



# *The Messenger*

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

*November 2014*

*Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool*

## **40th Anniversary Sunday, December 7**

Watch for inserts in the bulletin so you can sign up for brunch immediately following our 40th anniversary worship on December 7. We will have one service that day at 10:00 and will welcome the leader of the

Florida-Bahamas Synod, Bishop Robert Schaeffer, and other special guests. **December 3 is the deadline for brunch reservations.** Be sure to attend as we mark 40 years of commitment to Christ, the body of Christ and to the work of Christ in North Port and beyond.

## **Ninth Annual Preschool Benefit Golf Tournament Nov. 22**

It's almost here! In a few short weeks, our annual Golf Tournament, held this year at the Port Charlotte Golf Club on November 22, 2014, will be here. Not had an opportunity to register? Do not despair! There is still time! **The registration deadline has been extended to November 15.** For your convenience, you may register and pay online at the Church or Preschool website, in one easy step! \$70 per person includes: 18 holes, Continental breakfast, lunch, cart fees, and prizes.



Anyone wishing to help secure prizes, donate prizes, or sponsor a hole on the day of the tournament, please contact Caren Karns at (941)429-7875 or [tckarns@comcast.net](mailto:tckarns@comcast.net). Remember, all proceeds benefit our Living Waters Preschool. This tournament is important to the financial success of our Preschool. Please seriously consider being a part of it. We have a lot of fun and don't take ourselves too seriously.

# *Welcome!*

Welcome to the Olsens, our guests in the Beerbower House for three months. Read their story on page 3.

# From the Pastor

By: Pastor Dell Shiell

## “Fearless Generosity”

Thanksgiving is a day we observe to celebrate—and to express out “Thanks” to God for—our blessings. Each year, our Community Meals team makes a special effort to ensure that those who attend our Thursday meals have the ingredients for a Happy Thanksgiving meal.

Commitment Sunday is another way we observe Thanksgiving at Living Waters each November—this year on November 23. This is when we make a pledge of our support for the church for the upcoming year—as a way of expressing our gratitude to God for our blessings. This year’s stewardship theme is “Fearless Generosity.”

As we consider God’s blessings, we want to make sure you mark some special dates on your December calendar.

On Sunday, December 7, we plan to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a congregation with a worship service—at 10:00 am—at which Bishop Robert Schaeffer will preach and preside over the Sacrament. Everyone is invited to attend a catered brunch after worship.

On Wednesday, December 10, we are hosting “Haiti Night At Living Waters.” Joining us will be Jorel Carte, Pastor Livenson Lauvanus, and members of the Florida Bahamas Synod Haiti Task Force, and (we hope) others from the Midgulf Conference who are also providing financial support for Jorel, Livenson, and the Lutheran Church of Haiti.



Recently, I accepted the invitation to travel to Haiti, January 3-9, 2015, as a pastor participating in a week of training with Deacons serving The Lutheran Church of Haiti. Right now, I am in a “learning mode” as I prepare for this special week. I am sure, I will learn a lot more during that week. I am, also, getting vaccinated and I am reading about Haiti.

A book that I am reading is **Mountains Above Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure The World** by Tracy Kidder. Diane read this before, but for some reason this is my first time reading it.

In Haiti, there is a proverb: “God gives but doesn’t share.” Dr. Farmer explains what this means: “God gives us humans everything we need to flourish, but he’s not the one who’s supposed to divvy up the loot. That charge was laid on us.”

As we consider God’s blessings—and practice *Fearless Generosity*—let’s remember how important it is to thank God by “sharing the loot” with our sisters and brothers in need.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Dell*

What  
ARE.....You  
Thankful  
for?

**GENTLE REMINDER**  
**Living Waters Fall Clean Up Day**  
**Saturday, November 8, 9:00am**  
**...With Good Eats Too**

Inside and out...join your fellow members for a morning of sprucing up our church. Bring a tool or tools you want to use. See Paul Cartwright for more details. Refreshments will be provided for all the volunteers by the Community Meals Ministry. Sign up in the Narthex.



**Meet the Olsens, Pastor Joel and LouAnn—our Guest Pastor Family for November, December and January**

*Editor's note: The following information was provided by Pastor Olsen.*

Joel Olsen grew up in Beloit, Wisconsin, was ordained 40 years ago, and met his wife LouAnn at the first church he served. She is the daughter of a pastor and lived in many communities in the upper mid-west. Joel served five congregations, all in Wisconsin, before retirement. Since "retiring" he has served four churches as interim pastor.

In June of this year, they moved to their lake home on "beautiful Big McKenzie Lake" near Spooner, Wisconsin. Joel is the third generation of his family to own and occupy this year-round cottage.

LouAnn is a Registered Nurse with years of experience in a variety of clinical and long-term care settings. Her hobbies include reading, gardening and trying out new recipes. Joel is a bread baker; together with LouAnn, they have conducted numerous Bible camp retreats and community enrichment classes on bread-baking. Both play a lot of "Words with Friends," and Joel is a

"Free Cell" junkie.

As a parish pastor, Joel has focused on Bible teaching (Crossways!), worship development and general pastoral care. In addition to church work, he has been an elected public school board member. He has read a major biography of each U.S. president, beginning with Washington, and is currently working on FDR.

The Olsens have one son, Christopher, who is a computer software engineer, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Joel and LouAnn have worshiped at Living Waters a few times in past winters when they spent a month or two on Manasota Key at Englewood Beach. They are looking forward to getting to know Living Waters, working with Pastor Dell and the congregation, and experiencing winter and winter holidays in Florida – without snow and ice, and with palm trees instead of pine trees!



## Changing Lives Never Tasted So Good!

By: Diane Shiell

Lutheran World Relief and Equal Exchange bring to us delicious coffee and chocolate that changes lives. Fair Trade products allow you to make a real difference in the lives of small farmers around the world.

Did you know that the majority of the world's coffee and cocoa supply is grown by small farmers? Despite the growing demand for these products, many of those farmers struggle to provide for their family, capturing just a fraction of their crop's full market value.

Lutheran World Relief believes that satisfying the world's demand for coffee and cocoa and improving the incomes and food security of the farmers who grow them can, and should, go hand in hand. Your purchase of coffee and chocolate is an important part of

this effort!

In the social hall there is a display of coffee and chocolate for sale. The price reflects what Living Waters pays Lutheran World Relief for these products. By purchasing these Fair Trade products you are not only getting great products, you are investing in hard-working farmers around the world. Together, we can improve the farmers' lives as well as the communities they live in.

Purchasing Fair Trade coffee and chocolate as a gift for your host of a party during the holiday season is a win-win gift. The coffee and chocolate are grown in a way that gives back to both the farmers and the land. And they are high quality coffee and chocolate that taste great!

Are you ready for coffee and chocolate that changes lives?

Questions? See Diane Shiell

### We Give Thanks for Your Generosity to A Special Time

On October 19, we asked you to give to the operation of our community respite program for caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer's and other related dementias. You responded with generous hearts. Our offering that day was \$719 and an additional \$270 was contributed by the other churches. The funds are used to purchase program supplies and lunch for the participants. God blesses us through you and we thank you. Donations may be made any time.

### A Bit of Thanksgiving History

Thanksgiving Day became an official Federal holiday in 1863, when, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

The event that Americans commonly call the "First Thanksgiving" was celebrated by the Pilgrims after their first harvest in the New World in 1621. This feast lasted three days and it was reportedly attended by 90 Native Americans and 53 Pilgrims.



## Council Update

By: Scott Hanson, Congregation President

We're excited! As fall is upon us, we are looking forward to the arrival of our snowbirds and the array of special events happening at LWLC. I hope that you can participate in many of these throughout the next few months. Make sure that you make room on your calendar for these events.

- \* **Fall Clean-Up Day (Nov. 8)**
- \* **Annual Golf Tournament (Nov. 22)**
- \* **Holiday Decorating (Dec. 3)**
- \* **40th Anniversary Celebration (December 7)**

Your council once again took advantage of the "world of technology" throughout the summer months. Snowbird council members joined together through video-conferencing to meet and carry out their responsibilities. The locals "connected" at the church while others were seen on their back porches, decks and their northern homes! We were able to carry out numerous tasks throughout the summer.

As you look around, we were able to accomplish several projects. We were able to replace and repair air conditioning units, improve and replace parking lot lighting, make

kitchen improvements and repair the fountain. We also have nearly completed the repairs of the Memorial

Garden which was vandalized earlier this year. As always, please give your council members a big Thank You for their dedicated efforts.

I am very pleased with the increase of new members in our congregation. We all welcome *you* to a growing and vibrant church. I hope everyone will take a moment to meet and greet each new member!

As in the past, I am asking everyone to once again "do a little stretching" in your stewardship. The fall also brings our annual Stewardship Drive. You will be receiving pledge packets and information on not only the financial needs and growth of our church, but also how vitally important your *time* and *talents* are to the future of Living Waters. Please let us know your thoughts and needs as we go forth with our missions.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:** The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with about 4 million members in nearly 10,000 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work; Our hands.", the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the of the German church reformer, Martin Luther.

## A Farewell Message from Pastor Michael Kasevich

Greetings and Blessings Living Waters  
Lutheran Church:

It was an honor and pleasure to be with you during my time of Shabbat or Sabbath or more known as Sabbatical. Sabbatical is a time where the pastor rests, renews, re-commits, and refocuses on and in God. In our denomination, the United Church of Christ, we pastors go on Sabbatical every five years of continual ministry.

I have been away from St. Paul United Church of Christ in Old Monroe, Missouri since August 1, 2014. My first stop was in Virginia to visit with grandchildren. While in Virginia I toured some of Washington D. C. One of the highlights was The National Cathedral.

From there I went home to Connecticut and visited my brother and sister and more grandchildren. I attended church in my home church and went deep sea fishing with my brother. I visited my parent's grave and also my late wife's grave as well. Connecticut was a time of soul searching and reflection.

Then I was off to Vermont to a retreat center just outside Manchester, Vermont. I was there on staff for three weeks; lots of dish washing, and bathroom cleaning yet lots of time in God's service to others who are seeking direction and faith.

I took a quick trip home to Missouri and then here to North Port. My time here has been a blessing. You have welcomed me into your space and into your hearts. I thank you. My time was a time of rest. I slept with no alarm clock each day except Sundays (for the obvious) and for Fridays in which I needed to be on time for the "Special Time" ministry.

Sabbatical is a time of complete rest as it is

written in Leviticus. God gave this law to the priests as God knew the trials and expectations of a minister. God knew the late hours of preparing a service, visiting the sick, performing the sacraments, burying the dead, marrying and baptizing, and just being there to listen and to teach. These are just a few duties of what pastors do each day, every day.

I worked for 30 years in aerospace manufacturing before becoming a full time pastor. Before that, I was a part time minister and worked full time in manufacturing. When I returned to school to finish my education one of my manufacturing colleagues said I had it made, that I would only have to work one day a week, Sunday.

God gives us what we can handle, yet sometimes we cannot think about bearing the load alone. We all need a time of renewal and a recharging of our batteries so to say. Take the time in your busy lives to rest in the Lord. Stop the chaos of life and sit still and listen, listen to God's soft voice calling in the quiet of rest.

There are 613 commandments in TORAH, the first five books of the Old Testament, the Law of Moses. God gave 10 of these commandments to Moses on a mountain top etched in stone. The others He gave along the way. *It is a Sabbath of complete rest to you, and you shall deny yourselves; it is a statute forever*, is one of the 613.

Take time to rest, reflect, and rejoice in our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.

God Bless,  
Rev. Michael Kasevich  
St. Paul United Church of Christ  
903 Meier Road  
Old Monroe, Missouri 63369

*(Editor's P.S. We enjoyed having you with us and wish you blessings in your ministry.)*

**Living Waters Lutheran Church  
2014 Fall Stewardship Emphasis  
is here....**

**Weekly Themes:  
Fearless Living, Fearless Service  
Fearless Sowing, Fearless Giving  
November 23: Commitment Sunday**



## May Your Days Be Merry and Bright

How to cope with sadness and depression during the holidays

By: Evelyn Mueller, Program Director for A Special Time



### Mental Health Awareness:

As the holidays are approaching, depression can be prevalent especially with the elderly. Most often it is considered situational depression, which is a person's reaction to a significant loss or series of losses such as a recent death of a loved one, loss of home, or a serious decline in health.

During the holidays, missing a significant person can have a profound effect on an individual. The elder population is more at risk for depression because they are at a time in their lives when the loss of loved ones and declines in abilities happen more often.

When situational depression continues for too long of a period, it can sometimes be re-

classified as major depression. The symptoms of depression are different for each person and can be any combination of the following:

- ◆ Changes in appetite (lack of interest in food or overeating);
- ◆ Changes in sleep patterns (sleeping most of the time or insomnia);
- ◆ Feelings of hopelessness and helplessness;
- ◆ Crying/tearful/generally sad;
- ◆ Decreased ability to concentrate or focus; Circular thought patterns (going over same thoughts in a loop);
- ◆ Lack of interest in usual activities;
- ◆ Thoughts of suicide or ideations of suicide or pre-occupied with death.

### What steps can we take to help an individual with depression?

- ◆ Show good listening skills as the person expresses their concerns and feelings.
- ◆ Be empathetic and validate the feelings being expressed.
- ◆ Provide validation. Knowing that someone else is interested and cares how you feel helps a person to feel valued and cared for.
- ◆ Give more individual attention and set aside time for them...keep your commitments!
- ◆ Involve them in family functions and activities they used to enjoy...even if it is only for a short time.
- ◆ Encourage reminiscing about pleasant events in their life and involve them in your life when possible. Talk about accomplishments, recognition and favorite people.
- ◆ Share ideas as a team on other ways to help a person cope with depression. If it is serious and there is no improvement, getting a medical professional involved will be necessary. There are medications that can be helpful as a person transitions.





## Healing Service – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

*"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."*

James 5:13-14 (The Message)

At 11:00 am, on the third Wednesday of each month, we have a Service of Prayer for Healing (With Anointing of Oil and Home Communion). This is for all in need of healing—of body, soul, and mind. Join us. You are welcome.

### Living Waters Preschool Report

By: Pastor Shiell

Living Waters Preschool was founded in 2007 and continues to be self-supporting. Below is a snapshot of the Preschool's finances and enrollment in the 2013 school year and the 2014 school year to-date.

#### 2013 School Year

\$12,125.89 Current Assets (7/31/14)  
\$1,586.13 Net Income (8/1/13 – 7/31/14)  
\$7,200 Rent paid to LW (8/1/13 – 7/31/14)

#### 2014 School Year To-Date

\$8,101.88 Current Assets (9/30/14)  
\$555.55 Net Income (8/1/14 – 9/30/14)  
\$4,900 Current balance of debt owed to LW (9/30/14)  
\$5,000 Current year loan repayments to LW (8/1/14 – 9/30/14)  
\$1,800 Rent paid to LW (8/1/14 – 9/30/14)

Our classroom capacity for VPK is 20 with two staff members and the capacity for the 2-3 year old class is 12 with one staff member.

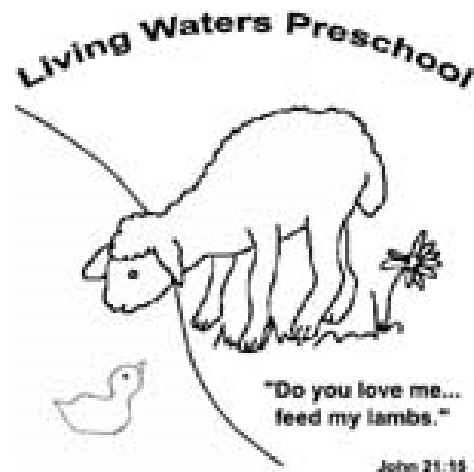
Our 2013 enrollment included -----8 children in the VPK (4 year-old) class and 16 children

in the 2-3 year-old class (4 attended the 4 year-old class, but not as VPK students).

During Summer 2014 our enrollment was 11 children.

Current 2014 enrollment includes -----19 children in the VPK (4 year-old) class and 5 children in the 2-3 year-old class.

Current staff includes: Susan D'Amico (Director & VPK Lead Teacher), Gail Serriani (2-3 Year Old Teacher), and Samantha Tolley (VPK Assistant).



## From Here To Eternity

### “Review Your Beneficiary Designations”

By: Pastor Dell and Diane Shiell



It is important to have a will and to keep it up-to-date.

However, not all estate assets are transferrable by a will.

Of special importance are assets that have a named beneficiary: for example, life insurance, 401(k), annuity, investment account, or trust.

So, in addition to keeping track of your will, you need to make sure that you keep updating your beneficiary designations for other assets. Here are 5 Common Mistakes To Avoid:

#### **Not Updating Beneficiary Information on Financial Contracts**

**Forgetting To Name Beneficiaries** (This applies to bank and brokerage accounts, company pension plans, annuities and 529 college plans)

**Naming A Minor As Beneficiary** (If you name a minor as a beneficiary, you should name a custodian for the funds until the child reaches the age of majority)

**Not Naming A Contingent Beneficiary** (If your primary beneficiary dies before you do, unless you name a contingent beneficiary, your assets could end up in probate upon your death)

**Inadvertently Making The Estate The Primary Beneficiary** (Whether you name the estate as your beneficiary or you fail to name a beneficiary, the probable result is probate)

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 or designate Living Waters as a beneficiary for a financial contract or account that you own.



#### **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: June 1, 2015

[LivingWatersLutheran.com](http://LivingWatersLutheran.com)



By: Char DeWitt

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will continue to meet once a month on the second Tuesday at 4:00 at the church.

At this time we are working on a Christmas Afghan! More details about that will be available soon. We have also made scarves and hats to give out at the meals for the hungry and baby blankets and hats that are donated to Bayview Medical Center.

If you knit or crochet or would like to learn, please join us! See Char DeWitt for more information.

### **Election Day is Tuesday, November 4**



If you haven't already taken advantage of early voting, be certain to cast your vote on November 4. Participate in the governance of your community and of your state.

### **Get Ready to Decorate**

Plan now to join your fellow members as we decorate the church for Christmas.

#### **Wednesday, Dec. 3, 5:00 pm**

We will hang the wreaths, put up and trim the trees, hang boughs on the windows, trim the altar rail, hang the star, and whatever else we can find.



And then...

#### **Enjoy pizza and cold drinks**

And then...

#### **Stay for Bible Study at 7:00 pm**

Watch for a sign up sheet in the Narthex later in November.

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### *On the Lighter Side...*

A couple invited some people to dinner. At the table, the mother turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," she answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

## A Float in the Poinsettia Parade

Living Waters Lutheran Church is planning to have a float in the North Port Christmas Parade this year. The parade is held on Saturday, December 13. We need people to help brain storm ideas for the float, help decorate, ride the float or walk near it handing out candy etc.

If any of these things sound like something you would like to do, contact Gayle Backiel, 423-6609. Our first meeting will be 6:00 Wednesday evening, November 5, just before the Pastor's Bible Study.



## Women's Christmas Party Luncheon—December 15

This year the Church women's Christmas party and business meeting will be Monday, December 15. All women of the church are welcome. We will be electing a president and vice president to Living Waters Women of the ELCA.

We will have a lot of fun singing Christmas Carols and playing games plus some surprises.

There will be a luncheon. Just bring your favorite salad topping. Whether it is tomatoes, egg, ham, olives or something else, when we put it all together we will have a great salad bar. Women of ELCA will furnish lettuce, salads dressings, drinks and dessert. Don't forget to bring a dozen cookies for a cookie exchange. Watch for details.

## Choir Rehearsal Resumes November 6



Music is one of the hallmarks of the Lutheran Church. In fact, Martin Luther valued it right next to the Scriptures. Maybe you would like to join us as we convene for the winter season. **We practice most Thursdays at 4:30 and conclude by 5:30 or so.** Many of our members can read music...but not all can...some have solo voices...some don't. But, when we all get together, we can make some lovely sounds.

If you have thought about being a part of the choir, why not give it a try this year? Men and women are most welcome. We sing at the 10:00 service but even if you attend the 8:15 service, you can still participate since we sing near the beginning of the 10:00 service. And we don't sing every week. See Judy Johnson for more information.

## A Special Time Celebrates its 10th Anniversary



AST celebrated a milestone Friday, October 24, 2014. The 10 year anniversary celebration was a Hawaiian-themed party attended by more than 30 people—program participants, caregivers and volunteers.

Surrounded by “island style” decorations, including leis for everyone, the participants and volunteers enjoyed a Hawaiian lunch prepared by volunteer Donna McDonald. The group enjoyed an educational discussion on The Hawaiian islands with points of interest.

In the afternoon the entertainment was provided by Keoki’s Hula Walea Dancer, Betty Jean “Keoki” Brooks. An experienced dancer from Englewood, she presented over 10 different Hawaiian dances, each beautiful and graceful. The participants enjoyed the tasteful dances and were able to join in on the fun. Cake and punch were served afterwards.

Many thanks to program director, Evelyn Mueller, for making it all happen. As a side note, the number of participants in our AST program is at a record-high 17. Everyone associated with A Special Time who volunteers time and helps our program financially makes a difference. We are so very grateful for you and what you bring to the people we serve.

*On a personal note...*

## ***Happy Birthday To You***

Surprise someone by sending  
a birthday card.

- Nov. 2 Sheri Moehling
- Nov. 5 Donna Nelson
- Nov. 9 Adeline Banks, Lucas Buck
- Nov. 10 Sierra Jones
- Nov. 11 Theresa Guinn
- Nov. 12 Brian Hess
- Nov. 13 Cecile Bitler, Janet Pelto
- Nov. 14 Betty Wilson
- Nov. 16 Erika Kettler
- Nov. 18 Jody Shelton
- Nov. 21 Larry Shelton
- Nov. 23 Ardys Hagen
- Nov. 29 Jerry Pauley, Sherry Wilson
- Nov. 30 Harrison Reece, Kay Sheils

***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.



## ***In Sympathy...***

**Albert Mudgett**, a long time associate member, passed away in his sleep, October 13, 2014. Cards may be sent to his son.

Kent Mudgett  
P.O. Box 542  
Felton, MN 56536

We also extend our sympathy to **Donna and Larry Nelson** on the death of Larry's father, Paul, on October 20, 2014. Paul lived in this area. Donna and Larry have gone North for a few weeks to be with family.

### **Physical Address**

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool  
12475 Chancellor Blvd.  
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

### **Mailing Address**

PO Box 8064  
North Port, FL 34290

**941-625-8090**

**[www.livingwaterslutheran.com](http://www.livingwaterslutheran.com)**

**Office Hours: 9:00am-Noon, 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](mailto:pastor@livingwaterslutheran.com)