



The Messenger

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

October 2014

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

Save the Date To Celebrate

Living Waters will
celebrate its 40th
anniversary on

**Sunday,
December 7**

There will be one service at 10:00, special guests and special music. We will also enjoy a brunch after the service. Don't miss this!

Welcome our October Guest Pastor

Rev. Michael Kasevich is from Old Monroe, MO, a small town northwest of St. Louis. He is the called pastor of the St. Paul United Church of Christ, a moderate to conservative congregation in a rural, agricultural setting.

He also is the Executive Director of an ecumenical soup kitchen called "God's Kitchen" which serves nearly 500 meals per year. He is on the denominational Evangelism Committee which reaches out into the community to bring God's word to those who will listen.

He received his M.D. from Bangor (ME) Theological Seminary and is presently studying for his Doctoral in Ministry through the Pillsbury Seminary in Hartford, CT. He received his B.S. degree from Excelsior College, Albany, N.Y.

We welcome Pastor Kasevich to Living Waters and look forward to getting to know you.

A Special Offering for A Special Time

2014 marks the 10th anniversary of A Special Time (AST), our adult respite program for caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer's, dementia and other related cognitive disorders.

On October 19, we are gathering donations to help with our operating expenses. The program runs independent from the church's budget and we pay a rental fee to the church each month.

We have one paid staff person, a hardworking volunteer board of directors, and volunteers who give of their time and their talents.

Our expenses are met through tuition from participants and through the generosity of your donations and those from the other participating churches and organizations. Please read the articles throughout this issue to learn more about A Special Time and how you can help. Thank you.

From the Pastor

By: Pastor Dell Shiell

October 31, 2017—500th Anniversary of Reformation Day

Each year, at Living Waters, we celebrate Reformation Sunday on the last Sunday of October. The actual anniversary date for “Reformation Day” is October 31, 1517. That’s when Martin Luther nailed his “95 Theses” on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany—the event that marks the beginning of “The Reformation.” It is, now, time to mention that Lutherans all over the world are preparing to celebrate the 500th anniversary of this event—October 31, 2017. To learn more plans that are being made for this historic celebration, visit <http://www.luther2017.com/en>.

A few years after posting his “95 Theses,” Luther said in a sermon, “I opposed indulgences ... but never with force. I simply taught, preached, and wrote God’s Word; otherwise I did nothing. I did nothing; the Word did everything.” When Luther began to propose reforms in worship, he wrote similar words, “This is the sum of the matter: let everything be done so that the Word may have free course.”

It is important to remember why we call ourselves “Lutherans.” It’s because we base our beliefs on the teachings of Martin Luther. Luther, an Augustinian priest who lived in the sixteenth century, wasn’t trying to start a denomination; he was trying to reform the Church. He wanted people to read the Bible so we would hear God speaking to us and, thereby, we would have a saving relationship

with God—*by grace through faith*—in Jesus Christ.



Recently, one of my uncles, (Rev. Don Raun, a retired Lutheran missionary to Africa), asked me to review his most recent book as he readies it for publication. Here’s a quote from his book:

Like a faithful pastor, Luther longed that his people would really hear the voice of God as they read Scripture. To that end, he suggested three things that could help them: prayer before reading, meditation on what God was telling them as they read and thirdly, recognition that trials or temptations of daily life sharpens our understanding of His Word. (A Thousand And One Voices: A Study of Voices and Worldviews)

It is very important for us to do more than pay lip service to the importance of the Bible as the Word of God. We need to spend time reading and meditating on the Bible. We need to appreciate how much we need God to speak to us as we live through the trials and temptations of daily life.

Once again, I direct you to the Seven Holy Habits we regard as essential to Christian faith and life, as summarized in brochures on our church website. For more information, visit http://livingwaterslutheran.com/page/7_holy_habits.

(cont. page 3)

(Pastor's Message cont.)

For our daily devotions, sometimes Diane and I use devotional guides; at others times, we read the Bible out loud and take turns praying. Recently, we began reading "The Psalms," one chapter a day, using **The Message** by Eugene Peterson. Wow! What a fresh *perspective* we are getting from these old favorites!

Find an approach to daily devotions that works for you. Change it up, to keep things interesting and fresh. But, regardless of what

you do, make sure you spend time each day reading the Bible and praying!

God is speaking. Are we listening? People have paid a high price to make it possible for us to do so. Let's celebrate this, by maintaining the habit of reading the Bible daily.



*In Christ,
Pastor Dell*

Synod Missional Covenant Letter

By: David Lanning

The Florida-Bahamas Synod of the ELCA has requested that our Living Waters Lutheran Church sign a Missional Covenant Letter with the Synod. This is a part of the Synod's program entitled "Congregations Planning for Mission in God's World." This new program is led by the Bishop, The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, with the intent to have the Congregations in the Synod join in their missions for their church, their communities and in the world.

A Missional Covenant Letter as proposed by the Synod has been prepared by our Long Range Planning Committee and has been reviewed and approved by the Church Council. In part, this letter states:

"We, of the Living Waters Lutheran Church and the Office of the Bishop commit ourselves to continue on a journey of discerning how to connect in meaningful and missional ways in our community."

We are already engaged in this process as discussed on page two of this document. Through ongoing implementation of a contextual missional plan we will boldly proclaim Jesus, passionately

make disciples for Jesus Christ, and faithfully do justice in the community and in the world. "

Page two of the letter gives a review the Mission statements and "three" Commitments that our congregation has approved in their review last October. Also our present out-reach is summarized as follows:

"Our congregation has a long history of outreach as the Hands of Christ serving others in the larger church and in the world. Current mission projects include: Mission Support for the Florida Bahamas Synod (The ELCA), Disaster Relief Response (Love Offerings), Living Waters Prayer Chain (includes praying for non-members), Living Waters Prayer Shawl and Baby Caps Outreach, Living Waters Cut-Ups (LWR Quilters), A Special Time (Respite Care and Support Group), Living Waters Preschool, Living Waters Community Meals Mission, Haiti Missionary Support, Living Waters Guest Pastor Program, WELCA, (Congregational, Conference, Synod)."

By this letter we prayerfully join with the Synod in the Missional program. The letter is to be sent to the Synod before Reformation Sunday, October 26, 2014.

A Special Time - Alzheimer's Respite Program Special Offering Sunday, October 19, 2014

By: Carol Sutton

This year is the 10th anniversary of A Special Time and the 40th anniversary of Living Waters Lutheran Church. As part of our celebration of these two special events, we plan to have a special offering on Sunday, October 19, 2014 for A Special Time. Your generosity will make a difference to our participants and caregivers and help us continue our various programs and better serve A Special Time and our community.

A Special Time offers emotional support and structured activities for individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia or other cognitive disabilities, plus much needed relief for caregivers. They meet every Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The mission statement is: "Our mission is to enhance and enrich the lives of participants and caregivers by providing quality respite care in the community."

You may not know that our program is an ecumenical venture involving four North

Port churches, besides Living Waters, and one other organization, the Ladies Auxiliary of AMVETS Post 2000. These churches are: North Port Community Church of Christ, St. Nathaniel's Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and Trinity United Methodist Church. These organizations provide volunteers every Friday and will also be participating in this fundraiser.

We are asking that you consider making a commitment to support A Special Time by making a donation. Most of our financial support comes from donations made by members of our supporting congregations and organizations.

We will provide a donation envelope on the Sunday of the special offering. There will be a space for you to enter your church envelope number so you can get credit for your donation. Checks can be made out to "A Special Time." Every donation makes a difference. Thank you for your continued support.

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. See Judy Johnson for more information.

Women's Fall Gathering

*"I have called you by name, you are mine."
Isaiah 43:1*



The Fall Gathering will once again be held at the Lake Yale Conference Center in Leesburg, November 14, 15 and 16.

Please come to the table set up in the Narthex for more information or to register. The deadline to register is October 15, 2014

Secret Sisters



By: Patty Pauley

We still have some registration forms on the table in the Narthex. If you are still holding on to yours and want to be a Secret Sister, please return it by October 26 so it can be put into an envelope for distribution to your secret sister.

For those who return in November, you can also participate and we will take care of your forms when you when join us again.

The Royal Tea is already being planned, so don't miss out; get the forms back.

You can leave them in the basket on the bottom or in an envelope, or give to Patty Pauley before or after service, (you will find me in the Sunday school room). You can also leave them in the Sunday School mailbox in the office.

Thanks for being a part of our Secret Sister Program.

Preschool Golf Tournament Gains Sponsors

By: Joanne Carlock

Preparations for our Annual Golf Tournament, scheduled for November 22, 2014, at the Port Charlotte Golf Club, are moving along. Two major sponsors have been secured and some prizes have been donated.

Your help is needed to secure more items for our prize table. It could be as easy as speaking to your server when you are out to dinner or your beauty consultant when you are having your hair done. Any help in making our tournament a success is greatly appreciated.

The registration form is now available on the Church and Preschool website. The \$70 fee for the day includes a Continental Breakfast, lunch, cart fees, range balls, door prizes, and several contests for men and women. Credit card payments can also be made online: LivingWatersPreschool.com.

If you do not play golf, you do not have to miss out on the fun. You can take part in the day by volunteering to help. Volunteer signup sheets are available in the Church Narthex.

A Message from the AST Program Director Evelyn Mueller

Making an impact on Alzheimer's disease and related cognitive disorders is a daunting and awesome challenge. As "A Special Time" embarks upon its 10 year anniversary, one might ask how this program works and what does it accomplish?

A Special Time is a respite program offered to the community for people with cognitive disorders. It is a weekly, four hour program that is designed to provide a meaningful experience and to enhance present skills in a therapeutic social setting with structured activities such as light exercises, games, arts and crafts, music and educational fun. These activities are failure-free and increase self-esteem and dignity, while providing respite time for the caregivers.

As the program director since late March, I am astonished at the growth and need for this worthwhile program and the opportunity it lends. The caregivers often mention how comforted and relieved they are, knowing that their loved one is engaged in activities that embrace the character, individuality and the spirit of the very essence of a person

who has been a vital part of society. This disease can compromise a human being of quality of life as we know it. Not only does this disease rob the person of their mental and physical functions, but, the life of the caregiver is changed and forever impacted as well.

But, where would our program be without our volunteers? Frankly, the program could not exist without them. The volunteers are another set of eyes and add a special touch to the program. I believe if you ask any volunteer they would tell you that not only is this program enjoyable, it leaves them with a sense of accomplishment and is a rewarding and fulfilling experience. Our volunteers give of themselves unselfishly and assist the participants on many levels. We are always recruiting new volunteers and the need is great. I would like to acknowledge the volunteers and sincerely thank them for their valuable time.



Could You Be an AST Volunteer?

Once every five weeks is all it takes to be a volunteer for A Special Time. Because there are several organizations involved in the program, the volunteers work on a rotating basis. Volunteers arrive 15 minutes before the 10:30 starting time each Friday to help get things organized and to meet with our director, Evelyn Mueller, to be briefed on the ac-

tivities for that day. The key responsibilities of volunteers are all related to the care of the participants. Volunteers are men and women who guide participants to each area of activity, encourage them to take part, help them with lunch, keep them focused, and attend to their questions and needs. **If you want to do something worthwhile with 4 hours of your time every once in a while on a Friday, please see Adeline Banks, the Volunteer Coordinator for A Special Time.**



**Living Waters Lutheran Church
Fall Stewardship Emphasis
is just around the corner....**

Small Group Update

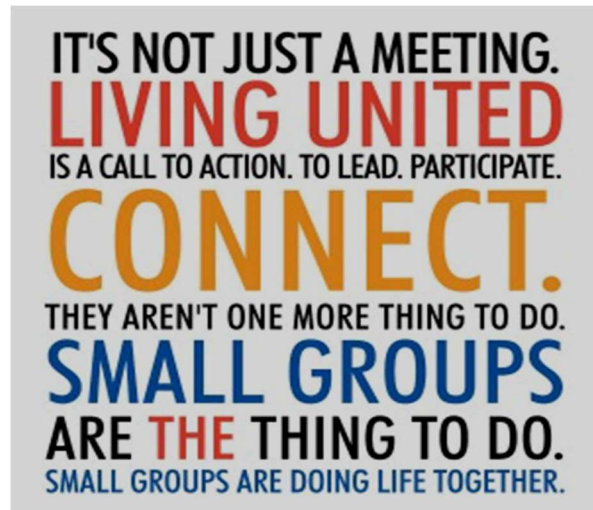
Some small groups have been meeting over the summer; some are gearing up for the season. The following is an update of where we have been and what we have planned for the months ahead. The real kick-off for small groups will also be a celebration honoring 40 years of Living Waters Lutheran Church. See the poster, "40th Anniversary Pot Luck Brunch", in this newsletter for more information.

The Community Outreach Ministry has been busy all summer. We are still averaging around 65 - 70 meals per dinner. Bikes, toiletries and clothing have continued to go out all summer. Jacob's Well Church is cooking every other month, plus they come in and help us with the meals twice a month. The S.O.S. Sunday was a great help and we would like to thank Ellen Hanson again for getting our church involved in that really neat event. Debbie & Denny are busy running to Publix every week and providing our bread and pastries. That is a big job and we are so grateful to them for all they do! Adeline & Peter have been our faithful Thursday warriors handing out the bread and pastries when it's not a dinner night. We look forward to the return of some of our regular helpers from up north. We are blessed that our shelves are stocked, our freezer is full and we are able to continue to serve our community year around.

Blessings, The Kitchen Gang

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been meeting once a month during the summer. We have lots of prayer shawls available so our group is also knitting and crocheting baby blankets for the local hospitals and scarves and hats for those who need them. Currently we meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00pm. Our goals continue to be providing

prayer shawls to those who are ill, struggling, or deserve a special blessing. Prayer shawls are a tangible reminder of our connection to God and to all the prayers being said for the recipient. *Char DeWitt*



Women in Action: The Fall has arrived already and we are about to embark on a new adventure in the Bible. We will be meeting on the 3rd Friday of each month. Theme: Do your best, pray and let God do the rest. Since we received a great number of toiletries from the S.O.S. in September, we will be saving our funds for the LWR Good Gifts this season, such as clean water or malaria nets.

Sheri Moehling

A Special Time Caregivers Support Group (which meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays each month) is now under the leadership of the Alzheimer's Association of Port Charlotte. Linda Howard is the Program Specialist assigned to our support group. We continue to have between 8 and 12 people in attendance each meeting. We have three new members. One of our members has planned special outings for each of the coming months so we can stay connected as a group.

Carol Sutton

(Small Groups cont.)

Sunday School did not meet over the summer. We started back on Sept 7 with an introduction day with games and snacks and started lessons Sept. 12. We are Bible explorers this year and will be learning the creation over a period of seven weeks. We will meet some of the people in the Bible such as Moses, Joseph and Daniel, just to name a few. It promises to be an exciting year.

Patty Pauley

Prayer Team will meet again each Tuesday at 11:00 beginning October 7. We focus on Bible Study and, as our name suggests, prayer. This year we are beginning a Bible study called "Really Bad Girls of the Bible." Come and find out how really bad girls in the Bible can help us learn to be better children of God.

Gayle Backiel

Cut Ups...Fall has arrived in the north and along with it, the beautiful colors of nature we are privileged to enjoy. It is also the time when the snowbirds think about returning to Florida for the winter months. Hopefully by November we should have enough women back to begin quilting again.

Please consider joining us each week from 9 – 12:00 in Hansen Hall. We have a lot of fun as we put together, sew and tie the quilts we make, and always welcome new quilters. The coffee pot goes on at 10:00 am so feel free to drop in, have a cup, and see what we are doing.

As you clean out your closets this fall please consider donating used materials such as fabrics, sheets, dust ruffles and yarn to the Cut Ups. We promise to put your donations to good use.

Carol Lundquist

**40th Anniversary
Celebration**

Sunday, October 28, 2014

**Pot Luck
and Brunch
11:30 am
After Church
Service**

Sponsored by
Small Group Ministries

*Buffet for hot and cold food *Bring a covered dish and have a good time

Entertainment Provided

For information, contact:

Gayle Backiel—423-6609 Kris Dines—423-6452 Char DeWitt—276-8377

From Here To Eternity

"Yes, You Need A Will"

By: Pastor Dell and Diane Shiell

Good intentions are not enough for drawing a valid will. Your intentions must be stated in accordance with the laws of your state and expressed in language that cannot be misinterpreted. Only a competent attorney can help you draw your will so that it can carry out your wishes exactly. Remember, you

will not be present to clarify any misunderstandings. A valid will must clearly express your intention, using appropriate language to provide for the transfer of property interests under the existing laws.

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.



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

Living Waters Fall Clean Up Day

Saturday, November 8, 9:00am

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.

- trim bushes
- pull weeds
- general outdoor clean up
- have a cold drink
- tidy up the memorial garden
- prune flowers and other plants
- wash windows



- vacuum the pew cushions
- vacuum the carpet
- polish the wood
- wipe down walls
- pause for coffee
- wash windows
- scrub down the kitchen
- have some fun

Just Look What You Did! Stock Our Shelves Sunday Donations

Special thanks to Ellen Hanson for organizing this effort from a distance! You responded with your generosity and love. Here's a summary of what was given to help those who need our help. Whew! It's a long list.

Food Products:

peanut butter
jelly
tuna
chicken
soup
rice
cheese
white chicken chili
sweet relish
Crystal Light
Jello
V8
kidney beans
Hormel Chili
hot dog chili sauce

corn
crackers
Chef Boyardee
green beans
mixed vegetables
mac & cheese
cereal
pasta
carrots
peas
spaghetti sauce
pasta sides noodles
stuffing mix
fruit cups
instant potatoes
salad dressing

Toiletries:

toothbrushes
razors
deodorant
Ibuprofen
bandages
antibacterial wipes
toothpaste
denture paste
burn medicine
bug spray
bars of soap
body wash
hand sanitizer
peptic relief
sunscreen

On the lighter side...

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3

The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say,

'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, 'Ryan , you be Jesus!'



Winter Worship Schedule Resumes

November 2

**Worship at
8:15
and
10:00**

On a personal note...

Happy Birthday To You

- Oct. 2 Jack Eriksen
- Oct. 8 Dorothy Veselka
- Oct. 9 Carolann Cortese
- Oct. 13 Carol Piltz
- Oct. 14 Kyle Gullickson, Becky Jones
- Oct. 17 Neil Booth
- Oct. 19 James Chitwood
- Oct. 20 Madeline Houser
- Oct. 21 Harold Lapprich
- Oct. 22 Kristy Boyette
- Oct. 23 Travis Buck, Susan Kasakowski
- Oct. 25 Clarence Veselka
- Oct. 26 Elizabeth Colligan
- Oct. 27 Liam Pena
- Oct. 28 Jordan Kolb

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, editor and publisher: 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.

A Special Thank You...

After devoting 10 years of her time, talents and resources to A Special Time, **Carol Sutton** is retiring from the Executive Board of this organization. Because of her many talents, Carol has served AST from day one in the capacities of vice president, secretary, and marketing maven. She also created the Caregiver's Group and was its leader until earlier this year. We thank her for her dedication, generous spirit, and boundless energy.

In addition to Carol, our Board Members include Carol Piltz, Adeline Banks, David Lanning, Evelyn Mueller, Program Director, and Judy Johnson, Board President. Our newest member is Pat Hodgkins who will be our Secretary. If you think you might be interested in joining the Board, please feel free to speak to any Board member.

We work hard and devote more than a passing moment to this worthwhile program that is so needed in our community. If you're looking for a rewarding challenge, this might be just the thing for you.

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

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