



The Messenger

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

April 2020

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

A CHANGE OF PLANS!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

When we put together our plans for Holy Week and Easter, they were contingent upon the evolution of this horrible coronavirus. I communicated to you all that we would revisit and consider our plans at the end of March. Weeks ago, there were a lot of unknowns, but one important factor that is now been proven to decrease the risk of infection is “shelter in place”. In order to defeat the increase of infection we must stay home, we must stay away from each other!

ANYONE can be infected! Quarantine is the best thing to do; not just for the safety and well-being of ourselves, but for the well-being of others! Let’s do this for each other!

So, the purpose of this message is to inform you that our plans for Holy Week and Easter will not be carried out. My sermons will continue to be made available to you via email and on our website. So, there will be a message for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, and of course, on Easter.

We are exploring the idea of creating a brief worship service for every Sunday; that is, incorporating music and prayer, and perhaps some liturgical components. We would record these services until we are able to once again gather together for worship.

The FIRST Sunday worship that we can share together in our sanctuary will be a very special time! It will truly be a time of thanksgiving and praise. So, we are excited about making it special. I know there is great disappointment in not experiencing Holy Week and Easter together as a church family. The release of butterflies is something that many look forward to on Easter morning. So, perhaps we could name this particular Sunday, Resurrection Sunday, and include the release of butterflies at the end of that worship service. Perhaps we could have a special gathering in our fellowship hall after worship. Possibilities!

I certainly look forward to seeing each of you! So, please take care of yourselves and be safe! God will see us through this “wilderness” time, and continue to bless us as His people at Living Waters Lutheran Church!

In Christ, Pastor Lyle

Church website: <https://livingwaterslutheran.com/sermons>



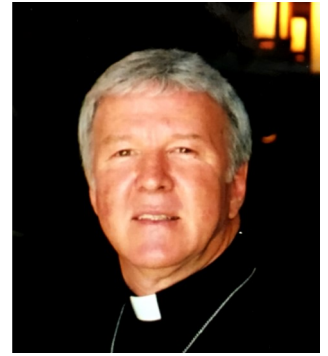
Many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. Matt. 8:11"

From the Pastor

By Rev. Lyle Truitt

**“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,
Mary Magdalene went to the tomb
and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.”**

John 20:1



Greetings Dear Ones,

On Easter Sunday, there are two traditional rituals that collide with each other. In Christian homes where small children dwell, there is a generational debate about which comes first:

The sunrise worship service.....OR

Scampering about the house while hunting for grass nests in baskets filled with multi-colored eggs and chocolate bunnies.

Yes, when Easter happens there are “secular” customs that are very often juggled together with faith customs. And when you really think about it, Easter, the secular custom, is really a bit bizarre, isn't it? There's this Easter bunny; a rabbit that has a nest of eggs. Without a doubt, rabbits do an exceptional job of carrying out the 'be fruitful and multiply' command. And yes, eggs are pretty darn perfect symbols of 'New Life' to come, but bunny rabbits don't lay eggs or make nests.

But children love the Easter bunny because the Easter bunny does not keep lists of who has been 'naughty or nice' like that Santa Claus guy. Sitting on that white-bearded Santa's lap is often a terrifying experience for small children, but hugging the Easter bunny is always a 'warm and fuzzy' experience. The Easter bunny comes to children every Easter without a policy for behavior. The eggs are left everywhere and hopefully they are easily found by even the smallest or the worst seeker. So, all the strange traditions that go along with the Easter bunny are kept alive and maybe even re-invented each and every year by our children.

Maybe, just maybe, we grownups should take a cue from our kids. The empty tomb on Easter morning presents Christians with a vision that has a lot in common with the Easter bunny. The basket is empty until those children become seekers and the eggs are found. That tomb of Jesus on Easter morning is empty, but God wants His children to be seekers, like Mary Magdalene, and to find our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This year, here at Living Waters, neither of these two traditional rituals will be celebrated as we normally do, because of the necessity of social distancing and the uncertainty of what's coming next!

I am so saddened and disappointed by this unbelievable circumstance, but that sadness and disappointment will be overcome by the joy and the glory of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! The Spirit of our Risen Lord will be with us all!

See you around town!

***Happy Easter!!
He is Risen!!***



Dear Members and Friends in Christ,

As your Church Council along with Pastor Lyle work together to deal with the impact on our church family that the Coronavirus situation has put us in, we of course will do our best to provide religious services options to the extent that we can and still keep health and safety as a top priority.



Unfortunately with the cancellation of church services and group activities here at the church we have created another situation that impacts the day to day operation of our church. Simply stated the flow of offerings that fund our operations has also stopped.

So this letter is a humble request from us to ask that you would mail your regular offerings to the church. They don't have to be mailed weekly. Every other week or even monthly will help during this situation. Fill out your offering envelope(s) as normal and enclose them in a mailing envelope addressed to us at Living Waters Lutheran Church, PO Box 8064, North Port, FL 34290.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support of your church, Living Waters, as we make every effort to "Keep the Ball Rolling" in our mission and all related activities during this time of special need.

Pastor Lyle
LWLC Pastor

Rich Pelto
Stewardship & Treasurer

*To all who are mailing in their weekly offerings
during these troubling times...
Thank You!*

Secret Sister Reveal Luncheon

By Patty Pauley and Kari Reese

Because the reveal luncheon for Secret Sisters had to be postponed due to Covid 19, please continue to send love and prayers to your sister during this time. You can still send cards to let them know you are still lifting them up. You DO NOT have to buy gifts anymore.

The luncheon will be rescheduled when this passes, and it may be next fall when our seasonal sisters return, but we will have it, so until then keep yourself a secret.

Until we see each other again, stay safe.

Praying for you all.
Patty and Kari

Special Council Meeting notes of March 17

By Carolann Cortese, Council Secretary

Following the Devotion and opening prayer, the schedule for Lenten services and Holy Week were discussed and accepted.

The safety and health of members and staff is the number one concern. To meet that goal the schedule of events on page one of this newsletter were accepted.

Video of the Lenten skit, scripture readings and sermons will be available through email links and can be accessed from the LWLC website at <https://livingwaterslutheran.com/sermons>.

The Doxology was sung to close the meeting.

Cut Ups Quilt Raffle



Photo by Rich Peltis

Winner of the recent quilt raffle, Lynne Totten, is presented the quilt by Carol Piltz. Proceeds from the raffle will be used to purchase supplies for the Cut-Ups who make quilts sent to Lutheran World Relief and for people in need in our area.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Karen Hoepfner

Unfortunately our Wine and Cheese Cruise Party for March 14 had to be canceled due to the Coronavirus. We were all looking forward to a fun night together, BUT it will be rescheduled when it is safe for people to be together in groups again.

We also canceled the Easter Egg Hunt planned for April 11th, again due to the virus. That was another fun event for the community, as well as our own Living Waters Family. But we must do what we can to stop the spread of this nasty virus so we can get back to healthy living again.

I hope everyone is doing well and taking this time off to enjoy the things you can do at home. I know I am doing things that I've put off and am enjoying getting my life organized. I've also been doing a lot of reading which I find relaxing.

God's Blessings to you all!

Multicultural Dinner and Beyond

By Gayle Backiel

The Multicultural Dinner was a little over a month ago—seems like ages ago. We had a wonderful time at that dinner. It was also a fund raiser for the Global Mission Table (GMT) of Florida/Bahama Synod. The director of that group, P.J. May, had a table set up featuring a Haitian Lasagna. Everyone had the chance to taste the Haitian meal. She gave a short presentation explaining a little about Global Mission and our Companion Churches.

The focus this spring and summer is on Jamaica and their need for items for their Lutheran Divinity School. Those in attendance were very generous and contributed a total of \$343.00 toward that cause. In addition to Jamaica, GMT has relationships with four other countries in the Caribbean. They are Cuba, Haiti, Guyana and Surinam. If you would like more information about the Jamaica School or any of the other Companion Churches we support, contact Gayle Backiel at 941-769-0882



Ashley Mock, A Woman With a Mission

From Patty Mock, Ashley's mom

Just a note to let you know that Ashley has been evacuated from Malawi and arrived in the

U.S. on Friday, March 20. She is in Tampa at a friend's house to quarantine for 14 days.

Note from Editor Barb Cartwright

I am so appreciative of the continual prayers during these past three years, and your words of comfort and encouragement on the passing of my husband, Paul. His health struggle was long, but it did bring him into a special bond with our Savior, who gave him strength and now eternal peace. Barb

Happy Birthday

Surprise someone on the list by sending a birthday greeting.



April 1	Mary Citrone	April 12	Rita Norton
April 2	Jerry Wehmeyer	April 13	Dennis Stankiewicz
April 3	Ray Budde	April 16	Barb Cartwright
April 4	Susan, Freese	April 17	Gerald Beauregard
	James Godshall	April 20	Gayle Backiel
	Julia Lozano	April 21	Steve Vaughan
April 6	Dakota Buck	April 24	Marty Savard
April 10	June Reed		
	Sharon Skelley		

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

Church Office: Kris Dines

kris@livingwaterslutheran.com

Pastor Lyle Truitt:

plylet65@gmail.com

Decons:

Kim Vaughan	Steve Vaughan
notmuchafrad@hotmail.com	captainhappi@hotmail.com

Council Members:

<i>Craig Bitler, Vice Pres/Property</i> 941-234-6311 cdbitler@comcast.net	<i>Jane Fundyga, Financial Sec/</i> <i>Member Care</i> 941-979-2041 jfundyga@gmail.com
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Joanne Carlock, President/
Fellowship
941-426-5434
jcarlock99@yahoo.com

Carolann Cortese, Secretary/
Small Groups
941-429-0422
carolanncortese@aol.com

Debbi Fiore, Member at Large
941-423-3936
Debbi_fiore@yahoo.com

Sue Hill, Asst. Secretary
941-255-9089

Rich Pelto, Treasurer
941-426-9160
randdjpelto@gmail.com

Bill Steen, Property Maint.
352-445-9476
billysteen11@gmail.com

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To have information included in the newsletter, please write your content and send it to Barb Cartwright, editor and publisher: anchorstitch@aol.com or phone 941-743-4770. Articles must be submitted by the 21st of each month. Articles may be edited.

If you have questions about our church, its ministries or about becoming a member, please email Pastor Truitt at plylet65@gmail.com or call 941-625-8090.