

LIVING WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

438.9672 CHURCH

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Congratulations and Godspeed to Our High School Graduates

Congratulations on your graduation. Your Christian upbringing has equipped you to apply your faith in your daily life. With your faith in your heart, you are ready for whatever you may encounter. Walk humbly the path toward your future, always remembering that God is with you, and is using His Word as a light to your path and a lamp to your feet.

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

The **SENIOR RECOGNITION RECEPTION** will be May 10 at 9:00 AM. Following the reception the seniors will join the congregation at the 10:00 AM service where we will honor and pray for them and give each of them a gift from the congregation.



RYAN KEETON
plans to attend Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD.



WILL PEKELDER
plans to enter the workforce after graduation.



HUNTER REEDE
plans to attend South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD.

SEAN KEETON
plans to attend Southeast Technical College, Sioux Falls, SD.



TJ WOJAHN
plans to attend Lake Area Technical Institute, Watertown, SD for welding.

WHAT'S INSIDE



*The Best Mama
First Communion
Playground Update
Easter Celebration
Dynamic Disciples
VBS*

*Thank You
Kay Groethe
Milbank Christian
Fellowship
Greeting Cards
LW Warriors*

*May Noisy Change
Women of Living Word
Council President
Pastor's Letter
Council Minutes
May Calendars*

SUMMER WORSHIP WILL BEGIN MAY 24. WORSHIP WILL BE AT 9:00 AM. COFFEE FELLOWSHIP WILL BE AT 10:00 AM.

The Best Mama

She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates." Proverbs 31:27-31

Pastor John Sumwalt wrote the following words in honor of his mother Bernice Long Sumwalt over thirty years ago. As we come to Mother's Day, once again, let us each remember our moms and the many things they did for us. Enjoy the story—hope it brings back a memory or two.

"There was once a little girl who loved her mama with all of her heart. At night, when her mama tucked her into bed, she would throw her arms around her, kiss her on both cheeks and say, 'You are the best mama in the whole wide world.'"

"When Mother's Day came, the little girl decided to get her mama a nice present to show how much she loved her. She thought and thought and thought about what she could give her. One day she went with her papa to the corner store and there in the window she saw the perfect gift. It was a tiny crystal bell which tinkled ever so softly, like the wind chimes that hung outside the kitchen window. How lovely it would look in mama's china cabinet in the corner of the parlor. Her papa helped her buy the bell, and he told her to hide it away carefully 'til Mother's Day. The little girl wrapped the crystal bell in tissue paper and tucked it away in the back of her sock drawer. Mama would never find it there."

"When Mother's Day came, the little girl opened the sock drawer, took out the bell, unwrapped it

carefully from the tissue paper, and was about to ring it one last time before giving it to her mama when it slipped out of her fingers, crashed to the floor and shattered into a hundred pieces. Now what would she give her mama to show her how much she loved her? She began to cry, and ran to her mama saying, 'I had a nice present to give you for Mother's Day, but it broke and now I don't have anything to give you.'"

"There, there," Mama said, as she wiped her daughter's tears, 'You have already given me the best present possible. What I want more than anything else is to know that you love me.'"

"Upon hearing this, the little girl stopped crying and began to smile. Then she gave her mama a big hug, kissed her on both cheeks, and you know what she said. 'You're the best mama in the whole wide world.'"

"That little girl is grown up now, and she has a daughter and a granddaughter and a little great-granddaughter of her own. She is almost 100 years old, and she lives in a nursing home. Every Mother's Day her daughter and her granddaughter and her little great-granddaughter come to the nursing home—and they put their arms around her and kiss her on both cheeks, and you know what they say..." "You're the best mama in the whole wide world!"

YOUTH



First Communion Celebration

On Maundy Thursday, our congregation was blessed to witness a meaningful milestone as seven of our youth received their First Communion. Each child took part in the service, helping to lead worship in a way that reflected both their preparation and their growing faith.

These students spent time learning about the sacrament of Holy Communion—its meaning, its significance, and the gift of grace it represents in their lives. Through study, discussion, and reflection,

they have come to better understand Christ's presence and promise in this sacred meal.

Maundy Thursday provided a beautiful setting for this important step in their faith journey, reminding us all of Jesus' love and the foundation of our faith.

We give thanks for these young members of our church and the commitment they have shown. It is a joy and blessing to walk alongside them as they continue to grow in their relationship with Christ.

Playground Project Update

We are excited to share some wonderful news—our swingset proposal has officially passed, and things are already in motion! The playground equipment is scheduled to be delivered the week of June 8, and we can't wait to see this special space come to life.

This project has been made possible through a very generous donation, and we are incredibly grateful for the support and care shown toward the youth of our church. It will be such a blessing to provide a place where children can play, families can gather, and friendships can grow in a joyful, faith-filled setting.

We've also received several inquiries about opportunities to enhance the area with benches and picnic tables, creating an even more welcoming space for families to relax and connect. If you are interested in making a memorial or donation toward these additions, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the church office or Laurie at (320) 305-0887 for more information.

Thank you for your continued support, generosity, and enthusiasm. We are so thankful to be part of a church family that invests in its children and creates spaces where faith and fellowship can flourish!

Easter Celebration

What a joyful and spirit-filled Easter morning we shared together at church! Our youth did a wonderful job preparing and serving a delicious breakfast for the congregation. Their smiles, servant hearts, and willingness to help made the morning extra special. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated food and lent a helping hand—we truly couldn't have done it without you!

The excitement continued with a sanctuary scavenger hunt that guided our children along Jesus' journey to the cross. Using meaningful

symbols placed throughout the church, the children followed the story step-by-step, collecting a special egg at each stop along the way. It was a beautiful and engaging way to bring the Easter story to life.

Easter worship was filled with joy, laughter, and the wonderful sounds of children celebrating the resurrection of Jesus! Their energy and enthusiasm were a powerful reminder of the hope and new life we have in Him.

He is risen indeed—what a blessing to celebrate together as a church family!



DYNAMIC DISCIPLES

DD Update

What a fun (and slightly snack-filled!) couple of weeks we've had at Dynamic Disciples! We kicked things off with a "chips" theme while learning how Jesus calls us to share His Word with the world. In our skit, Laurie made it very clear she did not want to share her chips... at least at first! But by the end, she learned an important lesson—that God wants us to share not just our snacks, but His love with others too. The kids had a great time (and maybe kept a closer eye on their own snacks after that!). We also made beautiful tie crosses and enjoyed some outdoor play time together.

The following week was all about cookies as we learned the story of Adam and Eve. We talked about how life in the Garden of Eden came crumbling down when sin entered the world—but just like a broken cookie is still good. God didn't leave Adam and Eve, and He doesn't leave us either. His love sticks with us no matter what!

We've also been enjoying our new outdoor equipment—lots of energy, laughter, and running happening there! And after a weather delay last month, we finally made it to our bowling outing. It was well worth the wait as the kids (and adults!) enjoyed a fun afternoon of strikes, spares, and plenty of giggles.

We are so thankful for these moments of faith, friendship, and fun. There's nothing better than sharing laughter and growing in God's love together with our church youth!



Rainforest Falls

VBS is Swinging Our Way

Hold onto your vines—Rainforest Falls VBS is coming up fast, and we are bananas excited! We can't wait to share this wild and wonderful ministry with our children and grandchildren. A huge thank you to everyone who has signed up to help—this jungle adventure wouldn't be possible without you!

We are *bursting at the seams* with eager kids ready to explore, which is such a blessing and maybe just a little bit like a troop of excited monkeys! To help offset some of the costs, be sure to check out the beautiful display in the church entry where you can donate toward VBS t-shirts for the children. Every little bit helps keep our jungle crew outfitted and ready!

And speaking of monkeys... don't forget our **Adopt-a-Monkey Fundraiser!** You can pick your favorite furry friend and "adopt" it for a \$20 donation. Want something extra special? Laurie can help you create a *personalized monkey* just for you or



your child—because every jungle explorer deserves their own sidekick! Stop by the display in the fellowship hall to meet all the adorable options.

We're also thrilled to welcome some real-life animal visitors from Bramble Park Zoo during the week of VBS! This exciting visit is sure to be a highlight, and your support helps make experiences like this possible.

Be sure to mark your calendars for **June 4 at 7:30 p.m.** when our VBS children will present their songs and our skit leaders will share a special message. All families, friends, and congregation members are invited to come see what these amazing kids have been learning!

The joy, laughter, and love for Jesus that fills VBS each year is truly something special—it's the kind of

experience that sticks with kids forever (just like jungle mud... but in a much better way!).

Get ready—it's going to be a wildly fun adventure!

LWLC FAMILY



THANK YOU for your cards, texts, phone calls, visits, food, help, thoughts and prayers for Dave and our family during Dave's illness and passing. It has been so appreciated! God bless you all!



Mary Hepper and family

Below is a picture of the plant that was sent on behalf of the entire Living Word Lutheran Church congregation.



About Kay Eileen Groethe

Kay Eileen Groethe, 64, of Tucson, AZ, died in her home on April 3, 2026, surrounded by loving family.

Kay was born on June 24, 1961 to Donald and Lucetta Onstad. Her family lived in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota before moving to Park Rapids in 1974, where they built a home on Blue Lake.

She was heavily involved in several activities in high school, including band, choir, basketball, and swimming. She was an accomplished flute player, and was selected to play in the Minnesota All-State Band. She also won the prestigious John Philip Sousa Award. She had a beautiful soprano voice, and enjoyed singing with several groups throughout her entire life.

Kay attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where she majored in Elementary Education, and minored in music. She sang in the Concordia College Concert Choir, and went with the choir on a month long singing tour of Norway. She graduated in 1983.

While at Concordia she met Kent Groethe, and they quickly fell in love. They married on June 23, 1984. Together, they had three wonderful children.

While Kent was studying at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, Kay was the director of Wee Care Day Care. After Kent was ordained, Kay taught elementary school at various places where they were serving.

On March 1, 2019, Kay suffered a massive stroke, but was supernaturally healed. Because of that, we were able to enjoy her company in our lives for seven more years.

Kay was an incredible wife and awesome mother and grandmother. She was kind, generous, and selfless. She never criticized others nor did she talk badly about anyone. She could fix almost anything if given enough time. She was humble and gentle. She loved Jesus, and her faith was the centerpiece of her life. She loved worshipping God, and through the years loved sharing her musical talents on many praise teams.

Kay loved horses and riding with her sister, Karen. She also enjoyed playing cards and games, swimming and fishing at Blue Lake, and travelling. Her children and grandchildren brought her great joy. She blessed all of those in her life with her caring and loving presence.

Kay is survived by her husband, Kent; her children Daniel Groethe of Mesa, AZ, Kim (Karsten) Nash of Fountain Hills, AZ, and David (Catherine) Groethe of Mesa, AZ; her grandchildren, Lucetta, Violet, Milo, Sully and Ellis Nash. She is also survived by her siblings, Phil (Dorothy) Onstad of Zimmerman, MN, Greg (Barb) Onstad of Dalton, MN, and Karen Onstad of Park Rapids, MN. She also leaves behind several beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Lucetta.

A Celebration of Life for Kay Groethe was held Saturday, April 11, at Desert Hope Lutheran Church in Tucson, AZ at 2:00 p.m.

OUTREACH



Milbank Christian Fellowship Children's Choir

Thank you to the Milbank Christian Fellowship children's choir for sharing their beautiful voices in harmony at Living Word on April 15. Over 100 people were in attendance and delighted all of us with the beautiful songs they shared.

Following the concert we shared in a meal of Sloppy Joe's. Thank you to all the people that helped with providing bars and serving! Youth that helped with serving and cleanup were Gwen and Bella

Quinn and Harmony Campbell. Thank you, little ladies!

Also, a big thank you to Dave Wagner for inviting the MCF choir to sing for us. We're hoping to get to hear them again!

We're blessed to be a blessing.

*In Christ,
Sue DeJong*

In Need of Greeting Cards?

Feel free to browse the kiosk at the north end of the fellowship hall at any time. The greeting cards provided there are made available for your convenience through an ongoing project of the Living Word Lutheran Women's group. The cards convey a Christian message and are also very reasonably priced. Each box of 12 is marked with a price ranging from \$5 to \$8, and some cards are available for sale individually at \$1 per card.

Jan Beck



LW WARRIORS

HELLO ALL,

The team has been hustling this month with a variety of activities and events. We are coming into the homestretch of our fundraising year as the cancer walk starts the evening of June 12 into the morning of the 13th.

We have a donation bucket located in Milbank at Sly's if you go out to eat and want to donate into our bucket anytime in April. Be sure to mention your donation for our bucket.

If you are interested in any of the items we still have to offer, please reach out to a team member.

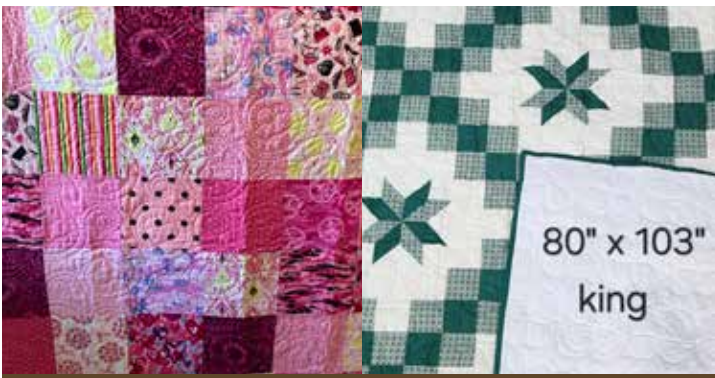
- Coffee cups \$12
- Quilt Raffle Tickets \$10/ticket
- Merchant Raffle Tickets \$10/ticket or 6 for \$50
- Luminary Bags \$5/bag

If you have people who you'd like to dedicate a bag to, there are 2 options: In Honor Of or In Memory Of. We will have a sign up sheet and take payment

when you sign up. The bags will be made by our team and displayed the night of the walk. Please find a team member to sign up.

Lastly, thank you for all the support you have given us the past year and a half. We hope you will continue to support the efforts of our team as we move forward with a new name, logo, and focus in the months to come. The Warriors will be an open community team looking to grow with members. It was decided unanimously to separate the team from church so the members can worship on Sundays and attend Living Word with the proper intentions and focus. The separation of the cancer walk team and church will hopefully help the team members grow in their faith and further instill a passion for God on Sundays. While this was a hard decision, the mission of our team will co-exist with him in our lives and actions as The Warriors cancer walk team.

*Following His Plan, **Laura Dallman**
The Warriors' captain*



OUTREACH

May Noisy Change

Noisy Change for the month of May is designated for Grace Christian Academy in Chicago, Illinois. The mission for the school is to be a beacon for Christ in the Little Village neighborhood that educates students in a loving community with high academic standards, a commitment to personal attention, and a strong foundation of Christian values.



WOMEN OF LIVING WORD

As I write this month's article today's temperature is nearing 90 degrees! I find this rather interesting as when I wrote April's article we were experiencing 70 degree temperatures. Of course in between those two articles we had fog, snow, sleet, a few rain showers and much colder temps for sure. Talk about having peaks and valleys in the weather! Wow! But, that's what it is like living in South Dakota. Even so, warmer days are sure getting me ready for good 'ole summer time.

A couple items of business include **MAY'S MISSION PROJECT** and our **GRADUATING SENIORS**.

First let's concentrate on supplies for **SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE** during May. If you do not remember from last year, we had ladies from this organization visit us at a LWLW meeting and speak telling us what their organization was all about. It is based out of Watertown, SD and assists families, mothers, children with new beds/bedding when and where there are none to be had. Supplies they graciously accept are: sheets for twin beds, standard pillowcases, comforters and fleece blankets. These would be for ages 3-17 year-old boys and girls.

Secondly, our seniors at Living Word who will be graduating from HS this year are: **SEAN KEETON, RYAN KEETON, HUNTER REEDE, WILL PEKELDER AND TJ WOJAHN**. These five young gentlemen will be celebrated in church Sunday, May 10. We will serve cake during the fellowship time, the church provides them with a gift, the quilting ladies have lovingly sewn them a quilt and there will be an envelope identified with each of their names if congregation members would like to give a graduation card. This is a special time for our graduates as they embark on many new adventures and a time when our blessings may mean the most.

With April behind us that also means our first quarterly **GENERAL MEETING** is also behind us. It was held Wednesday, April 15. Although I was unable to attend due to illness, I was appreciative to those who were able to do so. Still, I was very disappointed that only 5 ladies of our congregation were there.

I realize schedules are busy for everyone. That is nothing new. And getting ladies to the general meetings is also not a new issue/challenge. In fact, the LWLW Executive Board has been discussing it for a long time trying to come up with an answer to increase attendance. I want to throw

light on the subject to all the congregation women for pondering, so please bare with me.

There are approximately 80 women in the Living Word congregation (I may be off two or three, plus or minus, so forgive me). These 80 women are the LWLW. That's right. If you go to Living Word and are a female member you are LWLW. You are part of who we are and what we do.

Activities that are coordinated by LWLW include a number of mission projects such as quilting, creating pillowcase dresses, gathering t-shirts and plastic bags for Orphan Grain Train and more; gathering and delivering supplies for hygiene and layette kits; donating to Beacon House, Food Pantry and Sleep In Heavenly Peace organizations; coordinating the Mitten

Tree, St. Lucia Breakfast, Graduating Seniors Sunday, Circle organizations; doing Bible Study groups and much more. In all reality Lutheran Women do, do, do in many shapes and forms. By participating in LWLW it gives every Lutheran woman a chance to come face-to-face and be with

one another as a whole group. We all know we are stronger when we work together. Plus, we get to know each other a little more, laugh, be entertained hopefully and have fellowship because of the Lord. Let those of us, the officers, worry about the business part of it (and there usually is not that much anyway).

So now, please, I would like you to take a little time, maybe 5 minutes, and do a little brainstorming of your own. Write down a couple ideas of what you would like to do or be informed/entertained about at an upcoming General Meeting. Write it down on a slip of paper and put it in the **LWLW GENERAL MEETING IDEAS** identified container on the table at the Church Sanctuary entrance. Help us provide ideas and REASONS to make you WANT to come to the next LWLW General Meeting. I and the entire board would greatly appreciate it! **WE ALL WANT ALL OF YOU TO COME!!**

Enjoy this busy and exciting month of May! It always goes fast especially as the buds and birds begin filling the trees, the tractors start filling the fields, scents of the earth being turned over in the fields begin filling the air and I pray, the rain showers come falling down. Ahhh, Spring, one of God's most beautiful seasons! Praise His Blessings!

Sandy Christensen

Women of the Living Word Coordinator



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

HAPPY SPRING

HELLO EVERYONE, AND HAPPY SPRING!

The school year is winding down, and we will soon be celebrating our high school seniors. Please join us on Sunday, May 10, for **SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY**, which is also Mother's Day. Thank you to everyone who has had a hand in teaching and encouraging these kids over the years. You may have taught Sunday school, volunteered during VBS, helped with Confirmation, sent cards in the mail, prayed for them, invested time as a Confirmation mentor, or visited with them on Sunday mornings and spoken encouraging words. It all makes a difference and is appreciated!

A **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** was held on April 12 regarding adding playground equipment to our church property. The vote was in favor of moving forward with this project. Funds from a dedicated youth account will be used to fully support it, and prep work will begin this spring.

A **CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE FOR KAY GROETHE**, wife of Pastor Kent Groethe, was held on April 25. Nearly 30 members from our church attended the service, which was held in Fergus Falls, MN. A plant (see picture on previous page) was sent on behalf of the entire Living Word Lutheran Church congregation. It was a beautiful service that celebrated Kay and also glorified God by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you currently lead any kind of a committee, event, bible study, etc., and would be willing to have

it posted on our **CHURCH WEBSITE**, please contact

Nancy Kruger at nmkruger@itctel.com. We have many opportunities for people to be involved in our church. The website is one tool we can use to promote our church and events.

Please continue to pray for our **CALL COMMITTEE** as we continue the search for our next Pastor. This is an opportunity to pray without ceasing, surrender our will, and trust God!

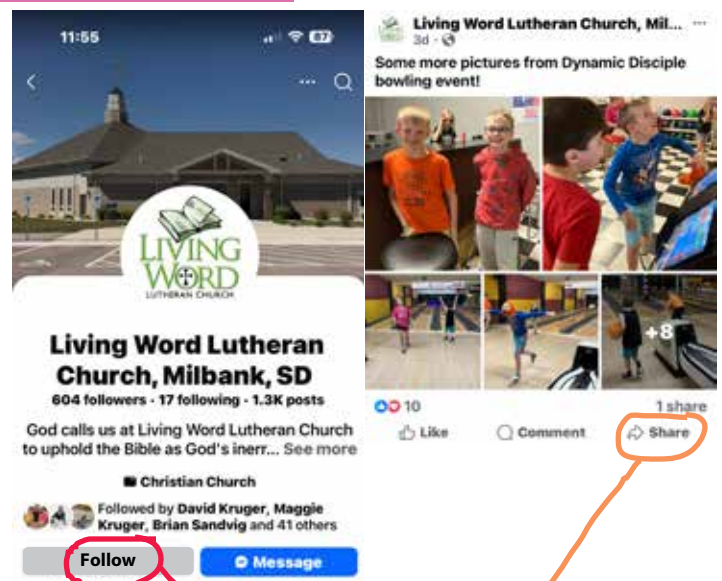
Love to all,
Jackie Olson, Council President

MISSION STATEMENT:

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.

VISION STATEMENT:

To become a grace-filled community of believers whose lives exemplify an unfaltering faith in God and an obedience to his Word along with a loving concern for others.



If you are on facebook, please **follow** our church and feel free to **share** the posts on your personal page as well.

PASTOR'S LETTER



Growing in Grace

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY OF LIVING WORD,

As our calendars turn to May, we think of new growth. The cold and snow of winter is now behind us and we move into a most beautiful time of the year when our lawns are turning green, trees receive new leaves, and gardens are planted. As the spring flowers begin to bloom, let us reflect on how we are growing in our faith. Just as a garden requires tending, our spiritual lives need nurturing through prayer, Bible study, and service.

As a church, there are many things during this month of May which indicate growth. First of those memorable days, comes Mother's Day on May 10. (There will be a special event on Saturday, May 9, in honor of our mother's.) This Mother's Day, we honor our mothers and those who have been like mothers to us, those women who have shaped our lives with love, wisdom, patience, and help us to grow every day by their words and by their examples. For many of us, it is our mothers who have nurtured us and helped us to grow in our Christian lives, as well.

Here at Living Word, May 10, brings another sign of growth as we honor our high school seniors

as they take the next step of growing in their lives. Soon they will be making choices for further education or employment. They will receive gifts from the church which we hope will serve as a reminder for them to turn every decision and plan they make over to God for discernment and direction.

As we reach the end of the month and come to Memorial Day, we remember the brave men and women who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Without their sacrifice, we would not have the opportunities in this country to make crucial, life-changing decisions for ourselves. The freedom we have allows for growth as

individuals and communities.

When thinking of growth, it is important for us to "Plant One Seed" of growth by volunteering in our community, fostering community outreach through our church, and most important of all is to invite others to join in our fellowship.

May we surrender all of our plans to the Lord, submit to His will, and then "Plant One Seed" to make good things happen in His Name.

My you be blessed as you serve our Lord and Savior,

Melanie



COUNCIL MINUTES



LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT APRIL 8, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Melanie Reiners, President Jackie Olson, Laurie Maas, Tim DeJong, Deb Buttke, Sharon Hyde, Kyle Schwandt, David Kruger, Shannon Vietmeier and Julie Berger were present. The Call Committee also was present at the beginning of the meeting.

The Call Committee gave an update regarding the pastoral position. They had a few questions of clarification for the Council.

Vicki Strege requested permission to look into the purchase of an electric piano that will include features that our current one does not.

Pastor Melanie opened with prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Laurie made a motion to approve the agenda and Kyle seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the Call Committee's report and questions. Shannon will advise the committee regarding our discussion.

PASTOR'S REPORT: A leader is needed for the men's Roman's Bible study. Everything is running smoothly in the office. Pastor Melanie will be gone from April 16 until May 9. Craig Randelman will be covering the pulpit services. Senior Sunday is set for May 10 with seniors receiving a Bible and a quilt from the congregation.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: May 3 communion assistants are Julie, Laurie and Tim.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Sharon made a motion to approve; David seconded and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCE REPORT: There have been four bible camps that have been vetted. The council agreed to cover up to \$300 per camper per year. Deb motioned to accept the report; Tim seconded. The motion carried.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT: Kyle removed a large amount of debris from the large coffee machine. He believes the heating issue is a breaker issue, and he will replace the breaker. The loose wiring for the lights in the dining room has been repaired. The council agreed that more research could be conducted into the request for an electric piano. Julie made a motion to approve the report and Jackie seconded. The motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM REPORT: Church service time changes for the summer will begin on May 24 at 9 a.m. with coffee fellowship to follow. Feeding South Dakota will again be held in the Living Word parking lot. Volunteers will be needed to hand out water. Laurie made a motion to approve the report, and David seconded. The motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION REPORT: There are opportunities to support VBS by purchasing a t-shirt for VBS camper(s) and/or by adopting a monkey. There is a VBS signup sheet for anyone wishing to volunteer. VBS will be held from May 31-June 4. A ballot will be drafted for the playground equipment vote on Sunday, April 12. Deb made a motion to approve the report; seconded by Tim. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Sarah Hill and Jessica Lewno have shown an interest in assisting with updating the church website. Deb will follow up with a visit to them.

NEW BUSINESS: The council agreed to sending a flower/plant on behalf of Living Word Lutheran Church for Kay Groethe's memorial. Julie made a motion to approve and Sharon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: May 13 at 5:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Newsletter items are due by April 24, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT: Tim made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Sharon. The motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Berger, Council Secretary

May 2026

| Sunday | | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|---|--|--|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 3 | 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | | | 11:00 "What About Me" Study | 1:00 Romans Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples | 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship | 9 |
| 10 | MOTHER'S DAY Senior Recognition 8:45 Last Day Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Chapel Communion | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| | | | 9:00 Quilting 11:00 "What About Me" Study 1:00 Impact Meeting | 1:00 Romans Bible Study 3:30 Last Day Confirmation 3:30 Last Day Dynamic Disciples 5:30 Council Meeting | 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship | 16 |
| 17 | 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 June Servant Team meets 10:00 Worship | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| | | | 9:00 Faith Circle meets 11:00 "What About Me" Study 7:00 Love Circle meets | 1:00 Romans Bible Study | 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship | Newsletter Items Due |
| 24 | Summer Worship Begins 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship | 25 MEMORIAL DAY Church/Office Closed | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| | | | 9:00 Quilting 11:00 "What About Me" Study | 1:00 Romans Bible Study | 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship | 30 |
| 31 | 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 5:00 VBS Rainforest | | | | | |

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