



The Messenger

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

January 2013

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

About This Issue...

- Page 2: Quotes for living from Pastor Dell
- Page 3: God's Top 20 List
- Page 4: New Year Resolutions
- Page 5: Job Opening
- Page 6: WELCA News

Happy New Year to All

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

Thanks,
Judy Johnson,
Editor and Publisher

Take Down the Trees

It's time to take down the trees...and put away the chrismons...and the wreaths...and the garlands...and the manger scene...and all the Christmas decorations and **we need your help.**

**Lend a hand on Saturday
Morning, January 12 at 9:00**

Hello Again... to Pastor Richard (Dick) and Barbara Owens

Does the name sound familiar? It should. Pastor Owens was our very first guest pastor when the program was initiated in January 2010. Since we did not have a newsletter at that time, here are some background notes on our January guests.

Although they lived in Bismark, North Dakota at the time of their last visit, the Owens now reside in Minneapolis to be near family. Pastor Dick is a graduate of the University of North Dakota and of Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He has served congregations in Texas, Wyoming, and North Dakota. He has also served on the Montana Synod Council, The Western North Dakota Synod Outreach Committee, the ELCA Division for Outreach, and Conference Dean. He retired from full time ministry in 2007.

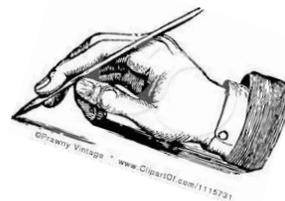
This past October, Pastor Dick and Barbara traveled to New York City where they attended performances at the Met and the New York City Ballet, saw the city from a pedicab, and visited Times Square.

Pastor Dick and Barbara have three children.

We extend a warm welcome to them as they return to Living Waters and we look forward to having them with us for January.

Welcome back!

A Message From the Pastor



The last few months of 2012 were a bit rough on Diane and me—as we know was true for others too. Over and over, I remind myself that I need perspective. That’s why I say, “When I see as God sees, I will do as God says.” And when I seem incapable of doing anything, it is crucial that I look at things from the vantage of my faith.

As I begin this New Year, I want to do so

with the resolve of one who lives in Christ. Neither personal willpower nor the power of our resolutions creates positive change. Positive change is possible only by the grace of God.

Here are four quotes I believe will be helpful as I look to 2013 as a year filled with God’s mercy and power.

You don’t have a soul. You are a Soul. You have a body.
(C.S. Lewis)

Somebody should tell us, right at the start of our lives, that we are dying. Then we might live life to the limit, every minute of every day. Do it, I say! Whatever you want to do, do it now!
There are only so many tomorrows.
(Pope Paul VI)

Let’s tell our young people that
the best books are yet to be written;
the best paintings are yet to be painted;
the best governments are yet to be formed;
the best is yet to be done by them.
(John Erskine)

Though no one can go back and make a brand-new start,
anyone can start now and make a brand-new ending.
(Carl Bard)

May God bless you throughout 2013!
May God bless others through you each day of your life.
Pastor Dell

The Gifts Within Us The Top 20 for God's Work

By: Judy Johnson

On January 27, the New Testament lesson is from I Corinthians 12—Spiritual Gifts from the Holy Spirit. In the opening statement, Paul says that he does not want us to be ignorant about spiritual gifts. That got my attention!

We quickly get the idea of what these gifts are and what they mean starting at verse 4: "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. (5) There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. (6) There are different kinds of working but the same God works all of them in all people."

Later in that chapter, Paul compares the function of these gifts to the many parts of the body, saying that each part of the body has its separate function but all work together to have the body function properly. So too, does the

- Administration**
- Artistry*
- Discernment**
- Evangelism**
- Exhortation**
- Faith**
- Giving*
- Hospitality*
- Instrumental Music*
- Intercession*
- Knowledge**
- Leadership**
- Mercy**
- Singing**
- Service**
- Shepherding**
- Skilled Craft**
- Teaching**
- Wisdom*
- Writing**

body or church of Christ function. He writes in verse 27: "Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it."

The list in the middle of this article is from the Spiritual Gifts Inventory that members take upon joining Living Waters. Each gift is written in a different typeface because each one of these gifts is unique—just like all of us. We do different things but together, we create a strong and vibrant congregation.

Are you using your gifts? Are you searching for gifts within? Have you thought about getting involved in a ministry or service but don't really know if you're cut out for it?

Only you can answer those questions but others can help. You can start by speaking with a Church Council member who can direct you to the right person.

Living Waters Council Members

Your 2013 Council Members are being installed at both services on Sunday, January 6. They are ready to serve and welcome your thoughts, questions and ideas.

Gayle Backiel	Karen Feldmann	Ellen Hanson	Scott Hanson	Judy Johnson
David Lanning	Jerry Pauley	Carol Piltz	Kari Reece	Tom Towne

New Year Resolutions Worth Keeping

Those pesky resolutions...we make them and soon break them. Maybe we need to rethink what we resolve. Here's an idea...resolve to make our mission, vision and core values our actionable items for 2013. With everyone focused on the same goals, we can really make things happen. For additional inspiration, see the quotes in Pastor's Column.

Mission (Motto)

Sharing Christ in Word and Deed

Vision

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

Core Values

Love God and Neighbor God's Will, Not Our Own
Good Stewardship Openness to Change and New Ideas Flexibility

Living Gifts...

Notes on Stewardship from Scott Hansen

The year end always makes way for the new year. Your Living Waters financial team has already begun working on plans for 2013. A special emphasis will be made to re-establish the activity in our memorial and endowment funds. Look for more information on how you can be involved in this special form of stewardship. If you have an interest or special talent in these areas, please let us know. We would appreciate your input!

With the Simply Giving Program in place at Living Waters, some congregation members have elected to use this electronic transfer opportunity. It saves you from trying to remember if you have written a check or turned in your envelope. You select how often the funds are withdrawn each month and also the amount each time. More information is available at the church office or on our website www.livingwaterslutheran.com

Pastor's Bible Study

Monday Nights 7:00
Hanson Hall

January leader: Pastor Dick Owens



Web Site Development News

We are moving along with adding more information to our Living Waters Website. Check out the new section that highlights our Pastors2Go Alums.

Click on Links and then Pastors2Go Alums and then on the name of one of our guest pastors. We are hoping to get even more responses from former alums in the near future.

Next project is to gather information and pictures about our many small groups and then, of course, our church directory. Stay tuned!

Last Chance for Church Directory Pictures

Don't forget to sign up to have your picture taken for our new directory. The last sitting for photos is Friday, January 25 and Saturday, January 26. You will automatically receive a free 8 X 10 picture plus a pictorial directory when they are completed.

If you decide to buy pictures, Life Touch, the company who will be producing our Pictorial

Directory, is offering a discount. When you make a donation of food of any kind to our kitchen to help feed the hungry, you will receive a \$5.00 off coupon. Just bring your food to your photo appointment and we will gladly give you the coupon. This can be combined with any other offers Life Touch may have.

For questions or help, contact Gayle Backiel at 423-6609 or Pat Keller at 423-1945.

You Did It!

"But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:3-4

The Community Outreach Ministry, would like to thank all those who donated and supported us this Thanksgiving and Christmas Season. We were able to deliver 29 Thanksgiving Turkeys and had 30 complete ham or turkey dinners distributed at Christmas. We wish you all a Blessed and Happy New Year!

Many thanks, The Kitchen Gang!

Youth News

The youth are planning an outing to go Twilight bowling, Saturday January 26, 6:45 pm. We will be reserving two lanes only, allowing the group to bowl for two hours.

If you would like to join us, please contact Patty Pauley or Kari Reece ASAP to reserve your spot. After 12 spots are filled, each additional bowler will be \$7.00 plus tax and shoe rental. You can still bowl with the group.

Contact either Patty or Kari at 941-429-2303 or via email, queenmom6@verizon.net

Job Opening Director Needed for "A Special Time"

Wilma Ellis, the Director of A Special Time (AST) since the program began, is retiring as of March. She has graciously agreed to help recruit and train her successor. Please pass this information along if you know someone who might be interested in this paid, part-time position.

Program Description: AST meets Fridays from 10am—2pm and provides services and support to adults with Alzheimer's,

dementia, and other cognitive diseases.

Director Qualifications: Must be an RN and have experience in working with the needs of program participants. Applicant should be familiar with psycho/social and physical aspects of the aging process. Director is responsible for planning, developing and implementing the program. Mail a resumé to the church office or send it electronically to: ast@livingwaterslutheran.com

On a personal note...

Thank you...

We are so thankful for our church family and friends at Living Waters. Thank you, for the gifts and cards we received this Christmas. May God bless you and yours throughout the coming year. Dell and Diane Shiell

Our sympathy...

to the family of **Sherry Godshall**. Sherry passed away on December 17 after an extended struggle with cancer. We especially pray for husband Jim, daughter Tesha and her husband Jose, and mother Arlena.

Also, to the family of **Barbara Mortensen**. Barb passed away on December 22. Barb bravely battled a genetic disease for most of her life. We especially pray for husband Karl and their children Jim, David and Nancy and the grandchildren.

These women each showed incredible strength of purpose and character. It is our privilege to have known Sherry and Barb and each will be missed by all of us. May God grant his peace and comfort to all.

Women of the ELCA News

January brings a new year of gatherings for the Women of ELCA. A planning session for the presidents and board members of Mid-Gulf churches will be held at Living Waters on January 19. We need donations of baked breakfast breads or muffins. If you can help, please bring them to the church on Friday, January 18 between 9:00 and Noon.

Sunday, February 3, we will celebrate the Living Waters Women's groups at the Thank Offering Services. We still need some women to usher for the 8:15 service. Please contact Gayle or Sheri if you would like to help.

Thank Offering donations are used to support the LWR, the synodical women's groups, and our groups at Living Waters.

On Saturday, March 9, we assemble at Redeemer in Bradenton for the Spring Gathering.

We appreciate your support of our Christmas Card Tree. Donations will be given to Katie's Fund to support a young woman becoming an ELCA minister.

God bless your support and help.
Gayle Backiel and Sheri Moehling

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.

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

www.livingwaterslutheran.com

Office Hours: 9:00am-Noon, Mon. - Thurs.

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