



# *The Messenger*

News about our church,  
our ministries and our people

January 2014

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

1<sup>R</sup>9<sup>e</sup>7<sup>f</sup>4<sup>l</sup>  
and 2014  
Reflection  
Renewal

## Celebrating 40 Years

Whether your 40<sup>th</sup> birthday is far off in the future, a fading memory in the rearview mirror or somewhere in between, 40 years is a significant number in our culture and in the Bible. And, this year, it is a significant number for Living Waters.

In the December issue of *The Messenger*, you read that 2014 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> year of Living Waters as a church. During this year we will be celebrating our existence and purpose by emphasizing themes that focus on reflection and renewal. We will also be incorporating the number 40 into these themes.

### Haiti—Our January Focus

We are using Unity Sunday, January 19, as a kickoff date for our celebration. A week of

prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated each year from January 18-25 and gives us the opportunity to join with Christians around the world in focusing on our common beliefs. We are going to especially focus on the work of the Lutheran Church in Haiti in our January 19 worship.

As a church, we have committed to support a joint mission project with other ELCA congregations in the Mid-Gulf Conference to help with the salary of Jorel Carte, a national church staff member of the Lutheran Church of Haiti. Living Water's goal is \$500 per year for three years.

On January 19, we will be receiving a special offering for this commitment. If you are willing to give an offering (*story continued on page 3*)



## A Message From the Pastor

*But strive first for the kingdom of God  
and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be given to you as well.  
Matthew 6:33*

I love to celebrate the New Year. This is such a powerful time of the year. We get to re-focus, re-prioritize and re-group. We get to launch new beginnings.

I find the best way to make New Year's Resolutions is to do so with a Bible verse in mind. One of my favorite verses for this task comes from the Sermon on the Mount. Here, Jesus teaches the principle of "putting first things first." Jesus, also, attaches a promise to this principle:

*Make "the kingdom of God and God's righteousness" your first priority—and God will bless you with everything you need to live a good life.*

What New Year's Resolutions come to mind for you in light of the "first things first" principle of Jesus? It all depends on your understanding of what is meant by "the kingdom of God and God's righteousness," doesn't it? Here are two suggestions...

First, think of "the kingdom of God" as living your life as one who trusts and obeys Jesus as the one who is in charge of your life—and life itself.

Second, think of "the righteousness of God" as doing what you believe—in God's eyes—is the "right thing" for you to do.

Now, for those New Year's Resolutions, ask yourself:

- (1) What is one thing I am going to do so it is more obvious to others, to me, or to God that I want Jesus to be in charge of my life?
- (2) What is one thing I am going to stop doing because I believe—in God's eyes—it isn't right for me or for my relationships with others or for my relationship with God?

Write down your answers to these two questions. Then, live one day at a time. Each day, pray about the changes you believe God wants you to make. Each day, look for practical ways to make these changes and to help you stick with them.

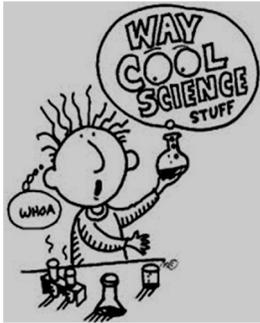
Above all, do this as one who is "striving" to live as a forgiven child of God in whom Jesus lives and through whom Jesus wants to bless others!

*In Christ,  
Pastor Dell*



# Real Lessons for Real Kids

By Patty Pauley

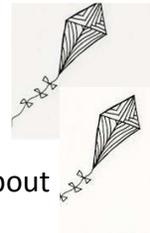


The Sunday School is having a blast this year. We are learning a lot of things: we have done some fun science projects, such as making homemade toothpaste when doing the story of John the Baptist; we did an experiment with Koolaid and Oxyclean when talking about the 7 Lepers; and recently we did an experiment with baking soda and vinegar to express the joy that was around and that we still celebrate for the birth of Christ.

We have made some great crafts, (a crown of thorns, a prayer journal, an advent candle, just to name a few) and will soon be hosting a craft lesson show so everyone can see what we

have been doing.

There are lots of great lessons planned for the upcoming year with crafts and more science projects. We may even go out and fly a few kites when we talk about the Holy Spirit!



I am looking for a few volunteers to take a Sunday once a month that will allow me to attend church with my family. I have January covered, but am looking for February, March, April, and May. If you think you would like to teach the class one Sunday please let me know. I will have the lesson plan all ready and will have the craft supplies as well.

Thank you to all my past volunteers.

Editor's Note: Patty has dedicated a lot of time and energy to creating an exciting program for Sunday School. Please strongly consider volunteering to teach a class. You will most likely have as much or more fun than the kids do!

## Marketing Update

By Ellen Hanson

Have you had the chance to hear any of the Living Waters Lutheran ads on WENG radio yet? If not, you might want to tune in to 1530 AM or 107.5 FM. Pastor Dell had fun at the studio recording his "true spirit of Christmas" ads and will return in January for another session. We also have PSAs (Public Service Announcements) about A Special Time and our community meals programs. One of our key statements is, "Living Waters Lutheran Church-a spiritual home for those who want to make the world a better place."

In keeping with getting the word out about "our little white church in the country" you

may have seen our new car magnets on many of the cars in the parking lot! If you have not received yours yet you can pick up one in the church office. If you would like any additional magnets you may purchase them for \$3.00 each. Thanks for helping to spread the word!

We have also distributed our new Directory of Ministries and Small Groups booklet. This is a reference guide for the many opportunities we have at Living Waters to use our spiritual gifts to serve one another. We hope it will help turn our words and commitments into actions as we find our own special way to serve. You may pick up a copy in the office if you have not received one.

**Pastor Limburg to  
Teach on Acts  
From the Way We Were  
to the Way We Are!**

“Send me your story about the early days of our church,” editor Judy Johnson asked in the December issue of *The Messenger*. She will be writing about the beginnings of Living Waters Congregation, some 40 years ago. The year 2014 will celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Dr. Luke, who gave us the Gospel with that name, must have made the same sort of request to people he knew. “Tell me your stories about the beginnings of our Christian Church,” he must have asked, at the time he put together the Book of Acts, maybe 40 to 50 years after it had all begun. The time of Jesus had been covered in the volume called Luke. Now it was time to tell the story of the beginnings of the church.

These are some fast-moving and fascinating stories in Acts. We’ll hear some powerful speeches and sermons. There are miraculous healings and conversions to the new

faith. But we’ll also hear of liars and cheaters, stonings and snake bites, storms and shipwrecks. We’ll learn of early experiments in sharing with the poor. Along the way we’ll see some videos of places where churches began, as made by Lutheran travel expert Rick Steves.

Come join us and put our own Living Waters story in the context of the larger story of the whole Christian church on earth.

We meet Wednesday evenings  
from 7:00-8:00 PM.



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By Scott Hanson

Happy New Year from your LWLC Council! What better way to celebrate the *New Year* but with a CELEBRATION.....or even better, an entire year of celebrating! In planning for 2014, the council has created opportunities for numerous activities to recognize our 40th Anniversary. Several months are still available for sponsorship so please check with Ellen, Judy, Pastor or me if you would like to sign up. As we look back on 2013, our church has made significant progress in our goals of financial stability, membership growth and increased mission outreach. To reach

our goals for the next three years, we have implemented a very focused approach. Through an expanded marketing program, increased stewardship opportunities and an expanding presence of our outreach programs in our community, we will have the opportunity for exciting growth.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday January 26, between services. Please plan to attend as we will outline and present our upcoming budget, meet and greet new council members and discuss the events of 2014. Your input is important.

## From Here To Eternity

“Your Will: Why Do You Need Legal Advice?”

Good intentions are not enough for drawing a valid will. Your intentions must be stated in accordance with the laws of your state and expressed in language that cannot be misinterpreted. Only a competent attorney can help you draw your will so that it can carry out your wishes exactly. Remember, you will not be present to clarify any misunderstandings. A valid will must clearly express your intention, using appropriate language to provide for the transfer of property interests under the existing laws.

The Legacy Gift Planning Team for the Living Waters Fund (our church endowment fund) will pay toward the costs of a new will or an updated will that includes the Living Waters Lutheran Church or the Living Waters Fund in your will.

Please remember Living Waters in your will.

### Living Waters Legacy Certificate



Receive \$100 (Single) or \$150 (Couple)  
Toward Attorney's Fee when you name Lutheran Church of the Living Waters  
or the Living Waters Fund in your will.

Payable To Attorney when invoice presented to:  
Living Waters Lutheran Church, PO Box 8064, North Port, Florida 34290  
Expires: December 31, 2014

[LivingWatersLutheran.com](http://LivingWatersLutheran.com)

#### The Number 40 in the Bible

There are many references to the number 40 in the Bible. Here are a few of them.

- It rained for 40 days and 40 nights when God wanted to cleanse the world and start over.
- Noah waited another 40 days after it rained before he opened a window in the Ark.
- Moses was on the mountain with God for 40 days
- Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness

### Welcome New Council Members

We welcome Rich Pelto, Member at Large, and Paul Cartwright, Director of Property, to the Living Waters Church Council.

Other council members include:  
Scott Hanson, President  
Pastor Dell Shiell, Permanent member  
Carol Piltz, Treasurer

Judy Johnson, Vice President and Director of Worship and Music  
David Lanning, 2nd Vice President and Secretary  
Gayle Backiel, Financial Secretary, Director of Small Groups  
Ellen Hanson, Director of Marketing  
Special thanks to Jerry Pauley and Kari Reece whose terms are completed.  
Thank you for your service.

## Just Look at What You've Done!

By Jody Shelton

The Community Outreach Ministry would like to wish the congregation a Blessed and Very Happy New Year !

We would also like to thank you all again for the blessings you have given back to us this past year. We have had so many wonderful donations of clothing, bikes and bike parts. We can't tell you how many pounds of clothing have gone out of our church. We have shared a lot of children's clothes with the Kids Clothes Closet, an organization in North Port that gives clothing to families for free. It is wonderful to know that we have provided clothing for so many kids. I have heard there are over 400 children in the North Port schools whose families need extra help.

We have even been able to get a few folks to church with bikes given to them. Praise the Lord! You have been so faithful with your food and monetary donations this past year. In November we were able to disperse 35 turkey dinners for Thanksgiving. On Thursday, November 21, we served over 90 meals. That was a busy night for those who volunteered to help.

We appreciate all of you who come in and help and those who just come in to visit with our extended families. We could not do this

without our volunteers, including a church member who came in and gave haircuts during a meal in December.

We were able to hand out 30+ ham dinners for Christmas. We would like to thank our Avon elf here at church who put together goodie bags to go with all the dinners given out, plus, she and her friends adopted three of our families and donated gifts for them. We also have to thank Jacob's Well, a local church, who also provided food for those dinners and raised enough money that allowed us to put \$10.00 gift certificates from Walmart in their bags of goodies. Their congregation is planning to cook one of the February dinners. We are excited to see God putting two churches together doing His work.

Last but not least, our buddy Chris is back from Buffalo. We all need to keep his family in our prayers because his father is very ill.

Until next time, we encourage everyone to sign up and volunteer!

Blessings , The Kitchen Gang



### Thank-offering 2014

By Gayle Backiel

We are looking forward to February 2, 2014 when the Women of the Church will sponsor our annual Thank Offering Service. This is a special day when the men of the church get to relax and the women conduct the service and show everyone the missions we have been working on this past year.

You will see some of the beautiful quilts, shawls and baby caps we have made and hear news about other ministries and missions. It is also a time for everyone to give a special offering to support the Women as we work on our commitments to Christ, the body of Christ at Living Waters and the work of Christ in North Port and beyond.

*On a personal note...*

## ***Happy Birthday***

Consider making a connection with a member by sending a birthday card. If your name has been omitted from this list of members or the date is in error, please contact the church office to make the correction.

- Jan. 2 Karen Tombaugh
- Jan. 3 Carol Bennett, Nick Houser
- Jan. 4 Wanda Boeck
- Jan. 5 Jennifer Buck
- Jan. 6 Haley Kolb
- Jan. 8 Gage Davis
- Jan. 15 Ray Fundyga
- Jan. 16 Jackie Christen, Wally Schleeauf
- Jan. 17 Layne Boyette, Larry Tombaugh
- Jan. 18 John Horn, Nancy Lou Nickles
- Jan. 23 Kris Dines
- Jan. 26 Jim Jones
- Jan. 27 Jeannette Asleson



***The Messenger*** is published monthly by Living Waters Lutheran Church with printed copies usually distributed the first Sunday of each month. Copies are also available at:

[www.LivingWatersLutheran.com](http://www.LivingWatersLutheran.com) and via email distribution.

To have information included in the newsletter, please write your content and send it to Judy Johnson: [j3john@comcast.net](mailto:j3john@comcast.net).

Articles must be submitted by the 21st of each month, unless otherwise specified, for publication the following month and may be edited. Pictures are not printed.

### **Congregational Meeting**

Plan now to attend the annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26, at 9:10, between services.

On the agenda is the 2014 budget.

**In Gratitude...** Thank you to our church family and friends at Living Waters for the cards and gifts given to us this Christmas. May God bless you and yours throughout the coming year.  
*Dell and Diane Shiell*

*Thanks be to God!*

#### **A Note from the Dhoms:**

Dear Living Waters Friends,  
We will not be coming to Florida this year, as we have sold our house. We will miss all our dear friends at Living Waters, but feel it is time to stay up North. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. God bless all of you,  
*Chuck and Dorothy Dhom*

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**941-625-8090**

**[www.livingwaterslutheran.com](http://www.livingwaterslutheran.com)**

**Office Hours: 9:00am-Noon, Mon. - Thurs.**

If you have questions about our church, its ministries or about becoming a member, please contact Pastor Dell Shiell via email at: [pastor@livingwaterslutheran.com](mailto:pastor@livingwaterslutheran.com)