

# Cross CURRENTS

Issue 12.6  
September 2017

A monthly publication to keep you informed about the ministry of Living Water and the opportunities for you to grow your relationships with the Lord and each other.

## 2 Teach Is + 2 Touch Lives = 4ever

*“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds... Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” ~ Deuteronomy 11:18-20*

It's a cute tweak of a basic math problem, and perhaps you've seen this short phrase on a teacher's mug or on a van's bumper sticker: *2 teach is + 2 touch lives = 4 ever*. If you fondly recall the academic and life lessons which a stellar teacher taught you, then you know how true that phrase is. If you're a teacher yourself, you know its truth from two sides – being impacted and impacting others. As our communities begin another school year, we all want our children and young adults to have a transformational experience that impacts the whole educational process – academic, social, and personal. We take steps at home to make that happen: buying their supplies, paying for tuition, checking their homework, monitoring their grades, and communicating with their teachers. A good academic education that impacts a person's **whole life doesn't happen only at school; your home life plays a key part as well!**

But a school's education can only impact a person's earthly life. It's only good up until death. That's why I'd like to tweak that phrase



above to this: **2 teach God's word is + 2 touch lives = 4 ever**. When we have been touched by God's word and hang onto it through faith, we have the "words of eternal life" (John 6:68). As important as an academic education is, only God's word can touch a person's eternal life.

That's why in Deuteronomy God told the Israelites, "Teach [my words] to your children, talking about them when you sit at home." God knew that **2 teach God's word is + 2 touch lives = 4 ever**. He wanted all Israelite parents to eternally impact their children's lives and souls for the positive.

This teaching process first starts inside the teachers: "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds." Only once we've been taught and touched by God's word can we then teach and touch others. Then notice the vital role the home plays: "talking about them when you sit at home... when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." We place an emphasis on school education at home. At home you actively get involved with school work around the kitchen table. How much more shouldn't we place an emphasis on *spiritual* education at home! How much more so shouldn't you actively take the lead teaching and talking about

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God's word with your children around your kitchen table!

If you're blessed with kids, God tells you to teach your children at home about him and his love. He wants you to tell them Bible stories at bedtime and text them encouraging Bible verses when they're off at college. He asks you to do this because it's the only way that you can truly touch their lives forever because God creates saving faith and eternal life through his word. The neat thing is, you don't need an education degree to do this! You simply need to fix God's word "in your hearts and minds" and feed your faith first. Once that happens, you are more than equipped to teach your children. I bet that in the last few weeks you've taken steps to help your child's school education. What are you doing at home to help their *spiritual* education? Have daily family devotions from our synod, [WELS](#). Get connected to our [Facebook](#) page which offers spiritual encouragement throughout the week. Take your children to church. As a family, pick out a verse to memorize and talk about how it helped you during the day or week. Post passages or biblical artwork on walls and doors. The opportunities to teach God's word at home are endless, just like the eternal life that comes with it!

Christian education starts at the home. That's the single most important place it happens. But Living Water wants to help you and your children get a spiritual education. If you want ideas or resources, check out our church library or ask me. Bring your kids to Sunday School and Catechism classes which begin after Labor Day. Sunday adult Bible classes are going on now. If you want to learn or review basic Christian teaching, I'll be starting a weekly class soon and would love to have you join us! And bring a friend!

Christian education must happen in the home. First, feed your own faith as you read God's word. Then, teach your children and actively talk about God's word in the home. Living Water wants to play a big role in that Christian education, but God wants you to play the biggest role by what you do at home. When you do that, God guarantees that you'll touch lives and souls forever, even more than your school favorite teacher did for you!

In Christ's service to you,  
Pastor Aaron Voss

## Introducing New Service Elements

Our Savior Jesus gives us the freedom to worship him in various ways (Galatians 3:24,25). The elders and Pastor Voss have discussed introducing new orders of service and new hymns, published by our synod, into our worship. The elders and Pastor see three potential benefits: 1) Hearing and proclaiming the gospel in new ways through word and song might be a refreshing way to reflect on the gospel, 2) providing a change of pace for our talented musicians to use their gifts with different music, and 3) helping prepare our congregation for the launch of our synod's new hymnal in 2021. Starting September 3, we would begin testing new liturgies and hymns. Pastor and the elders would greatly appreciate any feedback to help them with future worship plans because, while we may be free to do many things in worship, we want to "make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification" (Romans 14:19) through word and sacrament. God's blessings on your worship!

## Bible Basics Study

In September Pastor Voss will begin a weekly Bible study that walks through the basic truths of the Bible. This would be a great way to learn or review essential teachings God gives us through his word. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested, please let Pastor know ASAP. Times and dates have not been set, but it will probably be on an evening once a week. Stay tuned for final details.

## Every Member Visits

To help him better serve you and minister to you, Pastor Voss would like to get to know you personally. Face-to-face visits between members and pastor are the best way to do that. Quite a large number of families have already done so, and Pastor hopes to keep that momentum rolling. In the narthex each weekend look for sign-up sheets that list some times Pastor has available for the week. Or, you can contact Pastor and suggest a time that works for you. He'll be happy to try to accommodate.

## Sunday School

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 10th. Sunday School is a great opportunity for students prekindergarten—6th grade to study God's Word in an age appropriate format. Watch for student and teacher sign-ups in the narthex. For more information, please contact Brian Haag at 414-416-6332 or contact John Wiederhold. Pray that God blesses our work with his children.

## Sip, Savor, & Drink Deeply

Over the summer, a group of ladies met to *sip, savor, and drink deeply of God's Word*. Each Bible study session used an image relating to coffee to explore a **truth of God's Word**. One image is of a *broken and dirty cup*—God's law shows us that we are broken and sinful by nature, but the Gospel shows that we are washed clean in **Jesus' blood**. Another image showed us that God is the God of all comfort who will see us through the *daily grind* of life. We have been given the Holy Spirit who strengthens us through Word and Sacrament to live a godly life. We also studied how our lives are *filled to the brim* with earthly blessings and spiritual blessings. And as branches connected to The Vine, we are able to encourage one another. Praise God for all of the opportunities that He gives us to gather around His Word!



## Calling All Singers!

Please join us Wednesday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m. as a new season of singing starts. If you are confirmed (or older) and enjoy singing praises to our Lord, then come and join us Wednesday nights. Questions? Ask Neil Hankwitz.

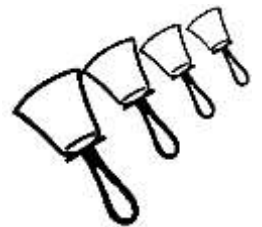


## Children's Choir Coming Soon

Children's Choir will begin rehearsing on Sunday, September 24th. Any child who is able to read (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade) through eighth grade is encouraged to join us. **Children's Choir** will rehearse on Sunday mornings from 8:15-8:45 am. Rehearsals will include preparing songs for worship and learning musical ideas through folk songs. For more information, please contact Janeen Roska at [jsroska@gmail.com](mailto:jsroska@gmail.com) or 414-745-6385 (cell).

## Handbell Choir Needs You!

Please join us Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 p.m. as a new season of ringing starts. If you are confirmed (or older) and enjoy making music to glorify our Lord, then come and join us Wednesday nights. Questions? Ask Tracy Hankwitz.



## Jesus Cares

Jesus Cares will be celebrating 10 years of ministry in our community this year. Jesus Cares shares God's love with developmentally disabled individuals from several group homes. Each monthly meeting includes a Bible story, a craft, and music. Thank you to all the volunteers who gladly give of their time to make this ministry happen.



## Secretary Office Hours

Starting September 5<sup>th</sup>, Janeen Roska will typically be in the church office on Tuesdays from 1-3:30 pm and Friday mornings from 9:30-noon. Please watch the bulletin for changes in this schedule. Feel free to contact her via phone, text, or email outside of those hours at 414-745-6385 or [church@livingwaterlutheran.com](mailto:church@livingwaterlutheran.com).

## WELS 64<sup>th</sup> biennial synod convention

WELS held its biennial synod-wide convention at Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis., July 31 – Aug. 3. Delegates from around the country – including pastors, WELS teachers, staff ministers, and lay members – discussed important issues and plans for WELS ministries. Find out what happened, view videos, read updates, and review the approved resolutions at [wels.net/2017synodconvention](http://wels.net/2017synodconvention).



## Christian Life Resources 2nd Annual Golf Outing

CLR's 2nd annual Golf Outing is Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at Ironwood Golf Court, W270N6166 Moraine Drive, Sussex, WI. 9:30 AM registration/range and 10:30 AM shotgun start. Event cost is \$90 (\$340 discounted foursome) and includes lunch and buffet-style dinner. Four-person scramble format with 18 holes of golf with cart, free-range balls and other contests including hole-in-one, putting contest, longest drive, and closest to the pin. Raffles and prizes too. Plan to join us to support Christian Life Resources! To register, visit [www.clevents.com](http://www.clevents.com) or call 414-376-0594.

## Camp Phillip

Camp Phillip offers several opportunities this fall for relaxation in creation and renewal in Christ. A Women's Retreat will be held October 6-8.

The fall teen retreat for students in grades 8-12 will be October 20-22. If you love board and card games of all types, a gamers retreat will be held on October 27-28. Quilters can participate in a planned project or bring along their unfinished project on November 3-5. For more information, including registration forms, visit [www.campphillip.com](http://www.campphillip.com).



## You're Invited!

WELS Lutherans for Life will be holding 2 fundraising events on Friday, October 13 at Country Springs Hotel in Pewaukee. Both the luncheon and the dinner have been paid in full by generous underwriters. While there will be no cost to attend, there will be an opportunity to support the ministry financially. All funds raised will directly support life-affirming help for abortion-vulnerable mothers, people suffering post-abortion trauma, and a youth development program. Pre-registration is required and seats are limited, so don't delay. Learn more and register at [EveningForLife.org](http://EveningForLife.org), email [Contact@ALife2.com](mailto:Contact@ALife2.com), or call 414-727-8176.

## Transformed – Teen Devotion

*Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,  
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

Hebrews 4:16

### **Best. Prayer. Ever. – Bold prayer**

We're so wimpy in prayer sometimes. Do you know what I mean? It's like we're sniveling before some high potentate whom we dare not approach, "And maybe, would you please, if you can get around to it, if you're feeling in a good mood today, could you do this for me." We're so wimpy in prayer, and I'm trying to figure out why.

I know there is a part of us that must approach God in humility and reverence. After all, we have sinned against him and do not deserve to be called his children. We do not always know what is best even if we think that we do. And he is God while we are not. So, it's good and right to approach him with humility and reverence.

But timid? Wimpy? That's not how Jacob prayed when he wrestled with God. He dared to say, "I won't let go unless you bless me" (cf. Genesis 32:26). That's not how Moses prayed when God wanted to wipe out his people. He dared to tell God, "You can't do that" (cf. Exodus 32:11-14).

There's nothing wimpy about the Lord's Prayer either. Take a look through the petitions. Think carefully about what we're actually saying, "Make your will happen, make your kingdom come, give us, forgive us, deliver us." In these petitions we're actually telling God what we want him to do. Pretty bold, isn't it? Hardly wimpy. Hardly timid. Those are bold prayers.

That's the way God wants us to pray. He wants us to approach him with confidence, boldness, and openness. He wants us to just come and lay our problems at his feet. He wants us to come and tell him with a boldness mixed with the humility of Abraham who told God, "I know I have no right to ask you to spare this city, but because you've invited me to pray and you promise to be merciful, I'm going to ask. Please spare the city for the sake of the faithful" (cf. Genesis 18:22-33).

So don't be wimpy and timid in your prayers. Your Father has forgiven all your sins and opened his throne room to you. Your Father loves you and wants to hear from you.

### **Prayer:**

Father, make us bold to pray. You have promised mighty things to us. You have promised forgiveness and daily bread. You have promised that your will is good and that you will deliver us from evil. Teach us to pray with confidence and boldness because you will always be gracious and merciful to us. Amen.

*Teen Devotions are brought to you by WELS Commission on Youth and Family Ministry.*



## Prayer LIST



Lord Jesus, you alone are the Great Teacher, using your holy word to teach us everything we need to know for salvation and for a godly life. We ask you to bless our educational ministries at Living Water, including Sunday School, Bible Information Courses, Catechism classes, and other Bible studies. Prosper the efforts of Brain Haag, our chairman of the board of education, and of our Sunday School teachers. Your word is powerful and effective, so give them energy and confidence to rest on that promise. In addition, send your Holy Spirit to encourage all of us to continue the important task of teaching your word in our homes.

Almighty Father, because you neither slumber nor sleep, we ask you to watch over all those who are going through transitions as this school year begins: children beginning school for the first time, students advancing into higher levels, young adults going off to college, teachers educating in the classroom, and parents dealing with new schedules and demands that the new school year brings. Grant success to all students' studies, that they may better apply the gifts of reason and knowledge that you have given your creatures. May they use their education to glorify you in the world. Make all your believers

who teach examples of how we can both strive to know more about your creation but also humbly make every thought captive to Christ and to your word. For parents adjusting to new roles, especially those now without children at home, be a constant source of love and encouragement so that they model a Christian life to their children.

Holy Spirit, give each of us opportunities to share your life-giving word to those around us -- neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family. Put courage in our hearts to set Christ apart as Lord and to always be ready to share the good news about him to others. Soften hard hearts and warm cold souls that they might gladly hear and learn your word.

*If you would like to be added to our prayer group list, please fill out one of the pew cards in church and put it in the offering basket as it is passed, or simply hand the card to one of the ushers or pastor as you leave church. You can also send your prayer requests by email to: [prayer@LivingWaterLutheran.com](mailto:prayer@LivingWaterLutheran.com).*

## Living Water STATISTICS AND NUMBERS

Year to Date Membership Changes	
Transfers In	4
Profession of Faith	0
Adult Confirmation	0
Transfers Out	-2
Released	-3
Confirmation	0
Death	0
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>-1</b>

Membership Statistics	
269	Baptized
238	Communicants
288	Total
110	Family Units
115	Average Attendance

Offerings					
	General	Special	Building	Education	Total
Total Given	\$148,480	\$0	\$4,200	\$816	\$153,496

August Attendance			
	Sun.	Mon.	Total
8/6	111	20	131
8/13	104	14	118
8/20	85	25	110

# 2017 September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	Aug 31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion Weekend SCRIP Deadline 8:20 AM Prayer Group 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Bible Study	7:00 PM Worship	8:00 AM Men's Breakfast	6:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:20 AM Prayer Group 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Bible Study	7:00 PM Worship 8:00 PM Elders		6:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Church Council 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Communion Weekend Newsletter Deadline 8:20 AM Prayer Group 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Bible Study	7:00 PM Worship		6:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:15 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal 8:20 AM Prayer Group 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Bible Study	7:00 PM Worship		6:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal			
Oct 1	2					



*Creating and Growing Relationships with God and Each Other*

**Worship:** Sunday at 9:00 AM & Monday at 7:00 PM  
**Church Office:** 262-895-3700  
**Address:** 6525 Milwaukee Ave, Wind Lake, WI  
**E-mail:** Church@LivingWaterLutheran.com



6525 Milwaukee Avenue  
Wind Lake, WI 53185

[www.LivingWaterLutheran.com](http://www.LivingWaterLutheran.com)

## Worship Information

Sunday Worship Service - 9:00 AM

Sunday Education Time - 10:30 AM

Monday Worship Service - 7:00 PM

## Contact Us

Pastor: Aaron Voss

Church Office: 262.895.3700

**Pastor's Cell Phone:** 517.575.5546

E-mail: [pastor@livingwaterlutheran.com](mailto:pastor@livingwaterlutheran.com)

Website: [www.LivingWaterLutheran.com](http://www.LivingWaterLutheran.com)

## 2017 Church Council

Here is a list of people to contact if you have any questions or suggestions regarding anything happening in our ministry. Also, if you send a single e-mail to [council@livingwaterlutheran.com](mailto:council@livingwaterlutheran.com), it will reach all members of our Church Council.

John Wiederhold - President  
Rob Sawall - Secretary  
Jim Mertz - Treasurer  
Craig Scherbarth - Financial Sec.  
Bill Bartholomew - Head Elder  
Mike Viehwig - Outreach  
Jim Mastrocola - Trustee

## No Worship on Labor Day Monday

The elders, council, and Pastor Voss have decided to cancel worship service on Labor Day itself, Monday, September 4. Monday worship will resume on September 11 at 7 p.m.