

LIVING WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

438.9672 CHURCH

MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Congratulations and Godspeed to Our High School Graduates

Congratulations on your graduation. Your Christian upbringing has equipped you to apply your faith in your daily life. With your faith in your heart, you are ready for whatever you may encounter. Walk humbly the path toward your future, always remembering that God is with you, and is using His Word as a light to your path and a lamp to your feet.

We ask the congregation to keep these special young adults in their prayers as they journey into God's future for them.

The **SENIOR RECOGNITION RECEPTION** will be May 14 at 9:00 AM. Following the reception the seniors will join the congregation at the 10:00 AM service where we will honor and pray for them and give each of them a gift from the congregation.



EMMA DEJONG
plans to move to Alexandria and find a job in the healthcare field.



JERSEY PESCHONG
plans to attend Northern State University.

BEN KASUSKE *plans to attend Lake Area Technical College.*



THEA VARPNESS
plans to work and is interested in interior design.



WHAT'S INSIDE



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SUMMER WORSHIP WILL BEGIN JUNE 4. WORSHIP WILL BE AT 9:00AM. COFFEE FELLOWSHIP WILL BE AT 10:00 AM.

YOUTH



Drew Anderson



Tyler Heinje



CONFIRMATION BANQUET

On Wednesday, April 26, we had a banquet honoring our four confirmands. Other guests included their parents, siblings, grandparents and their mentors. Pastor Melanie and Roger, Pastor Larson and Shelly and Marty and Deb Buttke also attended. They offered words of encouragement along with congratulations from the congregation.

Elyse Reede, Isabella Anderson and Hailey Heinje, sisters of the confirmands, served the meal prepared by the ladies of the church and Steve Stregle.

After dinner Tyler Heinje, Drew Anderson, Tayton Reede and Sam Wilson gave their *statements of faith* to the gathering.

Thank you to all who helped these boys in their journey of faith from Sunday school to confirmation. We all will continue to pray for them as they continue to grow.

Also thank you to all the ladies that helped with this dinner – food preparation and serving, and donation of time and food. This is a special time to honor our young people.



Sam Wilson



Tayton Reede

LWLC FAMILY

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

TIME FLIES

Does anyone miss the SNOW yet? It is amazing how things change with time. A month ago, if someone had told me we would see as much dirt as we see now, it wouldn't have seemed possible. Time makes a difference.

Speaking of time making a difference, a year ago we were aware that Pastor Kent was planning to leave. It seemed like a long time between his announcement of leaving until he and Kay left. Fortunately, he laid the groundwork for us to move ahead by convincing Pastor Melanie to help our church during the call process. So far all has gone well.

A few months ago, Pastor Melanie reminded the church council that she and Roger were committed to their vision ministry and that they planned to be gone for nearly the entire month of May. She was concerned that even though we could find someone to deliver messages on Sunday, we would not have anyone to provide visitation services and other pastoral duties. The call committee had met with Pastor Larson a few months earlier. Although he understands that we are actively searching for a new

pastor, he has agreed to assist us with visitations, church services and other pastoral duties and assist Pastor Melanie. He started his duties a few weeks ago and from what I have been able to find out, it has gone pretty well. Thank you to both of you for a job well done.

Speaking of things well done, how about Sunday school teachers, the circles, the quilters, the Bible studies, confirmation leaders and the Thursday coffee times. How about the coordination and effort on the part of everyone for the visit of Pastor Andrew and his wife. The potluck was put together and done very well. It seems like you people do not skip a beat. I believe we have had another potluck and a breakfast since that time. There are also plans for the confirmation class that will be confirmed in May. Thanks to all.

In the meantime please pray that Living Word Lutheran Church does what God wants us to do and that we all tailor our efforts to fulfill his desires.

Gene Vostad, Council President



Eagle Scout Ceremony Invite

I am very proud of my son, Gabe! He has worked so hard for the last 11-12 years to achieve his goal to become an Eagle Scout. We would like to invite members of LWLC to his ceremony on May 21, 2023. It will be at LWLC with the ceremony at 5 PM and a light supper at 6 PM. If you can RSVP it would be appreciated so that we can plan for food. Send me a text to 605-924-1132 or email me at rhonda.m.beckman@gmail.com.

Register today!

STELLAR

SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

VBS is
going to be
a **BLAST!**



**Join our crew at Living Word for a STELLAR
OUT OF THIS WORLD VBS Experience!**

*Come and Shine Jesus' Light at VBS Sunday,
June 4 through Thursday, June 8 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM.
A light meal will be included each evening.*

Please call the church office at 605-438-9672 or Sue DeJong
at 605-949-1982 to register your kiddos and all their friends!



WOMEN OF THE LIVING WORD

*O, Magnify the Lord, for
He is worthy to be praised!
Blessed be the name the Lord,
our God who, reigns forever and ever!*

Thank you to all of our congregation for their support for the **YOUTH CAMP PANCAKE BRUNCH**. Together, we raised about \$850 that day for our youth. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to attend Camp Okoboji.

Our LWLW women enjoyed a delightful day on March 7 visiting our **NURSING HOME RESIDENTS** and shut ins. Anyone is welcome to join us when we do this again.

We collected items for **ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN LAYETTE KITS** through February and March. We are collecting **HYGIENE KIT** items in April and May for Orphan Grain Train. A list is on the basket of needed items. All members of our congregation are



welcome to participate.

The **LWLW WOMEN** are a beautiful group, eager to serve with willing hearts, hands and feet. All ladies of Living Word are welcome to come to monthly Bible study and fellowship the third Tuesday of the month. We are blessed to be a blessing!

*He is Risen!
Christ is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!*

Sue DeJong
LWLW Coordinator

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:

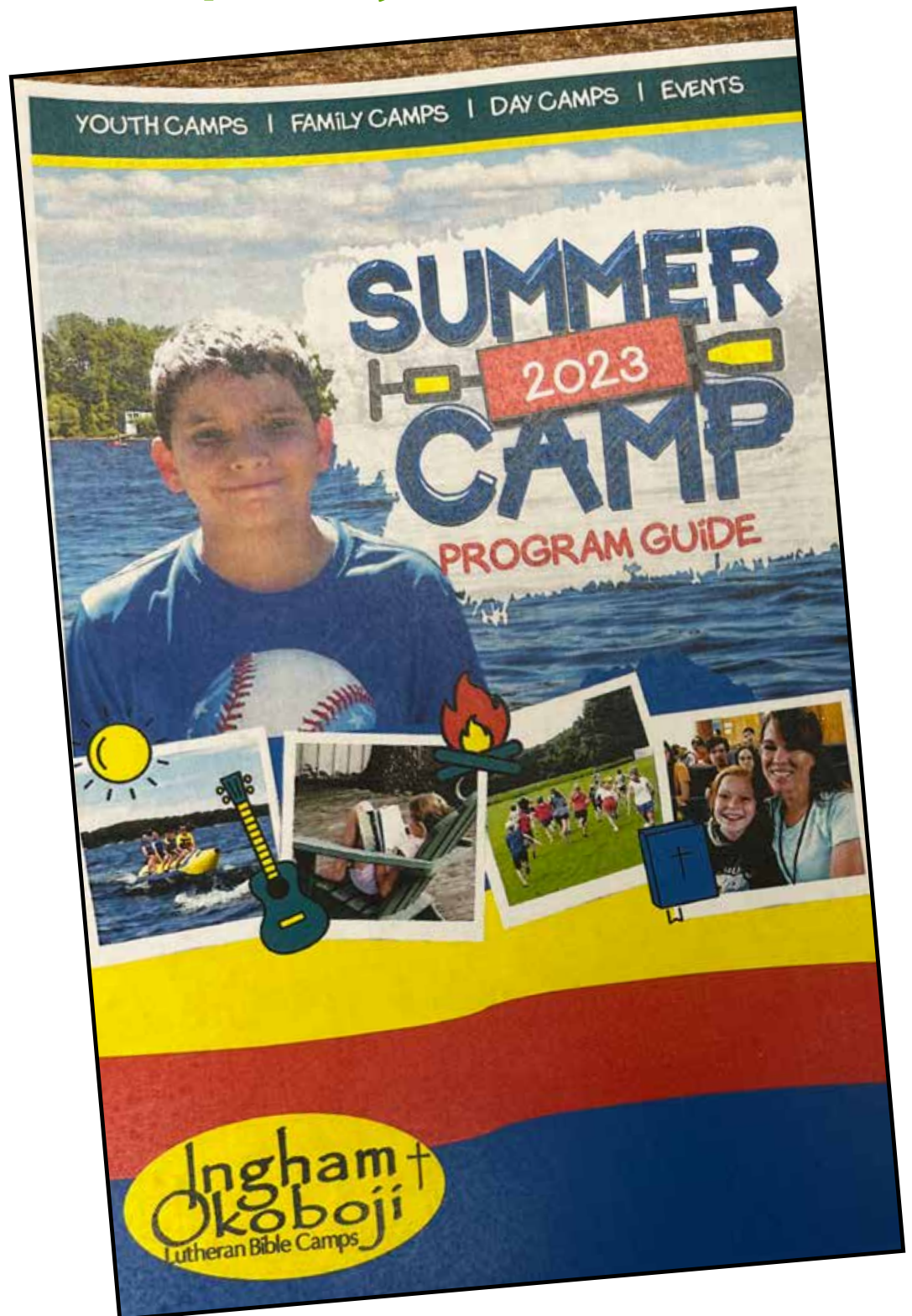
Advisor: *Susan Vostad*, 434-1825

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

YOUTH

Please sign up for Ingham Okobojo Summer Bible Camp today!

Funds are available to help with registration. Please contact the church office to request funding.



PASTOR'S LETTER



ASCENSION DAY

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY OF LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH:

We have come through the season of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter — the celebration of the resurrection of Christ from the grave! His victory over sin and death is the greatest thing we can ever celebrate; and, we should celebrate it every day! As we look to May, we will complete the Sundays of Easter in our Lectionary. As our Church year continues, we come to Ascension Day on May 18 and celebrate it in our churches the following Sunday — it is one of those events that doesn't get a great deal of attention.

Ascension Day/Sunday holds a special place in the Easter celebration of Christian churches around the world. When we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim our belief in the Ascension in the same breath we proclaim Christ died and was raised again from the dead: "On the

third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead." Each time we utter the words of the Apostles' Creed, we are celebrating life-saving events that proclaim God's power for life and God's willingness to intervene in amazing ways on behalf of the world God created

and loves. The Ascension of the Lord is a significant part of the Easter story and another testimony to God's resurrection power. Just as Christ was "lifted up" on the cross, he is again "lifted up" from the grave, and yet, again, "lifted up" to God's right hand.

As you go through the month of May, it is my prayer that each day is Easter for you and

that you continue to be "lifted up" spiritually as you are reminded of the "lifting up" of Christ for you — the Cross, the grave, and in his return to the Father.

*In Christian love,
Pastor Melanie*

COUNCIL MINUTES



LWLC APRIL 12, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Melanie, Marty Buttke, Moe Reede, Rhonda Beckman, Kelly Peterson, Tina Balling

OPENING: Pastor Melanie gave the opening devotion and prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Moe 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 March	Beginning Balance (12/31/22)	Monthly Income plus Interest	Monthly Expenses	Net Gain or Loss	Ending Balance (1/31/23)
General Fund	\$ 171,986.74	\$ 20,314.03	\$ 9,646.50	\$ 10,667.53	\$ 182,654.27
Dedicated Accounts	\$ 55,214.07	\$ 2,720.19	\$ 816.89	\$ 1,903.30	\$ 57,117.37
Building Fund	\$ 46,553.35	\$ 1,140.00	\$ -	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 47,693.35
Thrivent Financial (updated quarterly)	\$ 35,841.72	\$ 894.06	\$ -	\$ 894.06	\$ 36,735.78
TOTAL CASH BALANCE					\$ 324,200.77

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor reported that the lenten services went well. The confirmation banquet will be held April 26 for the confirmands, their families and mentors. Confirmation will be held May 7 with

Pastor Craig Werling leading. Pastor Melanie will be returning to Sierra Leone May 8 for the month. Pastor Larson will fill in. Motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Moe to accept the Pastor's report. Motion carried.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: Marty reported that the lights have been installed on the cross in the front of the church and are working. A new bulb was installed in the eternal flame. A popcorn machine was purchased for the youth to use for youth activities. Moe made a motion, and it was seconded by Kelly to approve the property & management report. Motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: The youth helped serve at the pancake feed on camp Sunday and breakfast Easter Sunday. Youth night was held April 12. The last day of Sunday school will be held May 14. A motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Marty to approve the report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: The endowment committee has been established.

NEW BUSINESS: Bill Moberly will be in church October 8 to talk about a possible mission trip in 2024. Kelly made a motion to allow Gabe Beckman to hold his Eagle Scout ceremony at the church. It was seconded by Moe and the motion passed. Senior recognition will be held May 14. Living Word will change to summer worship hours starting June 4. Church will begin at 9 AM.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for May 10 at 7 PM.

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

