



The Messenger

*News about our church,
our ministries and our people
February 2020*

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool



Fellowship News!

By Karen Hoeppner

Multicultural Dinner

Saturday, February 22, 2020, 6 p.m.

Our next fellowship event will be February 22 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall— a Multicultural Dinner. It is sounding to be as much fun and entertaining as last year. There will be a lot of delicious food and great displays from the countries that will be featured. Add this event to your calendar and plan to participate and attend.

The January Chili Cookoff was such fun. Fifty people came to enjoy the chili. Chili Masters were Pastor Lyle and Loni Truitt, Tesha and Jose Hernandez, Julia Lozano, Bonnie Jensen, Shirley Wecker and Theresa Bowman.

Julia, Theresa and Bonnie were the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and were given Special Spoon awards made by Joanne Carlock. Each contestant was also given a special Chili Cookoff hot pad made by Barb Cartwright.

Thank you to all who helped out with this event — Cliff Walz and John Jensen as photographers and especially Ginny Strueder who filled in at the last minute for me. I was sorry to miss this fun evening.

We welcome Pat Bardshar as a new member to our committee, and we still welcome more people to come and help out. We have a wonderful time planning and enjoying the events that bring our congregation together for fellowship. As we all get to know each other in a more personal way, it brings us closer as a congregation.

God's Blessings!

CPR/AED Training

Date Change

By Steve Vaughan

Due to a scheduling conflict, the date for our CPR/AED training has been changed to Saturday, March 7. The time is still 9:00 a.m. and the location is still the North Port Fire Station located on Sumter Blvd., north of Price Blvd. If you haven't already done so, please consider signing up for the training. Knowing how to perform CPR can mean the difference between life and death. We are fortunate to have an AED at Living Waters and it is important to become familiar with using it in case the need arises. I know the AED works because one saved my life five years ago. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. We are limited to 15 attendees so please sign up

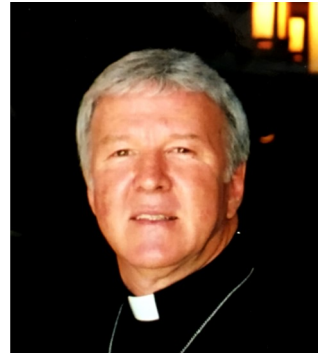


Left to right: Bonnie Jensen, Joanne Carlock, Shirley Wecker, Theresa Bowman, Tesha Godshall, Julia Lozano, Loni Truitt

"Anything is possible if a person believes." Mark 9:23

From the Pastor

By Rev. Lyle Truitt



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Now, faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."
Hebrews 11:1

Greetings Dear Ones,

We are about to begin the church season of Lent...when the faithful people of God are called to renew their faith and discipleship. And this renewal is accomplished through the disciplines of Lent: repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love.

Lent is a time to take stock of our lives, see who we really are, repent of our sins, and seek renewal.

So, we begin with Ash Wednesday, a time of confession and commitment to being obedient to God's will. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. But what seems to be an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness.

Our mid-week Lenten worship on Wednesdays will include a soup supper, and then the theme of our worship together will be "GREAT EXPECTATIONS." Every Wednesday after enjoying soup and fellowship together, we will experience the blending of traditional stories from the Bible with modern day situations. The traditional stories of Lent will take place in a commonplace setting that most people are familiar with: a stay in a hotel.

And we will be blessed by hearing the words of several members of our church as they portray both traditional characters and modern day characters; they will make us think about how Jesus' journey to the cross defines our faith?

I hope and pray that each of you will use these days of Lent to renew your faith. Come and join us at each stop along this journey, and grow in the Spirit of God.

May the free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

See you around town!





WELCA Thank offering

By Kris Dines

On Sunday, February 9, the women of the church will sponsor our annual Thank Offering Service. You will see some of the beautiful quilts, shawls and baby caps we have made and hear news about other ministries and missions. It is also a time for you to give a special offering to support the Women as we work on our commitments to Christ, the body of Christ and the work of Christ in North Port and beyond.

Women of the ELCA or WELCA is a loosely knit organization of all women in the Lutheran Church. In your grandmother's day it was called "The Ladies' Aid." When we were young mothers, the women's group was called ALCW, American Lutheran Church Women. Today the Women of the church continue the tradition of meeting for Bible study, quilt making, fellowship service, and gather from time to time with other Christian women. The Mission Statement of the WELCA is:

As a community of women Created in the image of God, Called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to Grow in faith, Affirm our gifts, Support one another in our callings, Engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the Church, the society, and the world.

If you are a woman who attends an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, you are a member of Women of the ELCA. Welcome. Come join our activities and meet new friends.

Cut-ups—Contact: Carol Lundquist, 941-426-5816, cjlundquist@gmail.com. This group meets Wednesdays from 9-12:00 pm to make quilts. Help cut, sew, tie knots, for quilts donated to Lutheran World Relief and people in need in our area.

Prayer Chain—Contact: Carolann Cortese, 941-429-0422. Pray from home for members and friends in need. Call or email another person on the chain so many are praying for the same need.

Prayer Shawl Ministry—Contact: Char Dewitt, 941-276-8377, charlottedewitt@gmail.com. This group meets at 10:00 am the 3rd Wednesday of each month. You can learn to knit or crochet and make prayer shawls for those that are in need of a little extra love and care or baby hats and blankets for newborns.

Prayer Team—Contact: Gayle Backiel, 941-769-0882, rbackiel@verizon.net. Meet Wednesdays at noon for special book reading, Bible study, fellowship and prayer.

Come join one of our groups and give generously at the Thank-offering Service.

Property and Maintenance

By Craig Bitler

The maintenance at Living Waters Lutheran Church is being co-coordinated by Bill Steen and Craig Bitler. Together our goal is to make Living Waters a fully functional and beautiful place to worship. To succeed, Bill and I are graciously requesting your assistance to join us in working on the current maintenance projects at Living Waters.

Starting in February, we are looking for the Tool Box Team and other volunteers to assemble at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month to work together on maintenance and projects requiring our attention. Our scheduled Thursday events will be planned to start at 9:00 a.m. and end prior to noon. Even if you are not mechanically inclined, our project list is full of items that anyone may successfully complete. We are planning to include landscaping and exterior clean-ups to our scheduled work days. The Tool Box Team now has a bulletin board in Hanson Hall to alert everyone to our upcoming events and on-going projects, please check it out. If you notice something that needs our attention, please, we would appreciate you letting us know. Give us a call, email, text or leave a note on our bulletin board. We are looking forward to working with you!

Memorial Garden Phase III

By Craig Bitler

Masonry work in the Memorial Garden recently came to a close. We now have a two-foot-high brick wall highlighting the entrance to the Garden. A double row of bricks was installed to the entrance wall to be used as a resting seat. Relax under the old oak tree and enjoy the solitude of the Garden. Two brick lined planters were also installed at the end of the walkway, at the center of the Garden. These planters will be specifically used to grow Bible Herbs. The herb planters were the last items planned for Phase II, which is now complete. Next will be a post construction clean-up of the Memorial Garden and surrounding parking lot.



Back in December of 1998, B. J. Martin purchased a statue of The Risen Christ, which was installed in the Memorial Garden, in memory of her husband, Pete Martin. This beautiful statue adorned the northeast corner of the Garden until vandalized in July of 2014. Unfortunately, the damage was so severe that the statue had to be removed. The Friends of the Garden have discussed a plan, Phase III, to possibly replace this statue of the Risen Christ. This plan calls for the fundraising of money to purchase and ship a three-quarter or full-size resin statue of the Risen Christ, to be installed back in the northeast corner of the Memorial Garden. It is estimated that Phase III would cost approximately \$2,500.00. Soon, I will make a Phase III presentation to the Congregation to explain the details of the plan and to see if the congregation is interested in funding and proceeding with Phase III to replace the Risen Christ statue.

This northeast corner of the Garden currently has two rows of old hedges and a Crape Myrtle tree. The hedges in the front row are growing green and well, however, the back row of hedges is suffering and needs to be replaced. We will be working in the next few months to clean up this corner section, reset the row of memorial bricks and replace hedges and plants as necessary. Whether we purchase a statue or not, this corner needs to be addressed and cleaned up.

I wish to thank everyone who assisted in conducting the Phase I and II upgrades or donated dedicated funds for the Memorial Garden. I could not have completed this on my own. I look forward to continuing with the beautification of the Garden and hope that we can successfully complete Phase III in the near future. While in the Garden, remember, "Say a prayer, pick a weed."

Ushers Meeting

By Gayle Backiel

Are you an usher? Would you like to be ? We will have a short meeting after church on Sunday, February 16, to go over scheduling, usher procedures and changes in the usher duties. Please plan to attend if you are an usher or would like to be

Living Waters Lutheran Church & Preschool

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship Service 10:00 AM	3 Council Reports Due Worship & Music Cmte. Meets 10:00 AM Preschool Board of Directors 5:15 PM	4	5 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM	6 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM	7 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	8
9 Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Worship Service 10:00 AM	10 1:00 PM Church Council Meeting	11 Girl Scout Meeting 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	12 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM	13 Tool Box Crew Meets 9:00 AM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM NWPCA 7:00 PM	14 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	15
16 Worship Service 10:00 AM	17	18	19 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM	20 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM	21 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	22 Multicultural Festival 6:00 PM
23 Worship Service 10:00 AM	24	25 Girl Scout Meeting 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	26 Ash Wednesday (First Day of Lent) Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service 11:00 AM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:00 PM	27 Tool Box Crew Meets 9:00 AM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM	28 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	29



Happy Birthday

Surprise someone on the list by sending a birthday greeting.

Feb. 7 May Grigni
Feb. 8 Harry Skelley
Feb. 14 Teresa Bitler
Feb. 15 Vicki Rabenold

Feb. 16 Lou Rose
Feb. 22 Connie Bliss
Feb. 26 Nicole Reece

Ashley Mock, A Woman with a Mission

Submitted by Patty Mock, Ashley's mother

Ashley was thrilled with the very generous gift the congregation gave her for Christmas. She wants me to relay a heartfelt **thank you** and tell everyone that she misses our church family and thinks of you all often.



Ashley helped these villagers start a tree nursery. Ashley is kneeling in front.



Ashley helped this villager make a cook stove.

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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.