 Searcher's Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:30 Lenten meal 6:30 Lenten Worship	30 9:00 Community Fellowship	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7	8 Chase Varpress (b.)	9 Ken Kunde (b.)	10 Matt Reich (b.)	11
12 Gabriel Beckman (b.)	13 Janice Letze (b.) Marilyn Schmidt (b.)	14	15 Marilyn Fenner (b.) Lois Helm (b.) Kyle Weber (b.)	16 Troy & Tamra Peschong (w.)	17 Bud & Linda Remund (w.)	18 Bernie & Tina Bailing Jr. (w.)
19	20	21	22 Marilyn Fenner (b.) Lois Helm (b.) Kyle Weber (b.)	23 Alexander McMahon (b.) Ann Sandbakken (b.)	24	25 Daniel Kalber Sr. (b.) Orgene McCrea (b.)
26 Greg Kasuske (b.) Amanda McMahon (b.)	27	28 Ed Kloster (b.) Linda Wagner (b.)	29	30 Tim & Sue De Jong (w.) Roger & Stephanie Hansen (w.) Marsha Meister (b.)	31 Taylon Reede (b.) Kent & Susan Sime (w.)	