

LIVING+WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

605-438-9672

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER



VBS CLASS OF 2025

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Announcements

**There will be an
Education Meeting on
Monday, July 7th at 6:00
pm**



The Living Word Warriors Cancer Walk Team thanks the entire congregation for it's enthusiasm and support for it's involvement in this year's "It Only Takes a Spark" Cancer Walk. With a late start in mid-March, only three months from Cancer Walk, the team wouldn't

have succeeded without all of you!!
Financial details are still being finalized and will be shared in the next few weeks.



The church office will be closed on Friday, July 4th, in observance of Independence Day. In case of emergency please reach out to Pastor Curtis directly at 708-359-1491

Right Now 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.

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

an affiliate of Stonecroft Ministries, meeting will be held at Central Church, Milbank, SD on July 15, 2025 at 1:30 – 3:00 P.M, in the church fellowship hall.

Tickets: \$5.00 – Salad Luncheon

Speaker - Julie Couch of Norfolk, NE - "A Lost & Lonely Girl, and her Journey to Find a Friend"

Special Feature Julie Couch - "Music is in the Air". Effects of Music on the Brain (Country Classic Mini Concert)
Music - Jena Schultz and Paula Tobin
Come enjoy an afternoon of fellowship together with women in our area.
For reservations: please contact:
Peg Dohrer – (605)949-0311 – pldohrer@itcmilbank.com.



Honorary Chairperson, Dave Hepper waits to be recognized by Core Committee.

Luminary bags with the names of those who have passed from cancer, and those who are survivors lined MHS halls



People could spin the wheel and win a Bible magnet or verse to keep in their pocket. Quite popular!!

Living Word Warriors team booth sold a number of items and welcomed people as they entered the Cancer Walk at MHS.



FAMILY NIGHT

SUNDAY JULY 27 - 5PM

CHURCH YARD

BRING YOUR GAMES!



AND A DISH TO PASS

A-M SIDE DISH

N-Z DESSERT

Hot Dogs, Burgers, Buns, Beverages,
Steve's Beans and Chips
Will be Furnished

Campfire with Music and Devotions (and S'mores!!)

JOIN THE FUN

A representative from Sleep in Heavenly Peace will be joining us to share information and answer any questions we might have.

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN



Hello Living Word Congregation,

Summer is in full swing and that is also true for the Living Word Lutheran Women.

We would like to invite you and your family to a Potluck Picnic Event on Sunday evening, July 27 at 5 pm. The church will provide the burgers, hot dogs, chips, and lemonade. We are asking those attending to bring a dish to pass. If your last name starts with letter A-M, please bring a salad or side dish; ending with N-Z, a dessert. After the meal, we will have a bonfire. We will also take a few minutes to have a quick general meeting of the Living Word Women.

Looking ahead, we would like to invite the women of the congregation to a fun night of fellowship and painting on August 13, 6:30 pm. Timber Lane Company of Wilmot will provide the designs. There will be two choices. They provide the craft, the supplies and the guidance. They also do the set-up and clean-up so all we do is have fun! We will have a light meal because how can we be creative without snacks?! 😊 The sign-up sheet will be forthcoming and will show us what designs are offered. We will need to pre-register so that the gals know what to make and bring along. They also provide a link so you can prepay if you prefer. All this information is on the way. Please stay tuned.

Our July mission project is a Diaper Drive. We are collecting diapers and baby wipes. There is always a need in our community for these products. Thank you so much for supporting our mission projects.

There is still time to register for the WOW event in Perham. You will find a registration form on the back table. Several women from our church have already decided to attend, so there will be opportunity to ride along and join in a great experience.

As always, if you have any questions or would like more information, I am happy to assist.

May God bless each of you.

Brenda Seehafer

Youth and Education



True North VBS: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World!

For five exciting days, **43 children** were immersed in the wonders of the Alaskan wilderness—right here at Living Word Lutheran Church! Our **True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World** Vacation Bible School took them on a wild adventure where they learned how to trust Jesus no matter where life leads.

Each day was packed with joy and discovery through **Bible Adventures, hands-on experiments, energetic skits, and meaningful scripture lessons**. Laughter and learning echoed through the church as our young explorers made unforgettable memories while growing in faith.

We wrapped up the week with a **heartwarming program** led by Adam and Rachel, where the children **shined brightly**, singing the songs they learned throughout the week. If you missed it, **check out the Living Word Facebook page**—just a heads-up, the sound begins when the children walk in!

This incredible week could not have happened without the **25+ amazing volunteers** who gave their time, talents, and hearts to make it all possible. Many of them said they learned just as much as the children—and were blessed by the smiles, giggles, and excitement that filled the building each evening.

Through our VBS mission project, we were honored to share **\$685 with Hailey Heinje**, a young girl facing health challenges. What a joy it is to share God's love in both word and deed!

A **huge thank you to our congregation**, your generosity, your prayers, your donations of snacks and supplies, and your open arms made this ministry a blessing to children from our church and our community.

Thank you for helping us point children to their **True North—Jesus!**







Pastor's Letter

With my father's recent trip to heaven, I had a lot of time to think about the lessons and the knowledge he had passed on to me over the years. One of the greatest lessons he taught me was to trust in God above all things, even when it seemed impossible, unbelievable, or unachievable. No matter what I wanted to accomplish or desired, my father would remind me to trust in God, and to remember that He is in control.

So many times in life I would panic or worry. When I would try out for a sports team and worry about making the team, my father would say "where is your faith?". When I would do something wrong and feel like I ruined my life, my father would say "where is your faith?". And when I was afraid, or even full of grief, my father would say, "where is your faith?"

Throughout my life I (like everyone else) have had moments where I forgot that God is in control and that He has plans for me. I would set my mind on what I wanted, what I hoped for, and what I thought was possible. My hope was turned inward and to my own power, my own ability, and my own understanding. Yet even in the midst of my lack of faith, God would come in and work things out for His good and for His will to be done.

It is truly amazing to look back at our lives and see God's work at hand. But while we are in the midst of our doubt, worry, and lack of faith, God comes in and calms the storm for His child. Other times, He calms his child, and lets the storm rage. Either way, He works things out in our lives for His purpose, and for our good. Daily, we are baptized through Christ Jesus. He reminds us of His mercy, and showers us with His unwavering love and forgiveness, even when our faith is lacking.

If you are struggling with something right now, or even if you wonder if your suffering is ever going to end. Remember that this world is not our home. That Jesus has prepared a place for those who believe in His name. That while this earth brings suffering and sorrow, eternal life in heaven will one day be ours. No matter what this world brings, it cannot and will not separate us from the love and forgiveness found in Christ Jesus.

Our hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness!

Pastor Schinner

A Message from our Council President

Hello everyone,

Wow, how can it be July already?! I can hardly believe that the 4th of July is this week. As I think about the independence and freedom we have in the U.S. I am also very grateful to God that we live in a country where we have the freedom to own a bible, pray publicly, and worship collectively. Let's not take this for granted, but thank God for this opportunity and gift.

Be sure to check out the page in this newsletter with information about our church family picnic. Mark your calendars for July 27 and plan to join us for an evening of food, fellowship and fun. Activities like this is an opportunity to visit casually, take an interest in others, learn something new, find support, or just enjoy an evening outdoors.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held the beginning of June and I just have to share how impressed I was. Everywhere I looked I could see the theme of Alaska and "True North". But more importantly, I saw kids learning about Jesus and singing songs of praises to him. I was also very impressed with how many of you stepped up to volunteer your time for this important event. Everywhere I looked I saw volunteers teaching kids, helping in the kitchen, cleaning up, providing skits and entertainment, and so much more. THANK YOU for investing your time and talents into our children!

When Pastor Curtis first came to Living Word he expressed to the Council that he really wanted to see us have some kind of church apparel. The process started immediately and we are now taking orders. There are a few pieces on display in the fellowship hall along with a comprehensive order form. Please check it out. You will notice our church logo on each item, a picture of the 3 crosses that are on our church grounds, and all apparel offered in our church colors. A few months ago there was a great explanation in the newsletter with the meaning behind each color.

I was recently reminded how important it is to have scripture memorized for when we need it. Have you ever found yourself in the middle of the night with anxious thoughts? Have you ever caught yourself worrying, feeling fearful, doubtful or depressed while in a moment where you are unable to look up scripture? Praying and meditating on scripture and God's promises can bring peace in those moments. The key is to be prepared for those moments. Writing scripture on our hearts now prepares us for when we need it.

Please continue to pray for our church and God's vision for Living Word. As God prepares us for what He has planned, may this waiting time be a precious time where we keep our eyes on Jesus and have unity within the church. He is faithful, loving and trustworthy!

Love,
Jackie



Council Minutes

LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT - JUNE 11, 2025

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

OPENING PRAYER: Jackie gave the opening prayer.

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

PASTOR'S REPORT: There is no report as Pastor is on vacation.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Tim will assist for July.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Tim made a motion to correct the May secretary's report. ALWM will be receiving \$1,000 not Bill Moberly. Laurie made a motion to approve the report as corrected. Adam seconded the motion, and it was carried.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCE REPORT: Discussion was held regarding if we have sufficient insurance for the church. The council agreed to table the discussion until further information is gathered. Steve made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Moe seconded the motion, and it carried.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT: Adam provided tracking sheets for maintenance of equipment (i.e. ice machine, dishwasher). Adam will get an estimate for changing existing lighting to LED for maintenance purposes and continuity and eventual savings. Tim will check with the fire department regarding the necessity of a Knox Box. Both items will be tabled until the next meeting. Steve made a motion to approve the report and Julie seconded. The motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM REPORT: Sandy gave an update on the cancer walk, indicating it is going extremely well, and there are plans to do it again next year. She also indicated that the Mother/Daughter event went well with plans to continue that event annually. A white board will be placed in the Fellowship Hall with the events of the month listed. Announcements will be added to the screen in front of church prior to services each week. Julie made a motion to approve the report. Deb seconded, and the motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION REPORT: Laurie gave a report on VBS. We had 43 children attending with 27 volunteers. There was \$675 raised for Hailey Heinge. The calendar of events is being worked on for the coming year. Deb made a motion to approve the report. Tim seconded the motion, and it carried.

OLD BUSINESS: After further discussion regarding passing the offering plate, Steve made a motion to continue to have a basket and not pass the plate. Tim seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Jackie will draft a follow-up letter to be sent to individuals who pledged money to the building project since the vote was to wait on proceeding. Steve made a motion to allow Jordan Hins as a guest speaker on July 6. The motion was seconded by Tim. Motion carried. The LCMC Northern Plains letter regarding application for membership will be researched and tabled until the next council meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: July 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Deb made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Steve seconding. The motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's prayer from Jackie.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Berger, Council Secretary

Treasurer's Report

INCOME \$25333.00
EXPENSES \$214666.94

TOTAL \$10,666.06



Funding Assistance Available Thanks to Cancer Walk- What It Covers and How to Receive It

Approximately 28 years ago a group of dedicated volunteers set out on a labor of love as they began planning and organizing the first “It Only Takes a Spark” Cancer Walk. Today it has grown into an annual community-wide fundraiser, impacting hundreds of local cancer patients and residents.

Individuals in the greater Grant County area who have received a cancer diagnosis requiring continued care and treatment may fill out an application that is then reviewed by the Cancer Walk Core Committee. Funds provided assist cancer patients for the cost of the following expenses:

- Clinic and hospital bills related to cancer
- Cancer medications
- Gas cards used for transportation to and from cancer treatment
- Lodging costs during out-of-town cancer treatment
- Ostomy treatment
- Dressing and bandages
- Cancer diagnostic procedures

Cancer Walk funds are available to any resident in the greater Grant County area. Applications may be found at the following locations:

- Interlakes Community Action Partnership
- Bien and Lewis Pharmacies
- Grant County Medical Centers
- Ortonville Area Health Services
- Grant County Community Health Office
(located in Grant County Courthouse)

Applications may also be found at takesaspark.org

For more information regarding cancer funds, applications, or the Cancer Walk contact Alex Paul at 605-949-2142 or email him at apauli50@hotmail.com

Do You Give “Things”, or of Yourself?

There are more than thirty definitions of the word ‘give’ in Merriam Webster’s Dictionary. Yes, more than thirty definitions encompassing three different parts of speech. Everything from granting or bestowing something, to having the ability to bend or stretch. It isn’t a subject a person probably thinks about often, but then again, how often in his day and age does each of us really “give” unselfishly?

Really, stop and ask yourself that question. I’m not talking about putting money in the Sunday offering plate, donating items to the Thrift Store, or giving dollars to your favorite charity. Those are thoughtful, considerate and needed acts. There is more though than giving “things”. God asks us and wants us to GIVE of ourselves.

That GIVING of ourselves includes listening and talking when a person is with you. Perhaps you could share time with a child, youth, or older person and make memories. Offer a helping hand to a neighbor. Smile at a stranger in the grocery checkout. Wave at a passing motorist you meet. Those are all ways of “giving”, whether small or large, to share ourselves, make someone’s day a bit brighter, lift a spirit, be God’s messenger. All make a difference in a person’s life. Think about it and make those thirty plus definitions of “give” come alive.

-Sandy Christensen

Council Member— Worship & Evangelism

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 4TH OF JULY Church & Office Closed	5
6 9:00 Worship/Communion Guest Speaker Jordan Hins 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	7 6:00 Education Meeting	8	9 4-5 Feeding SD in parking lot	10 9:00 Community Fellowship	11	12
13 9:00 Worship/Confirmation 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Chapel Communion	14	15 9:00 Faith Circle meets 7:00 Love Circle meets	16 6:30 Council	17 9:00 Community Fellowship	18	19
20 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 August Servant Team meets	21	22	23 Newsletter items due	24 9:00 Community Fellowship	25	26
27 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 5:00 Family Night	28	29	30	31		

JULY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Happy
Birthday



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Bien, Sheila (b.) O'Farrell, Pat (b.)	2 Hyde, Sharon (b.)	3	4 Butke, Deb (b.) Pekelder, Will (b.)	5 Randy & Lori Dockter (w.) Wilson, Sam (b.)
6 Kloster, Betty (b.)	7 Jeffrey & Julie Berger (w.)	8 De Jong, Tim (b.) Weinkauff, Deven (b.)	9 Amanda & Adam McMahon (w.)	10	11	12 Terrance & Heidi Meister (w.)
13 Lance & Sheila Bien (w.)	14 Brown, Sharon (b.) Hansen, Roger (b.)	15 Zeigler, Beverly (b.)	16	17	18 Aaron & Teresa Meister (w.)	19
20 Brook, Peggy (b.) Nolting, Bailey (b.)	21 Campbell, Angel (b.) Redepenning, Jacqueline (b.)	22 De Jong, Abbey (b.) Remund, Norman (b.)	23	24	25	26 Hansen, Stephanie (b.) Simonson, Michelle (b.)
27 Loeschke, Darla (b.) Loeschke, Mark (b.) Meister, Mason (b.) Marlin & Shirley Schmidt (w.)	28	29 Bien, Alec (b.) Steve & Vicki Strege (w.) Van Peurse, Jessica (b.)	30	31 Berger, Jaxon (b.) Brook, Lawrence (b.)		

LWLC Committee Contacts

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