



The Messenger

*News about our church,
our ministries and our people*

April 2014

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

Living Waters Holy Week Worship

This Holy Week, taste and see that the Lord is good!

Please ink these dates on your calendar to join with Christians around the world in setting aside time to worship and meditate.

Palm Sunday, April 13, 8:15 and 10:00

Why this day is important:

Palm Sunday is the commemoration of our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem five days before His crucifixion. This day takes its name from the fact that people waved palm branches as Jesus approached Jerusalem on a donkey. Worship typically begins with fanfare and triumph and ends on a more serious note.

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:00pm

Why this day is important:

It was on this night that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper in the upper room. That sacred meal has often been the chief emphasis of Maundy Thursday. At the end of the service as Pastor chants Psalm 22, the altar is stripped in preparation for Good Friday. This symbolizes Christ being stripped by the Roman soldiers prior to His crucifixion.

Good Friday, April 18, 7:00pm

Why this day is important:

The service is sometimes called Tenebrae, a Latin word which means darkness or shadow. In this somber service, we commemorate the final hours of Jesus' life on earth. We darken the church gradually to symbolize the diminishing light of the world as Christ was departing from it.

Easter Sunday, April 20

Outdoor Sunrise Service, 7:00; Festival Services with Holy Communion, 8:15 and 10:00

Why this day is important:

On Easter, we celebrate Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil, as well as the promise of our justification and everlasting life. The season of Easter lasts 50 days until the day of Pentecost.

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. " John 3:17 (KJV)

A Message From the Pastor

*I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.*
(Job 19:25 NIV)

The calendar date for “Easter Sunday” changes from year to year.

Believe it or not, as Diane and I were swimming in the community pool at the condominium where we live, one of our neighbors swam alongside us and explained why Easter changes each year. She explained, “Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon following the spring equinox.”

Easter is “late” this year. It is about as late as it can be. Last year, by contrast, Easter was very “early.”

When it comes to our spiritual lives, it is possible that Easter seems to come late. We go through difficult patches and the silence that greets us as we wait for things to change for the better seems to go on and on. We may, even, wonder out loud, “Where is God?”

As I write this article, a friend is dying. Diane and I visited her. As I looked at our friend—I understood how much I wanted God to give her a new body, the one she will get in heaven. And, I ached for Easter to hurry up for our friend and for her loved ones.

On the wall of our friend’s bedroom, where Hospice nurses, her husband, and her extended family attend her, our friend has a Bible verse from Hebrews.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1

Since God raised Jesus from the dead, 2,000 years ago, Christians have relied on faith and our conviction of “things not seen.” We read the Bible, we pray, we gather with other Christians to worship. We cannot see God. But, we read and share with each other the wonderful promises God has given us.

The Bible promises that God made us, and all that is. Life is a precious gift from God. Each and every one of us is here on earth for a God-given purpose. Jesus came among us, died for us, and was raised from the dead for us. Because of Jesus, we believe that nothing can defeat God—and heaven is our home. During Holy Week, you have four wonderful opportunities to worship with your Christian sisters and brothers at Living Waters—Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (also called Holy Thursday), Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Join us for worship during Holy Week. Let the Holy Spirit renew and strengthen your faith. With our faith intact, God assures us that Easter is never “late.”

In Christ, Pastor Dell



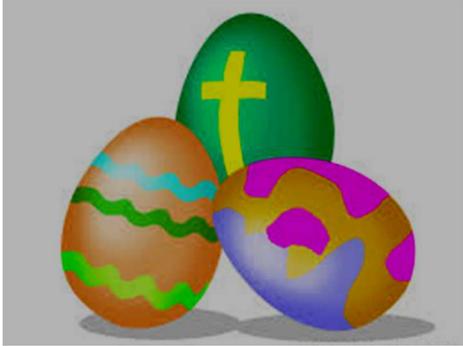
A bit of history...

These words are from the Nicene Creed written at the First Ecumenical Council, held in Nicea (which is located in what is now Turkey), in 325 AD.

Help The Youth Create Easter Activities

By Patty Pauley

The youth is asking for donations of plastic Easter eggs and candy to put in them so that can have an Easter egg hunt.



They have a lot planned for that day: an Easter egg hunt, a lesson, a science experiment and a celebration party.

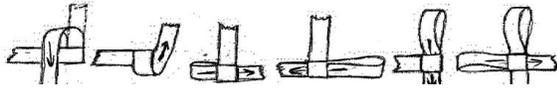
Please place your donations in the box labeled "for the youth" found in the Narthex.

And they want to thank everyone for the donations of the pill bottles.

Activities and Other Details for April

Saturday, April 12:

Make Palm Crosses: Join us in Hanson Hall at 9:00am to make palm crosses for distribution to each person on Palm Sunday. It's pretty amazing to see how a simple palm leaf becomes a cross without any fasteners!



Palm Sunday, April 13:

Guest Musician: We welcome professional harpist, Tasha Robinson to both services. Tasha will provide beautiful music throughout our worship.



Youth Pancake Breakfast: Our youth will be hosting their annual pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday. You can enjoy their yummy cakes after each service. A free will donation is most welcome.

Easter Sunday, April 20

Sunrise Service: If you like to worship outdoors in the early morning, come to the Sunrise service at 7:00. Communion is not served. **Please bring a lawn chair if possible.**

Easter Sunday Treats: Please sign up in the narthex to bring a treat for fellowship time after the services.

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Sunday Worship Sermon Series for Lent

Only Two Messages Remain for the Series

If you had only one month to live, what would you change?

During Lent 2014, our Sunday worship has included a sermon series by Pastor Shiell. The series is called, "One Month To Live." The focus throughout this series is on living life without regrets—or living the no-regrets life.

Leave Boldly – April 6 (Lent 5) One Week To Live – April 13 (Palm Sunday)

Join us, as we accept the challenge of asking how life would be different if we accepted the certainty that we only had "One Month To Live."

A Special Thank You to the Choir



By Judy Johnson

As this choir season comes to a close, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each choir member who made the commitment to come to weekly rehearsals and to sing on Sunday mornings. I am especially grateful to our Snowbirds who lend their voices in song each year. Full time residents and Snowbirds— together we have made beautiful music.

Spring Gathering for Women of the ELCA Hosted by Living Waters

By Sheri Moehling

On March 15, Living Waters hosted the 2014 Spring Gathering of women of the Mid-Gulf conference (five churches of the Florida/Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization). Emmanuel of Venice registered the ladies and handed out name tags. Hope of Port Charlotte provided the program.

After a light breakfast and fellowship, Sheri Moehling, Co-president of Mid-Gulf conference welcomed the ladies to the gathering and Gayle Backiel Co-president conducted a short business meeting and election of Joyce Rauschenberger from Hope as the new secretary of the Mid-Gulf conference. We thank Pat Keller for her two years of service as secretary.

Fields of Grace started the program with an opening hymn followed by devotions from

Martie Willeke of Redeemer, Bradenton. Holy Trinity announced the Bible Study and the gathering broke off into five small groups to discuss the theme from Romans 12, "Present Your Life Before God," facilitated by ladies from Holy Trinity.

After a wonderful homemade soup & bread luncheon, Fields of Grace presented a spirit filled program called "Super Hero Women." It included special music, prayers, and an activity of writing down the area of your life to give to God and depositing it into a basket before the cross of Jesus. The day ended with a devotion and we sang in unison "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

The Mid-Gulf and Living Waters boards wish to thank the ladies of Living Waters for their kind participation, bringing homemade goodies, and helping with set-up and clean-up. You helped make it a very special and spiritual day. Fields of Grace outdid themselves and made the day very inspirational.

You Did It!

Thanks to everyone who helped clean Living Waters inside and out. Special thanks to Paul Cartwright, our Property Management Director, to Daryl Mendez for organizing the inside cleanup and to Jim Godshall for organizing the exterior clean up. Thanks to all of you, our church sparkles and shines!

Council Update

By Scott Hanson

I've seen movement of snowbirds beginning their flight north....have you noticed that they fly in a V-shaped pattern? One side of the "V" reminds me of I-95 and the other I-75! We hope and pray that your travels are safe.

This continues to be an exciting time in the life of Living Waters. The council is so pleased with the **increased** activity of our members, **increased** financial stewardship and **increased** membership. We have asked everyone to "stretch" in their involvement and it appears to be working. In looking back over the past few months you can see the results.....I wonder who it was that was involved in power washing the building, rebuilding the fountain, participating in the chili cook-off, enjoying mid week Bible studies, helping with spring clean-up, quilting, singing in the choir, decorating the church for Christmas, serving as a greeter or usher, calling on the sick, helping in the kitchen.....the answer is simple...it's YOU!

I have received several comments and letters recently expressing the deep appreciation for what we do at Living Waters. It is always nice for the council to hear these thoughts. In particular there has been an expression by part-time members and visitors to further remember us while they are away. They have asked what they can do to contribute to the growth of their "southern church." Some

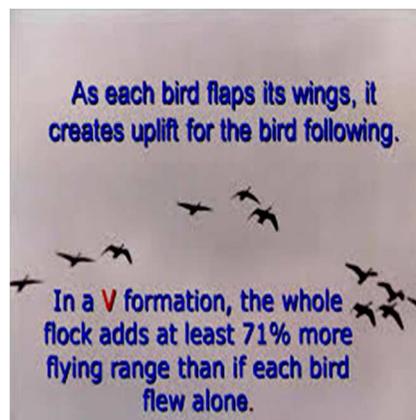
have committed financially to provide proportionate giving throughout the year. As you can imagine, our weekly offerings are affected dramatically during the summer months, while expenses remain the same. Your thoughts and financial consideration during the summer will be very helpful.

Another important item to remember is the availability of becoming an Associate Member. Many visitors are full-time members of other churches. Without giving up their full-time membership, we encourage someone to move from a "visitor" to an Associate Member. This provides for a greater connection and commitment to being involved with Living Waters. Please let us know if you would like more information.

The number **40** can still be seen throughout the church! More activities will be upcoming in continuing our **40 Year Celebration**. In particular you will want to mark Sunday, December 7 on your calendar for an event you will not want to miss.....surprise details to follow!

A sincere Thank You from the council to all.

We are stronger together!





Good Times Are Brewing Get Acquainted Coffee Fellowship

By Pastor Dell and Diane Shiell

We are very happy that Karen Hoepfner has agreed to help us with our Get Acquainted Coffee Fellowship project!

Our goal is to gather together 6-7 people with whom we can get better acquainted, and who can

get to know one another better as well.

We are planning these gatherings for the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 10:00 in the morning, 3:30 in the afternoon, and 6:30 in the evening.

We are asking for everyone to help us with this project.

When Karen calls and leaves a message, please call her back promptly and help her find a time that works for you.

These gatherings are an important part of our Commitment To The Body of Christ this upcoming year!

First Communion Class

Let the little children come...

Luke 18:16



At Living Waters, children are welcome to come forward during Holy Communion, either to receive a blessing or to participate in the sacrament.

In May, a First Communion Class (2 sessions, 30-45

minutes per session) will be offered to prepare children for their First Communion. Please notify the church office if you would like your child to participate in these classes.

There is no minimum age-limit for children to participate in the sacrament. The child's parent or guardian, in consultation with the pastor, best determines a child's readiness.

Small Group Fair Held

By Gayle Backiel

Thank you very much to all the people who were involved in the Small Group Fair. Leaders put together displays to show what they are doing in their small groups.

People manned the displays to explain to others what they were all about and people came to the fair and checked out the different displays. Some signed up to take part or help in the groups.

The fair was an overall success. The goal was to show what we do and to encourage others to join us. Many people did! Thank you.

If you saw something at the fair that you would like to get involved in, but did not sign up, look in the Directory of Ministries and Small Groups for contact information. It is not too late.



From Here To Eternity

"A Will—The Moment of Truth"

Our current sermon series is called, "One Month To Live." We have been considering what is involved in living the no-regrets life. Each of us faces the "moment of truth" when we become actively involved in our will.

Memorable events and interests in your life may flash before you as you recall those people and situations most meaningful to you. Your family and loved ones and your own church where your faith was been nurtured during your life will be of primary concern.

We understand that many who are part of our church family at Living Waters have strong emotional ties with churches "up north." But, we know that we have been important in your faith journey as well.

So, as you make your will (or as you review and update your will), please remember that your will is your plan for the disposition of the fruits of an entire life (and life's work), as well as the welfare and future of loved ones and the strengthening of causes and institutions that have meant most in your life.

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

Celebrating 40 Years...

Be on the lookout for details for the Youth Fair which will be held on Sunday, April 27. Patti Pauley, Director of Youth, is planning this special event for our youth to show some of the projects they have created throughout the Sunday School Year. Watch the bulletin for more information.

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.

April 1 Laela Gullickson
April 2 Norma Van Harn, Jerry Wehmeyer
April 4 Jim Godshall
April 6 Dakota Buck
April 9 Bill Hanson, Mary Wagner
April 11 Paul Cartwright
April 12 Joel Hoepfner, Rita Norton
April 13 Dennis Stankiewicz
April 16 Barb Cartwright
April 20 Gayle Backiel, Jake Mendez
April 21 Caleb Hess
April 24 Marty Savard
April 28 Rhyder Kolb
April 30 Rodney Guinn

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 and via email distribution.

To have information included in the newsletter, please write your content and send it to Judy Johnson, editor and publisher: 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.

Special Thanks

To . . .Valerie Biassi...for donating the new intinction communion plates. They will be used on Easter Sunday for the first time. These new plates were created at the North Port Art Center, Pottery Room. Thank you, Valerie.

To . . .Barb Cartwright...for creating new white cloths for the communion table to replace those which have been stained or are showing wear. Thank you, Barb.

To . . .Our Snowbirds...Your attendance and support help make Living Waters a vibrant congregation in North Port and beyond. Like the apostle Paul said many times to his congregations, "we are truly blessed by your presence." Our prayers go with you as you travel to your northern homes, and as always, we look forward to your return. Thank you, Snowbirds.

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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