

LIVING WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

438.9672 CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

This group recently spent some time packing Mercy Meals at Orphan Grain Train. We had a great group of volunteers and even some new faces. I would encourage each of you to give it a try. We packaged 20 boxes containing 36 bags of soup mix. Each bag holds 6 meals so in a short time, we packed enough for 4,320 meals!! We had a great time visiting while we worked and had the opportunity to spend time with our friends within the church. Please join us when we go again.



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The annual
congregational
meeting will be
November 16
immediately after
the church service

LWLC FAMILY

Mark Your Calendars



November 2: All Saints' Day

November 2: Daylight Savings Time ends.
Set clocks back 1 hour at 2 a.m.

November 9: Pancake and sausage fundraiser from 11-1 p.m.

November 16: Annual congregational meeting
immediately after church service

LWLC FAMILY

"Blessed Be" Meals to be Offered Again

"Blessed Be" meals will again be offered to ANY congregation members who would like to receive them from October through March. The meals are offered to those members who have ANY difficulty preparing or receiving hot and nutritious meals for themselves. Such difficulties may include but are NOT limited to age, health, financial situation, recent surgeries or illnesses or other lifestyle circumstances. There is NO CHARGE for this program as it is voluntarily provided by church members.

Those interested in receiving the meals (one meal per week) may sign up at the church info table or contact Sandy Christensen, or church office, 605-438-9672.



Meals will be available for pick up on Sundays following worship at the kitchen counter or by delivery (especially for shut-ins, people recuperating from surgery etc.) on Mondays following that Sunday. For more information please contact Sandy Christensen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Animals of the Bible

Our Sunday School children have been on quite an adventure – learning that God uses all kinds of creatures to teach us lessons about faith, obedience, and trust!

We started with the **quail**, who showed up in the desert when God's people were hungry and grumpy (we can all relate to that!). When the Israelites complained about having no food, God said, "I've got this," and sent **manna and quail** to fill their tummies. It was a good reminder that **God provides for our needs**, even when we don't see how.

Next, we met **Balaam's talking donkey** – yes, you read that right! Balaam was headed the wrong direction (literally and spiritually), and God used his trusty donkey and an angel roadblock to get his attention. The donkey had more sense than his rider that day! We learned it's always wise to do things God's way – and maybe to listen to your

pets once in a while, just in case.

Then we dove (or maybe got swallowed!) into the story of **Jonah and the big fish**. When Jonah tried to run away from God's mission, he ended up in the world's first "submarine." After three days of fishy reflection, Jonah learned the importance of **obeying God** – the first time!

Finally, we learned about **Elijah and the ravens**. When Elijah was hiding in the wilderness and feeling all alone, God sent a flock of ravens to bring him food. Talk about divine delivery service! It reminded us that **God is always with us**, even when we feel like we're out in the middle of nowhere.

From birds to fish to donkeys, we discovered that **God can use any creature to share His message** – and sometimes, He even uses kids like us!



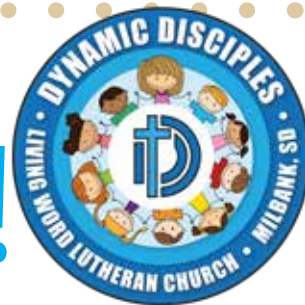
SUNDAY SCHOOL

True North Christmas Program

Come join us on **Sunday, December 14, during the worship service** as we celebrate the birth of our Savior! The children and youth of Living Word will take us on a joyful **Christmas journey**, bringing back familiar faces from our **True North VBS** adventure.

Together, we'll travel with our VBS characters through the story of Jesus' birth – complete with **carols, laughter, and heartfelt moments** that remind us that even in a wild world, we can always **trust Jesus, our True North**. Don't miss this special morning of music, storytelling, and worship as our young disciples share the greatest story ever told!





Faith on the Farm!

The Dynamic Disciples have been *plowing* through their fall lessons and learning about **Faith on the Farm!** We discovered that farmers need a *whole lot of patience* (and maybe a few extra prayers) to grow their crops – just like we need to trust God’s timing in our own lives.

We made **barn snacks** (that disappeared faster than a raccoon at chore time) and built **tractors** that would make John Deere proud. The kids also learned about **chickens** and how Jesus said He longs to gather His children like a *mother hen protects her chicks*. Naturally, that lesson called for chicken-themed snacks, a few “clucks,” and – of course – the **Chicken Dance!**

Then came our **“Trick or Treat, Say Something Sweet”** craft, which we proudly displayed at church. Nothing like a little sugar and Scripture to brighten the walls!

But the highlight of the month? A trip to **Tim and Sheila Miller’s farm!** We went on a **hayride**, **picked and painted pumpkins**, and even **played in the corn-filled silo** (some kids are still finding kernels in their shoes). The snacks were fantastic, and the laughter echoed across the fields.

We wrapped up October by visiting **St. Williams**, where the kids spread joy decorating cookies, playing bingo, and sewing their own **pillows** – because every good disciple needs a soft place to rest after all that fun!

Through it all, we’ve been reminded that faith grows best when it’s watered with laughter, friendship, and a good dose of God’s love.



CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation Students Embark on an In the Field Experience

The confirmands had a great field experience on Wednesday, October 15. Madison Bilben, Harmony Campbell, and Josie Dallman went to *The Clay House* in Big Stone City, SD. They selected a piece that spoke to them and then painted it to speak to others. They were a prime example of the bible verse focus on this day.

This experience was a great opportunity for the confirmands to learn about ISAIAH 64:8 "Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are the work of your hand." The connection here was

that God is in all we do and in all the decisions we make. He is an instrumental piece in our story, and in shaping us to be who he hopes we will become through our faith journey.

Madison was able to take her piece home that day while Josie and Harmony required an additional step for sealing their projects. Theirs will be done in a week and ready for pick up.

In His hands,

Laura Dallman, Grades 7-12 Youth Director



WE ARE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST

HELLO EVERYONE,

In all honesty and transparency, I'm sitting here at my computer and struggling to know what to write. I'm at a loss for words, yet my head is spinning with thoughts. A lot has happened since I wrote last month's letter and many emotions, many conversations, and many prayers have happened since then, too. Accepting the resignation of Pastor Curtis came as a surprise, followed by many questions and emotions. As I mentioned in the informational meeting, I hope we can give each other the space to process this in our individual ways and time.

Our mission remains the same. We are followers of Jesus Christ. Each one of you is a beautiful reflection of His love! God has uniquely formed you – equipping each of you with different gifts, talents, personalities, backgrounds, perspectives, passions, etc., and all to be used for the glory of the Father. We are a church family, united as brothers and sisters in Christ. Our mission statement remains the same: God calls us at Living Word Lutheran Church to uphold the Bible as God's inerrant and holy Word, to grow in our faith and knowledge of that Word, and to be faithful witnesses who boldly proclaim its message of forgiveness of sins and salvation in Christ to others in our community and in the world.

So what's next? We continue moving forward with our eyes on Jesus. Pastor Melanie has been brought

on staff full time to serve during this interim time for our church. We are very grateful that she was available and willing to help us! A Call Committee will be formed soon to start the process of searching for and calling our next Pastor. We will also be looking to hire a secretary for the church office. Will you please be willing to pray for each of these needs?

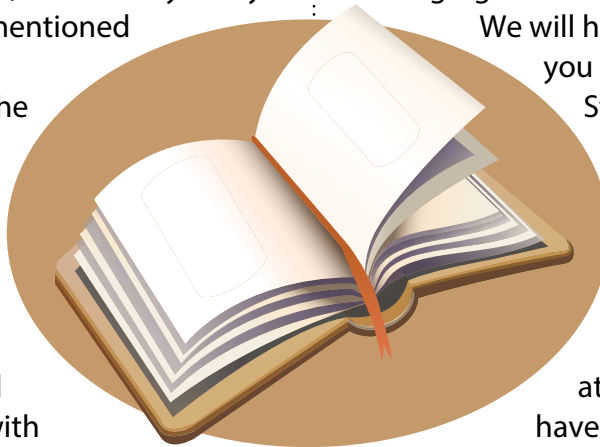
There will also be a change of Church Council members as we approach our annual Congregational Meeting on November 16.

We will have four vacancies to fill. If you get a chance, please thank Steve Strege, Moe Reede, Adam McMahon, and Sandy Christensen for serving our church in this capacity over the last few years. Personally, I have enjoyed these people so much and will miss them at our council meetings! We

have shared countless hours of discussions, questions, prayers, tears, and even laughter! I am extremely proud of the entire Church Council and how they have walked through a challenging year. In the midst of heavy discussions, somehow laughter would always be a part of the meetings, too. It was music to my ears!

As we enter the month of Thanksgiving, may we each be intentional to look for the things for which we are grateful. God's blessings are all around us! Thank you for continuing to pray for Living Word Lutheran Church.

Jackie Olson, Council President



WOMEN OF THE LIVING WORD

Dear Living Word Congregation,

Recently, the Love Circle hosted our congregation at a **SOUP SUPPER**. Earlier that day, we spent some time packing **MERCY MEALS AT ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN**. We had a great group of volunteers and even some new faces. I would encourage each of you to give it a try. We packaged 20 boxes containing 36 bags of soup mix.

Each bag holds 6 meals so in a short time, we packed enough for 4,320 meals!! We had a great time visiting while we worked and had the opportunity to spend time with our friends within the church. Please join us when we go again.

The **FALL** of the year is always so busy for everyone and the Living Word Family is no different. The Living Word Women are organizing and preparing for the new year; planning for the **ST.**

LUCIA BREAKFAST (Dec. 13, 9:30 a.m.); and will be hosting a fun, **FELLOWSHIP EVENT** on Dec. 7. More information is forthcoming. There is still time to contribute to the October mission – non-perishables for



the **FOOD PANTRY**. Gloria will be setting up the **MITTEN TREE** for our November/December mission. Mittens, gloves, scarves, socks are so appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to share the goings-on of the Living Word Lutheran Women.

Brenda Seehafer, Coordinator
(605)880-1788

LADIES LADIES LADIES

Please consider joining a Circle Bible Study for 2026. We will be studying *Letters of Encouragement*, a bible study on Paul's letters to the Thessalonians. Come for food, fun, fellowship, and spiritual inspiration. We meet the third Tuesday of each month at either 9 a.m. or 7 p.m. There will be a signup sheet in the fellowship hall.

2025 LWLC Committee Contacts

2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS:

President: Jackie Olson

Vice President: Moe Reede

Secretary: Julie Berger

Youth & Education: Laurie Maas and Moe Reede

Worship & Evangelism: Sandy Christensen and Steve Strege

Treasurer/Finance: Deb Buttke

Property & Management: Tim DeJong

Newsletter: Nancy Kruger

Website: Nancy Kruger

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

Fall Bazaar



The Warriors have been busy planning our next big event for quarter 2 of the year, a **FALL BAZAAR!** Please join us at the 4-H complex, November 16 starting at 11a.m. This is open to the community, so help us spread the word! There will be several different activities available for people of all ages. Come to enjoy a bowl of soup and grilled cheese sandwich for lunch, carnival games with a prize every time, snag up some goodies from the bake sale, purchase



some freshly made lefse, take a chance at winning the pot in our 50/50 raffle ticket

drawing, bid on some amazing baskets and items for the silent auction, and let's not forget about the opportunity to experience some fun fellowship for such a great cause!



SILENT AUCTION: If you are interested in donating for the silent auction, please have your silent auction items to the church by Nov. 7, if possible. There is a blue bag with a sign for drop off currently in the fellowship area at the church. When dropping off, please fill out the top of the bidding sheet.



We would like to take photos of all the donations and share all the amazing and beautiful things

available. You will find these photos and options posted to the church Facebook page where you can share it out from there. The more we can share the posts out, the more people we can reach.

DINNER
11-12:30 p.m.

Free will donation

EVENTS & GAMES
11-1:30 p.m.

Purchase tickets - Prize every time

*Proceeds will be given to
It Only Takes A Spark Cancer Walk.*



BAKE SALE: If you are interested in sharing your talents through baking, please have your bake sale items to the church on Nov. 14 by 4 p.m. If you are unable to hit this deadline and plan to bring in an effort to support our event, we will accept the morning of the event also.

Questions can be sent to Lois Norris or myself if these deadlines don't work for you. The Warriors team will be setting up as much as we can Friday late afternoon, Nov. 14 at the 4-H complex to ease the busy morning on the 16th.

*Be strong and courageous,
Laura Dallman, Living Word
Warriors' Captain*



OUTREACH

MISSION SHARE – CAMBODIA

pancake and sausage fundraiser brunch

November 9 at 11-1 p.m.

at Living Word
Lutheran Church



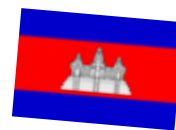
The goal is to participate with our offerings in building the much needed Youth and Ministry Center in Cambodia to train up Christian leaders to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this greatly unreached part of the world. Of the approximately \$200,000 US dollars needed, \$71,000 along with the land has already been received! Praise God!

Please join us in this Mission Opportunity as we partner with ALWM (Awakening Lives Through World Missions) and Pastor Sam Chim in Cambodia to help reach this goal. Your freewill offering for brunch will go to this worthy cause.

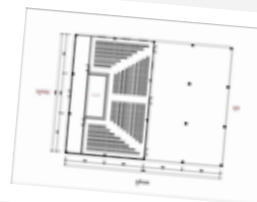


Mission Share is our name for Key ministry infrastructure projects—like the **Youth & Ministry Training Center** Preah Vihear, Cambodia!

WHO: Pastor Sam (Pich) Chim, gifted church planter & ministry leader in Cambodia since 2005, has led ALWM Cambodia since 2016!



WHAT: ALWM Cambodia is building a Youth & Ministry Training Center near our Mission School (above) in Preah Vihear. This three building ministry center (conference center and two dorms) will train leaders for their work in Cambodia, and the 50 underground churches in a neighboring country!



ALWM Mission Share is praying for 141 Donors to Give \$1000 to complete the project so we can open by late 2026 or early 2027! We have raised \$71,000 of the total \$211,000 project as of 10.15.2025! The 2 hectare (5 acres) \$29000 property is paid for, and we are building as funds are available!

Donate with no fees at [ALWM Project- Cambodia: Youth & Leadership Ministry Training Center | Awakening Lives to World Missions \(Powered by Donorbox\)](#)

Awakening Lives to World Missions is an IRS approved 501 c-3 non profit organization founded in 2015 by Rev. Bill Moberly. ALWM works predominantly among the least reached in nine countries on three continents. Learn more at [alwm.org](#), write missionshelp@alwm.org, or call 505-803-5271. PO Box 67432, Albuquerque, NM 87193-7432

ALWM
MISSION SHARE
Cambodia

PASTOR'S LETTER



TO WHOM DOES THE CHURCH BELONG?

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY AT LIVING WORD,

What happens when a pastor leaves in unexpected circumstances? How do those who remain behind handle whatever challenges there may be, encourage the church with love and grace, and move forward into a strong and healthy future? And, most importantly, how can we use this challenging time to personally increase our faith?

The most crucial factor in answering these questions begins with an understanding of exactly to whom the church belongs. The church does not belong to the pastor or to the leadership or the congregation. The church belongs to Christ, the Head of His church. The word church means literally the "assembly of the called-out ones." These called-out ones gather together to worship their Head. They are committed to following His lead in all they do, to obeying Him, and to presenting an accurate picture of Him to a watching world beyond the doors of the church. The church is the body of Christ.

He died for His body, the Church, and His body lives for Him and Him alone.

So, as we move into a new season at Living Word Lutheran Church, let us together again acknowledge Christ as the Head of His church and that we are His church serving Him in the world today. Let us seek to grow in faith, share our faith with others, and work to build what Christ wants to see in Living Word Lutheran Church. Let us pray for God's guidance in our every move.

Personally, as I assume the duties of the pastor at Living Word once again, I ask for your prayers and a significant measure of grace over the months to come. If there are ways in which you would like to assist, please let me know as this should always be a team effort. You can be assured that Living Word Lutheran Church is close to my heart, and I will do my best to serve the church through this time.



*In Christian love, **Pastor Melanie***

COUNCIL MINUTES



MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Curtis Simonson, President Jackie Olson, Moe Reede, Laurie Maas, Steve Strege, Sandy Christensen, Tim DeJong, Pastor Melanie Reiners and Julie Berger.

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Melanie gave the opening prayer.

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

PASTOR'S REPORT: No report.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Deb, Jackie, and Julie will assist for November 2.

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

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCE REPORT: Deb reminded council members that they should be gathering numbers for the budget. Pastor Melanie mentioned using vouchers for ease of purchasing/reimbursing items for the board. Pastor Melanie and Laurie will work on a voucher for use. Laurie made a motion to buy a new financial use computer as Deb reports there are ongoing issues with the current computer not working properly. Sandy seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Moe made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, and Julie seconded. The motion carried.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT: Tim reports that the painting of the highway sign has been completed. The three doors around the church (not including the front entrance) will be painted next spring. GCC has been contracted for snow removal of the parking lot. We will be looking for someone to take care of the church entry snow removal. Tim also reported that Sue and he replaced 9 plants, and

that the bushes will be trimmed in a few weeks. We will ask Kelly to look into choosing and purchasing battery pack backups for the computers as there have been issues with power surges. Laurie made a motion to approve purchase of the battery packs with Deb seconding the motion. The motion carried. Laurie made a motion to approve the property management report. Steve seconded the motion. The motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM REPORT: All Saints Sunday is November 2. Deb will ring the bell, and Julie will light the candles.

YOUTH & EDUCATION REPORT: Everything has been going good. Deb made a motion to approve the report. Tim seconded the motion, and it carried.

OLD BUSINESS: An announcement will be placed in the bulletin regarding parishioners who have keys to the church so we can compile a complete list.

NEW BUSINESS: There was discussion regarding participating in the 4-H Winter Wonderland Drive Thru. More information will be coming in November. The annual meeting is set for November 16 after the church service. The council accepted Pastor Simonson's e-mailed resignation sent on October 7.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Newsletter items due by October 22. Council has a budget meeting set for October 15 at 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Council went into executive session at 8:33. Jackie made a motion to leave the executive session at 10:21. Steve seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

A severance package for Pastor Simonson was decided upon and approved by the council.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Berger, Council Secretary

November 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 All Saints' Day Daylight Savings Time Ends 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion	3	4 10:00 Impact Committee	5 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	6 9:00 Community Coffee	7	1
9 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Chapel Communion 11:00 Pancake/Sausage Fundraiser	10	11 9:00 Quilting	12 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 7:00 Council	13 9:00 Community Coffee	14	15
16 ANNUAL MEETING 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 December Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship 11:00 Annual Meeting	17	18 9:00 Faith Circle 7:00 Love Circle	19 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	20 9:00 Community Coffee	21	22
23 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	24	25 9:00 Quilting	26 No Confirmation No Dynamic Disciples	27 Thanksgiving Day Church and office closed	28	29
30 8:45 Sunday School/Program Practice 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Cailey Sime (b.) T.J. Wojahn (b.)
2	3	4 Doug Redepenning (b.)	5	6	7	8 Vicki Strege (b.)
9 Warren Beck (b.) Ella Sandvig (b.)	10	11 Emily Cramer (b.) Ed & Betty Kloster (w.) David Wagner (b.)	12	13	14 Robert & Susan Capp (w.) Robert Capp (b.) Steve Nelson (b.) Brandon Peschong (b.)	15 Terry O'Connor (b.)
16	17 Emma Christensen (b.) David Hepper (b.) Donald Weber (b.)	18 Mary Hepper (b.) Jay Maze (b.)	19	20 Jacob Berger (b.) Makayla McKinney (b.)	21 Lane Lindquist (b.)	22
23 Arnold Rehn (b.)	24 Bobby & Mary Kinder (w.) Jay & Sally Maze (w.)	25	26 Devon Bailing (b.)	27	28	29
30 Ben Kasuske (b.) Jessica Weinkauff (b.)						