



# *The Messenger*

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

*June 2012*

**Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool**

## **This Just In...**

Check out the Living Waters Facebook page. The address is: **Facebook.LivingWatersLutheran.com** Do not use "www." as part of the address. Be sure to visit the site every week to see photos and to learn more about our congregation and its ministries.

To submit articles for the next issue of *The Messenger*, please see the back page for details. Remember to send me members-only birthdays, special occasions or other notes for the *On a Personal Note* column.

Judy Johnson

## **Welcome to the Wilsons**

On Sunday, June 10, we say "Hello" to our June Guest Pastor Denny Wilson and his wife Annette. He is in his ninth year of service as the Senior Pastor at the Winamac Nazarene Church in Winamac, Indiana.

Prior to that, Pastor Wilson ministered in Nazarene churches in Germantown, Ohio; Elkton, Kentucky; Trenton, Ohio; and Nashville, Tennessee. He graduated from Trevecca Nazarene University and was ordained in 1996. He received his Masters degree in 2008 from Rochville, University.

The Wilsons have been married for 24 years and have two children—their first grandchild should arrive soon after Christmas. They are enjoying their "empty nest gig" and are exploring new hobbies and activities.

We welcome Pastor Denny and Annette to Living Waters and look forward to getting to know them.

## **Living Waters Pomp... and Circumstance**

The Living Waters Preschool VPK (Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten) class of 2011-2012 graduated on June 1 with a reception following in Hanson Hall. This was the fifth graduating class of our preschool since it was founded in 2007.

Sixteen children graduated this year from VPK. Eight of the graduates attended Living Waters Preschool for two years. The graduates will begin Kindergarten next fall at eight different elementary schools: Venice Christian, Toledo Blade, Glen Allen, Liberty, Cranberry, LaMarque, Imagine, and Island Village Montessori.

Congratulations to the graduates and their families.

"...if you love me, feed my lambs..."

John 21:15





## A Message From the Pastor

*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. Believing-prayer will heal*

*you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out. (James 5:13-15, The Message)*

Each month, on the third Wednesday of the month, at 11:00 a.m., we have a Healing Service at Living Waters.

What is a healing service? At Living Waters, this is a brief service (15-30 minutes) for those who are sick or going through various personal health issues. We celebrate the Sacrament of Communion plus pray for each person who attends the service.

The monthly healing service is one way that we take to heart the passage from the fifth chapter of the Letter of James. We come together as the church for prayer and the anointing with oil for the sake of health and healing.

We also have a strong, dedicated Lay Home Communion ministry that visits the sick and homebound each month. And, as the pastor,

I too visit members in hospitals and health care centers with Communion, Scripture readings, and prayer.

However, not everyone who is sick or who has health concerns is homebound. The Healing Service is for those who can get out and about. If you have health concerns, but you can still get to the grocery store or the doctor's office, you probably are a candidate for The Healing Service.

Also, The Healing Service is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate your concern for a neighbor or friend who is sick. You are welcome to bring others with you to The Healing Service.

The Healing Service will continue through the summer—even while Diane and I are away on sabbatical. The Guest Pastor, Dr. Carl Hansen, will preside over The Healing Service during our absence.

God not only tells us to pray, but God hears and answers our prayers. The Healing Service is one more example that, at Living Waters, we believe in the power of prayer.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Dell*

### **Summer Worship Time**

A few members have asked why our summer worship is at 10:00 instead of an earlier time. This topic was discussed at a recent Board of Directors meeting.

Our worship times have changed several times over the past years, most significantly affecting the late service which was held at 10:45 when Pastor Dell first arrived. By moving that service to 10:00, those who prefer the later service have already made several adjustments to their Sunday schedules. The Board also recognized the value of having one service at the same time year around to provide consistency in a worship time.

The Board welcomes questions from members and will discuss them as needed.



# A SPECIAL TIME

Alzheimer's Respite Program  
**Sharing. Caring. Celebrating.**

"A Special Time" Alzheimer's Respite Program is a community service program of our church and has served the community for more than seven years. We meet in Hanson Hall every Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Through this program, we offer respite care for adults diagnosed with Alzheimer's, dementia or other cognitive disabilities and provide much needed relief for caregivers. The benefits to the participants are many – a chance to socialize and make new friends, and be involved in various activities. It is thought that seniors who engage in daily conversation, brain-stimulating activities and regular physical activity can help stave off the debilitating effects of dementia and depression.

Besides program activities, a snack and lunch are provided. The all-inclusive cost per visit is \$25, although special rates may apply based on the individual's ability to pay.

The volunteer program is one of the reasons our ministry is so successful. There are four area churches who participate with our church - North Port Community United Church of Christ, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Trinity United Methodist Church and St. Nathaniel's Episcopal Church - plus the Ladies Auxiliary of AMVETS Post 2000.

Volunteers are scheduled on a rotating basis so each church is responsible for providing helpers every fourth week. Our volunteers organize fun and exciting activities for our participants, including music, crafts, bingo,

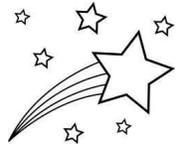
darts and horseshoes in one-on-one and small group settings.

Bob and Carol Colvin, members of our church, have faithfully prepared and served the noon meal for many years. Living Waters volunteer, Sylvia Wakefield, acts as our art instructor and helps participants as they create their own oil paintings. Our church provides many other volunteers but we can always use more, especially males. Perhaps you might consider volunteering. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Adeline Banks at 244-7870.

**Another ministry of our church associated with this program is "A Special Time" Caregiver's Support Group.** This group meets every second and fourth Friday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the church. The support group provides an atmosphere of friendship, understanding, empathy and support to those who are caring for someone afflicted with dementia.

We share coping strategies for handling challenging behaviors and other daily problems. We often have guest speakers on subjects of interest to all caregivers. We would love to have you visit us anytime and see what we have to offer. Please contact Carol Sutton, 423-7193, for more information.

If you know someone who could benefit from these two programs, call today and make an appointment for an interview with our program director, Wilma Ellis, R.N., 268-4976. You can also visit [www.aspecialtime.org](http://www.aspecialtime.org) for more information.



## A Salute to Fathers

**H**appy Father's Day to all fathers and those who have served as fathers to others.

Father's Day was first organized by Sonora Smart Dodd in Spokane, Washington in 1910. Her mother died in childbirth and her father raised Sonora and her five brothers by himself while operating a farm. That led her to want to celebrate the unsung sacrifices and accomplishments of all fathers.

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the first Presidential Proclamation, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. President Richard Nixon made it a permanent national holiday in 1972.

### From David Lanning... One of Gloria's Favorite Sayings

**Hope** is the ability to hear the melody of the future.

**Faith** is the courage to dance to it today.

— Anonymous —

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

We continue to knit and crochet prayer shawls for people who are ill, struggling, or deserving of a special blessing. We began this ministry last September and to date have given out 30 prayer shawls. Carol Sutton presented a prayer shawl to a member of the Special Time Caregivers group. Each member will receive a prayer shawl and card on their birthday. Sound interesting to you? Please come join us. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 4:00pm in Hanson Hall. Contact Char DeWitt.

## You are Welcome

If you have a heart for newcomers or a flair for hospitality, you may be a candidate for the newly formed Welcoming Team.

New members often cite the friendliness of our church as one of the reasons they joined Living Waters. This new team has been created to give that even more emphasis.

The Greeters will direct a first time visitor to a Welcome Team member, who will then spend a few minutes with the visitor to:

- Make them feel welcome and engage them in conversation.
- Invite them to sign the guest register.
- Point out the location of bathrooms, nursery, Sunday School and fellowship hall.
- Invite them for fellowship following the service.
- Speak to them when you see them in church on future Sundays.

The plan is to have two Welcome Team members available in the narthex each Sunday to give newcomers and others individual attention. If you would like to help newcomers feel welcome, speak with Marty Savard, 766-6139 or Adeline Banks, 244-7870.

## Memory Garden Bricks

One of the most beautiful and peaceful spots of any church property is often the Memory Garden. That's certainly true for Living Waters. A wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one is to purchase a brick to have placed in the garden. The cost is \$25 which includes up to three lines of lettering or dates. For an additional \$3 a symbol such as a cross, dove or heart can be engraved on the brick. Questions? See Valerie Biassi.

## The Season of Green—Time After Pentecost

In the well-known song about being green, the Muppet, Kermit the Frog laments, “It’s not that easy being green having to spend each day the color of leaves when I think it could be much nicer to be red, or yellow, or gold or something much more colorful like that.” Being green he says, “it seems you blend in with so many other ordinary things and people tend to pass you over....”

If the Season of the Church Year called *Time After Pentecost* could speak, it might say similar things, such as, “All the vibrant colors have been used and important times are past—Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. And the green season goes on for such a very long time, lasting mostly from June until November. There are a couple of exceptions along the way, but for the most part, it’s all green all the time. I feel so ordinary—kind of like a left over. Who wants to pay attention to that?”

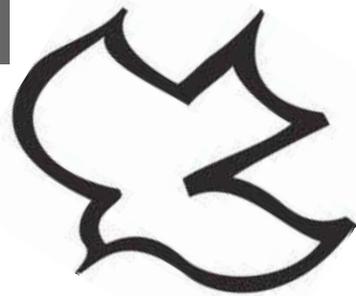
The short answer from a congregation might be: “We do.” Consider these thoughts about the *Time After Pentecost (TAP)*.

- *TAP* is centered on sanctification, the work of the Holy Spirit in the day-to-day life of a Christian. Through the gift of faith that comes only from the Holy Spirit working through the means of grace, Christians trust in Christ as Savior and proclaim Him in their daily lives by service to their neighbors.
- *TAP* is the non-festival portion of the liturgical calendar during which the church stresses vocation, evangelism, missions, stewardship, and other works of mercy and charity as ways in which Christ empowers us by His grace to share the Gospel with others.
- *TAP*’s liturgical color of green is the color of life and growth. The season is the longest of the church year.

Is there a message here?

Toward the middle of his song, Kermit realizes there is a different way to look at being green as he sings, “But green is the color of spring, and green can be cool and friendly-like...green can be big like a mountain or important like a river or tall like a tree...” Kermit concludes his song with, “I am green, and it’ll do just fine. It’s beautiful and it’s what I think I want to be.”

*TAP*—it’s green—a time to get going and get growing.



### New Altar Paraments

During the green season, the Living Waters chancel will be refreshed with new paraments.

Pat Dinges has designated the donations made to the Gary Dinges memorial fund to the creation of new altar cloths.

Barb Cartwright provided the design for the cloths and she and Pat have done the sewing. Adeline Banks is also a part of the team.

We thank Pat for the gift and each of them for their talents and dedication to the beautification of our sanctuary.



*On a personal note...*

**From Norma Van Harn...** Thank you to all who were so supportive, kind and caring while my husband was in the hospital for so many days and also since his passing. Your continued prayers, cards, and calls have all been so meaningful to me and our family during our days of distress at the hospitals and grief since Lee's passing. A special thank you to Pastor Dell for his many visits, scriptures he read to us and prayers, also to the Prayer Shawl Ministry and the Prayer Chain. Lee loved our church and members and though it will not be the same without him, I look forward to seeing you in the late fall when I return from Michigan. May God continue to bless each of you.

**New Welcome Banner**

A new banner to welcome all who enter our sanctuary is being displayed for the first time on June 3. Funded by **Nancy Lou Nickles**, the banner serves as a memorial to her husband, Howard.

The stained glass quilting technique features the colors of the church year: red, green, purple and blue to accentuate the welcome message and to border the church logo - a dove over the living waters. The banner was created by Barb Cartwright.

Thank you, Nancy, for providing this beautiful tribute to Howard.



**Congratulations to Genn Mendez...** who was recently inducted into the North Port High School Athletic Hall of Fame for her accomplishments in golf. At NPHS, Genn led the team to 5th place in the state, was part of the team that earned the first district title in school history, was three-time MVP, three-time Sun Herald Golfer of the Year, and set the school record for a season for 9 holes and 18 holes. She earned a scholarship to USF, achieved Big East All Conference Honors, and graduated in 2009. Genn is the daughter of Jake and Daryl Mendez. In addition to playing golf, she is a teacher at our preschool. Way to go, Genn!

***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](http://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](mailto: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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**Summer Office Hours: May 1- August 15**  
**9:00 am—Noon, Monday thru Thursday.**

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)