



The Messenger

*News about our church,
our ministries and our people
February 2022*

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

Picture Directory

By Gayle Backiel

Directory pictures will be taken the weekend of February 11-13. Have you signed up for a photo session? If not you should have been called to see if you would like to participate.

You do not have to be a member of Living Waters. If you have a church up north but attend here in the winter months, we would love to know who you are. A good way for you to help us do that is to get your picture in our directory.

Everyone who gets their picture taken gets a free 8 X 10 photo and a copy of the new directory. If you have any questions contact Gayle Backiel at 941-769-0882.

Fellowship Report

By Karen Hoeppner

The Wine and Cheese Party on Jan. 8 met all expectations. Forty-one attended and had a great time! There were many different kinds of wine and non-alcoholic beverages to enjoy and quite a variety of different snacks, ranging from shrimp, chicken, pepperoni, cheeses, and desserts. Em and Peg Williams played and sang during the party and that made it extra enjoyable. The Fellowship Committee would like to thank all who planned, attended, helped at the party and cleaned up afterwards! We have a great group of people in our church. Thank you so much!

Multi-Cultural Dinner—February 12

The next event is the **3rd Annual Multi-Cultural Dinner** on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 6:00 p.m. This has always been a fun and tasty evening. Five countries will be featured, both their food and their cultures. If you are interested in participating, please let us know. There will be some meetings to lay out the plans. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for you to let us know if you will attend.

Welcome New Members!



New Members: June Diller, Keitha Hanna, Joyce and Ted Swartzbaugh, Darlene Gahnz and Bernie Schiefer

Spaghetti Dinner—March 12

A Spaghetti Dinner is being planned for Saturday, March 12, so please keep that in mind. More information will follow.

Do you like to take pictures? We are in need of someone to take pictures at the Fellowship Events. We submit them for the newsletter and also to Kris to put on the Living Waters Web Page. Please see Pastor, Joanne or myself if you are interested.

Blessings, The Fellowship Committee

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. *Proverbs 15:1*

From the Pastor

By Rev. Lyle Truitt

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."

Isaiah 60: 1

Greetings Sisters and Brothers!

At this time of the year, there are many people who grumble about how dark it is. But for most of us who live in the United States, we have nothing to grumble about. But, if you live in a little town named Barrow, Alaska, then you might have reason to grumble. This town is located on the farthest northern tip of the state of Alaska, above the Arctic Circle. The sun sets in the afternoon on a day in November and then it doesn't rise again until a day in January. There are approximately 65 days of darkness; the sun doesn't shine for 65 days and when the sun eventually rises again, the whole town comes out to celebrate because there is light again.

So, what do you think? Is the prophet Isaiah speaking to the people of Barrow, Alaska, when he writes, "Arise, shine; for your light has come?" No, Isaiah is talking about a different kind of light, and a different kind of darkness. And when this special light that God speaks about begins to shine through that ugly darkness, the results are so much more spectacular and joyful than anything you could experience in northern Alaska.

For weeks now, and through the month of February, we are celebrating the season of Epiphany. An epiphany is when something reveals itself, or shows itself. And when the Son of God reveals his glory for everyone to see, the LIGHT has come. And that LIGHT has one purpose and that is to reveal to us, to show us, the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Bible pictures you and me and the rest of the world as a people living in darkness; and the birth of the Lord, Jesus Christ, is described in the Bible as the rising of the sun on a very dark place. Jesus shines his forgiveness and grace into your life, and the darkness in your soul disappears.

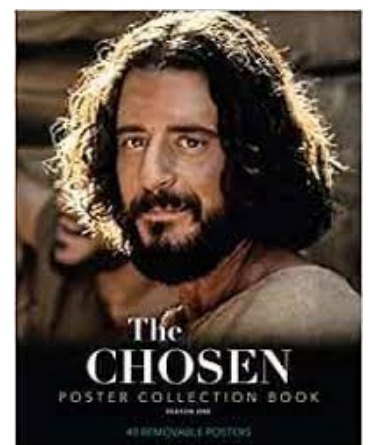
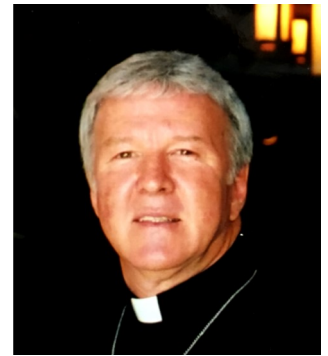
On Wednesday, February 9, and on the following 7 Wednesdays, Steve and Kimberly Vaughan and myself will be leading a Bible Study entitled "The Chosen". And this is a study that will help reveal to us what it means to BE CHOSEN by Jesus Christ. Being chosen by Jesus has a beautiful and life-long impact. We are loved because HE is love. We are saved because HE is merciful. We belong to the family of God because Jesus invites us. And then no matter how dark the world becomes, the light of Jesus Christ will never stop shining on us. And so it is with our soul. Once the grace and the mercy and the forgiveness of Jesus Christ rises in your life, it will never stop shining.

I hope and pray that you will open your heart to the calling of the Holy Spirit and that you will respond and join us for this inspiring and innovative and creative Bible Study. Perhaps it might be your first Bible Study! If so, this study is designed for you because this will be an opportunity for you to better understand God's Word and to see how Christ became intimately involved in the lives of people. And Christ wants to be more intimately involved in YOUR life as well.

Come join us on Wednesdays, beginning on February 9, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

"Arise, shine; for your light has come!"

See you around town!



Global Mission Table (GMT)

By Gayle Backiel

Portions of the following are excerpts from E-Spirit dated January 25, 2022, and written by *Pastor Katie*, Rev. Kathryn Carroll, Chair, Global Missions Team.

"The Florida Bahama Synod has a companion relationship with 5 countries in the Caribbean. These are Guyana, Suriname, Cuba, Haiti and United Theological Seminary in Jamaica.

Cuba and Haiti both have been hit hard recently. Haiti has been hit by earthquakes and is still recovering from hurricanes. Cuba and Haiti both have government and political issues. Recently we were able to provide funds to Cuba and Haiti, both of which used the grants to provide food relief to their communities. In Cuba provisions were given at the annual Christmas celebrations at the churches. Haiti continues to provide food after Sunday services at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti. (ELH)."

At the Multi Cultural Dinner you will have an opportunity to contribute to the GMT by a free will donation. Through these gifts, we walk with our brothers and sisters in other countries and offer the love of Christ in tangible form. God's work; our hands. Thanks be to God!

New Banners

By Barb Cartwright

There is some interest among members to add new banners to the current selection, and to repair and display banners used in the past. This won't be immediate, but be on the watch for some changes. Maybe you've noticed that two banners now hang between the back stained glass windows.

To accomplish this project, ideas, designs, artists, and people to assist with creations are needed. Maybe you've seen a banner in another church that really "spoke" to you and had significant meaning. Maybe it was for one of the special festival Sundays in the church year.

If this is of interest to you, please let us know. Pat Bardshar, Terry Bowman and myself would like to talk to you.

A number of our current banners and the green parament ensemble were funded as memorials. Maybe that is how you can best help move these projects ahead.

Blessings to you, Barb Cartwright

The Cut Ups Deliver Quilts

By Ginny Strueder

The Cut Ups would like to recognize Carol Lundquist for her many years of leadership serving others through the ministry of mission quilting. She and her husband David have contributed so much to our organization. A heartfelt THANK YOU to Carol and Dave.



A few changes have been made to our group. We are now meeting year round on the first and third Wednesday of each month, from 9 a.m. to 12. We donate quilts to Lutheran World Relief as well as local needs. In January, **28** quilts were taken to a church in Venice who were making and collecting quilts going to recent storm victims in Kentucky. Two Sundays ago, prayer shawls and additional quilts were blessed. **98** quilts have been boxed and delivered for transport to Lutheran World Relief for distribution where needed throughout the world.

We are a small but mighty group and we welcome new members to join us at any time. You don't have to be an accomplished sewer to join. If you like to socialize, can tie a knot or use a safety pin or straight pin you are highly qualified!

Of course we must take a coffee break and enjoy some fellowship together. Come when you can and leave when you must. We are always accepting donations of clean cotton material and sheets that are in good condition. If questions feel free to contact our co leaders, Barb Cartwright or Ginny Strueder

Picture Page



Ginny Strueder and Eunice Walz



Em and Peg Williams



Cecile Bitler, Terry Bowman,
Barb Cartwright, and Craig Bitler



Joe Ann and Babe Hillegass



Pastor Lyle, Karen Hoepfner,
Clint and Phyllis Shantz



Bev and Joe Simas in the foreground

Living Waters Lutheran Church & Preschool — February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Prayer Team Bible Study 1:00 PM	2 Groundhog Day Cut Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM	3 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Choir Practice 5:15 PM	4 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	5
6 Worship Service 10:00 AM	7	8 Prayer Team Bible Study 1:00 PM	9 Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	10 Bread Ministry 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Choir Practice 5:15 PM	11 Photo Directory Photo Shoot 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM AA Meeting 8:00 PM	12 Photo Directory Photo Shoot 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Multi Cultural Festival 6:00 PM
13 Photo Directory Photo Shoot 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Worship Service 10:00 AM	14 Valentine's Day Church Council Meets 1:00 PM	15 Prayer Team Bible Study 1:00 PM	16 Cut Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	17 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Choir Practice 5:15 PM	18 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	19
20 Worship Service 10:00 AM	21 Presidents' Day	22 Prayer Team Bible Study 1:00 PM	23 Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	24 Bread Ministry 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Choir Practice 5:15 PM	25 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	26
27 Worship Service 10:00 AM	28					

Council Meeting Recap - January 10, 2022

Submitted by Barb Cartwright, Council Secretary

The meeting opened with a devotion and prayer. Minutes of the previous meeting, on Dec. 13, were approved.

Newly elected council members Karen Hoeppner, Babe Hillegass, and Bill Steen (reelected for another term) were welcomed. Council officers will remain the same for the next year. Committee chairs will change: Craig Bitler and Babe Hillegass will co-chair property and maintenance; member care and small groups will be co chaired by Karen Hoeppner and Bill Steen; stewardship—Rich Peltó;

fellowship will be co-chaired by Joanne Carlock and Karen Hoeppner; and Marty Savard will remain as liaison to the worship and music committee.

A Sanctuary Make Over Task Force is being formed to suggest and help with improvements to the sanctuary to update and improve the worship and meditative atmosphere of the sanctuary.

The next council meeting will be Monday, Feb 14, at 1 p.m. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Happy Birthday

Surprise someone on the list by sending a birthday greeting.



Feb. 7	June Diller
	May Gringni
Feb. 8	Harry Skelley
Feb. 9	Deb Allen
Feb. 16	Lou Rose
Feb. 22	Connie Bliss
Feb. 27	Nicole Reece

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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.