

# LIVING+WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

605-438-9672

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

## LWLC Family Game Night!



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# Announcements

## ***Feed the Body and the Soul***

Are you older and find it difficult to prepare nutritious, economical meals for one or two people? "Blessed Be" Meals will be help!

Beginning Sunday, February 1, simple, homemade meals that may be frozen will be available for church members to take home. Each meal will be a two-serving amount accompanied by a small dessert. Selections will include Tater Tot Casserole, Goulash, Scalloped Potatoes & Ham and more.

A sign-up sheet will be located in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up ASAP for planning purposes. If questions, contact Sandy Christensen at 605-880-4452 or [sandracudmore39@gmail.com](mailto:sandracudmore39@gmail.com).

**Living Word Church has numerous programs and events available to its members. In efforts to better coordinate and advertise all of them to the congregation, a monthly bulletin board is being planned. The monthly calendar will be quite larger and posted in the Fellowship Hall. If you are part of or know of events, meetings, etc. that need to be included on the calendar especially on a regular basis, please contact Sandy Christensen at 605-880-4452 or [sandracudmore39@gmail.com](mailto:sandracudmore39@gmail.com). You may also leave a message at the office as well. Thank you.**

## **RightNow Media**

RightNow Media is a streaming video library of free Bible Studies. We believe the mission of the church matters. And we've seen how God can change lives through video resources. If you are interested in joining RightNow Media at no charge, contact the church office at 605-438-9672.

## ***Let's Make a Cancer Walk Team***

Cancer Walk 2025 here we come!! Living Word Church is having a Cancer Walk Team so if you want to be part of the cancer fighting efforts, activities, fundraising and of course FUN! come join the fun.

All ages welcome! The more team members the more fun we will have. Registration fee has already been paid. Cancer Walk dates this year are June 13-14.

Team organizational/brainstorming meeting Sunday, Feb. 8 at 9:15 during Coffee hour in Fellowship Hall (20 min. at most-bring a friend and your coffee)

## **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.



# Living Word Lutheran Church Youth and Education

## Sunday School: Learning the 10 Commandments

Our Sunday School students are diving deeper into the 10 Commandments, exploring their meaning and relevance in our lives today. Each week, children engage in lessons and activities that help them understand how God's laws guide us in our daily actions and relationships.

## First Communion Classes

Families with children in grades 3 and up who are interested in First Communion will have the opportunity to attend classes in late March and early April. These classes will prepare students to take part in this meaningful sacrament. Stay tuned

## Dynamic Disciples: Camping Theme

Dynamic Disciples kicked off a new theme focused on camping, which ties into our upcoming VBS program this summer. Recently, we had a special guest, Tim DeJong, who shared his expertise on fishing and lures, teaching us how to connect our passions with sharing Jesus' love.

Through activities like tent setup, we learned the importance of following directions—both practical ones for camping and spiritual ones found in the Bible and the 10 Commandments. Jesus' directions guide us to live lives that reflect His love and teachings.

We are excited to share that Melanie Schwandt has volunteered to help with Dynamic Disciples while Sue is away. Thank you, Melanie! We could use some extra hands on January 29, February 19, and February 26 to help with crafts. If you're available to assist, please let Laurie know.

## Education Committee Plans

The Education Committee is making exciting plans for the upcoming months! This summer, we'll be hosting a Camping Night at Church, filled with fun and fellowship. Additionally, we are organizing a Mother, Daughter, Grandma, and Friend Event in April. Stay tuned for more details about these special gatherings!

## Game Night Recap

We had our first game night on January 22nd, and it was a fantastic success! Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal, visiting with friends, playing games, and watching a movie. A special thank you to everyone who helped set up and contributed to making the evening enjoyable. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

## Upcoming Event: Nursing Home Visit

Dynamic Disciples will visit the local nursing home on Wednesday, February 5th. During this special outing, we'll play bingo, make crafts, and decorate cookies with the residents. It's a wonderful opportunity to bring joy and fellowship to our community. Families are welcome to join us!

# Calling All Guitar Players!

We are looking for someone who can play the guitar for an upcoming Dynamic Disciples lesson. Our plan is to sing songs around a campfire, and your musical talents could make this experience extra special. If you're interested, please contact Laurie for more details.

## Contact Information

For questions or to get involved in any of these programs, please contact:

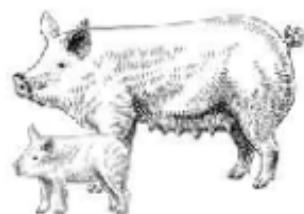
Laurie Maas - Youth and Education Contact Email: [laurie.a.maas@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.a.maas@gmail.com) Phone: (320)305-0887

Let's continue to grow together in faith and fellowship!

## PIGS FOR PASTORS CHOSEN FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

The PIGS for PASTORS program of Awakening Lives to World Missions has been chosen by the Education Committee as the recipient of the Sunday School offering this year.

Should you wish to join in support of their efforts, the Little Red Barn will be located in the fellowship hall for financial gifts.



## PIGS FOR PASTORS

- ❖ Goal to raise \$1900-2000
- ❖ Buys shelter, sow, 10 piglets and feed.
- ❖ For Pastor to have small pig farm to support his family.



Heart for Mission Laos -Thailand, a ministry of ALWM, exists to support the churches of Laos, Thailand, and the Mekong Region of Southeast Asia. It has been serving the Mekong Region since 2009. Heart for Mission is co-directed by Pr. Tom & Pr. Deuane

Thorstad. Pr Tom is on the LCMC & NALC Clergy Rosters, and is a Global Worker of the NALC.

### LAOS

- Population: 7.6 million
- Communist govt since 1975
- Buddhism and Animism: 96%
- Christianity: 3%

### LAO EVANGELICAL CHURCH (LEC)

- Started ministry in the early 1990's with only two churches in the Capital city. Only 26 Christians remained.
- In the whole country, less than 15,000 Christians,
  - with less than 150 churches.
- As of now, there are 1,400 churches and house churches in every province all over Laos

### Growing Church

- New churches are opened every year
  - Last year alone almost 100 new churches were opened.
- Last year about 43,000 people heard the Gospel,
- People get converted every day;
  - about 10,000 people received Christ
- People baptized every week.
  - Last year about 4,000 got baptized.
- Now over 15,000 Christian in Vientiane
- Christian population in Laos is now about 250,000 people. (from 15,000 in 1990)

### Challenges Facing the LAO EVANGELICAL CHURCH (LEC)

- Many churches in Laos cannot be self-supporting
- Most pastors are not fully supported.
- Cannot follow up all new believers.
- Not enough pastors and workers.



### Social & Community Development

- Lao Evangelical Church (LEC) has a major impact on social work and rural development throughout Laos.
- Strengthens good relationship between Church leadership and local authorities.
- Involved with the life of the community through social development programs and services.





# LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN



Dear Friends,

So quickly do the months go!!! Here we are to February ALREADY! During the month of January, the Executive Board of the Living Word Lutheran Women met to discuss the business of the group. The Mitten Tree donations and the Sleep in Heavenly Peace bedding were delivered to the appropriate organizations. The donations were well-received with grateful appreciation. THANK YOU to each of you who support our missions and make them successful.

We will be hosting a Pasta Night on Sunday, February 16, 2025 starting at 5:00 p.m. followed by Pastor Curtis sharing with us his ministry in Chicago. Please join us for a night of fellowship and friendship. We always have a great time together, wouldn't you agree?? If you have friends or family who would like to join us, they are most welcome too.

And finally as a gentle reminder, our mission project continuing for February is the Hygiene Kit Project. I am including the list once again. If you feel led to contribute, know that you do not have to give a whole kit- a few items make a big difference. There is a cost for shipping the kits, so if you would like to contribute in that way it would also be so appreciated.

Thank you again for your support. We look forward to seeing you at the Pasta Night!

God's Blessings to you and yours.

Brenda Seehafer

## HYGIENE KITS

### CONTENTS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bath towel                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 sturdy comb                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 wash cloth                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 band-aids<br>(1/2" or 3/4")       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bath-size bar of<br>soap   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 small package<br>facial tissues   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 plastic soap box<br>holder | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 nail clipper                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 toothbrush                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 piece of strong<br>ribbon or cord |



## PASTOR'S LETTER

St. Peter tells us in **1 Peter 5:7-9**:

***7** cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. **8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*

As we enter 2025, we begin another year on this Earth, uncertain of what this year will bring. For some of our brothers and sisters, health issues, financial struggles, and even personal issues have already begun. The devil doesn't take days off. As Peter said, he is on the prowl. Depending on where our faith lies, the troubles that come from sin, can either push us away from Christ, or draw us nearer to His unwavering love.

When Mary came to Jesus at the wedding and asked Him to help because the host had run out of wine, Christ answered her **"what does this have to do with me"**? Jesus even tells Mary, **"my time has not yet come"**. But Mary, full of faith and confidence in Jesus, is so sure that Jesus is going to do what she asked of Him, that she turns to the servants and says **"do whatever He tells you"**, and walks away.

This year, we are all going to "run out of wine" at some point. Everyone is going to have something that they need to bring to God in prayer, and when you do, look at Mary's example of faith and confidence. She asked Christ for help, and then just walked away, knowing full well that He would take care of the problem. She didn't know how or what He was going to do, she just knew He would handle it.

God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways. But He works all things out for our good and according to His will. Our God is a merciful God who will never leave our side. In fact, what He has planned for you in the future is far greater than anything we can imagine. He has gone before us to prepare a place for all who believe in His name. As chosen children of God, we have the assurance that no matter what happens here on this earth, that our Savior will gather us all to Him one day.

In Hebrews 13:5-6 the author reminds us that Christ said: **"I will never leave you nor forsake you."** 6 So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" I pray for all of you that God heals, defends, and protects you and your families this year. I also pray that the Holy Spirit strengthens your faith and brings you all closer to Christ Jesus. Finally, I pray that God continues to bless Living Word Lutheran Church as he has done from the beginning..

May the Lord bless you and keep you throughout the year!

*Pastor Curtis Simonson*



# COUNCIL MINUTES

## LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT - JANUARY 14, 2025

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President Jackie Olson, Pastor Curtis, Tim DeJong, Moe Reede, Laurie Maas, Adam McMahon, Steve Strege, Deb Buttke, Sandy Christensen and Julie Berger. Kelly Peterson attended to give the business manager's report.

**OPENING:** Pastor Curtis gave the opening prayer.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Several items were added to the agenda. Laurie motioned to approve the agenda and Adam seconded. Motion carried.

**BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** Discussion was had regarding the youth fund money. We need to add the treasurer's name to church accounts. The pastor has received health insurance. The ice machine has been ordered. Moe made a motion to approve the business report and it was seconded by Laurie. Motion carried.

**TREASURER/FINANCE REPORT:** A motion was made by Moe to accept the report and it was seconded by Tim. Motion carried.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT :** Steve made a motion to approve the report and it was seconded by Adam. Motion carried.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** The live nativity event was well attended and planning has started for next year. Pastor reported that he has finished the fall semester of school and that it went well. Pastoral visits were made to parishioners as well as non members. The Chosen has been well attended. There was discussion regarding first communion classes for the youth. A motion was made by Jackie to continue offering classes for first communion for third grade and up, allowing parents to determine when their child is ready. The motion was seconded by Steve and the motion carried. There was discussion on the status of the church directory and follow ups are being made. Deb made a motion to approve the Pastor's report and it was seconded by Moe. Motion carried.

**PROPERTY AND MANAGEMENT REPORT:** A white board was hung in Pastor's office. Adam gave an overview of installing a Knoxbox at a cost of \$487 for emergency purposes for police/fire. Laurie made a motion to add the Knoxbox when the building project had been decided and Moe seconded. Motion denied. Jackie made a motion to revisit the Knoxbox at a later date and Sandy seconded. Motion carried. Jackie made a motion to approve the report and it was seconded by Julie. The motion carried.

**WORSHIP AND EVANGELISM REPORT:** Sandy is getting more information about the Cancer Walk and the possibility of Living Word having its own team. She will discuss it at the next education meeting. There was a discussion regarding a dedicated space for a bulletin board in church with activities listed for the month. Pastor will work with ushers regarding communion procedures. Laurie made a motion to approve the report and it was seconded by Adam. Motion carried.

**YOUTH AND EDUCATION REPORT:** Laurie reports the Dynamic Disciples are visiting the nursing home for bingo and crafts February 5. June 1-5 are the tentative dates for vacation Bible school. Adam made a motion to approve the youth and education report and it was seconded by Moe. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The stained glass window price has gone up substantially. Pastor made a motion to address the congregation regarding the windows and it was seconded by Julie. Motion carried. Moe made a motion for 10 days PTO and 6 major holidays for the Administrative Assistant position and it was seconded by Julie. Motion carried. Scott Maas and Dale Prisinger will give a short overview on the building project after church on January 26. A motion was made by Steve to distribute packets regarding the building project. The motion was seconded by Pastor and motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Michelle has requested mailboxes for the office and is looking into options.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** February 12, 2025, at 6:30. p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Deb and seconded by Moe. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Berger, Church Council Secretary



# A Message from our Council President

Greetings,

First of all, I just want to say how grateful I am to be a part of this church family. There are so many faithful followers of Christ within our congregation, and so many people who are willing to give of their time, talents and resources for our church. I don't even begin to think that I know all of what goes on within our church. Although I know of several people who volunteer and several programs and committees within our church, it's probably only a tip of the iceberg of what really goes on. I may not see, but God sees. And that's ok because Colossians 3:23-24 says: Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Decisions, decisions, decisions...it's a part of every committee and of everyday life. Did you know that the average person makes around 35,000 decisions a day? (No wonder I can sometimes feel exhausted and it's not even lunchtime yet!) Some decisions are small, some big; some easy, some take more careful thought. Many take prayer. As a Church Council we make decisions often. Some are easier than others. I suspect there will be bigger decisions in the near future. Do we build? Where is God asking us to serve? Where is God leading us? What is He saying? How do we steward the money and resources He has given us?

It's so easy to have a quick opinion. And our opinions can easily stem from our personal desires (What's in it for me?), our personal passion (What's important to me?), or maybe even our personal experiences (something that has happened in the past, or something we are currently going through). I think that's part of being human. But what if God is asking us to step back and have a bigger perspective? What if we could have an aerial view, seeing and knowing everything that is involved, everything that is effected by that decision, and how that little piece of the puzzle fits into a bigger plan? Well, God sees it all. He is omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing), omnipresent (present everywhere at all times). He has a plan and He is guiding us along the best pathway. James 1:5 tells us: If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (Look this one up and keep reading! There's more to the story, but I'm running out of room. Ha)

So I ask each one of you to attend the upcoming Q & A sessions regarding the possible building project. I ask each one of you to do your part—take personal responsibility for attending church meetings, gathering information, asking questions, learning about it, and above all PRAYING about it. This is one decision that we definitely are seeking wisdom and God's will! Thank you for continuing to cover our church with prayer. It's so important and it's something EVERYONE can do.

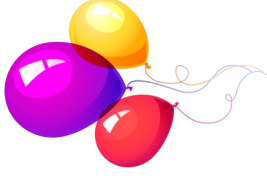
Love, Jackie

# February 2025

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							1 Ice Fishing Trip
2 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion	3		4	5 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 3:30 Confirmation	6 9:00 Community Coffee 6:30 The Chosen	7	8
9 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Noisy Change 11:00 Chapel Communion	10		11 9:00 Quilting	12 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 3:30 Confirmation 7:00 Council	13 9:00 Community Coffee 6:30 The Chosen	14	15
16 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 March Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship	17 Presidents' Day Church & Office Closed Newsletter items due		18 9:00 Faith Circle 7:00 Love Circle	19 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 3:30 Confirmation	20 9:00 Community Coffee 6:30 The Chosen	21	22
23 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	24		25 9:00 Quilting	26 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 3:30 Confirmation	27 9:00 Community Coffee 6:30 The Chosen	28	

# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Happy  
Birthday



HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Scott Leininger (b.)	5	6 Kaitlyn Brook (b.) Brenda Dahle (b.)	7	8 Linda Larson (b.)
9	10	11	12	13 Rhonda Beckman (b.) Kurt & Jean Flaig (w.)	14 Julie Berger (b.) Amelia Dallman (b.)	15 Glenn & Joanne Nelson (w.)
16	17 Kevin & Vicky Hedge (w.)	18 Theo Berdan (b.)	19	20 Marty Buttkie (b.)	21	22
23 Richard Kennedy (b.) Annette Redepenning (b.)	24 Jordan Busack (b.)	25	26	27 Chad Ballhagen (b.) Rena & Timothy Ramsey (w.) Angela Varpness (b.)	28 Brian Sandvig (b.)	



# LWLC Committee Contacts

## 2025 Council Members:

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

**Vice President:** Moe Reede, 605-949-1482  
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**Youth & Education:** Laurie Maas, 320-305-0887  
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Moe Reede, 605-949-1482  
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**Worship & Evangelism:** Sandy Christensen, 605-880-4452  
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Steve Strege: 605-949-0669  
Email: grainbelt01@hotmail.com

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

**Property & Management:** Tim DeJong, 605-949-0422  
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Adam McMahon, 320-760-4158  
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**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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