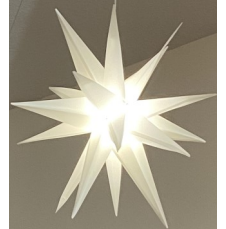




The Messenger

*News about our church,
our ministries and our people
DECEMBER 2021*

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Karen Hoeppner

Chili Cookoff : On Saturday, November 13, a Chili Cookoff and Pie Auction were enjoyed.

There were 5 wonderful pots of chili and everyone had a taste of each . The cooks (shown below) were Christine Norton, Kim Vaughan, Tesha Hernandez, Pat Bardshar and Dru Munson. The voting was very close because each chili was delicious. Each one received a soup ladle and a hot pad made by Barb Cartwright.

Cliff Walz was our auctioneer for the Pie Auction and did an outstanding job! There were 12 pies and 2 boxes of cookies. \$260 was raised for WELCA projects.

Thank you everyone who came, cooked, bought the goodies and helped clean up. It was a fun evening.



Breakfast with Santa: Our next event is coming up on Saturday, December 11.

We are having **Breakfast with Santa** at 9:30 a.m. with pancakes and juice. There will be crafts, decorating of Christmas cookies, and, of course, time with Santa to tell him what they would like him to bring them.

Then, at 12:30 there will be a **Lunch with Santa** for children with sensory problems. They, too, will be able to make crafts, decorate Christmas cookies and have time with Santa to give him their lists. Help is needed for both of these events, so please let someone on the committee know you are willing to help.

January Event: Our next event is January 8, 2022, and will be a **Wine and Cheese Party**. This event is always a lot of fun. There will also be entertainment.

Do you like to take pictures? We are in need of someone to take pictures at the Fellowship Events for use on the website and in the newsletter. Please see Pastor, Joanne or myself if you are interested.

Welcome New Members

Gary & Hattie Chapman, Jo Vorwald, Sloan Benson, and Ruth Peters



"She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1: 21

From the Pastor

By Rev. Lyle Truitt

Greetings Dear Ones!

DO NOT BE AFRAID!

That's a greeting that we hear several times throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. It is how the angel Gabriel first addressed Mary when he came to tell her that she would bear the Savior of the world. It is how the angel of the Lord addressed the shepherds when they were in the fields tending their flock on the very first Christmas eve. In fact, three times in the first two chapters of the gospel according to Luke, we find the angel of the Lord telling somebody to not be afraid!

No, you probably will never see it posted on the front of a Christmas card because it doesn't go along with the presents and the lights and the snowmen and the reindeer. But it is truly one of the most important and most comforting messages we hear during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

DO NOT BE AFRAID!

There are so many things in our life today that could set us on edge; that could make us worry and be fearful. Especially after years of seeing so many natural disasters cripple so many lives of our sisters and brothers in Christ. **BE NOT AFRAID!** In recent years, we have been introduced to such a darkness called a **PANDEMIC** that has us wearing masks over our faces.

DO NOT BE AFRAID!

Gabriel's Christmas greeting should be ringing in our ears louder than anything that this world of ours has to say. **DO NOT BE AFRAID** because your God is in control, because your God is still at work in the midst of all that is happening. **BE NOT AFRAID** because through the birth of the Messiah, God has given us the gift of Emmanuel which means "**God with us.**"

So, no matter where we go, or what we do, or what we encounter, God will be there with us. Through the birth of Jesus, God has shown us that he will always love us, and that HE will never leave us alone, or forsake us, or leave us hanging out somewhere to figure things out on our own. He has pitched a tent in our life.

DO NOT BE AFRAID because the darkness does not overcome the light! The light of God shines through Jesus Christ our Lord....piercing all the darkness of our world, and offering us hope when it appears to be hopeless!

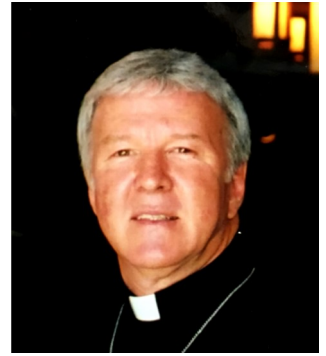
Jesus Christ offers us peace...in the midst of confusion and uncertainty.

DO NOT BE AFRAID!

Merry Christmas, dear friends!

See you around town!

P Lyle



Council Meeting Recap—November 2021

Submitted by Barb Cartwright, Council Secretary

The meeting opened with a devotion and prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting, on Oct. 11, were approved.

The Stewardship mailing was sent to all members. Stewardship Sunday is Nov. 28, 2021.

The Chili Supper is Nov. 13. WELCA will receive proceeds from the pie auction. Breakfast with Santa is Dec. 11 with Lunch with Santa for autistic children that same day.

Preschool VPK class has full registration for Fall 2022. A videotape of the Children's Christmas Program will be shown during the Dec. 12 church service.

Craig Bitler is organizing a Nativity display within the church during Advent.

Pastor Lyle and Loni expressed appreciation for the compassion, love and support on the death of their brother-in-law. Special thanks were given to Kim

and Steve Vaughan and all others who stepped in to give extra help while Pastor and Loni needed to be in Hibbing, MN.

Advent mid-week services at 7 p.m. with a soup supper before at 6 p.m. will take place on Dec. 1, 8, and 15. The Advent theme will be "A Christmas Journey" by an "unlikely Cast."

A company to coordinate a photo directory is being investigated by Gayle Backiel.

Calls are being made to seek council members for the next term.

Opening the Fellowship Hall for sit down Community Meals was revisited. It was decided to allow it.

The next council meeting will be Monday, Dec. 13, at 1 p.m. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Christmas Caroling

By Gayle Backiel

We are singing again! We sing in worship and with praise. We sing for joy. We sing with the radio...sometimes. We will be singing Christmas Carols again! Yes, we are going caroling, on Sunday, Dec. 19, after Church and coffee. We will car pool to the assisted living and nursing homes in North Port. First stop is The Gardens of North Port at 12:00 noon. The people love to hear us and some join in the singing. Plan to spend about an hour and a half spreading joy and fun to these shut-ins. Be sure to bring a mask to protect the residents. If you have any questions, contact Gayle Backiel at 941-769-0882.



Digital Piano Funding

By Kim Vaughan

I would just like to shout out 'THANK YOU!' to everyone who helped us pay for the new digital piano!

I am so grateful and humbled to be part of such a loving congregation. We reached the goal within 24 hours!

Blessings to each of you.

Do you know Ukranian, Polish or Russian?

Please welcome Vlad with a "Hello." Or maybe just a handshake and a smile.

Ukrainian—zdravstvuyte

Polish— dzień dobry

Russian— privet

2021 Veteran Recognition

By Barb Cartwright

Throughout the months of October and November, a request was made for the names and pictures of Living Waters members who were veterans, both present or past, to be included on a "Wall of Veterans" in the Narthex. Thank you to all who provided this information.

After the service on Nov. 12, recognition was made of these persons. In addition three Quilts of Valor were presented to current members who have served with honor and who were "touched by war." Steve Vaughan, who headed this Recognition of Veterans, said this, "I have spoken with many of our veterans about their service. In my opinion each and every one of them has been touched by war." The quilts were made by members of this congregation and presented to Stanley Bliss, Ray Fundyga, and Ken Lund. Future presentations are planned on each Veterans Day.



Special note just received prior to sending this newsletter:

The church office was informed of the death of Pastor Jim Limburg . Pastor Limburg participated in the Pastors2Go program in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. He passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 29, in Rochester MN. Cards can be send to Martha Limburg, 827 Mayowood Rd SW, Apt. 235, Rochester, MN 55902.

Living Waters Lutheran Church & Preschool — December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Cut Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM Advent Soup Supper 6:00 PM Advent Mid Week Worship Service 7:00 PM	2 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Choir Practice 5:15 PM	3 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	4
5 Worship Service 10:00 AM	6	7 Prayer Team Bible Study 1:00 PM	8 Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM Advent Soup Supper 6:00 PM Advent Mid Week Worship Service 7:00 PM	9 Bread Ministry 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Choir Practice 5:15 PM	10 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	11 Breakfast with Santa 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Santa's Sensory Lunch 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
12 Worship Service 10:00 AM	13 Church Council Meets 1:00 PM	14 Prayer Team Bible Study 1:00 PM	15 Cut Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM Advent Soup Supper 6:00 PM Advent Mid Week Worship Service 7:00 PM	16 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Choir Practice 5:15 PM	17 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	18
19 Worship Service 10:00 AM	20	21 First Day of Winter (December Solstice) Prayer Team Bible Study 1:00 PM	22 Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM	23 Bread Ministry 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Choir Practice 5:15 PM	24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM AA Meeting 8:00 PM	25 Christmas No Service
26 Worship Service 10:00 AM	27	28 Prayer Team Bible Study 1:00 PM	29 Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM	30 Bread Ministry 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Choir Practice 5:15 PM	31 New Year's Eve AA Meeting 8:00 PM	

Thank You

By Rich Peltó, Treasurer

Thank you to everyone who has returned their Stewardship Commitment Card for 2022!

If you have not... please return yours as soon as possible so our 2021 Stewardship results can be finalized.

The pledge results will be used in the budget preparation process for our church for the 2022 calendar year. Both the Stewardship results and the 2022 Budget will be included in the 2021 Annual Report which will be available in January.



Happy Birthday

Surprise someone on this list by sending a birthday greeting.



Dec. 5	Rich Pelto
Dec. 9	David Bozich
Dec. 10	Kay Steen
Dec. 11	Pamela Johnson
Dec. 17	Lee DeWitt
Dec. 19	Harold Boeck
Dec. 21	Michael Fillian
Dec. 22	Donna Godshall
Dec. 24	Karen Hoepfner
	Carol Sutton
Dec. 25	Joe Ann Hillegass



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The Messenger is published monthly by Living Waters Lutheran Church with printed copies distributed the last 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 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.