



The Messenger

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

March 2014

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

About This Issue...

Your March issue is a little bigger than usual...must be a lot going on at Living Waters. Be sure to check out every page. There are things to learn and things to do!

The next issue of *The Messenger* will appear in April. Deadline for articles is March 21. See last page for details.

Thanks,
Judy Johnson,
Editor and Publisher

Ash Wednesday Service on March 5



Join your fellow Christians for Ash Wednesday Service on March 5 at 7:00pm. This is one of the most solemn and moving services of our church year. Be sure to attend.



You Are Hereby Invited To Be A Juror In One Of The Most Famous Trials Of All Time

Although some people cringe at the thought of jury duty, you just might find this one more than a little interesting. On Wednesdays at 7:00pm during the season of Lent, Living Waters will present a drama series that explores the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus.

Why Did Jesus Die?

A Grand Jury Investigation Into the Trial
And Execution of Jesus

By: Robert Kleinke

Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26,

April 2, 9

7:00pm Living Waters

Each week, the State's Attorney will call a key witness to testify about the guilt or innocence of Jesus. You will hear from Judas Iscariot, Caiaphas, King Herod, Pontius Pilate, and Peter.

And you will deliberate: Just why *did* Jesus die?

Welcome Back to the Hansens

By Judy Johnson

To our year-round residents, the names of Rev. Dr. Carl Hansen and his wife Betty Jean will sound familiar. The Hansens were with us in 2012 for the months that Pastor Dell and Diane were on sabbatical. We welcome them back for the month of March as Rev. Hansen serves as our Guest Pastor. Their home is Lakewood, Colorado.

For those who have not met them, here's a brief background recap.

Most of Dr. Hansen's ministry has been in Lutheran Higher Education. He was called to Bethany College in 1966 as Professor of Religion and Philosophy. He taught there for 15 years and concurrently earned his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado. He also served Bethany as Interim Chaplain and Director of Church Relations and Continuing Education. During those years, he also served various area churches as an Interim Pastor and an Assistant Pastor. He was also

an adjunct professor for the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

The Hansen family lived for a time in Germany while Pastor Hansen served as a Consultant in Youth and Single Soldier Ministry for the Chaplain's Office of the Seventh Army Europe in Heidelberg.

In 1982, Dr. Hansen was called to be President, Midland Lutheran College, Fremont, Nebraska where he served for 18 years. He retired from full time work in 1999 but has continued to serve as a supply and interim pastor for various churches.

Since being with us in 2012, the Hansens have traveled to Georgia, Virginia, and Oregon. When they return to Colorado in April, Pastor Hansen will become a part-time assistant pastor at Atonement Lutheran in Lakewood.

We extend a warm "Welcome Back" to the Hansens and are happy to have them with us once again.

Keeping Up With The Youth

By Patty Pauley

We are now averaging 3-6 children per week. What a blessing! We are starting to dig into memorizing the books of the New Testament and the children are busy creating a faux stain glass window to display at the Sunday School Lesson/Craft fair they will be having in April.

If you are on Facebook, be sure to stop by the Church Facebook page and see the pictures of the kids.

The youth are also looking for old pill bottles with easily removable lids (please no twist-on tops). They will be doing a science project on Easter about letting the good news out. If you have any or have friends that use this type of bottle, please place them in the small can in the narthex labeled "Pill bottles for Sunday school." Thanks!



Special thanks to the Prayer Shawl Group for being the servers for the "A Special Time Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon" on Feb. 25. Also thanks to Karl Mortensen for entertaining us with his unique brand of music. We had a great time!

Sunday Worship Sermon Series for Lent

If you had only one month to live, what would you change?

During Lent 2014, our Sunday worship will include a sermon series by Pastor Shiell. The series is called, "One Month To Live." The focus throughout this series will be on living life without regrets—or living the no-regrets life.

This six-part series is scheduled as follows:

One Month To Live (Introduction) – March 2 (Transfiguration Sunday)

Live Passionately – March 9 (Lent 1)

Love Completely – March 16 (Lent 2)

Pastor Hansen Preaches — March 23 (Lent 3)

Learn Humbly – March 30 (Lent 4)

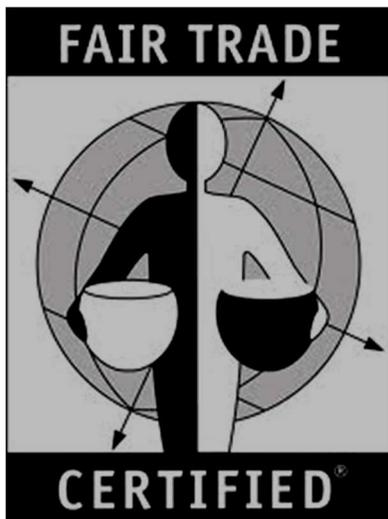
Leave Boldly – April 6 (Lent 5)

One Week To Live – April 13 (Palm Sunday)

Join us, as we accept the challenge of asking how life would be different if we accepted the certainty that we only had "One Month To Live."

Mission In A Cup

By Diane Shiell



The coffee we sell at church supports small farmers around the globe. Every cup makes a difference. Through Fair Trade coffee sales, small farmers in Latin America, Africa, and Asia are able to support their families, build their own businesses, improve their communities, and protect the forests, the land, and the water where they farm.

Also, we use biodegradable hot beverage cups called "Ecotainer Paper Cups." These cups are made with a corn-based lining (instead of a petroleum-based plastic) and with fiber from sustainably harvested wood. Plus, they are compostable.

Char and Lee DeWitt are great supporters of the Fair Trade Coffee Mission Project. Their favorite blend is the Bright Day Brew (which has become our favorite, too).

As Dell and I travel, we see that the Fair Trade Coffee Mission Project is very common in churches everywhere. Last summer, during our visit to London, we worshipped at the church that Pastor Ian Green serves. During the coffee fellowship time, parishioners wheeled their Fair Trade Coffee display to the center of the room to encourage members to participate in this mission project.

A common mission project in Christian churches around the world, the Fair Trade Coffee Mission Project is "Mission In A Cup!"

KEEP LIVING WATERS BEAUTIFUL

Church Clean-up Day, Saturday, March 22

Please help SPRING CLEAN THE CHURCH on Saturday, March 22, starting at 9 am.

By Paul Cartwright, Director of Property

Daryl Mendez will organize the inside work of vacuuming pew cushions, polishing the wood-work, cleaning the windows and other things needed to spruce up the inside of the church.

Jim Godshall will organize the outside work on landscaping, like putting down mulch, planting plants, and general clean-up.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

There is a rumor that you might see a pastor with a paint brush in hand.

NEEDED: Polishing rags, work gloves, yard tools, clippers, rakes

Spring Gathering, Saturday, March 15 At Living Waters

Theme:

Place Your Life before God

“Give your life to God and then listen to his call.”

Romans 12

By Gayle Backiel

Saturday, March 15, we will be hosting a gathering of women from ELCA Churches all over the area, the whole Mid-Gulf Conference. It is called the Spring Gathering.

Beginning at 10:00am we will provide coffee, donuts and coffee cake for the fellowship time during the registration period. The day will be filled with Bible Study, luncheon, a special presentation by Fields of Grace and a short business meeting.

The luncheon menu will feature a home-made soup bar, a bread bar and desert. If you have a favorite soup you would like to make for the occasion, please let Sheri Moehling know.

We would love to have you attend this special event. The cost is \$10.00 for the day, including lunch. See Kris Dines, Sheri Moehling or Gayle Backiel for reservations and more information.



Meet Your Council Members

By Judy Johnson

This month's featured council member is Carol Piltz, Treasurer.

As I write this, I am pretty sure that Carol Piltz is happy to be in North Port rather than on the dairy farm in Wisconsin Rapids where she grew up and where the temperature is now registering about 9 below zero without the wind chill. There's a little snow on the ground up there too. But when she was growing up and helping out with milking cows, driving a tractor and doing other things that families on dairy farms do, the weather was most likely just something you dealt with.

When it was time to go out on her own and make a living for herself, Carol chose banking. And she has been involved with numbers and ledgers ever since. She accepted the marriage proposal from Willis Piltz, a teacher, and together they had five children. Carol worked most of that time either on a full- or part-time basis for three different banks which underwent ownership and name changes but occupied the same building. Willis passed away in 1994.

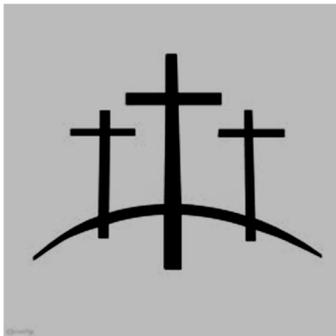
In 2003, Carol moved to North Port and bought a house for her and her son Randy who had previously relocated here. Through her friendship with Peg Pulfer, a former mem-

ber of our church, Carol joined Living Waters in 2004. In a very short time, Carol was the backup for the then current Treasurer and in 2006, became the Treasurer. In 2009, she became the Treasurer for the Preschool and a few years later, accepted that same responsibility for A Special Time, our adult respite program.

Among other things, Carol is involved in creating the annual budget, balancing the books, keeping records, setting up accounts, and making deposits. Over the past year, she has been transferring some of these tasks to Kris Dines, our Administrative Assistant, to begin gently easing out of some of these rather heavy volunteer responsibilities. She has thoughts of totally retiring from all of this work but we are having a bit of a problem letting her go! She would like to spend more time enjoying her 8 grandchildren and, as of this month, her 11 great grandchildren who are all up north.

In addition to being our Treasurer, Carol sometimes serves as a Greeter or Hostess on Sunday mornings and is also involved in the Cut Ups, making baby caps, and afghans.

We thank Carol for her dedicated and long-term service to our church and congregation and are so very grateful for her "priceless" contributions.



The Season of Lent

Lent is considered by many to be the most sacred part of the Christian year. We meditate on the salvation God won for us as sinners and our focus is on charity, prayer and fasting/discipline. It is all about what Jesus sacrificed for us and not about what we do for God.

The season lasts 40 days, beginning on Ash Wednesday and concludes the Saturday before Easter. The 40 days do not include Sundays.

From Here To Eternity

“Stewardship Through A Will”

Many voices in our day emphasize the wisdom of making a will. These add strength to our conviction that churches render a service when they encourage their members to make wills. A will enables you to continue your support of special interests after you pass on, perpetuating your influence for generations, guaranteeing the safekeeping of favorite Christian enterprises, and influencing the lives of future generations.



Recently, The Living Waters Fund received a bequest in the amount of \$5,000 from a long-term member of Living Waters, Mahlon Herrick.

Mahlon J. Herrick (1916 – 2013) taught in several Michigan public high schools for 14 years before joining the administrative staff at Ferris State University, where he

served as registrar for 23 years before retiring in 1979. Mahlon was pre-deceased by his wife, Myrtle, in 1989. Mahlon and Myrtle were active members of Living Waters. Mahlon was a member of the steering committee that created The Living Waters Endowment Fund.

In addition to his gift to The Living Waters Fund, Mahlon also left a bequest to his congregation “up north,” Immanuel Lutheran Church, Big Rapids, MI.

These bequests to the congregations where Mahlon and Myrtle were active members witness to their ongoing stewardship of God’s gifts for the Lord Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.

The Legacy Gift Planning Team for The Living Waters Fund (our church endowment fund) will pay toward the costs of a new will or an updated will that includes the Living Waters Lutheran Church or the Living Waters Fund in your will.

Please remember Living Waters in your will.

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: December 31, 2014

LivingWatersLutheran.com

Hear the Sweet Sounds of Children Singing on March 9

The children from our Preschool will be singing at the 10:00 service on March 9. You really don’t want to miss this!



Cutting For A Cause News About the Cut Ups

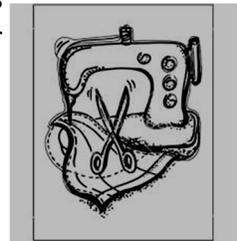
By Carol Lundquist

Our quilting year ends early in February each year. That's when all the quilts we've made are packed up and brought to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bradenton, where they begin their trip northeast to the distribution center in New Windsor, MD. This year we outdid ourselves by completing 235 quilts, of which 224 were sent to Lutheran World Relief. We also donated two for Haitian relief efforts, one to the North Port High School All Night Party, two to the Golf Tournament held each fall, and four which were used as door prizes – one for each of the four city sponsored “Welcome to North Port” events held each year. Two were sold and the proceeds used to purchase batting.

Lutheran World Relief challenged Lutherans across the U.S. to assist them in their 2013 goal of 500,000 quilts to send around the world to people in need. The final tally was an amazing 451,000 quilts, a considerable increase over the previous year. The Cut Ups

were happy to assist in that effort by increasing our donation. Our group meets only six months of each year and it is amazing how productive we have become. Some of our members work at home to cut squares, assemble and/or sew quilts. Others are rummage sale pros and donate boxes of materials such as sheets, curtains, bed skirts and yard goods. It is fun to see the latest batch of “treasures” each week at our Wednesday morning sessions.

As always, we welcome new members to our group. No sewing experience is necessary. We meet each Wednesday from 9am – 12:00, and always take time to enjoy coffee and conversation together. Donations of sheets, fabrics and other materials can be marked and dropped off at the church, and monetary donations to cover the cost of batting are also appreciated. Questions? Contact Carol Lundquist at 906-362-5848 or Wanda Boeck at 941-426-2471.



Small Group Fair Set For March 23

40 Years of Faith, Fellowship and Fruitfulness

By Gayle Backiel

Whether you are new at Living Waters or a long time member, you can meet more people and get to know them better by participating in a small group. As can be seen in our Directory of Ministries and Small Groups, there are many opportunities to get involved here at Living Waters.

To help celebrate our 40 years as a congrega

tion, on Sunday, March 23, we will have a Small Group Fair called 40 Years of Faith, Fellowship and Fruitfulness. This will give everyone a chance to see what small groups are available. Please take a few minutes to visit Hanson Hall that day to take a look at the booths and tables set up by each group.

There are many areas of interest such as Service, Crafting, Bible Study and Fellowship. No matter which you prefer, there is something for you. Come and check us out and you will have the chance to sign up or get more information.

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.

- Mar. 5 Tesha Hernandez
- Mar. 8 Amy Pena, Michael Poe
- Mar. 9 Jim Sheils
- Mar. 10 Craig Bitler
- Mar. 11 Amber Jones, Megan Kolb
- Mar. 13 Carol Colvin
- Mar. 16 Bob May
- Mar. 17 Diane Shiell
- Mar. 18 Neala Olson
- Mar. 20 Char DeWitt
- Mar. 23 Mary Burns
- Mar. 26 Lorraine Wohlert
- Mar. 27 Patty Pauley
- Mar. 30 David Lanning, Jane Fundyga, Shawn Houser
- Mar. 31 Jamie Kolb



**Set Your
Clocks Ahead on
Saturday Night
March 8
*Spring Forward***

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 9 so set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.

The Messenger is published monthly by Living Waters Lutheran Church with printed copies usually 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, unless otherwise specified, for publication the following month and may be edited.

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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