

LIVING WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

438.9672 CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



RALLY SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 10 JOIN THE FUN!

"Jesus Shines Bright" at Living Word Lutheran Church and Rally Sunday marks this year's kick-off for the church's youth education program. Scheduled for Sunday, September 10, children, families and the entire congregation are invited to attend our church service, enjoy a light lunch and participate in games for young and old.

Everyone will enjoy the performing puppets

and young bell ringers during the service. After lunch activities and games (with prizes) will be held both inside and outside. It is a celebration all congregation members may take part in. Highlights include Bible bingo, face painting and a bouncy house are just a few of the events planned.

We hope to see all your smiling faces as we start the year off with "Jesus Shining Bright"!

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 3 – Labor Day: church and office closed

September 10 – Rally Sunday

September 13 – Confirmation begins

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NEW MEMBERS



New members welcomed into the LWLC family on August 13. Top left: Brian, Laura, Josephine (Josie) and Amelia Dallman. Bottom middle: Terie Dorry, Top right: Eileen Willprecht. Bottom right: Colby Weber.



LWLC

Bible Study for Everyone

There are several opportunities for adult Bible study at Living Word, and we are hoping to offer even more this fall. It is so important for Christians to be involved in Bible study. Bible study is so important – it strengthens our faith, helps us to grow in knowledge, and offers a great time of fellowship for everyone. We are anxious to hear from you as to what you would like to study.

CURRENT STUDIES: Jackie Olson leads a study on Sunday morning during the Sunday school hour. It is entitled *Seamless: Understanding the Bible As One Complete Story*. It begins on September 17.
– Deb Buttke leads a study starting in October.
– David Kruger leads a men’s study on Tuesday mornings.

Some suggestions for additional studies received so far include the following:

- *Bible Prophecy – End Times*
- *The Women of the Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream
- *Where Do We Go From Here* by David Jeremiah
- *Good Boundaries and Goodbyes* by Lysa Terkeurst
- *Find Your People* by Jennie Allen
- More suggestions are welcomed.

Sign-up will be available in the fellowship hall or by calling the church. If you would be willing to facilitate a study (responsible for the DVD and lead the Q & A sessions) please let us know. Hopefully, many of you will find a study that appeals to you!



FALL WOMEN'S EVENT

WITH SPEAKER | AUTHOR | ENCOURAGER

SUE L. HAMILTON

Saturday, September 16

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Central Church - 201 S. 5th Street. Milbank, SD

The day will include:

- Worship
- Teaching
- Prayer
- Breakout Groups
- Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks
- Giveaways & More!

www.suelhamilton.com



Cost is
\$25 per person

Register at
www.milbankcentral.com
or by calling
605-432-4700

Women's Fall Event

What is it: Non-denominational Fall Women's Event with Speaker, Author, Encourager Sue L. Hamilton.

When: The Fall Women's Event will be held **Saturday, September 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Where: This event will be hosted at **Central Church** in Milbank, SD (201 S. 5th Street) but is organized by a host of churches within the local community.

What does it cost: The event costs just **\$25 per person!** Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are included.

Who can attend: Women from **ANY** church or denomination from anywhere! Invite your friends and family!

Who is Sue: Sue L. Hamilton is a dynamic speaker since 1999 who shares her passion of living a life with God after being set free of alcohol and drugs in 1990. A teacher of God's Word with a focus on women of the Bible and foundational principles of prayer. Using her engaging storytelling ability, she ignites excitement to keep a strong relationship with God, to study the Word, and to maintain a positive outlook in life.

What to Expect: This event will include worship, teaching, prayer, small breakout groups, breakfast, lunch, snacks, giveaways, and more! You will discover tips and tools to help you never stop praying for yourself, family, community, state, and nation. You can expect to learn what, why, how, and who to pray for through Biblical principles. You will also discover what God's Word says about women and learn why it's important to pass on your skills and talents to the next generation of women. You will learn how to pass this heritage on by exploring the Titus 2 woman.

What benefits will I receive from attending: You will ... understand the Biblical principles of prayer and who God says women are; Passion to never stop praying for self, family, community, state, and nation; Ideas to increase confidence in being the women God says you are to be; Practical ways to engage with and pass on skills and talents to the next generation; Hands-on activity to create prayer cards to help you continue to pray for: self, family, community, state, nation; Handouts of scripture studies for Titus 2:3-5 and many verses about prayer; Access to additional resources including: 10 Prayers to Build Confidence, Never Stop Praying PDF book, and Every Day Simple paperback and eBooks.

Check out Sue L. Hamilton at www.suelhamilton.com or on her YouTube channel www.youtube.com/@suel.hamilton-speakerauthor6402.

How do I register: Please go to www.milbankcentral.com and complete the form under ONLINE REGISTRATIONS. **Payment is due in advance** by mailing or dropping off at Central Church, 201 S. 5th Street, Milbank, SD 57252. **If necessary**, payment can be made at the door the day of the event! We hope you will come enjoy a day for yourself!

ADDING ON?

It seem like it was just spring time and now from time to time we feel a little bite in the air reminding us that before we know it, winter will be in full swing. In the mean time, we continue to pray and wonder what the future holds for us individually and as a church.

A suggestion was recently made by several of our members that we should consider adding on to the buildings of our church. Our church congregation has been fortunate enough to receive the funds to pay the church mortgage in full. Additionally we have received more than one gift for further construction of our church as well as maintenance and additional land. We are in a little bit of a quandary as to what we should do as we currently do not have a full time pastor and even though Pastor Kent led the congregation in a study that indicated the church wanted to grow and provide generously for the youth, the church council is in agreement with that general direction but maybe our direction will change or need to change? Time will tell.

At our last council meeting the church council discussed the church direction and we read a letter from one of our congregational members reminding us that when we built the church, funds were scarce and that what we ended up with was a very nice church structure but it is time to think about improving it. We discussed the situation and it was decided that we needed to do some further investigation into what to do next. Since the church council turns over every 3 years, we decided that it would best to develop a group within our congregation to further study the situation and to

make recommendations as to what direction the church should head when it comes to additional expansion of the church

Having said the above, the council is seeking persons to work with what we will call our "Space Needs Committee". The committee will be responsible for researching the space needs of the congregation with recommendations for future construction and upon approval by the council, planning and designing the construction. (This will not be a fast process but it is a process that we need to get started.)

Pastor Andrew elected not to accept the call we made earlier in the year. The possibility of Andrew accepting our call came to light a few weeks ago. After an additional interview with him he decided again that the call would not be best for him or our church, we are still in the call process with no clear candidates. Continue to pray that the right person comes along and that we have the ability to recognize the right person.

There are three council members leaving their positions at the end of this year. Marty Buttke, Dale Prisinger and Rhonda Beckman are all completing their third year. Marty and Dale are on the buildings and grounds committee and Rhonda is on the youth and education committee. The council will be looking to find replacements for these people in the next few months. If you feel you are willing to serve on the council please make your desires known. The nominating committee consists of Deb Buttke, Ron Anderson and Lance Bien.

Gene Vostad, Council President

Exciting New Curriculum

FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

The education committee has researched and found some exciting new curriculum for our Sunday school classes this year.

- Our younger children will be studying *Simply Loved*. The lessons are designed “to get back to what matters most – helping kids love God and others!”
- 5th and 6th graders will be studying *Be Bold*. BE BOLD Sunday school curriculum “gives preteens exactly what they need – validation of their faith questions and a place to connect as they explore.”

- The high school youth will be discussing “*Current Topics Influencing Their Lives Today*.” (These topics are not sequential in order as some curriculum, so if your youth are unable to attend on a Sunday, do not let that discourage them from attending another time.) In our turbulent world, our children, more now than ever, need to be grounded in their faith and strengthened to face the world around them.

We are looking forward to a great year!

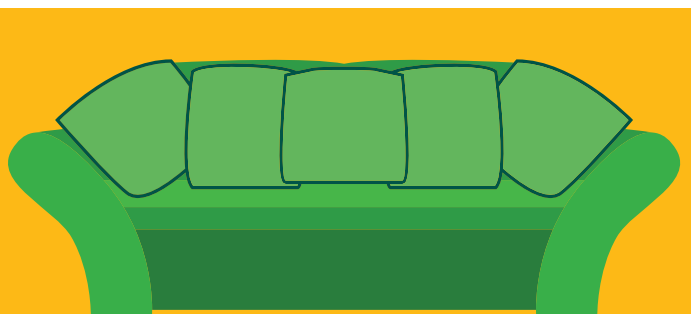
SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING 2023-24

The education committee has designated Heifer International for the offering collected during Sunday school this coming year. Heifer International works to end world hunger in 19 countries throughout the world through sustainable projects. Our Sunday school will work to provide animals through this program.

Goat	\$120
Heifer	\$500
Flock of Chicks	\$20
Sheep	\$120
Honeybees	\$30
Full Ark	\$5,000



Watch for a poster and additional information soon!



SOFA NEEDED FOR YOUTH

Do you have a slightly used sofa or couch you would like to be rid of or know of someone who may have one? Consider donating it to the church’s MS/HS youth education program. Plans are in the works preparing the “shed” for Living Word’s youth. Your donation is greatly appreciated!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SUGGESTIONS!

We are excited to announce plans for an event on Sunday afternoon, September 17. This event is targeting the youth and children, but it will be open to all members of Living Word Lutheran Church and their families. If weather permits, we will hold it outside and use the fire pit if possible. Those attending can come and go as they please. If you have other scheduled activities, you are able to leave and come back if it works out. Come later if that works out better for your family.

Persons we would like to contact are those who have continued their Christian lives after they graduated high school. These persons could be grown adults or recent graduates pursuing their own path in life. Do you know of anyone that has struggled to follow their faith after graduating? What did that look like? What helped them refocus on Christ's Word? Are they still needing to find their way? How were they able to implement their faith in their life? Maybe it was really easy for someone to follow Christ's Word and would like to talk about that experience. You may know someone that had faith, struggled, but now have a very strong faith.

It would be nice to have music to attract all age groups from elementary school to infinity. If you are interested or know someone that is musically talented, please let us know.

There will be more info later on food, snacks, games and campfire use.

Contact Rhonda Beckman at rhonda.m.beckman@gmail.com or 605-924-1132.

RightNow Media

The goal of **RightNow Media** is to maximize and impact your ability to study the Bible through over 20,000 Bible studies that can be accessed for use for private study in your home or through group studies in a church setting. Living Word Church has a membership to **RightNow Media** so that you can enjoy the benefit of this resource at no cost to you. All you need to do in order to use this material is to call the church and Lisa can assist you with registration. Try it as soon as you can – you won't be disappointed!

Dave Wagner To Attend National Meeting

Dave Wagner, representing the call committee of Living Word, will be attending the 23rd Annual Gathering of the LCMC which will be held in St. Charles, MO, October 1-4. He will be visiting with seminaries and others present as we seek the next pastor for Living Word. He will be distributing updated information about our church making every effort to seek connections with pastors available for Call. Keep Dave and this trip in your prayers as he goes!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS NEEDED

Do you want our church to grow? Do you enjoy seeing children be part of our congregation? Do you have a gift to share? Here is your opportunity to serve!

Living Word needs you! Currently, teachers/co-teachers, substitutes and teacher helpers are needed for the Sunday school program scheduled to begin September 10. Below is a list of grades in need:

- 1 co-teacher for 1st/2nd grade
- 1 co-teacher for 3rd-4th grade
- 2 teachers OR 2 team-teachers for MS/HS
- SUBSTITUTES for ALL grades
- HELPERS: 3-4 for grades 1-5 (these could be people who would be available o1-2 Sundays per month to be in SS to just assist teachers)

Pray and seriously consider offering your time and knowledge. Helping our youth as they learn and build their faith is something worth investing in. God is calling you.

For more information or questions, contact Sue DeJong, Tina Balling, Sandy Christensen, Susan Sime or Pastor Melanie. God bless!

WOMEN OF THE LIVING WORD

*Surely, God is my salvation;
I will trust and not be afraid.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation.*

ISAIAH 12:2

The Women of the Word **AUGUSTANA DISTRICT FALL GATHERING** will be held Saturday, September 16 in Springfield, MN. *"Faith Over Fear"* is the theme. A wonderful, informative day has been planned and will be hosted by St. John's Church. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Carpooling is being provided.

Love circle will be hosting our **FALL GENERAL EVENT** on October 1. Everyone is welcome to join in putting together Mercy Meals at Orphan Grain Train at 3:30 PM. We will gather at the church afterwards for a soup supper and short meeting. Bring your spouse, a friend, your kids and grandkids! A sign-up sheet is available to prepare for the number of stations needed to pack the Mercy Meals. Come and join in on the fun!



The **CIRCLE GROUPS** at Living Word meet the third Tuesday of every month. Our next meeting will be September 19. Bible study and missions is our main focus. All women of our congregation are welcome to join in!

May God equip each one of you, by the power of the Holy Spirit to serve and lead others with willing hearts, hands and feet that all may seek and know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him alone 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/Website: Nancy Kruger, 605-380-9871, nmkruger@itctel.com

MISSION BOARD MINUTES



LWLC AUGUST MISSION BOARD MEETING

Howard and Marcia Heinje were welcomed as **NEW MEMBERS** as Tim DeJong resigned from the board.

The **MISSION BOARD** would like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation for their generosity for the noisy change collections these past few months. The following amounts of money were collected for the following missions:

- Beacon Center \$179.56
- Alpha Center \$483.70
- Call to Freedom \$275.19
- Mercy Meals \$755.16
- FCA \$664.94
- Julie Smude \$2000

The **NOISY CHANGE COLLECTIONS** will be as follows for the remainder of the year:

- **September:** Pigs for Pastors, (Pastor Bill is supporting a mission called "Pigs for Pastors" to help missionaries earn money for their mission and their livelihood.)
- **October:** Dynamic Disciples
- **November:** Operation Christmas
- **December:** TBA according to what seems appropriate at the time, maybe to the victims of the Hawaii fire victims if we can partner with a trustworthy organization such as Samaritan's Purse. They are providing aid to Hawaii and they are a trustworthy organization that we can use to distribute our funds to the people in need.

Pastor Bill Moberly of ALWM (Awakening Lives to World Missions) will be coming to LWLC on September 24, 2023, to share with us about how his mission is bringing the love of Christ to the world. We are planning this Sunday as a "Mission Festival Sunday" to highlight the importance of missions. We will be having an offering for him that Sunday. We are asking those who give to this mission to write their checks payable to "LWLC to make it easier to transfer the donations to Pastor Bill. There also will be a potluck meal to follow the service on the 24th. We are asking that each family bring a dish to pass that Sunday. The mission board will be responsible for arrangement for the potluck as well as for serving it. There will be more details to follow as the date draws near.

The mission board voted to give \$500 from their account to our **DYNAMIC DISCIPLE** after school project to be used as needed. This after-school gathering is a start in meeting the needs of the parents and children in our community for after school daycare. It will be exciting to see how God will direct the efforts of this project according to His will to meet the need in our community.

The council has asked that the mission board review those missions that are a part of the budget under the heading of **BENEVOLENCES** and make any necessary changes for the coming year. This benevolence budget line is funded by 10% of the general offerings each quarter and is then divided into percentages of that amount. The mission board reviewed the percentages and recipients and made some minor changes to the percentages as follows:

- **Julie Smude – Thailand Missionary:** 13.00%
- **LCMC:** 5.00%
- **Global Mission-Africa-Cameroon-Djoule:** 13.00%
- **ICAP (local):** 9.00%
- **Grant Co. Food Pantry:** 13.00%
- **Ortonville Food Pantry:** 9.00%
- **Abiding Word Ministries -The Vine & Branches:** 1.00%
- **Mercy Meals of Milbank:** 5.00%
- **ALWM Bill Moberly:** 13.00%
- **Haven Center (Watertown Initiative - sex trafficking):** 5.00%
- **Bible Alive (Pastor Kent publishing fund):** from 9.00% to 5.00%
- **SDAG Michael Sanchez:** 5.00%
- **Call to Freedom (Sioux Falls, sex trafficking):** 4.00% (a new mission)
- **Additional missions that are given to once a year:** Helping Hands, (Food pantries of Milbank and Ortonville from Lenten offerings)

A motion was made concerning recipients of the benevolence fund to include with the check a letter asking them to inform us of how they are using the money given to them.

Mercy Meals will be packed at the Orphan Grain Center on October 1, 2023 and a meal at our church will follow after packing. More details will be provided later.

The next meeting will be held on October 12, 2023, at 1:30 PM.

PASTOR'S LETTER



STUDIES FOR ALL

Dear Church Family at Living Word,

Where, oh where, did the summer go? It seems that we all return to those thoughts every year at this time. As kids go back to school, the fun and activities of summer have to be set aside for the schedules of school and church.

There has been a great deal of planning going on as we work to provide some excellent programming for all ages through the church this fall.

- The **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** has chosen some excellent new curriculum for Sunday school this year. It will be exciting to see what happens!
- A new Wednesday after school program will begin in September. **LIVING WORD'S DYNAMIC DISCIPLES** is open to the children of Living Word who are in the first through sixth grade. Register your child by calling the church office or signing up on the form found in the fellowship hall.

- **CONFIRMATION CLASS** will begin in September with three students.
- In addition to the circle bible studies each month, the previously offered **ADULT STUDIES** on Sunday mornings and the Tuesday morning men's study, there will be other opportunities available for adults. Other studies will be offered based on specific interests. (See separate article in this newsletter.)

- Also, watch the **LIVING WORD FACEBOOK PAGE** for more information.

Although some disappointment was felt by many people when the call to a new pastor was declined, I cannot even describe the enthusiasm the volunteers have exhibited in getting our fall activities off to a great start! Their commitment is to be respected! This is such an amazing church!

*In Christian love,
Pastor Melanie*

COUNCIL MINUTES



LWLC AUGUST 9, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Vostad, Pastor Melanie, Steve Strege, Marty Buttke, Dale Prisinger, Sandy Christensen, Tina Balling. Sue DeJong was also present.

OPENING: Pastor gave the opening prayer.

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

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

July 2023

Income \$18,733.59

Expenses \$16,199.43

Total **\$2,534.16**

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor reported the registration is open for both Sunday school and the Wednesday after school programs. Pastor would like to be more active on Facebook with messages etc. She also asked for prayers and support for the call committee as they continue to work hard on finding a Pastor. Marty made a motion to accept the pastor's report and it was seconded by Steve. Motion carried.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT REPORT: Lightbulbs were ordered. Dewey's plans on planting the bushes the end of the month. Dale and Marty will get the shelves put together in the shed. Steve made a motion, and it was seconded by Sandy to approve the property & management report. Motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM REPORT: Not available

YOUTH & EDUCATION REPORT: Not available

OLD BUSINESS: The nominating committee comprised of Ron Anderson, Lance Bien and Deb Buttke will be looking for possible council members to replace Dale, Marty and Rhonda at the end of their term.

NEW BUSINESS: Marty and Dale will look into what it would take to add a restroom in the shed. We will look at forming a "space needs" committee to address the future needs of the Church. Sue DeJong spoke on behalf of the LWLW. The membership of the circles has declined in recent years. The LWLW would like to turn over the expenses associated with the confirmation banquet and senior recognition to the church. They would also like to turn over the Lenten meals to the servant teams. A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Dale to make these changes. Motion carried. The LCMC Convention will be held October 1-4 near St. Louis. Dave Wagner has agreed to represent Living Word at the convention and work to get more leads on a pastor.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next council meeting is scheduled for September 13 at 7 PM.

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

September 2023

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1	2
3 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5	6	7 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	8	9	
10 Rally Day 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/noisy change/bibles 11:00 Chapel Communion	11	12 9:00 Quilting	13 3:30 Confirmation 4:00 SD Food Giveaway 7:00 Council	14 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	15	16	
17 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 October Servant Team meets 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	18	19 9:00 Faith Circle meets 7:00 Love Circle meets	20 3:30 Confirmation	21 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	22 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	23	
24 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	25	26 9:00 Quilting	27 3:30 Confirmation	28 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	29	30	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
					1 Steve Stirege (b.)	2 Janice Fenner (b.)	
3	4 Greg & Lori Kasuske (w.) Joanne Nelson (b.)	5 Tina Balling (b.)	6	7 Lisa Aker (b.) Carter Busack (b.) Roger Christensen (b.) Colby Weber (b.)	8 Linda Anderson (b.) Marty & Deb Buttike (w.) Bergen Nolting (b.) Brock Sime (b.)	9	
10 Bruce & Linda Larson (w.)	11 Jackie Olson (b.) Timothy Ramsey (b.) Grant Van Peursesem (b.)	12 Isabella Anderson (b.)	13	14 Trevor Nolting (b.)	15	16 Carol Forster (b.) Jamie & Hope Pekelder (w.) Heidi Peizel (b.)	
17 Harold & Beverly Zeigler (w.)	18 Roger & Tammy Christensen (w.)	19 Richard Hansen (b.)	20 Susan Vostad (b.)	21 Gary & Marsha Meister (w.)	22	23	
24 Richard & Sandra Hansen (w.)	25 Ron & Linda Anderson (w.) Lacey Busack (b.) Jack Sandvig (b.)	26 Hailey Heinje (b.) Gordon Johnson (b.)	27	28 Karen Hallquist (b.)	29	30 Renae Dombusch (b.) Melanie Schwandt (b.)	