



The Messenger

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

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

Greetings All

Your elected Council members, your Deacons, and I, recently met and agreed that, God-willing, we will open our church doors once again on **Pentecost Sunday for worship! That's May 31!** We are so thankful and excited and anxious!

There will be some additional requirements in order to provide a safe and healthy environment for all of us. We must faithfully practice excessive hygiene and social distancing.

Let me review those requirements/changes:

- First of all, if you are suffering with any serious health issues...**PLEASE STAY HOME**. If you have a cough, **PLEASE STAY HOME!** Do not take any risks for yourself or for others!
- When you arrive for worship, the worship space will be hygienically prepared
- This Sunday and until further notice we will use the Narthex entry ways to the sanctuary. The entrance through the social hall will be locked. Thank you all for your understanding.
- We invite and strongly encourage everyone to use face masks
- Because COVID 19 is airborne, there will not be any congregational singing; we will have soloists leading us with song

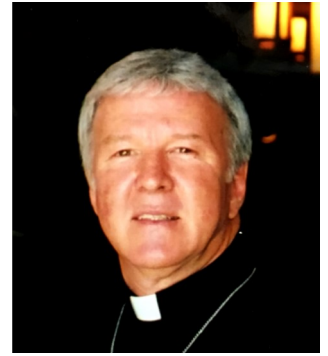
- No one is to shake hands or have any physical contact with another
- There will be no bulletins for worship, but the service will be projected on the wall.
- EVERYONE will be seated by members of our safety team. They will be seating EVERYONE in order to provide a safe distance between each other.
- Offering plates will be stationed in the sanctuary. Ushers will not be passing the plates.
- Passing the peace will be accomplished with a simple bow, and no travel to other pews.
- Holy Communion will be celebrated with wafers and with individual cups. The pastor or assisting minister will offer a wafer by dropping it into your hand, (not touching your hand). And then each worshipper will pick up their individual cup of wine or grape juice themselves.
- When worship time comes to an end, there will be no fellowship, no talk in the narthex, no coffee fellowship in the fellowship hall. The worshippers will leave the building and return to their vehicles.

I know this is so disappointing, but it's vital for our continued good health and safety!

I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20"

From the Pastor

By Rev. Lyle Truitt



.....Blackberry Pie.....

Greetings Dear Ones,

I knew I'd get your attention!!.....ummmmmm....**blackberry pie!**

So many years ago, when I was a kid, and my family would visit my grandparents at their farm in Indiana, one of the many things I looked forward to was our hike through the cornfields, and into the woods where we'd pick blackberries. The goal was to fill our containers with blackberries and then bring them back home, so my Grandma could prepare some pies. That was the ultimate goal!

But when blackberries are so perfectly ripe...you simply gently massage the berry with your fingers, and with a gentle pull they will drop into your hand. And when they are in a little boy's hand...they would very often quickly end up in the little boy's mouth....when no one was looking.

I also looked forward to spending time in my grandparent's garden...because waiting for me there were carrots and cucumbers and tomatoes and rhubarb....Ummmmmmmmmm.....**rhubarb pie!** When no one was looking, the rhubarb would somehow sneak into my mouth, as well. Imagine that!

My grandparents garden was unlike any garden I had ever put my hands into...the dirt was just black and rich and soft and fertile. It was the same kind of soil that Joe and Ginny Strueder return to here at their home in North Port. It's the kind of soil that produces those flavorful and delicious **tomatoes** that magically appear on my desk at church. Thank you, Ginny and Joe! I think with that soil and with their magical touch anything would grow!

And speaking of growth, my friends, we are beginning the season of Pentecost; a season of SPIRITUAL growth. And with the gift of the Holy Spirit at work in us and through us, God wants to work us just like a garden. God wants to pour HIS heart into our hearts, so that our hearts would be soft like a garden that's been spaded and hoed and rototilled and watered.

And then God wants to once again plant the seeds of His grace and goodness into our hearts, so that those gifts will grow and then be shared with others.

Spiritual growth is all about receiving the gift of God's grace and goodness and then giving it away. Folks, it's the "giving it away" part that helps us to grow in faith.

These past weeks and months have been a time that has somewhat hindered our "giving away" to others. So, let's all continue to pray that our lives will soon become more like normal, so we can live out more faithfully our call as Christians, as followers of Christ.

Yes, don't just put those blackberries or that rhubarb in your mouth to selfishly enjoy....but bring them back to the house... so they can be given away **for others** to enjoy.

Love you all!
See you around town!



Letter to the Congregation

By Kimberly Vaughan, Worship and Music Committee Chair

These past months have been a difficult time in our life of worship. It has left us all trying to find new ways to connect to our church family. One of the new ways we have found has been to record our church service and send it out weekly in an email. You can also find the service on our website, Facebook, or YouTube. When we go through difficult times, frequently new growth emerges and in this case that has been learning how to use technology to spread the Gospel of our Lord. Our church services are now available beyond the walls of our sanctuary for anyone to access. We have been averaging between 100 – 164 views a week! When you consider that most people probably now watching the service with at least one other person, we probably have more people watching than we have normally attending our services.

We have been working hard to make the quality of the video better every week. The most common complaint has been about the sound quality. Some of you have said you just couldn't hear it loud enough. We have been doing a pretty good job with very limited resources, but we would like to make it much better and continue to provide this service for years to come.

We have received a quote from Pro Audio Services, which the church has worked with many times in the past, to have a permanent camera installed at ceiling height in the sanctuary that will move from left to right and zoom in. We will also be able to attach the sound coming directly from our soundboard to the video. This will improve the sound quality tremendously. The weekly services will be recorded on a USB recorder, then edited and uploaded to our website to be accessed at any time. We will only be able to record for later viewing. Streaming a live service would require better internet capabilities than we currently have available, but the technology would be there should we want to do that in the future. A 22" TV monitor will be installed in the sound room with a battery backup for the whole system.

Anyone can easily be trained to operate the equipment. This will be a great opportunity to create a new Audio/ Visual ministry within our church.

The total cost is \$8,769.88. This is a time to be forward thinking. Through this difficult time, churches are finding new ways to be relevant in our world. This is our opportunity to not be left behind. Our snowbirds and shut-ins will always be able to worship with us. New people looking for a church home will be able to see our services before they ever enter our door. It is a new way of letting the world know we are here!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 443-277-6306 or notmuchafraid@hotmail.com
Blessings, Kimberly Vaughan

May 31 - Notice of Vote on Purchase of Video Camera and Recording Equipment

By Pastor Lyle

Also, I want to share with you that the Church Council, in collaboration with the worship and music team, has recently received a proposal for the purchase and installation of a video camera and recording equipment. Kimberly Vaughan has also included a letter (read the above article) with regard to that proposal. Because of the dollar amount of this purchase, a congregational vote of approval is needed.

According to our constitution, if a purchase is over \$5,000, we are to acquire three bids. But, in my judgment and experience with the industry, there is only one company in our region that can provide the correct equipment and the service of that equipment.

So, I am making you aware that we are accepting that one bid and submitting it for your approval. We are notifying you now, so when we ask for your vote on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, you will be aware of our actions.

Council minutes May 11, 2020
Minutes by Sue Hill, submitted by Carolann Cortese

Approval of previous council minutes—motion by Pastor Lyle and second by Craig Bitler.

Financial report copy was sent by Rich Pelto. A motion was made and seconded to use funds received in memory of Paul Cartwright, for a statue of Christ to be put in the Memorial Garden. A motion to accept the financial report was made by Pastor and seconded by Craig

Craig showed pictures of damage to a door and cracks on hardie board due to water coming in by windows at the preschool. He also showed some repairs made.

Old Business:

- The October Rummage Sale originally scheduled on October 28 is on hold and will be decided later.
- Three round tables and 18 chairs are to be purchased at a cost of around \$900. Motion by Jane Fundyga with second by Carolann Cortese

New Business: Plan to open church on the last Sunday in May, Pentecost Sunday. People will be seated by the Safety Term 6 feet apart in every other pew.

Next Council meeting will be on June 8, 2020. In closing, The Lord's Prayer was said by all
Meeting was adjourned by Joanne Carlock

***"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"...1Peter 1:3***

Dear sisters and brothers,

This pandemic has fractured our society in so many ways. As a church family we have had our traditions and our faith practices put on hold for a time. Our mourning of those we have lost in these past months and our plans to gather and celebrate their lives are still in the works. Our dear brothers in Christ, Paul Cartwright and Bill Wecker have passed on to their eternal home and they are greatly missed, but their spirits continue to remind us of their great faith and their precious souls. Continue to pray for comfort and peace to be poured out upon Barb Cartwright and the family, and Shirley Wecker and her son, Randy, and the family.

We also ask that our God of mercy continue to bless Marty Savard with that same comfort and peace, as her sister, Connie Fabien, also is now at rest in her eternal home.

We will advise you all when and if memorial services are able to be scheduled in the upcoming weeks and months.

In Christ, Pastor Lyle



**We are truly blessed here at...
Living Waters Lutheran Church &
Preschool**

At the beginning of this serious situation we find ourselves in we made a humble request to all of you to help us maintain our financial stability by mailing in your offerings. None of us had any idea how long this was going to last.

Since that initial request many of you have responded and continue to regularly mail in your offerings and for that we are extremely grateful. Church and Preschool finances are stable and with your continued support, should stay that way for the foreseeable future.

Now with Worship Services resuming we will again collect offerings during the service as normal. If you are away or unable to attend you may mail them in as you have been during the past few months.

Once again Thanks and Blessings to all of you, from Pastor Lyle, your Church Council and your Treasurer!

Living Waters Lutheran Church & Preschool — June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Council Reports Due	2	3	4 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	5	6
7 Trinity Sunday (1st Sunday After Pentecost) Worship Service 10:00 AM	8 Church Council Meeting 1:00 PM	9	10	11 Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	12	13
14 Worship Service 10:00 AM	15	16	17	18 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	19	20
21 Worship Service 10:00 AM	22	23	24	25 Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	26	27
28 Worship Service 10:00 AM	29	30				

Community Meals & Outreach Team

By Kris Dines

Good news! On May 21, we started doing Community Meals again after six weeks! The meals will be on a "take-out" basis only. Clint Shantz has resumed picking up the bread and it will be available here at the church each Thursday for distribution. Toiletries will still be available upon request. At this time we are not doing the clothes ministry.

Our community outreach will remain like this until the current circumstances surrounding the COVID 19 virus change. Please remember that we still need **YOUR HELP**. Please consider donating your time to either cook or serve so we can continue to safely reach those in need. If you would like to help, please contact the church office (941) 625-8090.

God's Blessings, your Community Meals & Outreach Team.

Happy Birthday

Surprise someone on the list by sending
a birthday greeting.

June 1	Theresa Bowman Kathy Rybicki
June 2	Shirley Finney
June 3	Katherine Grant
June 11	Bill Wakefield
June 17	Jose Hernandez
June 21	Kari Reece
June 26	Barb Bruno
June 28	Dru Munson

Upcoming Fellowship Events

By Karen Hoepfner

There is nothing new to report from the Fellowship Committee. Everything is on hold for now. We hope that we can schedule something soon to all get together and enjoy each other's company.

I hope everyone is doing well and taking this time off to enjoy the things you can do at home.

Remember that God is in Control and He is a Great and Wonderful God!

God's Blessings To You!

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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.