

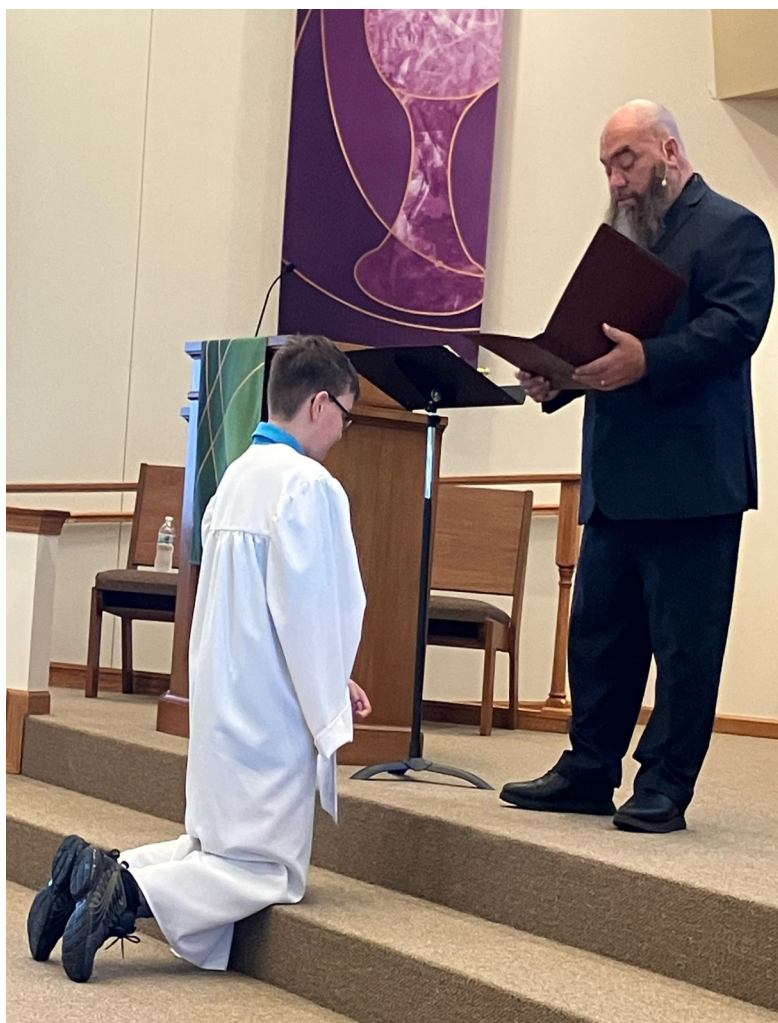
LIVING+WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

605-438-9672

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



*God's Blessings to our
Confirmand,
Dylan Meister.
Congratulations to you and your
family!*



What's Inside?

Announcements

LWLW

Youth & Education

Pastor's Letter

President's Message

Council Minutes

Living Word

Apparel

Living Word
Warriors

Calendars



Announcements

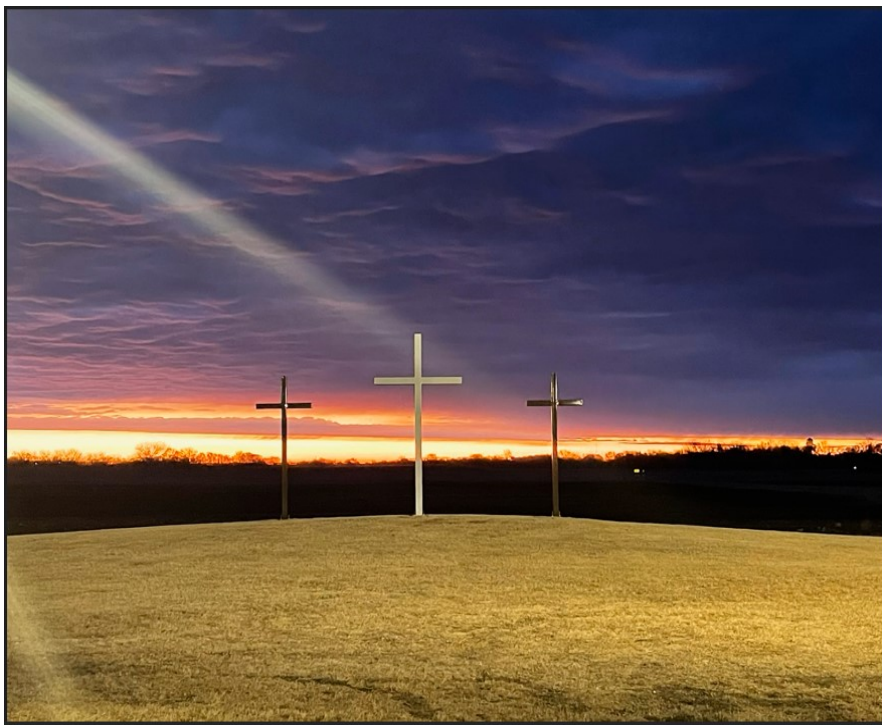
In recent weeks, there has been a significant increase in fraudulent emails, texts, and phone calls from individuals impersonating Council Members, Pastor Curtis, and Michelle Simonson. These communications have included requests for the distribution of church funds, the purchase of gift cards, and the transfer of money through platforms such as Venmo, Zelle, or similar cash applications.

Please delete any such requests, or forward them to Michelle in the office. Under no circumstances should you send money or disclose personal information. No representative of the church will contact you to request payment of bills, loans, or purchases of gift cards. Any monetary requests received via email, text message or telephone call purporting to be from Pastor Curtis, Michelle, or a Council Member should be considered fraudulent.

To enhance security, personal contact details such as phone numbers and email addresses will be removed from our website. If you require this information, please consult your Living Word Directory or contact the church office directly. We also encourage you to review and update the privacy settings on your social media accounts, as scammers are known to conduct thorough research to make their attempts appear credible.

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.





2025 FALL GATHERING • AUGUSTANA DISTRICT
WOMEN OF THE WORD
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
Registration Deadline: September 8, 2025
Hosted By New Creation Lutheran Church
295 Coney Street, Perham, MN 56573

Mark Your Calendars!

August 13th– Living Word Lutheran Women “Paint Night”

September 7th– Rally Sunday with Potluck Dinner

September 17th– Dynamic Disciples Resumes

September 21st– Living Word Warriors Cancer Walk
Team Cornhole Tournament

September 28th– Mission Sunday
Guest Pastor Bill Moberly
Potluck Dinner



Blessed Be Meals
will
resume in October.
Stay tuned for more
information



"Women's Connection",
an affiliate of Stonecroft Ministries, meeting will be held at Central Church, Milbank,
SD on August 19, 2025 at 1:30 – 3:00 P.M.,
in the church fellowship hall.

Tickets: \$5.00 – Refreshments will be served

Speaker - Patricia Bishop of Sioux Falls — "Who Am I ... Why Am I Here"

Special Feature - Nicci Stengel- "The Calm in the Chaos"

Music - Nicci Stengel 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.

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN



Greetings, Living Word!

You may remember that this is the month of the Make-and -Take Painting Event for all the ladies of Living Word. We have August 13 at 6 pm reserved for a great evening of fun fellowship and creativity here at the church. Even if painting or crafting isn't your vibe, please know you are most welcome to come and have lunch and socialize with us. Our goal with this event is to inspire new friendships to form and get to know each other a little more than just the Sunday morning greeting. I hope many of you decide to take a chance and attend. Find enclosed with my monthly letter, a sample copy of the Make-and- Take project. Timberlane, a Wilmot business, will be conducting the teaching and bringing all the supplies. The deadline for signing up is AUGUST 6 so they know how many supplies to bring. I will have a sign-up sheet on the back table. Each participant is responsible for the cost of their project. There are 3 sizes to choose from (small, medium, large) and a choice of Bible verses (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:10, Romans 8:28, 1Corinthians13:4-5 and Isaiah 41:10) So when you sign up, please specify your combination of size and verse. I am NOT computer savvy but Rachel from Timberlane will have a QR code and a link to view the project. My cell number is (605)880-1788 so if you have questions, you can call or text me.

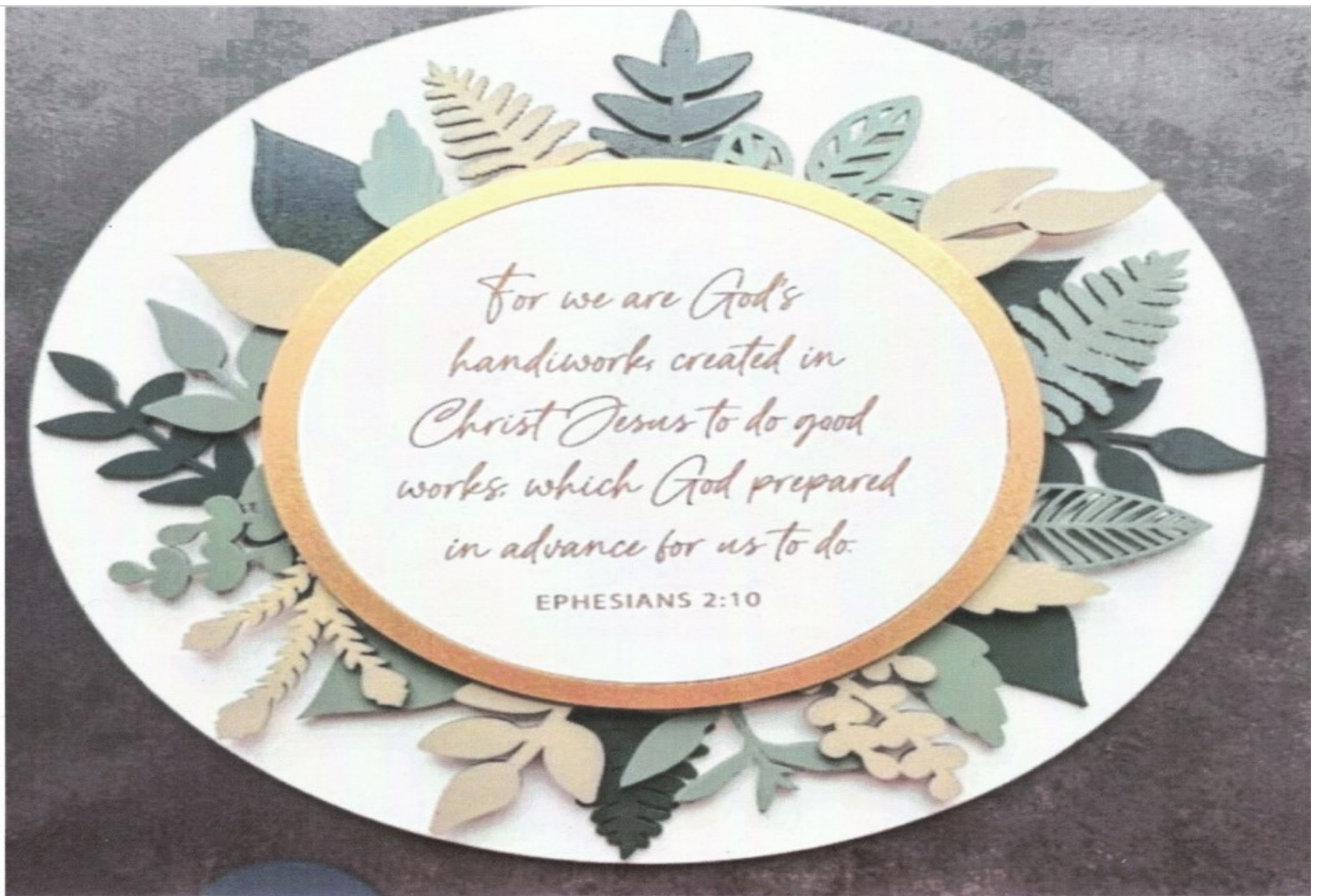
During our church picnic, representatives from Sleep in Heavenly Peace attended and shared with us their organization goals and vision. In the past we collected twin size sheets and pillows. For the month of August, we will collect them again for our monthly mission project. I assure you that each and every donation you make to our monthly projects is well received and greatly appreciated. Thank you, All, for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

The Threshing Show is August 8-10. We have been asked to assist with serving the Saturday evening meal on August 9 from 3:30 to 6:30. At the time of this writing, I need volunteers for the 3:30-5:00 shift. The sign-up sheet is on the back table. Thank you for your help. The church receives a donation for our contribution.

Lastly, another reminder for the WOW meeting in Perham. I know.... September 20 is a LOONNNGGG time away. But is it really? 😊 Several from our church are already committed and signed up. There are a few going the night before and staying over, some are going early the day of the event, and there is a zoom viewing here at the church. Let's check it out!! Sue DeJong is a good source of information if you have questions.

Thank you and I'll talk to you again soon in the September newsletter.

Brenda Seehafer (605) 880-1788



Indoor “Picnickers” Learned About “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” Program

Though the rains stopped those attending from eating outdoors, everyone who attended the Living Word Women’s Fun Day Picnic Potluck enjoyed food, fellowship and a wonderful program Sunday, July 27.

The program featured three speakers from the organization “Sleep In Heavenly Peace” which focuses solely on providing beds, bedding, pillows and quilts for families and children who have none. Rhonda Stengel, Katie Chida and Shelly Rovick, all members of the organization (this chapter based out of Watertown) were guests of Living Word and spoke about the history and essence of how the program works.

All the beds are taken to the recipient’s homes and built at the locations. Bedding, quilts etc. are donated from a variety of additional groups. Living Word has even donated monies for bed supplies and several quilts as well to the program.

If you have additional questions regarding the “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” program, please contact Rhonda Stengel at 605-949-2708.



Volunteers from the organization Sleep in Heavenly Peace are pictured by one of the single beds the group assembles and donates to children/families who do not have beds of their own. From L- R are Rhonda Stengel – volunteer/builder, Milbank; Katie Chada – Watertown Sleep in Heavenly Peace Chapter pres. and Shelly Rovick – volunteer/builder – Watertown.

Youth and Education

7 Exciting Plans Ahead for Christian Education!

The Education Committee met this month to map out a meaningful year of ministry and learning for all ages—from preschoolers to adults. Our mission is to provide opportunities for every member of the congregation to grow in faith and fellowship as we learn more about Jesus together.

Looking Ahead:



Rally Sunday – September 7th

Join us as we kick off the new church school year! Sunday School begins at **9:00 a.m.**, and the children will sing during worship. After the service, stay for a delicious potluck and fun activities for all ages. It's a joyful way to start the year—don't miss it!



Dynamic Disciples – Wednesday, September 17th

Our midweek faith program for kids returns this fall! Watch for more details coming soon.



Calling All Parade Enthusiasts!

We're looking for volunteers to drive the church trailer in local parades. The trailer, banners, and chairs are ready to roll—you just need to bring the spirit! To volunteer, contact the church office or talk to **Sue or Laurie**.



Sunday School Teachers Needed!

If you love Jesus and enjoy working with children, we would love your help! We're looking for teachers and substitute teachers to guide our kids in faith. Sign-up sheets are available in the Fellowship Hall.

Let's make this year one filled with learning, laughter, and love as we walk together in Christ!



Calling All Creative Souls! 💡

Do you have a flair for the fabulous, a knack for the nifty, or a passion for the picturesque? Then we have just the canvas for you!

Our entry bulletin board is seeking monthly makeovers, and we believe your touch could make it truly divine. Whether you're inspired by the changing seasons, a favorite scripture, or just a burst of holy creativity, we welcome your unique vision.

Let's turn our bulletin board into a rotating gallery of inspiration, joy, and community spirit.
We can't wait to see what you'll create!

🌿🐒 **Coming June 2026... VBS at Rainforest Falls!** 🌴🦜

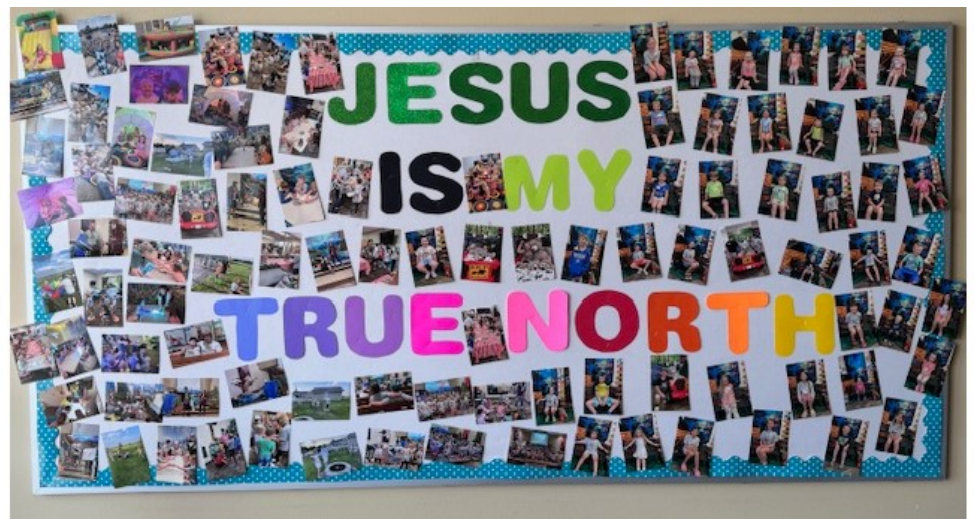
Step through the mist and into the wild! ☁️🌸

Rainforest Falls is coming to Living Word Lutheran Church in **June 2026**, and it's bursting with **roaring waterfalls, towering trees, colorful creatures**, and the life-changing love of God!

Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids will dive into a week of **jungle-sized fun** as they explore what it means to be **rooted in a relationship** with their Creator—a **safe place in life's storms**.

Mark your calendars and get ready for an unforgettable adventure where **faith grows deep and friendships grow strong**. 🐸🌳🦋

More details to come... but for now, start packing your bug spray and your best jungle hat!



A Message from our Council President

Hello everyone,

Happy August! When I hear "August" I immediately think of going back to school. Maybe it's because growing up my mom was a teacher, I myself taught for several years, I raised two kids, and later in life I married a school teacher. So each year the month of August brings back a strong sense of getting ready for school. Part of that readiness or preparation included buying school supplies, new clothes, and getting back into a routine. Well, it's that time again for our church family as well! Our Education Committee has already started getting ready for the upcoming school year. Planning youth activities for our church includes Sunday School, Dynamic Disciples on Wednesdays, Confirmation, and opportunities for students grades 6-12. Along with the youth, we adults also have the opportunity to continue our Christian education! One of those ways is by leading or participating in small group adult bible studies. My personal experience with small group bible studies (both in our church and outside of our church) have provided so much value that I cannot even express it in words. I hope that you consider and pray about participating in a bible study this year. 2 Timothy 3:17 says that God uses scripture to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

If God places it on your heart to lead a bible study, you can have the option to meet on a Sunday, during the week, at church, or possibly even in your home. Please feel free to visit with Pastor Curtis about this. For anyone who is leading a study, Pastor would like to preview the materials you will be using.

As I have mentioned in previous letters, I believe God is preparing us for something. Just like buying school supplies is an act of "getting ready" or "preparing" for what lies ahead, I think we as a church and as Christians can "get ready" or "prepare" too. How can we prepare ourselves for what lies ahead, including the trials and tribulations? How can we prepare ourselves to serve God in any situation? That preparation comes by spending time in prayer and in scriptures. I believe there is value in praying and spending time in scripture both in private and corporately. Just as I mentioned earlier the invitation to small group bible studies, I will extend an invitation to anyone who wants to sit in on the small group prayer that happens immediately after church service each week. There is no pressure to pray out loud if you prefer to listen to others pray. Either way, you are welcome to join us as we pray for our church and other things.

When I stop to think about how wonderful this church family is, I am amazed with all the people who are involved, who volunteer, who work behind the scenes, who spend time praying for our church, who reach out to others, who speak words of encouragement and so much more. I know that I don't see it all. I have only a glimpse of what goes on. But I do know that God sees you. So if you ever don't feel appreciated or seen by the church, know that your heavenly Father sees you. He loves you, has chosen you, and He equips you with everything you need for doing His will. But also know that I am very grateful for each and every one of you as well. Please continue to pray for our church and for God's will to be done.

Love,
Jackie



Council Minutes

LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT - JULY 16, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Curtis Simonson, President Jackie Olson, Moe Reede, Laurie Maas, 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: The pastor gave an overview of past month happenings. He suggested we add a conflict resolution pursuant to Matthew 18 to our bylaws. The pastor also made a request to get pre-approval of posters prior to hanging in the church. Deb made a motion to approve the pastor's report. Steve seconded, and the motion carried.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Tim, Deb and Jackie will assist for August 3.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Laurie made a motion to approve the report. Steve seconded the motion, and it was carried.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCE REPORT: Deb indicates that we have sufficient insurance coverage for the church. Steve made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Moe seconded the motion, and it carried.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT: Adam received an estimate from Brady Krause of \$5,814.88 for updating the lighting to LED. Through an e-mail meeting on June 27, Jackie made a motion to approve the bid with Julie seconding the motion. The motion carried. The switch to LED provides continuity, energy efficiency, a 25% longer lifespan and less maintenance issues which will lead to eventual savings. On July 1, Adam notified the council that the lighting project had been completed. Tim reported on the feasibility of using a Knox Box and also the cost of a security system. The council agreed that both items would not be needed based on what they provided and the costs involved. Julie made a motion to approve the report and Moe seconded. The motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM REPORT: Sandy gave an update on the upcoming Cancer Walk fundraiser community event. It is scheduled for about 10 weeks out and more information will follow. Steve made a motion to approve the report and Julie seconded, and the motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION REPORT: Laurie gave a report on events for the coming year. Rally Sunday is set for September 7. Materials for any planned bible studies should be previewed by Pastor prior to ordering. There was discussion regarding using some of the youth money for adding a playground and costs will be researched. Julie made a motion to approve the report. Deb seconded the motion, and it carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Research is being done to determine what computer is needed for the office. Just a reminder – church apparel can still be ordered. Let's show our church spirit and wear them on Rally Sunday!!

NEW BUSINESS: Based on recent scams specifically targeting the council members, the process will begin removing and limiting personal information on our website and bulletins. Anyone needing to contact council members can look in their church directory or call the office for contact information. The council decided we will not be applying for the membership per the LCMC Northern Plains letter we received last month.

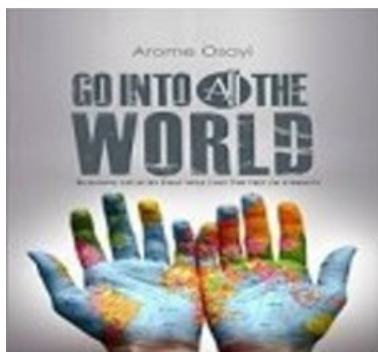
DATE OF NEXT MEETING: August 13, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Berger, Council Secretary





IMPACT MISSIONS

7/8/2025

Impact The World Meeting Minutes

Members present were: Pastor Curtis, Vicki Strege, Linda Anderson, Howard Heinje and Sue DeJong.

Vicki opened with prayer and Bible verses from Galatians 6:9-10.
"Let us not grow weary in doing good."

Jordan and Lexi Hins joined us and informed us more about CRU ministries, especially in Turkey.

CRU ministers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in 193 countries and on every continent. Since January and February several team members (15 couples and families) have been forced to leave Turkey by the Turkish government.

One of the couples worked closely with Jordan and Lexi. Though sad and difficult Jordan says that those expelled from Turkey are seeing the blessings as they focus their ministries in other areas of the world, including the USA.

The Hins' are planning to return again next summer and will visit our congregation. They left business cards that may be picked up in our fellowship hall with information on how to reach out to them and CRU ministries.

Jordan and Lexi did inform us that their monthly expenses include \$2000.00 for family health insurance. They are in need of financial help to cover about \$1000.00 of this expense per month. Sue made a motion to increase our quarterly giving to CRU ministries/Hins family from 7% of the Benevolent fund to a higher percentage. Linda seconded the motion. It will proceed to the Church Council.

Gloria will speak to Jeannie at ICAP about needs for a sponsorship for a family for Christmas that our congregation could help support.

Pastor Bill Moberly and his wife, Sally, are coming to Milbank on September 27th and 28th. The Impact board will provide a meal with fellowship on Saturday evening for them. A potluck dinner will be held on Sunday, the 28th following worship for the congregation to be able to visit with the Moberly's. We will celebrate Mission Sunday that day as well!

A motion was made by Linda to send \$500.00 from the Impact Mission fund now through Samaritan's Purse to use for the Texas flood victims and cleanup. The motion was seconded by Sue. Motion carried.

We will plan to also do a Noisy Change in September to help with the flood victims in Texas as the needs are realized.

Noisy Change Mission Designations:

July - Grace Academy, Chicago

August- Vietnam Gospel Houses/Orphanages



From the Director Fresh from our Tenth Anniversary, the ministry of ALWM Int'l continues to focus on the least reached focus on the least reached/ unreached, defined as "a people group among which there is no indigenous community of Believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize their own people without significant outside assistance". We trust God to provide the "significant outside assistance" our partners need from our network of relationships with churches and individuals across the US. Read on for some highlights, including a major leadership training initiative in partnership with the Int'l Orality Institute. Our goal aligns with theirs: reproducible discipleship! IOI employs an oral style, using the parables and question-and-answer style of teaching that Jesus used! Swapon Sarker (Bangladesh), Pastor Sam (Cambodia), and Pastor Martin (Myanmar) each said "this is what we need!" so ALWM is translating and printing IOI's two years of training materials. Late fall I will bring IOI staff to these countries to train 90+ leaders! I will also join Pastor Sam to lead our third annual ALWM Cambodia Youth Conference! We're thankful to report that the land for the ALWM Cambodia Youth & Ministry Training is paid off with \$20,000+ on hand to build (about 30% of our \$192k goal). Please pray for all the preparation for these four key events. To God be the Glory!

September 28 will be here before we know it. That is the Sunday that

Pastor Bill Moberly will share the story of his mission work with us. Below is an article from his newsletter that shares the highlights of the work he has been doing. It will give us

a greater understanding of his work, his commitment and God guidance and provisions. Please pray for God's guidance in how he wants you to support this worthwhile mission.

Simple Value of Friends and Neighbors

Friends and neighbors are a wonderful blessing in life. They are truly more valuable than money or jewels. Yet often there are individuals in this world, myself included, who take them for granted. For some it is intentional and others it is just because life gets so busy they tend to live in their own "bubbles."

As I do not know the Bible like I should, I cannot quote what verse it came from, but I remember my Mom always saying something like "treat your neighbor as you would want to be treated yourself." That holds true in all the dealings and transactions a person has. It is very similar I believe to living the Golden Rule.

But there come times when a person isn't just talking about the actual actions one does, but how they are carried out. As a friend and a neighbor we have to be observant, be the one to initiate assisting and helping our friends and neighbors first. I have been on the receiving end of that a few times and I must say it is a wonderful feeling!! It is ALSO a wonderful feeling to be on the OTHER end: INITIATING the action. Knowing you are "helping" friends and neighbors in some way truly is doing God's work. It can be in very small ways, but mean very BIG things to the other person!!!

So, take the time once-in-a-while, look at your neighbors, think about your friends. What little thing could you do or offer to help them with that would make a bigger difference in their life than you know. You may be very surprised at the results....for them and for yourself. Life is SO good when we put ourselves in God's hands.

Sandy Christensen

Worship and Evangelism

Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser!

Support the Living Word Warriors.



2 person adult team: \$50

2 person kid team: \$30

Prizes for adult and kid brackets available!

***Adults: Winner & Loser Brackets**
(prize cash payout)

***Kid Bracket-6 teams needed (prizes)**

Sunday, Sept. 21st, 2025 - start time: 1PM

Living Word Lutheran Church- Milbank, SD

Registration prior is encouraged, but not required. Register by calling: 605-438-9672



A concession stand will be open all day. A bonfire and s'mores will follow the tournament with music.



Fundraiser for the Living Word Warriors Cancer Team.
Proceeds will be given to It Only Takes A Spark Cancer Walk.



Name: _____
Phone: _____

S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	5X	TOTAL
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13	Port Authority Soft Shell	\$57						
14	Ladies Port Authority Soft Shell	\$57						
15	Nike Dri Fit	\$51						
16	Ladies Nike Dri Fit	\$51						
17	District Tee YOUTH	\$22						
18	District tee YOUTH	\$22						
19	Jerzees Crewneck YOUTH	\$30						

GRAND TOTAL

Black Charcoal Heather



YOUTH

17 Green Frost

18 New Navy



19 J. Navy



Ortonville, MN 56278
229 2nd St. NW
320-839-2542
ShowYourPride@ProImagePartners.com



Name: _____
Phone: _____

S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	5X	TOTAL
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1	District Tri Tee	\$22						
2	District Tri Tee	\$22						
3	Ladies District Tee	\$22						
4	Ladies District Tee	\$22						
5	Jerzees Crewneck Sweatshirt	\$30						
6	Jerzees Crewneck Sweatshirt	\$30						
7	Port Authority Sport Shirt	\$25						
8	Port Authority Sport Shirt	\$25						
9	Ladies Port Authority Sport Shirt	\$25						
10	Ladies Port Authority Sport Shirt	\$25						

One Size

One Size

11 Richardson 112 Hat Carmel/Black \$17

12 Richardson 112 Hat Black \$17

GRAND TOTAL



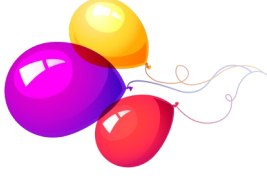
Ortonville, MN 56278
229 2nd St. NW
320-839-2542
ShowYourPride@ProImagePartners.com

August 2025

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	4	5	6	7 9:00 Community Fellowship	8	9
10 9:00 Worship 10:00 Chapel Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	11	12 9:00 Faith Circle meets 7:00 Love Circle meets	13 6:00 LWLW Paint Night 6:30 Council	14 9:00 Community Fellowship	15	16
17 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Sept Servant Team meets	18	19 Newsletter items due	20	21 9:00 Community Fellowship	22	23
24 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	25	26	27	28 9:00 Community Fellowship	29	30
31 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship						

AUGUST BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Happy
Birthday



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Curtis & Michelle Simonson (w.)	2 Buth, Beverly (b.) Weber, Carol (b.)
3 Aaron & Lacey Busack (w.) Docker, Betty (b.) Meister, Heidi (b.) Steltz, Joel (b.)	4 Forster, Douglas (b.) Rafferty, Rita (b.)	5	6 Sime, Kent (b.)	7	8	9
10 Dale & Linda Prisinger (w.)	11	12 Kiefer, Karen (b.) Peschong, Presley (b.) Arnold & Donna Rehn (w.)	13	14 McMahon, Marcus (b.)	15 Aker, Dale (b.) McMahon, Cody (b.) Weinkauf, Oliver (b.)	16 Capp, Susan (b.) Dahle, Collis (b.) Maas, Andrew (b.)
17 Gullickson, Darrel (b.)	18 Campbell, Koda (b.) Seehafer, Phil (b.)	19	20 Seehafer, Todd (b.) Veen, Ashlie (b.) Vietmeier, Shannon (b.) Weber, Cali (b.)	21 Colberg, Lillian (b.)	22	23 Wink, Kimberly (b.)
24 Heinje, Howard (b.)	25 Marlin & Janice Fenner (w.) Myklegard, Charles (b.)	26 Balling Jr., Bernard (b.) Busack, Aaron (b.)	27	28 Lewno, Zoe (b.)	29 Collis & Brenda Dahle (w.)	30 David & Linda Wagner (w.)
31 Donald & Carol Weber (w.)						

LWLC Committee Contacts

2025 Council Members:

President: Jackie Olson

Vice President: Moe Reede

Secretary: Julie Berger

Youth & Education: Laurie Maas Moe Reede

Worship & Evangelism: Sandy Christensen Steve Strege

Treasurer/Finance: Deb Buttke

Property & Management: Tim DeJong Adam McMahon

Newsletter: Michelle Simonson

Website: livingwordmilbank.com

Living Word Lutheran Women Officers:

Coordinator: Brenda Seehafer

Vice-coordinator: Sandy Christensen

Secretary: Lori Kasuske

Treasurer: Annette Redepenning

Mission Action: Gloria Cooley

Mission Growth: Linda Wagner

Mission Community:

Advisor: Marcia Heinje

Pastor: Curtis Simonson

*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

