



# *The Messenger*

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

*May—June 2014*

*Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool*

**Welcome  
Our Guest Pastor  
for May:  
Rev. Caroline Ryder  
and husband Paul  
From The UK**

(The following article was written by Rev. Ryder.)

Dear Friends,

It is wonderful to be able to introduce myself and my husband, Paul, after months of preparation and excited anticipation. My name is Revd. Caroline Ryder and, as part of my sabbatical, we have come to the wonderful Sunshine State from the UK.

We are both Northern, born and bred and currently live in Leeds, West Yorkshire which is where we met.

My first degree was in History and American Studies so I have been to the USA several times before. However, this time I look forward to sharing the experience with my husband as we have only been married two years.

I also am a qualified fitness instructor so after university I decided to 'travel the world' and applied for a job on a cruise ship. It was whilst sailing South America that I felt the call to full time ministry and thus, on return to the UK, attended theological college gaining my BA and MA in Theology.

My first pastorate was at the small seaside town of Lytham in Lancashire where the peo-



ple there encouraged me greatly as a newly ordained minister. I learned a lot about my strengths and weaknesses and their grace and support helped me to develop as a local church minister. After five years, I felt ready for a new challenge and when the role of university chaplain came up, I felt God's peace.

Presently, I am the coordinating chaplain for the Leeds Universities' Chaplaincy Team. We serve staff and students across both the University of Leeds and Leeds Metropolitan University (70,000 students plus staff). The team works under the auspices of the West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council (WYEC).

We also minister to international students, through International Students' Club and the Chinese Church. Such groups again offer friendship and cross-cultural fun alongside opportunities to explore the Bible. It is thanks to the diversity, dedication and gifts of the different team members (some are volunteers), that we are able to offer such a variety of activities.

My husband, Paul, is a published novelist and a screenwriter who enjoys playing the guitar, swimming and has already admirably eaten his way round the Southern States trying lots of new delicacies!

Paul and I feel very blessed to have this opportunity to be a guest pastor and hope to meet as many people as possible as we step outside our comfort zone and see what God has in store.

## **A Message From the Pastor**

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

Matthew 28:19-20

The next two months are full of days of celebration and change. During the months of May and June, the liturgical calendar wraps up the season of Easter and kicks off the season of Pentecost. These months also include Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, and Father’s Day. Of course, this is when the end of the school year is marked by graduation ceremonies for everyone from preschool through post-graduate degree programs.

The few remaining “snow birds” will fly back north during the next couple of months, also, as the “summer season” begins here in North Port, Florida.

At Living Waters, on May 4, we begin our “summer” worship schedule with one Sunday service at 10:00 am. This schedule continues through the month of October.

With people “back up north,” school over, the summer worship schedule, and vacation schedules, one might wonder why I begin this article with The Great Commission. There are two reasons for this.

First, The Great Commission given by Jesus to his disciples is the assigned Gospel reading for Holy Trinity Sunday this year (June 15: also Father’s Day).

Second, with everyone going this way and that, it is important to remember the great “Go” commandment of our Lord.

As those “on the go” with so many things to celebrate, it is important that we maintain our bearings as people of faith. Summer is a wonderful time of the year. But, each day

that comes along remains “a day that the Lord has made.”

Wherever you are this summer, keep up the Seven Holy Habits. Visit our website, <http://livingwaterslutheran.com/page/7/holyhabits> for a refresher on what they are.

Be assured that life and ministry will be going strong at Living Waters through the summer months!

The schedule for A Special Time, Living Waters Preschool, and Community Meals does not change during summer.

The weekly Pastor’s Bible Study will meet weekly on Sunday mornings (9:00 am).

The Council will, once again, use videoconference technology to conduct church business through the summer.

In June, the Florida Bahamas Synod Assembly will convene in Orlando with representation by Rich and Janet Pelto, in addition to Diane and me.

The Prayer Team will continue to lift up prayer concerns as you share these with Kris in the church office.

Wherever you “go” during the upcoming months, Go with God, and share the love of God in Jesus Christ with those around you.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Dell*

## **New Lighting Project**

By Paul Cartright  
Director of Property

I am new to the church council and am in charge of property. One of my first concerns was parking lot lighting. The parking lot lights were hit by lightning in the summer of 2013 and had not been repaired or replaced. Adequate lighting of the parking lot and church entrances is necessary for the safety of members coming and going for meetings at night and for security of the church building.

With the approval of the church council, I worked with an electrical contractor to analyze the lighting repairs and to suggest a repair schedule in three phases. Phase one has been implemented with the order of four LED lights for about \$4000 total for the light poles in the south parking lot area. This will cover the preschool area and lights the illuminate the church's south door leading into the fellowship hall.

We will continue replacing additional lighting in phases 2 and 3 in the future.

## **Delivering the Eucharist to Homebound Members**

By Sheri Moehling

The Small Group Ministry Fair produced three new members commissioned by Pastor



Dell Shiell on April 27. Please welcome our new ministers: Larry Shelton, Jody Shelton and JoAnn Dorrrough.

We are pleased to have a complete roster of eight individuals who have volunteered their time to visit and carry the sacrament to the church members who are unable to attend church due to illness or infirmity. Visits are made to these members at their home, in a nursing or rehab facility or at the hospital under certain circumstances.

Contact the Home Communion coordinator, Sheri Moehling at 941-429-1225, if you have a loved one who needs a monthly visit to bring the sacrament and if someone is unable to attend church services for a period of time.

## **Ninth Triennial Gathering of Women of ELCA**

### **There's Joy in Giving**

On July 24, Kris Dines, Sheri Moehling and Gayle Backiel will be attending the triennial gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina. We will represent Living Waters and the Mid-Gulf conference at this very special gathering of many generations of women from all around the US and the Bahamas.

We are asked to give in-kind gifts of store credit cards, phone cards, socks, or health kits.

These gifts have been selected by working in community with women in local agencies and Lutheran Social Service of the Carolinas. The in-kind gifts will be distributed among many agencies and organizations leading 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.

Contact Sheri Moehling to learn more.

## A Miracle about Water in Pasquette

Editor's Note: The following information is excerpted from an email I received from Jorel Carte, the lay worker we are helping to support as a part of our commitment to the mission of the Lutheran Church in Haiti. Jorel will be providing updates for the newsletter from time to time.

Jorel writes: "I would love to tell you a little bit about this miracle that happened at Redemption Lutheran Church in a location called Pasquette (Jacmel). It is a baby church about two years old that started in a location called Peredo, served by Deacon Holland Dezimeau. During Hurricane Sandy, the place where they worshipped was flooded and was no longer suitable for worship. So, Deacon Holland began to evangelize in the Pasquette area."

"Deacon Holland asked the people if they would like to have a church. They replied that they did not think it was possible. Little did they know that Rev. Johnson, who served at Emmanuel Lutheran in Venice, FL had left a designated fund for Haiti before he died. These funds were used to purchase land for a church. In the mean time, the people worshipped under a little tree. As we all know, the Lord always reacts in the right time—not before or after—because he knows exactly what you need."

Moving forward: Volunteers from the USA came to help build a church but there was no water on the site. The church is up on a hill and people had to walk several miles down to the bottom of the mountain to carry water back up to the top.

A fund raiser at a church in Minnesota produced the resources to drill a well on the site. After going down 360 feet, water was found. Jorel writes: "This miracle took place in January 2014. The people have been trained in keeping the well clean and safe. In the picture, you can see how happy the people are. "



"All this has been accomplished by working together. Many hands make a load lighter 'men anpil chaj pa Lou.' We have lots of places like that which need work. On behalf of the English Lutheran Church in Haiti, I say 'Mesi' (thank you) to all our brothers and sisters who have contributed their effort and their money to help us grow the church in Haiti. Your contributions are greatly appreciated."

*Peace and Blessings, Jorel Carte*

## **Forty Years of Faith, Fellowship and Fruitfulness (and still growing)**

By Gayle Backiel

The Small Group Fair, entitled Forty Years of Faith, Fellowship and Fruitfulness was held on Sunday, March 23. There were booths from each of the small groups in the church. Many people from the congregation looked at the displays and spoke with the people manning the tables. Most groups reported that people signed up to begin meeting with them. It was agreed that the small group fair was a great success.

- **Sunday School had 3 people volunteer to help with teaching. (Here's your opportunity!)**
- 3 people signed up for Prayer Team.
- Money was donated to Community dinners.
- 12 people signed up for Fellowship Dinners.
- 4 people joined the prayer chain.
- 4 men signed up for the Men's Group.
- 3 volunteered to give home communion
- 1 will begin knitting or crocheting with the Prayer Shawl Ministry or making baby caps and afghans.

The Small Group Leaders are planning a function in October to celebrate Small Groups and encourage others to get involved.

## **The Feast of Pentecost June 8**

Pentecost is celebrated on the 50th day after Easter and is the culmination of the season of Eastertide.

Interesting note: Pentecost is considered one of the three most important feasts of the Christian year along with Easter and Christmas. However, Pentecost is the only one for which there is no secular association.

## **Volunteer Needed for May 18**

By Patty Pauley

The youth would like to thank everyone for their support this year. We have had a great year. We have only a few more weeks left before we break for summer, so please, parents make sure I have either your email address and or phone number because I have a few summer activities planned.

**Also, I need a volunteer to step up to teach class on Sunday, May 18 since my family and I will be out of town. If this something you can do, please contact me as soon as possible.**

Next year promises to be another action packed year; a little hint is "Let's Explore."

## **Save the Date December 7, 2014**



- On this date, we will officially celebrate our 40th year as a church. We will have one festival service at 10:00, special guests, and a morning of celebration.
- More details will follow in the coming months.



## Getting to Know You

### Get Acquainted Coffee Fellowship

The get acquainted Coffee Fellowship sessions, hosted by Pastor Dell and Diane Shiell, have begun.

In addition to getting to know those who are gathered at the fellowship, participants also agree to share a bit of information about themselves in the newsletter. Following is a sampling of participants.

**Jeanette Asheton:** Originally from Miami, moved here 11½ years ago as a year-round resident, came to LW in 2002, was a bookkeeper, attends 10:00 service.

**Jerry and LuAnn Wegener:** From Coon Rapids, MN, seasonal residents, have attended LW for about 2 years, Jerry worked for SooLine Railroad, LuAnn was a housewife and worked at the Target general offices, attend 8:15 service.

**Ben and Dolores Ryder:** Originally from Long Island, NY, have been here for 13 years as year-round residents, had a career in child care, attend 10:00 service.

**Carolann Cortese:** From Long Island, NY, moved here 7 years ago as a year-round resident, worked for the IRS in Human Resources, attends 10:00 service.

**Jim and Nancy Bremer:** From Michigan, seasonal residents for the past 12 years, have attended LW for about 10 years, owned a Hallmark Store and Jim was president and CEO of an agricultural lending firm, attend 8:15 service.

**Bob and Carol Colvin:** From Derby, NY (Buffalo area), seasonal for 10 years, have attended LW for 10 years, Bob worked for GM in Buffalo, Carol a nurse for adult mentally impaired, attend 10:00 service.

**Lois Ertle:** From St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada, year-round resident for 36 years, attended LW for 3 years, was a bookkeeper, office manager, sales associate, attends 10:00 service.

**Karl Mortensen:** From Branchport, NY (Finger Lakes region), seasonal for 17 years, attended LW for 16 years, dairy farmer and real estate broker, attends 10:00 service.



## First Communion Class

*Let the little children come...*

Luke 18:16

At Living Waters, children are welcome to come forward during Holy Communion, either to receive a blessing or to participate in the sacrament.

In May, a First Communion Class (2 sessions, 30-45 minutes per session) will be offered to prepare children for their First Communion. Please notify the church office if you would like your child to participate in these classes.

There is no minimum age-limit for children to participate in the sacrament. The child's parent or guardian, in consultation with the pastor, best determines a child's readiness.



## From Here To Eternity

It is a fairly typical situation. A very nice church member comes up to the pastor and says that he or she is worried about the continuation of their support to the church after they die. The pastor suggests making a provision in their will for the church to provide an income about equal to their pledge.

A year later, the pastor asks if this person is happy with the way their will was written. They recall the previous conversation, but haven't done anything yet.

A few months later, the church starts a Legacy Club for members who have included the church in their estate plans. The pastor approaches our friend to see if he (or she) would be willing to let the pastor put their name and picture in a letter that will be sent to the congregation—and talk about the Legacy Club and what it means to them personally. Terribly embarrassed, our friend says they fully intend to include the church in their estate plan, but just hadn't gotten to it yet. But, they are going to get right on it.

That fall, our friend is diagnosed with terminal cancer and the pastor doesn't have the heart to ask if "they have gotten around to it yet."

Our friend died that winter. As it turns out, they never did get around to making provisions for the church in their estate plan.

The tragedy is, this good person, whose heart was in the right place, just didn't get to do what they really wanted to do in continuing their support for an organization that they really admired and wanted to help.

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](http://LivingWatersLutheran.com)

## Community Outreach Ministry

By Jody Shelton

The Community Outreach Ministry is ready to go all summer. We have had continued great support from the congregation and Jacob's Well Church. We have received some wonderful monetary donations along with our friends at the Amvets who sent over enough corned beef and cabbage to serve a complete dinner in March. The need is still there and that was apparent recently when we served over 90 dinners. Now that's a lot of food!

The bike and clothing ministries are doing great. One lady got herself a nice outfit to wear to a job interview and that was pretty cool. We have had two-three wheeled bikes donated and they have been given to two wonderful ladies who use them all the time. Marilyn Keleher has them all spoiled wanting hair cuts. It is really neat to see the smiles on their faces after she has given them a new hairdo! So, all is well with the Outreach Ministry. We need you to all remember that we are still here during the summer months and we continue to need your support. We thank you in advance.

The church has been "on call" by the Red Cross three different times this past winter: twice for cold weather and once for a fire that was threatening homes in the Estates. Again, if anyone is interested in being on a volunteer list to come and help us out in case we need to open, please contact Larry or me at 941-255-0890. We are an "after the disaster shelter" and with the upcoming hurricane season just around the corner, we may need to support the local community.

### Thanks to our Mid-week Lenten Service Actors

This year, our mid-week Lenten services featured an engaging drama series called: Why Did Jesus Die? The series was structured as a Grand Jury investigation into the death of Jesus and each week a different witness was called to the stand to testify.

Special thanks to our actors:

Jim Sheils who played Judas Iscariot  
Ray Fundyga who played Caiaphas  
Pastor Hansen who played Herod Antipas  
John Strittmatter who played Pontius Pilate  
Karl Mortensen who played Simon Peter  
Pastor Shiell who played the State Attorney  
each week.



### A Special Note of Thanks to a Very Special Volunteer Carol Sutton

Ever since our adult respite program called A Special Time began, there has been a Caregivers Program that was created to help the caregivers of those with Alzheimer's and other dementias cope with the challenges of taking care of their loved ones. Carol Sutton created this special group and has led it all these years. As of May 9, Carol is retiring from this position. We thank her for the tireless effort she has devoted to making it a tremendous success.

*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.

May 4	Ed Hauk, Anthony Moreno	June 2	Shirley Feeney, Dale Helland
May 11	Vivian Bauer	June 3	Kathy Grant
May 12	Robert Colvin, Karen Feldmann, David Parsels	June 4	Judy Johnson
May 13	Delores Ryder	June 6	Bud Bauer
May 17	Cortney Helland, Ginny Streuder, Virginia Ulrich	June 8	Troy Guinn
May 18	Katelyn Moreno	June 9	Julie Guinn
May 19	Samantha DeDonato, Debbie Stankiewicz	June 11	Bill Wakefield
May 21	Linda Finsted	June 17	Jose Hernandez
May 24	Hailey Bozich	June 21	Kari Reece
May 26	Mary Mizura	June 23	Layne Guinn
May 28	Rose Lapprich	June 24	Sandy Cox
May 29	Bunny Olsen	June 26	Barb Bruno
		June 28	Marilyn Keleher, Dru Munson



### **Student Recital at Living**

**Waters:** On Saturday, May 10, Debbie Dale, a local music teacher will once again hold her spring, student music recital at Living Waters. The church will be in use from Noon—4:30.

*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](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, 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.

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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](mailto:pastor@livingwaterslutheran.com)