



The Messenger

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

July 2014

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

Welcome Our Guest Pastor for July & August: Pastor Tom and Ginger Smith and Ginger Smith From Georgia

(The following article was written by Pastor Smith.)

Dear Friends,

I want to begin by saying what a joy and privilege it is for me to have the opportunity to be part of the ministry of Living Waters Lutheran Church, North Port, for the months of July and August. Being a native Floridian from Miami, I'm somewhat accustomed to your summer humidity and heat. I am even familiar with the weather around North Port through occasional visits with my sister, Sandy Bruner, of Pine Island, located just a stone's throw away from you.

Given the amount of time, energy, and financial resources involved, I suppose it would be worth mentioning something about my educational background. It includes the attainment of a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Miami ('71) – Miami, Fla., Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary ('75) – Columbia, S.C., Doctor of Ministry from Drew University and School of Theology ('93) – Madison, N.J. and Certificate in Christian Spiritual Formation – Columbia Theological Seminary ('03) – Decatur, GA. As a side note, please don't assign me to some re-wiring or electrical project. All that information is long forgotten.

Since my ordination in '75, I've served as pastor of the following congregations: Faith Lutheran Church ('75 – '82) – Tampa, Fla., Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church ('82 – '97) – Concord, N.C., and Christ the King Lutheran Church ('97 – '07).



Since retirement in 2007, I've been interim pastor at Faith Lutheran Church – Cleveland, Ga., in addition to serving as regular supply pastor to the congregations in the greater Atlanta area. Most significantly of all the things that have happened in my life is my dear wife, Anna (Ginger) Virginia Smith, from Buchanan, Va. I first met Ginger in '72 when interviewing for a summer supply post at Ginger's home church, Wheatland Lutheran Church (which, by the way, will be celebrating their 150th anniversary this August). Yes, it was and still is love at first sight. This past May we celebrated our 41st wedding anniversary.

Since retiring (actually I like the term "refiring" instead of "retiring") in 2007, Ginger and I have done a good deal of traveling. Within the last seven years we have crossed the Atlantic Ocean six times and the Pacific Ocean twice, visiting interesting ports of call along the way. Yes, we like cruising! In addition, our journeys by land have taken us to Canada, most of the western states in the U.S., Alaska, the Caribbean, and South America. Finally, down hill snow skiing, biking, and hiking in the woods are some of the other outdoor activities we enjoy doing too keep us active.

Locally, Ginger and I volunteer weekly at The Place (a social service agency near where we live), sing in our church choir, and work with Habitat for Humanity. We have found our "refiring" years full and have discovered that our continued connection with the church and community of Cumming, Ga., an essential part in promoting a sense of wholeness and well being.

All the above is probably far more than you need to know. What is truly important is the time we will be working together with you in proclaiming the Good News of Christ through Living Waters Lutheran Church. Come July 1, Ginger and I look forward in great anticipation to being part of your life.

Peace - Pastor Tom



There's Joy in Giving

Ninth Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA

On July 24th three of our Living Waters women will be attending the Triennial Gathering of WELCA in Charlotte, North Carolina. Kris Dines, Sheri Moehling, and Gayle Backiel will represent Living Waters Church and the Mid-Gulf conference at this very special gathering of women from the US and the Bahamas. Women from Living Waters and the Mid-Gulf Conference are encouraged to provide an offering of “in-kind gifts” (including, store credit cards, phone cards, socks, and health kits). Since Kris and Sheri plan to drive to Charlotte, it would be easiest for them to bring gift cards and phone cards.

The types of gifts requested were decided by working with women in local agencies and Lutheran Social Service of the Carolinas. The in-kind gifts will be distributed among the agencies and organizations who will lead the interactive” learning” opportunities at the gathering.

“In-kind giving” is about relationships and partnerships. “In-kind gifts” are a way for all women to participate in the Triennial Gathering—whether attending the event or not. We give these tangible gifts to meet immediate needs to stand in solidarity with the recipients.

Women of the ELCA (Living Waters) Board
Mid-Gulf Conference board



Grape Juice and Gluten-Free Wafer Now Available. Starting in July we will offer a choice of grape juice and gluten free wafers from Pastor Dell during Communion. Simply indicate your preference when you come forward.

S.O.S. SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

“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.



Cut Ups

The Cut Ups will not meet again until mid-October when all of our snow-bird members start returning to Florida for the winter months.

We would again like to thank all who supported the quilt raffle we had in March. In addition to the money we made selling raffle tickets, we also received 50% matching funds from Thrivent. These funds will allow us to purchase enough batting to take us through the fall and winter months.

The one item we feel would be of great use to us is a serger sewing machine. Some of the fabrics that are donated for making quilts are fabrics that tend to ravel. Quilts made with those fabrics would last longer if they were sewn with a serger rather than a standard sewing machine. If you have a serger you are no longer using, we ask that you consider donating it to the Cut Ups. Donations of material, sheets, or yarn can be dropped off at the church during office hours.

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.

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| 7/03 Deb Poe | 7/17 Jane Braun |
| 7/05 Marie Fortunato | Wayne Wilcox |
| 7/06 JoAnn Dorrough | 7/18 Nick Winiecke |
| 7/08 Courtney Hess | 7/20 Peg Peters |
| 7/09 Brian Pena | 7/27 Stanley Bliss |
| 7/10 Allan Finsted | 7/29 Megan Houser |
| 7/11 Pastor Shiell | Heidi Wehr |
| 7/12 Bethany Moreno | 7/31 Bonnie Jensen |
| 7/13 Ercell Wade | Christine Norton |
| Jairus Wegener | |

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