

# LIVING+WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

605-438-9672

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

## Lenten Service Schedule

Wednesday, March 5  
6:30 pm Worship, Imposition of Ashes,  
Holy Communion (no meal)

Wednesday, March 12  
5:30 Supper, Ham  
6:30 Worship

Wednesday, March 19  
5:30 Supper, BBQ's  
6:30 Worship

Wednesday, March 26  
5:30 Supper, Pork Loin  
6:30 Worship

Wednesday, April 2  
5:30 Supper, Roast Beef  
6:30 Worship

Wednesday, April 9  
5:30 Supper, Pulled Pork

Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday  
6:30 Worship with Holy Communion  
(no meal)

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday  
6:30 Worship

Sunday, April 20 - Easter  
(no Sunday School)  
9:00 Easter Breakfast  
10:00 Easter Worship with  
Holy Communion



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Lent is the period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter observed by Christians as a season of pondering our bondage to sin and the radical action God has taken to save us from sin and death in Jesus the Messiah. We do not focus on our own "good work" of the Lenten fast, but on God's saving work for us in Jesus' atoning death on the cross and resurrection. The Wednesday night Lenten services are a great evening of food, fellowship and sharing of our Christian beliefs. Supper will be at 5:30 pm and the church service is at 6:30 pm.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
IMPACT MISSION  
GRACE ACADEMY

LWLW  
PASTOR'S LETTER  
COUNCIL MINUTES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
CALENDARS  
CONTACTS

# Announcements

*Dear Friends at Living Word,*

*2/27/25*

*We are in safely in Sierra Leone. We arrived last Sunday night and will be home again on March 10. There is an active work environment here this week as Dr. Yeh from the University of Nebraska Medical Center is here with another ophthalmologist, a medical student, and another doctor whose specialty is pathology. This team will perform over 40 retina surgeries this week. In addition, they are beginning a research project on Mpox (monkeypox), which has become a serious epidemic in several countries of the world including some cases in Sierra Leone. The gifts of surgical drapes prepared by Gloria Cooley are all in use this week, a much needed and valued commodity. Thank you for all the support we have received from Living Word. Most of all, we deeply appreciate your prayers!*

*Blessings,*

*Melanie and Roger XXXXXXXX*

## **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.

## **"Women's Connection",**

an affiliate of Stonecroft Ministries, meeting will be held at Central Church, Milbank, SD on March 18, 2025 at 1:30 – 3:00 P.M, in the church fellowship hall. Tickets: \$5.00 – Refreshments will be served.

**Speaker** - Brenda Vermeire of Yankton - "Letting Go of the Wheel"

**Special Feature** — Levi Waddell - "Waddell's Wildflowers " Slide Presentation

**Music** - Jody Kuper, Pastor Thom Bowsher, and Bob Frink. Come enjoy an afternoon of fellowship together with women in our area.

For reservations: please contact:

**Peg Dohrer –  
(605)949-0311 –  
pldohrer@itcmilbank.com.**

## **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.

## **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.

## **WE WENT FISHING**

February 1st found 12 people from Living Word fishing on Big Stone Lake. The day started with a lot of anticipation for what we would do with the fish we caught and the fun we were all going to have catching them.

We started out meeting at the church. We were met there by Jamie Pekelder and 11 other eager anglers. We had a brief meeting in the church talking about where we were going to fish, fishing courtesy, safety and where we were going to go. Pastor Curtis gave a prayer. All of that went well and we all ended up on the lake and were able to make holes, secure fishing equipment and of course dressed warm.

We had 2 shacks on wheels and 3 tent like shacks. The shacks on wheels were pretty welcome because the wind was blowing like we all know it can in South Dakota. The wheeled shacks held up to the wind pretty well but the tent like shacks required some hanging on to and some weight inside.

We fished for about 4 hours and during that time we managed a few bites and one fisherman said he had a fish on his line for a brief time.

About mid afternoon we all had decided our fun meters had run down and decided to leave the lake. (Pastor Curtis also needed to get to the airport in Watertown to pick up Michelle.) We all made it safely off the lake and home. Even though the fishing was not what we had hoped, we all had a good time and plan to do it again.

Gene Vostad

**Bernie and Lance preparing to leave the lake.**







# IMPACT MISSIONS

## NOISY CHANGE OFFERING FOR JANUARY 2025

As we began another year of God's blessings in our lives, our Noisy Change collection for the first month of the new year was for water filtration systems in Vietnam. I was able to see first hand how the filtration systems changed the lives of the many people who live in the countryside of Vietnam. Without these systems people would have to travel a distance get dirty water from the streams and waterways and boil it thoroughly to make it fit to drink. We just turn on the tap and expect clean healthy water to flow. Not so in many rural areas of Vietnam. Contaminated water in Vietnam is responsible for 80% of the illnesses in the country. There are many cases of cholera, typhoid, dysentery and malaria. With that being said, the Impact the World board decided to allocate the January Noisy Change collection to help with this problem. Each water filtration system costs around \$1100. These systems are most often installed at the local churches so that people can go there for clean and safe water for consumption and for the Living Water that Jesus so freely offers those who follow Him. I personally believe that this is one of the most important and safest mission projects that one can contribute to. We know when we give to ALWM, Pastor Bill Moberly's mission organization, that the money that is given for these systems will have 100% of the funds going directly to the water project. Now that we have collected \$3,355.32 in January 2025 a check will be written to Pastor Moberly. He will send a safe money order to Van, his chief of operations, in Vietnam. Van knows the places that are allowed to have water filtration systems by the Vietnamese government. He also know the best prices and people to install these systems. He oversees the project to completion and continues to check on the projects after installation to be sure all is in proper working order. So any time you are looking for a safe and necessary project to donate to, I would highly suggest that you consider water filtration systems, not just in Vietnam, as many other countries have the same need.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this project in January. You have made a big difference in the lives of the people in rural Vietnam. May God richly bless you for your love and generosity.



# LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN



Dear Congregation,

Thank you to all who attended our Pasta Night! We had a great night of food and fellowship. 28 were in attendance and WOW!-- did we eat high on the hog! Or should I say high on the pasta. 😊 Many of you generously donated to Pastor Curtis' Grace Academy. Thank you for your kindness and love!

Our January/February mission to collect items for Hygiene kits has ended. Thank you to all who so graciously provide donations to our causes. The donations are very needed, and it is wonderful that so many of you chose to share.

In March, we start a new mission. Again, our collection point is in the Fellowship Hall. We are collecting items for layettes this month. The contents of a single kit are:

4 cloth diapers

1 sleeper

2 onesies

1 receiving blanket

1 blanket

4 diaper pins

2 rubber pants or reusable swimmer pants

2 wash cloths

As always, you do not need to provide all items in a kit. Even donating one item (new or gently used) is very helpful. Shipping costs \$11.00 per box of kits so perhaps you are led to donate in that capacity. Whatever it may be, THANK YOU!!

As always, if you have any questions please contact me. I would be happy to help. Thank you so much each and every one.

God's blessings to all of you.

Brenda Seehafer- Living Word Lutheran Women coordinator

## Living Word Lutheran Church Youth and Education

### First Communion Classes

Is your child in 3rd grade or older and interested in preparing for their First Communion? We are excited to offer communion classes during the Sunday School hour on the following dates:

- ♦ **Sunday, March 16**
- ♦ **Sunday, March 23**
- ♦ **Sunday, March 30**
- ♦ **Sunday, April 6**
- ♦ **Sunday, April 13**

Children who complete the training will participate in their **First Communion service on Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m.**

To sign your child up or for more information, please contact the church office.

---

### Dynamic Disciples Update

In February, the Dynamic Disciples had the joy of visiting **St. William's**, where they decorated cookies, played bingo, and made cross necklaces. The group is continuing their **Camping theme** during their weekly time together and enjoying a variety of fun, faith-filled activities.

We are looking for a **guitar player** to join us one Wednesday after school to play simple songs like Jesus Loves Me and This Little Light of Mine so the children can sing along. If you are interested or know someone who could help, please contact the church office.

---

### Journey to the Cross Scavenger Hunt

Join us on **Easter Sunday** during breakfast for a special **Journey to the Cross scavenger hunt!** Parents are invited to help lead their children through many stops on the journey Jesus took to the cross.

The scavenger hunt will take place in the sanctuary before the church service. We hope this meaningful experience will help children better understand the Easter story.

In the weeks leading up to Easter, children will also engage in a **4-week curriculum on Easter Eggs & Jesus**, diving deeper into the significance of Easter through interactive lessons and activities.

---

### Save the Date: Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**, which will be held from **Sunday, June 1st, through Thursday, June 5th!** This year, our **True North curriculum** will guide students on a delightful journey to learn how to **Trust in Jesus**.

To make this event a success, we need **your help!** Please prayerfully consider volunteering in one of the following ways:

- ♦ **Kitchen Crew:** Set up and take down supper.
- ♦ **Crew Leader:** Guide children through each station.
- ♦ **Teacher:** Lead children in the various stations.

This is a rewarding experience for all involved.

We are also excited to announce that **registration forms will be available soon!** Space is limited to **40 students**, and we will offer registration to our **Living Word children first** before opening it to others. Additionally, we will offer opportunities for the congregation to donate so that each child attending VBS receives a **t-shirt**.



We are also looking for supplies to borrow or donate to help create an Alaskan or Northern-themed atmosphere, including::

- ◆ Snowshoes
- ◆ A canoe shelf or small canoe
- ◆ Fishing poles and tackle boxes
- ◆ Hunting or fishing decor
- ◆ 3 large tree stumps (big and tall enough for children to sit on)
- ◆ Artificial wildflowers
- ◆ Twinkle white lights
- ◆ Christmas trees of all sizes

If you have any of these items or wish to contribute, please let **Laurie** know so she can check them off her list.

Items can be brought to the **church/den** anytime.

We are so excited for this special youth event and the impact it will have on the children in our congregation and community





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

“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day” John 6:40

Living Word is rolling along into 2025 and we are about to enter the season of Lent. Our Lord and Savior is about to begin His journey to the cross. Along the way, Christ has many things to teach us and to show us. He is going to demonstrate a life lived free from sin, full of love and compassion, and an unbreakable commitment to do His Father's will. To save the world.

This story is retold every year, and every year we hear the stories of Christ's road to Golgotha. It is easy to let this time of year become routine or even inconvenient. Service on Wednesday and Sunday? We have things to do. We are tired from a long day or week of work! “I sure hope the Pastor doesn't ramble on too long in his sermon”.

While those issues are real, I want us all to consider what Christ must have felt as He moved closer and closer to that cross. At any time He could have looked at all the sin in the world and said “I am going to die a brutal death for these heathens?” At any point He could have said we are beyond saving. Not worth saving. Or even, not worth all the pain and suffering. But He didn't.

Christ in His mercy, never wavered or tried to back out. He didn't need our permission or our approval, He died for us because He loves us and wants to be with us forever. Come hear His Word of promise, that all who believe in Him shall not die, but have everlasting life in heaven with Him. Faith comes from hearing, and hearing, from the Word of God. Amen.

*Pastor S. Minner*



# A Message from our Council President

Greetings,

How can it be March already?! Ash Wednesday is just a couple days away as the Lenten season is soon upon us. Lent is a time for repentance and a time to remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus. In short, for me personally, the focus is on Jesus—who he is and what he did for us as our Savior.



In this letter I wanted to remind everyone of the upcoming meetings regarding the proposed building project so I decided to add a picture to this page. As I added the picture, I noticed something really stood out. The cross. The cross stands far above anything else, far above the new building, and that was a simple reminder that Jesus is still the focus and we want Jesus to be glorified above all else.

Thank you to everyone who has attended the Q & A sessions and to everyone who has looked at the proposal and has inquired about it. And thank you to everyone who has and continues to pray about this! There will be one last meeting this Sunday, March 2, after church to discuss the building project. Scott and Dale have received more information from the architect and will present it at that time. I hope everyone plans to stay so that you can ask questions and be informed.

The next step will be a special Congregational Meeting on March 23, immediately after the service. At this time, the congregation will vote either "yes" to proceed with this proposed building project or "no", not to. Should the vote pass, which tells us there is a desire to add on, then the next step would be a pledge drive. We do have some money in a dedicated account, but a pledge drive would be necessary to help determine if a loan is needed (or if one can be obtained). This process will determine if we have the financial commitment and ability to add on. All of this is our "human plans" - the steps we are prayerfully taking. But we also continually look to God for wisdom, guidance, provision and that our hearts are aligned with His will for our church. Please continue to pray!

And remember, above all, Jesus is still the focus.

Love, Jackie



# Council Minutes

## LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT-FEBRUARY 12, 2025

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

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

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

**BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** Laurie made a motion to approve the business manager's report, and it was seconded by Moe. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Moe made a motion to approve last month's secretary's report, and it was seconded by Adam. Motion carried.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** A discussion was held regarding NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meetings being held at the church. Pastor is going to get additional information prior to approval from the council. Pastor indicates that seminary classes as well as visits to shuttles/nursing homes/hospitals are going well. Confirmation classes are also going well. A wedding is scheduled at LWLC on June 7. Lenten services are set to begin March 5, Ash Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. (no meal). The following Lenten services will include a meal at 5:30 p.m. with service to follow at 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held at 7 p.m. (no meal). Moe made a motion to approve the Pastor's report. It was seconded by Sandy, and the motion carried.

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT:** The new ice machine has been installed and is operational. A maintenance schedule has been set. There was discussion regarding a doorbell/ringer for the secretary/administrative office. Steve made a motion to table. Moe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Laurie made a motion to approve the Property Management Report. Moe seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**WORSHIP & EVANGELISM REPORT:** LWLC is proceeding with a team for the cancer walk, and a pancake breakfast will be held on February 23 from 11-1 with a free will offering and proceeds going toward that cause. Luminary bags will be available for the cancer walk and Sandy can be contacted regarding purchasing those. Sandy will be providing "Blessed Be" meals for congregation members, and she can be contacted for details. Moe made a motion to purchase the containers for the meals. It was seconded by Julie, and the motion carried. Julie made a motion to approve the Worship and Evangelism Report, and it was seconded by Moe. The motion carried.

**YOUTH & EDUCATION REPORT:** First Communion classes will be held March 16-March 30 with April 6 as a makeup date. Lori Dockter and Tina Balling will teach the classes during the Sunday School hour. A scavenger hunt is being planned for Easter. A motion was made by Julie and seconded by Moe to approve the report, and the motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The church will be looking into having its own QuickBooks for Kelly Peterson to use for our finances. Moe made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Steve. The motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was discussion regarding the building project and absentee voting. Laurie made a motion to have a congregational meeting on March 2nd after church to discuss answers to questions the congregation has brought to the building committee. An additional congregational meeting will be held on March 23 to vote whether to continue with the building process contingent on finances. Moe seconded that motion. The motion carried.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** March 12, 2025, after Lenten service.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Laurie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Adam seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Berger, Council Secretary





February 13, 2025



**Living Word Lutheran Church  
Rev Curtis Simonson  
101 Northridge Ave  
Milbank SD 57252**

**Congregation of Living Word,**

**Thank you for your donation to Grace Christian Academy on January 17, 2025. We are so grateful for your generosity towards our students that helps prepare students for success in High School, College, and Beyond, raising them up to be future Christian Leaders for service to God and their community.**

**Contributions like yours renew our faith in Christ and all that he provides each year. Through His help and yours we will have the means to shepherd these children through their most important years and into young adulthood.**

**Thank you again for supporting our mission to provide Christian education in the Little Village neighborhood, preparing students for success.**

**Thank you for this blessing,  
Carlo Giannotta  
Principal**





We are blessed by your partnership with us in the Gospel and saw God at work powerfully through ALWM in 2024!

Lives transformed, with collectively more than 1000 people coming to faith in Christ through our teams on three continents.

Seeing God give peace and hope for today ... and for eternity!

Our leaders and their teams persevering in difficult places, encouraged by your prayer and support.

A call and vision for us and ALWM that continues to grow, stretching our faith like never before!

The above ministry and more were made possible by prayer and financial support totaling \$391,138 for our various ministries and our operational budget from 79 individuals and 55 churches, church bodies and foundations. Our expenses for the year of \$376,985 included \$338,765 for program/mission. A strong year end with the anonymous matching gift campaign and your generosity helped us finish the year with a surplus, erasing a deficit from recent years. By God's grace we continue as a lean, low overhead, high impact ministry: 90% to program / ministry, 6% admin and just 4% fundraising. To God be the Glory!

In Christ for the nations,

Rev. Bill Moberly, Founder & Director of ALWM



# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Transfiguration Day 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 3:30 Confirmation 6:30 Ashes/Communion	6 9:00 Community Fellowship 6:30 The Chosen	7	8
9 Daylight Saving Time Begins 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 5:30 Lenten meal 6:30 Lenten Worship	13 9:00 Community Fellowship 6:30 The Chosen	14	15
16 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 April Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship	17 St Patrick's Day Newsletter items due	18 9:00 Faith Circle 7:00 Love Circle	19 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 3:30 Confirmation 5:30 Lenten Meal 6:30 Lenten Worship	20 9:00 Community Fellowship 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 5:30 Lenten meal 6:30 Lenten Worship	27 9:00 Community Fellowship 6:30 The Chosen	28	29
30 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	31					



# MARCH BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Happy  
Birthday



HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Chase Varness (b.)
<b>2</b> Kenneth Kunde (b.) Caleb Plaga (b.)	<b>3</b> Drew Anderson (b.) Lincoln Berger (b.) Shirley Zahn (b.)	<b>4</b> Grace Campbell (b.)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Laura Dallman (b.)	<b>10</b> Matt Reich (b.)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Gabriel Beckman (b.)	<b>13</b> Janice Letze (b.) Marlin Schmidt (b.)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Josephine Dallman (b.)
<b>16</b> Troy & Tamra Peschong (w.)	<b>17</b> Norman & Linda Remund (w.)	<b>18</b> Bernard & Tina Balling Jr. (w.)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Marlin Fenner (b.) Lois Helm (b.) Kyle Weber (b.)
<b>23</b> Alexander McMahon (b.) Ann Sandbakken (b.)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Orgene McCrea (b.)	<b>26</b> Greg Kasuske (b.) Amanda McMahon (b.)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Edward Kloster (b.) Linda Wagner (b.)	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Tim & Susan De Jong (w.) Roger & Stephanie Hansen (w.) Marsha Meister (b.)	<b>31</b> Taylon Reede (b.) Kent & Susan Sime (w.)					

# 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.christensen@k12.sd.us

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  
Email: t\_dejong54@hotmail.com

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

*Living Word Lutheran Church  
101 Northridge Ave  
PO Box 301  
Milbank, SD 57252*

*605.438.9672*

*Email:  
livingword@itcmilbank.com*

*Website: livingwordmilbank.com*

*Pastor Curtis Simonson,  
Cell: 708-359-1491  
Email: PastorCSimonson@gmail.com*

