



The Messenger

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

August 2012

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

About This Issue...

- What about the beast, the number 7, and all that symbolism in the Book of Revelation?
- An update from Pastor Dell on page 2
- Meals on Wheels real life story on page 4

Special Note:

The September and October issues of *The Messenger* will be combined and will be published on September 2.

Please submit your articles by Tuesday, August 21. See the back page for details.

Judy Johnson

Join Us For a Study in Revelation

On Sunday, August 19, you are invited to join the 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Group as we begin a series of sessions on the last book of the Bible, the Revelation of St. John. We will start by looking at the dominant way in which Revelation is read and interpreted in our day, which is to see it as "history written in advance," providing 21st Century readers with a "blueprint" to be able to date the end of the world and the second coming of Christ as being close at hand.

This sort of interpretation was most recently seen in Harold Camping's billboards across America, setting the date for May 21, 2011, but it is a common way of reading Revelation by many other interpreters as well.

In this class at Living Waters, we will look at an alternative way to read and interpret of the Book of Revelation. This way seeks to understand what it meant to its original readers/hearers in the 1st Century, AD. Then, when we have a sense of what John was trying to convey to that generation of Christians, we can see how this book, sometimes called the "most misunderstood book in the Bible" can be helpful for us, as Christians, today.

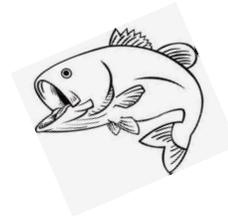
If you would like to join us, I invite you to take time to read the Book of Revelation for yourself over the next few weeks, so you can have a taste of its symbolism. Then, for the first session on August 19, try to find time to read at least Chapters 1-3 of Revelation as we begin our study together.

Hope to see you there.

Pastor Carl Hansen



A Message From the Pastor



Greetings from northern Minnesota!

As I write, Diane and I are in the middle of the first month (July) of our three-month sabbatical. We live in a cabin Diane's brother, Mark, built. We refer to it as "The Hytte" (which is Norwegian for "cabin").

Prior to this sabbatical, I preached a sermon series, "7 Holy Habits." The purpose of this series was to lift up seven habits that can help us grow (i.e., mature) as Christian disciples. For this sermon series, I prepared seven brochures to summarize what is involved in each habit. During my sabbatical, I added these brochures to our church website. (www.LivingWatersLutheran.com, "7 Holy Habits" listed in the menu bar).

It is important to take our "holy habits" with us wherever we go.

One such holy habit is weekly worship. At this time, Diane and I have been away from Living Waters for two Sundays. The first Sunday, we worshipped at Trinity Lutheran in Debs, Minnesota, one of the two rural churches served by Pastor Jay and Carol Borchert. The Borcherts were guests at the Beerbower House during March 2012. They send their greetings. The second Sunday, we worshipped with Diane's brother's family at Bemidji United Methodist. What a privilege to worship with family—both the Schultz family and our Christian brothers and sisters

in this Methodist congregation!

Another holy habit is giving a tithe. While we are "away," Diane and I continue to take advantage of Simply Giving to keep up the habit of giving our tithe at Living Waters. This automatic debit gifting program is such an easy way to create and maintain the habit of giving to support the work of the church.

I've also had the pleasure of taking some time for praying and meditating while fishing with my brother-in-law who doesn't approve a lot of conversation while we are engaged in the serious business of fishing. Hah! (BTW, I am happy to report I caught some fish for our upcoming family fish fry when all our children and grandchildren join us here this coming weekend.)

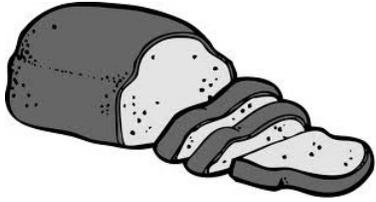
Wherever you are these days, please take time to cultivate your faith and life as a Christian. Worship at church with others. And continue to support the mission and ministry of Living Waters.

Also, I invite you to view and spend some time with the brochure series, "7 Holy Habits," which are now readily available at LivingWatersLutheran.com.

In Christ,
Pastor Dell

Welcome Rev. Ian Green on August 19

Rev. Ian Green and his wife Rachel from Yeovil, England, will be with us on August 19 as he and Pastor Dell do a pastor exchange on that day, each delivering the message at one another's church. Rev. Green is Pastor of Yeovil Baptist Church. Pastor Hansen will preside at our service.



Cookin' for the Community

Hello from the Community Dinner Kitchen Gang.

Once again, we would like to thank everyone for your continuing support, which allows Living Waters to offer this great ministry.

You are all invited to come in and help or share an afternoon of fellowship with our friends. The sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex. With all the wonderful monetary donations, we stocked the freezer with meat. God is Good!

The bread & pastry, and health kit ministries are all doing great and Ron has been busy fixing and handing out bikes. We are planning to donate some of our extra toiletries to the Back Pack Angels here in North Port to help them get ready for the upcoming school year.

The Value of A Special Time

Alzheimer's. We don't know what causes it; we don't understand why the victims do what they do; we can get really frustrated trying to care for a loved one who has it.

Did you know that one in eight older Americans has Alzheimer's disease? Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the U.S. and the only cause of death among the top 10 that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed.

Do what you can to support our ministry, **A Special Time**, that helps Alzheimer's victims and their caregivers.

Lock 'em In

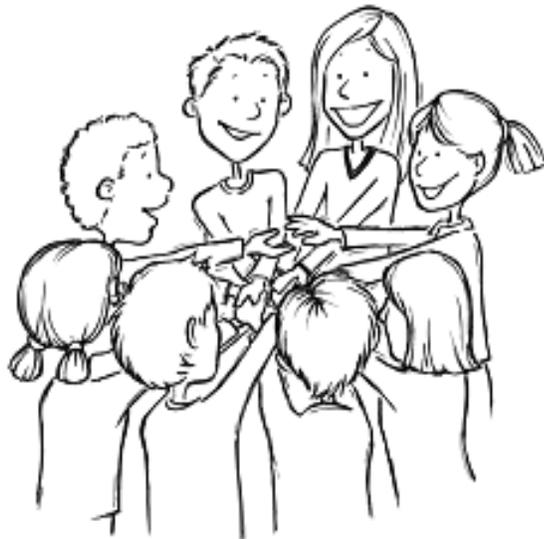
On Friday, August 10, the youth will be having a Lock In. Bring a towel, dry clothes, pillow and blanket and get ready to have a great time with your friends!

Lots of activities are planned—games will be played both inside and outside. Keep your calendar open, invite some friends and come join in on all the fun.

Pizza and snacks will be supplied!

All the fun starts at 5:30pm with arrival. Children will need to be picked up at 7:30am on Saturday, August 11.

For more information, Contact Patty Pauley at: queenmom6@verizon.net or Kari Reece at mkhn@yahoo.com. Or you can call them at 941-429-2303.



Thoughts for Living...

**Look back and thank God.
Look forward and trust God.
Look around and serve God.
Look within and find God!**

-Author Unknown-



Such Interesting People... Such Rewarding Experiences

A personal narrative by Jane and Ray Fundyga

Which would you rather be, fortunate or blessed? We are a volunteer driver/delivery team for North Port Meals on Wheels. Monday through Saturday, six teams deliver hot meals to clients on six routes in North Port. Like most teams, we deliver meals once a week. Our day is Thursday, Route #2. Here's why we do this.

Our clients receive the Meals on Wheels service for many reasons and for varying durations. Our route grows or shrinks, but we have our "regulars" and they have become very dear to us. With a brief visit each week we have made some new friends. Every team knows that they may be the only human contact for that client that day.

Right now, our core group ranges in age from the mid 80s to the mid 90s. On Valentine's Day we give a red rose to each of the ladies. If we know their birth date, we bring flower arrangements to the ladies and home-made cookies to the gentlemen. Ray sings "Happy Birthday" to them. So, what makes them so special?

Our clients remind us of the goodness that is within each of us...and of the greatness that is there as well. One of the gentlemen is a WWII veteran of North Africa, Sicily and Normandy. He must be the repository for the world's corniest jokes. His sister is also a client. They grew up in D.C. We spent a part of our married lives working and living in nearby Maryland so we have similar memories.

Some of the ladies worked in industry while the men were overseas. Another lady is a Sinatra fan and serious jazz devotee, whose

brother played clarinet for Tommy Dorsey. One of the gentlemen escaped tyranny in Europe and became a highly regarded senior executive in the U.S. Civil Service.

Meals on Wheels always needs volunteer regular and substitute drivers as well as cooks. We started our adventure six years ago as substitute drivers and now would not willingly give up our route or our friends.

If you live in North Port, driver/delivery service takes no more than 2.5 hours. The volunteer cooks usually take a morning. We were blessed with a wonderful woman who made the best stuffing, according to clients. She suffered a stroke and is unable to continue, but will always be fondly remembered as "The Stuffing Lady"! You never know how you will touch someone's life or they yours.

The contact person for volunteering for Meals on Wheels is Joan Cain (875-4429). Know someone who could benefit from being a client? Audrey Norman is the contact person for new clients (426-5906).

Can't volunteer? Donations are always needed no matter how small. Meals on Wheels depends on grants and donations plus a monthly fee from the clients. To donate, please contact either of these ladies.

Blessed or fortunate? If you would rather feel blessed, please join us as volunteers.

It's a Fact: Meals on Wheels originated in Great Britain during WWII and was introduced into the United States in 1954. Today, there are active programs in Australia, the U.K., Canada and the U.S.

Just an Hour...On a Sunday Morning...With Kids

Sunday School begins on September 9 and that means we need teachers. Could you be one?

Under the new program begun by Pastor Dell and Diane, you can volunteer for just one Sunday rather than making a commitment for an entire season. From September 9 through September 30, class is held at 9:00. Beginning in October, when we go to two services, it is held at 10:00.

Teacher materials are easy to follow and require little or no preparation. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in Hanson Hall. Not sure about volunteering? Sign up with a friend and team teach. Why not give it a try?



P.U.S.H. Café

We are having a lot of fun at P.U.S.H. Café. We have shared some great messages, music and good eats!

Come to Hanson Hall the first Saturday of the month 6:30-7:30pm.

Everyone Welcome.



Women In Action

We would like to extend our appreciation to all who have contributed toiletries for distribution at the community meals. Some of these have also been added to the Backpack Program and we cannot thank you enough for helping in this ministry.

Now, some of the needs are changing. We need bug repellent, water bottles, deodorants for men and women, and sun screen of any kind.

Questions? See Sheri Moehling.

Save the Date

November 9, 10 & 11, 2012

"In God's Hands"

Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization

Fall Gathering — Lake Yale



Only \$180 for the weekend with lodging and meals included. Or commute at a reduced price. Registration forms, workshops offered, and other information will be available soon on the website at www.flawelca.com. See the video of the 2011 Fall Gathering on the website now. Living Waters contacts: Sheri Moehling, Gayle Backiel, Pat Keller, Kris Dines.

On a personal note...

From Fields Of Grace...We delivered all the back-to-school donations to Social Services on July 9. They were thrilled. Thank you so much for your support .

Special Visitors in July...We were pleased to welcome Pastor Charlie and Pastor Karen Strietelmeier to our service on July 29. Pastor Charlie left Living Waters in 2002 to serve Augustana Lutheran, Hobart, IN; Pastor Karen serves Zion Lutheran, Bristol, IN. Remember Wooly? He had to stay home to hold down the fort. They send their greetings to all.



“Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God’s presence with a song.”

Psalm 100: 2

Back to School

God’s blessings to our teachers and students of all ages as you return to the classroom this season. May you all experience the joy that only education can bring.

Your talents are a gift from God...use them all to the best of your abilities.

Let your light shine!

Healing Service



The next Healing Service will be led by Pastor Hanson on Wednesday, August 15 at 11:00. Held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Sanctuary, the Healing Service is for those who would like special prayers, communion, and a time of healing for body, soul or spirit.

The Messenger is published monthly by Living Waters Lutheran Church and is 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.

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Office Hours:

May 1-Aug. 15: 9:00 am-Noon, Mon. - Thurs.

Aug.16-Sept: 9:00 am-2:00 pm, 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