

LIVING WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

438.9672 CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

We had 24 people of all age groups packing *Mercy Meals*. It was a wonderful turnout! My hope was for at least 20. 19 of them joined us for our soup supper.

We packaged 936 bags, 26 boxes, to equal 5,616 meals! God truly blessed us to be a blessing.



**WHAT'S
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Council President

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OUTREACH

A Call to Support Your Missionaries to Vietnam

A pancake and sausage brunch and basket auction will be held November 19, (following the LWLC Annual meeting).

Vicki Strege and Tim and Sue DeJong have accepted the call to serve as short term missionaries to Vietnam through ALWM with Pastor Bill and Sally Moberly from May 29 - June 14, 2024. Cost per person is approximately \$2,500, including travel and lodging, eye glasses, craft items and other things needed for the mission work planned.

Awakening Lives to World Missions' (ALWM) work is to preach and teach the gospel, share the love of Christ in action, changing lives for Christ to the ends



of the world. Thank you for your support!

OUTREACH

A Thank You from Julie Smude

THANK YOU SO MUCH for your generosity toward Heart to Heart Thailand for purchasing uniforms and Bibles for the students. I am so excited to tell you that we have purchased 22 student uniforms, shoes, socks, underclothing, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, personal hygiene products and all but four Bibles. (Someone else had already purchased them).

In addition, a small sum of money is left over, and I am researching the possibility of acquiring the new Thai translation of the Bible, which has recently been made available. The original Thai Bible was written and translated into formal, Royal Thai and is extremely difficult to read and comprehend. I will keep you posted.

Also, I want to thank the families who donated

toward my personal travel expenses.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again in two years. Until then, I pray the Lord will return to you a hundred-fold of all you have given, not only to me, but to all the outreaches you do.



LWLC FAMILY

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

In anticipation of future needs of our church, the church council has created a "space needs" committee. The committee is headed up by Steve Strege includes several other members from our church. He doesn't have much more in the form of directives other than what the name of the committee may or may not imply. The leadership and membership of this committee are a somewhat diverse group with the ability to listen to suggestions and concerns from our congregation. Recognition of suggestions from the committee will still need to meet the approval of the church council and ultimately the entire congregation. The needs and direction of our church is also contingent on our next pastor. The names of those on the committee will be announced at a later date.

We are fortunate to have received a significant financial benefit for new construction and maintenance of the church as well as additional land for expansion. We are also the beneficiary of some property off the church premises for future use. We will have more information on that property after the council has had the opportunity to explore the possibilities.

Thanks to all who support our church. Please remember the annual meeting. It looks like God has continued to watch over us. We need to make sure we respond by doing what he would want us to do.

Gene Vostad, Council President

LWLC FAMILY

St. Lucia Breakfast

Once again, the LWLW will be hosting the St. Lucia Day breakfast. This is a Swedish tradition to prepare your heart for Christmas and to focus on the birth of our Savior.

The breakfast will be held on December 16 at 9:30 AM. Tickets are free but you must make a reservation by calling the church office at 438-9672. Seating is limited so reserve your place early.

All women of the community are invited to come and share in the traditional Swedish food, fellowship and inspirational music and readings.

This event will allow you to relax away from your busy lives and focus on the coming of our Lord Jesus.



WOMEN OF THE LIVING WORD

*Sing to the Lord, you saints of His;
praise His holy name!*

PSALM 30:4

As we celebrate **ALL SAINTS DAY**, I thank God for all the saints that have touched my life. They have knowingly or unknowingly taught and encouraged me in the one true faith with love and patience. May your name, dear Jesus, be forever blessed!

On November 21 our **CIRCLES** will watch a video on *Evolution vs. Creation*. All are welcome to join us and participate in the discussion to follow. Thank you to Sue Vostad for sharing this video with us!

During the months of November and December we will be collecting items for the **MITTEN TREE**. Warm gloves, hats, mittens and socks for children and adults are appreciated to share with people in need in our local communities.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES are now available to fill. Please pick one (or two) up today to fill with Christmas gifts for children around the world who would not otherwise receive a gift. All



Operation Christmas shoeboxes must be returned to church for delivery by Saturday, November 18.

Plans are underway for the annual **St. Lucia Breakfast** on December 16 at 9:30 AM. Please plan to attend this beautiful Advent event as we prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Lord Jesus, equip us with everything good for doing Your will. May you work in us what is pleasing to You. To Jesus Christ be all glory, honor and praise!

*Your sister in Christ,
Sue DeJong, LWLW Coordinator*

2023 LWLC Committee Contacts

2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS:

President: Gene Vostad, 605-321-9120, gsvostad@tnics.com

Vice President: Marty Buttke, 605-432-4457, mdbuttke@itcmilbank.com

Secretary: Tina Balling, 606-432-5215, tinab@bpimn.com

Youth & Education: Rhonda Beckman, 605-924-1132, rhonda.m.beckman@gmail.com; Moe Reede, 605-949-1482, mreede97@yahoo.com

Worship & Evangelism: Sandy Christensen, 605-880-4452, sandy.christensen@k12.sd.us. Steve Strege, 605-949-0669, grainbelt01@hotmail.com

Treasurer/Finance: Kelly Peterson, 605-237-0316, kpeteomm@gmail.com

Property & Management: Dale Prisinger, 605-432-5052, dlprisinger@itctel.com; Marty Buttke, 605-432-4457, mdbuttke@itcmilbank.com

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN OFFICERS:

Coordinator: Sue DeJong, 605-949-1982

Vice-coordinator: Marcia Heinje, 605-938-4142

Secretary/Treasurer: Annette Redepening, 605-432-6688

Mission Action: Gloria Cooley, 605-445-1555

Mission Growth: Karen McCrea, 605-432-6335

Mission Community: Susan Vostad, 605-434-1825

Advisor: Susan Vostad, 605-434-1825

Newsletter: Lisa Aker, 605-438-9672, livingword@itcmilbank.com

Website: Nancy Kruger, 605-380-9871, nmkruger@itctel.com

To All Women of Living Word

If a member of the congregation was asked what the most important part of the church building is, a large majority would probably say the altar. In the Bible, the altar is a recurring theme, and one that has been used throughout history to signify a place of sacrifice, worship and reflection. Our children are baptized and confirmed at the altar. God blessed marriages there and offers the promise of eternal life as funeral services take place at the altar. It is a sacred place where prayers are heard and forgiveness is given. What a privilege it is for those in our church who care for this focal point!

As we come to the end of the church year, the ladies of the altar guild are asking other women of Living Word to consider joining our organization. Over the past couple of years, we have lost several members, mostly due to growing older. Many are in their seventies and have served our church since we were members at American Lutheran. Perhaps you don't know exactly what we do as an organization or maybe you have wanted to serve your church in some way but can't commit to spending a large amount of your time. The altar guild may be just the right place for you to start.

The church calendar year begins in December and our women sign up to take care of the altar for one of the months which fits their schedule. We work in pairs so a new member would work together with

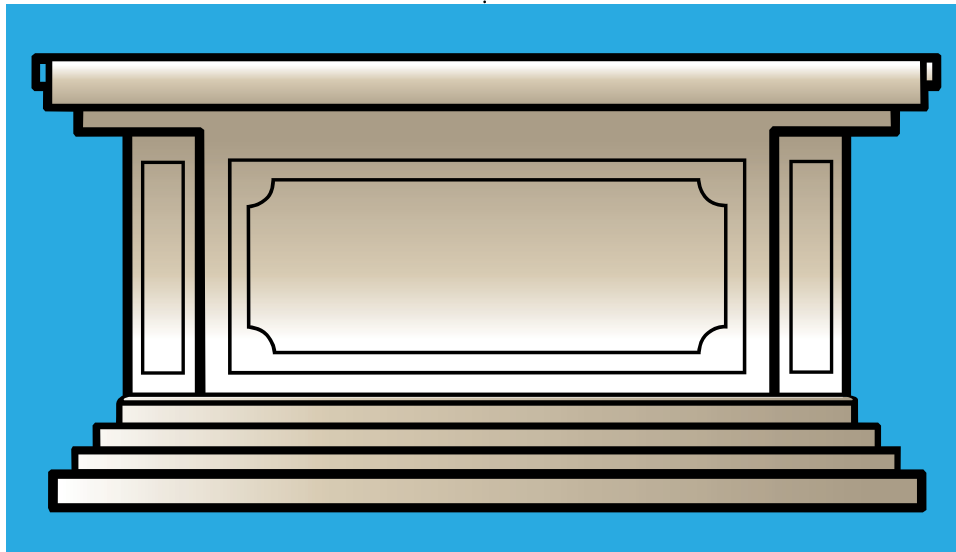
an experienced one. Our church calendar guides us through the year and its seasons such as Advent, Lent and others. The color of the paraments on the altar and pulpit changes with each season along with some of the special days of the year such as Pentecost or All Saint's Day. Displaying the correct color is one of our duties.

Preparing communion on the first Sunday of the month and chapel communion on the second is our main task. Often that might be the only duty

for the month along with taking care of flowers given by members of the congregation. Setting up the Advent wreath, the Lenten cross, or table of candles as we remember those who have left our congregation or

babies who have been baptized during the year are also our responsibility. We have a list of women who will be glad to step in and take your place if for some reason you cannot help during the month for which you have signed up to work. In other words, we are flexible.

And so we are asking that you please consider joining the altar guild. We will be having a short meeting on Sunday, November 5 at 9:15 AM in the north end of the fellowship hall during the coffee hour. Please join us if you are interested in being a part of this important organization in your church or contact Tina Balling or Linda Anderson if you have questions and can't attend.



MISSION BOARD MINUTES



LWLC OCTOBER MISSION BOARD MEETING

Pastor Melanie opened the meeting with prayer for guidance as we deal with the various topics of discussion as well as for mercy, safety and protection for Israel at this time.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gloria, Sue, Marcia, Linda, Pastor Melanie, Steve, and Vicki.

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED

1. Rolls for the FCA meetings have been paid for by LWLC. The cost of the rolls for the bimonthly meetings is around \$1,000 annually. It was decided that Pastor Melanie would offer the opportunity to other local churches to contribute to the annual cost of the FCA rolls at the next Milbank Ministerial Association meeting. Each church could choose the amount they wish to contribute and give it directly to FCA who would then take overpaying the monthly bill. Pastor will contact Brian Sandvig to talk about the account for FCA.
2. Pastor Melanie advised the board to include specific dollar amounts in the Annual LCMC Report to the congregation as well as letting them know what missions and causes were recipients of the funds.
3. It was noted that since the activity and the projects of the mission board are continually increasing that it would be advisable to have a treasurer for the organization. Marcia Heinje volunteered to accept this position.
4. There was much discussion about the accounting process of funds given to missions and other areas. Pastor assured us that now that we have a permanent business manager that changes will be made so that we can easily see where and how the money is recorded.
5. There was a discussion about the term mission account and the LWLC Impact the World account. In the past they have been separate entities, however their functions seem to be intertwined. A motion was made by Sue and seconded by Gloria that **all mission dollars are to be given to the impact the world account except for noisy change**. Motion carried. It was also discussed that if there is a special mission project in mind it should be noted when the money is given. The office will send out a letter to the congregation explaining this change. It should be noted that noisy change has its own separate account for accounting purposes.
6. Sue indicated that she and Tim have committed to go to Vietnam on a mission trip with Pastor Bill Moberly on May 29 through June 14. Vicki also indicated that she is considering going as well as she is an volunteer of ALWM. A fundraiser pancake breakfast is being planned for November 19.
7. It was decided to designate the noisy change in December to Jordan Hins and his mission work in Istanbul, Turkey. Jordan, who is originally from Milbank, is associated with Cru Ministries and has been sharing the love of Christ with the people in Turkey for several years.
8. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2023, at 2:00 PM.
9. Steve made a motion seconded by Linda to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

PASTOR'S LETTER



YOU ARE A BLESSING TO ME

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY AT LIVING WORD,

It has been a blessing to me to serve as the Interim Pastor at Living Word for almost fifteen months. I want you to know that you are blessing to me every day!

November will bring a new adventure for me. I will be traveling to Sierra Leone on November 2, with Dr. Deb Gess-Ristvedt, and returning on November 13. This will be the first trip I will make without my husband with me! We will have a container to unload and Dr. Ristvedt will be doing 60 surgeries — cataract, glaucoma and lid repair. It will be an exciting time. The staff has promised to take good care of us!

There will be wonderful Sunday morning worship supply while I am away. David Kruger will be leading worship and preaching on November 5, which is All Saints Sunday. Brian Sandvig will lead worship and preach on November 12. My sincere thanks for their willingness to serve in this way.

We will begin our mid-week Advent services on Wednesday, November 29, with a soup and sandwich supper beginning at 5:30 PM with the service following. The services this year will be

based on a series entitled *"Because of Bethlehem"* by Max Lucado.

Advent formally begins on Sunday, December 3 and continues for four weeks, culminating on Sunday morning, December 24. We will have our usual service at 10:00 on that Sunday and then return to worship at 5:00 PM for the Christmas Eve

Candlelight service. There will be no services on Monday, December 25.

This past year has been one of great blessings to me. Little did I know that my term of service in this wonderful church would continue for more than just a couple of months — but, I am so thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this church. There are so many exciting things ahead for Living Word including the new dynamic

disciples program, possible expansion of the building, increased number of small-group Bible studies and so much more. Living Word is such a solid church. A quote by missionary, Hudson Taylor, comes to mind as I think of this church. It reads: *"God's work, done in God's way, will never lack God's supply."* May God continue to bless you as you work together at Living Word Lutheran Church.

In Christian love, Pastor Melanie



COUNCIL MINUTES



LWLC OCTOBER 18, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Vostad, Pastor Melanie, Steve Strege, Marty Buttke, Dale Prisinger, Sandy Christensen, Moe Reede, Kelly Peterson, Rhonda Beckman and Tina Balling. Dave Wagner and Rebecca Larson were also present.

OPENING: Pastor gave the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Moe made a motion, and it was seconded by Marty 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:

September 30, 2023

Income \$18,001.79

Expenses \$10,795.39

Total \$7,206.40

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT: Kelly reported that Plunket's were called to address the box elder bug problem. A new computer is not needed at this time. A clean up was done along with needed updates to the office computer. We will proceed with getting a new phone system. Moe made a motion, and it was seconded by Marty to approve the business manager's report. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor asked if we could do communion 10/29 instead of 11/5. She will be gone from Nov. 2-12. David Kruger and Brian Sandvig will cover the pulpit supply needs the two Sundays she is gone. The mid-week advent series will start 11-29. The Sunday school Christmas program will be 12-10. Kelly made a motion to accept the pastor's report and it was seconded by Steve. Motion carried.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: A better snow fence was purchased and installed. The "No Parking" signs were beefed up so they shouldn't blow over in strong winds anymore. Metal tags with installation dates were put on the new heat pumps. The new furnace filters will be put in once we have new property and management people, so they know

how to do this. More cleaning was done in the dynamic disciples den. The front bushes will be trimmed. Steve made a motion, and it was seconded by Kelly to approve the property & management report. Motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM: Dynamic disciples is going well. *Call to Freedom* will be presented at the school during the day and 6:30-7:30 PM 10/24. A motion was made by Moe and seconded by Kelly to approve the worship & evangelism report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Dave Wagner attended the LCMC conference. He reported that there are about 1,000 LCMC churches. There are many churches looking for pastors and others are struggling. Dave feels good about where Living Word is at this point. We are not struggling as others are. "God will let us know." The space needs committee has been established and is comprised of Dave Hepper, Brian & Janel Sandvig, Laurie Maas, Dale Prisinger, Steve & Vicki Strege and Gloria Cooley.

NEW BUSINESS: The council binders will need to be turned in at the November meeting. Kelly made a motion, and it was seconded by Sandy to approve the investigation of the economic development grant funding. Motion carried. We will look to the servant teams to supply a light supper for the Advent mid-week services. A pancake and sausage meal will be served after the annual November 19 to raise funds for the mission trip. Sandy made a motion, and it was seconded by Dale to lease the new phone system. Dale Prisinger has agreed to be an advisor to the new property and management team. Guidelines will be established as to not abuse this agreement. A special budget meeting will be held October 25 at 7 PM. Rhonda made a motion, and it was seconded by Moe to move money from the general fund to the dedicated fund so the dedicated account will balance to the checking account. Motion carried. Rhonda made a motion, and it was seconded by Steve to move \$2,000 from the general fund to the dynamic disciples. Motion carried. A new radio broadcast expense account will be set up. Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year. We will plan on having our regular 10 AM service and a 5 PM candlelight service.

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

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

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	2 9:00 Community Coffee	3	4
5 All Saints Sunday Daylight Saving Time Ends 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	6	7	8 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	9 9:00 Community Coffee	10 Church and office closed	11 Veterans Day
12 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/noisy change	13	14 9:00 Quilting	15 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 7:00 Council	16 9:00 Community Coffee 2:00 Impact/Mission	17	18
19 ANNUAL MEETING 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 December Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship 11:00 Pancake Breakfast	20	21 9:00 Faith Circle 7:00 Love Circle	22	23 Thanksgiving Day Church and office closed	24 Church and office closed	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	27	28 9:00 Quilting	29 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	30 9:00 Community Coffee		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Cailey Sime (b.)	2	3	4 Doug Redepenning (b.)
5	6	7	8 Vicki Strege (b.)	9 Warren Beck (b.) Ella Sandvig (b.)	10	11 Emily Cramer (b.) Ed & Betty Kloster (w.) David Wagner (b.)
12	13	14 Robert & Susan Capp (w.) Robert Capp (b.) Steve Nelson (b.) Brandon Peschong (b.)	15	16	17 Emma Christensen (b.) David Hepper (b.) Donald Weber (b.)	18 Mary Hepper (b.) Jay Maze (b.)
19	20 Jacob Berger (b.) Makayla McKinney (b.)	21 Gary Hyde (b.) Lane Lindquist (b.)	22	23 Arnold Rehn (b.)	24 Bobby & Mary Kinder (w.) Jay & Sally Maze (w.)	25
26 Devon Bailing (b.)	27	28	29	30 Ben Kasuske (b.) Jessica Weinkauff (b.)		