



**Please submit a
photo for our
member directory.**

Please email a recent picture of yourself or your family to the church office at church@lwlcmm.org. We would like to update our church software with recent photos for each household, and we would like to print an updated Living Waters Lutheran Church photo directory. Thank you!

Annual meeting set for Sunday, February 2

Living Waters will have its annual meeting on Sunday, February 2, at approximately 10:20 am in the sanctuary. Business will include presentation of the 2025 proposed budget for congregational approval, electing LWLC Council members, and electing Conference and Synod assembly delegates.



All is **Calm**
All is **Bright**
Christmas Eve 2024





January Calendar

- * **Church Office Closed:** January 1st
- * **Sunday Worship:** January 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th at 9 am
- * **Wednesday Education:** January 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th—Worship at 6 pm and Classes/Group Activities at 6:30 pm
- * **Finance Committee Meeting:** January 14th at 5:30 p.m. in the Room of Hope
- * **Church Council Meeting:** January 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Room of Hope
- * **Marriage Group—All Married Couples Welcome:** January 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the Room of Hope

SAVE THE DATE

Living Waters Lutheran Church Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 10:20 am

***CHRIST IN OUR HOME* DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE**

Christ in Our Home books are available at LWLC! *Christ in Our Home* is a quarterly devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day that follows the Revised Common Lectionary. The books are available at the Welcome Center. while supplies last. Limit 1 per family.



On December 18, youth and adult volunteers assembled Blessing Bags for people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurities. The bags contain personal care products. Pictured, from left: Leann Giese, Kirsten Stiegel, Jack Hanson, Evan Dingmann, Liz Zasoski.



YULING PIANOS
 December 14
 \$1,585 raised!
 Thank you!





2024 Living Nativity





2024
Christmas Eve in a



Barn



President's Update



Happy New Year! What a great year of accomplishment — the last few months have been busy, and we couldn't do it without all of you volunteering your time, talents and gifts! I truly appreciate each and every one of you, it has been a year of Connecting and bringing people back together!

Thank you for the role you played, big or small, many hours of volunteering or just a few — it all matters, and you matter! We are so glad you are worshiping here at Living Waters Lutheran Church! It is awesome to see the church gaining momentum and start thriving again — baby steps! Thank you for rising to the challenges as we had the Burn the Mortgage Campaign! Wow, what an event! Through the last year, Friendships and Connections were made through lots of small group activities, Bible Study, and fundraising events!

Thank you to God for leading me, to the Holy Spirit for stirring within me, to Jesus for everlasting life and forgiveness! Thank you all for trusting me to lead you this past year. It has been a challenging, yet fun and rewarding experience to serve as Council President. Thank you so much to Kurt, AJ and my family for supporting me! Also, I need to thank the staff members, the council members and all of the committee volunteers that serve and all of you members! I'm so grateful to God and all of you for Connecting this past year and making that effort to help us see that Vision take shape!

Peace & Blessings,
DeNetta Wolbeck
Council President



Attention, All Movie-Goers!

We are putting together a lineup of 6 movies for our Theology at the Movies series coming for the season of Lent. We will watch a movie on Sundays and then discuss it after the Lenten service the next week. We are looking for movie titles that we can watch and then have a small bible study/discussion. If you have a suggestion, please let Ellarry know in the office. Thank you for your help, and watch for the posters after the holidays.

Worship Assistant Sign-Up



Ushers, Greeters, Communion Assistants, etc. needed for Sunday and Wednesday services. Visit www.lwlcmmn.org and click "Sign Ups" at the top of the page, or scan the QR codes. Scan the QR code on the left to sign up for a Sunday service and the code on the right for a Wednesday service.



Education Update

Our fall season of education has had many highlights and so many people to thank!

Sunday School is a small but wonderful group of Pre-K youth. A special thank you to Jordan and Holly for faithfully bringing their girls!

Our Wednesday-night group continues to grow! A shout-out to Kelli Pederson for leading the service, Pastor Jake for coordinating music and Michele Berkovich for sorting through Calvary Connect materials. We also have great teachers and volunteers each week: Michele Berkovich, Haley Enter, Rhonda Wieneke, Liz Zasoski, Jo Rohrbeck, Carolyn Neubauer, and my apologies to anyone that I may have forgotten. Pastor Alberts presented an amazing sermon on Equity vs Equality and how to strive to be our best selves. We had a great night with 29 serving at Kids Fighting Hunger. Our Christmas Program was amazing! A HUGE thank-you to the cast. From our littlest sheep to our King Herod, your performance was enjoyed by all! Thank you also to behind-the-scenes help from Rhonda, Janet Anderson and Denetta Wolbeck. Thanks to the Outreach Team/Leann Giese for donating \$1,700 for us to shop for gifts for Salvation Army. It was so heartwarming knowing we were able to purchase so many gifts! Check out the photos! We also packaged 50 "Blessing Bags" with toiletries and winter supplies for our area homeless/home-insecure neighbors. This night also included Bingo led by Brad Giese!



Looking forward to spring, we have lots of plans and ideas in the works. We will still have access/pay dues to Calvary Connect through March. There is a great amount of curriculum that we have purchased/used in the past that could get looked at (any volunteers?), and we are very open to any new ideas that people have.

In the past we have not held education during Lent. This year, we will be meeting and are looking to "catch up" on Milestone Ministries that we had previously addressed. (Baptism, 10 Commandments, Apostles Creed, etc.). We will also be looking for service project ideas!

Volunteer opportunities:

Help with Sunday School;

Set up/clean up for Communion on Wednesdays;

Serve a meal on Wednesday (Thanks to Haley Entner for serving this last fall!);

Help expand our Wednesday suppers to include more of our community;

Help coordinate a service project;

Share a story/teach/ lead activity on a Wednesday;

Join our education team;

Help sort through old curriculum.

CALLING ALL YOUTH K-12th grade!

Luther Crest is hosting a weekend of fun and fellowship! It is open to ALL youth, not just LWLC members. It would be amazing to have a whole bunch of kids attend.

Here are the details:

RETREAT

DATE(S): February 7-9, 2025

GRADES: K-12

TIME: Friday - Sunday

COST: \$205 (\$50 Non-Refundable Deposit)

Join us for friends, fun, and a faith-filled weekend at Luther Crest! Come on Friday evening and stay at camp until Sunday morning at camp,

Continued on next page.

playing games, learning, hanging out, and spending the nights in our cabins with your friends and our awesome Luther Crest Staff! Together, we'll spend time getting to know one another, enjoying the Minnesota winter, and diving into our theme: "Love in Action!" Through scripture, worship, crafts, and games, we will discover ways that God's love for us empowers us to love others and the world around us! Campers currently in grades K-12 are welcome to register and will stay in cabin groups based on age. A Friday-night snack, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack, and Sunday brunch will be provided! Check in is Friday at 7PM and closing worship and pickup is Sunday at 11AM! Family/Guardians are encouraged to join us for closing worship.

The link is <https://luthercrest.org/programmed-retreats/Programmed-Retreats-luthercrest.org>

DATE(S): February 7-9, 2025 GRADES: K-12 TIME: Friday - Sunday **COST:** \$205 (\$50 Non-Refundable Deposit) Join us for friends, fun, and a faith-filled weekend at Luther Crest! Come on Friday evening and stay at camp until Sunday morning at camp, playing games, learning, hanging out, and spending the nights in our cabins with your friends and our awesome Luther Crest Staff!

luthercrest.org

SCHOLARSHIPS available! Please do not let the cost keep you from attending this event! Studies have shown that attending Bible Camp has a very strong correlation with staying involved in the church throughout a lifetime!

Kirsten Stiegel
Education Liaison



December 18 was Bingo Night for Wednesday Youth Education. Grandparents and parents even joined in the fun! Thank you to Brad Giese, Bingo caller, Andy Stiegel, and parents for partaking in this fun event.



H2O, the senior-high youth group at LWLC, had a Christmas Jubilee on December 18. The group, led by Pastor Jake and Dan Pederson, enjoyed Christmas karaoke, sugar cookie decorating, and a gift-exchange game.

Congregational Life Update

Hello, Church Family!

As 2024 draws to a close, I can't help but think of everything I am thankful for this year. I have had many opportunities to serve both God and our church this past year, and all have been meaningful and rewarding. I am grateful for every experience! However, all of those experiences would not have been as meaningful and rewarding without YOU!

I truly appreciate all who volunteered time and talent to serve others in our church and in our community this past year! Just in the last couple of months, I have seen SO much love and friendship shared within our church family — and with our community— with the Lutefisk Dinner, Deck the Halls, Living Nativity, Hope for the Holidays, the Christmas Program, Youth Gift Buying Night, Yuling Pianos, Blue Christmas, the Christmas Cantata, and Christmas Eve in a Barn (please forgive me for anything I missed). WOW!!! THANK YOU for all of the gifts all of you offer, not just during the holidays, but all year long! You all AMAZE me — and you INSPIRE me to explore new ways to follow Jesus in 2025!

As we begin the new year, our word for 2025 is "INSPIRE". When we follow Jesus' example and offer others our love, grace, and kindness, you just never know how you might be inspiring them. You might even be guiding them towards a path that is radically different than the current path they are on! After all, God makes all things new! (Revelation 21:5) This new year, I hope you continue to engage your faith, connect with your church family, serve one another, and inspire others to love and follow Jesus.

May you all be blessed in 2025!

Peace,
Kelli Pederson
Congregational Life Liaison



LWLC member Tauna Quimby (left) taught a lefse-making class at the church on December 12. Thank you, Tauna! Pictured below are lefse-makers Leann and Brad Giese.



A New Year in Christ



Pastor Jake Dyrhaug

*"See, I am making all things new!" - Jesus
Revelation 21:5*

Here we are just starting a new year, 2025! That has a certain ring to it, doesn't it? Something about New Year's resolutions has to do with a brand new start. We have a new chance to venture into a new direction. There's something all very fresh about it each year, as we contemplate what we might accomplish, how things could be different, how the possibilities are endless.

Something about the gospel of Jesus—it's all about a new start! As I've heard it said, "God is really good at new beginnings." God tells us through sending Jesus, the Son, that we are given a new start. Believing in him, we have the promise of the forgiveness of our sins, the assurance of eternal life and strength and peace for the journey. All the old is in the past. God wipes the slate clean and says to us that it's time for a new day for you. We need not be loaded down with regrets or guilt or thoughts of all we could have done or should have done differently. In our baptism into Christ, God says our sins are washed away and new life has

come, that in Christ we are a new creation! It doesn't get more new than that! Jesus' words ring out loud and clear to us, "See, I am making all things new!" (Revelation 21:5).

2024 has been an exciting year at Living Waters Lutheran Church! Just for example, the Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner had its major come-back for the first sit-down event in several years, and the place was packed. We celebrated a day of "Burn the Mortgage", putting us in a whole new position for new possibilities for ministry and outreach. We welcomed 987 people to the "Christmas in a Barn" services in addition to our two evening services at the church. We are just beginning what we're calling our "Year of Inspire" now, and we are prayerfully looking ahead to all the ways God inspires us to be who we are called to be as Living Waters as we walk by faith into a New Year in Christ, "That all would know we are loved by God and are inspired to follow Jesus."

Peace & Joy,

Pastor Jake Dyrhaug

Outreach Team

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Living Waters family and friends. It's a time to spend with the ones we love and care about. It has been a busy December. Wow! Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who have kept the church going this month. It has been so much fun being involved in the new activities and keeping the tradition of the old ones going.

The Living Nativity scene in the Coborn's parking lot was a huge success. We had very few spots left for characters, and the community showed up for the festivities. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the costumes. Thank you to Dan Pederson and the set-up crew for all your hard work setting up the manger and taking it down.



JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

December 15th, a group of us went and sang at the memory care cottages at the Good Shepherd Community. We had a huge turnout of residents. We sang traditional hymns and some older ones as well. There were six of us singing, and Brad played his trumpet. The residents were all smiles. Some of them were singing along and tapping and clapping to the music. Thank you to Janet Anderson for helping with the music for this event. This tradition has a special place in my heart. My grandmother had brain cancer and was in memory care. I always enjoy spreading joy to the residents.



Hope for the Holidays was a huge success. Thank you to all the families and individuals who supported the efforts. Twenty-five families sponsored the cause. We served 11 families, equaling 42 people. It was so amazing seeing all the gifts under the tree. Kelli Pederson, Liam Pederson, Brad Giese, and I dropped all the gifts off at the school. It was an amazing feeling knowing we made a huge difference for some families within our community. People receiving the gifts from us at the school were calling Living Waters the "Angel Church." Your gifts made a huge impact to these families in our community.

Continued on next page.

Thank you for your support for the cause. This was the first time Brad and I sponsored a family. I will be doing this each year. It felt amazing!

The food Shelf is going great. We received a grant for \$7,500 from Second Harvest. This grant can be used for a variety of items. This year, I wanted to use it for various events. This is the month of giving. We made blessing bags for the youth to distribute, and we donated money for the youth shopping night through the local Salvation Army. It was great seeing the families and individuals shopping for a cause. The rest of the money will be used to support the food shelf with food from Second Harvest. I also got word that our governor is going to be helping food shelves this year. The amount is unclear, but I will keep you posted.

Blessings,
Leann Giese
Outreach Liaison



Marriage Ministry Group

4th Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Next Gathering: January 26th in the Room of Hope.

All married couples welcome!



Reminder:

This is a Nut-Aware & Latex-Free Complex. Thank you in advance for your efforts to ensure the safety of those with sensitivities.



By Recycling, you can support Living Waters Lutheran Church! Place aluminum cans in the Cans for a Cause trailer at LWLC. No other recyclables are accepted.

Thanks for your support!

THANK YOU

For your ongoing financial support.



- Set up **BILL PAY** through your bank or credit union. It is free. Contributions will be sent to the church on **YOUR** schedule.
- Send money through **PAYPAL**. To avoid paying a fee, make sure to select that you are sending money to a friend. Send to church@lwlcmn.org.
- Send contributions the old-fashioned way. **MAIL** checks via **USPS** to:
Living Waters Lutheran Church
1911 4th Ave. N.
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Please remember to specify on your check or envelope what your contribution will be used for (e.g. mortgage, general fund, food shelf).

2024-25 Servant Team Schedule

Team	Team Leader(s)	Last Name Starts With	Servant Months
Team 1	Tom & Cheri Satre	A through Cr	April 2024 and November 2024
Team 2	Teresa Szymanski	Cu through Gunderson, D	May 2024 and December 2024
Team 3	Jen Kiewel	Gunderson, J through Koskinen, D	June 2024 and January 2025
Team 4	Tim Wright	Koskinen, S through Moon	July 2024 and February 2025
Team 5	Bonnie Raduns	Moor through Rock, J	August 2024 and March
Team 6	Terry Sylvester	Rock, K through Sz	September 2024 and April
Team 7	Darryl Torrin	T through Z	October 2024 and May 2025

Council Meeting Minutes Attached

The November Church Council meeting minutes are emailed with the newsletter for your convenience. See attachments to your email for detailed minutes, or pick up a copy at the church.

Living Waters Lutheran Church Council

John Fuls – Property team

jctmfuls@msn.com

Leann Giese – Outreach

craftinggiese@gmail.com

Todd Muehlbauer – Personnel

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Carolyn Neubauer – Inreach, Care Core, Secretary

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Dan Pederson – Vice President

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Kelli Pederson - Congregational life

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Josh Rock

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Kirsten Stiegel – Education

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Brian Ulrich

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AJ Wolbeck – Youth Rep.

ajwolbeck@yahoo.com

DeNetta Wolbeck - President,

Music and worship liaison

nedswolbeck@gmail.com

Next Council Meeting:

Tuesday, January 21 at 6:30 pm

Worship at LWLC

Sunday Service — 9:00 am

Watch the Livestream on
Facebook at Living Waters

Lutheran Church SR

Wednesday Service — 6 pm
during Youth Education.

FOOD SHELF HOURS

TUESDAYS
10AM - NOON



Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Monday

Closed



Contact

Church Office Phone: 320-255-1135

Church Office Email: church@lwlcmn.org

Pastor Jake's Cell Phone: 320-733-0257

Pastor Jake's Email: pastorjake@lwlcmn.org

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LUTHERAN CHURCH



FACEBOOK:

facebook.com/livingwaters.lutheranchurch



YOUTUBE:

youtube.com/channel/UCXpyZgcJVYXf0w4AtX2Pwng/featured

Living Waters Nursery

The Nursery is open during worship, but it is not staffed.

Please stay with your child.

