



The Messenger

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

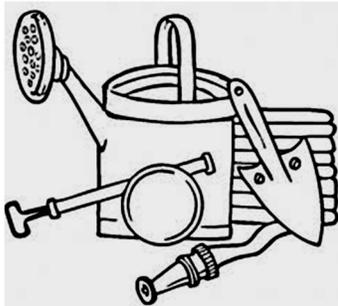
November 2013

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

December Newsletter Deadline Is Early

Because of my personal schedule, the December issue of the newsletter will be distributed on Sunday, November 24, one week early. Deadline for articles is November 15.

**Thanks,
Judy Johnson,
Editor and Publisher**



Saturday, November 9 Outdoor Spruce up Day 9:00 Start Time

It's time for our annual fall clean up of the exterior of our church. Bring your tools, your gloves, and your good nature to beautify our building and landscaping. See Jerry Pauley for questions.

They're Baaaaack... and We're Thrilled

There's nothing scary about the return of Pastor Jim and Martha Limburg as our guests for November, December, January and February (yes, four months) in the Pastors2Go Program. In fact, we welcome them back with open arms for their fourth visit with us.

For those who have not yet met the Limburgs, they come to us from northern Minnesota where they live a lovely retired life on Woman Lake. Pastor Limburg was a professor at Luther Seminary; Martha was a teacher, and later, an assistant at a large art center. Both are gifted musicians, Martha on the flute, Pr. Limburg on the trombone. Both are singers also.

If you have attended Pastor Limburg's Bible Study, which this year will be on Wednesdays at 7:00pm, you can get some idea of what it must have been like to be a student in one of his classes. Come ready to pay attention every minute, a fast pencil for taking notes, an inquiring mind, acute listening skills or you will miss his wonderful sense of humor and lots of great information, and come with the ability to laugh and enjoy yourself. The Bible will never be the same to you.

They live a full and rewarding life that has been enriched with much travel. Their creative minds foster a healthy sense of curiosity which provides them with fodder for stories, a collection of friends around the world, and backdrops for rich experiences to remember and relate.

And so...to the Limburgs we say:
Welcome Back. We are happy to see you again.

A Message From the Pastor

*"...if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—
think about such things."*

Philippians 4:8b

How is God blessing you?

Two old songs encourage us to "Count Your Blessings." I am more familiar with the hymn (1897) that starts out like this:

*When upon life's billows you are tempest
tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one
by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath
done.*

Refrain

*Count your blessings, name them one
by one,
Count your blessings, see what God
hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one
by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord
hath done.*

The other one, less familiar to me, is the song by the same name, written by Irving Berlin (1954) and featured in the movie, "White Christmas," that starts out:

*When I'm worried and I can't sleep
I count my blessings instead of sheep
And I fall asleep
Counting my blessings.*

*When my bankroll is getting small
I think of when I had none at all
And I fall asleep
Counting my blessings.*

The theme in each song is similar: To "Count Your Blessings" is an excellent remedy for

worry and discouragement.

If you were going to make it a habit to "Count Your Blessings,"

how would you go about doing this?

Why not try a simple exercise at the end of each day? Before you begin your nighttime prayer, identify three things that happened during the day that you are most happy about, and why you believe they happened. If you want, you may use a journal to document this exercise.

This little exercise, known simply as "Three Blessings," was included in a research project. According to one source, *"The outcome from doing this exercise is astonishing. Participants doing this exercise for one week increased happiness and decreased depressive symptoms for six months. This is not a misprint. One week of doing this had a lasting effect for six months."* (PsychCentral.com)

If you want to go to the next level with your belief that God has blessed you so you can bless others, discover the gratitude that comes from Counting Your Blessings—each and every day.

In Christ,
Pastor Dell



Stewardship / Commitment
Sunday
is November 17

Church Constitution Revised for Approval

By David Lanning

At the November 24, 2013 meeting of the Congregation, the revised Constitution will be on the agenda. The revisions have been made at the request of the Synod in order to keep our Constitution updated with the 2013 revisions of the ELCA Model Constitution for churches.

This is a notice to the Congregation of the revision and approval can be made by a simple majority at the November meeting. The Council has approved the revision and recommends approval by the Congregation. Copies of the revised Constitution and the Synod Letter requesting the attached revision are available in the Church Narthex.

Congregational Meeting – November 24 at 9:10

Our next congregational meeting will be held between services to allow for maximum attendance. We will elect new Council members. Please attend.



Jerry's Cooking Biscuits With Sausage Gravy for the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Please attend the biscuit and sausage gravy breakfast on November 17. Jerry Pauley has graciously volunteered to fix breakfast and donate the proceeds to the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

A free will donation will get you a delicious breakfast between services or after the 10:00 service.

Yum....Yum!

New Day and Time for Pastor's Bible Study

Beginning November 6, the Pastor's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00.

Pastor Jim Limburg, our Guest Pastor for the next four months, will be our leader. In November, he will continue the series: "100 Bible Stories that Could Change Your Life" from Judges and Ruth.

Key Sundays in November

While our calendars say the year ends in December, the Church year ends in November. And our year ends with several key events.

November 3: All Saints Sunday. On this day we remember the Living Waters saints who have moved on to heaven. We speak their names and thank God for having them live among us. Historically, Christians observed All Hallows Day to honor all saints in heaven. At the time of Luther it was one of the most solemn observances of the church year.

November 17: Commitment Sunday. On this day we present our financial pledges to the Lord for the coming year. You will hear the story of Zacchaeus. Do you remember the song you may have learned as a child? We'll sing a new version.

November 24: Christ the King Sunday. Christ the King Sunday was added as the conclusion to the liturgical year in the 1960s. Before that, the church year did not end with a festival.

Meet Your Council Members

By David Lanning

Editor's Note: This month's featured Council Member is David Lanning.

My position on the Council is Second Vice President. My involvements as a Council Member have included the following.

- Prepared the update of the Church Organization Document that now contains the Continuing Resolution passed by the Council describing the various Director Positions and responsibilities for the council members.
- Prepared Appendix A for the Church Organization document that describes the Council's part in the implementation of our Church Mission.
- Collected a document called "Expanded Steps" which gives details on the Council Directors' Mission implementation.
- Became president of the Long Range Planning Committee and we have been preparing recommendations for the Council review and action.
- Board member for the Preschool and A Special Time.

My career included working in Reactor Physics at Battelle Northwest in Richland, Washington, working on both coasts. After that, I was Professor of Nuclear Engineering at MIT.

When I retired from MIT, my wife Gloria and I moved to North Port and we became members of Living Waters Lutheran Church in

about 1996. We had the privilege to be members of several churches on both coasts of the country during our 59 years of marriage. Now there are families and friends on both coasts.

Gloria served on many of the Living Waters Church committees and activities until she passed away in 2010. I have served on the Church Council several times as well as the Long Range Planning Committee. Over the years I have been the preparer and keeper of our Church Constitution as approved by the ELCA.

I believe our church has a bright future. In my opinion, we have been very fortunate to have Pastor Dell guiding our Church through the good and the hard times. Now we are rapidly moving into an exciting time of church activities and steady growth. We have a great congregation and a common Mission with our Statement of Purpose.

On a personal note, I want to comment about greeting each other. I like it when people say hello to me with my name. So I am trying to learn people's names so I can greet them also. It is a struggle for me to remember so if I fail, please forgive me. I am trying!



New Time to Decorate Your Church Wednesday Evening, December 4

Join the decorating crew this year as we put up all those familiar and welcome Christmas decorations. We will gather at 5:00pm and make quick work of transforming our spaces. Pizza will be served when we finish, about 6:15 or so. Stay for the Bible Study at 7:00.

Council Update

By Scott Hanson, Council President

Greetings from your council. Our team of council members has been working very hard on numerous projects and ideas. We continue to focus on membership growth, financial stability and increased mission efforts. I am pleased to report we are having success on all fronts!

Membership continues to grow as witnessed by our additional new member orientations. Weekly offerings are on the rise and the church calendar is beginning to fill with exciting events. The October "mission moments" set the stage for many events in the upcoming months.

Each and every member of the congregation will have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities. Please get involved. I know you will enjoy playing your part in building the strength of LWLC. The number 40 will be a fun and important number!

As we look toward the future, we will be concentrating on securing long term plans for important parts of our mission and community outreach programs. The Preschool, A Special Time and the

Pastors2Go program continue to be highly successful and recognized throughout the community.



We will be kicking off another initiative, the Charitable Giving Program. You will enjoy the planned giving workshops designed to help and provide information for your stewardship activity through long range financial planning. Growing our endowment will secure the long term financial stability needed for the future.

Your annual stewardship packet is available in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider your gifts for the upcoming year. We need your "time and talent" commitments as well.

Mark your calendar for the next congregational meeting in November. We have a couple of very important announcements. We will meet between services on Sunday, November 24.

Again a sincere "Thank You" for all you do to help make us a most vibrant and growing church.

And remember, "*The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us!*"

Legacy Giving Workshop Scheduled for November 13



Come learn about year-end tax strategies, IRA charitable rollovers and more, as these relate to charitable giving. Join your friends at Living Waters on Wednesday, November 13, 4:00-5:00pm, in the social hall, for the first of the 2013-2014 Winter Workshops planned by the Legacy Giving Team (formerly known as the Living Waters Fund Committee).

This workshop will be led by Dru Munson and Daryl Mendez, two tax planning specialists and members of Living Waters, who will talk with us about how we can do some tax-free gifting to Living Waters. You can leave a monetary gift to your beloved Church—and it won't hurt you one bit. Learn more about how you can share your treasures with future generations.

Put your money where you faith is. Everyone is invited. "

Opportunities for Service

By Gayle Backiel and Sheri Moehling

Women of the ELCA is a loosely knit organization of all women in the Lutheran Church. In our grandmother's day it was called "The Ladies' Aid." When we were young mothers, the women's group was called ALCW. That means American Lutheran Church Women. Today the Women of the church continue the tradition of meeting for Bible study, quilt making, fellowship and service. If you are a woman who attends an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, you are a member of Women of the ELCA. Welcome. Come join our activities and meet new friends.

In December we will have our annual Christmas Party. All women of the church are invited. Elections will be held then for positions that will start in January 2014.

The Vice-President and Secretary positions are open. The following are the duties of these two positions.

Vice-President: 2 years and re-elected for 2 years if desired.

Duties:

- Support the President during meetings and events planned by the board
- Attend monthly meetings except for the summer (May –Aug)
- Attend Spring & Fall Gathering if possible to represent the unit
- Be a delegate at Fall Gathering during your term if needed
- Help the president with the annual report to the church council
- Be open to running for president at the end of your term



- Attend annual meeting – Christmas Party with other congregational women
- Support all events with time and talents, mentor new candidate for this position
- Back-up President if she is unable to attend a meeting or gathering
- Attend the planning meeting for Spring Gathering in January of each year of your term or send another board member in your place.

Secretary: 2 Years with another 2 year re-election if desired.

- Attend meetings, take notes, and submit the minutes to the president for distribution to other board members
- Be supportive to the board for gatherings and events
- Attend planning meeting in January to take minutes for your unit board
- Attend the Spring and Fall Gathering if possible to help support your church and delegation at the Fall Gathering
- Help the president complete the annual report to the council
- Mentor the new Secretary until she feels comfortable with the position

Pray for guidance. If you are interested in running for either of these positions, contact Gayle Backiel 941-423-6609 or Sheri Moehling 941-429-1225

Sunday Servants—November 2013

Function	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24	
Ushers					
8:15	J. Wegener	J. Wegener	J. Wegener	J. Wegener	
	L. Wegener	L. Wegener	L. Wegener	L. Wegener	
10:00	H&S Moehling	H&S Moehling	H&S Moehling	H&S Moehling	
	E. Wade	E. Wade	E. Wade	E. Wade	
Altar Guild (both)					
	M. Keleher	M. Keleher	M. Keleher	M. Keleher	
Counters (both)	Banks; Parcels	Grant; Savard	Ertle; Savard	Cartright; Pauley	
Host					
8:15					
10:00					
Lay Reader					
8:15	M. Savard	V. Biassi	J. Johnson	D. Shiell	
10:00	P. Keller	R. Fundyga	G. Backiel	D. Shiell	
Comm. Assist.					
8:15	Pastor		Pastor	Pastor	
10:00	Pastor	P. Keller	Pastor	Pastor	
Greeters					
8:15	J. Christen	H. Boeck	J. Christen	J. Hernandez	
		W. Boeck		T. Hernandez	
10:00	R. Fundyga	M. Poe			
	J. Fundyga	D. Poe			
Fellowship					
8:15 set up					
10:00 clean up	B. Drechsel	B. Drechsel			
Nursery					
8:15	T. Hernandez	J. Christen	D. Mendez	M. Savard	
10:00	K. Bridegam	D. Ryder	C. Helland		
PowerPoint					
8:15	C. Lundquist	M. Savard	D. Mendez	K. Dines	
10:00	K. Grant		K. Bridegam	L. Shelton	

On a personal note...

Happy Birthday

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. Consider making a connection with a member by sending a birthday card.

- Nov. 2 Sheri Moehling
- Nov. 9 Lucas Buck, Adeline Banks
- Nov. 10 Sierra Jones
- Nov. 11 Theresa Guinn
- Nov. 12 Brian Hess
- Nov. 13 Cecile Bitler, Janet Pelto
- Nov. 14 Betty Wilson
- Nov. 16 Erika Kettler
- Nov. 23 Ardys Hagen
- Nov. 29 Jerry Pauley, Sherry Wilson
- Nov. 30 Harrison Reece, Kay Sheils

Thanksgiving Blessings

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.

A Note of Thanks from Pastor Jim and Dee Glander

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is amazing how rapidly a month moves from beginning to end. Dee and I were anticipating the opportunity to become part of Living Waters Lutheran Church, and we now celebrate and give God thanks for calling us to be part of his ministry in North Port.

We received so many blessings as we lived and shared in the focused ministry both within the congregation and in the outreach to the community. The highlight for us was being able to meet many new people who exemplify discipleship and then to be able to serve at the Community Dinners, attending A Special Time with caregivers, and being able to worship.

In the worship time we sang, we prayed, we heard the reading of the Word of God, and we broke bread together. Along with these special moments we spent time exploring some of the wonderful beaches, eating at a few great seafood restaurants, and taking time to reflect on where God is leading us in ministry in the months and years ahead.

Thank you for this wonderful outreach to pastors and their families. Thank you for filling our time together with God's love, acceptance, and His grace.

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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