



The Messenger

News about our church,
our ministries and our people

March 2012

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

Welcome to *The Messenger*

Published monthly, this newsletter has been created to keep you informed and up-to-date on our church, our ministries and our people.

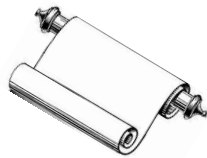
The length may change each month to match the amount of news that needs to be communicated.

So...read on to see what's happening next month and how you can be of service because...

You are blessed to be a blessing.

If you have questions, comments or ideas for the newsletter, please contact Judy Johnson. Information about deadlines etc. is on the back page.

A Note From the Pastor



Lent is the 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

The number 40 reminds us that, following his baptism by John the Baptist, and prior to beginning his public ministry, Jesus went into the wilderness where he was tempted by the Devil for 40 days.

The Lenten message stands in sharp contrast to what is often considered as representing the "good life." Lent reminds us that the good life is the life of honesty about our faults and asking forgiveness of God and one another.

Lent, also, reminds us that we need discipline. It takes discipline to face up to unpleasant facts. It also takes discipline to pursue goals that are good for us—physical health, meaningful work, a balanced lifestyle, economic soundness, healthy relationships, and a robust spiritual life.

In Christ,
Pastor Dell

Our Mission: Sharing Christ in Word and Deed

Our Vision: Sharing God's Love in Word and Deed by Praising God and Serving the Community

2nd Annual Cardboard Box Campout

Sometimes when someone talks about a difficult experience, we might say something like, "I can certainly identify with that because something similar happened to me." But how do we identify with someone who is homeless?

The youth of Living Waters will simulate that experience with their second annual Cardboard Box Campout at the church on Saturday and Sunday, March 24 and 25.

On Saturday, speakers from area organizations will provide insight into the lives of the homeless, a "Hobo Dinner" is planned and a band from Sarasota will perform. Overnight accommodations - cardboard boxes in the front yard - are available for anyone willing to stay.

Participants include youth and adults from area churches, city officials, and representatives from local organizations that offer programs for the homeless.

The youth especially invite our members to get involved. You can make a general donation to this mission or sponsor one of the children who will be sleeping in a box for a night. See Patty Pauley for more information - queenmom6@verizon.net

A Challenge from the Youth

How many times in one month can Lutherans fill up a grocery cart? Our youth believe it can be a big number.

During the month of March, you will find a grocery cart in Hanson Hall. As part of the Cardboard Box Campout mission, the youth sponsor a food drive. All food is donated to the North Port Food Coalition which helps local church pantries stock their food shelves. Any monies donated to the cause stay within our church to help with the Thursday night community dinners.

Here are your instructions: Ready...shop...fill up that cart...repeat!

Introducing the Borcherts

We welcome Pastor Jay Borchert, our guest pastor for March, and his wife Carol, from Pinewood, MN. For the past 11 years, he has served two country churches called the Debs/Puposky Lutheran Parish.

Pr. Borchert grew up in the upper Midwest and graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN., where he met Carol. After their marriage, they both taught school in South Dakota. They left there so he could attend Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

He began his career in the ministry as a youth director. He then went into the insurance business while doing supply preaching. After

retiring from the insurance business, he went full time into parish ministry – all in the upper Midwest.

The Borcherts have two children and three grandchildren. In his spare time, Pr. Borchert likes to go hunting and fishing and collects antiques, specializing in pottery. His favorite Bible verse is Micah 6:8b where it is written, “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

We look forward to getting to know Carol and Pastor Jay and hope they enjoy their stay with us.

Study the Word

The Pastor’s Bible Study meets

Mondays from 7:00 – 8:00pm in Hanson Hall. The class is generally hosted by our Guest Pastor who leads a lively discussion and offers personal insights into the lessons of the evening.



Plans are underway to install new carpet in the sanctuary and to replace the carpet in the social hall and adjacent areas with tile. The date for the ingathering of gifts and pledges is Sunday, March 4. Please prayerfully consider what you can give to support this important effort. If you have not received an information packet, you can pick one up at the church.

Just for Women

Restore and Rejoice

All women of Living Waters Lutheran Church are invited to attend the Spring Gathering of Women of the ELCA. This is an annual event for the Mid-Gulf Region and will occur on March 10, 2012 from 9:00-3:00. We plan to carpool to the host church, Emmanuel Lutheran in Venice. The theme this year is *Restore and Rejoice*, taken from Psalm 51:12, “Restore unto me the joy of your salvation.”

Churches in the Mid-Gulf Conference volunteer each year to contribute something to the success of the Gathering. This year, Living Waters will present the Bible Study, “Renew, Respond, Rejoice” which is provided by the Florida Bahamas Synodical Women’s Org. We will also supply the music because

Judy Johnson has agreed to be our pianist again for the day.

A continental breakfast and a luncheon are included in the \$10 registration fee. The speaker for the day is Ann Ridings of LSF. All in all, it promises to be a full day of worship, fellowship, fun, praise and learning.

Registration is available in our Narthex on Sundays after worship services. Deadline is Sunday, March 4, 2012. For more information, contact Gayle Backiel at 423-6609 or Sheri Moehling at 429-1225.

Journeys of the Heart

There is a second opportunity for women go on a retreat. Emmanuel Lutheran Women invite you to a Women’s Lenten Retreat Friday, March 23 from 9:00 - 3:00 at

Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Venice, FL. There will be worship, quiet time, fellowship, spiritual direction and group discussions.

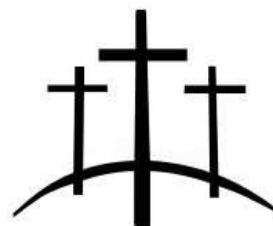
Part of the day will include portrayals of famous women from the Bible and history who followed their heart to do God’s will. This day includes a wonderful luncheon in a beautiful and comfortable retreat center setting.

In the afternoon you will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of workshops. One of the workshops is *The Stations of the Cross*, located on the property. Registration deadline is March 12. Cost is \$20.00 and includes luncheon.

Contact Shirley Schimke at 941-408-0224 or sschimke@msn.com

The Season of Lent

Lent is considered by many to be the most sacred part of the Christian year. During this time, Christians meditate on the salvation God won for us as sinners by the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our primary focus is on charity, prayer and fasting/discipline - always remembering that Lent is not about what we are doing for God but about what Jesus sacrificed for us.



The Liturgical Color of Lent

We use the color purple on the altar for Lent because it symbolizes royalty and repentance.

The Timeframe of Lent

Lent lasts 40 days, beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding the Saturday before Easter. The 40 days do not include Sundays.

The duration is believed to be based on an ancient church custom relating to a timeframe for people to receive doctrinal instruction and to fast before being baptized on the evening before Easter.

The number 40 occurs frequently in the Old and New Testaments. Here are a few passages that include the number 40: Genesis 7:12, Exodus 24:18, Numbers 14: 33-34, Jonah 3: 4-5, Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Acts 1:3.

The Vase of Thorns

Beginning Ash Wednesday, a vase of thorns is on the altar. The thorns are there to remind us of the suffering of Jesus and that Lent is a time of unadorned selflessness.

Mid-Week Lenten Services Every Wednesday at 7:00

This year during our Mid-Week services, we will present a drama series called, "The Games People Play." The sketches illustrate how familiar games can unwittingly become an integral and even detrimental part of our lives.

February 29: "Solitaire"
March 7: "Hide 'n' Seek"
March 14: "Follow the Leader"
March 21: "King of the Hill"
March 28: "Twenty Questions"

The actors may include adults and youth. Each service is about 30-40 minutes and, in addition to the drama, will include a brief meditation, scripture, singing and prayer.

A Song of Lent

Bless now, O God, the Journey

"Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found."

ELW #326



Get Involved in a Living Waters Tradition

Please plan to join us in Hanson Hall at 9:00 am, Saturday, March 31, for our annual making of palm crosses.

Each year, we make crosses from palm fronds or leaves to give to worshipers on Palm Sunday. It's a time of great fellowship and fun as well as an opportunity to continue a long standing Living Waters tradition.

With many helping hands, it takes just under two hours to complete the task. We especially invite our youth to join this effort.

Questions? See Jane Fundyga. Email: rjsunrise@verizon.net or call: 941-240- 6406.



Cortney's Going Dancing in Philly

Congratulations to Cortney Helland, a sophomore at North Port High School (NPHS) and daughter of Dale and Terri Helland, for being selected to participate in the National High School Dance Festival held in Philadelphia March 7-11. This is a tremendous honor for Cortney and a tribute to her talent as a dancer.

Participation from NPHS is limited to 25 students and they must be from the advanced level dance classes. Generally, the students selected are either juniors or seniors but, this year, Cortney was one of two sophomores chosen. In addition to dance excellence, requirements for selection include a GPA consistently above 2.5 and attendance in good standing.

During the Festival, Cortney and the others will be taking dance classes at a college. Instructors from the dance departments at several colleges will be observing the classes with an eye toward future scholarship possibilities.

In addition, Cortney has been selected to perform in the dance numbers of NPHS's April production of *Legally Blond*. She also takes weekly lessons at the Universal Dance Academy.

We wish Cortney much success at the Festival and as she continues to pursue her interest in dance.

"A Special Time" Needs Your Time

You have heard about our program called "A Special Time" which meets at Living Waters. You have also heard that it's a program designed to give caregivers of adults with dementia or other cognitive disabilities a few hours of relief and respite.

What you may not know is that many of the participants are men. In the past we have especially asked for men to volunteer to help with this program because men like to relate to other men and because ladies are restricted in terms of helping men with bathroom requirements.

Although several area churches participate in the program, the number of Living Waters volunteers has been decreasing due to health

problems. Also, several of our volunteers are snowbirds so we miss their involvement in the summer months.

During those magical four hours every Friday, volunteers help participants enjoy a number of structured activities including light exercise, games, arts and crafts, and musical activities. A light lunch is also served.

We really need your help. Could you volunteer once a month or maybe even more? To learn how to become a part of this ministry, please contact Adeline Banks at 941-244-7870 or omaadeline@comcast.net. You may also leave your name at the church office and you will be contacted with more information. God bless you for your help.

Hearts and Hands Reaching Out

The community dinner ministry thanks everyone for your continued support and donations. We are serving approximately 60-65 people which usually requires about 25 lbs. of meat in our main dish. Yes, that's a lot of meat! The bike, bread and clothing ministries are also going strong. Unfortunately, we see a lot of new people coming in for help which means the need is still very real.



We are also part of a group who will train to become Red Cross Volunteers. That training will allow us to help when the church is opened to be an emergency shelter.

We can't go without thanking everyone for the clothing and shoe donations from the rummage sale. We extend an invitation to anyone who would like to help or just be part of the group on a Thursday.

For information on how to get involved, see Larry and Jody Shelton and the Kitchen Gang.

New Organizational Structure at Living Waters

On January 22, 2012, the congregation approved a new structure of church leadership to replace the previous Council. Now called the Board of Directors, the elected members serve specific functions which more closely relate to their areas of expertise and interests. Ellen Hanson, Scott Hanson and Judy Johnson were elected to the Board this year.

We will operate under the new structure for a trial period of one year. If the congregation approves the change permanently, the constitution will be amended to reflect that change.

Following is an overview of each position and the person who is serving in that position. Questions, concerns and ideas should be expressed to the person whose responsibility most closely fits with your topic.

Board President, Director of Membership and Ministries: Daryl Mendez

Summary of responsibilities: Provides leadership for church operation and for creating church vision and congregational goals, manages the annual goal setting process, chairs all congregational meetings; serves as conduit of information from Board of Directors to Board of Programs and to the congregation; coordinates all projects conducted in affiliation with the church; leads Board of Programs meetings; sets criteria for small group designations.

Director of Ministers: Pastor Dell Shiell

Summary of responsibilities: Leads or provides leadership for congregational worship and formal ceremonies such as weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc.; provides spiritual leadership for the congregation and spiritual and personal caring for each member; creates and delivers or provides for a message for each service; selects candidates for the Guest Pastor Program.

Director of Laity Worship: Judy Johnson

Summary of responsibilities: Creates the order Sunday worship; introduces new elements to the service; selects music for congregational singing and manages any musical participation such as choir and guest musicians; provides or provides for pianist or other instrumental accompaniment; manages all laity involvement in worship such as Sunday Servants, plus mission minutes and announcements.

Director of Income: Scott Hanson

Summary of responsibilities: Sets income goals and manages stewardship initiatives and all activities and requests related to giving and fundraising; manages contract negotiations for use of property; manages income expense budget.

Director of Business and Fiscal Affairs,

Treasurer: Carol Piltz

Summary of responsibilities: Records all expenses and pays bills; creates monthly expenditure report; monitors insurance and property costs; prepares annual budget for adoption by the congregation; issues purchase orders; oversees annual audit.

Director of Property: Jerry Pauley

Summary of responsibilities: Manages the maintenance of church property (interior and exterior) and vendors who perform work on the property; assesses impact of modifications to facility; maintains electronic components; develops emergency evacuation and safety protocols.

Director, Secretary: Kari Reese

Summary of responsibilities: Records the minutes of Board of Directors meetings.

Director: Ellen Hanson

Director, Financial Secretary: Marty Savard

Summary of responsibilities: Oversees counting and proper recording of weekly offerings.

Director of Marketing Communications: Judy Johnson

Summary of responsibilities: Creates and manages marketing strategy for the church, develops and manages the church newsletter; reviews all church materials created for external use; creates tools for dissemination of information to the congregation as directed by the Board President.

Director of Human Resources: TBD

Summary of responsibilities: Maintains personnel records of paid staff; creates job descriptions, selection criteria for paid staff and board of director positions; recommends salary ranges and changes; manages oversight for any church member working with youth; manages formal complaint process.

The Saga of the Sunday Servant

It's Sunday morning - there's much to do.
Soon people will be sitting in each pew.

But who will greet them at the door,
Hand out the bulletins and much more?
And who will play the songs they sing
Or pass the plates for the offering?

And who will go up to read the Word,
And who will make sure those words are
heard?

And who will advance the slides in time
For them to read the very next line?

Then there's the nursery - babes come too -
And who will teach the Sunday School?

Who will help the pastor serve
Communion in a figure-eight curve?
The flowers - how did they get there?
And see, the altar - it's not bare.

Almost done now - but one last call -
There's something going on in Hanson Hall.
Who came early to prepare this space,
Make coffee and set the donuts in place?

Time to go? Wait...hold that thought.
Who is counting the gifts they brought?

Whew!

I wrote this silly poem to say
We need your hands in lots of ways.

Out in the narthex there's a sign-up book;
It's there on the table - just take a look.
Now write your name in an empty space
And let that smile spread over your face.

Thanks for volunteering.

See me if you have questions.

Judy Johnson

Home Communion Ministry

We continue to visit the
sick and shut-ins and
bring God's healing Holy
Sacrament to them on a monthly basis. Our
ministers of care are Gayle Backiel, Lillian
Oliva, Carolann Cortese, Carol Sutton,
Sheri & Herb Moehling and Pastor Dell.

If you know of someone who needs these vis-
its and would like to receive Holy Commun-
ion, please call Sheri Moehling 429-1225 or
Carol Sutton 423-7193.



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 and via
email distribution.

To have information included in the news-
letter, 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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry at Work

The members of the Living Waters Prayer
Shawl Ministry have been busy creating
shawls for those who are ill, are struggling,
or deserve a special blessing. At this time we
are working on a special project— making
shawls for the "Special Time" caregivers. All
shawls will be purple or have some purple
in them because that is the color that
designates Alzheimers.

We are also making pocket prayer cloths for
those caregivers who remain active in the
group even though their loved one with
Alzheimers has passed away.

If you know of someone who would benefit
by receiving a prayer shawl, please make that
request to:

Char DeWitt, phone 941-276-8377 or email
ld1669@comcast.net

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

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Office hours: 12-3: Monday—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