



The Messenger

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

December 2014

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

December Worship Schedule

Join your fellow Christians as we celebrate the coming and birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Advent Services

December 7: Worship 10:00 only. We celebrate our 40th anniversary with one service. Special guests are: Bishop Robert Schaeffer, Florida-Bahamas Synod, and Jorel Carte from the Lutheran Church in Haiti. Catered brunch follows the service. Reservations required. This is the second Sunday of Advent with the theme of peace.

December 14: Worship at 8:15 and 10:00. Preschool children sing at the 10:00. This is the third Sunday of Advent with the theme of joy.

December 21: Worship at 8:15 and 10:00. This is the fourth Sunday of Advent with the theme of love.



Christmas Services



December 24: Christmas Eve. **Worship at 7:00pm and 9:00pm (NOTE NEW TIME).** Both services include the singing of Christmas carols and special music. Communion is served at the 9:00 service only.

December 25: Christmas Day. Worship at 10:00. Service includes singing of Christmas carols and holy communion.

December 28: First Sunday of Christmas. One service at 10:00 with communion. Guest Harpist, Tasha Robinson will provide special music throughout the service.

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

From the Pastor

By: Pastor Dell Shiell



*"To you is born this day in the city of David,
a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:11 (NRSV)*

Christmas is coming! Christ is coming!

The love of God for you and me is a mystery beyond our grasp. Yet, we are convinced that this love comes to us in the baby Jesus.

This love of God in the Christ child envelops us, redeems us—and binds us together. All year long, we have been celebrating our unity in Christ at Living Waters for the past 40 years.

I hope that as you prepare for Christmas, you will join us on Sunday, December 7, as we gather in worship—one service only at 10:00 am—for a service of Thanksgiving and Praise to God for 40 Years of Sharing Christ

in Word and Deed.

On Wednesday, December 10, join us for "Haiti Night At Living Waters."

On Christmas Eve join us for worship (7:00 pm and 9:00 pm). Both services are Christmas Carol Candlelight Services—with Communion at 9:00 pm.

On Christmas Day, join us for worship at 10:00 am—with Communion.

On Sunday, December 28, join us for worship (one service only at 10:00 am).

May the hope, peace, joy, and love of our Lord be with you and yours this special season.

Merry Christmas, with love, from Dell and Diane Shiell!

Golf Tournament A Success!

By Joanne Carlock

Our 7th Annual Preschool Benefit Golf Tournament on November 22 was a huge success! Thirty-eight golfers teed up at the Port Charlotte Club on a clear, but very breezy morning. The wind affected the putting contest, sending balls scurrying down the incline and an unfortunate patio umbrella sailed away, but our intrepid golfers played on!

Genn Mendez's team took first place, North Port Dental (one of our sponsors) took second place, and the Village of the Isles team (our second sponsor) took Honorable Mention. After several years, Pastor Dell and his

team gave up their last place crown and came in fourth place, earning them the "Moving On Up" title.

After a delicious lunch, prizes were awarded and many golfers happily went away with some very lovely prizes.

Thanks go out to all who participated and to the many people who helped out by donating prizes and volunteering to work the day of the tournament.

Special thanks go out to Caren and Tom Karns who did a phenomenal job planning and executing this project. Great work everyone!



Refrigerator Posting Alert

In addition to our regularly scheduled weekly programs, here are special opportunities to serve, share with those who are less fortunate, enjoy fellowship with other members, learn about the church in Haiti, study the Bible—just a host of activities to brighten your Christmas season and that of others. Just look at what you can do!

Wednesday, December 3

Decorate the church for Christmas starting at 5:00. Enjoy pizza when the job is done; stay for Bible study at 7:00.

Wednesday, December 10

Haiti Night. Pastor Lauvanus and Jorel Carte will be here for our Wednesday night Bible Study time starting at 7:00. We have invited other churches in Mid-Gulf to join us as we learn more about the Lutheran Church in Haiti.

Thursday, December 11

Christmas Caroling at assisted living and nursing homes. Help us bring the shut-ins some Christmas cheer. Join the choir at church at 4:45 to car pool or drive on your own. We will be at the Pines at 5:00, the Gardens about 5:15 and Quality Nursing Center a little after 5:30.

Saturday, December 13

Poinsettia Parade in North Port begins at 5:00pm. Living Waters has a float in the parade. You can help put it together, donate poinsettias, ride the float or walk along side passing out candy and information about our church. Call Gayle Backiel 423-6609 for more information

Monday, December 15

Women's Christmas Party begins at noon. Bring your favorite salad topping for a salad bar plus a dozen cookies for a cookie exchange. We will have a good time eating, singing carols and playing games. We will also draw the winning ticket for the Christmas Afghan. All women of the church are invited. This is a great time to bring a friend to church.

Wednesday, December 17

Pastor's Bible Study begins at 7:00 and is led by Pr. Joel Olsen.

The Story of the Chrismons and What They Mean

Chrismons are the ornaments on the Christmas tree in our Sanctuary

What is a Chrismon?

Chrismon: A Christian symbol intended to represent aspects of the Person, life or ministry of Jesus Christ and the life, ministry or history of the Christian church.

The term Chrismon comes from the Latin: "Christi Monogramma", which means "monogram of Christ."

What are the Colors of Chrismons?

All Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold.

White - the liturgical color for Christmas (not Advent), refers to our Lord's purity and perfection.

Gold – refers to Christ's majesty and glory .

White Lights – Point to Christ, the Light of the World.

When were these symbols first used?

These monograms /symbols were in use early in the first century AD as secret symbols of Christianity. The symbols became popular in the fourth century AD when the Roman emperor Constantine converted to Christianity.

How many symbols are there?

There are hundreds of symbols which are used as Chrismons. Below are a few of the more commonly used symbols.



The Chi Rho

The definitive Chrismon symbol;
The Greek abbreviation for Christ.



The Five-Pointed Star

Signifies the Epiphany of Jesus, the star of Bethlehem.



"Latinized" abbreviation for Jesus

Widely thought to mean: Jesus, Savior of Men; or Jesus, God, Savior.



The Butterfly

Represents resurrection and eternal life.



Alpha and Omega

The first and last letters in the Greek alphabet - the beginning and the end. A symbol of divinity.



Ichthys – The Fish

Symbol A common symbol of the early Christian church; used by Christians under persecution. The letters in the fish are in Greek and mean: Jesus, Son of God, Savior.

Win a Christmas Afghan

The prayer shawl ministry has created beautiful, knitted and crocheted squares and combined them to make a Christmas Afghan.

We will be selling raffle tickets beginning on November 23 and will draw the winning ticket at the W/ELCA Christmas Luncheon on December 15. You do not need to be present to win.

Tickets are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. See Char DeWitt for details.



Narthex Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree in the Narthex is sponsored by the Women of Living Waters and has been a tradition for many years. Here's how it works and what it means.

Bring a card signed by you, punch a hole in the corner, tie on a ribbon and place it on the tree. Write a check or donate cash in the box below the tree.

The Women of Living Waters will use the monies collected from the Christmas Card Tree to support North Port Boys & Girls Club. The cards represent your message to the congregation at Christmas and in lieu of stamps, you can donate the money saved to this community service club.

Thank you for your generosity!

Women of Living Waters (ELCA) Board





Healing Service – 3rd Wednesday

*"Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing.
Are you sick? Call the church leaders together
to pray and anoint you with oil
in the name of the Master."*

James 5:13-14 (The Message)

At 11:00 am, on the third Wednesday of each month, we have a Service of Prayer for Healing (With Anointing of Oil and Home Communion). This is for all in need of healing—of body, soul, and mind. Join us. You are welcome.

Learn the Story Behind the Story

What did those Gospel writers really say
and what did they mean?

YOU'RE INVITED to the **Pastor's Bible Study**
on Wednesdays at 7:00—8:00 p.m.
Pastor Joel will lead us in a closer look at the
Christmas story from the Gospels of Luke and
Matthew.

We enjoy the story of the birth of Jesus so
much we may not realize all the hidden
meanings in these verses. This "Bible study"
will enable us to dig deeper, and thereby to
enjoy our God's gift of such amazing grace at
this season.

In **December**
we will meet
on Wednesday
December 3
and again on

Wednesday, December 17. *Most likely we
will finish the Christmas story in January:
Wednesdays - January 7, 14, and 21.*

Bring your Bible, your faith, and an inquiring
mind; enjoy fellowship with others from
Living Waters. Welcome!



Living Waters Legacy Certificate

Receive \$100 (Single) or \$150 (Couple)
Toward Attorney's Fee when you name
Lutheran Church of the Living Waters
or the Living Waters Fund in your will.

Payable To Attorney when invoice presented to:
Living Waters Lutheran Church, PO Box 8064,
North Port, Florida 34290

Expires: June 1, 2015

On a personal note...

Happy Birthday To You

Dec. 1 Jesse Buck
Dec. 2 Karl Mortensen
Dec. 3 Evan Boyette
Dec. 5 Barbara Doss, Rich Pelto
Dec. 7 Brandon Bozich
Dec. 9 David Bozich
Dec. 11 Pamela Johnson, Ron Keleher
Dec. 16 Ron Johnson
Dec. 17 Lee DeWitt, Moe May
Dec. 19 Harold Boeck, Lauren Kolb
Dec. 21 Alta Ryan
Dec. 22 Donna Godshall
Dec. 23 Vickie Wilcox
Dec. 24 Karen Hoepfner,
 Herb Moehling, Carol Sutton
Dec. 29 Megan Hess
Dec. 30 Garrett Buck

The Messenger is published monthly by Living Waters Lutheran Church with printed copies usually distributed the first 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 Judy Johnson, editor and publisher: j3john@comcast.net. Articles must be submitted by the 21st of each month, unless otherwise specified, for publication the following month and may be edited.

We bid fond farewell to....**Vickie and Wayne Wilcox** who will be moving back to Arizona in early December to be near and help care for family. We thank you for being a part of our congregation, for being faithful Sunday Servants and members of several groups. Our best wishes go with you.



From our Youth:

The youth would like to thank the Cut-Ups for the beautiful quilt. We will get lots of use out of it in the tent.

We want to wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas, and a holiday filled with peace and love.

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If you have questions about our church, its ministries or about becoming a member, please contact Pastor Dell Shiell via email at: pastor@livingwaterslutheran.com