



# ***The Messenger***

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

**Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool**

## **Mid-Week Lenten Services**

From Kim Vaughan, Worship & Music Director

We will begin our Lenten journey on Wednesday, February 17, with Ash Wednesday and continue through Holy Week. This year our theme will be "40 Days with Jesus". You don't want to miss these special services! I know you will be blessed!

**Ash Wednesday** services: February 17,  
12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

**Midweek Services:** February 24, March 3, 10, 17,  
and 24, 7 p.m.

**Palm Sunday:** March 28, 10 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday:** April 1, 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday:** April 2, 7:00 p.m.

**Easter Services:** April 4, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

## **Baptism and First Communion of Brooklynn Carlock**

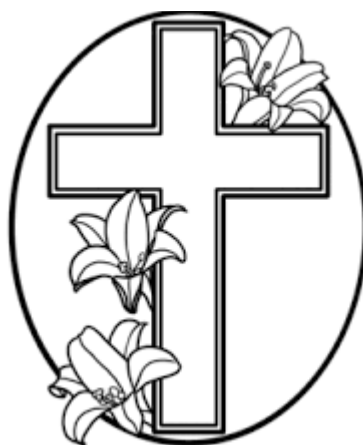
Child of God, Brooklynn Marie Carlock, was baptized and received her First Communion at the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, January 17 as parents, Ryan and Jennifer Carlock and sister Bria, looked on.



## **Do You Have A Favorite Cross?**

During Lent we will be having a "cross wall" in our narthex. We are asking people to bring in their favorite cross to be displayed on the cross wall in our Narthex. Please make sure your name is located on your cross so we may return it to you after Easter.

Thank you, Worship Committee



*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Psalm 51:10*

# From the Pastor

By Rev. Lyle Truitt



**“Create in me, a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.”**

**Psalm 51: 10**

Greetings Dear Friends,

Once again, we are entering the next season of the Church, the Lenten season, with a smudge on our heads.

However, because of the Covid-19 virus, there are some folks who may be uncomfortable with me touching their foreheads with the ash. And so, I will have a supply of Q-tips near me, and I will announce to everyone that if that is their wish, they can make a nod to the Q-tips and I will impose the ashes in that way. Or, of course, a person can simply not come forward for the ashes.

Yes, we are starting this next season of the Church with a smudge on our heads, and that smudge is a testimony to what survives. It is a witness to what continues to abide when everything else seems lost. It is a sign that what we know and love may, for a time, be reduced to dust, but it does not disappear. We belong to the God who well knows what to do with dust, who sees the dust as a place to dream all over again.

We are all beginning this next season of the Church, which is Lent, feeling like life has really laid us bare. With the Covid-19 Virus, and with all the turmoil and unrest, and division and rioting that has unfortunately become historical, everything about our lives has been laid bare. Or has it? *EVERYTHING?*

I believe the season of Lent this year, more than years in the recent past, will help us to see what is most vital in us, and what endures: the love that creates and animates, the love that cannot be destroyed, the love that is most basic to who we are.....the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Traditional Ash Wednesday liturgies focus upon the brevity of life and remind worshippers that they came from dust and will soon enough return back to the earth, dust once more. And yes, life is serious and risky business, and no one gets out alive. But is salvation about escaping this world or seeing the everlasting beauty of this world in each passing moment?

Yes, we are constantly dying, but we are also constantly LIVING as we reflect the love of Jesus Christ in the world around us.

This year we will be offering 5 mid-week worship services that will lead us to Holy Week, and these worship services will be focusing upon you and I reflecting the love of Jesus Christ, even in the midst of the temptations and trials of our lives. The title of the series of services is 40 days with Jesus. These mid-week services will be for IN-PERSON worship, and we will be recording them for those who are unable to join us in-person.

David was in line and waiting for a heart transplant when he spoke those words, “Create in me a clean heart.” He was a man in anguish, and like a patient with a faulty heart, he knew that the great physician must do something radical with his heart.

I pray that with ALL of our worship time together, we may realize that we are all patients with a faulty heart, but that there is more grace IN GOD, than there is sin IN US. Amen!

In Christ

Pastor Lyle

See you around town!





**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## **Global Mission Report**

By Gayle Backiel

Global Mission Table (GMT ) is a group of men, women and pastors who have a love and concern for God's people in other countries. The Florida/Bahama Synod has five companion churches in the area of the Caribbean: Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Suriname.

Because of Covid, there has been very little interaction with our companion churches this year. Churches are mostly shut down except by internet. Unfortunately, many people in these countries do not have internet.

Access to Cuba is very limited. The Cuban government has changed the currency so that only Pesos can now be used. Inflation is high and grocery store shelves are empty. Covid is being managed well, but still many people have contracted it. The U.S. is on a special screening list, especially for Cubans visiting family members and returning.

The good news is that the Jamaican school, United Theological College, received the monies requested for classroom upgrades. This includes money raised by Living Waters at our last Multicultural Dinner. Renovations have been completed, including desks, chairs, computers and other teaching materials.

The GMT and Jamaican team have offered \$300 each as a scholarship to United Theological College for a student from Guyana and/or Suriname.

Hope Lutheran Church in The Villages has sent money for goats in Haiti . Hope Church also plans to raise money during Lent for goats, chickens and seeds.

Living Waters partnered with our companion churches for the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence' from November 25 through December 10. Included in the program were song, prayer, reflection, and a blessing. For more information and to view excerpts, go to:  
[www.fbsyd.com/mission-ministry/global-mission-information](http://www.fbsyd.com/mission-ministry/global-mission-information)

## **Council Meeting Recap - Jan. 11, 2021**

After an opening prayer, minutes from the previous meeting were approved. An election of officers was held and committee chairpersons were decided. Please see the listing of Council Members on the next page and their offices with committee assignments next to their names.

The financial report was reviewed . The cost for equipment to record church services was \$4,000.

The property committee reported functioning lights on the walkway into the church. A roof leak is the next high priority project.

A Goal Setting Retreat is planned.

The Annual Church Meeting will be Jan. 24 immediately after church to approve the Annual Report and the Annual Budget for 2021.

The next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 8, at 1 p.m.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

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### **Annual Meeting of the Church**

January 24, 2021, 11 a.m.

Barb Cartwright, Council Secretary

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer. A quorum was present. The Church Council was introduced. The annual report was accepted.

The proposed annual budget for 2021 was presented and several questions were asked and answered. A motion to approve the budget was made (Rich Pelto/Pastor Lyle). The motion carried.

Joann Carlock was thanked for her past two years as council president. The meeting closed with these words, "Go in Peace. Serve the Lord."

Note: Copies of the annual report and the proposed budget can be obtained by contacting Kris in the church office.

## Meet our Church Council



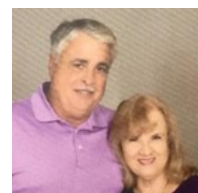
Craig Bitler, President/Co-Chair Property Management – Craig retired from the United States Coast Guard and moved to Venice in 2005. He then started to attend services at Living Waters with his parents, Edward and Cecile Bitler. Craig enjoys working in the Memorial Garden, assisting with PowerPoint and the Safety Team, and serving as an Assistant Minister. He is a sailor and loves to kayak the local waterways.

Joanne Carlock, Vice President/Fellowship—Joanne and Bill Carlock moved to the area in 1992, and joined Living Waters shortly after. Joanne was on the church council in years past. Granddaughters, Brooklynn and Bria (son Ryan), come to church weekly with them, but they have another granddaughter also, Emily (son Joel).



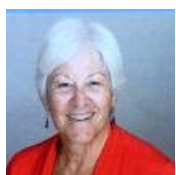
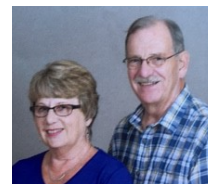
Barb Cartwright, Secretary –Barb moved to Florida from Iowa with her husband Paul in 2006 and joined Living Waters because it was the right “fit” for them. She sings in the choir, prepares the newsletter and has made some of the wall banners, the ceiling banners, and the green altar paraments. She enjoys quilting/sewing and other hand crafts and has an embroidery business in her home

Carolann Cortese, Small Groups—Carolann and Kevin Cortese came to North Port from Long Island NY, 13 years ago when they retired. They have five children , 11 grandchildren, and a few great-grand children. At Living Waters, Carolann has been active in Altar Care, Home Communion, and is Chair of the Prayer Chain.



Sue Hill, Member at Large –Sue came to Port Charlotte via Michigan and Georgia about seven years ago. Her son and his wife have four grandchildren. Sue is a former hair dresser and she loves to read.

Rich Pelto, Treasurer/Stewardship—Rich and Janet came to Florida as snowbirds from Marquette, Michigan beginning in 2007 and became full time Floridians in 2013. They have been attending Living Waters since 2007 when they found hometown friends that were also attending. Rich has helped with church properties and stewardship over the years and eventually the treasurer’s position.



Marty Savard, Financial Secretary/Member Care—Marty moved to North Port in 2001 after 28 years on St. Croix where she worked for Lutheran Social Services. Lutheran from childhood, Living Waters became my church almost immediately. “I have served on council in the past....this marks my third term! Currently I am on Altar Guild, Worship and Music, and the Safety Team. Needless to say, I love LWLC !”

Bill Steen, Co-chair Property Management—Bill and Kay Steen moved to Port Charlotte from Crystal River, Florida in 2016 to be closer to six of their 12 grandchildren. They have three daughters and a son living in Lynchburg, Va., Tampa, Venice and North Port. Aside from chasing grandkids, they enjoy fishing and golf. “We are so blessed to have found our new family here at Living Waters Church,” says Bill.



# Living Waters Lutheran Church & Preschool —

## February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Council Reports Due Preschool Board of Directors 1:30 PM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM	<b>4</b> Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>5</b> AA Meeting 8:00 PM	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Worship Service 10:00 AM Drive Up Holy Communion 11:15 AM	<b>8</b> Church Council Meeting 1:00 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM	<b>11</b> Bread & Pastry Ministry 10:00 AM	<b>12</b> AA Meeting 8:00 PM	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Worship Service 10:00 AM Drive Up Holy Communion 11:15 AM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Ash Wednesday (First Day of Lent) Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM Ash Wednesday Service 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM	<b>18</b> Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>19</b> AA Meeting 8:00 PM	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Worship Service 10:00 AM Drive Up Holy Communion 11:15 AM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Preschool Chapel 10:20 AM Lent Mid Week Service 7:00 PM	<b>25</b> Bread & Pastry Ministry 10:00 AM	<b>26</b> AA Meeting 8:00 PM	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Worship Service 10:00 AM Drive Up Holy Communion 11:15 AM						

### Ushers Needed

By Valerie Biassi

Church members who are willing to help with ushering at the service on Sunday mornings are needed. If you are interested in serving, please contact either Gayle Backiel at 941-249-3260 or Valerie Biassi at 941-423-5361. Or, see either one of us at church on Sunday mornings. Thanks in advance!



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

### 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	Steve Vaughan
notmuchafraid	captainhappi
@hotmail.com	@hotmail.com

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

### Council Members:

<i>Craig Bitler, President/Property</i> 941-234-6311 <a href="mailto:cdbitler@comcast.net">cdbitler@comcast.net</a>	<i>Marty Savard, Financial Sec/ Member Care</i> 941-766-6139 <a href="mailto:savardmarty@comcast.net">savardmarty@comcast.net</a>
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*Joanne Carlock, Vice  
President/ Fellowship*  
941-426-5434  
[jcarlock99@yahoo.com](mailto:jcarlock99@yahoo.com)

*Sue Hill, Member at Large*  
941-255-9089

*Barb Cartwright, Secretary*  
941-743-4770  
[anchorstitch@aol.com](mailto:anchorstitch@aol.com)

*Rich Pelto, Treasurer*  
941-426-9160  
[randdjpelto@gmail.com](mailto:randdjpelto@gmail.com)

*Carolann Cortese, 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)

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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](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.