

# The Messenger

News about our church,  
our ministries and our people  
November 2019

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool



Dear Friends,

Returning and seeing the faces of my sisters and brothers on Sunday morning on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, caused an eruption of emotions! Yes, it's always good to come home. But, there are times when it's so hard to find the right words to speak. With my recent accidental injury, and the surgery that followed, although I was in a world of hurt, I was also being lifted up and encouraged and filled with joy through your powerful and loving prayers. Your prayers and the sweetness of your cards gave me such strength and hope and the will to get better! I was absolutely overwhelmed with your compassion and care!

I simply cannot thank you enough!

Loni and I and our dogs, Gracie and Luci, truly enjoyed our time together. We didn't make any long trips at all, just some short ones with our R.V. My time away was so restful and relaxing and renewing. And I look forward to continuing to serve you all as your pastor, and to be used by God as a spiritual shepherd for my church family at Living Waters.



I truly celebrate who we are together and who we are becoming. God bless you all!

Pastor Lyle

## Upcoming Fellowship Events

By Karen Hoepfner

Unfortunately, the Harvest Fest on October 19 had to be canceled due to the weather.

However ... we do have another fun event scheduled for November!



A WINE AND CHEESE PARTY is planned for Saturday, November 16, at 6:00 p.m.

Many people asked when we were going to do this again. It was so much fun last year and there was a wonderful variety of wines and good snacks to compliment them.

In addition to the wine and cheese that evening, WELCA will be having a PIE AUCTION as a fund raiser. So, we will be able to buy a pie to have for dessert and help WELCA out too (See page 6). It sounds like it should be a fun evening. There will be more information coming in the next few weeks.

On December 14, we will be having our annual PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA. There will be more information about that in the next newsletter.

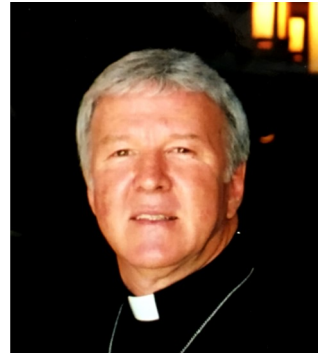
*FELLOWSHIP with our congregation is such a blessing. It's nice to get to know each other better and enjoy time together.*

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

*Hebrews 11:1*

# From the Pastor

By Rev. Lyle Truitt



**“The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the earth proclaims his handiwork.”**

**Psalm 19:1**

Greetings Dear Ones!

One of my greatest pleasures while living in Colorado was the changing of the seasons. And the one season in particular that brought me great pleasure was Autumn. No, it wasn't because it was football season and "Broncomania" would take over our lives. It was because Loni and the kids and I would always pack up the car and take a drive up into the mountains, and then spread out the blanket on the ground that was absolutely blanketed already with Autumn leaves.



Of course we had some favorite spots that were in the midst of forests of Aspen trees. The colors of the Aspen tree's leaves in the Autumn of the year can be absolutely striking and refreshing to the spirit. In those precious moments of enjoying a picnic lunch surrounded by the colorful Aspen leaves, I discovered time and time again, that God can "talk" to me through things like leaves. No, it's not a real voice. But God can remind me of some very important truths about Him as I 'ooh and ahh' at the colorful leaves.

Every year God replenishes the leaves on a tree. Every year God gives us colors that are beautiful and inspiring. Every year God lets the leaves fall to the ground, and then allows them to decompose in order to nourish the forest floor.

What I'm attempting to say is that God is always taking care of His world in '**quiet ways**' that we might miss. God is also always giving us powerful evidence that He is with us. For me, and perhaps for you as well, God 'whispers' His presence to me in quiet and reassuring ways.

I have discovered that if I will listen closely and watch carefully, then God will reveal His presence in a lot of surprising ways! Yes, God spoke to me through the Aspen leaves in the Rocky Mountains, and now I am blessed to continue to hear His whisper through the autumn leaves in my own backyard in Woodland Park and on the grounds of Living Waters Lutheran Church.



God reveals His eternal presence with us throughout "every" season of the year and throughout every season of our life.

So, I want to encourage you to begin looking for and listening to the whisper of God. His whispers remind us that He is faithful to us, and that He has plans for our personal lives and for the life of our church. His whispers give us a warm and nurturing and comforting message of His love.

**“The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the earth proclaims His handiwork.”**

See you around town!



**Our church offers many opportunities for each of us to express our talents. Maybe you have skills and talents and a calling to volunteer.**

### **The Community Outreach Ministry**

By Kris Dines

The Community Outreach Ministry has been busy all summer. We are currently averaging around 45-50 meals per dinner. Bikes, toiletries and clothing have continued to go out into the community where they are most needed. We sadly said goodbye to Alesha from Jacob's Well this past month after nine years of service on the Community Meals Team. She and her family have moved up North. We are looking for volunteers to help fill this void. If you like to cook, now is the time to come volunteer.

Clint Shantz is still busy running to Publix every week to provide our bread and pastries. This is a big job and we are so grateful to him for all he does! Stanley

and Connie Bliss have been our faithful Thursday warriors handing out the bread and pastries when it's not a dinner night. They have recently been joined by Nancy Chow and Carmine Tortora. We look forward to the return of some of our regular helpers from up north. We are so blessed that we are able to continue to serve our community all year round.

Once again we have begun our annual Turkey drive. Our goal continues to be 50 Thanksgiving and 50 Christmas dinners. If you would like to adopt a family this year, the cost is \$13.00. Look for the turkey and more information in the church Narthex.



*God's Blessings, The Community Outreach Team*



**ELCA**

### **MID-GULF CONFERENCE REPORT**

By Jane Fundyga

Bill Steen, Karen Hoepfner, Kim Vaughan, and Jane Fundyga attended the Mid-Gulf Conference on October 12 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Venice. There were 80 people in attendance. The morning started with a Worship service followed by the annual business meeting.

The main theme was Vitality of the Church - how we get there and how to get us back to vitality and God's vision as the Church ages. The bell curve for Vitality starts on the left with *God's Dream, God's Vision, Our Dream*, and *Vitality* at the top while the right or descending side is *Remembering, Wondering/Questioning, Anxiety* and at the bottom *Depression*. It is recommended that we examine where we are every 5 years and try to bring the Church back to *Vitality*.

Most of us felt our Churches were in the stages of *Remembering* what used to be and *Anxiety* for the future of our Churches. Based on this information, we agreed that we need to take steps to return to *God's Vision*.

To do this we need to look at the hospitality of the Church, demographics of the people around the Church, and outreach to those around us.

Centering prayer is a step we can also take to get back to God's Vision. There is a phone app to help with this. It is recommended that you start with 2 minutes of prayer in the morning and 2 minutes in the evening and build up to 20 minutes each time.

A segment was discussed on Stewardship and the median giving is .62% and not the 10% tithe. The backgrounds of the presenters were as interesting as the meeting itself.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** is now meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. If you enjoy knitting and/or crocheting, or if you would like to learn, please join us. We create shawls and present them to members and friends of Living Waters who are ill, suffering or those who need a special blessing. If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving a shawl, please contact the office or Char DeWitt 941-412-7454. You can also help yourself. Just sign one out. They are in the cupboard by the women's bathroom.

# Living Waters Stewardship Emphasis for 2019:

## *Let's Keep the Ball Rolling*

Dear Members and Friends in Christ,

Over the last few years we have experienced several changes, watched as new events developed, and witnessed growth for the future here at Living Waters. Now we, as a congregation, are called upon to keep this momentum going and help strengthen it through, continued and hopefully, increased stewardship of both our time and talents as well as our financial support.



Our church, like every other church, depends on the participation of all its members in one way or another. We've got a lot of good things going that can benefit from your support, so as we focus on the upcoming months and years ahead please review your level of commitment to your church, Living Waters, and renew your pledge of support to **Keep the Ball Rolling** in calendar year 2020.

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58*

Sunday, November 24, is Commitment Sunday. Pledge Packets will be available for pickup in the narthex on Sunday November 3 and 10. Those packets not picked up by Nov. 10 will be mailed out the following Monday. Our congregation has always responded, when asked, to keep our ministries moving forward. Let us all together, once again, rise to the challenge in support of our efforts to *Keep the Ball Rolling*.

In Christ,

*Pastor Lyle*

Lyle Truitt,  
Pastor

*Rich Pelto*

Rich Pelto,  
Stewardship

### **TAX TIP—Giving your RMD to Charity**

By Dru Munson

Individuals over 70 1/2 may give their required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA to any 503(1) charity such as our church and receive a tax benefit. The tax-free transfer from an IRA, not a 401-K, must be a direct transfer from the IRA to the charity by the administrator of your IRA, or if you have check-writing privileges for your IRA, you can write a check to the charity.

The tax benefits include: a) the RMD is not part of your adjusted gross income; b) you avoid the possibility of having the higher Medicare income surcharge which boosts your Part B and Part D premiums; c) less of your Social Security benefits are being taxed; and, d) you don't need to itemize your deductions to get the tax benefit from the gift.

Questions: Call Dru Munson at 426-0425.



# Memorial Garden Upgrades

By Craig Bitler



Living Water's Memorial Garden was created many years ago and has been maintained, with love, ever since.

Through those years, memorial bricks, statues, a granite Cross, sundial and of course plants have been added to the Garden.

Unfortunately, the Garden has experienced degradation due to climate and environmental conditions, time and even vandalism.

Approximately two years ago, I asked a group of concerned individuals to brainstorm ideas to improve the Memorial Garden. Our group was affectionately called The Friends of the Garden. Discussions went from recommended plant species, to weed populations, to the copious amount of work for something that is hardly used by the congregation. We are all creatures of habit. If you come to church every week and never enter from the east side door to the Narthex, you may not even know that Living Waters has a Memorial Garden. Our discussions then mainly focused on how we could get the congregation into the Garden, not to maintain it, but to enjoy it's beauty, tranquility and mission.

The concept of the original Garden was to keep the entire area as natural as possible, but we discovered that some people were afraid to enter the Garden because they had to walk over uneven concrete blocks, stepping stones and even grass. To allow access to the Garden by EVERY individual, including those using walkers and wheelchairs, we all agreed that a concrete walkway would be required.

After a year of coordination and planning, Phase I developed into a work project. After a few months of digging, installing forms, adding steel mesh and then pouring concrete, a walkway was created to allow everyone to enter and get to the center of the Garden.

Two existing memorial benches were relocated and permanently installed at the end of the walkway along with a beautiful Luther Rose stepping stone created by Gail LeClair that serves as the centerpiece of the Garden. Phase I was completed after installing a flag pole.

We are currently working on Phase II, which is the project to replace the front landscape edger with a two-foot high

stone block entrance wall. The entrance wall will include top blocks and a seating area. The concrete foundation and three courses of stone blocks have already been laid. Construction has come to a stop for some required logistics, but will begin again in December. Phase II also includes plans to dedicate three small areas to be used to grow herbs mentioned in the Bible. These herb beds will be outlined with the same stone blocks used on the wall.

The Friends of the Garden have discussed plans to include a Phase III project for the Memorial Garden. This Phase III project may not be a guarded secret, however, it will not be introduced to the congregation until the completion of Phase II, sometime in January of 2020.

I greatly appreciate the dedication and support from The Friends of the Garden. This team of individuals has worked hard to ensure that all upgrades to the Garden have been appropriate to the Garden's mission and serves the entire congregation. Speaking of dedicated funds, I also appreciate and thank everyone who has contributed through the years to the Memorial Garden for reoccurring annual maintenance and these projects. Without your financial support, our discussions would have remained "just talk."

Phase I walkway materials cost approximately \$1,400.00. Phase II materials purchased and recently installed have cost approximately \$250.00. We will need to collect another \$200 by December 1 to complete the wall and install the seating area. Please consider supporting the Garden with dedicated funding for use in the garden only. If we collect more funds than required to complete Phase II, remaining funds will be appropriately used to maintain the Garden, purchase plants or put towards our Phase III project.

Everyone is welcome to take a stroll through and enjoy the upgrades to the Garden. While in the Garden, remember, **"Say a prayer, pick a weed."**





## Safety Team News

By Steve Vaughan, Chair

The Safety Team has been making progress in several areas to help assure safety, security, and assistance to members of the congregation. As you may have read in an earlier Messenger edition or heard during a Sunday morning announcement, the Safety Team has various areas of responsibility.

This article discusses medical emergencies.

For quick identification purposes Safety Team badges have been purchased and will be worn by members of the Safety Team on Sunday mornings. In case of a medical emergency, various members of the team will summon medical assistance via the alarm system and will follow that up with a call to 9-1-1. Others will render aid to the stricken person, provide comfort to family members and direct emergency responders to the exact location where they are needed.

The first aid kit and AED have been moved to the narthex for more rapid retrieval in case of a medical emergency on Sunday morning during a service. Additionally, plaques showing the church address have been installed on interior walls at the exit doors. That was done to help provide the proper location of the church to the 9-1-1 center.

If you are retired from the medical field or were an EMT, paramedic or other health care provider, we can use your help in this area of responsibility.

Future articles will address other areas of responsibility for the Safety Team. If you wish to join the team please see any member of the team.

### Why do we do that? By Kim Vaughan

*Why do we light that tall skinny candle near the baptismal font some Sundays and not others?*

The Paschal candle is usually located near the baptismal font in most churches. This candle represents the resurrected Jesus among His people.

The candle is lit at Easter. If the church has an Easter Vigil Service which occurs the night prior to Easter morning this candle is processed into the church from darkness. It is the first light. This candle is a reminder that Jesus overcame death and the grave and He is among his people now.

This candle burns from Easter through Ascension. It is then extinguished. We also light it for Baptisms and funerals. The use of the Paschal candle at a Baptism visually reminds us of the connection between the sacrament of Baptism and the resurrection of our Lord. We are reminded that through Jesus' word and promises in Baptism we are raised to new life.

The Paschal candle is also lit at funerals. When you see a Paschal candle lit standing near a casket it is a reminder that this person was a Baptized child of God. The candle serves as a

Continued on page 8



### Pie Auction Fundraiser

By Kris Dines

Calling all pie makers! Volunteers are needed to make pies for an upcoming pie auction, to be held on November 16 at the Wine & Cheese party. Please consider making your favorite pie or pies for this fundraising event to benefit the Women of the ELCA. Please sign up in the Narthex.

# Living Waters Lutheran Church & Preschool — November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 All Saints' Day AA Meeting 8:00 PM	2 Daylight Savings Time Ends
3 Worship Service 10:00 AM	4 Council Reports Due Worship & Music Cmte. Meets 10:00 AM Preschool Board of Directors 5:15 PM	5	6 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM	7 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM	8 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	9
10 Worship Service 10:00 AM	11 1:00 PM Church Council Meeting	12 Girl Scout Meeting 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	13 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM	14 Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM NWPCCA 7:00 PM	15 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	16 Women of the ELCA Pie Auction Wine & Cheese Party 6:00 PM
17 Worship Service 10:00 AM	18	19	20 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM	21 Community Dinner 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM	22 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	23
24 Worship Service 10:00 AM	25	26	27 Cut-Ups 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Team Bible Study 12:00 PM	28 Bread & Pastry Ministry 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM	29 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	30

Surprise someone on the list by sending a birthday greeting.



Nov. 4	Jean Fleming	Nov. 16	Michael Perry
	Al Rybicki	Nov. 21	Loni Truitt
Nov. 5	Donna Nelson	Nov. 22	Nicholas Serianni
Nov. 9	Lucas Buck	Nov. 23	Sue Hill
Nov. 10	Nancy Bremer	Nov. 29	Jerome Pauley
Nov. 11	Beverly Simas	Nov. 30	Harrison Reece
Nov. 13	Cecile Bitler		Kay Sheils
	Janet Pelto		Kim Vaughan
Nov. 14	Joyce Donley		
	Dexter Morgan		

(Paschal Candle continued from page 6)

“bookending” marking our new life in Baptism as well as new life through death and being raised to new life in Heaven.

I have attended churches that light it every week. Maybe you have had a different experience with this candle. Regardless of different traditions, when we see a Paschal candle we should be reminded that Christ lived, died on the cross, overcame death and has risen from the dead for you. You have been washed in the Holy waters of Baptism. Jesus has defeated sin, death and Satan for you, granting you new life, eternal life.

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## Ashley Mock, Woman with a Mission in Malawi, Africa

Submitted by Ashley’s mother, Patty Mock



Ashley has been going to some villages and teaching them to sew seeds for trees.

This week Ashley is on vacation with a few other friends from the Peace Corps at a resort in southern Malawi. She is enjoying more beautiful scenery, did some hiking in the mountains, saw a baboon and relaxed in the beautiful infinity pool at the resort.



“I am counting the months till she is back home. I am very proud of her, but miss her terribly.”

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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.