



The Messenger

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

March 2013

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

About This Issue...

Page 2: Art and Worship—how are they alike?

Page 4: Council Highlights

Page 5: New Director for A Special Time

Page 6: Marketing LWLC

The next issue of The Messenger will appear in April. Deadline for articles is March 21. See last page for details.

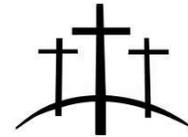
Thanks,
Judy Johnson,
Editor and Publisher



Palm Sunday Breakfast

The youth will once again be serving a pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday. This will be their last fundraiser for the year, so come hungry and ready to fill up on pancakes and sausage. They will be serving from 9 am to 11:30 am. Y'all come. Yum!

Lenten Mid-Week Services Schedule



Mid-Week Services—Wednesdays 7:00pm.

These services are about 40 minutes; no communion.

Theme: Parables to Help Us Live the Christian Life

Mar. 6: Forgiveness—The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Mar. 13: Service—The Parable of the Talents

Mar. 20: Humility—The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican

Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services Details on Page 2

Reminder

The Monday evening Adult Bible Study will NOT meet in March so everyone can attend the mid-week Lenten Services.

The Wheatons Return for March

The familiar and friendly Wheatons from Langley, British Columbia will once again be with us as our Guest Pastor family for March. Pastor Phil will arrive first with daughter Brittany, now age 20 and a student at Trinity Western University. (Story continued page 3)

A Message From the Pastor



Art and Music are important for the spiritual life. For its part, music is integrated into the fabric of our worship. But what about art?

While growing up, I recall several paintings. I don't know the names of the artists or the titles of these works of art. But they have been important somehow in my spiritual development. One is "Grace" in which an old man sits by a table praying. Another is Christ knocking at a door that can only be opened from inside the house. Another is Christ looking across a night sky, presumably praying for a city nearby. Another painting is that of Christ on the road to Emmaus with two disciples on Easter afternoon.

The Emmaus Road painting tells the story of Christ's resurrection in an interesting way for me. Christ is risen. He is walking and talking with two of his disciples. And, all this is happening prior to their understanding of both the reality of Easter and the identity of the One with whom they are in fellowship.

Of course, eventually—after Jesus shares a meal and the scripture with them—their eyes are opened.

Worship does that for us. It opens our eyes—as well as our hearts. Worship—time spent with the risen Lord and with those who walk with him—helps us see more clearly. Worship helps us see the world around us as God's creation.

You could even say that worship gives us the soul of an artist. For the heart of great art (and great music) is awareness of beauty, mystery, and meaning. As Christians, our hearts are home for a sense of wonder and awe and gratitude to God for creation, for our place in creation, our journey through life, and our confidence that heaven is our ultimate destination.

Please plan to attend worship during Holy Week, as well as on Easter Sunday. Together let's remember our Lord's Passion and Death and celebrate his Resurrection.

In Christ, Pastor Dell

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday (March 24): Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (March 24) with our regular weekend worship schedule. This festival service is also known as The Passion of Our Lord Sunday. Youth Pancake breakfast served from 9:00—11:30.

Maundy Thursday (March 28): We will celebrate Our Lord's Last Supper with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday (March 29): We will use the Tenebrae Service for our Good Friday worship at 7:00 p.m. This service is structured around The Passion Narrative in the Gospel of John, chapters 18-19.

Easter Sunday (March 31): We will offer three worship services. There will be an Easter Sunrise service in the Memorial Garden at 7:00 a.m. We will also celebrate Easter at our regular service times, 8:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Wheatons Return Continued:

Wife Carole, a Special Education Assistant in the private school system, daughter Christina, 15, and son Ben, 13, who both attend Langley Christian School, will arrive mid-month when Spring Break begins for them.

Rev. Wheaton serves as Senior Pastor of the Bethel Mennonite Church in Langley, a position he has held since 2003. He has also served as Senior Pastor, First Mennonite Church, Greendale-Chilliwack, BC; Pastor of Christian Education and Youth, St. Andrew's and St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, North Vancouver, BC; Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry, Greenbelt Baptist Church, Ottawa, ON; and Associate Pastor, Salisbury United Baptist Church, Salisbury, NB.

He was ordained to Christian ministry in November 1992 under the authority of the Ottawa Valley Association of Fellowship Baptist Churches in Canada. He holds a Bachelor of Theology Degree from Tyndale University College and Seminary and is continuing course work at Trinity Western University in the Master of Religious Education program.

When not engaged in ministry, Pastor Wheaton admits to being obsessed with the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Boston Red Sox. The children's activities include competitive swimming, drama, band, choir and art.

We welcome the Wheatons once again to Living Waters and look forward to our time with them.

Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) as elected at the Annual Church Meeting, has had an initial meeting. David Lanning was chosen as Chairperson and Dru Munson is the Secretary.

The first action, by the committee, was to initiate work on the shorter range concerns for pastoral coverage at times when Pastor Dell will be away. A recommendation was prepared for presentation to the Council.

Longer range thoughts were initiated and will be continued. A review of the Mission and Vision Statements is being planned (a Constitutional responsibility of the LRPC). Consideration is being given to an emphasis on the Three Commitments of our congregation.



Living Waters Preschool News

We are starting March with 17 VPK children, (2) two year olds, (4) three year olds, and (4) four year olds.

We had a great time in February. We talked about keeping our teeth healthy and had a Valentine's Day party. Our VPK class learned to say "I Love You" in sign language and started working on sight words.

March will be busy. We will be finishing up with our pizza fundraiser and learning about the meaning of Easter.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our pizza fundraiser.



"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Council Highlights

By Scott Hanson, Council President

Your council met for its February meeting and discussed a wide range of topics. It is very apparent that there is increasing level of enthusiasm for the growth of Living Waters. From new members, community activities, to congregational involvement.....we are "STRETCHING"!

We have reorganized several committees and reactivated others. The Long Range Planning Committee has met and is working out details for establishing the needs of the church and congregation for now as well as in the future. This committee plus the finance team is excited about developing plan for securing our future.

The unique Pastors2Go program will be expanded even more during the next couple of years. We hope to attract a broader range of pastors with special skills to enhance our worship experience.

The program has been so well received, the council feels it should be STRETCHED!

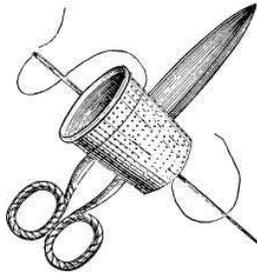
The council expressed their hope that members of the congregation will continue to get involved in our church's activities and missions. Now is the time to join us in one of our many activities.



Introducing New Members

On February 3, these 13 people joined our Living Waters family. We are delighted to have them with us. Please introduce yourself and invite them to join you for fellowship in Hanson Hall.

Harold and Wanda Boeck
David and Ila Bozich
Troy and Julie Guinn
Rodney and Therese Guinn
Dennis and Debbie Stankiewicz
Virginia Streuder
Wayne and Vickie Wilcox



Cut-Ups News

The Cut-Ups just finished another successful year. We completed 140 quilts, of which 125 were sent to Lutheran World Relief, ten set aside to be used locally, one donated to the Golf Tournament held each fall, and four donated as door prizes – one for each of the four city-sponsored "Welcome to North Port" events being held at the library this year.

New members to our group include Janet Pelto, Wanda Boeck, Beverly Simas and Kay Starek, and we invite other women to join us. No sewing experience is necessary. We meet each Wednesday from 9am – 12:00, and always take time to enjoy coffee together. If you can't join us, please consider donating materials we can use in making our quilts. Sheets, shower curtains, bed skirts, fabric yardage, you bring it and we'll "cut it up." Monetary donations to cover the cost of batting are also appreciated. See page 8 for contact information.

Meet Our New Director of A Special Time Respite Program

By Carol Sutton



A SPECIAL TIME

**Alzheimer's Respite Program
Sharing. Caring. Celebrating.**

We are so happy to let the congregation know that Marietta (Mattie) Disher has been selected as the new Director of A Special Time Respite Program. Mattie was chosen for her noteworthy leadership success with nonprofit organizations and her passion for working with seniors who have any memory loss issues. She will be replacing Wilma Ellis who has been Director of A Special Time since the program's inception in 2004. Mattie has worked in nonprofit and public sectors of the community in positions of leadership for over 30 years. She is currently the director of a program similar to A Special Time, called Friendships Unlimited, in Port Charlotte. She has been with that program for over four years and plans to continue her leadership there every Tuesday.

At the age of 41 she found herself being led by God to the ministry. She received a B.A. from Florida Baptist College in Graceville, Fl., and an M.D. in Pastoral Counseling from Gardner-Webb University, School of Divinity in Shelby, N.C., Mattie also has a Certificate in Clinical Pastoral Education from Baptist Hospital in Columbia, S.C. To her it seemed that there weren't many inroads for a woman minister at that time. She felt that God would use her according to her abilities and passions. She served as a chaplain in a hospital setting and as a Minister of Education on a church staff. She has served as Superintendent of a Sunday school, taught Sunday school students, and formed women's Bible study groups.

She has been a volunteer with women's abuse centers, founded the Volunteers for Community Action in Escambia County, Florida. She was employed by the United States Postal Service where she was an ad hoc advisor for minorities while working with the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) organization. And she was the Director for Women's Management Advancement while employed there.

Now in her later years her passion and focus has been on seniors with memory loss and their families. In her own words, Mattie has expressed that she is "thrilled and humbled to be part of A Special Time. Not only is it a very professionally run organization, but such a loving group of individuals that work closely for the well being of the program and as a ministry outreach. I am very excited to be taking on this leadership role and look forward to helping the program thrive through my passion of working with seniors and my ideas to fulfill the mission of the church to the community."

We thank Wilma for her service and know there are exciting times ahead for the A Special Time program. Welcome aboard, Mattie!

Find Out More About A Special Time

A Special Time (AST) meets each Friday from 10:00—2:00 in Hanson Hall at Living Waters. Lunch is provided. New participants and volunteers are welcome. Please call: 941-204-7335.

Finding Avenues of Growth

Introducing our Membership and Marketing Director, Ellen Hanson

Those of us who attend Living Waters know it as a place we love to be on Sunday morning...and during the week as well. So, what makes this church special? And how can we interest others in our community in becoming a part of our growing congregation dedicated to serving Christ, one another and our community?

To help spread the word about the Christ-centered work going on at Living Waters, we added a new director position to our LWLC Council. This position has been developed to focus on helping the congregation carry out its mission of growing the church.

Our new director, Ellen Hanson, is busy working on analyzing and coordinating systems that are already in place, developing new initiatives to help with marketing our church and its many programs, and creating new member integration strategies. You may want to think of it this way:

- How can we make people aware of LWLC?
- How can we interest people in visiting LWLC?
- Once people do visit, what can we do to have them return?
- Once they have returned, how can we move them from visitor to member?
- Once they have become new members, how can we ensure that they are able to

fully participate in the many programs and opportunities that are available?

As you can imagine, this will take some organization and, most of all, some very willing members to help ensure that these goals can be met. From time to time you may be asked to volunteer your help in carrying out our mission. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated!

Additionally, if you have information on any special events or projects that we might want to share with our community, please feel free to call or email Ellen with the details.

Phone:715-296-2362 and email:
highlandpines@centurytel.net



Together, We Can Make It Happen!

And Jesus said:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Living Waters Church Organization Document

A revised Church Organization document has been developed and approved by the Council. This document shows charts and descriptions of the Church organization. Included in the document is the new organization of the Council. Council members have Director Positions and the Position Descriptions are given in the document. Copies of the Document are to be available in the Narthex.



Wrapping Others in God's Love

God's work, our hands, certainly describes our prayer shawl ministry. After the women's Thankoffering service in February we had several requests for prayer shawls and were able to provide shawls to eight people that Sunday.

Some were members of our congregation and others were friends. We also had some of our snow birds request copies of the verse that is in the card presented with the shawls. They will share it with their churches up north. Our ministry is growing here in our congregation and beyond our doors. Thanks for your support.

Luther's Morning Prayer

I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me.

Amen.



Lead Usher Needed for 10:00 Service

Those who attend the 10:00 service are accustomed to seeing Herb Moehling handle the responsibilities for lead usher. While Herb along with Sheri continue to help out, Herb has officially retired from that duty. So we need someone, or a few someones, to assume this role.

Could you help out? Rather than asking one person to schedule ushers for the 10:00 year around, the load can be lessened by rotating lead ushers on a monthly basis. Could you schedule people for one month? Or maybe two months? You can be a seasonal or a full time resident. You wouldn't have to be an usher every Sunday for that period of time—you would, however, make sure we have ushers scheduled for each 10:00 service for your designated month/s. Training will be provided. See Judy Johnson for more information.

Women's Group Ministries in Review

By Gayle Backiel

As a follow up to Thankoffering Sunday, here are brief descriptions about the small groups led by women in our church. All the women of the church are cordially invited to attend any of these groups. Future issues of *The Messenger* will highlight other small groups of our church.

Baby Caps and Afghans. You can knit or crochet from home. Items are donated to Peace River Hospital. Contact Carol Piltz at (941) 244-6981.

Caregiver's Support Group. You are a caregiver when another person relies on you to provide unpaid help with day-to-day activities. Our support group responds to particular needs of one another by offering a confidential place to connect with other caregivers and share problems and possible solutions. We meet at Living Waters, the second and fourth Friday of the month, from 10 to 11 am. Contact Carol Sutton, facilitator, at (941) 423-7193.

Community Ministries. This group ministers to many areas of need. We provide Meals for the Hungry on the first and third Thursday, Bread and Pastry Ministry each Thursday afternoon, a Bike Ministry for those who need transportation, a clothing ministry and donations of toiletries such soap, shampoo, etc. If you would like to help, contact Jodi Shelton at (941) 255-0890 or Kris Dines at the office.

Cut-ups Quilters Group. The quilters meet every Wednesday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 in the fellowship hall. We make quilts for Lutheran World relief and for local people who need them. If you would like to help make quilts or donate supplies such as old



sheets or curtains, Contact Carol Lundquist at (941) 426-5816.

Home Communion Lay Ministry. Our trained lay ministers provide visitation and bring the consecrated sacrament for communion to shut ins once a month. If you know of a church member who could use this service or would like to help with this ministry, contact Sheri Moehling at (941) 429-1225 or Carol Sutton at (941) 423-7193.

Prayer Chain. If you or a loved one is in need of prayers, you may ask that they be added to our prayer chain. You may also wish to join the Prayer Chain to pray for others in need. Contact Carolann Cortese at (941) 429-0422.

Prayer Shawl Ministry. The prayer shawl ministry is a team of dedicated volunteers who donate their time and resources to create prayer shawls. If you knit or crochet or would like or learn how, you are welcome to join our group. Contact Char Dewitt at (941) 276-8377.

Prayer Team. The group meets each Monday morning at 11:00 in the Social Hall for Bible study, fellowship and prayer and an occasional craft project. We have just begun a Bible study on the book of Romans. If you would like to join a small Bible study group, contact Gayle Backiel at (941) 423-6609.

Women in Action. This is a Bible-based discussion group that meets monthly on the 3rd Friday at 1 pm at Sheri Moehling's home. Our focus is to use God's Word to learn more about Jesus Christ while applying His Word to our daily lives. Contact Sheri for more information. (941) 429-1125.

Below is the monthly schedule for Sunday Servants current as of March 1. The 10:00 service is in bold to separate the services. If you have signed up for a Sunday but do not see your name or if your name appears in error, please check the Lay Ministry sign-up book in the Narthex. Blank spaces indicate that those tasks are available for you to serve. Please consider how you can help with these functions which are critical to our worship. Thanks to all those who volunteer.

Sunday Servants					
Function	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Ushers					
8:15	V. Biassi	J. Wegener	J. Wegener	J. Wegener	
	M. Savard	L. Wegener	L. Wegener	L. Wegener	
10:00	E. Wade	E. Wade	E. Wade	E. Wade	E. Wade
	S. Moehling	S. Moehling	S. Moehling	S. Moehling	S. Moehling
Altar Guild					
(both)	A. Banks	A. Banks	A. Banks	A. Banks	A. Banks
	B. Dreschel	B. Dreschel	B. Dreschel	B. Dreschel	B. Dreschel
Counters					
(both)	A. Banks	K. Grant	L. Ertle	B. Cartwright	M. Savard
	Joan Parcels	M. Savard	M. Savard	J. Pauley	
Lay Reader					
8:15	J. Johnson	V. Biassi	M. Savard	J. Strittmatter	
10:00	Pat Keller	B. Bruno	P. Keller	B. Richter	R. Fundyga
Comm. Assist.					
8:15	Pastor	Pastor	N/A	Pastor	
10:00	Pastor	Pastor	N/A	Pastor	C. Cortese
Greeter					
8:15	S. Hanson	B. Carlock	J. Christen		
	E. Hanson				
10:00	P. Peters	C. Dhom	B. Carlock	B. Dreschel	B. Wakefield
					S. Wakefield
Fellowship					
8:15 set up					
10:00 clean up		B. Dreschel	B. Dreschel	B. Dreschel	B. Dreschel
Nursery					
8:15	J. Christen	T. Hernandez			
10:00	M. Gottleber				
PowerPoint					
8:15	D. Lanning	M. Savard	D. Mendez	C. Lundquist	D. Lanning
10:00	K. Bridegam	A. Banks	L. Shelton	K. Grant	C. Bitler

On a personal note...

Happy Birthday To These Members

If you have a March birthday and your name does not appear or if the information printed is incorrect, please contact the church office so we can update our records.

Tesha Hernandez—March 5
Amy Pena—March 8
Jim Sheils—March 9
Craig Bitler—March 10
Amber Jones—March 11
Carol Colvin—March 13
Bob May—March 16
Diane Shiell—March 17
Char DeWitt—March 20
Lorraine Wohlert—March 26
Patty Pauley—March 27
Jane Fundyga, Shawn Houser,
David Lanning—March 30
Jamie Kolb—March 31

A Note from Pastor Jim and Martha Limburg...

We want to thank the Living Waters congregation, especially Pastor and Diane Shiell, for another excellent experience in your "Guest Pastor" program during these past months of December and February! We feel very much at home here and look forward to being with you again, God willing, next year!

From Karl Mortensen and Family...

We would like to thank our Living Waters family for the love and support that you have shown to Barbara and me from the day we arrived at our first worship service, in the old sanctuary, Hanson Hall. Our friends always made us excited to worship with them. Whenever we prayed, we knew God was listening and has continually heaped on us a multitude of blessings. God also continues to bless our family with the knowledge that Barb is in His care with a new and eternal body. Your prayers have always comforted and sustained us. Thank you for your memorial gifts and your love.

Our Sympathy...

We extend our deep sympathy to **Jack Erikson** at the death of his daughter, Barbara, in Minneapolis.

The Messenger is published monthly by Living Waters Lutheran Church with printed copies 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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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