



# *The Messenger*

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

*August 2014*

*Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool*

## **Save the Date To Celebrate**

Living Waters will celebrate its  
40th anniversary on

**Sunday, December 7, 2014**

There will be one service at 10:00, special guests and special music. We will also enjoy a brunch after the service. Don't miss this festive event. Celebrate our journey of 40 years and look to the future for more ways to serve our Lord.

## **Pre-Service Hymn Sing Resumes August 10**

Loosen up those vocal cords and get ready to sing your favorite hymns before the service on August 10. We start singing at 9:50—just 10 minutes before the service. Arrive a bit early so you can look up the number of your favorite song in the red hymnal.



## **S.O.S. SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 7, 2014**

By Ellen Hanson

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is designated by the ELCA to be a nationwide dedicated day of service. It will be held on September 7, 2014. Many congregations across the nation have signed up to participate in this special event. Ideas for participation range from cleaning streets and parks to visiting with residents in assisted living facilities.

Living Waters Lutheran Church has signed up to be a participant in this important day also.

**Our theme is S.O.S.  
Stock Our Shelves Sunday**

On this Sunday we are asking everyone to participate by bringing items that will help to Stock Our Shelves for the Community Meals program. As we get closer to September 7, the community meals team will be speaking to us about what they need for this important program in our community.

Shortly after September 7, every congregation that participates will have an opportunity to share their experience and the impact it will make in communities around the country. It will be exciting to celebrate what God accomplishes through the many parts of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Watch for more details on how you can support our local program.

## Distribution of the Church Constitution and Organization Documents

By David Lanning

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) we have a Constitution that provides information about the establishment and operation of our Church. This document conforms with the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Last fall we made some amendments to our document as requested by our Synod. On November 24, 2013 our amended constitution was approved by the congregation. Also, last fall the Congregation approved our Church Organization document after a review of our church Mission.

The Church Organization document includes a "Continuing Resolution" as defined in the Constitution; hence the two documents provide important descriptions and guidance for our Church. A valuable addition to this information is the brochure describing the Small Groups activities.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

By Char DeWitt



We continue to meet throughout the summer on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00pm.

We sent ten prayer shawls with Kris and Sheri to the W/ELCA triennial gathering so our ministry is spreading beyond our doors once again. If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please let us know. They do not have to be a member of our congregation.

This note is published to let people of the congregation know where you can obtain copies of the

Constitution and Organization Documents. A few copies of the Documents will be available in the Narthex together with the Small Groups Brochure. Also either of the Documents can be sent to you as an attachment to an e-mail. Please contact Kris in the Church Office if you would like to have an e-mail copy, her e-mail address is [kris@livingwaterslutheran.com](mailto:kris@livingwaterslutheran.com)

The computer file names for these documents are:

**Constitution of the Lutheran Church of the Living Waters 2013 approved** and **Church Org 2013approved w App**



### Our Favorite Harpist Returns

On August 17, Tasha Robinson, the professional harpist, will once again bring her beautiful music to our worship.

Tasha will play the prelude, special music, music during the service and the postlude. She is with us through the generosity of one of our members.



## Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention

By Gayle Backiel

On July 24-27, 2014, twenty-seven hundred women of all ages and from every state in the union and the Caribbean attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Triennial of WELCA in Charlotte, North Carolina. As the name implies, the convention is held every three years. Fifty-five women were from our Florida Bahamas Synod; three of us were from Living Waters: Kris Dines, Sheri Moehling and Gayle Backiel.

This was a terrific experience, beginning with a worship service on Thursday evening. How wonderful to be part of a group of 2,700 women all in one place, worshipping our Lord. After the service we were given the opportunity to meet Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA.



The theme Bible verse for the weekend was Isaiah 58:12. "Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairers of the breach, the restorers of streets to live in." All the speakers expanded on that theme to give hope and direction to the

women attending the triennial.

On both Friday and Saturday mornings the day began with speakers and was sprinkled with great music by local musicians. Opening remarks on Friday were given by Bishop Rev. Elizabeth Eaton. Dr. Diane Jacobson was our Bible Study leader for both days, focusing on the visit between Mary, mother of Jesus, and Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist.

Friday's featured speaker was Susan Sparks. She is a pastor at Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York, author of the book, *Laugh your Way to Grace*, and is currently touring the country with a Rabbi and a Muslim who together are showing America that humor heals. She is also teaching a comedy course to clergy of every faith. We were able to laugh as we learned.

Saturday's featured speaker was Becca Stevens who brought a servant's heart to our multi-generational dialogue. She is an Episcopal priest and is founder of Magdalene & Thistle Farms. This is an organization that stands with women who are recovering from violence, addiction, prostitution and life on the streets. She spoke with compassion and humor and showed how the organization is standing in the breach and repairing the streets to help these women. She proudly wore a T-shirt that said "Love Heals."

The Triennial also featured 8 different workshops in the afternoons, covering areas of life

from prenatal care to widowhood and many other topics.

Besides these excellent learning opportunities there was a huge room of exhibits called the DOR with everything from quilts to prayer shawls to organizations which help women victims of trafficking to aids in teaching children about Jesus to items available for sale from the Holy Land.

There were 'in kind' gifts for local charities as well as Lutheran World Relief. Collected for 'in kind gifts' were 15,877 phone card minutes, toiletry items, socks & underwear, quilts and quilt kits, 1,508 prayer shawls, and gift cards worth \$14,785.

We also had time to see a bit of the local scenery. Charlotte is a beautiful city. We walked about 7 blocks from the hotel to the convention center and never felt anything but safe. There were 3 or 4 restaurants in every block. During the day the streets were filled with business people and tourists. We saw waterfalls in nearly every block and jazz bands playing on the corners. At night, bright neon lights lined the streets which were filled with college students ready to party. We took a bus tour one afternoon to learn the history of the city and took a horse and carriage ride in the evening to see the beautiful city lights in a quiet setting.

The next Triennial will be in Minneapolis, MN in three years. Let's start saving our pennies for another wonderful experience with women of the ELCA.

## **L.W. Memorial Garden Vandalized**

By Paul Cartwright

If you haven't walked in the Memorial Garden adjacent to the church, you should check it out. This restful garden contains benches, statues, a memorial brick path and is a comforting place to relax and contemplate. Central in the garden is a marble cross with the words "IN MEMORY OF OUR LOVING FRIENDS" engraved on it.

Over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend some vandalism occurred in the garden. The 4 foot high marble cross was found lying on the ground and bro-

## **The Symbolism Behind the Placement of Statuary in Our Memorial Garden**

By Carol Sutton and Judy Johnson

Planning a memorial garden requires thought and knowledge of Christian symbolism and beliefs. You might find it interesting to know the reasoning behind the placement of the various items in our own memorial garden.

The entrance to the memorial garden is on the southwest side of the church. West is the side of the setting sun, hence death. The south end, where the sun dial is located, may be considered symbolically the domain of time. The cross near the entrance reminds us of dying with Christ: "Through the grave and gate of death, you have opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers."

At the northeast corner, a statue of the risen Christ symbolically welcomes believers into eternity—east being the side of the rising sun, hence resurrection.

The garden is primarily intended as a place for scattering the ashes of members, associate members, their spouses or children and those who by their regular worship and support of the congregation have become a part of our fellowship. Remains are scattered and are not buried in a container. It is also intended as a place for prayer and meditation. Small worship services, weddings and education classes may be conducted there. Engraved bricks commemorate those whose ashes have been scattered in the garden.

ken. Not only the cross was damaged, but some of the concrete statues in the garden had broken parts – wings and praying hands of the cherub were broken off and the statue of Jesus in the corner was destroyed. A police report has been filed.

A plan to utilize the broken marble cross within the garden in a different way has been decided by the church council. It is felt the concrete cherub statue can be repaired, but the Jesus statue is no longer usable.

If anyone would like to help fund this restoration, it would be appreciated. Any donations should be designated to "restore the Memorial Garden."





## Sunday School Lessons to Focus on Exploring the Bible

by Patty Pauley

Sunday School is right around the corner. We will begin our fall sessions on Sunday, September 7.

You won't want to miss out on the exciting adventure we will be going on!

Are you ready to be a Bible Explorer? Then stop by and get your gear as we get ready to head out on an expedition that promises to be filled with exciting adventures. We will meet lots of people along the way, and share some stories (parables) around the campfire as we travel through the Bible. I hope to see you at the campsite on September 7.

## Sunday School Registration is September 7

We will be doing our registration the first day of Sunday School, so moms, dads, grandmas, and grandpas, please plan on spending a few extra minutes after church to fill out the form.

We need just the basic information: name, address, emergency contact, and medical info such as allergies.

Questions? Contact Patty at

941-429-2303

Or: [queenmom6@verizon.net](mailto:queenmom6@verizon.net)



*Celebrating*  
**40**  
*Years*  
**1974—2014**

## What Was Going on in the Summer of 1974?

In addition to the founding of Living Waters Lutheran Church 40 years ago, you might remember these significant events or, if you were a wee one at that time, you may have read about them!

On August 9, 1974, Richard Nixon resigned as President of the United States following the Watergate break in and the issues surrounding it. Gerald Ford was sworn in to succeed him.

Gary Player, legendary golfer, won the 103rd British Open.

The Carpenters had a hit song: I Won't Last a Day Without You.

Billy Graham, called the Messenger of Hope, organized a conference of international evangelists in Switzerland in an effort to pool worldwide resources, outreaches and initiatives.

*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.

Aug. 3 LuAnn Wegener  
Aug. 5 Genn Mendez  
Aug. 7 Barbara Williams  
Aug. 9 Pat Dinges, Joe Moreno  
Aug. 10 David Bridegam  
Aug. 11 Marianne Oines  
Aug. 13 Karen Bridegam  
Aug. 15 Ben Ryder  
Aug. 17 Caren Karns, Bob Oines  
Aug. 19 Joan Parcels  
Aug. 23 Zach May  
Aug. 25 Valerie Biassi  
Aug. 27 Terri Helland

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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.

**In Sympathy...**Jeanne Hobart passed away on Sunday, July 20. Our sympathies are with her daughter, Morgan Hobart, and son, Logan Hobart. Cards can be sent to Jeanne's home address: 5703 Talbrook Rd. North Port, FL 34287. Her memorial service will be held at the church on Monday, August 11 at 11:00.

**Thank you...**Karl Mortensen sends his thanks to everyone for your cards and prayers as he recovered from his accident on the way home from North Port to Branchport, New York. He says he is nearly completely healed. He has asked that we remember in our prayers his son, Jim, who was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident in July. Jim is expected to make a complete recovery but will be off work for several months.

**From Judy Johnson...**I would like to offer my sincere and profuse thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards, phone calls and email messages during my absence for back surgery. I am resuming my duties as director of worship and music on August 10. The healing process will go on yet for several months and I need to be cautious about what I do. But, most of all, I need to be patient about all of it. And you know how hard that is!

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**[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)