



# ***The Messenger***

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

**DECEMBER 2020**

**Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool**

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

Living Waters will be having one Christmas Eve service. It will be at 7:00 p.m. December 24. There will be no mid-week and Christmas Day services this year.

If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone. Please contact the church office at 941-625-8090.



## **THANK YOU....**

**..... to everyone who has returned their  
Stewardship Commitment Card for 2021!**

If you have not..... Please return yours as soon as possible so our 2020 Stewardship results can be finalized.

The pledge results will be used in the budget preparation process for our church for the 2021 calendar year. Both the Stewardship Results and the 2021 Budget will be included in the 2020 Annual Report which will be available in January.

---

## **DRIVE THROUGH CHRISTMAS GREETING WITH SANTA**

In place of Breakfast with Santa, as has been done in previous years, there will be a drive through Christmas Greeting with Santa on Saturday, December 12, at 10:30 a.m.

Families will drive through under the portico, stay in their cars, wave to Santa, and each child will receive a Christmas goody bag. This event is open to preschool families and Living Waters families only



*"Today your Savior was born in the town of David. He is Christ, the Lord"  
Luke 2:11*

# From the Pastor

By Rev. Lyle Truitt

**"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."  
Mark 1: 1**



Greetings Sisters and Brothers!

As you are reading this newsletter, we have begun another church year. And for most folks, what the church calls Advent is simply the "pre Christmas" season. Indeed, for many folks, Advent is simply a time to prepare for Christmas Day. It is a time that we use to fit in shopping, and card-writing, and decorating, and baking, and maybe even a little time to rest and catch a breath.

But, as we look inside the boxes and unpack the Christmas lights and ornaments and decorations for our homes and churches, I hope and pray that we may be reminded to look inside of ourselves, as well, to see the hearts that just may need lots of preparation. And by looking there, we can truly begin to prepare for "the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

Yes, as we look inside ourselves, the Holy Spirit helps us to find Jesus who may have been packed away for a while. And in finding Jesus Christ, we once again find hope and peace and joy and love; the Christmas gifts that we are to share with others.

So, how are you preparing for Christmas? In the midst of this 2020 Christmas season, (in the season of Advent), with masks on our faces, as we walk the streets and sidewalks of our neighborhoods to admire the Christmas lighting, and as we practice social distancing around town, and as we enter certain stores, we will hear the familiar and wonderful sound of the Salvation Army bell ringers. But above the ringing of those bells, do you hear it? If you pause long enough to listen, you will hear the words of Isaiah, **"come, let us walk in the light of the Lord."** He is inviting you to prepare your heart for the coming of Christ, so that Christ's true Christmas light may be seen in you!

As this calendar year ends, I'm certain that no one is looking back, we are all looking forward. 2020 will be a year that we will all look back upon and shake our heads with shock and confusion and sorrow and disappointment. It will be a year that we do not want repeated. But as people of faith who have continued to do what was necessary to continue to worship our Lord Jesus Christ, and support this precious church named Living Waters, we are grateful, aren't we? We are truly blessed.

And yes, as this calendar year ends, I'm very blessed and grateful, and I thank God for calling me to be a part of this church family as your part time pastor. I thank God for your love, and for your friendship, and for your response to Christ's call to be workers in the kingdom of God.

Have a blessed Christmas season and a joyous and hopeful New Year!

In Christ,



## Safety Team News

By Stephen Vaughan

Attendance has been rising in recent weeks with Snowbirds returning and the approach of Christmas. This is a good time to remind everyone of the steps we are taking to keep the congregation safe and the steps the congregation can take to keep each other safe.

We continue to take temperatures of attendees as they arrive at church. Social distancing is encouraged in the lobby and is established in seating. There is sanitizer in the narthex and in the pews. It is required to wear masks except while receiving communion. There is no congregational singing and the peace is passed in a socially distanced manner. After church parishioners are excused by rows, there is no greeting of the pastor in the narthex and no gathering in the fellowship hall. Restrooms are sanitized after each use and lights are kept on in the restrooms.

We thank everyone for their patience and willingness to cooperate in our attempts to keep everyone safe. We also respect the decision of those who do not yet feel ready to return for in-person worship. We will continue to record the services and email them to the congregation.

As a final reminder, if you do not feel well, please stay home and watch the recorded service.

We will get through this and we will continue to praise God and trust in Him.

---

### Wishing the Secret Sisters a most Blessed Christmas.

By Patty Pauley

What a year we have had so far, I hope you are all doing well.

I know this is a time that we would be sharing gifts with our Secret Sister, however, with some not attending services please take a moment and send your a sister a card to let her know you are thinking of her this Christmas season. Or maybe drop her a hand written note, put a smile on your sisters face and a feeling of love in her heart this holiday season. A small beacon of light in an uncertain world.

Always keep her in your thoughts and prayers that she stays safe and well until we can get together again.

Many blessings to you all today and everyday!



## **Council Meeting Recap of November 18, 2020**

Submitted by Carolann Cortese

Pastor Lyle opened with a prayer. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Treasurer Rich Pelto stated that income is down due to the virus and low attendance. Rich will prepare a letter to be sent to the congregation informing them of this.

In place of Breakfast with Santa, the Fellowship Committee will have a Drive Through visit with Santa on December 12, 10:30 a.m. Santa will wave and hand out goodie bags for preschool and church families.

All problems with the sewer pipes and bees at the preschool building have been fixed. A big thank you to Craig on jobs well done

### **Old Business:**

- The fund raiser for the preschool has been delayed until Spring.
- Calls were completed to snow birds and members to determine if a second Sunday service is needed. The sanctuary and lobby can accommodate 100 persons, socially distanced.
- There will be only one Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. There will be NO Christmas Day service. Battery operated candles will be used to end the service with the singing of Silent Night.
- Stewardship Update— Pledge letters need to be returned in order to determine the budget for 2021. (Editor's note: Because there was no service on Nov. 29, Commitment Sunday was changed to Dec. 6)
- Prayer Chain—As of January 1, 2021, prayer concerns will be posted for three months and then rolled off.

### **New Business:**

- New Council members will be voted on at the next Council meeting on Dec. 14. New Council members will be introduced at the Congregational meeting on the last Sunday in January 2021
- Council voted to continue to send \$500 monthly to Synod.
- The Preschool will record their Christmas program and it will be viewed by the congregation at the service on Dec. 13.
- Annual reports are due from Council members. Kris will send out the due date.

The next Council Meeting is Dec. 14, 2020. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

# Living Waters Lutheran Church & Preschool

## December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
				Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	AA Meeting 8:00 PM	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Worship Service 10:00 AM Drive Up Holy Communion 11:15 AM	Council Reports Due Preschool Board of Directors 2:00 PM		Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM	Bread & Pastry Ministry 10:00 AM	AA Meeting 8:00 PM	Drive through Christmas Greeting with Santa 10:30 a.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Children's Christmas Program Worship Service 10:00 AM Drive Up Holy Communion 11:15 AM	Church Council Meeting 1:00 PM		Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM	Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	AA Meeting 8:00 PM	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship Service 10:00 AM Drive Up Holy Communion 11:15 AM				Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Worship Service 7:00 PM	Christmas AA Meeting 8:00 PM	
27	28	29	30	31		
Worship Service 10:00 AM Drive Up Holy Communion 11:15 AM			Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM			

### The Windows of Living Waters: Christmas Window

Excerpts from sermon by Rev. Joel Olsen in 2017



On the left as we enter the sanctuary is the window depicting Jesus' birth – "*born that we no more may die; born to give us second birth.*" All the figures are faceless so we might imagine – not only ourselves – but folks of any race, of any orientation, of any persuasion offering heart and soul before our Savior.

The large golden Star of David in the Christmas window is recognizable as a symbol of Jesus' Jewish heritage. But the star has an ecumenical purpose as well. The Star of David in a Christian church window is a call for respect and cooperation between our various faith communities.

## Happy Birthday

Surprise someone on the list by sending a birthday greeting



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

### 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](http://www.livingwaterslutheran.com)

### Church Office: Kris Dines

[kris@livingwaterslutheran.com](mailto:kris@livingwaterslutheran.com)

### Pastor Lyle Truitt:

[plylet65@gmail.com](mailto:plylet65@gmail.com)

### Deacons:

Kim Vaughan

[notmuchafraid@hotmail.com](mailto:notmuchafraid@hotmail.com)

Steve Vaughan

[captainhappi@hotmail.com](mailto:captainhappi@hotmail.com)

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-Noon, Mon-Thurs.

### Council Members:

*Craig Bitler, Vice Pres/Property* *Jane Fundyga, Financial Sec/*  
*941-234-6311* *Member Care*

[cdbitler@comcast.net](mailto:cdbitler@comcast.net)

941-979-2041

[jfundyga@gmail.com](mailto:jfundyga@gmail.com)

*Joanne Carlock, President/*

*Fellowship*

941-426-5434

[jcarlock99@yahoo.com](mailto:jcarlock99@yahoo.com)

*Sue Hill, Asst. Secretary*

941-255-9089

*Rich Pelto, Treasurer*

941-426-9160

[randdjpelto@gmail.com](mailto:randdjpelto@gmail.com)

*Carolann Cortese, Secretary/*

*Small Groups*

941-429-0422

[carolanncortese@aol.com](mailto:carolanncortese@aol.com)

*Bill Steen, Property Maint.*

352-445-9476

[billysteen11@gmail.com](mailto:billysteen11@gmail.com)

*Debbi Fiore, Member at Large*

941-423-3936

[Debbi\\_fiore@yahoo.com](mailto:Debbi_fiore@yahoo.com)

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:plylet65@gmail.com) or call 941-625-8090.