



The Messenger

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

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

Have a Blessed New Year!

Meet New Members



Please give a welcoming greeting to Bonnie Cummins, Rae and Rubin Jones with son Jalil Shamir, and Vicki Hill.

Community Meals - THANK YOU!

By Kris Dines

A Great Big **Thank You!** The Community Meals and Outreach Team would like to thank everyone who helped with our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner fundraiser. It was a huge success! We were able to help 45 families for Thanksgiving and another 45 families for Christmas. We placed 50 turkeys and 40 hams on the tables of people who may have otherwise gone without. What a blessing this church is to our community. God bless you all!

New Council Person—Craig Bitler

The Church Council is pleased to introduce newly elected council person Craig Bitler.



Craig replaces Rick Backiel. Rick was the only council person who's term ended at the end of 2019. Thank you Rick for your dedicated service.

Craig Bitler photo from the 2017 Church Directory

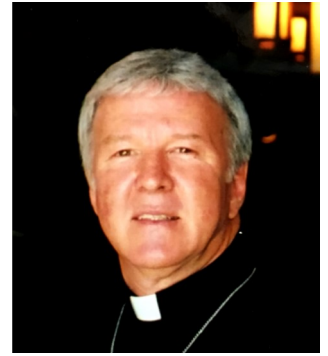


I don't speak on My own authority. The Father who sent Me has commanded Me what to say and how to say it." John 12:49"

From the Pastor

By Rev. Lyle Truitt

“Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people, but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” Ephesians 5: 15-17



Happy New Year!

Here we are, about to begin a **NEW YEAR!** Will we be as busy? Will we make better use of our time? In 360 some days, will we be looking back with joy or with regret? Will we be looking at the future with anticipation, or with dread?

I'm sure you've noticed that each year almost all the major news magazines you can pick up at the check-out counter in grocery stores put out an issue with special pictorial sections recalling people and events that made news during the previous year. Many of them also include articles by "experts" predicting what they expect to see happening in the years ahead. For example, back in the 1970's, experts predicted that by the turn of the century, technology would have taken over so much of the work we do, that the average American work week would be only 22 hours long, and that we would work only 27 weeks a year. As a result, one of our biggest problems would be deciding what to do with all of our leisure time.

Well, I don't know about you, but that prediction certainly missed the mark concerning my life. In fact, most of us seem to be busier than ever. We're always in a hurry, aren't we? We walk fast, and we talk fast and we eat fast and we sleep so little! There are so many demands on our time, so many good things to be done. And now with the internet, and with tablets and smartphones, there's an information superhighway that can create an overload, as well. So, what are we to do?

Someone once said, "Life is what happens to you while you're making plans to do something else." That may be true for all of us!

Some years back, People magazine published an article entitled "Dead Ahead" telling about a new clock that keeps track of how much time you have left to live. It calculates an average life span of 75 years for men and 80 years for women. So you program your sex and age into the clock, and from then on it will tell you how much time you have left. It sold for \$99.95. I didn't buy it!

Why? Because the Bible tells us not to count on tomorrow, because tomorrow may not come for you or for me. All we have is **RIGHT NOW!** Our time on earth is very limited. So, during the next **NEW YEAR**, may you have:

Enough happiness to keep you sweet—enough trials to keep you strong.

Enough sorrow to keep you human—enough hope to keep you happy.

Enough failure to keep you humble—enough success to keep you eager.

Enough friends to give you comfort—enough wealth to meet your needs.

Enough enthusiasm to make you look forward to tomorrow.

Enough determination to make each day better than the day before!

Sisters and brothers, "understand what the will of the Lord is."

And pray, "Lord, please help me to use the 8,760 hours of this new year for YOU, and for YOUR glory!

See you around town!

Fellowship Committee Events in December

By Karen Hoepfner

On December 14 at 9:30 a.m., Living Waters members sponsored their annual PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA for children. There were delicious pancakes made by Jerry Pauley and Kari Reece, juice, crafts and Christmas cookies to decorate. The children had a chance to sit on Santa's lap and talk to him. This was a community event for all children and their families. There were about 40 children plus parents. I think they all had a good time, I know we did. It's fun to see them so excited about Christmas.



Then, that same day at 12:30 p.m., we had a SANTA'S SENSORY LUNCH in collaboration with Clara's Clubhouse Organization. This is a group of families with children that have autism. We served chicken nuggets, tater tots, and mac and cheese, which went over well. The children made some sensory crafts, decorated Christmas cookies and also had a chance to visit with Santa.

This was a first time event for Living Waters and we hope we can make it an annual event. Nikki French, the founder of Clara's Clubhouse, did an awesome job of coordinating it with us. There were about 60 children and their parents. It was so rewarding to see these children open up and have a wonderful time.

We want to thank all the volunteers that helped out. Both events went very smoothly and we hope we can continue them every year.

We also want to thank Santa and his elf for an awesome job.

Note: A reporter, Liz Hardaway, from The Sun Newspapers attended the event and had a nice article in the December 16 issue of the newspaper.

FELLOWSHIP is such an important part of our church life. Getting to know each other in a more personal way. And hopefully, we can bring more people to our church through our fellowship.



Save the Date of February 22 for the next Fellowship Event

Our next event is a Multicultural Festival on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 6 P.M. The last one was such a hit that we have been getting requests to have it again.

Please plan to join us.



Pictures from the December 14 Pancake Breakfast with Santa and Santa's Sensory Lunch. Both were very successful events.

Pictures by Karen Hoeppner



Living Waters Lutheran Church & Preschool — January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	3 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	4
5 Worship Service 10:00 AM	6 Epiphany Council Reports Due Preschool Board of Directors 5:15 PM	7 Girl Scout Meeting 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	8 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM	9 Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM NWPCA 7:00 PM	10 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	11
12 Worship Service 10:00 AM	13 Church Council Meeting 1:00 PM	14	15 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM	16 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM	17 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	18 Chili Cook Off 6:00 PM
19 Worship Service 10:00 AM	20	21 Girl Scout Meeting 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	22 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM	23 Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM	24 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	25
26 Worship Service 10:00 AM	27	28	29 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM	30 Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM	31 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	

Safety Team News

By Steve Vaughan

The North Port Fire Department will be offering the congregation of Living Waters a class in CPR/AED and Stop the Bleed training. The class will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. until approximately 2:00 p.m. The class is limited to the first 15 people who sign up. There is no charge for the class but we will be taking a collection for the trainer.

The training will be held at the North Port Fire Station #81 located on Sumter Blvd. north of Price Blvd. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.

Please see Steve Vaughan or Julia Lozano if you have any questions.



Happy Birthday

Surprise someone on the list by sending a birthday greeting.



Jan. 4	Wanda Boeck	Jan. 16	Wally Schleeauf
	Pastor Lyle Truitt	Jan. 17	Layne Boyette
Jan. 6	Nancy Chow	Jan. 23	Bonnie Cummins
Jan. 8	Gage Davis		Kris Dines
Jan. 9	Ellie Kettler	Jan. 25	James Bremer
Jan. 14	Debbi Fiore		Barbara Johnson
Jan. 15	Ray Fundyga	Jan. 27	Jeannette Asleson
	Patricia Wehmeyer		Susan Hogrefe

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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.