

# LIVING<sup>+</sup>WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

605-438-9672

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

**Bring your Easter Lily or Flowers to the church  
by noon on Friday, April 18.**



**Fill out a form and place it in the basket in the  
fellowship hall or return it to the office by  
Tuesday, April 15, so we can put it in the bulletin.**

**You may take your flowers home following worship on Easter Sunday.**

## **April Lenten Service Schedule**

**Wednesday, April 2**  
5:30 Supper,  
6:30 Worship

**Wednesday, April 9**  
5:30 Supper  
6:30 Worship

**Thursday, April 17**  
**Maundy Thursday**  
6:30 Worship with  
Communion

**Friday, April 18**  
**Good Friday**  
6:30 Worship

**Easter Sunday, April 20**  
**(No Sunday School)**  
8:30 Easter Breakfast  
10:00 Easter Worship

## **WHAT'S INSIDE**

Announcements  
Impact  
LWLW  
Youth and Education  
Pastor's Letter  
President's Message  
Council Minutes  
Evangelism  
Calendars

# Announcements

**“Women’s Connection”,  
an affiliate of Stonecroft  
Ministries, meeting will be held at  
Central Church,  
Milbank, SD on April 15, 2025 at  
1:30 – 3:00 P.M, in the church  
fellowship hall.**

**Tickets: \$5.00 – Refreshments will  
be served.**

**Speaker - Laurie Kimball —  
“Moving On”**

**Special Feature — Laurie Kimball**

**Music - Milbank Christian  
Fellowship Children’s Choir**

**Come enjoy an afternoon of  
fellowship together with women  
in our area.**

**For reservations: please contact:  
Peg Dohrer – (605)949-0311 –  
pldohrer@itcmilbank.com.**



## Pet Photo Contest

**Submit a photo of your pet to Laura Dallman by  
April 11th.**

**Provide the pet’s name, age, and owners.**

**\$1/vote and winner will be announced April  
27th.**

**To submit a photo email:**

**[lauradallman12@gmail.com](mailto:lauradallman12@gmail.com)**

**Or text photo to 320-226-0467**

**Thank you for supporting the  
Living Word Warriors Cancer Team.  
Proceeds will go to: It Only Takes A Spark!**

**Bible Study Opportunity**  
Pastor Simonson continues  
presentation and discussion of  
the series “The Chosen” on  
Thursday nights at 6:30pm. It is  
not too late to join us.  
Invite a friend and learn more  
about the life of Jesus and His  
followers.








# Mother/Daughter Sister/Friend


## Special Event



Saturday, April 26th  
9:30 - 11:00 A.M.



Come celebrate women of all ages.  
Enjoy fellowship, music, lunch,  
and a message.

**Deadline to Register: April 20th**  
**Sign up by calling the church office.**  
**Open to church members & invited public.**

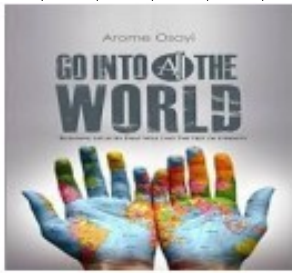


Living Word Lutheran Church  
101 Northridge Ave.  
Milbank, SD

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Free will donations will be  
given to the church cancer  
walk team.



# IMPACT MISSIONS

## UPDATE FROM THE IMPACT THE WORLD BOARD

The Impact the World Board has been so blessed by your generous donations. It has given our board the ability to help people locally as well as world wide. God has so richly blessed us that we are able to be a blessing to others. Since our last meeting we were able to help the family of a young man who is fighting cancer, another family who lost their child and home in a fire, and a family who lost their wife and mother. If you know of someone who could use a "hand up" please contact the church office or someone from the ITW board. We will be happy to prayerfully consider the request.

Something that is weighing heavily on my heart is a family in Milbank that has an ill child and the electric bill is overdue and electrical services will soon be cut off. To my knowledge they are doing their best to make ends meet and pay their bills. If this is something that speaks to you, please let me or one of the other board members know.

In April we will be supporting the foster care program and in May collection is for LWLC Vacation Bible School.

In a recent Bible study lesson I came across this verse.

Matthew 25:40 "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

We certainly can't earn our way to Heaven, however, we are expected to love our brothers and sisters and help them when possible.

## Living Word Lutheran Women



Hello Congregation,

I would like to update you on the goings on of the Living word Lutheran Women.

First of all, thank you to those who donated to the Layingt fundraising efforts. There is still time to contribute to this cause if you feel compelled. The list is posted on the table where we collect items if you need a reminder.

For the month of April, we are collecting feminine hygiene products to be distributed by the local pantry. Our collection point is under the table in the fellowship hall.

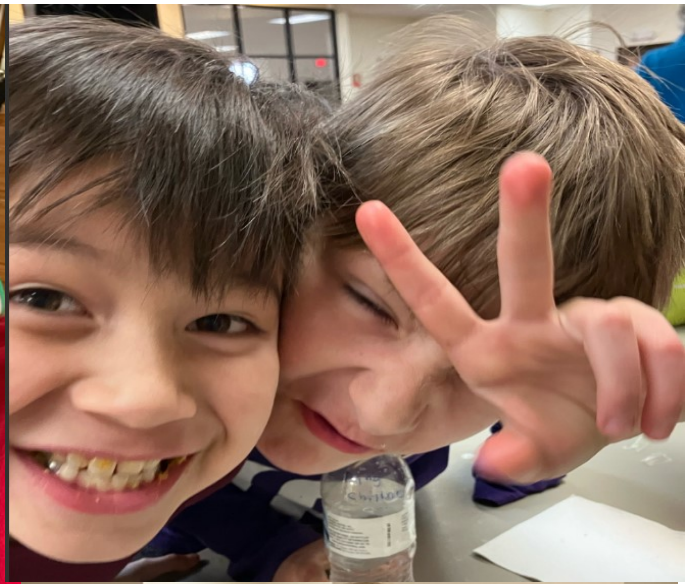
As a quick reminder to the circles, please make note that our seniors are finishing up their final semester. A final note to them would be most appreciated.

Finally, the executive committee is looking to fill the position of Mission Committee Chairperson. The responsibilities of the position include maintaining contact with our graduated students throughout their college careers (or 4 years) coordinating Confirmation and Senior Sunday special occasions. If this piques your interest please contact me and I will answer any questions you may have and provide more details. I am also willing to help you as you learn the ropes. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

God's Blessings to you all-

Brenda Seehafer  
(605) 880-1788







# Living Word Lutheran Church Youth and Education

## Living Word Lutheran Church Newsletter – April Edition

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### Sunday School Updates

Our first communion classes are underway, and we are blessed to have four youth learning about this sacrament. After completing the courses, they will receive their first communion during the Maundy Thursday service on **April 17th**.

Our other students have started a four-week Easter Egg-themed curriculum. In this, they will learn that knowing about Jesus is not enough—we must love others as Jesus loves us. They will also explore how even when we make mistakes, Jesus is there to help us, how we can take our broken hearts to Him, and what the resurrection truly means.

Looking ahead—**May 11th** is our last day of Sunday School, where we will celebrate our seniors. We will also recognize our **Prayer Partners** and the children they have been praying for this past year. More details to come on these special events!

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### Easter Sunday Breakfast

We need youth from preschool through high school and their families to help with this special event! Volunteers are needed to **set up, serve, and clean up**. We also need donations of **egg bakes, rolls, muffins, fruit, and juice**. Please **sign up in the fellowship hall** or call Michelle to get your family involved!

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### Easter Scavenger Hunt

Parents, guide your child through our **“Jesus' Journey to the Cross”** scavenger hunt on Easter morning during the breakfast. Help your child as they make their way through the final weeks of Jesus' life on earth—from **Palm Sunday to the Resurrection**. The hunt starts at the entrance of the **sanctuary**, with all eight stops located in the sanctuary area.

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### Dynamic Disciples: Happy Campers in Christ

Our **Dynamic Disciples** have been learning about Jesus through our **Happy Campers** theme! We discovered that **Jesus is the Bread of Life**, filling us up like no food ever can. We praised God by **singing around the campfire**, made lanterns to symbolize how **God's love shines through even in darkness**, and shared stories—learning that the greatest story ever told is Jesus' resurrection and the gift of eternal life.

- Learn to **pray** like **Jesus**
- Have **courage** to **stand up** for **Him**
- Understand **why** **Jesus** had to die
- Discover how **Jesus'** resurrection gives us eternal life

You are welcome to bring your Christmas trees anytime and leave them in the entry. If you do not want your tree returned, please indicate that on your box. Make sure to label your box with your name so it can be returned to you. We are still searching for some bigger logs to sit on and any other wilderness/Alaska items you may have for decoration. These can be brought anytime, and again, make sure to label them with your name.

We are starting our sign-up, so if you have any children or grandchildren and would like them to attend, please get them signed up ASAP. We won't open registration up to others until we get our church family children signed up. We are limited to 40 children. We also need some help as crew leaders and helpers who guide the children through the various stations. Please sign up as soon as possible! We are so excited to go on this wilderness journey!

Stay tuned for more details on our upcoming **True North Vacation Bible School (VBS)**!





## ***Pastor's Letter***

Grace, Mercy, and Peace, be unto you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

As we draw closer to Easter Sunday, we often feel the sting of our guilt as the cross draws closer for Christ. The unimaginable pain and suffering our Savior endured on the cross is a yearly reminder that our sin is what killed Him. Our hardened and blackened hearts do not want to be told what to do. We want to be our own boss, in control of our own destiny, and our own God. And the truth of the matter is, that without the Holy Spirit, we would not even know our own sin much less who Christ is.

When Christ sent the Holy Spirit to us, it wasn't to "watch over us" or to "comfort us". The Holy Spirit was sent to call, gather, and enlighten all of God's people. Luther says, "In Baptism, the Holy Spirit works faith and so creates in us new spiritual life with the power to overcome sin." It is the Holy Spirit who brings us to faith and allows us to hear and believe in the Word of God. It is the Holy Spirit that sanctifies us, forgives us, and renews us daily when we repent in prayer.

We are baptized daily through repenting for our sins. God's promise is renewed every time we ask for forgiveness. The Old Adam is put to death, and the New Adam, full of the Holy Spirit, strong in faith, and righteous before God, is reborn. In our prayers we do not have to be specific because God already knows your sins. What He is looking for in your prayers is a contrite heart, a faithful spirit, and the proclamation of His glory and His mercy.

After all, our Lord and Savior is on His way to the cross to die for you. He is heading to defeat death and the devil once and for all. He is on His way to fulfill God's Law so that those of us who are sinful and do not keep the law, through faith in Him, we may be granted access into His kingdom. Not because of anything we have done, but because He has chosen to grant us forgiveness according to His boundless mercy.

This Easter, set your gaze upon God's love and compassion for you. Center your focus on His love and mercy. Remember the promise of salvation found in your baptism, and know that God has prepared a place for you in His kingdom, through Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Pastor Schinner*



# A Message from our Council President

Greetings everyone,

On Sunday, March 23, congregational members stayed after church to vote on whether or not they wanted to continue the process of our proposed building project. The results were: 83 in favor of continuing to move forward in the process, understanding that the next step would be a pledge drive and an assessment of the financial requirements needed; 21 voted to not continue pursuing the proposed building project at this time; and 2 abstained. Thank you to everyone who has been involved and participating through conversations, questions, and praying!!

Since the results of the vote were in favor of taking the next step, the Church Council held a special meeting to plan a pledge drive. Members of our congregation will be getting a letter in the mail in which a pledge form will be included. We ask that you to prayerfully consider what God is laying on your heart for this project. Once you have filled out the pledge sheet, you can either mail it back to the church or leave it in a drop off box that will be placed in the back of the church. This pledge, should we move forward with the project, will then become a commitment. Thank you for prayerfully considering how God is leading you to give. Whether it is monetary (of any amount), support through fervent prayer, and/or a willingness to share your time and talent, please know that you are appreciated and an important part of this church family!

Last night when I walked into that special Church Council meeting, someone asked me about the sweatshirt I was wearing. I looked down at it, as if I couldn't remember what I put on that morning, and he asked me about what was printed on it. "What does 'Even if... Daniel 3:8' mean?" Knowing that the meeting was about to start, I gave a quick 10 second explanation of what that verse meant to me.

The next morning, in my quiet time, I picked up my bible and it just so happened to open up to Daniel. I thought "OK God, I'll look up that verse." Here's a recap: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a fiery furnace because they refused to obey King Nebuchadnezzar who decreed everyone to bow down and worship a gold statue and serve his gods. The King taunted the three men, "What god will be able to rescue you from my power?" Part of their response can be found in vs 17-18. "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But **even if** he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up." I immediately had the realization that I believe this verse is relevant to right now. The God whom we serve is able to provide for this building project. But even if he doesn't, we will faithfully serve Him and we will worship Him, and only Him.

The God whom we serve is able...

He will.....

But even if he doesn't....

We will.....

Although our opinions on church projects, programs, activities etc may differ from one another, let us remember our commonality. We are united by our common belief in a Triune God, the inherent Word of God, and our love for Jesus who died for our sins. We will faithfully serve Him. Thank you for continuing to pray for our church family as we move forward in faith, trusting God to lead us.

Love to all,  
Jackie



# Council Minutes

## LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT - MARCH 12, 2025

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President Jackie Olson, Pastor Curtis Simonson, Moe Reede, Laurie Maas, Adam McMahon, Steve Strege, Deb Buttke, Sandy Christensen, Tim DeJong and Julie Berger.

**OPENING:** Jackie gave the opening prayer.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Angel Campbell gave a presentation on NA (Narcotics Anonymous). Moe made a motion to approve NA meetings to take place at LWLC on Tuesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. year round. If there are conflicts with LWLC schedule, arrangements will be made for NA to take place at another location for that evening. Laurie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Moe made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Sandy. The motion carried.

**BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** The report was reviewed. Laurie made a motion to approve the report, and it was seconded by Adam. The motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCE REPORT:** Deb Buttke and Jackie Olson have been added to the First Bank and Trust checking account. Laurie made a motion to approve the report. Sandy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Financial Report  
Income: \$18,594.47  
Expenses: \$13,879.92

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Total: \$4,714.55

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** The April 6 communion assistant will be Julie. Anyone wishing to serve as communion assistant for future months can contact Michelle at the office. The Pastors' visits at hospital/nursing home/homes are continuing to go well. Confirmation classes have been completed. A date will be set for confirmation Sunday in the near future. Pastor feels Lenten services are going well. Pastor's schedule was discussed with Mondays being his day off. Deb made a motion to approve the Pastor's report. Moe seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.



**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT:** A new vacuum was purchased. Jackie made a motion for the church to purchase Lutheran Services Builder software for the office. Sandy seconded that motion. The motion carried. A light fixture was replaced a few weeks ago, and there was a discussion regarding replacing additional lights at some point. Julie made a motion to approve the report. Moe seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**WORSHIP & EVANGELISM REPORT:** Sandy reported that the pancake breakfast for the Cancer Walk fundraiser went well. She also indicated that the Blessed Be Meals would be done at the end of March and start back up in the fall. Sandy is going to prepare information regarding the Cancer Walk for the newsletter. There is a mother/daughter/sister/friend event set for April 26, 2025, from 9:30-11 to include food, music, devotions and a speaker. It is open to congregation members and allows them to invite a guest. Money to help fund this event can be accessed through the Barland Fund. Deb made a motion to approve the report. Moe seconded and the motion carried.

**YOUTH & EDUCATION REPORT:** There will be a sign-up sheet available for families to serve for the Easter breakfast. An Easter egg hunt is being planned. Things are gearing up for VBS, which is scheduled for June 1-5, 2025. Adam made a motion to approve the report. Sandy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The church directory went to print around February 27. Craig advised that it usually takes 2-3 weeks to complete. An update was given on church apparel for congregation purchase and designs are under way.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Donations received from Wednesday night Lenten suppers are to be divided equally between the Mission Board and the LWLC Cancer Walk team. A list of names is being compiled for substitutes for the office when Michelle is on vacation. Kelly Peterson is resigning as business manager and efforts are being made to find a replacement. Kelly will continue working with us until we can find someone. Beginning May 4, 2025, we will be going back to passing the offering plate during services. We will be increasing the credit limit on the office credit card, and discussion was had regarding getting a credit card for the pastor. A pledge drive will be discussed at a special meeting after the March 23 congregational meeting, if the vote passes to proceed with the building project contingent on funding.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** April 9, 2025, after Lenten service.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Steve motioned to adjourn the meeting, Adam seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Berger, Council Secretary



### The Story Behind Our Church Logo

Living Word Lutheran Church has come a long way since its early days as the "Strip Mall" church in 2010. In September 2011, the congregation took a significant step by voting to ratify a constitution and accepting a generous gift of five acres to build a new church home. After years of prayer and dedication, we moved into our new building on March 20, 2014, and held our first service there on March 23, 2014.

Our church name served as the inspiration for our logo, a meaningful design that reflects our faith and mission. With the help of congregation members, Nancy Kruger thoughtfully designed the **LWLC logo**, ensuring that every element carried a deeper meaning:

- **The Bible** holds a central place, symbolizing our strong belief in a faith rooted in God's Word.
- **The Cross** reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice and the eternal life we have through Him.
- **Green** represents growth and renewal, a testament to how God continually transforms us.
- **Brown** signifies the earth, God's connection to humanity, and the dust from which we were created.

This logo is more than an image—it is a **representation of who we are as a church**, committed to sharing the Living Word with the world.

### Exciting News: Church Apparel Coming Soon!

Some **council members are working on apparel** featuring the church logo, giving congregation members the opportunity to show their faith and church pride. The **design and colors will be available soon** for anyone who would like to place an order. Stay tuned for more details on how you can get your own **Living Word Lutheran Church apparel!**



# Evangelism

## Cancer Walk Team News

### \*First Fundraiser Is Success

Living Word's first Cancer Walk fundraising event, a pancake and sausage breakfast, held the first part of March, raised more than \$500. Although attendance was small, hearts were generous. Many thanks to all who attended, volunteered and donated. We are on our way.

### \*Lenten Supper Donations

A big THANK YOU to Church Council for voting to have 50% of the Wednesday night Lenten Supper Free Will Donations go toward Cancer Walk. The team is very appreciative of this.

### \*Learn More About Cancer Walk

If you do not know the history of "It Only Takes A Spark" Cancer Walk in Milbank –Grant County be watching for **Why Our Cancer Walk Is NOT a Relay**. This will be shared via inserts in April Sunday bulletins and at a **SPECIAL Cancer Walk Sunday coming in April – WATCH FOR DATE.**

**\*\*KIDS** we NEED you too!!! High school students may earn community service hours helping. Great way to get them! Younger kids, we have jobs for you too!!! And you can have lots of fun!

### Living Word Cancer Walk Team Members

Laura Dallman	Jessica Leweno	Sandy Christensen
Deb Buttke	Carol Weber	Terry Dorry
Don Weber	Linda Prisinger	Craig Prisinger
Vicki Strege	Steve Strege	Karen Hallquist

### Blessed Be Meals Concludes for Season

Blessed Be Meals program will take a break for the Spring and Summer seasons. Four meals were made available to approximately 10-12 different congregation members. I am hoping they brought some smiles and nourishment to those who received them. I know I enjoyed preparing them. The program will undergo some review and hopefully be back in the fall and winter. If any church member has comments regarding how to improve this evangelism outreach, would like to join the efforts of Blessed Be Meals or just grab a coffee and talk evangelism give me a call or text at 605-880-4452. God Bless!

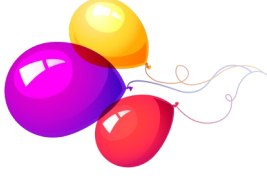
# April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 5:30 Lenten Supper/ Worship	3 4 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 6:30 The Chosen	4	5
6 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship with Communion	7	8 9:00 Quilting	9 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 5:30 Lenten Supper/ Worship	10 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 6:30 The Chosen	11	12
13 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Palm Sunday Worship 11:00 Chapel Communion	14	15 9:00 Faith Circle 7:00 Love Circle	16 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	17 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 6:30 Maundy Thursday Worship with communion	18 6:30 Tenebrae Service	19
20 8:30 Easter Breakfast 9:00 May Servant Team meets 10:00 Easter Worship with Communion	21	22 9:00 Quilting	23 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	24 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 6:30 The Chosen	25	26
27 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	28	29	30 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples			



# APRIL BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Happy  
Birthday



HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Alyssa Aker (b.) Kevin Dornbusch (b.) Katie Kruger (b.) Brad & Shirley Zahn (w.)	3	4	5
6 Susan Keaton (b.) Randy Redepenning (b.)	7 Tom Dorry (b.) Ethan Fish (b.)	8 Kevin & Renae Dornbusch (w.) Robert Hornstein (b.)	9	10	11 Gerald Brown (b.)	12 Terrance Meister (b.) Melanie Reiners (b.)
13	14	15 Maci Kasuske (b.) Thea Varposness (b.)	16 Lance Bien (b.)	17	18	19
20	21 Kendall Van Beursem (b.)	22 Terie Dorry (b.)	23 Gerald & Sharon Brown (w.)	24 Donald O'Connor (b.)	25 Mark Veen (b.)	26 Brad Zahn (b.)
27	28	29 Jean Leiminger (b.) Nicole Plaga (b.)	30 Zachary Aker (b.) Nathan Hansen (b.)			

# LWLC Committee Contacts

## 2025 Council Members:

**President:** Jackie Olson, 605-949-1386  
Email: jackieolsonmk@outlook.com

**Vice President:** Moe Reede, 605-949-1482  
Email: mreede97@yahoo.com

**Secretary:** Julie Berger, 320-815-9248  
Email: jjberger77@gmail.com

**Youth & Education:** Laurie Maas, 320-305-0887  
Email: laurie.a.maas@gmail.com

Moe Reede, 605-949-1482  
Email: mreede97@yahoo.com

**Worship & Evangelism:** Sandy Christensen, 605-880-4452  
Email: sandy@stengeloils.com

Steve Strege: 605-949-0669  
Email: grainbelt01@hotmail.com

**Treasurer/Finance:** Deb Buttke, 605-467-1458  
Email: mdbuttke@itcmilbank.com

Adam McMahon, 320-760-4158  
Email: adam.l.mcmahon@gmail.com

**Property & Management:** Tim DeJong, 605-949-0422  
Email: t\_dejong54@hotmail.com

**Newsletter:** Michelle Simonson, 605-438-9672, livingword@itcmilbank.com

**Website:** livingwordmilbank.com

## Living Word Lutheran Women Officers:

**Coordinator:** Brenda Seehafer, 605-880-1788

**Vice-coordinator:** Sandy Christensen 605-880-4452

**Secretary:** Lori Kasuske, 605-949-2032

**Treasurer:** Annette Redepenning, 605-432-6688

**Mission Action:** Gloria Cooley, 605-445-1555

**Mission Growth:** Linda Wagner, 612-201-2110

**Mission Community:** Kim Wink 303-596-1097

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Milbank, SD 57252*

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*Email:  
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*Pastor Curtis Simonson,  
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