



The Messenger

News about our church,
our ministries and our people

February 2014

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

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

Thanks,
Judy Johnson,
Editor and Publisher

There'll Be a Hot Time in Hanson Hall

February 22

4:30 – 7:00 PM

A Fun Way to
Celebrate 40 years
as
Living Waters



Do you like chili? Do you like great music? Then the LWLC
Chili Cook-off is the place for **YOU!** Come join in the fun and
help select

BEST CHILI OF LWLC

and

BE ENTERTAINED BY MICHAEL HIRST

one of the finest entertainers in our area. We'll have
"celebrity servers" dipping up some of our own members'
super special chili. You will have a chance to sample all and
then vote for the chili of your choice.

In the spirit of celebrating 40 years of LWLC we will be asking
for a free will donation that includes the #4!
Hope to see you there. Invite a friend too.



If anyone would like to volunteer to help, we
have several opportunities for you – greeter,
set up, clean up, helper, or someone who
might have a special chili recipe to share.

Please call Ellen Hanson (715-296-2362) if you
would like to help. THANKS!



Volunteer Appreciation Sunday February 16

For a church to be vibrant, rele-
vant and successful, an active and
dedicated group of volunteers is
required. On February 16, at both
services, we will take time to rec-
ognize each and every person
who is a Living Waters volunteer.

Special refreshments will be
served in Hanson Hall after each
service and there will be pictorial
displays of volunteer efforts.

Do you make the best chili in the
universe? Call Ellen to put it to

A Message From the Pastor

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them? (Psalm 8:3-4 NSRV)*



Our lives are in God's hands. That means God is taking care of us. Our future is secure. And we can "afford" to be compassionate in our dealings with our neighbors.

Compassion, however, involves hard work. The command to love one another sounds so simple, but there is nothing easy about it. That is why I hear myself repeatedly saying to myself and others, "The word, 'discipline,' is not a dirty word!"

I am referring to "self discipline." There is so much that undermines our interest in the challenges of living for God and loving one another.

We are immersed in a culture and a society that place an excessively high value on pleasure, the weekend break from work, immediate gratification, quick fixes, self-indulgence, and the superficial attractiveness promoted by commercial advertisements. With the Bible in our laps and the TV before our eyes, it should be obvious to see that we are being challenged by competing values vying for our

allegiance as ordinary people who are also Christians.

As Christians, 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.

God is calling us to a life of trust and obedience. Both take discipline.

There is a certain discipline in being truthful, in regular prayer and worship, in speaking up to tell others about Jesus, and in standing by those who need our love.

So, please, search for opportunities to answer the call to greater personal and spiritual discipline. Our lives are in God's hands. Let's make sure that our hearts are too.

*In Christ,
Pastor Dell*

New Member Orientation: March 31



The next New Member Orientation for those interested in joining Living Waters is scheduled for March 31, 2014, at 5:00 pm in the church social hall.

If you are interested in attending this orientation, please contact Kris in the church office (941-625-8090; office@LivingWatersLutheran.com). Kris will make sure your name is on the list of those interested in attending the orientation.

If you would like to visit with the pastor, please contact Pastor Dell Shiell (941-223-9461; pastor@LivingWatersLutheran.com).

Mèsi

Haitian Creole for “Thank You”



\$992.80...and climbing

Our love offering for the Lutheran Church in Haiti

By the time you read this article, chances are, we will have achieved not only our goal for our share (\$500 per year) of funding Jorel Carte’s annual salary for two years but we will be on our way to reaching the amount for third year of our three-year commitment. Along with five other churches in the Mid-Gulf Conference of the Florida Bahamas Synod of the ELCA, we are supporting a missionary to Haiti.

Jorel Carte recently began working as a national staff member of the Lutheran Church of Haiti with two areas of responsibility. He is the Mission Team Coordinator which means that he works with mission teams from participating churches in our conference who go to Haiti to work on special projects for our mission churches there.

He also serves as Director of Communications, handling correspondence and serving as an ambassador for the Haiti church as he travels to Florida and elsewhere in the U.S. to raise awareness of and funds for this mission.

Pastor Livenson Lauvanus is the president of this new national church. He was with us at Living Waters in late 2009, only a few

months before Haiti was devastated by an earthquake.

On Sunday, January 19, the Sunday in a week known as the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,” we kicked off our celebration of 40 years as Living Waters Lutheran with an emphasis on a need outside of our walls and outside of our borders. In his message that day, Pastor Dell provided information about the Lutheran Church in Haiti and how we can play an active role in its future.

Pastor referred to us this way: “We are people of God on a mission. And we are not alone. Jesus is with us...and we are in this together—you and I—and we are in this together with other Christians out there scattered throughout the world.”

He concluded his message by talking about how missionary support is a great way to show God’s love for the whole world. And did we ever! Thanks to each of you for your generosity and for your willingness to share your blessings with others.

Livenson is fond of saying that “God is good.” How right he is!

Bondye bon!

Haitian Creole for “God Is Good!”

Opportunity for Service: Facilitator Needed for A Special Time Caregivers Support Group



As of May 23, Carol Sutton, the current facilitator for the Caregivers Support Group, will be retiring from this volunteer position so the group will need a replacement for her. This group is an extension of our weekly A Special Time Alzheimer's Respite Program.

Qualifications are simple. The group needs someone who can facilitate the group's discussion and be there to provide information or direction. This person needs to have strong listening skills and effective communication skills. If you have cared for a person with dementia, you might be an excellent candidate for this position.

Our support group meets the second and fourth Friday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at church in the Sunday school

room off Hanson Hall. We currently have 8-10 regular participants. Most of them are caregivers for their partners who are in various stages of dementia and are trying to keep their loved ones at home as long as possible.

But, to do this, they need all the help and information they can get. Our support group is their lifeline and provides a link for them to share their stresses and problems, while maintaining their own well being.

Interested in this volunteer position? We would love to hear from you and answer any questions you might have. We will help with identifying resources for discussion and information.

Just contact Carol Sutton, current facilitator of the group, 941-423-7193, as soon as possible.

Preschool News

By Susan D'Amico

We are starting February with 7 VPK children, 1 two-year-old, and 10 three-four year olds.

We are advertising on Craigslist, which has given us a few new students, as well as, a lot of wonderful word-of-mouth good will from past and present parents. Already, we have been getting a lot of calls for the next VPK class, starting in August!

Get Your Pizza Here

For the month of February we are holding our Little Caesars Pizza Kit fundraiser. As in the past, \$5 per kit sold will be for Living Waters Preschool, to replenish supplies and to purchase playground toys. There will be order forms and posters in Hanson Hall.

Pizza kits are priced from \$13 – \$25.

We want you to know that we are very appreciative of all the support the congregation has given us! Thank you!



**Wednesday
Bible Study Series
Continues:
*From the Way We Were to
the Way We Are!***

For Bible studies on Wednesday evenings in February, Pastor Limburg will continue his series, "From the way we were to the way we are: Celebrating 40 years by reading Acts."

There are some fast-moving and fascinating stories in Acts. We'll hear some powerful speeches and sermons. There are miraculous healings and conversions to the new faith.

But we'll also hear of liars and cheaters, stonings and snake bites, storms and shipwrecks. We'll learn of early experiments in sharing with the poor. Along the way we'll see some videos of places where churches began, as made by Lutheran travel expert Rick Steves.

Come join us and put our own Living Waters story in the context of the larger story of the whole Christian church on earth.

**We meet Wednesday
evenings from
7:00-8:00 PM.**

**Greetings from Your
Church Council**

By Scott Hanson

I am pleased to report that after the council's review of 2013, Living Waters Lutheran Church continues to be a healthy and growing congregation. The year began with serious financial conflicts. But through faith, hard work and dedication, conflict changed to challenge. Your support through your time, talents and financial stewardship has moved us now to a position of being successful and meeting those challenges.

If you had an opportunity to review our Annual Report for 2013, you found **two significant changes....an increased net income position and new membership growth of nearly 30!** Our marketing initiative is giving a new awareness of *who* is that "Little White Church in the Country"? We have had several wonderful newspaper articles highlighting our mission activities. Have you caught our radio messages yet?

At the January Congregational Meeting, the congregation approved an aggressive but yet conservative budget for 2014. I personally feel that we will not only meet our budget income requirements but, in fact, exceed them. We will be able to move Pastor Dell's compensation package to 80% from 67%, as we hope to return to 100% as soon as is feasible.

As we celebrate 40 years of LWLC, **we also have to recognize that our church property has some "aches and groans."** The council is working on a "to do" list for repairs and up-keep. The council is also excited about participating in additional Synod mission activities such as the Haiti project. Look for more small group activities for you to participate in as well. Music and Worship is always looking to provide new and meaningful worship experiences....2014 will be no exception!

The challenge for 2014 is simple. Please "stretch" and get involved in the many activities of our church. Whether a "snowbird" or a year-rounder, **we thank you for your commitment and dedication to Living Waters.**

You make all the difference!

From Here To Eternity

“Does Your Stewardship End With Death?”

We are God’s stewards. Everything we have comes to us as a gift from God. At the same time, all that we are and all that we own still belong to God. Perhaps you know and believe this. But, do you realize that you are also a steward of what you leave behind when you leave this world?

Once we depart for heaven, the “stuff” we leave behind was all part of our stewardship while we were still living.

Through a will, earnest church members can assure themselves that their Christian stewardship will not end with their death. Through a will, not only can you deepen your spiritual life, but you can provide for the spread of the gospel—and ministries of Christian love—beyond your lifetime.

The Legacy Gift Planning Team for the Living Waters Fund (our church endowment fund) will pay toward the costs of a new will or an updated will that includes the Living Waters Lutheran Church or the Living Waters Fund in your will.

Please remember Living Waters in your will.

	Living Waters Legacy Certificate
Receive \$100 (Single) or \$150 (Couple) Toward Attorney’s Fee when you name Lutheran Church of the Living Waters or the Living Waters Fund in your will.	
Payable To Attorney when invoice presented to: Living Waters Lutheran Church, PO Box 8064, North Port, Florida 34290 Expires: December 31, 2014	
LivingWatersLutheran.com	

Special Training for Sunday Servants

On February 18, a Tuesday, at 10:30 we will be holding an orientation for people who do or want to volunteer to be ushers, greeters, and host/hostesses.

There will be handouts of duties and we will walk you through the procedures for these positions. If you are new to our church or new to the position or want a refresher, please join us.

Let us make our worship service a pleasant experience for the congregation and a reverent honor to God. Contact Sheri Moehling for details.



On a personal note...

Happy Birthday

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

Feb. 4 Linda Chubner
Feb. 6 Sue Fortunato
Feb. 7 May Grigni
Feb. 16 Jim Kolb
Feb. 22 Connie Bliss
Feb. 23 William Fortin
Feb. 26 Nicole Reece
Feb. 28 Joanne Bligh



The Messenger is published monthly by Living Waters Lutheran Church with printed copies usually 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, unless otherwise specified, for publication the following month and may be edited. Pictures are not printed.

Mark Your Calendar
LWLC Chili Cook-off
Saturday, February 22
4:30—7:00pm
Great Food & Music



Again we thank all who have donated yarn and funds to support this important ministry! Because of your donations and the talents of our members, we are well stocked with prayer shawls.

If you or someone you know is ill, struggling, or just deserves a special blessing, we would be happy to provide a prayer shawl for them. Contact the office or any of our members. Char DeWitt (941-276-8377)

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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