



The Messenger

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

May 2012

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

About this issue...

Be sure to read Pastor's article about Sunday School. Our children are precious to us and, as a church, we need to make certain we are providing them the same or even better Christian instruction than we received.

Please see the back page for details on submitting articles. Don't forget to include members-only birthdays, special occasions or other notes for the 'On a Personal Note' column.

Judy Johnson

What is Pentecost?

Pentecost is the great festival that marks the birth of the Christian church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost means "fiftieth day" and is celebrated fifty days after Easter. Pentecost occurs this year on May 27.

The liturgical color is red.

Annual Rachel's Day Observance



On Sunday May 6, we join Lutheran churches across America in observing "Rachel's Day," a program of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The day takes its name from Jeremiah 31:15-17, "...Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted because her children are no more."

The observance was initiated in 1994 when a woman urged her congregation in Chicago to support children facing violence in their homes and communities. They began by clearing a vacant lot and turning it into a garden – Rachel's Garden. It was a place where people, mostly mothers, could come to pray and display a cross or flowers for children killed in the community.

In 1996, the Women of the ELCA at a National Triennial Convention resolved to broaden awareness of the violence against children by designating the first Sunday in May as Rachel's Day.

We continue the tradition of marking Rachel's Day in our churches some 16 years later because violence is still prevalent in our society. Children fear drugs, guns, gangs, going home to an empty house, poor education, hunger, unsafe streets and being alone. This is a day to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our society.

The blue ribbons we wear on Rachel's Day help us remember all children who are at risk.

Student Music Recital at Living Waters

On Saturday, May 12, our sanctuary will be the site of a music recital featuring the students of local music instructor, Debbie Dale. In addition to piano, the students play a variety of other instruments including strings, brass and reed instruments. The recital is from 1:00—4:00 pm.

A Message From the Pastor

Once again, I want to congratulate the four youth who were Confirmed on April 22: Nicole Reece, Lauren Kolb, Zachary May and Corey Gray.

Christian Education for children and youth remains as crucial now as ever. However, unlike bygone years, these days Christian Education requires a lot more effort and prayer!

Parents must make a special effort. And so must the local church.

Therefore, for the next year or so, Diane and I are taking responsibility to supervise our struggling Sunday School ministry for younger children. Here is our plan for Sunday School.

- 1) **Sunday School Teacher Qualifications:**
If you are a Christian and—if you are a parent or if you have ever been a parent or if you have ever known and loved a child or if you have ever been a child—then, you are invited, encouraged, and challenged to teach Sunday School 1-2 Sundays during the upcoming school year. Sign-up sheets are available in the social hall with dates and the lesson topic for each Sunday.
- 2) **Sunday School Class Preparations:**
Sunday School Teachers are not required to prepare in advance of Sunday School (though, of course, you may prepare in advance if you really want to do so). Everything will be ready for teachers to have an enjoyable 45-50 minutes with wonderful children who want to learn about God and Jesus.

3) **Sunday School Schedule and Class**

Times: The Sunday School Year will begin the Sunday after Labor Day and will end the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend. Sunday School class times will coincide with our worship schedule. During the six months when we have two services (November-April), Sunday School will meet during the 10:00 service. During the six months when we have only one service (May-October), Sunday School for children will meet at 9:00 am when we also offer an Adult Bible Study. The point to keep in mind is that Sunday School Teachers should be given the opportunity to worship as well as to lead a Sunday School class.

Christian Education is essential to our Discipleship—as children, youth and adults. We must be clear in our commitment to the Body of Christ and take steps to indicate that we value and are willing to answer the call to provide Christian Education to our children. This is not an option. This is a requirement for us as a local church.

Let The People of God say, “Amen!”

Pastor Dell



Sermon Series for May and June

Want to practice some holy habits? Be sure to catch Pastor Dell's sermon series:

Seven Holy Habits

The series begins May 6 and concludes July 1 with exceptions to the series being made on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Community Outreach

The Community Outreach Ministry is pleased to announce that several of our friends have jobs, cars (still hanging on to their bikes) and are doing great! As we continue to serve, for every success story we are seeing new faces coming through the door. Our prayer is that someday the need won't be so big. Again, we thank all of you for your support and donations!

PUSH Café officially opened April 7. We had a wonderful night of fellowship, some yummy homemade cookies, worship and sharing of God's word. Mark your calendars for the first Saturday of every month and join *Fields Of Grace*, at PUSH Café. Everyone is invited. We also provide child care. For more information, please check out the flyer on the church website or the bulletin board in the hallway.

Youth News

On Saturday, May 19, 4-7pm, the youth are hosting their monthly event. This is a family event and everyone is invited.

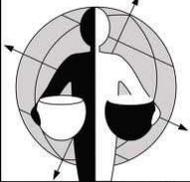
The activities will start with a game of kickball (youth vs. adults), then a spaghetti dinner will be served for those in attendance. The night will end with a movie, "To Save a Life."

Please join us. It's a great way to spend an afternoon and evening in fellowship!



Food for thought: "When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure." *Dr. Peter Marshall*

FAIR TRADE



CERTIFIED

Stand With Moms

This Mother's Day stand with Moms around the world—by buying and giving a gift of Fair Trade coffee, tea or chocolate.

The Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project ensures that money you spend on coffee reaches the farmers who actually grow it.

Proverbs 13:23 says, "A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away."

Besides Fair Trade chocolate and tea, we have on-hand a new order of two kinds of coffee—Bright Day Brew (Char DeWitt's favorite—ask her about it) and Organic Sister's Blend, a special order in honor of Mother's Day and a blend dedicated to honor women coffee farmers who are active in their co-operatives as well as Lutheran women in the U.S. who advocate for Fair Trade.

The display is located on a library bookshelf in the social hall.

Stand with Moms and "Pour Justice To The Brim."



On a personal note...

Congratulations to **Bob and Mary Carson** married 67 years on May 5.

From Lee DeWitt: *Thank you for all of your prayers and visits while I was in the hospital. A special thank you to Pastor Shiell for the visit and scripture readings and prayers. I appreciate the great church family at Living Waters.*

We extend our sympathy to **Norma Van Harn and family** at husband Lee's passing. Cards and other expressions of sympathy may be sent to: Norma Van Harn, 2741 136th St., Unit 150, Hopkins, Michigan 49328.

From Pastor Dell: "I am proud of our confirmands--**Corey, Lauren, Zach, and Nicole**. Similarly, I am proud of their parents and the Living Waters church family for their ongoing support of our youth and our youth ministry. Please keep our youth and their families in your prayers, as we strive to be the multi-generational church God intends for us to be."

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We have had a busy month providing prayer shawls for the many members of our congregation who have been hospitalized. Jane Fundyga has done a wonderful job making sure that everyone who would benefit from a prayer shawl received one. THANK YOU Jane!! Also a big thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers who knit and crochet these shawls and to Barb Bruno for creating the cards that we present with them.

Starting in May we will be changing our meeting times to the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 4:00 - 5:30. Please come and join us!

We would like to extend many thanks to the people that have financially supported our ministry and also to those who have donated yarn. All donations are very much appreciated!

Questions? See Char DeWitt

The Messenger is published monthly by Living Waters Lutheran Church and is 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 for publication the following month and may be edited. Pictures are not printed.

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Summer Office Hours: May 1- August 15
9:00 am—Noon, Monday thru Thursday.

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