



# *The Messenger*

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

*April 2012*

## **About This Issue**

**New column:** Starting with this issue, there is a new column called: *On a Personal Note*. This column is for expressing thanks to the congregation for prayers etc. and for posting birthdays of Living Waters members for the current month. All postings are for Living Waters members only.

The April issue of The Messenger is a week late this month due to my recent hospitalization. The May issue will be back on track and will be distributed on May 6, the first Sunday of the month.

Deadline for articles for the May issue is April 21. See the back page for how to submit articles.

Judy Johnson

## **Meet our April Guest Pastor**

First say, "Welcome" to Pastor Roy Nilsen and his wife, Mary Ylvisaker-Nilsen. Then say, "Congratulations" on celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary on April 2.

Their lives thus far have been full and interesting. A few bullet points to highlight the journey:

- Roy grew up in Milwaukee in a non-church family, had a conversion experience as a teen, decided to become a pastor.
- Graduated from Concordia in Moorhead, MN where he met Mary.
- They married after both graduating; he attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul.
- Served parishes in rural MN, Iowa City, IA, and Des Moines, IA.
- Retired in 2004 and has served as an interim pastor; loves being a docent at the Des Moines Art Center.
- Mary is a writer and teacher of writing. Earned her MA at the U. of Iowa and her Masters of Theological Study from Harvard Divinity School.

There's much more—be sure to get acquainted with Pastor Roy and Mary.

## **Cardboard Campout and Other Youth News**

March 24 was the second annual Living Waters Cardboard Campout. Eight members from Living Waters slept out, with one sleeping in a box until the rains came at 4am.

A total of 65 people attended, with speakers and two other churches joining our camp out. Next year's event will be called "Homeless Awareness Event" and is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2013.

In other youth news, the Pancake breakfast was a success. The youth and their parents want to thank each of you for all your support throughout the year. Trips, camp, and outings would not be possible without your love and generosity for the youth. Thank you!

**The last fund raiser for the season is Easter Sunday. Join the youth in Hanson Hall for coffee and pastries after the service.**

## From the Pastor...

***In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ...***



These words introduce the order of service for Baptism in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. When we baptize new Christians, two amazing things happen:

- God frees us from sin and death, and
- God joins us to the death and resurrection of Christ.

The church season of Easter has now begun. This time of year, it makes sense to consider the importance of our baptism. Why? Because baptism connects us directly to the reality of Christ's death and resurrection.

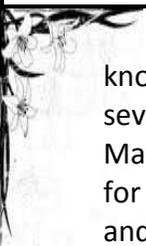
It is important to be connected to reality. We can hardly expect others to pay much attention to our claim that Christ is everything to us, unless this is really true. Similarly, who is going to take us seriously when we say, "He is risen," when we fail to demonstrate by our words and deeds that this really is the case?

Take time to reflect on the meaning of your baptism. God has laid a hand on you. God has joined you to Jesus. Jesus' destiny is yours. He died. You will die. He was raised from the dead. You will rise from the dead. He conquered sin and death. You are free from the power of sin and death.

It is time to *die to sin and rise to newness of life*. It is time to seize the day, to love God and your neighbor with abandon. It is time to make the connection between the reality of Sunday and the reality of the rest of the week. It is time to live out your baptism, to let God work the miracle of change in your heart, in your mind and in your relationships.

You are no longer the same. Life is no longer the same. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

In Christ,  
Pastor Dell



The Season of Easter, known as Eastertide, has seven Sundays and ends on May 20. Liturgical colors for the season are white and gold.

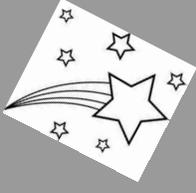
## Summer Worship Schedule Begins in May

**Effective May 6, we switch to one Sunday service at 10:00. Pastor's Bible Study switches to 9:00 Sunday morning.**

## "A Special Time" Officer Needed

Due to Peg Pulfer recently moving back north, we have a vacancy on the Board of Directors for "A Special Time." Peg served as Vice President.

The BOD oversees the business aspect of that ministry and meets every three months. The VP is required to attend the meetings and to run them when the president is not available. The next meeting is Thursday, May 16, 2012. If you have an interest in serving in this ministry or would like to volunteer for this position, please contact Rick Backiel, President, at 941-423-6609.



## **Congratulations Women of Living Waters ELCA**

On Saturday, March 10 at the Spring Gathering, held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Venice, four members of Living Waters Women of the ELCA were elected unanimously to the board of the Mid-Gulf Conference.

Gayle Backiel and Sheri Moehling were elected co-presidents, Kris Dines - vice-president, and Pat Keller - secretary.

This conference consists of 12 Lutheran churches located along the gulf coast from

Bradenton to Port Charlotte. It has been almost a decade since a member of Living Waters has been on this board and now we have four dedicated individuals who accepted the call to serve their congregation, their community and the churches in the Mid-Gulf Conference.

These women will need your prayers, support, ideas, and commitment to help them lead for a two-year term. Let them know that you support their efforts and will help them in this exciting walk with the Holy Spirit.

### **Christian Wellness Gets a Make-Over**

After 10 years of service to our women at Living Waters, the Christian Wellness ministry is being restructured with a new name, a new time, and a new focus.

“Women in Action” is our new name. We meet at 11:00 the second Friday of each month at 5001 Kingsley Rd., North Port — Sheri Moehling’s home. We start our program with a Bible study or devotional and use the remaining time for presenting upcoming events, brainstorming ideas for these events, and planning new projects.

All women at Living Waters are welcome. Call Sheri Moehling for more information at 429-1225. Next meeting will be April 13, 2012. Prayerfully consider this as a way to pray, study, and serve.

### **Log in to the Travel Log**

If you are planning to go north for the summer or until next season, please sign or update the travel log book located in the Narthex. Be sure to include your departure and return dates.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Although we didn’t meet in March, we have kept busy on an individual basis, knitting and crocheting prayer shawls and pocket prayer cloths.

The pocket prayer cloths will be included in the newcomer packets and will include a card designed by Dave Bridegam. We thank him for the very professional look he created.

We will resume our regular schedule in April, meeting at 6:00pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month and at 2:30pm on the second and fourth Thursdays. We welcome anyone who would like to join this important ministry.

### **The Cut-Ups Say “Thanks”**

As we say our Summer Goodbyes, the Cut-Ups would like to extend a big thank you to all who donated materials and funds, cut, sewed, and knotted to create quilts for the homeless in Southwest Florida and the needy worldwide. ‘Til we are saying our Hellos again in the Fall, God's Blessings.

*On a personal note...*

Godspeed: Twenty-five friends gathered for a Sunday brunch at Heron Creek to say goodbye to Peg Pulfer and Lillian Oliva. Everyone present enjoyed a feast. Good stories and tears were shared by all.

Peg has moved to Massachusetts to be near family and Lillian is moving to Kentucky in late May to be near her family. We thank you both for the many years of service to our church and congregation. We will miss you.

Dear Church Family,  
I wish to thank you all for the kind words and prayers these past couple of months and with Gary's passing. A special thank you to Pastor Dell for his support and visits and the wonderful memorial service for Gary. So many of my friends commented about what a nice service it was and how appropriate the music was...especially the postlude Judy played - which was the Andy Griffith theme song. Gary was SUCH a fan...he taped all of the shows! Again, thank you so much.

Peace,  
Pat Dinges & Family

Thank you to the congregation for your cards, emails, prayers, and words of care during my recent illness and hospitalization. What a blessing to be a part of this congregation.

Judy Johnson

Special Thanks...We give special thanks to Craig Bitler and Cecile Bitler for supplying the palm leaves for the Palm Sunday crosses. Also thanks to the women who came on that Saturday morning to make the crosses.

**Especially in our prayers...**

Lee Van Harn and his wife Norma. To follow Lee's progress at Venice Hospital ICU go to: [www.carepages.com](http://www.carepages.com). Set up an account and search Leesrecovery (capital L— all one word).

Joanne Bligh...we wish you a speedy recovery.

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

November—April: 8:15 and 10:00

Sunday School: 10:00

May—October: 10:00

Fellowship follows each service.

*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](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: [j3john@comcast.net](mailto: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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**Office hours: 12-3: Monday—Thursday**

**Summer hours: May 1- August 15: 9:00 am until 12:00 noon, Monday thru Thursday.**