



The Messenger

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

January 2015

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

How Will You Serve in 2015?

Maybe you already are involved in some or many things at Living Waters. And for that, we are most grateful...to say nothing of the pleasure your Heavenly Father takes in seeing you take part in the work of His kingdom.

Or maybe you are thinking about getting involved in something but aren't really sure what that something might be.

- Could you be a Sunday Servant?
- Could you join a Small Group?
- Could you join a Bible Study?
- Could you join the choir?
- Could you help with A Special Time?
- Could you help with the Community Dinners?
- Could you join the Cut-ups?
- Something else?

Could you? Would you?

Time to Store the Décor Wednesday, January 7, 5:30

Although we keep Christmas in our hearts all year long, it's time to put away our trees and trimmings for another year. Please help us do that.



After we pack everything up and put it away, the volunteers will enjoy pizza and cold drinks. Now there's a reason to help!

And then, we can refresh our spirits at the Pastor's Bible study which meets at 7:00.



Hope to see you there. No need to sign up...
just show up!

The work of Christmas has just begun!

From the Pastor

By: Pastor Dell Shiell

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"
(2 Corinthians 6:17)



This verse from Second Corinthians is a great place to begin your New Year. As Christians, we are "in Christ" and we belong to God's "new creation."

This past year, 2014, was a memorable year for Living Waters. We celebrated our 40th Anniversary as a congregation. And we celebrated all year long.

We now begin our life together—for the next 40 years.

Of course, few of us will be "here" 40 years from now. Our home is in heaven. But, our ties with our church family here on earth will remain intact. That's because those who follow us will, also, belong to God's new creation. They will only be a footstep or two behind us—as seen from eternity.

It is so important that we let God give us an eternal perspective. This is not only a great way to maintain our composure during tough times. It is a great way to give a witness to God's love and faithfulness.

Whatever "old" stuff you are still carrying around with you from bygone days—sins that weigh you down—please, lay them down at the foot of your Savior's cross. Start the New Year, forgiven and brand new.

The new thing God is doing for you and me happens each and every day. God forgives us and blesses us—so we can, as forgiven and blessed people, forgive and bless others.

Be the blessing God wants you to be. And remember, this is not something you do. It is God's gift to you—and to others through you.

Happy New Year, to all our church family and church friends, from Diane and me.

"Lord, your mercy is so great that you look beyond my weakness; and find purest gold in miry clay, making sinners into saints"

From the song:
When It's All Been Said and Done

In Christ,
Pastor Dell

News from the Women of ELCA

By Sheri Moehling and the Women of the Living Waters ELCA Board

The lake view of Yale in Leesburg, FL was the backdrop for the 2014 Fall Gathering of 250 women from churches throughout Florida. We also had two brilliant women from Guyana who shared their spiritual walk with their fellow sisters in Christ. There were many inspirational and exciting workshops with plenty of crafty ones for the upcoming Advent and Christmas holidays. We also had 16 youth attending.

A general election of officers for the 2015-2017 board of the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization was conducted and voted on by delegates from each of the



attending churches. A new Vice-president and treasurer were elected by ecclesiastical ballot, as were four new members of the board. Sheri Moehling, the treasurer of Living Waters women's unit was elected to this Synodical board. The complete article about the Fall Gathering with more information on our Love Offering and the upcoming events can be found in the December Tapestry located at flwelca.com.

At our Living Waters Women's Christmas party, Gayle Backiel was re-elected as President and Char DeWitt was elected as Vice-President. Karen Hoeppner, secretary, and Sheri Moehling, treasurer who will serve through 2015. Two members of our board, Char DeWitt and Sheri Moehling will be conducting workshops at the upcoming Fall Gathering in November 2015.

Please mark your calendars for the 2015 upcoming events for women:

Thank Offering service – February 8

Spring Gathering at Holy Trinity – March 21

Fall Gathering at Yale— November 13-15.

Have a fruitful and productive New Year and support all our leaders by attending the upcoming events, praying for their successes and helping them with your time, talents, and treasures.



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.

100 Bible Stories For Daily Devotions

By Pastor Dell Shiell

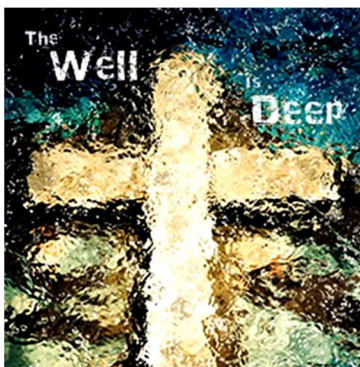
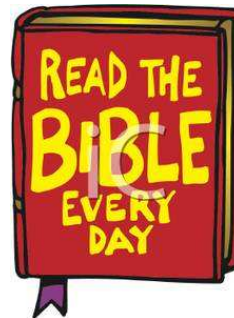
It is always my hope and prayer, as your pastor, that when the New Year rolls around, everyone at Living Waters resolves to renew their commitment to daily devotions and to read the Bible every day.

To encourage you to read your Bible daily in 2015, I have prepared a one-page Bible reading guide called, "100 Bible Stories For Daily Devotions." Copies of this guide are available in the church lobby.

(Most of the readings in this guide are short. Sometimes, however, I find it helpful to break up a longer reading into more than one day.)

Personally, I have found it very helpful—as the New Year begins—to promise myself that I will read my Bible devotionally at least five days a week. This way, when I miss a day or two of reading my Bible for my own personal devotions, I feel like I am hitting my "target" (of reading my Bible devotionally each day) near enough so I feel encouraged to keep going the next week.

Happy New Year. And Happy Bible Reading in 2015.



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (8 days) in 2015, is celebrated in the United States from January 18-25, traditionally the week between the feasts of St. Peter and St. Paul. During this time, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17:21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. This year's theme, *The Well Is Deep*, was provided by Brazil. The effort is now a program of the World Council of Churches.

Seeing Missions in a Whole New Light

Haiti Night at Living Waters

By Judy Johnson

On Wednesday, December 10, Pastor Livenson Lauvanus and Jorel Carte, both from the Lutheran Church of Haiti, provided insightful and many times entertaining commentary on how to successfully grow the mission in Haiti.

If there was one word that echoed throughout their remarks it was: Listen. Pr. Lauvanus stressed that anyone wishing to come on a mission trip to Haiti should first listen to what the people really need rather than coming with a preconceived agenda of what the volunteers want to do. He said: "You must first understand the culture in order to provide appropriate help. We need to empower the people to be independent. The culture is to be dependent on the government. We work first on the mentality of the people (the culture) in order to realize change. It takes time. The church in Haiti is much more than worship. It is educating the people."

Whenever a project is done through the church in Haiti, Pr. Livenson and the local leaders make certain that the people are instructed in how to take care of whatever has

been built. The reality of the culture is that the women must be empowered in order for anything to happen.

Points of Interest about Haiti and Our Mission

- The Eglise Luthérienne d'Haiti was formed in 2009 as part of the Florida-Bahamas Synod
- There are six pastors, 20 deacons, 18 congregations, and about 7,000 members
- There is one medical doctor for every 70,000 people
- We must remember that this is a third-world country
- Creole and French are the primary languages

We closed the session with a Haitian Prayer from the book: God Is No Stranger.

"Lord, your servant doesn't know left from right. Even now, I don't know which of your hands I am in. Whether I am in the left or the right, it doesn't matter. I am in your hands. That is enough. Amen."



An Excellent Adventure

Pastor Dell is serving in Haiti from January 3-9 with several other pastors to train about 20 deacons. We wish him safe travels and a fulfilling experience both personally and spiritually. He will be with us again on January 11.

Shown here: Jorel Carte, communications coordinator for the church in Haiti, Diane Shiell, Pastor Dell, and Pastor Lauvanus.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From Your LWLC Church Council

By Scott Hanson

What a year was 2014, as we celebrated our 40th anniversary. The celebration went throughout the year with everything from a chili cook-off to special events focusing on our small groups. The celebration culminated with a special 40th Anniversary Brunch attended by over 100 congregation members.

The council focused on our goals of financial stability, membership growth and increased mission outreach. At our January Congregational meeting on January 25, I will be able to inform the congregation of increased church membership, a growing mission outreach and new financial directives.

During the next year we will be working closely with the congregation in determining and understanding everyone's ideas, needs and goals for the future of Living Waters. Your input is very welcomed and needed. Please commit to a new level of involvement in your church community. Take advantage of God's gifts given to you and share them with others. Together we can make 2015 a pivotal year for the growth of our Living Waters Lutheran Church!

Let Us Bake Bread Together

Pastor Joel is offering a clinic on baking yeast breads. For some, this may renew or refresh your bread baking skills. For others, bread baking may be an entirely new experience.

We will make some **Bread Bowls**, suitable for serving chili or chowder on, say, Super Bowl Sunday. We'll do some **Pecan Sticky Buns**. We will do a basic **Oatmeal Bread**. We will practice kneading, and share baking tips around the counter.



Pastor Joel and LouAnn are experienced bakers and teachers. Classes are always informative, inspiring and enjoyable.

Come for fellowship and learning. Bring an apron and a favorite recipe. ***Men are especially welcome!*** All ingredients will be supplied. No cost to participants.

Monday, January 19, 9:00 to Noon or a little later.

Contact Pastor Joel or LouAnn if you will be attending. Welcome!

From Here To Eternity Charity and Taxes

By Pr. Dell and Diane Shiell

There is an ongoing debate about the value of appealing to the desire to save taxes, when appealing for gifts to charity. The idea is simple: people who have a charitable spirit want to give because they want to give. Saving money—or getting a tax break—is not the main reason for giving.

For a Christian, this ought to be doubly true.

However, I always maintain that “love” and “common sense” do not have to be at odds with each other.

In fact, I like the idea that to act in a loving way is not imprudent. It makes good sense to do unto others, as you would have them do unto you.

Self-interest “works” when we see the larger picture of doing what we can to make life

better for others; in other words, when self-interest isn’t our primary goal. Love is always the main thing. But to keep the main thing the main thing doesn’t always mean we ourselves do not benefit by loving others. I believe we do—and from God’s point of view, we always benefit by loving others, no matter how much it hurts or costs us.

The point of this “sermon” is simply this: it is “okay” to make prudent plans with your estate. The government allows tax breaks for charitable gifts, because the government recognizes that such gifts are in the best interests of the common good.

Go ahead and figure out ways you can avoid income taxes as you make charitable gifts to The Living Waters Fund (our endowment).

The point isn’t the tax breaks. The point is: Be generous. Be charitable. Be a blessing.

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

LivingWatersLutheran.com

Pledge Packet Turned In?

There is still time to get your Stewardship Pledge packet turned in. It would help us as we prepare the 2015 budget. Thank you.

Do your new year's resolutions include a commitment to Christ, a commitment to the body of Christ, and a commitment to the work of Christ in North Port and beyond?

Volunteers for the Month of — February 2015

Note: If you are unable to serve as listed, please secure a replacement and notify the Church Office the Tuesday prior to serving so the correct info will appear in the weekly bulletin.
Thank you!

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Greeters</u></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>1 8:15 AM:</p> <p>1 10:00 AM:</p> <p>8 8:15 AM:</p> <p>8 10:00 AM:</p> <p>15 8:15 AM:</p> <p>15 10:00 AM:</p> <p>22 8:15 AM:</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center; font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-15deg);"> <p>Coming Soon !</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ushers</u></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>1 8:15 AM:</p> <p>1 10:00 AM:</p> <p>8 8:15 AM:</p> <p>8 10:00 AM:</p> <p>15 8:15 AM:</p> <p>15 10:00 AM:</p> <p>22 8:15 AM:</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center; font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-15deg);"> <p>Your Name Here?</p> </div> </div>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Reader</u></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>1 8:15 AM:</p> <p>1 10:00 AM:</p> <p>8 8:15 AM:</p> <p>8 10:00 AM:</p> <p>15 8:15 AM:</p> <p>15 10:00 AM:</p> <p>22 8:15 AM:</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"> <p>Can</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Power Point</u></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>1 8:15 AM:</p> <p>1 10:00 AM:</p> <p>8 8:15 AM:</p> <p>8 10:00 AM:</p> <p>15 8:15 AM:</p> <p>15 10:00 AM:</p> <p>22 8:15 AM:</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"> <p>You</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Communion Assistant</u></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>1 8:15 AM:</p> <p>1 10:00 AM:</p> <p>8 8:15 AM:</p> <p>8 10:00 AM:</p> <p>15 8:15 AM:</p> <p>15 10:00 AM:</p> <p>22 8:15 AM:</p> <p>22 10:00 AM:</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"> <p>Be</p> </div> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Coffee Fellowship</u></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>1 8:15 AM:</p> <p>1 10:00 AM:</p> <p>8 8:15 AM:</p> <p>8 10:00 AM:</p> <p>15 8:15 AM:</p> <p>15 10:00 AM:</p> <p>22 8:15 AM:</p> <p>22 10:00 AM:</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"> <p>A</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="text-align: center; margin-left: 20px;"> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-style: italic;">Thank You to all Our Volunteers</p> </div> </div>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Counters</u></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>1</p> <p>8</p> <p>15</p> <p>22</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"> <p>Servant</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Volunteer to Serve by Contacting:</u></p> <p>Greeting: V. Biassi, J. Fundyga</p> <p>Ushering: V. Biassi, H. & S. Moehling</p> <p>Reading: V. Biassi, J. Fundyga</p> <p>Power Point: K. Grant</p> <p>Communion Asst: V. Biassi, C. Cortese</p> <p>Coffee Fellowship: Open</p> <p>Nursery: G. Backiel</p> <p>Counters: M. Savard</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Nursery</u></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>1 8:15 AM:</p> <p>1 10:00 AM:</p> <p>8 8:15 AM:</p> <p>8 10:00 AM:</p> <p>15 8:15 AM:</p> <p>15 10:00 AM:</p> <p>22 8:15 AM:</p> <p>22 10:00 AM:</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"> <p>Sun-day</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Altar Guild</u></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>1</p> <p>8</p> <p>15</p> <p>22</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"> <p>Soon?</p> </div> </div>	

On a personal note...

Happy Birthday To You

Jan. 3 Carol Bennett,
Nicholas Houser
Jan. 4 Wanda Boeck
Jan. 6 Haley Kolb
Jan. 8 Gage Davis
Jan. 15 Ray Fundyga, Pat Wehmeyer
Jan. 16 Jackie Christen,
Wally Schleeauf
Jan. 17 Layne Boyette
Jan. 18 John Horn
Jan. 20 Cynthia Chitwood
Jan. 23 Kris Dines
Jan. 25 Barbara Johnson
Jan. 26 Jim Jones
Jan. 27 Jeannette Asleson, Sue
Hogrefe, Nathalie Reininger
Jan. 28 Gayle LeClair

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.

Thank You ...to everyone for your generosity toward us during the Christmas season. "Thank you," for your Christmas gifts to us. We remain grateful for the privilege to serve you. We thank God for you and for your kindness toward us.

- Pastor Dell and Diane Shiell

**The Annual Meeting of the congregation is
Sunday, January 25 at 9:15.
This meeting is being held to
discuss and vote on the 2015
budget. Please be a part of
your church's future.**

And the Winner Is... The Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to thank everyone who donated to our Christmas afghan raffle. We appreciate your support! The lucky winner was Sheri Moehling.

Physical Address

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool
12475 Chancellor Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Mailing Address

PO Box 8064
North Port, FL 34290

941-625-8090

www.livingwaterslutheran.com

Office Hours: 9:00am-Noon, Mon. - Thurs.

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