



# ***The Messenger***

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

***May 2020***

***Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool***

## **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.

Thanks and Blessings from  
Pastor Lyle, your Church Council and your  
Treasurer!



## **Hello to our Living Waters Family**

From Joanne Carlock,  
Church Council President

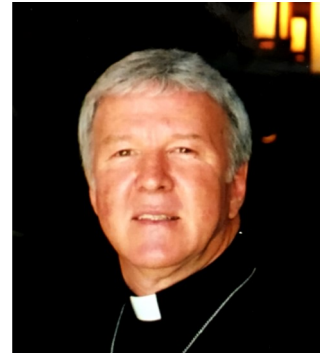
We hope you are all well and staying safe during this crisis. We know you are all missing our weekly services, our meetings, functions, and, most of all, face to face contact with each other. We hope that the Holy Week, Easter Sunday, and weekly messages have given you a much needed light and peace.

Beginning next week, we will be resuming the Preschool Board and Church Council meetings. We hope this is a small, baby step towards getting back to our normal routine. Until we are all back together, please continue to watch out for each other and stay safe.

*"Love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great." Luke 6:35*

# From the Pastor

By Rev. Lyle Truitt



***“Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,  
for he who has promised is faithful.”*** *Hebrews 10:23*

Greetings dear friends!!

Forever is a strong word, isn't it? But the truth is, nothing really ever stays the same. Everything is always changing, and growing and declining, and moving and shifting. But then there are moments that actually accelerate change like a cancer diagnosis, or a death of a loved one, or a global pandemic. If it's not clear to all of us by now, the Coronavirus is one of those moments! Indeed, it's a moment in time that will most assuredly change the way we live our lives in North Port, Florida, as well as throughout the world.

Everyone is responding differently because there are still a number of unanswered questions. Here in our own nation, people in Wyoming or North Dakota are responding differently than those in Florida or New York. But regardless of where we live, I think most, if not all of us are used to operating in a world, living in a world, that is filled with trials and dangers and threats. Difficult times are just a part of our lives, don't you agree?

But I think you will also agree that the worse it gets, the more we need each other! And praise God for this modern age in which there are so many ways to stay in touch with each other; and to stay connected in the faith that makes us brothers and sisters when we need it! As I have mentioned to you, it is really kind of freaky to preach to a bunch of empty pews! But without question, when Kimberly and Steve and Al and Kris and I join together to record a worship service for you all, the Holy Spirit is at work, and we all feel united and blessed in our desire to reach out to all those who are missing in action because of this virus outbreak.



These are indeed times that test our spirit. And while much has been canceled, we can rest assured that much of what really matters will NOT be canceled! We will not cancel our relationships. We will not cancel our conversations. We will not cancel the sacred and holy link that binds us all together through all kinds of circumstances. We will continue to

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walk that familiar road to Emmaus where the risen Lord will join us. And yes, there just might be a fork in the road. (I'm speaking metaphorically!), like a virus outbreak, that may make the path ahead unpredictable or uncomfortable.



But we can offer and receive empathy, and comfort, and hope in the midst of any crisis. Why? Because the Lord is near!!

*"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Philippians 4:6-7

God bless you all!  
See you around town!

### **I am a Christian**

From Faithimg.com

When I say that "I am a Christian," I am not shouting that "I am clean living." I'm whispering "I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success, I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

# Happy Mother's Day



# Happy Birthday

Surprise someone on the list by sending a birthday greeting.



|        |                    |
|--------|--------------------|
| May 6  | John Baier         |
| May 13 | Dolores Ryder      |
| May 17 | Ginny Strueder     |
| May 19 | Samantha Morgan    |
|        | Clint Shantz       |
|        | Debbie Stankiewicz |
| May 21 | Linda Finsted      |
|        | Pat Kralle         |
| May 22 | Elaine Mussetter   |
| May 28 | Rose Lapprich      |

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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.