



The Messenger

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

September 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!

Sunday School Starts September 7

By: Patty Pauley

I hope you are all ready to
head out on an adventure
through the Bible. We are
heading off on exciting travel
through many lands where
we will get to meet a lot of
different people as well as
have some other adventurous
outings. Be sure to be here on
Sunday Sept. 7, as we kick off
the start of another exciting
Sunday School year.
I can't wait to see you all at
our campsite!

Annual Preschool Golf Tournament Scheduled

By: Joanne Carlock

Circle November 22, 2014
on your calendars. It's time,
once again, for the Annual
Golf Tournament, proceeds
benefitting Living Waters
Preschool. This year, the
tournament will be held at
Port Charlotte Golf Club,
Port Charlotte. The cost is \$70 per person, which in-
cludes 18 Holes, Clubhouse Lunch, Cart Fees, Range
Balls, and Door Prizes.



The fun begins at 7am with registration and an 8am
Shotgun Start, 4 Person Scramble. Prizes include Longest
Drive (Men's/Women's), Closest to the Pin on all Par 3's,
Putting Contest, Team Awards to 1st and 2nd Places, and
Numerous Door Prizes.

The delicious lunch includes grilled chicken breast, side
of homemade fettuccine, tossed salad, Texas toast, and
yummy chocolate cake.

Volunteers are needed to secure door prizes, sell raffle
tickets, oversee contests, etc. Anyone wishing to assist
and join in the fun, please contact Caren Karns at
(941)429-7875 or tckarns@comcast.net.

Your help would be so appreciated.

From the Pastor

By: Pastor Dell Shiell



The Church Has Left The Building

Two realizations keep coming back to me: I am a Christian. We are the church. My identity as a Christian defines who I am and it determines how I live my life. Usually, we think of “the Christian thing to do” as a matter of ethics and morality. We equate “the Christian thing to do” with “the right thing to do.” But, “the Christian thing to do” goes beyond ethics and morality.

There are lots of good people in the world, but being a good person is not the same as being a Christian. My faith relationship with Jesus Christ is what defines me as a Christian—and it always determines what is and what is not “the Christian thing to do.”

As a Christian, I want to do more than what a good person does. I want to live as a person who belongs to Jesus Christ. A really important part of living as a person of faith is my participation in the community of faith. I am always a Christian *and* a member of the church. I cannot be one without the other. I am joined to Christ and the church is the body of Christ. On our church website, you can find a resource called, “The Seven Holy Habits.” These habits do not correspond with an ethical code of right living. However, they do highlight some traditional understandings of “the Christian thing to do,” for one

who has a living faith relationship with God in Jesus Christ.

It is impossible to ponder these seven holy habits and ignore one’s relationship with the rest of the church.

September 7, 2014 is Rally Sunday for Living Waters. We are rallying around who we are—both as individuals and as a church.

On September 7, Living Waters will participate in the ELCA’s “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday. Our special mission project for the day is “S.O.S.” (Stock Our Shelves), as we gather goods for our community ministries. Those unable to attend worship are encouraged to give a special financial contribution by mail or online from the church website.

I like the poster that simply says: “Don’t just go to church. Be the church.”

As we practice the seven holy habits, we gather in worship, and then we go back into the world—as individual Christians and as members of the church. Wherever you go, whatever you do, you are being sent to do God’s work with your hands.

You are living proof that, “The church has left the building—to serve.

In Christ,
Pastor Dell

Ladies, Would You Like a Secret Sister?

By: Patty Pauley

Shhh, can you keep a secret? if so then read on.

As you have been reading in recent bulletins, we are starting a Secret Sisters group. There are no meetings to attend, only a luncheon at the end of the season to reveal who is whose Secret Sister.

There are "Getting to know you" questionnaires in the Narthex in the basket with the crown. If you are interested in this ministry of just getting to know each other, then please stop by and pick one up. All the instructions are with the form, just remember to turn your form to that same basket by Oct. 26. The forms will be picked up weekly and sorted on November 2. Be sure to check back on table for an envelope with your name. Inside this envelope will be the name of your secret sister with a copy of her questionnaire so you will have the information needed.

All the answers can be found on your questionnaire form, if not, please get in touch with Patty Pauley at 941-429-2303 or at queenmom6@verizon.net



Women in Action Bible Study Resumes

By: Sheri Moehling

Ladies! Our 3rd Friday of the month Bible study and fellowship starts this month on Friday, September 19 at 1 pm at Sheri's home in North Port. We will start with a discussion entitled "Do your best, pray and let God do the rest".



The key Bible verse is "John 14: 1-4, 6. The participants will be ready to share how God has helped them through a difficult or challenging time in their life.

Come join us for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study.

Please contact me if you have questions.

John 14: 1-6

And Jesus said:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

(5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?")

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

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

He has called us and we are His – come join your Sisters in Christ as we celebrate being Children of God! The Florida Bahamas Synodical Women’s Organization Fall Gathering will once again be held at the Lake Yale Conference Center in Leesburg this November.



*Please Join Us — Florida/Bahamas
Synodical Women's Fall Gathering
November 14, 15 & 16, 2014*

We are pleased to announce pastor Nancy Fisher will be returning as our Chaplain. She will lead us in Worship with Holy Communion and in our Sending Service. Sister Michelle Collins will once again lead us in Bible Study as we explore God’s Calling.

You may choose to attend several of the many workshops offered or you can enjoy time for personal reflection along the beautiful lake. Delegates will meet throughout the weekend to conduct the business of our organization but still have time to enjoy all the other activities.

Sister Michelle Collins and Eva Johnson will be our Youth Leaders this year and are planning some awesome activities for our youth. While the youth will have their own gathering space for activities during business sessions, you’ll find them being part of Worship, workshops, and other activities – perhaps even leading some. To encourage young women to attend, their fees are reduced and scholarship funds have been set aside for them. Consider bringing along your daughter or granddaughter and have her bring a friend.

‘Share the Spirit’ grants are available to help defray costs for anyone wishing to attend. Watch the web site www.flwelca.com for additional information regarding the Fall Gathering and registration forms. Information is being mailed to all congregations.

"You Are Mine"

*Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home.
I love you and you are mine.*

#581 ELW

Upon Departure...

parting thoughts from Pastor Tom Smith

Editor's note: The following article was written by Pastor Tom Smith, our guest pastor for July and August. We thank Pastor Tom and Ginger for being with us for this time and wish them safe travel and God's choicest blessings as they return to Georgia. Thank you for enriching our lives, our worship and our service.

I still cannot believe that as I sit down and write this that our two months of ministry with you, our new friends of Living Waters Lutheran Church, is over. Ginger and I want to express our deepest gratitude to you for allowing us the opportunity to grow and explore new possibilities both for us personally as well as through the larger body of Christ.

One of the challenges of retirement I have discovered is attempting to discern how I am going to spend the remaining part of my life. There is a great deal more to planning for retirement than simply working out the financial requirements. Of even greater importance is how best to spend the gift of hours and days I have at my disposal.

I have discovered the most meaningful approach to retirement is to achieve a balance between recreation, reflection, exploration, and service.

Recreation is simply having fun. For some, it may be golf, for others, fishing, for me it's bike riding, hiking, snow skiing, and going to the beach. Recreation has the added benefit of enhancing physical fitness, an important component especially as we grow older.

Reflection is often achieved through such activities as prayers, meditation, and reading. Someone once said that the non-reflective life isn't worth living. I believe this is absolutely true.

For me exploration happens most often through travel and inserting myself into a different culture and environment. Exploration is especially fruitful when I can spend a significant amount of time in a new and different place, which is one of the amazing benefits of the Pastor2Go ministry. It's impossible to be immersed in a different setting in just a few days or weeks. However, give yourself a month or two among new people and surroundings can be very gratifying.

Finally, there is service. Our theology and faith inform us that through Jesus the Christ, we have been saved to live usefully. Useful, Christ centered living happens when we discover ways to serve and build others up in Christ. At Living Waters Lutheran these opportunities abound, especially through the Feeding the Hungry and A Special Time programs. There are also other ministries offered through your community, but these two were the ones I was most frequently involved in. As with most Christ centered ministries, I received a lot more out of these ministry offerings than what I contributed. It's amazing how things work out this way.

Indeed, the Pastor2Go Program is a unique blessing, not only for the participating clergy and their spouse but for the congregation as well. It provides an essential life balance for all involved. I only wish more congregations within the larger body of Christ would take up this wonderful model.

For us, all I can say is thank you so much for making the Pastor2Go Program available.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Tom & Ginger Smith

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.

- Sept. 1 Ed DeMeritt
- Sept. 2 John Jensen, Ron Leeper
- Sept. 3 Daryl Mendez
- Sept. 4 Rick Backiel
- Sept. 11 Lois Ertle, Ellen Hanson
- Sept. 12 Bill Carlock
- Sept. 13 Joanne Carlock
- Sept. 18 Pat Keller
- Sept. 19 Betty Drechsel
- Sept. 25 Dwight Wehr
- Sept. 28 Douglas Grant, Mary Catherine Leeper

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.

Our Sympathy...to the family of **Nancy Lou Nickles**. Nancy passed away on Sunday, August 20. Her memorial service will be held on Monday, September 8 at 11:00 at Living Waters. A reception for family and friends will follow in Hanson Hall.

Our Sympathy...to **Herb and Sheri Moehling** and family following the death of Herb's mother, Lorraine, on Saturday, August 30. The memorial service was held on Saturday, September 6 at Living Waters.

Urgent Need

We urgently need people to count the offerings on Sunday mornings. You will be trained on how to record the contributions and what to do with them once the counting is complete. As you might expect, confidentiality is a requirement as well as an aptitude for accurately recording numbers.

Please see Marty Savard to volunteer or for more information. Having lots of volunteers means more people on the schedule and that means you won't have to do it that often. Give it a try.

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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