

LIVING WORDS

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

438.9672 CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



There were about 40 people who attended the Family Fun at the Lake event on July 26, which was sponsored by the ladies of Faith Circle. Although the weather was quite hot that day, everyone enjoyed the fun activities of pontoon rides, bean bag toss, boat rides, and riding on floaties. A representative of Building Our Families spoke about the organization after the delicious potluck meal. Thank you to the Vostad and Maze families for their hospitality and allowing us to hold this event at their residences and the use of their boat and pontoon!



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WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

will begin Sunday,
September 13.

Sunday School - 8:45 am
Coffee Fellowship - 9:00 am
Worship - 10:00 am

Faith, Fellowship & Playground Fun!

Living Word recently celebrated the **dedication of our new church playground**, and what a wonderful addition it has been for the children, families, and community!

A very special **THANK YOU** goes to everyone who supported this project through memorials, donations, time, talents, equipment, hard work, prayers, and encouragement. Because of your generosity, we now have a beautiful space where children can play, families can gather, and friendships can grow.

Our prayer is that **God's work continues in this special place**—whether children are zooming down the tube slide, conquering the rock wall, running around with friends, or families are relaxing around the picnic tables enjoying conversation and fellowship.

After all, ministry doesn't always happen inside the church building. Sometimes it happens while pushing a child on a swing, sharing a snack at a picnic table, or cheering on a little one who finally makes it to the

top of the rock wall. And sometimes it happens while an adult is trying to figure out how to convince a child that **yes, it really IS time to go home!**

This playground is more than swings, slides, mulch, and picnic tables. It is a place for **laughter, friendship, fellowship, and memories**. Most importantly, it is another way Living Word can welcome and serve the families of our church and community.

May this playground be filled with many years of happy children, visiting families, new friendships, scraped knees that need a Band-Aid or two, and plenty of laughter.

May God continue to work through Living Word—in our sanctuary, in our community, around our picnic tables...and even at the top of the tube slide!

BELOW: Pictures from the playground blessing and also setting up the tables and benches and finishing the ground around the area.



Coffee, Music & Fellowship

Living Word's **Thursday Coffee Fellowship** enjoyed a little extra fun on **August 13** when we welcomed some special guests from **Central Church**. It was wonderful to have them join us for coffee, conversation, laughter, and fellowship.

But the morning didn't end when the coffee cups were empty! After fellowship, **Bob led the group in singing some favorite old-time songs**. There were plenty of familiar tunes, smiling faces, and perhaps even a few people who discovered they still remembered all the words!

It was a wonderful morning of **sharing, singing, and simply enjoying time together**. We are grateful to our visitors from Central Church for joining us and helping

make the morning extra special.

Sometimes the best moments are the simple ones—a cup of coffee, an old familiar song, and good friends gathered around the table. **What a blessing it is to share fellowship together!**



Backpacks, Blessings & a Little Bit of Glitter!

On Sunday, August 16, Living Word celebrated our annual **Backpack Blessing**, sending our students into a new school year with prayers, encouragement, and the reminder that **God goes with them wherever they go!**

Students brought their backpacks to church as we prayed for them, their teachers, school staff, bus drivers, and all those beginning another school year. It was a special opportunity to remind our young people that whether they were headed to preschool, elementary school, middle school, high school—or beyond—**Jesus would be right there beside them.**

Our children's message included a little **GLITTER!** During my kindergarten teaching days, a colleague and I earned the nickname **"The Glitter Queens."** Our custodians knew that once we brought out the glitter, they would be finding it for weeks—or possibly months! Glitter has an amazing ability to travel to places no one remembers putting it!

That made glitter the perfect reminder of how we can share the love of Jesus. Just like glitter, **kindness, joy, and love can spread from one person to another and stick around long after we leave.** A smile, helping a classmate, sitting with someone who is lonely, thanking a teacher, or simply being kind can leave a little sparkle in someone's day.

We encouraged our students to head into the new school year ready to **spread a little "Jesus glitter" wherever they go**—sharing His love and joy through their words and actions.

We pray that all of our students, teachers, school staff, and families have a wonderful and blessed school year. May they always remember that no matter where this year takes them, **God goes with them!**

And to all the school custodians out there...**don't worry—the actual glitter stayed at church!**



WELCOME BACK

Living Word Lutheran Church • 2026–2027 Youth Ministry

Dear Parents and Families,

We are excited to welcome everyone back for another year of learning, laughter, friendships, and growing together in Jesus! We have familiar favorites returning, a brand-new youth ministry launching, and lots of opportunities for children and teens to know they are an important part of our church family.

NEW THIS YEAR: LIFT — LOVE IN FELLOWSHIP AND TRUTH

LIFT is our new youth program for students in 5th grade and up. We will meet once a month beginning Wednesday, September 16. Each evening will begin with supper at 5:00 p.m., followed by fun games and activities, service opportunities, Bible studies, and time to build friendships centered on Christ.

Our prayer is that LIFT becomes a place where young people know they are loved, encouraged, and strengthened in their faith as they grow as followers of Jesus.

LIFT Leaders: Kelly Gustafson & Colette Barton

RALLY SUNDAY & FALL YOUTH MINISTRY KICKOFF — SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

8:45 a.m. — Snack and fellowship

9:00 a.m. — Music in the sanctuary; the children will also sing during worship.

Following music, children will enjoy fun activities and games as we celebrate the start of a new year!

Sunday School Classes: Preschool • K–1 • Grades 2–4 • Grades 5–8

We are also exploring the possibility of a high school group if there is interest.

DYNAMIC DISCIPLES RETURNS — WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Dynamic Disciples begins after school and continues

until 5:00 p.m. Expect music, games, snacks, crafts, a new curriculum, and — of course — plenty of laughter! Sue DeJong and Laurie Maas will lead Dynamic Disciples again this year.

CONFIRMATION — WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Confirmation resumes after school for 7th and 8th graders. Pastor Melanie Reiners will lead the students as they continue to learn, ask questions, and grow in their understanding of God's Word and the Lutheran faith.



We are grateful for all of our teachers and volunteers who share their time, faith, and love with our young people!

We can't wait to see your smiling faces this fall!
Blessings, Sue & Laurie



Called, Loved, and Sent to Serve!

101 Northridge Ave.
Milbank, SD 57252



Each of you should
use whatever gift you
have received to serve
others. – 1 Peter 4:10

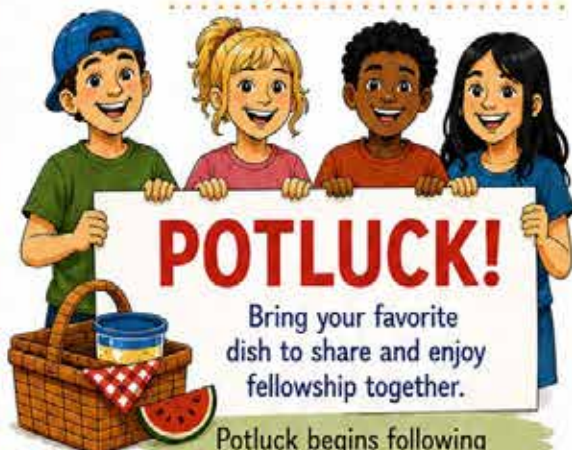
Join us for **RALLY SUNDAY!**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH



- 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
for all ages
- 9:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
- 10:00 a.m. Church Service

Everyone is welcome!



POTLUCK!

Bring your favorite
dish to share and enjoy
fellowship together.

Potluck begins following
church service.



GAMES, ACTIVITIES & FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Let's kick off a new year of
growing in faith together and
serving others with joy!



**BIBLES WILL BE GIVEN TO
3RD AND 6TH GRADERS
& SENIORS WILL RECEIVE
A DEVOTIONAL.**



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY!

We will welcome new members
to our church family.



Called, Loved, and Sent to Serve!



LIVING WORD

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

2026-2027 CALENDAR

 SEPTEMBER 2026 S.S.: 13, 20, 27 D.D.: 16, 23, 30 CONFIRMATION: 16, 23, 30 LIFT: 16	OCTOBER 2026 S.S.: 4, 11, 18, 25 D.D.: 7, 14, 28 (21 – no D.D.) CONFIRMATION: 7, 14, 28 LIFT: 28	 NOVEMBER 2026 S.S.: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (29th – Music practice for program) D.D.: 4, 11, 18 (No D.D. on 25) CONFIRMATION: 4, 11, 18 LIFT: 18
 DECEMBER 2026 S.S.: 6 (Program practice); 13 (Program); 20 – no S.S., 27 – no S.S. D.D.: 2, 9, 16 (No D.D. on 23) CONFIRMATION: 2, 9, 16 LIFT: 16	JANUARY 2027 S.S.: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 D.D.: 6, 13, 20, 27 CONFIRMATION: 6, 13, 20, 27 LIFT: 20	 FEBRUARY 2027 S.S.: 7, 14, 21, 28 D.D.: 3, 17, 24 (No D.D. on 10) CONFIRMATION: 3, 17, 24 LIFT: 17
 MARCH 2027 S.S.: 7, 14, 21 D.D.: 3, 10, 17, 31 (No D.D. on 24) CONFIRMATION: 3, 10, 17, 31 LIFT: 17	APRIL 2027 S.S.: 4, 11, 18, 25 D.D.: 7, 14, 21, 28 CONFIRMATION: 7, 14, 21, 28 LIFT: 21	 MAY 2027 S.S.: 2, 9 D.D.: 5, 12 CONFIRMATION: 5, 12 LIFT: 12

EARLY JUNE 2027

VBS – Early June



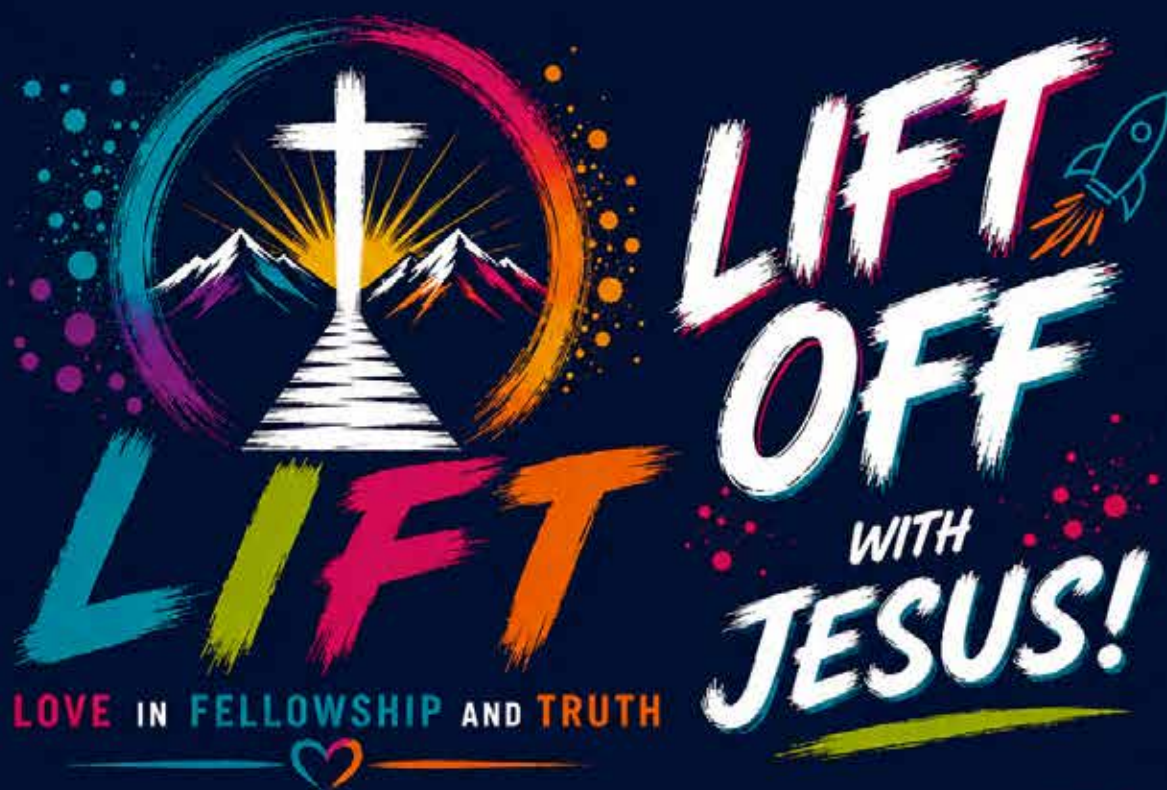
LEGEND

S.S. = Sunday School
D.D. = Dynamic Disciples
CONFIRMATION = Confirmation
LIFT = Love In Fellowship
and Truth



Let the little children
come to me, and do not
hinder them, for the
kingdom of God belongs
to such as these.
Mark 10:14





OUR FIRST YOUTH GROUP NIGHT!



WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16
AT 5:00 P.M.



WE WILL START THE NIGHT OFF
WITH A **PIZZA** SUPPER,
FELLOWSHIP AND **FUN!**



LIFT WILL END
AT **7:00 P.M.**



IT IS FOR YOUTH IN
5TH GRADE AND UP!

FUN. FRIENDS.
FAITH.
THAT'S THE LIFT LIFE!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE
AS WE BEGIN THIS NEW
MINISTRY TOGETHER

LIFTING
UP OUR FRIENDS!



WORSHIP



GROW



SERVE



BELONG

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH  MILBANK, SD



SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, October 11

Mercy Meals event followed by a chili cook-off

More information to come



WOMEN OF LIVING WORD

Greetings ladies of Living Word! I hope this finds you all well and enjoying cooler temperatures and the soon-to-be autumn season. The first day of autumn is actually September 22.

This month there are many things happening at Living Word for all ages and interests. To begin, two **BIBLE STUDIES** will be offered beginning the week of September 7. James (5 weeks) and "Experiencing God" (12 weeks). A third study, a women's Bible study, will focus on Esther and begin as soon as the 10 am service returns. This bible study will meet at 9 am.

LWL women will have an opportunity for fellowship beginning Thursday, September 10, at 5:30 pm at Shady Beach Restaurant. "**GAL PALS**" is the monthly event, and each month something different will be planned by the group. For more information, contact the church office.

Saturday, September 19, marks this year's **AUGUSTANA DISTRICT FALL WOMEN OF THE WORD GATHERING** in Mankato, MN. Rev. Julie Smith, keynote speaker, will focus on the resurrection of Jesus that, in her own words, "changes everything." The gathering also offers

attendees additional speakers in breakout sessions, a delicious luncheon, uplifting worship time, and an opportunity to make real connections. The registration deadline is September 7. For more information, contact me, Sue DeJong, or the church office.

The new school year has begun so we must remember our past graduates with cards and prayers.

REMINDER

Circles meet Sept. 15.

ATTENTION LWL WOMEN

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

September is also the month LWLW's **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** meets to find a new officer slate for the upcoming year. I urge all to prayerfully consider serving in some capacity to keep our committees and church activities going forward.

MISSION PROJECTS for both September and October are needed. If anyone has ideas, please let me know.

Enjoy these last few lazy days of summer and welcome autumn colors, scents, and temperatures. God's hands touch the earth and bless us with the change of seasons and hopefully, a bountiful harvest.

Sandy Christensen
LWLW Coordinator



Celebrating Lil's 99th birthday

THANK YOU

I would like to thank you all for your kindness and generosity as I move forward into the next portion of my life. I have received many gifts and tons of support from this congregation. Now more than ever, I can't imagine living in a better family than that of Christ. Thank you for letting me be so involved in that family both here and on the other side of the planet. And thank you for supporting me on my next journey, although it may not be all the way in Vietnam and Cambodia. Thank you!



Thank you Living Word Church for sponsoring me this summer to attend bible camp.

I attended the Byron Bible Camp by Huron, SD. I had a really great experience and enjoyed everything we did. I found my confirmation bible verse while at camp also. I attended for a week with my friend Lydiah and other kids my age. I am looking forward to going again next year.

Thanks again, Josie Dallman

LWLC FAMILY

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Come, Grow in the Word

HELLO EVERYONE,

I hope you have enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to the upcoming fall season, along with a new Sunday School year and upcoming activities in our church! We have several opportunities to grow in the Word together, fellowship with one another, and serve those around us. Be sure to check out the weekly announcements and the back table for these opportunities.

The Call Committee is still actively meeting together, praying, searching for our next pastor, and trusting God. Although there haven't been very many applicants, they aren't giving up. Instead, they are surrendering to God's will and timing for our church. Please continue to pray for them and our church family as we keep our eyes on Jesus and place our faith in our Provider!

Tim and Sue DeJong will be attending and representing our church at the annual LCMC Convention in Des Moines, IA, this coming October. During the four-day gathering, they will have many opportunities to listen to keynote speakers, attend breakout classes, network with other churches and pastors, and share our need for a pastor. Let's pray for safe travels and divine connections!

Thank you to every one of you for being a part of our church family. I pray for unity and blessings for our church.

*Love to all,
Jackie Olson, Council President*

OUTREACH

August Noisy Change

Noisy Change for the month of September will go to Dr. Yeh for his work with Ebola in the Congo. The money raised will help to purchase disposable medical supplies and medications that are needed in that area.



PASTOR'S LETTER



Loving In Fellowship & Truth

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY OF LIVING WORD,

We are so excited to announce the formation of a new youth group here at Living Word for those who have "graduated" out of Dynamic Disciples. So, basically it will be a Middle School youth group. It will be called

LIFT—Loving In Fellowship and Truth. We are blessed to have two people step up to lead this group, Kelly Gustafson and Colette Barton. Both of them have training and years of experience in working with kids in programs such as this. The group will meet on the third Wednesday of the month from 5-7:00 p.m.

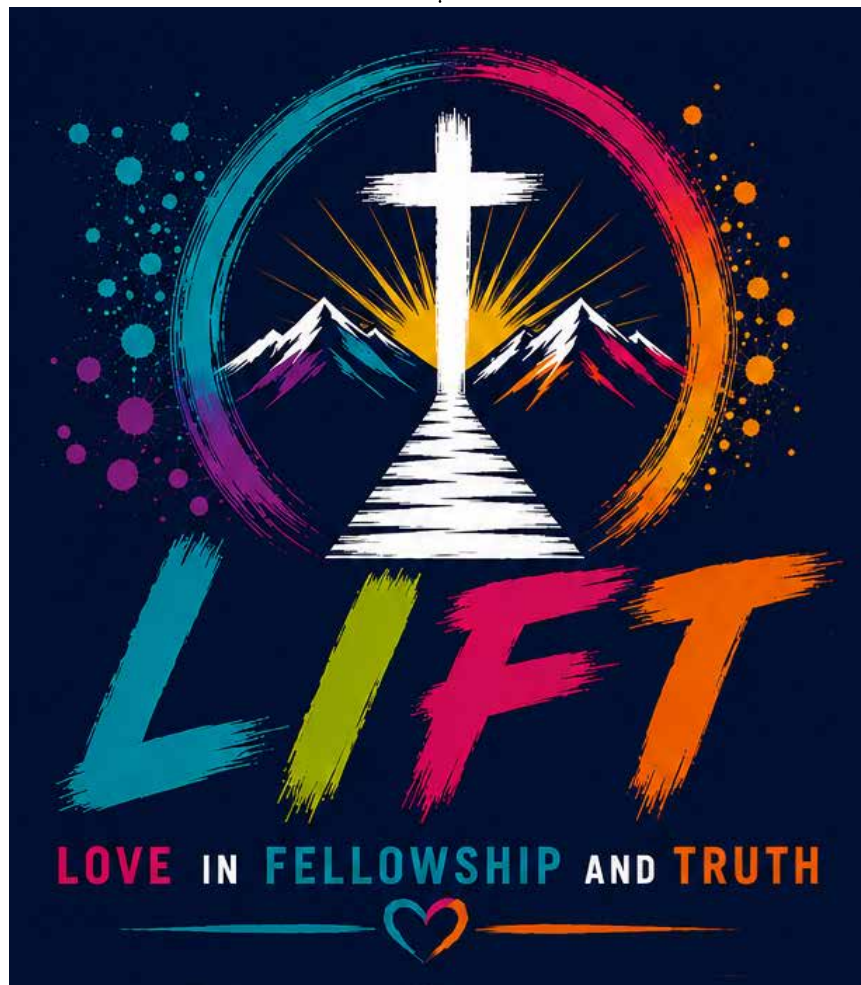
As young people are learning to navigate life in today's world, finding their way can be challenging.

The world offers endless things which leave young people wanting for something better. It is our prayer that these young people will find just that right here in their church at LIFT. This program will offer a great opportunity to make new friendships and

share in some fun activities all based in Christian love and fellowship. In his first letter, John gives us a powerful blueprint for building relationships that actually matter: **"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."** (1 John 3:18).

Parents, we hope you will encourage your children to be a part of the new group. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

In Christian love,
Pastor Melanie



NEED A SHOWER OR WEDDING GIFT?

Looking for a nice Christmas gift for that hard to buy person? What about that special occasion coming up? The women of Living Word are taking orders from anyone wishing to buy Rada Cutlery. Rada Cutlery in Waverly, Iowa, has quality knives, utensils, and pans, which are 100% American made with a lifetime guarantee, as well as some food items. LWL Women earn 40 percent of all sales, which goes towards the kitchen fund. There is a catalog with order blanks on the counter near the greeting card kiosk. Contact Marcia Heinje at 605-237-0373 or the church office if you are interested in ordering.



HAND-SEWN ITEMS ON THEIR WAY TO SIERRA LEONE

Hand-sewn dolls and animals, generously donated by a church member, that are headed to some lucky children in Sierra Leone!



UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Bible Studies will start in September. Sign up in the fellowship hall or contact the church office if you are interested.

1. **James** (5 weeks)
2. **"Experiencing God"** by Henry Blackaby (12 weeks)
3. **"Esther"** by Kelly Minter



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

"Gal Pals" – Once a month, a social event will be offered. Women can sign up every time or when it works for them. We will gather input each time from the group before planning the following month's event.

First Event: Thursday, September 10
Shady Beach
Dinner 5:30 pm

THE RESURRECTION



THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

About Our Gathering

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. Through baptism, we are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. Because Christ lives, we no longer live in fear, shame, or despair, but in freedom and promise. Join women from across the district as we gather around God's Word, prayer, worship, and fellowship to explore what it means to die and rise with Christ each day. Together we will reflect on how the resurrection shapes our identity, hope, relationships, and life together as God's faithful people.

WHY JOIN US?

*inspiring speakers – engaging breakout sessions
delicious luncheon – uplifting worship – real connections*

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Julie Smith



The Rev. Julie Smith is an author, speaker, theologian, mentor and currently serves as the national Service Coordinator of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. An LCMC-certified and Augustana District-endorsed pastor, Julie is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus college in St. Peter, Luther Seminary in St. Paul, and widely sought after as a teacher and preacher. Along with serving on the faculty of St. Paul Lutheran Seminary, Julie travels thousands of miles across the United States each year proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



2026 WOW Gathering

September 19, 2026

Resurrection Lutheran Church
Mankato, Minnesota

Augustana District Fall 2026 Women of the Word Gathering

September 19, 2026

Resurrection Lutheran Church

1735 East Main Street – Mankato, MN 56001

AGENDA

9:00am: Registration and Coffee Fellowship 9:45am: Worship
3:00pm: Dismissal

PLACES TO STAY

Courtyard Marriott	Motel 6	TownePlace Suites
901 Raintree Road Mankato, MN 507-388-1234	1731 Premier Drive Mankato, MN 507-345-6666	911 Raintree Road Mankato, MN 507-344-1234

COST

In-person: \$25 | Individual Online: \$25 | Church Online: \$50

Send Registration & Payment To:

WOW Treasurer – c/o Gail Telecky
607 Bluff Street NE – Hutchinson, MN 55350
Pay checks to: Women of the Word



2026 WOW Gathering Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Church Name: _____

Dietary Needs/Special Accommodations: _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 7TH

Questions? Contact Myrna Chamberlain
at 605-290-3974 or myrmach@charter.net

*The worship offering will be designated to the
Madagascar Health & Wellness Project. Please make
checks payable to Global Health Ministries.*

COUNCIL MINUTES



LWLC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT JULY 8, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Melanie Reiners, Laurie Maas, Tim DeJong, Sharon Hyde, David Kruger, Shannon Vietmeier and Julie Berger were present. Kelly Peterson was present for the financial report.

Pastor Melanie opened the meeting with prayer.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCE REPORT:

Kelly was available to explain and take questions regarding the financial reports. David made a motion to renew the Raymond James # 2 CD for a period of 24 months. Laurie seconded, and the motion carried. Julie made a motion to direct the incoming Thrivent monies to the dedicated general youth fund. Sharon seconded the motion. Motion carried. Pigs for Pastors and Green Beans monies were paid out. Laurie motioned to accept the Treasurer's report; seconded by Tim. Motion carried.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: August 2 communion assistants are Julie, Dave, Sharon and Kyle.

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

YOUTH & EDUCATION REPORT: Plans are underway for the upcoming Sunday School year with Rally Sunday set for September 13. We will be starting a new youth group for children grades 5 and up to meet one Wednesday a month. Dynamic Disciples and the new youth group will begin meeting September 16. Julie made a motion to approve the report with a second from Shannon. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Melanie indicates there will be a dedication for the playground along with the backpack blessings sometime in August. There was a confirmation refresher held this summer. Dave Wagner will provide pulpit supply for the July 19 service. Pastor Melanie has been adding a bible verse to our Facebook page every Monday. There are plans being made for fellowship in the way of pontoon rides and other fun events. Tim made a motion to approve the report and Shannon seconded. The motion carried.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT: The landscape work for the playground is being worked on/ completed. Cameras will also be installed. Julie made a motion for Tim to line up the parking lot work for this year if possible or next year. Sharon seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Julie made a motion to approve the property management report. Dave seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM REPORT: The pop up brunch on July 5 was well received. Tim made a motion to approve the report. Shannon seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: August 12, 2026, at 5:30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Newsletter items are due by July 14, 2026.

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

Julie Berger, Council Secretary

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 9:00 Coffee Fellowship	4	5
6 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	7 LABOR DAY Church/Office Closed	8 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Impact	9 1:00 Feeding SD 5:30 Council Meeting	10 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 5:30 Gal Pals	11	12
13 WINTER WORSHIP BEGINS 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship/New Members 11:00 Chapel Communion 11:00 Potluck/Games for All RALLY SUNDAY	14	15 9:00 Faith Circle 11:00 "What About Me" Study 7:00 Love Circle	16 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples 5:00 LIFT	17 9:00 Coffee Fellowship	18	19 9:00 WOW Gathering, Mankato, MN
20 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:00 October Servant Team Meets 10:00 Worship	21	22 9:00 Quilting 11:00 "What About Me" Study Newsletter Items Due	23 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples	24 9:00 Coffee Fellowship	25	26
27 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship	28	29 11:00 "What About Me" Study	30 3:30 Confirmation 3:30 Dynamic Disciples			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Daisy Berdan (b.) Steve Strege (b.)	2 Janice Fenner (b.)	3	4 Greg & Lori Kasuske (w.) Joanne Nelson (b.)	5 Tina Balling (b.)
6 Carter Busack (b.) Roger Christensen (b.) Colby Weber (b.)	7 Linda Anderson (b.) Brock Sime (b.)	8	9	10	11 Jackie Olson (b.) Timothy Ramsey (b.) Grant Van Peurse (b.)	12 Isabella Anderson (b.)
13 Donald & Terry O'Connor (w.)	14 Gary & Marsha Meister (w.)	15	16 Carol Forster (b.) Jamie & Hope Pekelder (w.)	17 Harmony Campbell (b.) Harold & Beverly Zeigler (w.)	18	19 Richard Hansen (b.) Mason Lewno (b.) Adam McMahon (b.)
20 Susan Vostad (b.)	21	22	23	24 Richard & Sandra Hansen (w.)	25 Ron & Linda Anderson (w.) Lacey Busack (b.)	26
27 Karen Hallquist (b.)	28	29	30 Renae Dornbusch (b.) Melanie Schwandt (b.)			