



# ***The Messenger***

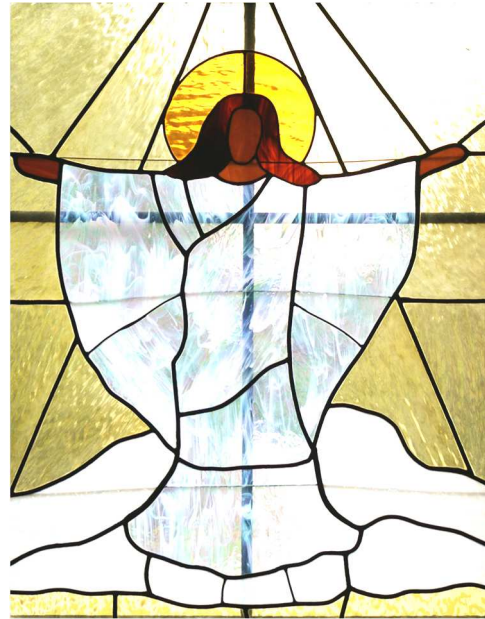
*News about our church,  
our ministries and our people*

*April 2015*

*Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool*

**Jesus Christ is risen today,  
Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day,  
Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross,  
Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss.  
Alleluia!.**

From the Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today  
Written by Charles Wesley in the 18th Century



## **The Season of Easter—It's More than a Day**

Even though we tend to think of a Holy Day as just that—a day—the season of Easter in the church year is a bit longer. Our liturgical color is white. This year, the last Sunday of Easter is May 17 and that is followed by Pentecost on May 24 when we switch our color to red.

The season of Easter is the high point of the Christian church year. And we may say phrases such as: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! throughout the whole season. We may sing Easter kinds of songs during this time. Can you think of a better thing to hold on to than the fact that Jesus died and rose just for you?

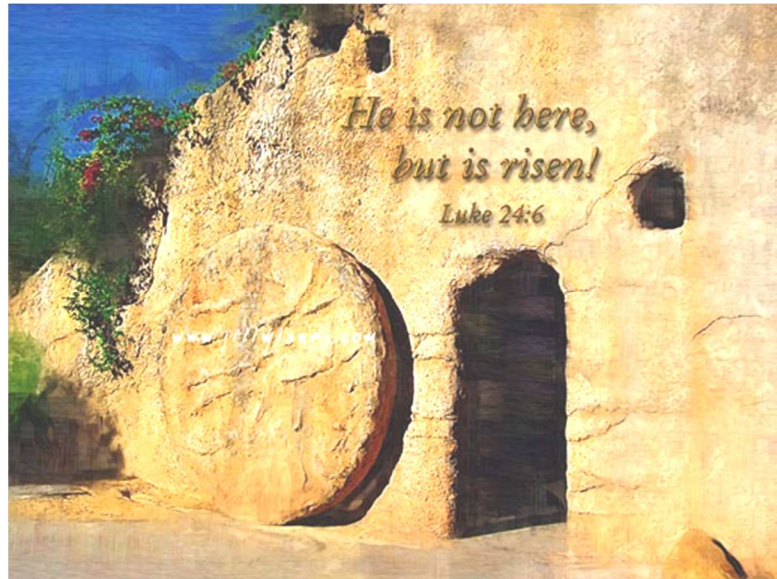
In our culture, we often hear the word “awesome” used to describe some rather mundane things. But the word “awesome” truly applies to this part of our Christian life.

## From the Pastor

By: Pastor Dell Shiell

*While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, [Jesus] said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"*

(Luke 24:41 NSRV)



He is risen! He is risen, Indeed!

On Easter Sunday, we greet one another with this joyous affirmation of our faith in the risen Lord Jesus.

I am always intrigued by the initial reaction to the news of the resurrection in the Bible: joy mingled with disbelief, doubt, and wonder.

A locked door did not prevent Jesus from entering the room where the disciples huddled in fear. Jesus came to his disciples—not as a ghost—but with *"flesh and bones"* (Luke 24:40).

The risen Lord Jesus stood before his disciples with a body that could eat food! *(They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.* Luke 24:42-43)

As important to Easter as were the "hearing, seeing, touching, and eating," before the first witnesses to the resurrection began to share their witness with others, it was necessary

for Jesus to *"open their minds to understand the scriptures"* (Luke 24:45) and to equip them with the *"power... of the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 1:8).

It isn't enough to experience God working in our lives. We need God to open our minds to understand that God is at work in and around us—and through us. We need God to guide and empower us to do God's will.

We need Easter to become part of our lives and the lives of the people around us, today.

Jesus is risen, indeed. And Jesus is making an impact on our world through you and me.

Now Easter includes: God's Work...Our Hands...and Our Witness to the Risen Lord!

I am happy you have joined us for worship this Easter Sunday. May Jesus complete the miracle of Easter *in you*, as well as *for you!*

*In Christ,  
Pastor Dell*



## **Thanks to You... We're on Our Way to Decking the Halls with New Décor**

What a great time we had on March 22. There was Michael Hirst and his wife providing music for listening and for singing along. Then there was this great food, prepared by Chef Backiel and his many helpers. And then, there was the dessert drawing. We asked for spectacular desserts and we got them! Not one of the more than 75 people who attended left thinking they had to go home and get more to eat!

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this event a wonderful success. We raised \$371 toward purchasing new Christmas decorations. We have more to go, but we are off to a fine start.

## **Women of ELCA—Rachel's Day Observance**

By Sheri Moehling

On Sunday, May 3, we will be observing Rachel's Day. Jeremiah 31:15-17 teaches us about the mourning of the young Jewish women at the death of their children from the hand of Herod. It states that, "Rachel is weeping for her children. Rachel refusing all solace." We commemorate this day for all the children in the world who suffer from abuse, poverty, and endure natural disasters or war. We pray for justice and encourage our leaders to action on their behalf.

Our Love Offering for this year is an extension of this work. The Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center puts volunteers and professionals together to help children of abuses of many kinds. They provide comfort, examinations, and advocacy partners for trials, counseling, and many more services. Remember them this year when you send a delegate to the Fall Gathering. A list of in-kind gifts will be on the bulletin board in Hanson Hall.

Check out the Women's bulletin board for updates and "save the date" for coming events in 2015.

Sheri Moehling, Synodical Board Member  
Love Offering Coordinator



## Healing Service – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

*“Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master.”*

James 5:13-14 (The Message)

At 11:00 am, on the third Wednesday of each month, we have a Service of Prayer for Healing at the church (With Anointing of Oil and Home Communion). This is for all in need of healing—of body, soul, and mind. Join us. You are welcome.

## With Voices of Singing

By Judy Johnson

Please join me in thanking the members of the adult choir who faithfully gathered on Thursday afternoons to rehearse and on Sundays to sing at our 10:00 worship. We managed to make some beautiful music and have a little fun in the process. We will be ending our regular season on Sunday, April 19 this year. This year, our year-around vocalists will gather occasionally throughout the summer to provide special music during our services from May—October. If you would like to join us, please see me for further details.



### Our members for the 2014-2015 season have been:

Brigitte Richter  
Donna Nelson  
Barb Cartwright  
Linda Lambert  
Ginny Strueder

LouAnn Olsen  
Martha Limburg  
Char Dewitt  
Gayle Backiel  
Jane Fundyga

Rick Backiel  
Pastor Joel Olsen  
Karl Mortensen  
Ray Fundyga

### And special thanks to:

Pastor James Limburg who has enhanced our choir and congregational singing with his trombone playing.

We are indeed blessed to have so much talent within our midst.  
Martin Luther would be pleased with our efforts!

## Seniors Connecting To Joy Part 3 of 3

By: Evelyn Mueller, Director, A Special Time

### EXERCISE

The benefits of exercise are endless. Exercise benefits us not only to lose weight or for weight control but it promotes one's social, psychological, physiological, physical health as well as improves our mental and emotional function.

Exercise can relieve pain, assist with recovery from illness. It allows us to meet new people, strengthens our confidence, improves posture, reduces risk of disease, lowers blood pressure, reduces anxiety/depression and stress, stimulates more energy, boosts concentration, improves the immune system, increases good cholesterol, leaves one with a sense of well being and general happiness and increases life expectancy by an average of 7 years. (A study by the New England Journal of Medicine.)

Additionally, one can receive better quality of sleep, improve cognitive functioning and increase enthusiasm for life. Too much exercise can have negative effects, so make sure you always talk to your physician before starting an exercise program and know what your physical limitations are. So, let's get moving!

### SONGS & MUSIC

Music has a power over us like nothing else in the world. The benefits to listening to your favorite tunes are also endless. Music stirs every emotion and can enhance and enrich our lives in so many ways. Music revs up

your metabolism, helps cope with pain and our perception of the intensity of pain, increases endurance during exercise, while slow music can produce greater relaxation, and enhance recovery.

When we listen to music, so much is happening to our bodies than the simple auditory processing. It releases the feel-good chemical dopamine. Music promotes imagination and can make us feel united with others and the ability to connect us to one another.

Music relieves anxiety better than drugs. Folks who whistle or hum to themselves are generally happier. Failing communication occurred during my mother-in-law's battle with Alzheimer's disease. She could not connect three words together in a sentence that made any sense. But when she heard music she could sing and remember every word to her favorite songs without fail. One might ask themselves why is this and how can that be? I do not have the answer, but, it makes me want to sing.

I hope this information causes your tail to wag and adds enthusiasm to your wag.

References from my research include Creative Forecasting, [livestrong.com](http://livestrong.com), [survivalinsight.com](http://survivalinsight.com), Dr. Christina Hibbert, New England Journal of Medicine and Dr. Mercora.



## And the Winner Is....Cut-Ups News

By Carol Lundquist

The Cut Ups would like to thank everyone who supported the quilt raffle fund raiser we held during the month of March.

**The beautiful Morning Star quilt made by Carol Piltz was won by Beverly Turner and Tony Gracia, who are friends of the church. Thanks to your generosity we made \$617.00 on the raffle, and will also receive \$250.00 from Thrivent for having the fund raiser.**

These funds will be used to purchase the



By Susan D'Amico, Preschool Director

Thanks to the congregation for the wonderful response for our Little Caesars Pizza Kit fundraiser. We sold 109 kits and raised over \$550. Again, thank you for supporting Living Waters Preschool!

Last month, the children sang in church and did a wonderful job! They love Chapel and like to sing the songs they've learned.

For April, we have our Easter party with the children. They will color eggs, have an egg hunt and learn about how Jesus died for our sins. We will also start planning for our graduation/moving up program at the end of May.

eight rolls of batting we will need for the current quilting year which runs from February 2015 to February 2016.

Since our group is mostly made up of snow birds, we will stop meeting in mid April and begin meeting again in mid October. Donations of fabric, sheets, curtain panels, yarn for tying, and other materials are always welcome, and may be dropped off at the church during office hours.

Please direct any questions you may have to Carol Lundquist at 906-362-5848 or Wanda Boeck at 941-426-2471.



### An Easter Lily Story

Often called the "white-robed apostles of hope," lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and deep distress. Churches continue this tradition at Easter time by banking their altars and surrounding their crosses with masses of Easter Lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.

## Spring Gathering of Women of the ELCA

By Gayle Backiel

The Spring Gathering of the Mid-gulf Conference of Women of the ELCA was held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Port Charlotte on March 21, 2015. Registration, which was prepared by Emmanuel Lutheran in Venice, showed a total of 57 women in attendance. Nineteen of them were from Living Waters. That is even more than the host church!

The day opened with a litany presented by Faith Lutheran, Sarasota.

At the business meeting, elections were held. Gayle Backiel and Kris Dines were elected as co-presidents of the conference. Betty Drechsel was elected as Vice President, Joyce Rauschenberger from Hope Lutheran, Port Charlotte, stayed on as Secretary. Sheri Moehling was elected to the Synodical women's Organization last November.

The programs for the day were prepared by Living Waters Lutheran Church. A Bible

study was conducted by Redeemer Lutheran, Bradenton with the theme from Joshua 15:24b, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

After Holy Trinity served luncheon, there were presentations. First, Bethany Matzke told us about 'Seeds for the Soul' who manufacture, package and ship seeds to third world countries to plant the seed of the gospel, and to help them be successful farmers of vegetables. We also had a fun presentation from 'the singing pastor', Pastor Tom Barbret. He takes old-time songs from the 50s, 60s, and 70s and gives them gospel lyrics.

The afternoon concluded with a communion service officiated by Hope Lutheran, Port Charlotte's Pastor Jen Schaeffer.

It was an uplifting, fun day with a chance to meet and greet friends both old and new.

### Youth News

By Patty Pauley

#### Greetings from the youth:

First, I am looking for a **volunteer to teach Sunday school April 12**. I am spending some time with my brother over the weekend **and again on May 24 and May 30** when we are going on a vacation with my sister.

Second, this has been another great year, we've had some great lessons, and are planning a big summer splash the last day of Sunday which is the first Sunday in June. We are planning a few outings over the summer for the kids, so please make sure I have your phone numbers and email addresses so we can keep in touch with dates.

And a big thank you to all the congregation for your love and support of our youth.



## From Here to Eternity *A Gift of Stock*

By Pastor Dell and Diane Shiehl



What will the stock market do this year? Perhaps the best answer is, "It will go up and down."

While there was a very substantial increase during 1990-2000 and decreases during 2002 and 2008, the total return from 1990 to 2010 was approximately 6%.

Longer holding periods have generally resulted in higher total returns. The total stock return for seven decades between 1940 and 2010 was in excess of 10%.

Because many stocks have increased in value over time, you may hold stocks with substantial appreciation. A gift of appreciated stock to Living Waters provides two major benefits. First, there is a charitable deduction for the value of the stock. Second, Living Waters does not pay tax on the sale of the stock so you bypass the capital gain.

Also, if you have a large gain or substantial income, you may want to offset that gain or income with a charitable deduction through a gift of stock.

Most stock is held in an account at a brokerage firm. Relatively few people now wish to hold the actual certificates in their safety deposit box. If you hold actual certificates, you may mail the certificate and a signed stock power in separate envelopes to Living Waters.

Because most stock is held by the brokerage firm, the stock is transferred directly from the account at the brokerage firm to an account for Living Waters.

For more information, about the tax advantages of gifting stock to Living Waters consult your broker or accountant. For more information about how to transfer a gift of stock to Living Waters, please contact the church office.

Remember, The Living Waters Fund will "help" with the cost of a will when you include our church in your will or estate plans.

### 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: June 1, 2015

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



*On a personal note...*

## ***Happy Birthday To You***

- Apr. 1 Laela Gullickson
- Apr. 2 Norma Van Harn,  
Jerry Wehmeyer
- Apr. 4 Jim Godshall
- Apr. 6 Dakota Buck
- Apr. 9 Bill Hanson, Mary Wagner
- Apr. 10 Sharon Skelley
- Apr. 11 Paul Cartwright
- Apr. 12 Joel Hoepfner, Rita Norton
- Apr. 13 Dennis Stankiewicz
- Apr. 15 Bob Carson
- Apr. 16 Barb Cartwright
- Apr. 20 Gayle Backiel; Jake Mendez
- Apr. 21 Caleb Hess
- Apr. 24 Marty Savard
- Apr. 28 Rhyder Kolb

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

### **Farewell Snow-** **birds...**

We wish you safe travels and happy summer days. As always, we await your return next season. Thank you for being an integral part of Living Waters.



### **Plan Ahead for the 2015 Preschool Golf Tournament November 14**

Mark your calendar now to play in our annual golf tournament to benefit the Living Waters Preschool. The event is scheduled for November 14 at the Port Charlotte Golf Club. Do you know of a business that might like to be a sponsor or provide a prize? Contact Larry Nelson with your ideas.



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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](mailto:pastor@livingwaterslutheran.com)