

LIVING WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

438.9672 CHURCH

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



RALLY SUNDAY

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DID YOU KNOW...

You can find bulletins, newsletters and the calendar of events of the church on our website. Check it out at livingwordmilbank.com

RALLY SUNDAY

Kicking Off a New Year of Faith & Fun

Rally Sunday was a wonderful way to kick off another year of Sunday School at Living Word! The morning began with plenty of activity as our children enjoyed singing, face and rock painting, Bingo, and a craft. There was lots of laughter, creativity, and excitement—and hopefully most of the paint ended up where it was supposed to!

During worship, our children shared “God Is,” one of the songs they learned during VBS this summer. What a blessing to hear their voices filling the sanctuary again as we begin another year of learning, growing, and having fun together!

For the children’s message, three very different presents appeared at the front of the church, and the children had to decide which one held the best gift. The smallest package was beautifully wrapped in Christmas paper, so naturally it looked promising. Surprise—it contained rocks! The rocks reminded us that sometimes people can look happy and cheerful on the outside while carrying some heavy burdens on the inside.

Next came a GIANT dinosaur-wrapped present. Surely something that big had to be amazing! Nope—it was completely empty! That box reminded us that sometimes our burdens are lighter, or we may have lots of people around us helping to carry them.

Then there was the plain, ordinary-looking box. It didn’t look nearly as exciting as the others, but inside was the best gift of all—a **GIANT JESUS!** It was a fun reminder that we can’t always tell what someone is carrying just by looking at them, but Jesus knows. Whether our burdens are big or small, heavy or light, Jesus is there to help us carry them.

Another special part of Rally Sunday was our Bible presentation. As our children and youth reach different milestones in their faith journey, we are blessed to place God’s Word into their hands.

Receiving Bibles this year were **preschoolers Grayson and Eleanor Maas; 3rd graders Carter Busack, Karlie Bakeberg, Koda Campbell, and Reid Roscoe (not present); and 6th graders Kateri Campbell, Amelia Dallman, and Alexander McMahon.** Our seniors **Tayton Reede, Drew Anderson (not present), and Sam Willson (not present)** were also recognized as they begin their final year of high school. We pray that God’s Word will continue to guide all of these young people through every stage of their lives.

Following worship, everyone enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch and bouncy houses outside. Because apparently after eating a church potluck, the logical next activity is bouncing!

What a joyful way to begin a new year together! **God bless all of our children and youth as they begin another school year and another year of growing in their faith. May they always remember that no matter what they are carrying, Jesus is right there to help LIFT the load!**



LWLC FAMILY



Dedication of the screens was held on Sunday, July 5. These screens can be used as room dividers to provide quiet spaces for prayer and Bible study and to divide our spaces to nurture our children and youth. The screens can also be used for enhancing a funeral or memorial service or our fellowship, organizing our ministries, and allowing us to welcome all who enter. The frames were made by church member, Dale Prisinger, and the finishing touches were done by the quilters.



**GAL PALS
outing on
September 10
at Shady
Beach. Fun
was had
by all.**

YOUTH

Called to Serve: Our Youth Mission

Alex, Claire, and Jason entertained everyone with the puppets as they introduced our **2026–2027 Youth Mission: Gospel Houses in Vietnam!** Through plenty of laughs, they helped us learn about four Gospel Houses that each provide a home for approximately 10 children.

It costs **\$125 per month to support one Gospel House**, with funds also helping provide milk for pregnant women. With four houses to support, our youth have set a big goal! Last year, our **Pigs for Pastors** mission raised more than **\$4,000**, so we are challenging ourselves to reach that amount again this year and hopefully help support all four Gospel Houses each month.

A special **Youth Mission display** is located

outside the church office, along with a donation box. Anyone in the congregation who would like to help support this ministry is welcome to contribute.

Our youth theme this year is **“Called to Serve.”**

Throughout the year, we will be looking for ways to serve others both in our own community and around the world. Our Sunday School classes will also be corresponding with the children living in the Gospel Houses, giving our kids an opportunity to build a special connection with the children they are helping.

We may live many miles apart, but through prayer, giving, friendship, and service, we can make the world feel a little smaller—and share the love of Jesus along the way!



A few members of Living Word participated in the Cornfest Parade in Ortonville on Sunday, August 23. We also participated in the Milbank Homecoming Parade, September 25.



Dynamic Disciples is Back

Of course, we had to start Dynamic Disciples with **FOOD!** There was plenty of laughter and visiting as everyone caught up after not being together since VBS. We sang some of our favorite songs and shared a few of our summer adventures before dividing into groups.

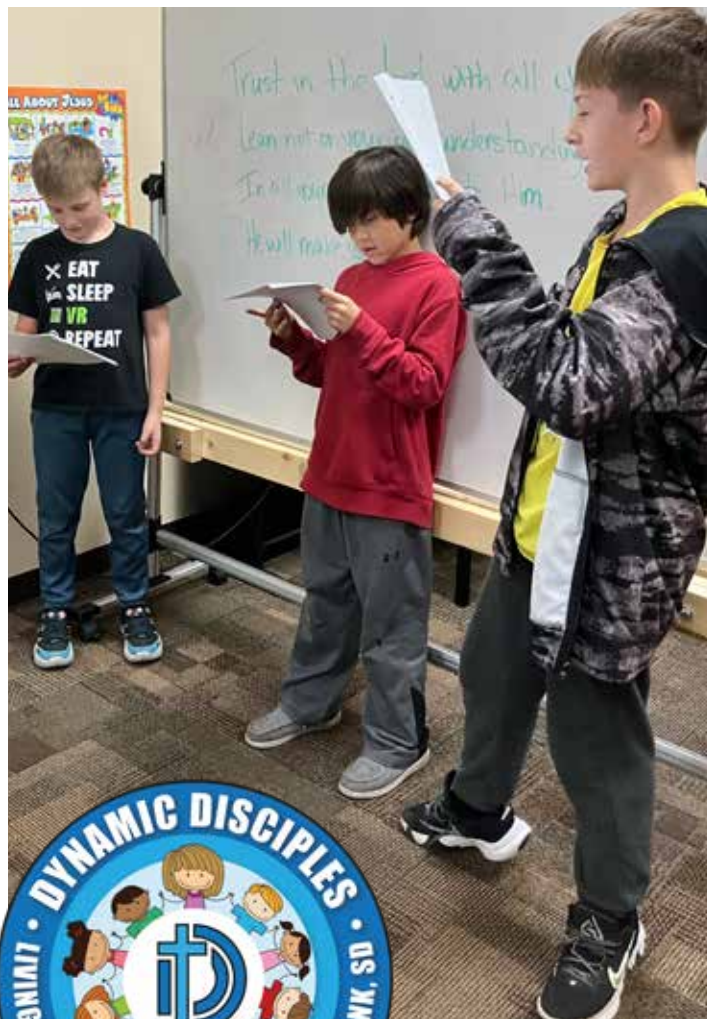
Laurie headed to the Disciple Den with our younger **Little Apostles**, while Sue took the older **Disciples** to their classroom.

The Little Apostles enjoyed a puppet skit and learned about the **best book in the world—the BIBLE!** They talked about how Mary might have felt when the angel told her she was going to have God's Son, Jesus. Even though Mary may have been scared and unsure, she trusted God. We learned that we can talk to God anytime—when we are afraid or nervous and when we are happy and grateful. The children made churches with prayers connected to different things they might carry in their school backpacks, watched a short video about Mary, and finished with a couple of games of BINGO!

Meanwhile, the older Disciples began their new curriculum, **"Trusting God When Life Gets Messy."** Through a reader's theater, they learned about lying and why it is usually a whole lot easier to just tell the truth in the first place! After all, God already knows the truth, and He wants us to trust Him enough to be honest—even when we've messed up.

And speaking of messy...there may have been a little **pudding involved**, along with a lesson about taking candy that wasn't yours! Apparently, "Trusting God When Life Gets Messy" can sometimes be taken quite literally!

It was a great first day back filled with **food, faith, friends, laughter, learning—and just a little bit of mess!** We're excited to see where our Dynamic Disciples adventures take us this year!



YOUTH

LIFT is Off and Running

Our new youth program, **LIFT – Love In Fellowship and Truth**, kicked off with a great first evening of food, fellowship, faith, and service!

We started by making our own pizzas—but this wasn't just supper. Each part of the pizza reminded us of our life with God. The **crust** represented God as the firm foundation of our lives. The **sauce** reminded us of the Holy Spirit spreading through every part of our lives. The **cheese** represented unity, holding everything together. The **toppings** reminded us that God has given each of us different gifts, talents, and personalities—and they all have a place! Finally, the **individual slices** reminded us that although we are each unique, together we make up one family in Christ. And, of course, eating the pizza reminded us that Bible lessons are always better when they come with cheese!

After supper, we headed to the **Disciple Den** for our service project and spent time visiting, laughing, and getting to know one another better. The youth colored special postcards for the shut-ins and nursing home residents of our congregation. These cards will be mailed as a simple reminder that they are loved, remembered, and an important part of our church family.

The evening ended way too soon, but our first LIFT was a wonderful beginning! We're already looking forward to our **S'more-themed LIFT night on October 28**. After all, there's always room for **s'more faith, s'more fellowship, s'more service, and s'more fun!**



LWLC FAMILY



We appreciate You!

Pastor Appreciation is a wonderful opportunity to say a heartfelt **THANK YOU to Pastor Melanie** for all she does for our Living Word family.

Pastor Melanie gives so much of her time, energy, faith, and heart to our congregation. She is there to celebrate the joyful moments, offer comfort during the difficult ones, pray with us, teach us, encourage us, and remind us that God is walking beside us through it all.

She is also quite possibly **Living Word's biggest cheerleader!** Whether it is Sunday School, Dynamic Disciples, LIFT, Confirmation, VBS, a mission project, fellowship event, or another new idea someone has dreamed up, Pastor Melanie is usually right there encouraging us with a smile and a "Let's do it!" We are thankful for a pastor who not only supports the ministries of our church but genuinely gets excited

about seeing people of all ages grow in faith, serve others, and enjoy being together.

And, of course, when we appreciate Pastor Melanie, we can't forget **Roger!** Roger has become part of our Living Word family, too. We appreciate his support, his willingness to join in, and all the ways he shares Pastor Melanie with us. Behind every busy pastor is probably someone wondering, "So... what church event are we going to tonight?"

Pastor Melanie, thank you for your faithful leadership, your caring heart, your encouragement, your enthusiasm, and your devotion to Living Word Lutheran Church. We are grateful for the many ways you serve God by serving all of us.

And Roger, thank you for being along for the journey. **We're glad you're both part of the Living Word family!**

WOMEN OF LIVING WORD

Ahhh October! When this month hits it truly is fall!

Greetings Ladies of Living Word! So what is happening during October for the Women of Living Word? Well, as usual a variety of things.

Our **Quarterly Meeting for the Women of the Living Word will be held here at Living Word Wednesday October 7 beginning at 6:30 pm.** That date is right around the corner so I urge ALL women in the congregation to mark it on their calendars. We WANT you to please attend!!! EVERY SINGLE WOMAN at LW belongs to this group and we want to celebrate you. And, **actually there will be very little "meeting" and more socializing and fun! It is a time for our women to gather. We will be looking at 2026/27 events & dates. Do you have new ideas? Let's hear them!! Please plan to attend.**

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Everyone is invited to participate in packing Mercy Meals Sunday October

11, 3:30 pm at the Orphan Grain Train. More hands make for quick work! Following the activity a Chili Cook-Off meal will be served at the church.

The Mission project for October Non-Food items for the Grant County Food Pantry. Examples would be tooth paste, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, soap, lotion, baby powder etc. Your donations may be placed in basket under the table outside the sanctuary entrance and are greatly appreciated.

****REMINDER – CIRCLES MEET OCTOBER 20**

Enjoy these Autumn days (when it isn't raining) and welcome the autumn colors, scents and cooler temperatures. If you close your eyes and concentrate you can almost see God's hands touching the earth and blessing us with the change of seasons. He truly gave us a wonderful world if we just stop and take time to see it.

Sandy Christensen

Women of LW Coordinator



MISSION PROJECT:

Non-food items for the Grant County ICAP office (food pantry) are the focus for the month of October. Donated items can be placed in the baskets located in the fellowship hall.

ATTENTION Women of Living word

Our next quarterly meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 6:30 pm. All women are invited.



Cake was enjoyed by all on Rally Sunday, September 13, for Carol Forster's 91st birthday, which was on September 16.

LWLC FAMILY

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

We Are All in Different Seasons

HELLO EVERYONE,

It's a beautiful time of year with the changing colors outside. I can't help but gaze at the bright yellow, orange, and red leaves and enjoy the beauty of fall. We need to enjoy them while they last because we know what's coming next!

Just like the different seasons in our weather, I am reminded that we all go through different seasons of life personally. Some people are in seasons of joy and abundance. Some are going through a season of grief or hardship. Others may find themselves in a season of wilderness, while others may be in a season of waiting.

Whatever season you find yourself in, there is comfort in knowing that one thing never changes, and that is the character of God. We can always count on His promises and His steadfast love.

It's good to remember that God is our Provider and is sovereign as we continue to search for Living Word's next pastor. We are so grateful that Pastor Melanie continues to serve our congregation during

this interim time!

The Call Committee recently had an applicant whom they interviewed twice and were recommending for a weekend visit to Milbank.

However, the pastoral candidate felt the need to accept a call at a different church. Please continue to pray for our Call Committee as they walk through this lengthy process. Continue to pray for our church and that God's will be done.

Tim and Sue DeJong will soon be attending and representing our church at the annual LCMC Convention in Des Moines, IA. We hope that during the four-day gathering, they will have many

opportunities to network with other churches and pastors and share our need for a pastor. They will also have the opportunity to hear many keynote speakers and attend breakout classes. We thank them for representing our church.

Love to all,

Jackie Olson, Council President



OUTREACH

October Noisy Change

Noisy Change for the month of October is designated for the Gospel House Orphanage in Vietnam to purchase Christmas gifts for the children. The four "Gospel houses" are the unofficial foster homes where about 40 rescued children live who are not able to be raised by their birth moms. The orphanages have grown out of the passionate prolife work of the staff leader, Dr. Hang.



PASTOR'S LETTER



C H A N G E

Finding God in the Midst of It

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY OF LIVING WORD,

If there is one constant in our lives, it is that things change. The seasons turn, children grow up, our schedules shift, and our communities evolve.

Sometimes change brings a sense of excitement and fresh beginnings. Other times, it brings uncertainty, discomfort, or a longing for the way things used to be.

As we see this warm summer coming to an end, change becomes evident once again. The mornings and evenings have cooled in temperature; trees begin to lose their leaves; pumpkins are for sale on the street corner; kids have returned to school; Sunday School and other church activities are underway once again; the time of our worship service has changed back to 10 am, and soon we will have to embrace the change away from Daylight Savings Time.

Now, most likely, if asked, people will readily say they have a season of the year which is their favorite. I have always loved summer with its more relaxed schedule. Since the days of raising my children, I have loved having the extra summer-time days to spend with them. I'm sure a comment like that one can trigger some fond memories for you as well.

We often resist change because resistance makes us feel secure. However, Scripture reminds us that while our circumstances change, the foundation beneath our feet never does. Malachi 3:6 reassures us: "I the Lord do not change."

When we look closely at nature, change is the very mechanism God uses to bring about growth. In the same way, the shifting seasons of our lives—even the challenging ones—are often the exact spaces where God is doing a new thing within us.

As we embrace the change of seasons at this time of the year, we can use it as an example for all the types of change that come into our lives.

When the future feels unpredictable, prayer refocuses our eyes on the One who holds tomorrow—**We anchor ourselves in prayer.** Change affects everyone differently. Patience and kindness are so important as we respect the emotions of others when change comes—**We give each other grace.**

Every change opens a unique door to serve, connect, and love our neighbors in new and different ways—**We look for new opportunities to be in service to others.**

We can step forward into the next season with hope, knowing that the God who walked with us yesterday is already standing in our tomorrow.

HEBREWS 13:8:

***"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever."***

*In Christian love,
Pastor Melanie*



ALL ARE INVITED!

Mercy Meals Event

Followed by a Chili Cook-Off



When: Sunday, October 11, 2026



Where: Mercy Meals, Orphan Grain Train Building, 101 W. 12th Ave.

Cook-Off, Living Word Lutheran Church

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

Chili Cook-Off - 5 p.m.



*******Cook-off participants need to have their chili to the church by 3 :30 p.m.*******

******Signup sheet on back table if**

participating in the Mercy Meals Event****



IMPACT THE WORLD MINUTES



LWLC SEPTEMBER 2026 IMPACT MEETING REPORT

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE: Linda Anderson, Gloria Cooley, Sue DeJong, Howard and Marcia Heinje, Pastor Melanie Reiners and Vicki Strege

The meeting was called to order by Vicki Strege at 1 pm on September 8, 2026.

The **MINUTES** of the July meeting were reviewed as printed. Linda moved and Sue seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT as provided by Kelly Peterson was reviewed. The Impact fund has \$5324.09 which included two recent deposits from coffees for total of \$560.75. The Noisy Change for Building Our Families was \$920.03 and for the Gospel House Orphanage was \$746.87. The Mission Trip Fund has \$430.22. Sue moved and Gloria seconded the motion to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

There was no **OLD BUSINESS**.

NEW BUSINESS: Sue moved and Gloria seconded the motion to send \$500 to ALWM to send to Pastor Valery Hryhoryk to use for their Christmas gift activities for children and their other Christmas charity activities and to give \$1000 to ALWM for Pastor Sam to use for the solar system that is needed in the school and housing unit. Motion carried.

Marcia moved and Linda seconded the motion to give the Noisy Change in October to the Gospel House Orphanage to purchase Christmas gifts for the children. Motion carried.

Sue moved and Gloria seconded the motion to give the November Noisy Change to the Visiting Neighbor program which is under the direction of Marie Loutsch. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned as there was no further business.

Next meeting will be on November 10 at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted, **Marcia Heinje**, Secretary

THANK YOU LWLC, FOR THE 7/13
CONTINUED GENEROUS SUPPORT
OF FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES
IN MILBANK !! YOUR \$396.33 GIFT
WILL ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF OUR 7/14
SDSU/MHS FOOTBALL CAMP WHERE 150+
AREA YOUTH WILL RECEIVE CHRIST FOCUSED
INSTRUCTION. GOD BLESS YOU ALL! BRIAN SANDVIG

LWLC FAMILY

WELCOME TO THE LIVING WORD CHURCH FAMILY:

- Shane and Megan Bilben and daughters, Madison and Morgan
- David Hystad
- Joel Yaeger
- Stacey and Kelly Gustafson.

COUNCIL MINUTES



LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT AUGUST 12, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Melanie Reiners, President Jackie Olson, Laurie Maas, Tim DeJong, Sharon Hyde, David Kruger, Kylel Schwandt, Shannon Vietmeier and Julie Berger were present. Jackie opened with a devotional. Pastor Melanie proceeded with prayer.

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

PASTOR'S REPORT: Blessings for the backpacks and dedication of the playground will be held at the August 16 service with a breakfast fellowship to follow.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: September 6 communion assistants are Tim, Julie, Shannon and Kyle.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Corrections to the July 8 minutes and the July 22 special meeting minutes were discussed, and revisions will be made. Laurie made a motion to approve; Sharon seconded and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCE REPORT: The financial report was reviewed. Laurie made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; seconded by Kyle. Motion carried.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT: David made a motion for Nelson Electric to check the AC/heat twice yearly. Tim seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Three cameras will be installed for security purposes, covering the playground, front door and parking lot areas. Tim cleaned up the

garage area. Sharon made a motion to approve the report; the second was made by David. The motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM REPORT: Laurie made a motion to approve the request for an additional music license through OCP, Oregon Catholic Press for one year. The request would need to be revisited yearly as to renewal. Shannon seconded the motion. Motion carried. David made a motion to provide \$150 candy for the Living Word float for each of the Milbank Homecoming and the Ortonville Cornfest parades. Julie seconded, and the motion carried. Sharon made a motion to approve the report. David seconded. Motion carried.

YOUTH & EDUCATION REPORT: David made a motion to proceed with the education program as presented. Tim seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Rally Sunday will be held September 13. Monies collected from youth missions will shift to the Vietnam Gospel House instead of Pigs for Pastors. The LIFT program will meet monthly starting September 16 from 5-7 pm. David approved the report with a second from Kyle. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion was had regarding hosting the live nativity this year, and it was decided that we will not be hosting. Building Our Families potential needs will be tabled. The LCMC Annual Gathering and Convention will be held October 4-7 in West Des Moines, IA.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: September 9, at 5:30 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Newsletter items are due by August 21, 2026.

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

Julie Berger, Council Secretary

October 2026

October 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship 12:00 "Experiencing God" Study 1:30 Prayer Team Meets	2	3
4 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/Communion 3:00 MADE Men Fall Cookout	5	6 11:00 "What About Me" Study	7 1:00 James Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 6:30 Women of Living Word Quarterly Meeting	8 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship 12:00 "Experiencing God" Study 1:30 Prayer Team Meets	9	10
11 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Chapel Communion 3:30 Mercy Meals Event 5:00 Chili Cook-Off	12 COLUMBUS DAY Church/Office Closed	13 9:00 Quilting 11:00 "What About Me" Study	14 1:00 Feeding SD 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 5:30 Council Meeting	15 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship 12:00 "Experiencing God" Study 1:30 Prayer Team Meets	16	17
18 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 November Servant Team Meets 10:00 Worship	19	20 9:00 Faith Circle Meets 11:00 "What About Me" Study 7:00 Love Circle Meets	21 1:00 James Bible Study 2:00 Confirmation NO Dynamic Disciples NO LIFT Newsletter Items Due	22 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship 12:00 "Experiencing God" Study 1:30 Prayer Team Meets	23	24
25 REFORMATION SUNDAY 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	26	27 9:00 Quilting 11:00 "What About Me" Study	28 1:00 James Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 5:00 LIFT	29 9:00 Community Coffee Fellowship 12:00 "Experiencing God" Study 1:30 Prayer Team Meets	30	31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Sandra Christensen (b.) Glenn Nelson (b.) Doug & Annette Redepinning (w.) Nadine Veen (b.)
4 Terry Forster (b.) Vicky Hedge (b.) Elyse Reede (b.) Donna Rehn (b.)	5	6 Todd & Brenda Seehafer (w.)	7 Paul Anderson (b.) Robert & Barbara Hornstein (w.) Robert Yaeger (b.)	8 Erik & Teri Hjellev (w.) Harold Zeigler (b.)	9 Amanda Hansen (b.)	10
11	12 Cheryl Gullickson (b.)	13	14	15 Pam Nelson (b.)	16 Jeffrey Berger (b.) Aaron Meister (b.)	17 Moe Reede (b.)
18 Eric Hansen (b.) Bobby Kinder (b.) Mark & Darla Loeschke (w.)	19 Janice Beck (b.)	20	21	22	23 Ava Berger (b.)	24
25 Rochelle Reede (b.)	26	27	28 Lois Norris (b.)	29	30	31