

LIVING+WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

605-438-9672

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2025



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Announcements	LWLW	Living Word Warriors
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Announcements

Mark Your Calendars!

October 12– Mercy Meal/Soup Supper Event

October 13– Columbus/Indigenous People's Day– Office Closed

October 15– Book of Romans Bible Study begins

October 26th– Vespers Services at Nursing Homes

The CHOSEN®

Join us on Thursdays at 6:30
for fellowship and discussion as we
view Season Three of this
historical drama based on the life
of Jesus and those who knew him.

**Join Pastor Curtis
Wednesday Evenings
at 5:30 for a
6 week Bible Study on the
Book of Romans.**

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 Church,

*Thank you so much for your investment in us and our
ministry this summer. We are grateful for Jordan's
opportunity to speak and for the chance to connect
with so many in your congregation.*

*Thank you also for your continued financial gifts that
enable us to continue sharing eternal hope in the midst
of a dark place. Your investment in the local community
and the needs of the world shows a deep love for Jesus
and encourages us!*

*Grateful to serve alongside you all in God's Kingdom,
Jordan + Lexie Hino + girls*

Dear Church Family of Living Word Lutheran Church,
As many of you have noticed my return to the church over the past couple of months, I want to write a few words to tell you what responsibility I have accepted. A few weeks ago, Pastor Simonson asked me to come alongside him to be a mentor/support person here at Living Word. His request was followed by formal action of the Church Council in which they requested me to accept the part-time position of Sr. Associate Pastor for LWLC. The Seminary also affirmed the creation of this position. After prayerful consideration, I accepted this responsibility.

As Pastor Simonson continues his seminary education, there are areas in which it is hoped I can be of assistance. I look forward to being in the Church a couple of mornings each week— Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-12:00 and other times according to need and/or by appointment. You will find me in the small Sunday School room closest to the kitchen. Please feel free to call me on my cell phone at 605-949-0624 at any time or stop in for a visit if I can be of help in any way.

In Christian love,
Pastor Melanie



“Blessed Be” Meals To Be Offered Again

“Blessed Be” Meals will again be offered to ANY congregation members who would like to receive them during October – March. The meals are directed 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.



“Women's Connection”

“Women’s Connection”, an affiliate of Stonecroft Ministries, meeting will be held at Central Church, Milbank, SD on October 21, 2025 at 1:30 – 3:00 P.M, in the church fellowship hall.

Tickets: \$5.00 – Refreshments will be served

Speaker - Maysil Malard of Bismarck, ND “Stepping Out in Faith”

Special Feature - “How Exercise Sparks a Strong You”

by Judy Frink and Judy Dorset

Music - Lindsey Keller

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

For reservations: please contact:

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



ALL ARE INVITED!

Mercy Meals Event ***followed by a soup supper***

When: Sunday, October 12, 2025

Where: Mercy Meals, Orphan Grain Train Building, 101 W. 12th Ave.
Soup Supper, Living Word Lutheran Church

Time: Mercy Meals Event - 3:30 p.m.
Supper - 5 p.m.





Youth and Education

Rally Sunday & September Lessons Recap

Rally Sunday was a joyful beginning to our fall season! We started out with singing and creating a flower that shared something special about each child, which is now displayed in the church entry. The kids also enjoyed a Bible man video. During worship, our youth sang a lively song they learned at VBS and each received a special keychain reminding them to “walk with Jesus wherever they go.” Our 3rd and 6th grade students also received their Bibles—a milestone in their faith journey.

This fall, our Sunday School lessons focus on **Animals in the Bible**:

- **Week 1 – The Snake & Temptation**

We learned that temptation is real, and we have a choice—to give in or to follow God’s way. The snake in the Garden wasn’t evil itself (God created snakes!), but Satan used it to tempt Adam and Eve. To remember to follow God, the children created snakes of their own.

- **Week 2 – The Dove & God’s Promise**

Noah obeyed God’s plan to build the ark, and after many days afloat, he sent out a dove to see if land was near. God kept His promise and gave a sign for all generations—the rainbow—that He would never again flood the whole earth. Rainbows after storms remind us of His faithfulness.

- **Week 3 – Frogs & God’s Power**

We learned about God’s amazing power shown through the ten plagues in Egypt. Though Pharaoh’s heart was hard, God’s power had no limits and He freed His people from slavery. We are reminded that when God calls us to serve Him, nothing can stand against us.

September was full of joyful songs, meaningful lessons, and reminders of God’s promises. We are excited to see what the rest of the fall will bring!



Dynamic Disciples – Fall Kickoff

The barn doors swung wide open for our first Dynamic Disciples gathering of the fall! We started the afternoon with hearty snacks (because no farmer works on an empty stomach), some toe-tappin' music, and plenty of time to renew friendships in our little "church family pasture."

Right away, we put our hands to work and made get-well cards for our dear helper and friend, Karen, who "took a tumble off the tractor" (well, really a fall, but farm talk makes it sound more fun!) and broke her hip. We're sending her lots of love, prayers, and a whole wagon-load of well wishes.

This fall, we'll be plowing through lessons from the **Faith on the Farm** curriculum. Each week we'll learn about God through farm-themed stories that remind us He is the ultimate Shepherd, always tending His flock.

And if you hear the term "**Little Apostles**," don't be confused—it just means our younger "calves" have their own group to grow and graze in God's Word, while our older "cows" (oops—disciples!) dig a little deeper in their lessons. After all, we're all part of the same herd, called to be both disciples and apostles for Jesus.

So hitch up the wagon, grab your boots, and join us each week as we cultivate faith, sow seeds of kindness, and harvest joy in the Lord's name!





Pastor's Letter

Psalms 38:4 "For my iniquities have overwhelmed me;
they are a burden too heavy to bear"

Grace, Mercy, and Peace, be unto you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

When I was in college, I was a lifeguard during the summers. It was an easy job, didn't require much work except to remember to put on sunscreen, and it was a good way to exercise during breaks. Now, when God made me, buoyancy was not on His mind. Since I was little, I have sunk like a stone in water.

Passing the lifeguard test wasn't easy, but by the grace of God, I did pass the physical and written exams. I was all ready to bask in the sun and work my job of leisure all summer.....until my third day. The local pool had a 5ft diving board, a 10ft diving board, and included 10ft, 20ft, and 30ft platforms. Only crazy kids and professional divers ever ventured onto the 30ft platform until my third day. Right before we cleared the pool for a break and safety check, I watched as a person 3x my size scaled her way up to the 30 foot platform. When the whistles blew to clear the pool, she was still at the top, too afraid to jump down.

My boss turned to me and said "Simonson, go talk her down". Reluctantly, and with hundreds of people sitting and watching our every move, I reached the top and asked her what the problem was. Shaking in fear, she said "I can't do it, I need to climb down". Climbing down was not an option. It was far too dangerous, and at her size, it was impossible to climb down. So I said to her as I grabbed her hand. "Let's jump together okay"? She smiled and counted with me. (I had no intention of jumping with her, I would just let go when she jumped) On this day, God had other plans.

When we got to three, rather than jump alongside of me, the woman bear hugged me and jumped. I was now falling 30 feet underneath this large human who was squeezing me tight. We hit the water like a plane crashing into the ocean and my back hit the bottom of the 30 foot pool in less than a second. My back was burning as she placed both feet on my chest and pushed her way to the surface, causing any air in my lungs to flee. Only God knows how I survived. But it taught me a wonderful lesson.

Our sin, which grabs us and wants to take us into the abyss, can sting and knock the wind out of our lungs. But God will always pull us out of the depths and into His arms whenever we call on His name. He has paid for your sins, and they can no longer hold you down. We look at our lives and our sin and say "I can't do it". And God says "No, you can't, but I can, and I have already done it for you. Now go, and sin no more."

Live Free as both sinner and saint, in the promise of grace found only in Jesus Christ. Amen

A Message from our Council President

Hello everyone,

Fall is in full swing as we begin the month of October! It's been wonderful to see our kids back in Sunday School, several people in worship service, and to see so many people involved in various areas of the church. It reminds me of 1 Corinthians 12:12; The human body has many parts, but the parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. All of us together are Christ's body, and each of YOU are a part of it. The more I have gotten involved in the church, and especially this last year while serving on Church Council, the more I am aware of just how many "parts" are within our church.

My intention for this letter is to give you a little background on just one of those many "parts" of the church. Last fall when we hired Pastor Curtis, the seminary suggested that we form a "Congregational Support Team" to help guide, mentor, and serve as a resource for him because he is still a student and we are his first church. This concept was a first for us as well, because we have not yet had a student pastor, so we asked the seminary to help us help him. They sent us a list of suggested expectations/objectives for such a support team. Some of the objectives included: provide constructive feedback on the student's preaching, teaching, pastoral care and leadership skills; work with the student to set short, medium and long term goals; be an advocate for the student regarding expectations and time requirements; be concerned with his whole life and making sure he is attentive to his personal and family needs. The guidelines for this group also included that the student pastor in training commits to: being aware of and honest about the multiple roles he has as a Pastor and a seminary student; working to balance the demands of those multiple roles; and that he encourages and seeks out feedback on his ministry and on progress of established goals.

A group of 4-5 congregational members, along with someone from the seminary, met with Pastor Curtis on a monthly basis in effort to be a resource for him according to these objectives. After several months there was a decision for the group to disband and the members unanimously agreed. It just wasn't serving its original purpose or effectively bearing fruit.

Since then, the Council has been taking a more active role in working with Pastor Curtis. In response to some concerns that were brought to our attention, we have developed a plan to work closely with Pastor Curtis in effort to support and mentor him. Part of that plan is to bring Pastor Melanie back on staff part time. We have also developed some guidelines that we feel will enhance his already well-liked ministry. We believe in Pastor Curtis, love him, and are so grateful for what he does bring to our church! He is "one part" of this body of Christ at Living Word Lutheran Church and together we are all unified on proclaiming the Gospel and glorifying God!

If you have any questions, you are more than welcome to reach out to me or anyone on the Church Council. Thank you for being a part of our church family!

Love,
Jackie



Council Minutes

LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT - September 10, 2025

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

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Curtis gave the opening prayer.

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

PASTOR'S REPORT: The pastor gave the board his class schedule. Vespers are set for 10/19 from 2:30 to 5:00 and 10/23 from 12:30-1:30. There is an ESD conference on 9-16. Pastor is working with the Board of Education regarding the confirmation class schedule. Pastor will attend the LCMC Gathering from 10/5-10/9, and Pastor Melanie will be covering for him during that time. Michelle will be out of the office from 10-5 to 10-8. Pastor led Bible study will be on Romans and time will be set with whatever works for the majority who are signed up. The Chosen will resume September 18. October 24th will be movie night for the youth and attendees are encouraged to invite a friend. Moe made a motion to approve the pastor's report. Steve seconded, and the motion carried.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Tim, Sandy and Moe will assist for September 21. Laurie and Sandy will assist on October 5.

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

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCE REPORT: No report.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT: Additional information is being gathered regarding painting the framework of the highway sign and the three doors around the church (not including the front entrance). Julie made a motion to approve the report. Laurie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM REPORT: Sandy indicated the Blessed Be Meals will begin in October. The Mission Impact board requested \$1,900 for a water filtration system. Steve made a motion to approve, and Moe seconded. Motion carried. Central

Methodist Church is holding a presentation by Pure Desire regarding pornography for youth/adults. Moe made a motion to approve the report and Laurie seconded, and the motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION REPORT: There was continuing discussion regarding the playground project. We have some additional children attending Sunday School/Dynamic Disciples. Julie made a motion to approve the report. Sandy seconded the motion, and it carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Board members will get ideas for the "Wish List" for memorial money and it is tabled to a later date.

NEW BUSINESS: The Council is gathering an updated list of church/office keyholders.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: October 8, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Newsletter items due by September 24. Council has a budget meeting set for October 15 at 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Council went into executive session at 7:30. Jackie made a motion to leave the executive session at 8:47. Steve seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Sandy made a motion to hire Pastor Melanie as a Senior Associate Pastor to assist in mentoring Pastor Curtis for approximately 10 hours a week at \$35 an hour. Laurie seconded, and the motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Berger, Council Secretary



LIVING WORD LUTHERAN WOMEN



Greetings to the Living Word Congregation,

As I write my letter to you, autumn is knocking at the door. The crops are ripening and the leaves are turning. I love this time of year and am thankful for all the blessings of the season.

Last week (September 20), a group of ladies joined the WOW conference in Perham MN. Nine of us attended in person and several zoomed in from Milbank. We had a great time! The day started with a short business meeting, then Worship Service, followed by the first of several presenters. The theme of the event was Be Still and each presenter centered around that topic. Lexy Carson led a Scripture study of the verses that we heard from Pastor during the worship service. Right before lunch, we had a session on mindfulness. Jessica Bergland was the facilitator. She shared with us how to become mindful of outside stressors and focus on quiet and stillness of mind so we can better hear God and what He wants us to hear. After a delicious meal of meatballs, "real" potatoes and gravy and dessert, we were treated to a session with Erica Vargoe as the leader. She is the founder and pastor of The Table Ministry in Sioux Falls. Her ministry started in a sports bar and has now expanded to another facility. She is energetic and has the gift of gab- so fun. We closed out the day with another mindfulness session and then a closing ceremony. The host church was so generous and sent us home with a souvenir. We each received a wooden trinket box made from a felled tree found on a church member's property. They took the wood slabs and fabricated these neat boxes. Then they took the boxes to the school where the students lasered Be Still in the lid. We also received a wooden cross in the box. It was a very special reminder of a very special day. Next year the WOW meeting will be in Mankato.

Now on to the business of the Living Word Lutheran Women. We will collect monetary donations to Access Ministry through September. This Ministry is located in Watertown and they serve the surrounding area in various aspects. We would like to purchase gas cards and grocery cards with the donations and present them to Access to use as they see fit.

On October 12, at 3:30, we are planning to go to Orphan Grain Train and help pack Mercy Meals. We do this every year, and it is something we all should try once. It is a worthy cause to be sure. At 5:00, we will be hosting a soup supper. All are invited to attend. Please watch the bulletin and the overhead announcements on Sunday morning for more information.

I am also working on gathering some information/ interest in having a Fellowship event after Thanksgiving. Tentatively, we are hoping to organize a Porch Flower Pot event. I am sure you have seen these decorations around the neighborhood. They are large flower pots filled with evergreen boughs, ribbon, ornaments, birch logs. Typically, they are an outdoor decoration. If this interests you, please let me know. I realize it is early, but I would like to secure our spot as soon as possible. Thank you.

Our mission for the month of October is to collect non-food items for the Food Pantry. These items would include soap, laundry detergents, toiletries, paper towels, shampoo, cleaning supplies. The collection will be under the back table in the fellowship hall.

We will also be searching for officers on the executive board for the next year. If being part of the executive board appeals to you, please contact Sandy Christensen or me.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our activities and as always, if you have any questions or just want to chat, I am happy to assist you.

God's Blessings to you and to our farmers- we pray for a bountiful and safe harvest.

Brenda Seehafer

(605) 880-1788



Cancer Team News:



With a huge thank you to all who attended and participated, we hosted our first big quarterly event of the new fundraising year! The Cornhole Tournament was held at the 4-H Complex, September 21st. For our first time hosting, we had 11 adult teams and 4 kid teams. The funniest part of the day was when the tall ladder was used to retrieve a bag two times that landed on a sound board on the ceiling. It was a great day for those of the community and of our church family who attended. It is so wonderful to feel some unity while having a lighthearted competition day of throwing bags. It is also such a great feeling when we all have a common goal and support each other in it.

Our next big event is being planned for November. Be on the lookout for information a couple weeks beforehand. In the meantime, we will offer some collector items and novelty church items for sale to all who are interested. We have t-shirts and other apparel options, coffee cups, can koozies, and pens. The Dallman girls will be selling their gifts in a jar and kitchen towels each month in an effort to help fundraise for the team as well. In the near future, the team hopes to offer a couple seasonal items, which will launch at the November Fall Bazaar. Stay tuned for the release of those highly exclusive items.

For the Fall Bazaar, we are planning a variety of things such as a bake sale and silent auction. If you have a talent (painting, welding, woodworking, crafting, needlework, embroidery, knitting, crocheting, quilting, baking, photography, etc.), please share your skills and talents with us by considering a donation for this event. If you are part of a group or bible study and want to pool funds to make a basket of goodies to a theme, we would love that donation also! There is plenty of time to create and plan without feeling rushed, so if you have interest in donating for this special day, we would love it!

Please connect with me, lauradallman12@gmail.com, for any questions or to make arrangements to drop off donations.

With faith as small as a mustard seed,

Laura Dallman
Living Word Warriors' Captain

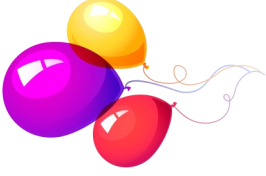


October 2025

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	2 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship 6:30 The Chosen	3	4
5 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion	6		7 9:00 Quilting	8 No Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 4:00 Feeding SD in parking lot 6:30 Council	9 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship 6:30 The Chosen	10	11
12 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Chapel Communion	13 Columbus Day Church & Office Closed		14 9:00 Faith Circle meets 7:00 Love Circle meets	15 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 5:30 Bible Study	16 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship 6:30 The Chosen	17	18
19 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 November Servant Team 10:00 Worship/Communion	20		21 9:00 Quilting	22 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE No Confirmation No Dynamic Disciples 5:30 Bible Study	23 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship 6:30 The Chosen	24	25
26 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship 2:30 Vespers	27		28	29 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 12:15 Vespers 5:30 Bible Study	30 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship 6:30 The Chosen		

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Happy
Birthday



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Forster, Terry (b.) Hedge, Vicky (b.) Reede, Elyse (b.) Rahn, Donna (b.)
5	6	7 Anderson, Paul (b.) Robert & Barbara Hornstein (w.) Yaeger, Robert (b.)	8 Erik & Teri Hjelle (w.) Zeigler, Harold (b.)	9 Hansen, Amanda (b.)	10	11
12 Gullickson, Cheryl (b.)	13	14	15 Nelson, Pamela (b.)	16 Berger, Jeffrey (b.) Meister, Aaron (b.)	17 Reede, Moe (b.)	18 Cramer, Kohen (b.) Hansen, Eric (b.) Kinder, Robert (b.) Mark & Darla Loeschke (w.)
19 Beck, Janice (b.) Sandvig, Jacob (b.)	20	21	22	23	24 Larson, Bruce (b.)	25 Reede, Rochelle (b.)
26	27	28 Norris, Lois (b.)	29	30	31	

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

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

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Pastor Curtis Simonson

