

LIVING+WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

605-438-9672

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Congratulations and Godspeed to Our High School Graduates

Congratulations on your graduation. Your Christian upbringing has equipped you to apply your faith in your daily life. With your faith in your heart, you are ready for whatever you may encounter.

We ask the congregation to keep these special young adults in their prayers as they journey into God's future for them.

Isabella Anderson
will be attending
Valparaiso University in
Valparaiso, IN. She plans to
major in exercise
science and will play
Division I Basketball



Ella Sandvig
will attend
University of North
Dakota in Grand Forks,
ND. She plans to
study Biology and
the
Pre Physician's
Assistant
program



Elyse Reede
will continue her
work at OST for the
summer and has her
sights on LATC.



Katie Kruger
Plans to attend
Norther State
University in
Aberdeen, SD for
Art Education



Mason Meister
Will be attending
Mitchell Tech. in the fall
for Automation
Controls/ SCADA



What's Inside?

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LWLW

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Thank You to all of the youth and Families for providing and serving Easter Breakfast.

Extra special Thank You to Gloria Cooley for her tireless work in keeping Everyone and Everything organized!

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 Michelle at the church office at 605-438-9672.

Living Word Cancer Walk Warriors Update

March and April were busy months for the Warriors. A Cutest Pet Contest and Guess the Number of Jelly Beans Contest was held and over \$185 was raised.

An educational cancer walk Sunday was held Sunday, April 27. A variety of activities were held in the Fellowship Hall displaying what the cancer walk is all about, its history, selling luminaries and more. The Warriors also held a Silent Auction with a variety of baskets and items and a bake sale. All proceeds going to

the team's overall fundraising totals.

Be watching for May fundraisers. Another Bake Sale is scheduled for June 1st. "It Only Takes A Spark"

Cancer Walk is scheduled for June 13-14.





*Congratulations to our
First Communicants
and their families.*

*Communicant: Jordan Busack
Parents: Aaron &
Lacey Busack*

*Communicant: Gwendolyn
Quinn
Parent: Kristin Quinn*

*Communicant: Harmony Campbell
Parent: Angel Campbell*

*Communicant: Kateri Morsette:
Parent: Angel Campbell*



Senior Recognition Day

Please join us as we celebrate
our High School Graduates on
May 11, 2025 during Coffee
Hour and Worship.

SUMMER WORSHIP
will begin May 25.

Service will be at
9:00 AM, followed by
Coffee Fellowship at 10:00.



The First Mother/Daughter/Sister/
Friend lunch was a delightful event
dedicated to celebrating Women
and the legacy that we leave behind.



“Women’s Connection”

an affiliate of Stonecroft Ministries, meeting will be held at Central Church, Milbank,
SD on May 20, 2025 at 1:30 – 3:00 P.M, in the church fellowship hall.

Tickets: \$5.00 – Refreshments will be served.

Speaker - Joyce Yexley of Aberdeen

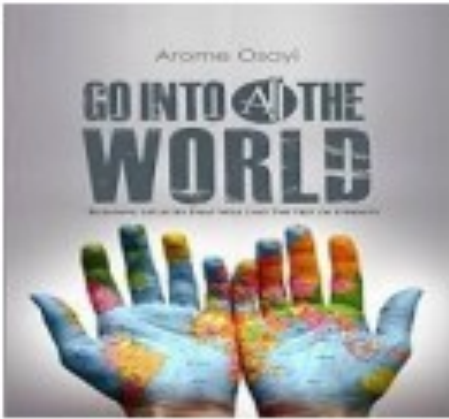
“A Broken Dream - from Fiery Trial to New Purpose “

Special Feature — Karen Layher - “Our Flag” (Patriotic Quilt Display)

Music - Sherry DeBoer

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

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



IMPACT MISSIONS

IMPACT THE WORLD MISSION BOARD UPDATE.

The next meeting of ITW mission board will be May 6 at 11:00 AM. If you have any mission ideas that you would like us to consider please contact one of the members before the 6th of May.

In May the Noisy Change collection is for LWLC Vacation Bible School. I am sure many of you look back on the wonderful experiences you had at VBS when you were a child. The money collected for VSB will help provide the necessary educational materials and craft supplies that will help the children to grow in faith in our Savior, Jesus, and grow in love for others. Our Noisy Change collection for June will be for FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) ITW has collected \$876 for Call to Freedom in March and \$632.12 for The Foster Care Program in April.

I have recently visited with Pastor Bill Moberly and he shared that he has been in communication with the project supervisor, Van, and two of the water filtration systems are currently being installed in the Long A Province and one will be installed soon near Nha Trang. He will visit these water project sites when he is in Vietnam and Cambodia this spring. He will split the time evenly between both countries.

While in Cambodia they will be holding a three day VBS in English for about 50 children. Pastor Bill and his wife, Sally, are planning to visit our church the weekend of September 27-28. We will more than likely make that Sunday our Mission Festival Sunday. Pastor Bill wants to extend his thanks to LWLC for our prayers and financial generosity that help make his mission work successful and helps provide the necessary clean water to many locations that are in need of clean water. Our church is so blessed to be a blessing to this mission work.

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN



Hello Living Word Family,

Spring is here! The mornings are so awesome when we wake up and can appreciate the bird's song, the bright green grass, the warm sun, baby calves running with their tails up and the sound of farm machinery. Even the air smells different! We are blessed by God even before we walk out the door!!

Upcoming for the month of May, we are honoring our graduates on May 11. During coffee hour, we are having cake in their honor and during church we will be acknowledging each of them. We set up a table in the Fellowship Hall for those who would like to give a card to the graduates. Graduates- please come a little early so we can take pictures.

Our mission for the month of May is to support the group, Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This group, based in Watertown, builds beds for children. Their motto is "no child sleeps on the floor". And so with that in mind, they have found a need to provide and build beds for those children who haven't one. There is a vetting process that they implement, but several from our community have been the recipient of a bed. Our mission project for this month is to provide bedding for the beds that they deliver. The bed size is a standard twin size and they ask for new sheets and pillows. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause, please leave your gift under the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you so much for the support you give to our group. Whether it is prayers, volunteering, or donations, we greatly appreciate all of you and your efforts. Thank you!

Brenda Seehafer

Living Word Women Coordinator

Youth and Education



Dynamic Disciples: Lego Easter Series Builds Faith Brick by Brick!

This spring, our Dynamic Disciples dove into a special **4-week Lego Easter series** that helped us understand the incredible story of Jesus' love and sacrifice in a creative and hands-on way.

Each week, we focused on a different Lego color to represent a key part of the Easter story:

- **Green Legos** reminded us of the peaceful **Garden of Gethsemane**, where Jesus prayed to His Father.
- **Black Legos** symbolized the **darkness of betrayal**, when Jesus was handed over in the night.
- **Red Legos** stood for the **blood Jesus shed** for the forgiveness of our sins.
- **White Legos** reminded us that **our hearts are made clean** when we believe in Jesus and ask Him to take away our sins.

Students built **crosses out of these four colored Legos**, which were proudly displayed in the Fellowship Hall for all to see.

We also got creative with our snacks—**making tombs out of donuts** to remember how Jesus was laid in the tomb... and how the tomb was empty on Easter morning!

We celebrated a special blessing this month: our dear friend **Karen**, who has recovered and came back to help at Dynamic Disciples. It was a joy to have her with us again!

To wrap up our April activities, we **visited our friends at St. William's**, where we decorated cookies, played bingo, and made crafts with the residents. It's always a highlight to spend time sharing smiles and laughter with them.

 **Our last day of Dynamic Disciples will be Wednesday, May 7th.**

We are so thankful for a joyful and faith-filled season of learning, creating, and growing in Jesus together!

● Sunday School Spring Curriculum: “Lessons from the Egg”

Over the past four weeks, our Sunday School students have explored meaningful faith lessons through a fun and symbolic Easter Egg-themed curriculum:

- **Plastic Eggs** – Pretty on the outside, but empty inside—just like the Pharisees. Jesus calls us to a faith that’s genuine and full of love.
- **Rotten Eggs** – These eggs might look fine, but smell and taste bad inside. Judas appeared faithful, but betrayed Jesus. This reminds us that God sees the heart.
- **Broken Eggs** – The disciples abandoned Jesus, but He lovingly brought them back together. Even when we fall short, Jesus offers forgiveness and restoration.
- **Easter Eggs** – The process of dyeing eggs mirrors the death and resurrection of Jesus. As dyed eggs emerge colorful and new, we too become new creations when we die to ourselves and rise with Christ through baptism.

This creative series helped children understand deep spiritual truths in a hands-on and relatable way.

Save the Date: Sunday, May 11

Last Day of Sunday School

We will be celebrating our **graduating seniors** and recognizing our amazing **Sunday School teachers**. Please join us in thanking them for a wonderful year of growing in faith!

Prayer Partners: Lifting Up Our Children in Faith

At the start of the Sunday School year, members of our congregation were invited to take part in a special ministry: **becoming a Prayer Partner** for one of our Sunday School children. Each adult was paired with a child to keep in their prayers throughout the year—a quiet but powerful way to surround our young people with love and encouragement.

We are so grateful for those who have faithfully prayed over our children this year. Your commitment has made a lasting impact in their spiritual growth and in the life of our church.

On **Sunday, May 11**, we will take a moment during the worship service to **recognize and thank all of our Prayer Partners**.

If you are a Prayer Partner, we encourage you to **send a card or bring one to church** that day so your child knows who has been praying for them. It’s a wonderful opportunity to make a meaningful connection.

Each Prayer Partner will receive a **small token of appreciation** as a reminder of the important role they’ve played in nurturing the faith of our next generation.

Thank you for being a blessing!

man. For as in Adam



Most Ministries

Has a dire need for non prescription sunglasses. With the swirling dust, intense sun, and cooking over an open fire, eye protection becomes an important part of their eyeglass clinics.

Sunglasses reduce some of the preventable eye diseases they routinely encounter. Each person going into the clinic receives a pair of non prescription sunglasses, if they are available, but the supply is very low. Please consider donating any extras you might have at this time. Michelle will have a drop box available in the office.



Awakening Lives To World Missions

Pigs for Pastors | Laos

In Partnership with Pastor Tom & Deuane of ALWM's Heart for Mission Laos - Thailand, "Pigs for Pastors" will make a life changing difference for pastors and their families, and the churches they serve in Laos, where new churches are opening weekly, and only 3% are Christian.

Through "Pigs for Pastors", \$2000 provides an enclosure, a mother pig, 10 piglets and 6 months of feed - everything they need to launch a business that will provide a steady income as they serve the Lord!

Dear Congregation Members,
Our Sunday School children and the Youth and Education Committee invite you to partner with us this last month of the Sunday School year to reach our goal of \$2000.00 to provide a Pig Farm setup for Pastors and church leaders and families in Laos for sustainable income while in the mission field.
"Pigs For Pastors" is a great opportunity, through Awakening Lives to World Missions (ALWM), for all of us to get to participate in sharing the Gospel of Christ to the world.

We are blessed to be a blessing!

Thanks be to God.

Sue DeJong,

Member of Youth and Ed comm.





True North Vacation Bible School is Just Around the Corner!

June 1st–June 5th, 2025

Get ready to head north—**True North VBS** is coming soon, and we are so excited to take our children on a wilderness adventure where they will learn to **trust Jesus as their True North!**

We are decorating our space with a northern wilderness theme and are currently collecting supplies:

 **Christmas Trees** (loaned or donated)


 **Outdoor/wilderness decor** like snowshoes, canoes, stumps, fishing gear, etc.

Please **label all items with your name** so we can return them after VBS. Drop-off items in the **Sunday School storage room** any time.

Registration Reminder

If you have children or grandchildren attending, please return their **registration forms as soon as possible**. We've now opened up registration to children who've attended in past years, and space is **limited to 40 children**—so don't wait!

This is going to be a **wonderful, faith-filled adventure** for our youth. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact **Laurie Maas** or **Sue DeJong**.

Let's follow Jesus, our True North! 

“Supporting One of Our Own”

As we prepared for our upcoming **True North Vacation Bible School**, we spent time considering where our mission offering should go this year. After prayerful discussion, we decided to **keep our mission close to home**.

We will be supporting **Hailey Heinje**, a young girl who attended our VBS program, *Stellar*. Hailey is currently facing some medical challenges, and we want to share the love of Jesus by helping her and her family during this difficult time.

Hailey’s grandparents—**Howard and Marcia Heinje** and **Mark and Darla Loeschke**—are faithful members of our church family. Her parents are **Chuck and Sally Heinje**.

❤️ This is a beautiful opportunity for our children and congregation to live out our faith in a tangible way.

Everyone is welcome to donate to the VBS mission. A donation box will be available throughout the week of VBS, or you may give directly at church.

Let’s come together to bless Hailey and remind her that she is never alone—Living Word church family is walking alongside her.





Pastor's Letter

Grace, Mercy, and Peace, be unto you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, He is Risen! Thank the Lord and sing His praise, tell EVERYONE what He has done! With Easter season behind us, God's forgiving sacrifice on the cross and triumphant resurrection from the dead complete, it is now our turn to proclaim the good news. After Jesus rose from the dead, scripture tells us that Christ performed more miracles, healed more people, and was seen by hundreds of people besides the apostles. Christ was heading to be with His Father in heaven, but before He left, He had a few things to finish up. First order of business after His return from the dead was to find the disciples who were hiding and breathe the Holy Spirit into their hearts. Like a coach walking into the locker room before game time, Christ had to come into that upper room and deliver a message that would motivate these men to go out into the world and proclaim the gospel, even if it cost them their lives. So Christ breathed into them the power of the Holy Spirit. The disciples are sent to continue Jesus' mission of revealing God to the world. They will not be left on their own in this daunting task. Jesus had promised to send another "Advocate" (in Greek "paraklétos", one who is "called alongside" someone) who would be with them forever. Now he fulfills that promise. Christ breathes into them a new creation. This Advocate or "Spirit of truth" will teach them, remind them of all that Jesus has said to them, and guide them into all truth. The disciples would have to face oppression, violence, and anger as they brought the gospel into all nations. All but one of them (John) would be martyred, but not before the name of Jesus was spread throughout the world. Now, that torch has been passed down to us. As we proceed through this year, we all need to remind ourselves of those who have not heard the good news of Christ Jesus. If we do not share the forgiveness of Christ, many souls in our families, neighborhoods, and communities will be lost. Let us as a church, share the love and mercy of Christ Jesus throughout our town!

Pastor S. M. Jones

A Message from our Council President

Greetings!

We welcome Spring and a new month! I am enjoying spring and all the signs of new life that are emerging around us. The grass is turning green, trees are budding, perennials coming up, birds appearing and warmer temps have arrived! We don't have to wonder if summer will be coming, we have "confident hope"an expectation and assurance that it will. During this Easter season we are reminded as a Christian that our "confident hope" is in Jesus, our victorious and resurrected Savior who defeated sin and death so the can have assurance of eternal life. We don't have to just "hope" for eternal life, we have an assurance and "confident hope" that we have eternal life with God. What a promise to believe and rest in!

Over the past few years I have heard many people talk about our aging congregation (Just stop for a moment and think about all the years of wisdom within our walls!!! Wow!) and I have also heard many people talk about the desire to attract young people (Just think of the possible new life, energy, ideas, and our legacy continuing!). So, out of curiosity, this weekend I did a little research online and here is what I found. For people aged 20—40 who are lapsed churchgoers or previously unaffiliated with a church, several factors influence their decision to attend church. Here's what many are seeking:

1. Authentic Community and Relationships

Many young adults prioritize genuine connections over formal programs. They value environments where they can build meaningful relationships and feel truly seen and heard. They often respond well where trust is built through personal relationships rather than institutional roles.

2. Purpose and Spiritual Depth

There's a noticeable trend of young adults seeking deeper meaning and purpose in life. Post-pandemic reflections have led many to explore spirituality and faith communities as avenues for personal growth and understanding.

3. Alignment with Personal Values

Inclusivity, social justice, and authenticity are paramount. Many are drawn to churches that actively engage in social issues and create spaces where individuals can express their doubts and beliefs without judgment.

4. Flexible and Accessible Worship Experiences

Traditional Sunday services may not fit everyone's schedule. Offering varied service times, online options, or alternative gatherings can make church more accessible to those with diverse lifestyles.

5. Opportunities for Active Participation

Young adults often seek roles where they can contribute meaningfully. Whether through service projects, leadership roles, or creative endeavors, active involvement can foster a deeper connection to the church community.

Prayer: Father God, we thank you for the gift of your Son who sacrificed himself for our sake, so that we can have the hope of resurrection and life eternal with you. We thank you for the years of wisdom within the walls of our church, and hearts that are turned to you and surrendered to you. This church is not the building, but the people within the walls whom you love and have called according to your purpose. It is through the power of your Holy Spirit that we are emboldened to go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow and obey your commands. And thank you for your promise that you are with us, even until the end of age. We ask for your continued protection, blessing, and guidance. We praise you! In Jesus' name, amen.



Council Minutes

LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT - APRIL 9, 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 PRAYER: Pastor Curtis gave the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Laurie made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Moe. 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: The credit card limit will be raised to \$5,000 and Administrative Assistant, Michelle, will be added to the card. Moe made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and raise the credit card limit/add Michelle to the card. Sandy seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: There was discussion regarding setting up a prayer booth. There was also discussion regarding curriculum for 6-12 grade and merging with United Methodist Central for some activities. Adult Bible study was also discussed. Pastor discussed having a church olympics with other churches, and that was well received by other pastors in the area. Pastor and Michelle's upcoming vacation days include Memorial Day weekend, which is May 22-26 and the week of June 9th-19th. Julie made a motion to approve the Pastor's report. Deb seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Laurie made a motion to approve the report; seconded by Sandy. The motion carried.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Tim will assist on Maundy Thursday and Adam on Easter Sunday. Deb will help Sunday, May 2nd.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT: There was additional discussion regarding replacing all lights, and it was decided to table that until our next meeting. Moe made a motion to approve the report. Steve seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM REPORT: There are about 25 signed up for the mother/daughter/sister/friend event set for April 26, 2025, from 9:30-11 at this time. The board will look for ideas regarding reaching out to visitors. Deb made a motion to approve the report. Adam seconded and the motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION REPORT: The church shirts/clothing merchandise is coming together and hopefully we will have something definitive by next meeting. Planning is in the works for the last day of Sunday School/Senior Recognition which is May 11. The prayer partners will be invited. There was discussion about volunteers to lead different adult bible studies. Julie made a motion to approve the report. Sandy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: We have called two volunteers to compile the data from the pledge forms, and all information will be kept completely confidential. Kelly is working with Jackie and Deb regarding someone to fill her position and the duties involved.

NEW BUSINESS: Jackie made a motion to include a budget for adult education and various youth categories in the 2026 budget. The motion was seconded by Moe and was carried.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: May 7, 2025, at 6:30.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Berger, Council Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT :

Income: 23268.53

Expenses: 22079.97

Total: 1188.56



May 2025

May 2025					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	2 3
4 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion	5	6	7 1:30 Impact 3:30 Last day of Confirmation 3:30 Last day of Dynamic Disciples 7:00 Council	8 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	9 10
11 Mother's Day Senior Recognition 9:00 Last day of Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Chapel Communion	12	13 9:00 Quilting	14 4-5 Feeding SD parking lot	15 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	16 17
18 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 June Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship	19	20 9:00 Faith Circle 7:00 Love Circle	21 Newsletter items due	22 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	23 24
25 Summer Worship Begins 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27	28	29 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship	30 31

MAY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Happy
Birthday



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Kalber, Lenore (b.) Maas, Scott (b.) Vostad, Eugene (b.)	5	6 Moe & Rochelle Reede (w.)	7	8	9 Flaig, Kurt (b.)	10 Peschong, Jersey (b.)
11	12	13 Sime, Susan (b.)	14 Nelson, Bob (b.)	15	16	17 Mark & Ashlie Veen (w.)
18	19 Kanthak, Barbara (b.)	20	21 David & Mary Hepper (w.) Vietmeier, Kristopher (b.)	22 Maze, Sally (b.) Olson, Bradley (b.)	23	24
25 Kasuske, Lori (b.)	26 Hepper, Jeremy (b.) Willprecht, Eileen (b.)	27	28 Gustafson, John (b.) Maas, Jennifer (b.) Ramsey, Rena (b.)	29	30	31

LWLC Committee Contacts

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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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