



The Messenger

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

February 2013

Living Waters Lutheran Church and Preschool

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Check the Lay Ministry Sign Up book on the table in the Narthex. There are several openings for February.

The next issue of The Messenger will appear in March. Deadline for articles is February 21. See last page for details.

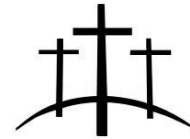
Thanks,
Judy Johnson,
Editor and Publisher

Monday Night Bible Study Schedule Changes in March

Our 7:00 Monday night Bible Study will continue in February and be led by Pastor Limburg.

The class will **not** meet in March so people can attend the Wednesday evening Lenten services.

Lenten Season Services Schedule



Lent is considered by many to be the most sacred part of the Christian year. Christians meditate on the salvation God won for us as sinners by the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please honor your Lord by attending the mid-week Lenten services.

Ash Wednesday

February 13, 7:00 with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion

Mid-Week Services—Wednesdays 7:00pm.

These services are about 40 minutes; no communion.

Theme: *Parables to Help Us Live the Christian Life*

Feb. 20: Repentance—The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Feb. 27: Prayer—The Parable of the Unjust Judge

Mar. 6: Forgiveness—The Parable of the Unforgiving
Servant

Mar. 13: Service—The Parable of the Talents

Mar. 20: Humility—The Parable of the Pharisee
and the Publican

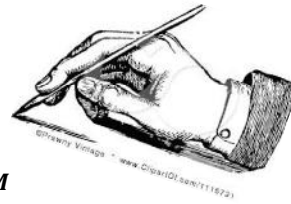
Holy Week Services

March 24: Palm Sunday

March 28: Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm, communion

March 29: Good Friday, 7:00, no communion

A Message From the Pastor



***"There's an app for that"™
(Apple Trademark)***

In 2010, Apple (famous for their computers, iPhones, and iTunes) filed to trademark the tagline they use in their marketing and advertising initiatives around the iPhone and all other iOS devices.

Do you know what an "app" is? This refers to applications or programs—and in common usage these days it refers to something you can download online from the iTunes store. If you still have no idea what I am talking about, ask your children or your grandchildren to explain it to you.

If there is a Christian counterpart to saying, "There's an app for that"™, I would suggest it is, "There's a Bible verse for that" (or maybe "There's a Bible passage for that"). As Christians, we regard the Bible as God's Word. It is eternal. It speaks truth. And it applies to all of life. So, it makes a lot of sense for Christians to memorize Bible verses and Bible passages.

The goal of memorizing the Bible is not to become robots (or computer-like devices) that can spout Bible verses whenever someone puts a fistful of quarters inside us. The goal is to prepare us to deal with life's challenges by letting God's Word come to mind when life's challenges arise.

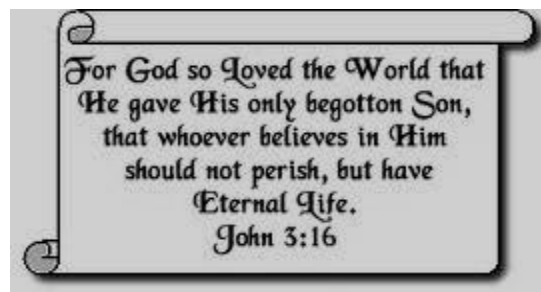
February 13 is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of the church season known as Lent. This is the 40 days prior to Easter when we spend extra time focusing on the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection.

The number "40" reminds us of the 40 years of wilderness wandering before Israel crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land. It also reminds us of the 40 days Jesus was tempted in the wilderness after his baptism and prior to commencing the three years of his public ministry that culminated in his death and resurrection. During his temptations, Jesus fought the devil by quoting verses from the Bible that Jesus had memorized.

Recently, in the interest of spending more time memorizing the Bible, I purchased an app for that. It is called "FighterVerse." It wasn't free. It cost \$2.99. But, I am more likely to carry around my cell phone than a stack of index cards, so I think this app is worth the price.

What do you think you might do to spend more time memorizing Bible verses? I am sure if you think about it at all, you can come up with your own app for that.

*In Christ,
Pastor Dell*





We Need Your Unwanted Treasures, Your Homemade Baked Goods and Your Valuable Time for the Rummage and Bake Sale

Time to clear out the clutter and whip up your best baked goods. Once again we are holding our annual Rummage & Bake Sale on Saturday, February 9, 2013 in Hanson Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

WE NEED MANY VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE THE SALE A SUCCESS, beginning Tuesday evening February 5 at 5:30. That is when we will need some strong bodies to help get the big old clunky tables out of the garage and set up in the social hall. We need help from 9am to Noon Wednesday through Friday to organize the sale items. On Saturday, the day of the sale, we need help from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Any amount of time is welcome. THERE ARE SIGN-UP SHEETS IN THE NARTHEX.

Items for the Rummage Sale may be brought to the church beginning Tuesday evening at 5:30 until about 6:30. Wednesday through Friday drop off hours are 9:00—Noon each day. We will be sorting and pricing items for sale from 9 a.m. to Noon on the 6th, 7th and 8th.

All clean, usable items in good condition, such as house wares, tools, jewelry, plants, books, linens, toys, games, Christmas decor and other treasures are welcome. Please be sure clothing is clean and in good condition. Test all appliances, electrical equipment and battery-operated items to be sure they work. We need big ticket items such as

furniture, outdoor tools, etc. but no heavy TV sets.

Large items will need to be brought in Saturday morning, the day of the sale. If you need help getting large items to the church, please contact Herb Moehling at 586-8587 before Saturday. Baked goods may be delivered Friday or by 8:00 Saturday morning.

The Rummage sale helps recycle items we no longer need, putting them in the hands of those who can benefit from them at a low cost.

Have questions or need help getting your items to church?

Contact co-chairpersons Adeline Banks at 244-7870, omadeline@comcast.net or Gayle Backiel at 423-6609, rbackiel@verizon.net.



Hours to Help

Tues. Feb 5, 5:30pm: Get tables from garage

Wed. Thurs. Fri., Feb. 6,7,8, 9:00am—Noon: organize and price merchandise

Sat. Feb. 9: 8:30—1:00: work the sale (sign up to choose your hours)

Hours to Donate Items

Same hours as helping except for day of sale

Did You Smile for the Camera?

Thank you to everyone who had their picture taken for our new Pictorial Directory. If you have not had it done yet, we still want you in our directory and it is not too late. Contact Gayle Backiel at 423-6609 for information as to how you can still set an appointment for a photo to be in the new directory.

We are still taking pictures and preparing the Activity pages that will be in the front of the directory. Everything will be done and sent to the printer by mid-February.

New directories should be available sometime in April.



Council Highlights

By Scooby Hanson, Council President

Your new Council gathered in January to discuss and plan for the 2013 Church Year. A special emphasis is being placed this year on increased communication among Council members and to the congregation.

After dealing with typical business issues, the Council adjourned and re-convened for their "kick-off" workshop. The topic, "Where Are We Going" was an open discussion on vision, goals and action based upon our priorities of Membership, Involvement and Stewardship.

Each Council member discussed their thoughts and ideas regarding their particular role on the Council. Each presented outstanding thoughts and ideas for 2013. The congregation is invited to "get involved" in the upcoming year. Contact any Council member if you have ideas or questions.

2013 Council Members

Gayle Backiel Karen Feldman Ellen Hanson
Scooby Hanson Judy Johnson David Lanning
Jerry Pauley Carol Piltz Kari Reece Tom Towne



Prayer Shawl Ministry News

The prayer shawl ministry continues to knit and crochet prayer shawls for members of our congregation as well as friends and relatives of our members. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 4:00 pm and invite you to join us for fellowship. If you can't come to our meetings and would still like to make a prayer shawl, we have patterns available for you to work on at home. These shawls are very much appreciated by those who receive them. They remind them of their connection to God and also of all the people that are praying for them.

We would also like to thank all who have supported our group with monetary donations. The financial help is very much appreciated.

"...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

Philippians 4: 6



Goodbye and Thank You, Wilma Ellis Director of A Special Time Respite Program

Editor's note: This heartfelt tribute to Wilma was written by Carol Sutton. Carol has been a part of the program since its inception.

I remember talking with Joan Fischer, a former member of our church and the founder of A Special Time Respite Program (AST), about a woman she had interviewed for the position of director of AST. She told me about this amazing individual who was exceptional in every way. Joan was so excited to hire her and get the program started.

Today, we continue to be just as excited about Wilma Ellis, our director. She has done an outstanding job keeping the program running successfully since the beginning. Sadly, we must say goodbye to her. After over eight years, she has is retiring from A Special Time.

AST has been an extremely valuable lifeline in our community for families with loved ones suffering from the various forms of dementia. Since November 2004, we have been so thankful to have Wilma at the helm.

When we first organized, we established a mission statement that reads: *"The mission of A Special Time Respite Program is to enhance and enrich the lives of participants and caregivers by providing quality respite care in the community."* I know it has been important to Wilma to deliver every single week what we have promised in that mission statement. She has shown us the value of "community" and her unwavering commitment to the excellence of the program by her compassion, professionalism, and dedication.

She has created a warm and caring environment where our participants are treated with respect and dignity from the minute they enter the door. She has created a program that is versatile enough to ensure that all partici-

pants enjoy a day each week that is filled with life-enriching experiences. Here are just a few of her successful activities and noteworthy accomplishments.

- Oil Painting – Participants' oil paintings have been displayed at the North Port Library. Calendars and note cards were produced showing participants' art work.
- Bell Ringers, Sweet Adelines, Kitchen Band, Human Society (Animal Therapy), Living Waters Preschool students came to entertain our participants.
- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheons – Volunteers have been honored with a wonderful luncheon, program, and special recognition every year.
- Walk for Alzheimer's – Over 30 people participated in this walk held at Fisherman's Village in Punta Gorda.
- A Special Time Caregiver's Support Group meets twice a month.
- All American City Award – A Special Time was selected as a program of excellence in their category.

These exceptional programs and opportunities led by Wilma are the reason A Special Time has enjoyed steady growth and attendance for over eight years. Some of our participants have attended for many years, a few almost the entire time Wilma has been director. This is surely a testament to the confidence the caregivers have in her abilities to effectively care for their loved ones.

We're so proud of all you've done, of your accomplishments and the lives you've touched. You've made a difference and you are an inspiration to us all. Thank you!

Get the Word Out



Living Waters will be participating in the North Port Newcomer Day four times this year, with the first being the morning of February 2, from 10:00 - 12:00.

This event first started in 2008 as a way for local residents to learn more about their community. Nonprofit and government agencies set up information tables throughout the entire library. Business owners are represented inside the Julianna Room. Attendees can peruse the booths and talk to volunteers.

We will be holding a drawing for a quilt made by our LWLC quilters at each of these four events. We are hoping to get contact information for those who might also be interested in visiting us for a Sunday service.

Ellen and Scott Hanson will be hosting the February event. We need some volunteers who would like to represent our church in the events on May 4, August 13, and November 2 of this year. Contact Ellen Hanson at the 8:15 service, or email: highlandpines@centurytel.net, or call: 715-296-2362, for more details.

Preschool News

By: Susan D'Amico, Preschool Director

We are starting February with 18 VPK children plus (2) two year olds, (4) three year olds, and (3) four year olds. We have been talking about Groundhogs and shadows.... So you may see us outside, chasing our shadows!

We have also started another Little Caesars Pizza Fundraiser with the delivery being March 4. The funds will be used to help with purchasing an outside message board, a paint drying rack, and possibly some large unit blocks.

We want to thank the congregation for all of your support!

*One of Our Three
Priorities at
Living Waters:*

*"Our commitment to
the work of Christ in
North Port and
beyond."*



From Our Stewardship Team

The Living Waters Memorial and Endowment funds have been established to receive memorials and special gifts with either restricted or unrestricted designations. Some of the funds designated "restricted" include Disaster Relief, Memorial Garden, Community Meals, A Special Time, Forward In Faith and several others. Endowment Funds and honorary gifts may also be received to be invested in perpetuity with portions being withdrawn to meet a wide variety of church and community needs. We encourage members and friends of Living Waters to consider giving memorials and special gifts to these funds.

On a personal note...

Happy Birthday to You

Beginning this month, we will publish the birthdays of members. If your name doesn't appear in your month or the information is incorrect, please contact the church office so our records can be updated.

February Birthdays

Sue Fortunato—Feb. 06

William Fortin—Feb. 23

Phyllis Serrian—Feb. 24

Joanne Bligh—Feb. 28



Memorial Service

The Memorial Service to honor and celebrate the life of **Barbara Mortensen** is scheduled for 11:00 Saturday, February 23 at Living Waters. Music will be an integral part of the service. Pastor Dell will officiate. Lunch will follow in Hanson Hall.

Women of the ELCA News

Sunday, February 3 is Thankoffering Sunday. The service is conducted entirely by women to highlight the work of the groups that are part of WELCA. Beautiful quilts made by our women are displayed on the pews; the worship service includes information about the work these groups do in the church and the community. Please support their ministries with a special offering.

March 9, 2013 will be the Spring Gathering for Women of the ELCA who live in the Mid-Gulf area. All women of the church are invited to attend this annual event. We will be car-pooling to Redeemer Lutheran in Bradenton. Here we will have a chance to fellowship with other women in our area, have a Bible Study and lunch. The theme this year is "Bee-ing Deborah" Come and find out what that means. The highlight of the day will be a presentation by Sister Michelle Collins who will be our key speaker in the afternoon. The cost of the day is \$10.00. Reservations will be taken in the Narthex on Sunday, February 17 and 24.

The Messenger is published monthly by Living Waters Lutheran Church with printed copies 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: j3john@comcast.net. Articles must be submitted by the 21st of each month for publication the following month and may be edited. Pictures are not printed.

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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