

# Cross CURRENTS

Issue 12.7  
October 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.

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“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” ~ Proverbs 27:17

Inside its weight room facility, the Michigan State University football program has imprinted Proverbs 27:17 onto a wall. It's visible to all who walk in there. More importantly, it's visible to all who *work out* in there. Its purpose



is to motivate each other during the hard work of training. Each football player is a piece of iron, and each workout is an opportunity for one piece of iron to sharpen another piece of iron through encouragement, motivation, and community. The hope is that each player will sharpen another physically, emotionally, and mentally. While the pastor inside me hopes that the players are also getting spiritual sharpening, the Michigan State football fan inside me likes what the sign seems to help produce on the field (except for last year's ugly 3-9 season).

In a similar way, we try to be sharpened in our various professions, don't we? When I wrote this, I had just gotten back from my first pastors' conference since starting at Living Water. The site that hosted us was

also hosting many other professional conferences, where I'm guessing people learned about new products, systems, and/or skills. At our particular conference, pastors from various Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod congregations and schools came together to be fed by God's word in worship, be educated in some ministry-related topic, and be encouraged by one another in fellowship. Simply put, as the verse says, it was "iron sharpening iron." And – while I'm a young, dull piece of iron and probably didn't sharpen anyone else – I was definitely sharpened by fellow pastors' devotions, presentations, and conversations.

People try to sharpen themselves physically, professionally, and personally, but what are we doing to sharpen ourselves *spiritually*? Proverbs is in the Bible, and thus it should make us think spiritually, after all. Are we going to worship and being fed and transformed by God's powerful word? Do we dig into a book of the Bible or a Christian teaching which we're a little confused about? Do we make connections with other Christians and talk about how life is impacting our faith, and vice versa? I hope so, but my fear is that you and I could be doing this better. We could do a better job of sharpening each other, spurring "one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24). We could do a better job of clearing our schedules and committing ourselves to meet together and

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encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25). Through his almighty word and by his Spirit, God has forged each Christian into spiritual iron, and “as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another” spiritually.

Pastors’ conference hasn’t been the only time I’ve been sharpened lately. I’ve been sharpened by you, my Christian brothers and sisters, when I’ve done visits with you. I’ve been sharpened by you in Sunday morning Bible class. As you battle-tested weapons of iron share stories of God’s love and faithfulness in your lives, you sharpen me. As you wrestle with God’s word in open conversation about the Bible, you sharpen me. But not just me! You sharpen everyone else in the room. So here’s my encouragement and invitation: come to Sunday morning Bible class to help sharpen your fellow Christians. In Bible class we can talk honestly and lovingly about how God’s word fortifies us to be solid iron throughout the coming week. In Bible class we sharpen our congregational culture as we use God’s word to dissect issues in our congregation and in our world. In Bible class, we sharpen each other to be better witness of God’s truth in our communities. How is this possible? Because in Bible class we gather around God’s word which is “living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12). As a fellow Christian, here’s my plea to you: help sharpen me! Help us sharpen each other!

At the end of the month we’ll be celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Don’t know what that is? I’ll do my faithful best to sharpen you about that. But for now, let this summarize the Lutheran Reformation: it was a bunch of no-name guys who were sharpened first by God’s word, then sharpened each other through constant conversation about God’s word, and eventually were used by God to sharpen millions of others through that same word. Wouldn’t it be exciting to do the same thing? We can start during Bible class. You won’t have to lift a single weight; we’ll just have to pick up God’s word... together.

Serving you in Christ,

Pastor Aaron Voss



Our Planning Meeting was Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, so check the bulletin to see what

we will be doing in the coming year. We will be carpooling to Boerner Botanical Gardens to see China Lights in October. The date was decided at our Planning Meeting, so check the bulletin or call Julie at 262-909-1346.

Senior Moments is a service organization to provide social opportunities for the congregation. All members, 50 and older, are encouraged to join us for fun and fellowship.

## Jesus Cares Turns 10

On Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, Jesus Cares begins its 10<sup>th</sup> year of ministry here at Living Water. Praise God for the opportunity to share his Word with Jesus’ little lambs! Jesus Cares typically meets the third Monday of every month. Come and see this ministry in action. Please pray for this work to be a blessing to those we serve.

## Free Admission to WLC Volleyball

On Friday, September 29, Wisconsin Lutheran College volleyball is offering free admission to any WELS member in a home match against Concordia Wisconsin. The Warriors will play their match at the Recreation Complex on their campus; start time is 7:00 p.m. WLC volleyball is coached by our member Jenilee Voss.

## Celebrating Reformation 500

500 years ago, on October 31, 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther started a conversation that turned into a reformation. It was centered on this truth: we are saved by grace alone, as received by faith alone, as revealed in Scripture alone, as accomplished by Christ alone. While we don't idolize Martin Luther, we do celebrate the work God did through him and our Lutheran heritage others passed down to us. So, to celebrate this momentous anniversary, we would like to highlight some special events in our congregation and in our area:

- **Augsburg Confession Bible Study:** On Sunday mornings we'll take a look at this document which is sort of a Lutheran "Declaration of Independence" and "Bill of Rights" rolled into one.
- **Worship Series:** Beginning on October 15, we'll begin a four week worship series that focuses on four key Latin phrases of the Reformation: *sola gratia*, *sola fide*, *sola Scriptura*, and *solus Christus*. Don't know what those mean? Come find out what God's word teaches about them!
- **Reformation 500 Special Service:** The Southeastern Wisconsin District of WELS will host a festival worship service celebrating the 500th anniversary. It will be held at the Miller high Life Theater, located at 500 W. Kilbourn Avenue in Milwaukee at 3:30 p.m.
- **Movie Night at Living Water:** WELS produced a documentary entitled *A Return to Grace* which looks at the history, legacy, and ~ most importantly ~ the theological teaching of the Reformation. We will host a viewing here at church which will include snacks and an informal discussion about the film following the showing. Time and date are to be determined, but it will be in November, so make a note to join us!



## Living Water Online

"You never have a second chance to make a good first impression." You may have heard this phrase used to encourage you to put your best foot forward when meeting someone new or going to a job interview.

In our age of technology, many first impressions are made online. As a church, we want our online presence to give a good first impression to visitors. We also want our online presence to effectively communicate with our own members.

Our website serves as our main online presence. It will be undergoing some updating to better serve both of the needs of members and of visitors. One update is that you can now listen to past sermons online. Sermons can be found under Resources in the top menu. Whether you missed a service, simply want to listen to a sermon again, or want to share it with a friend, please make use of this resource.

More updates will be coming to the website so check back often.

If you follow us on Facebook, you will have noticed that our page has had more posts. Facebook is another tool in building an online presence. Similar to our website, Facebook not only allows communication with our members, but also visitors may use our Facebook page to preview us before coming. Even if you're not on Facebook, you can still follow our newsfeed. Visit [www.livingwaterlutheran.com/newsfeed](http://www.livingwaterlutheran.com/newsfeed) or find this page under Resources in the top menu.

Positive online reviews are another way that we can make a good first impression online. Both Facebook and Google offer individuals the chance to leave reviews. As you are comfortable, please leave positive reviews at both places. If you'd like more information on how to do this, please contact Janeen Roska in the church office or Pastor Voss.

## Proposed Picnic Shelter and Prayer Garden

A few years ago, donations were given to a proposed idea of having a picnic shelter and prayer garden on our property.

This past summer, a team of members took on the task of offering ideas on how it might fit into our ministry and what it may look like.

Bob McGill, Joyce Gimmer, Lindsi Timm, and Bill Walter formed a planning team and considered the following items:

- Location
- Size of the structure
- Building costs
- How it might look.

The suggested location would be to the south of our garage. The size would be 20'x30'. The cost is estimated at about \$34,000. The structure would be an open sided facility, with a shingled roof, electricity, and built on a concrete base.

Initial discussion with some members suggested that we could use the picnic shelter/prayer garden for:

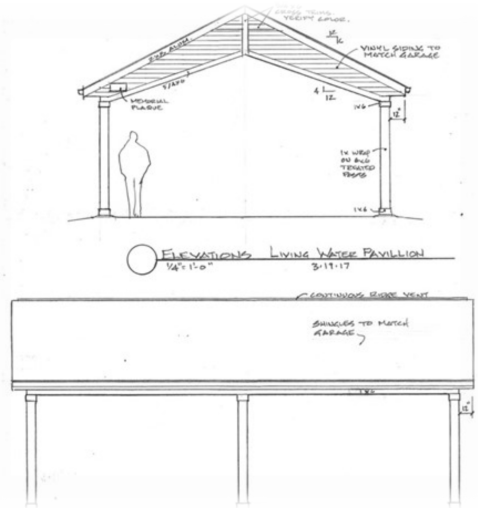
- Summer Bible Class
- Personal Meditation
- VBS
- Annual Picnic
- Casual gatherings

With all of this in mind, we would like to hear from each of you. We want to know what you think of the idea. Is it the right size? Would the south side of the garage be a good place for it? How would you see it benefiting our ministry?

We would encourage each of you to discuss your thoughts with members of the planning team and your church leaders. Drawings of the shelter will be available in the narthex. Once we receive enough input, we will schedule a time to discuss the proposal as a group.

We look forward to your thoughts.

John Wiederhold



Our current directory is somewhat dated. We would like to have a fresh new directory sometime in 2018.

We would like to assemble a team of members willing to handle this task.

If you would be interested in helping, please contact Pastor Voss or John Wiederhold.



## Freedom from Loneliness - TEEN DEVOTION

*There [Elijah] went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. —1 Kings 19:9-12*

Have you ever felt alone? You were excluded from the party; you didn't get an invite. You were stuck at home alone while everyone else hung out. Everybody else got the Snap and laughed when they got it, but your profile stays quiet. Nobody seems to want to talk or hang out. Or maybe the opposite is true. You have lots of people who want to be your friend, but you're not close to any of them. You're alone in the crowd; you have lots of likes and followers but you still long for a true friend. Or maybe, your faith puts you on an island, standing for God's truth, so that you end up all alone because of your stand.

If you've ever felt alone, you can relate to the prophet Elijah.

Elijah had a tough job. He had to preach against the king and queen of Israel. They had introduced a false God named Baal into Israel, and they were leading thousands of people astray. Elijah preached, and he preached. Then he preached some more. But no one seemed to care. No one seemed to listen. He felt alone. In fact, he was so lonely and so overwhelmed that he at one point said, "God, I'm done. Take me home to heaven." He wanted to die.

But God wanted him to know that he was not alone. And he wants you to know it too. There was Elijah in a cave, hundreds of miles away from everyone. But then God came. And he said, "Elijah, what are you doing here?" Elijah had run; he had tried to hide. But he could not escape God's loving care and concern. God was right there to care about Elijah. We are never alone! God is always with us. There's no place we can go on this earth where we will be alone. God will always be with us.

And God made sure that Elijah knew it. He came to Elijah through a whisper, through his Word. And that's what God does for you again and again. He comes to you in his Word and declares his undying love for you. He reminds you that in baptism God has made you his own child and he will always be there. Each time you come to the Lord's Supper he will assure you again and again of his love and forgiveness. The Lord is always with you. You are never alone. Not now. Not ever.

And that wasn't the only thing Elijah learned that day. Open up your Bibles and keep reading in 1 Kings 19:13-18. There God says, "Elijah! You think you're alone? You think you're the only one who loves me? There are 7000 people who haven't bowed down to Baal. You're not alone!" There is a group of people, your Christian church and your Christian friends, who stand with you in faith and in life. Go seek them out! Keep on meeting together with them. Build each other up in the faith and encourage each other. You are not alone. Your God ensures it by staying by your side always and by giving friends who will stick with you.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, thank you for your love that you promise to never take away from me. Thank you for the Christian friends you have placed in my life so that I'm never alone. I always have you and I always have a Christian community around me. When I'm feeling lonely, remind me of both of these things. Amen.*

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

## Prayer LIST



Pray for all who are hurting from mental, physical or emotional problems. Pray for healing, relief and comfort. Pray also for their caregivers that they may be filled with patience, perseverance and love.

Pray for those who have become inactive members of Living Water, that they may filled with a desire to turn back to Jesus and come worship Him again.

Pray for each other, that we may have confidence and be filled with the Holy Spirit to go and tell all our friends, relatives and even strangers about Jesus.

Pray for America that we may become a stronger Christian nation. Pray that the hearts of all citizens be opened to hear the word of God. That His word may take hold and grow. That we can learn to love each other and care for and respect each other as Christ has taught us to.

Pray for our governmental leaders that those who know Jesus may stand firm in their faith. Pray that

they may be able to witness to others about Jesus and the importance of Christian leadership and direction.

Pray for world peace. May Jesus be our guide, our protector, our strength and our go-to man in world affairs. May we seek his direction and head his voice.

Pray that the LORD will hear all the prayers offered by all His faithful people.

Eph. 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

## 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
Net Gain/Loss	-1

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

Worship Attendance			
	Sun.	Mon.	Total
8/27	107	23	130
9/3	122	—	122
9/10	105	12	117
9/17	98	17	115

Offerings					
	General	Special	Building	Education	Total
Total Given	\$166,815	—	\$4,200	\$866	\$179,769

# 2017 October

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



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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)

**Office:** [church@livingwaterlutheran.com](mailto:church@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  
**Brian Haag** - Education

## Worship during the Holiday Season

Living Water will have numerous extra worship opportunities in November and December, as discussed by the elders and Pastor Voss.

Thanksgiving service will take place on Wednesday, November 22, at 7 p.m.

Midweek Advent services will be offered on December 6, 13, and 20 at 6:30 p.m.

On December 24, we will have regular morning worship and a special Christmas Eve service later that day. A festival morning service on December 25 will celebrate Christmas.

Around New Years, we will only have regular worship on Sunday morning of December 31; no extra New Years service will be offered.

