



The Messenger

News about our church,
our ministries and our people

July 2013

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

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Launch New Business

The next issue of The Messenger will appear in August. Deadline for articles is July 21. See last page for details.

Thanks,
Judy Johnson,
Editor and Publisher



A Gift
from
Thrivent

Ron Beaber, our Thrivent representative, presented Living Waters a \$500 check as a part of Thrivent's "Care Abounds" program. The new program provides chapters the flexibility to help other members, individuals and non-profit organizations in a way that works best for all involved. Living Waters will apply these funds to our matching funds program for marketing.

Special thanks to Daryl Mendez for making this happen. A photo is posted on the LW website.

Plan Now For Sunday School



Sunday School will begin again on Sunday, September 1. Are you ready to be a Sunday School Detective? If so, get registered for Sunday School beginning Sunday, August 4.

We will learn stories of the Bible through lessons, science experiments, cooking and just by having fun. Watch the bulletin board in Hanson Hall for more details. The program this year is from Sermons4Kids, a Lutheran curriculum.

Also calling all past confirmands. If you think you would like to teach a class one Sunday, please feel free to contact Patty Pauley, and she will set you up!

Thanks to Pastor Burnette

With us from June through July 7, this has been Pastor Harold (Hal) Burnette's third time as our Guest Pastor in the Pastors2Go program. During his previous visits, we learned of his hikes on the Appalachian Trail. He still does that but also has enjoyed a few other adventures.

In May 2012, he went to Spain to hike about 170 miles with friends on the *Camino de Santiago*. Also called The Way of St. James, it was one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during medieval times.

He attributes his love of hiking to his days of growing up on a farm in Sullivan County, TN where he loved
(continued on page 5)

A Message From the Pastor

In 2004, during a Congregational Visioning Workshop, our congregation adopted some Core Values:

- Love God and Neighbor
- God's Will, Not Our Own
- Good Stewardship
- Openness to Change and New Ideas
- Flexibility

I can personally attest that these Core Values have served as the bedrock for our life and ministry together. Consequently, it has always been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as the pastor for Living Waters.

At one of our Council Meetings a few months ago, someone remarked, "I am proud of our church because we have always been on the cutting edge." That is so true! Endless enthusiasm. Boundless energy. Unswerving commitment. That has been my experience of our congregation.

I can honestly—and wholeheartedly—say that the Council is working harder than ever to provide the best possible leadership for Living Waters.

At the heart of all this hard work is our dedication to do whatever it takes to be faithful to our vision of a bright future together. Like always in the past, once again, the congregation is responding to the leadership by its leaders.

Summer worship attendance is strong. Weekly giving is strong. Ministry is going strong. And, the email is flying back and forth as everyone takes seriously the need to plan and prepare for Fall 2013 and Winter 2014.

Though our worship schedule does not go to two services until November 1, Sunday School is going to start in September. The Long Range Planning Committee has a full agenda for its next meeting—on July 15. Can you believe it—the middle of the summer?

For a couple of months now, the Executive Committee and the Council have been using

GoToMeeting to video conference using the Internet. This way, members can participate in meetings, wherever they are, so long as they have Internet access. The Long Range Planning Committee is going to follow this practice for its July meeting.

In May we received some new members; others have been asking me about our next New Member Orientation (it will be on September 25, at 7:00 pm).

Recently, a front-page story in the local newspaper highlighted an inter-generational event involving two Living Waters ministries: A Special Time and Living Waters Preschool.

This week (middle of June), the Preschool is hosting Vacation Bible School for Preschoolers and their siblings.

Carol Piltz (our faithful treasurer) had the misfortune of having her computer crash and die. After considerable effort by Dave Parsels and Kris Dines, Carol has a new computer and all her financial and membership records are at her fingertips. In July, Carol will generate financial statements which will be sent to everyone with a letter from our President, Scott Hanson.

Keep Living Waters in your prayers. Your ongoing financial support through the summer is much appreciated. Thank you to everyone who continues to provide excellent worship, ministry throughout the week, and prayer support. I thank God for all of you.



In Christ,
Pastor Dell



Cooling Breeze Needed...AST Caregiver's Support Group Would Like to Borrow A Tall Free-Standing Fan – We will be sponsoring a 6-week course called "Powerful Tools For Caregivers" every Friday from Aug. 2 until Sept 6. We will be conducting the class in the narthex which isn't air-conditioned. If you can help us, please call Carol Sutton, 423-7193. Thanks.

Council Update

By Scott Hanson, President

Summer greetings to all of the congregation and friends of our church family. Hopefully everyone is enjoying their summer whether north or south.

It is an exciting time for Living Waters! A month or two ago we reported to you some significant financial concerns. After many hours of prayers, thoughts and discussions, your council decided to take a firm stand and agreed to tackle these concerns head-on. With a commitment to a new marketing initiative, rigid financial decisions and a renewed focus to our mission, we already have made admirable progress. Look around. Introduce yourself to the new faces that you are seeing every Sunday. Our growth is quite evident.

Over the next few months the council will be presenting a variety of new ideas, sharing our various ministries and offering even more opportunities for you to become involved. This will help match our assets of "time and talents."

Another exciting series will cover an expanded approach to your stewardship through charitable giving. You will see how to achieve your own Living Legacy!

I encourage everyone to check their emails and watch the website.....especially the

calendar. There are numerous upcoming events and gatherings to enjoy. It's not even too soon to think about our upcoming golf tournament on November 2 that benefits the Preschool.



As I look at the calendar, it is amazing that we are halfway through our council year. As has been the tradition in the past, we will soon be sending your semi-annual financial update on giving and pledges. Please take a moment to check this information to see if you are "on schedule." This is a critical time for our finances, so please understand the importance of your continued giving.

If you have the opportunity *please* give your "thanks" and a "pat on the back" to your council members, our staff and especially Pastor Dell. They are working very hard with a lot of enthusiasm to make Living Waters the best that it can possibly be. We have created several new areas where your help is needed. If you would like to become a member of the council, please let me know your interest.

As we continue to stretch, always remember "*the task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.*"

Meet Rev. Mark M. Pedersen and wife Vickie, July Guest Pastor

Editor's Note: This biography was written by Pr. Pederson. We welcome the Pedersons to Living Waters and look forward to their time with us.

I was born in Washington D.C. to Marguerite Lindner Pedersen of Long Island, New York and Edgar Vernon Pedersen of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In other words, I was not born in a state but was still born in the United States.

My mother named me Mark Matthew Pedersen. When I asked her why she decided on Biblical names she said, "Because I just liked the way it sounded." I joked with her about my name not being in the right order; it should be Matthew Mark, just like it is in the Bible. Being a devout Lutheran who knew her Bible very well, mom would remind me that she believed Mark was actually written before Matthew.

My mother was a bookkeeper and secretary for my father who owned and operated various international and United States based companies. During his teenage years in South Dakota, dad spent some time traveling around the country raising money for a project that his cousin was working on called Mount Rushmore. I have one older brother and a younger sister. Yes, I am a middle child so God started preparing me for ministry very early in my life!

My family moved to Houston in 1966 because, as Dad put it, he wanted to live in a warmer climate and didn't want to shovel snow anymore! Our family attended Christ Memorial Lutheran Church on Memorial Drive on the West side of Houston. Mom made sure all of her kids attended Sunday

School and church almost every Sunday and we were confirmed in the Lutheran church.

After high school, I went off to college to Stephen F. Austin (SFA) State University in beautiful Nacogdoches, Texas. My finances were extremely limited and my academic enthusiasm developed slowly as I sought the Lord's direction for my life.

I started exploring other faith traditions during my first few years of college. I attended Catholic, Presbyterian, Non-denominational, Baptist, Episcopal and United Methodist churches just to understand the differences in beliefs and worship styles. I found the United Methodist Church to be the place where God wanted me to grow in faith, worship and service for His kingdom.

My call to ministry happened gradually as I started serving the Lord in Youth Ministry positions. I received my call to ordained ministry one night while praying in the chapel of the Wesley Foundation at SFA.

While attending S.F.A. I met the love of my life, Vickie Marie Craft, at the Wesley Foundation. Vickie and I have been married for almost 25 years and have been blessed with two sons, Grant (17) and Gavin (13). I achieved a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in 1991 from S.F.A. and a Master of Divinity Degree from Texas Christian University in 1995.

God has placed us in various churches during my ministry including Shelbyville, Canton, Kilgore, Clear Lake, Somerville, Frankston, Crystal Beach, Vidor and Houston for unique and diverse reasons. Praises be to Jesus!

Pastor Burnette continued:

to explore the woods on the family’s property; hiking reminds him now of those fun times.

He officially retired from full time ministry in 2009 and took some time off from preaching and general parish work.

But now, on any given Sunday, you will most likely find him preaching. He has made himself available as a supply pastor within his region and finds the phone ringing often with requests for service. He described his supply preaching this way in an article he wrote for an online publication called *e-Lutheran*. “I decided that studying, reading and writing sermons were things I enjoyed, missed and needed...I now look forward to preaching and enjoy it more...”

Pastor Burnette also takes time to give to others. He likes to work with his hands—to build and rebuild—particularly with wood. He rebuilt a neighbor’s porch, went with a

Habitat for Humanity delegation to rebuild homes in Joplin, MO damaged by the 2011 tornado and, as an individual, to the Gulf Coast several times to help rebuild and repair after hurricane Katrina.

When he returns to his home in Edinburg, VA, after his time with us, he will be delivering messages on Sundays, looking for ways to help others, writing articles for the *e-Lutheran*, writing poetry, and traveling again to Spain and to Maine to do more hiking.

He has very much enjoyed this and every visit to Living Waters and is impressed by the small ministry groups the church supports. Pastor Burnette wishes to say “Thank You” to Pastor Dell and all of the people of Living Waters for “their hospitality and friendship, and the beautiful Beerbower House.”

Pastor Burnette, it was our pleasure to have you with us and we wish you safe travels wherever you go. You have been a blessing to us.

The Living Waters Preschool Report

2013 Graduation

More than 100 people attended the graduation ceremony for 16 Preschool students. The students led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang chapel songs with happy animations. They demonstrated their abilities in sign language, Spanish, Chinese and in the English alphabet.

The teachers and Pastor Dell presented each student with a diploma and a book from the Church Council. At the end of the ceremony, they marched proudly in their mortar-board caps into Hanson Hall for refreshments with family and friends.

Many thanks to our Preschool Director, Susan, the teachers and helpers: Genn, Kris, Stacy and Gail, and to Pastor Dell.



**Preschool Visits
A Special Time**

On Friday, June 14, the Preschool children joined AST to work on a Father’s Day card. Conversation and laughter filled the room for this intergenerational time of fun.

Be sure to visit the LW website to see photos of the event. It was also covered by the *North Port Sun* and pictures were published on the front page the following day.

Opportunity for service

Got a Minute or Two?

Sometimes it's hard to join a group or work in a program because you may not want to commit to a regular schedule for an extended period of time. Here's an example of how you can be of service without making a long term commitment.

During the summer months, many of the volunteers for A Special Time (AST), our adult respite program for caregivers of those afflicted with Alzheimer's, are away, leaving us a bit shorthanded.

One easy way to help out that doesn't take a lot of time is to prepare, serve and clean up lunch. AST meets on Fridays from 10:00 - 2:00 but your time commitment would be from 11:00 to about 1:00. We serve about 20 people and need two to three people to help with lunch. Here's what's involved.

The lunches are easy and generally require assembly rather than cooking. Often, lunch is a simple sandwich and drink with a side or maybe a salad and dessert. The menus are

set and the food is purchased, ready for you to handle.

You would show up at Hanson Hall and be ready to get to work at 11:00. One of our regular volunteers would show you what to do. You would set the tables, prepare the food, serve the food and clean up after the meal is finished. We use disposable tableware so there are no dishes to wash after the meal except for a few pieces that are used in preparation. You would be finished about 1:00. You can help out once or as often as you have time available.

Think that might be something you could do once in a while? Yes? Good answer!

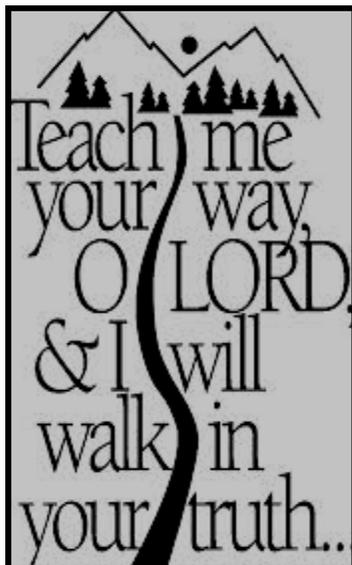
We need help for July, August, September and maybe a part of October. Find out how just a little bit of your time can make a big difference for A Special Time. Contact Carol Sutton (423-7193) or Adeline Banks (244-7870 – available after July 13) for more information and to schedule a time to help out. Thanks.



The Living Waters Preschool Report (cont.)

VBS Held June 17-21

Thirty-eight children, ages 2-6, attended our Preschool's Vacation Bible School this year. The theme was "Discovery Canyon" where the children explored the wonders of God's Word through games, songs, stories, crafts and more.



Preschool Enrollment

Along with the 16 children graduating from VPK, our 2012-2013 enrollment also included 11 children in the 2-3 year old class with 5 children moving up to the VPK class in the fall.

Our classroom capacity for VPK is 20 with two staff members and the capacity for the 2-3 year old class is 12 with one staff member.

VPK resumes in the fall. Our summer session began on June 3 with 10 children enrolled.

Living Waters to Host Special Class

By Carol Sutton

A Special Time Caregiver's Support Group is hosting a six-week course sponsored by Senior Friendship Centers Caregiver Resource Center, Venice, Florida. This course is open to residents of Sarasota County. If you can't attend, perhaps you know someone who could benefit from this excellent course. Deadline for registration is Friday, July 26, 2013.

Class size is limited and pre-registration is required. Attendees are expected to attend all classes.

For additional information or to pre-register please call Phyllis Balliett, instructor of the class, Senior Friendship Caregiver Resource Center, at 941-584-0050. Respite care may be available while you attend these classes. Please call Mattie Disher, our Respite Care

Lost and Found: If you have lost something at church, be sure to check with Kris at the office. There are two earrings, a pair of glasses and various other items in the lost and found basket.

The Living Waters Preschool Report (cont.)

School Year-End Financial Report

Our Preschool is self-supporting and has enjoyed steady enrollment over the past years. Below is a financial snapshot of the fiscal year, August 1, 2012—May 30, 2013.

\$9,900	Current balance of debt owed to LW
\$20,000	Current year loan repayments to LW
\$5,000	Rent paid to LW
\$16,059.10	Net Income as of May 30, 2013
\$15,488.54	Balance as of May 30, 2013

Program Director, 941-204-7335, for more information.

Brief Description of Caregiver Class Content: In the six weekly classes, caregivers develop a wealth of self-care tools to: reduce personal stress; change negative self-talk; communicate their needs to family members and healthcare or service providers; communicate more effectively in challenging situations; recognize the messages in their emotions; deal with difficult feelings; and make tough care-giving decisions. Class participants also receive a copy of "The Caregiver Helpbook," developed specifically for the class.

Powerful Tools for *Caregivers*

Let Freedom Ring

On July 4, 1776, the thirteen colonies claimed their independence from England, an event which eventually



led to the formation of the United States.

Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence between June 11 and June 28, 1776. The Declaration of Independence is the nation's most cherished symbol of liberty.

Sunday Servants—July 2013

Please check the schedule to verify the days you will be a Sunday Servant. If there is a blank space, please consider signing up to help out. The sign-up book is on the table in the Narthex. **There is a new position – Welcome Host – to give a special name tag to first-time visitors and to present a LW Welcome Packet and gift.**

Function	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
Ushers (4)				
Altar Guild (1)	M. Savard	M. Savard	M. Savard	M. Savard
Counters (2)	A. Banks	K. Grant	L. Ertle	B. Cartwright
	J. Parsels	M. Savard	M. Savard	J. Pauley
Lay Reader (1)	P. Keller	V. Biassi	M. Houser	R. Fundyga
Comm. Asst. (1)	V. Biassi	P. Dinges	Pastor	P. Keller
Greeter (2)	J. Hernandez	J. Hernandez	J. Hernandez	J. Hernandez
	T. Hernandez	T. Hernandez	T. Hernandez	T. Hernandez
Welcome Host (1)				
Fellowship				
Set up (1-2)				
Clean up (2/more)				
Nursery (1)	K. Bridegam	B. Doss	S. Feeney	T. Hernandez
PowerPoint	M. Savard	C. Helland	D. Mendez	T. Hernandez

On a personal note...

Happy Birthday

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.

- July 3 Deb Poe
- July 6 JoAnn Dorrough
- July 8 Courtney Hess
- July 9 Brian Pena
- July 11 Pastor Dell Shiell
- July 12 Bethany (Shiell) Moreno
- July 13 Ercell Wade, Jairus Wegener
- July 17 Jane Braun, Wayne Wilcox
- July 18 Nick Winiecke
- July 20 Jim Peters, Peg Peters
- July 25 Marie Fortunato
- July 27 Stanley Bliss
- July 29 Megan Houser
- July 31 Christine Norton

The Messenger is published monthly by Living Waters Lutheran Church with printed copies distributed the first Sunday of each month. Copies are also available at: 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. Articles must be submitted by the 21st of each month for publication the following month and may be edited. Pictures are not printed.

LW Members Launch New Business

Jimmy, Becky and Sierra Jones have begun a new small business as a family.



As an outgrowth of being involved in creating health kits in conjunction with the Youth Group, the fam-

ily became more interested in the Fair Trade program. It has been their dream to find a small business that would not only supplement their family income but also help empower, educate and sustain other people and communities. Fair Trade proved to be the answer.

On the Sundays in July, they will be displaying the items they have in stock in Hanson Hall for a Christmas in July sale. The items are high quality, natural, handcrafted and organic local and imported artisan products with unique characteristics. Information about the Fair Trade program will also be available.

For a preview, visit their web site: Serendipitygiftsfl.com, join them on Twitter or visit their Facebook page and join the Group.

In Sympathy...We extend our sympathy to Gayle Backiel and family on the passing of Gayle's father, age 90, on June 27. He lived in Hendersonville, NC, where Gayle and Rick spend the summer.

Physical Address

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool
12475 Chancellor Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Mailing Address

PO Box 8064
North Port, FL 34290

941-625-8090

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