



The Messenger

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

*December 2019
Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool*

Hanging of the Greens

Kim Vaughan, Organizer

It's time to deck the halls and trim the trees. Please come to help decorate the church. We need men and women to help.

Saturday, December 7 at 10 a.m.



Midweek Advent Worship and Fellowship

Wednesday, Dec 4, 11, 18

Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m.

Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Like an expectant mother, the Church in Advent prepares us for an arrival. We anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth and look forward to Christ's coming again at the end of times. God calls us to pause and to reflect, to wonder and to hope, to wait and to savor the mystery of birth and life. Henri Nouwen said, "Waiting is a period of learning. It is a time when God is working behind the scenes, and the primary focus of His work is us."

During the 2019 Advent season, our Living Waters Lutheran family and their guests will gather for some delicious soup and bread, and then share their love for each other as sisters and brothers in Christ. And then we will journey together to the sanctuary where we will worship together with the theme of "It's A Wonderful Life." The overarching message of this familiar movie is clear: George Bailey's life really mattered! A Christian's purpose is found each and every day in how we affect the people around us and their circumstances. The world is immeasurably better because you were born.



We will watch selected clips of this seasonal film and discover how the messages of this film are connected to the Word of God. Joseph and Mary discovered, and you'll be reminded, that life's most important work is often the work that we never planned to do, and that God can use the most unlikely among us to accomplish His will.

I hope and pray that you will prayerfully consider setting aside this time to join us! Be blessed!

Pastor Lyle

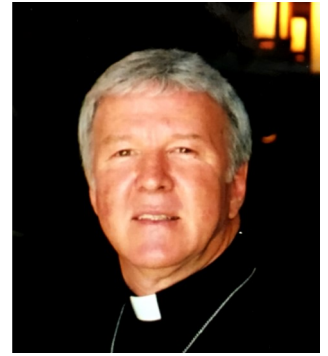
"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43"

From the Pastor

By Rev. Lyle Truitt

**“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means God with us.”**

Matthew 1:23



Greetings Dear Friends,

My goodness, as I'm writing these words to share, we haven't even enjoyed our Thanksgiving Day dinner, and already I'm hearing the music of Christmas! Waiting for a cashier at Home Depot, I heard a version of "What Child is This" played in a haunting style of classical guitar. A couple days ago, outside Der Dutchman restaurant in Sarasota, there was a German oompah band playing "O Tannenbaum." And even at my physical therapy office, I was surprised as I heard blaring out of some speakers, "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth." I hadn't heard that one for years! Honestly, these days I would change the title to "All I Want For Christmas is a Nap." Because without all that music to keep me going (during shopping and wrapping and cooking and visiting), I think I'd be fast asleep. Sometimes in this season, it's the "long winter nap" and the vision of children "nestled all snug in their beds" that we long for most of all.

The season of Advent invites us to let go of all of those chores, and to simply remember the love of Jesus and to let God's peace gradually warm our souls, freeing us to seek to live in the light of the great promise of God....the arrival of Emmanuel, God with us. Yes, someone better is coming to us through the power and mystery of God! A little baby will be crying in a manger...and that's truly enough for me. And I hope and pray that it will be enough for you. Through this baby, God brings us hope and joy and healing and wholeness. God brings us some needed refuge in the darkness as we wait for something new to be born in us.

In these days before Christmas, I don't know what different kinds of music you will encounter as you go about the work of preparing. But underneath it all, may you hear the quiet hymn that is God's great love song to you and to us all.

Welcome the Christ child with joy!

See you around town!
Pastor Lyle



**DECEMBER 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND SERVICES
for the ADVENT and CHRISTMAS SEASON**

Sunday, Dec. 1	The First Sunday in Advent Service, 10 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 4	Soup and Bread Supper, 6 p.m. Advent Mid-Week Worship Service, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 5	Community Dinner, 4–6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 7	Hanging of the Greens, 10 a.m.
Sunday, Dec. 8	The Second Sunday in Advent Service, 10 a.m. Congregational meeting to elect new council member immediately after the service.
Wednesday, Dec. 11	Soup and Bread Supper, 6 p.m. Advent Mid-Week Worship Service, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14	Breakfast with Santa, 9:30 a.m. Santa’s Sensory Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 15	The Third Sunday in Advent Service, 10 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Soup and Bread Supper, 6 p.m. Advent Mid-Week Worship Service, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 19	Community Dinner, 4-6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 21	Women’s Christmas Luncheon sponsored by the Living Waters unit of the Women of the ELCA (WELCA), noon.
Sunday, Dec. 22	The Fourth Sunday in Advent Service, 10 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day Worship Service, 10 a.m.
Sunday, Dec. 29	The First Sunday after Christmas Service, 10 a.m.



FELLOWSHIP HAPPENINGS

Submitted by Karen Hoeppner

Our **WINE AND CHEESE PARTY** on November 16 was a huge success! There were 54 people who attended, with a great array of different wines, trays of cheeses, crackers, antipasto and fruit...and great fellowship!

The pie auction, a fund raiser for Women of the ELCA (WELCA) was a lot of fun. Cliff Walz was the auctioneer and really did a great job getting bids on each pie. There were about 20 different pies and each one looked so delicious. The total amount for the evening was over \$456 so it was a huge success!

Betty Drechsel adds—

WELCA had a board meeting on November 21 and decided that Living Waters Lutheran Women's' Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December -21 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

All women are invited. We will serve lunch and play a couple of fun games. Dessert will be a "cookie exchange," so everyone should bring a dozen cookies to share. Please put this on your calendar and plan to attend



On Saturday, December 14 at 9:30 a.m., we will be having our annual **PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**. There will be pancakes, of course, and juice, crafts, Christmas cookies to decorate and a chance to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what you would like for Christmas. This will be a community event for all children and their families.

Then, also on December 14 at 12:30 p.m., we will be hosting a **SANTA'S SENSORY LUNCH** in collaboration with Clara's Clubhouse Organization. This is a group of families with autistic children. The children and their family will come to have lunch, crafts and a chance to visit with Santa. This is a first time event for Living Waters and we hope that everyone will participate in bringing joy during this time of year.

These events would be a wonderful time to volunteer to help. We will need help with the food, crafts, Christmas cookie decorating and clean up. Please contact Joanne Carlock or Karen Hoeppner if you haven't already volunteered to help. Many volunteers are needed and there is no better way to get in the Christmas spirit than to give of yourself.

FELLOWSHIP is such an important part of our church life. Getting to know each other in a more personal way.



Living Waters Lutheran Church & Preschool — December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship Service 10:00 AM	2 Council Reports Due Worship & Music Cmte. Meets 10:00 AM Preschool Board of Directors 5:15 PM	3	4 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM Advent Soup Suppers 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Advent Worship Service 7:00 PM	5 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM	6 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	7 Hanging of the Greens
8 Worship Service 10:00 AM	9 1:00 PM Church Council Meeting	10	11 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM Advent Soup Suppers 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Advent Worship Service 7:00 PM	12 Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM NWPCA 7:00 PM	13	14 Breakfast with Santa 9:30 AM Lunch with Santa 12:30 PM
15 Worship Service 10:00 AM	16	17 Girl Scout Meeting 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	18 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM Advent Soup Suppers 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Advent Worship Service 7:00 PM	19 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM	20 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	21 Women's Christmas Party 12:00 PM
22 Worship Service 10:00 AM	23	24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM	25 Christmas Christmas Day Service 10:00 AM	26 Choir Practice 5:00 PM	27 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	28
29 Worship Service 10:00 AM	30	31				

Happy Birthday

Surprise someone on the list by sending a birthday greeting.



Dec. 1	Jesse Buck	Dec. 19	Harold Boeck
Dec. 2	Karl Mortensen	Dec. 21	Elinor Mortensen
Dec. 3	Evan Boyette	Dec. 22	Bill Donley
Dec. 5	Rich Pelto		Donna Godshall
Dec. 9	David Bozich	Dec. 24	Karen Hoeppepner
Dec. 10	Kay Steen	'	Carol Sutton
Dec. 11	Pamela Johnson	Dec. 25	Larry Grimard
Dec. 17	Lee DeWitt	Dec. 30	Garrett Buck

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Contact Gail Backiel

It is a tradition at Living Waters to sing Christmas carols to the shut-ins at North Port Pines, The Gardens, Quality Health Care and the Springs of Biscayne in the late afternoon one day in December. We sing the favorite Christmas Carols, and the shut-ins have a good time singing along. Watch for the caroling date and plan to join with other church members. If you would consider joining the carolers, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex .



Ashley Mock,

Woman with a Mission in Malawi, Africa

Submitted by Ashley's mother, Patty Mock

Ashley has mostly been working on helping set up tree nurseries in villages this past month. She along with a few Peace Corps friends took a vacation in southern Africa and went on a water Safari. She taught some of the children in the village to do the



cupid shuffle and electric slide and they brought back more kids for her to teach the dances to.

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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.