

Cross CURRENTS

February 2020

Living Water Lutheran Church exists to give the triune God's pure gospel in Word and sacrament to thirsty souls in our congregation, our community, and the world.

An Extra Day to Get to Know Christ

I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.
—1 Corinthians 2:2 (NIV)

What would you do with an extra day? If you got an unexpected extra day, you might be able to polish up that presentation for your job or school. If you got an unexpected extra day, you might be able to finish that to-do list at home. An extra day could give you time to do something fun with family or friends. When our schedules often seem jam-packed, an extra day could do wonders for us!

Technically, you do have an extra day this month. February 2020 is a leap year. Like a friend you haven't seen in a while, February 29 reappears on the calendar this year. It gives you an extra day that you didn't have in 2019. How exciting, right?!

Then again, maybe not. Another day brings more possibilities, but it can also bring more problems. February 29 could mean another day of suffering through that nagging issue with your body. It could mean another day of feeling

isolated during a long winter. February 29 might bring another day of frustration as you try to catch up on things but feel like you're just falling further behind. And certainly, February 29 will bring another day full of sin around us and in us. We don't need another day full of sinful problems that others bring into our lives and that we ourselves are guilty of. February 29 will give us another chance to know that better.

It also gives us another chance to know Christ



better. Yes, the extra day of this month will probably bring its share of problems, sufferings, sadness, and frustration, but it also gives you and

me a chance to get to know Christ better. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians (a letter we'll take a close look at in February's sermon series), "I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). The Corinthian congregation had given Paul a whole bunch of problems, sufferings, sadness, and frustration.

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Despite those distractions, Paul saw each day with the Corinthians as an opportunity to know Christ better. To know Jesus' determination to do everything needed as the Christ. To know Jesus' sacrificial love displayed on the cross. Jesus' determined, sacrificial love is what got Paul through each day, leap day or not.

Jesus' determined, sacrificial love is what gets us through each day, leap day or not. It gets us through each year, leap year or not. Therefore, February 29 is exciting and could do wonders for us. It's technically another day on the calendar for you and me to spend time in God's Word, getting to know better Jesus Christ and his sacrificial love. That determined, sacrificial love will then support us in whatever problem, suffering, sadness, or frustration that leap day brings. Jesus' determined, sacrificial love will then flow out of us into the lives of others even in our problems, sufferings, sadness, or frustration.

February 29 will do wonders for our lives as we spend time in God's Word. It'll be an extra earthly day getting to know Christ better until we know him perfectly in the endless extra day of heaven.

Resolving with you to know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified,

Pastor Aaron Voss

Lutheran Leadership Conference

This past month, Mike Graffenius, Janeen Roska, Jenilee Voss, and Pastor Voss attended the WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership. The conference was built around two core beliefs—the gospel is the power of God for salvation and that we have a responsibility to use our gifts to proclaim that gospel to the best of our abilities. Keynote speakers and breakout sessions addressed some of the challenges that we face in sharing the gospel, but also the strengths that we have to use in sharing the gospel. Jenilee said of the conference, "I'm

thankful for the opportunity to attend this conference. It was great to be encouraged by so many fellow believers, see and hear about the great work our synod is going, and be challenged to think about our ministry in context of God's kingdom." A preview of the new hymnal and the resources that will accompany it was also presented at the conference.





WinGS (Women in God's Service) next Fast 15 meeting will be held on

Sunday February 9 following the worship service. We will meet in the library. Topics include planning for the rummage sale, ideas for gatherings, and secret sisters. All ladies of the congregation are invited!

WinGS is looking forward to hosting our community rummage sale again this year! The tentative dates are Friday, April 17—Saturday April 18. More information will be coming soon. For now, just hang on to those items you are willing to donate so all our shoppers have lots to choose from!

Blood Drive



Versiti (formerly Blood Center of Wisconsin) will be hosting a blood drive at church on Thursday, March 5. Watch for more information on volunteer opportunities and times to donate blood.



Our next Senior Moments activity will be to host the Ash Wednesday Lenten Supper on February 26. It will once again be our senior specialty - potluck!

Watch for the sign-up sheet coming out soon.

We will be going to the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear on Friday, March 27. This eclectic museum is housed in an 1869 residence at 839 N. 11th Street in Milwaukee. It displays an extensive collection of early 20th century Americana. It contains various exhibits from between the World Wars and through the early 1960s. The museum is handicap accessible and has free parking. We will carpool and plan to leave church at 9:30 am. Admission is \$6. We will stop for lunch following our time at the museum. Talk to Bob or Julie McGill about any restaurant suggestions or with any questions about the outing.

We've got two activities planned for May this year. On Saturday, May 2, at 4:00 pm, we will be going to the Milwaukee Children's Choir Concert at St. Sebastian Parish, 5400 W. Washington Blvd. Then, on Friday, May 22, we will be going to Doc's on the Fox in Waterford for our annual fish fry.

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.

Easter for Kids

Easter for Kids will be coming again this spring. This event provides children with the opportunity to have fun with crafts, music, and an Easter egg hunt. Most importantly, they'll learn how Jesus defeated death for them! Please keep this event in your prayers, consider volunteering your time, and think of families you can invite!

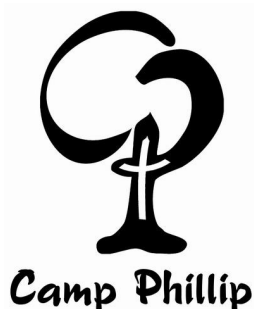


Winter Wonderland Ball

Daughters, enjoy a night out with your special someone—your dad, grandpa, uncle, brother, or mom—at the Christ Lutheran Winter Wonderland Ball. This event will be held on Saturday, February 22 from 5:00-7:30 pm. Wear your formal attire to enjoy a sit down dinner, hear a speaker on fatherhood in the church, snap a picture in the photobooth, and, of course, dance the night away. The cost is \$10 per couple and \$2 for each additional girl. Registration forms can be found in the church gathering area and are due by Wednesday, February 12.

Blast Off at Camp Phillip

In Romans 12:2, we are told to “No longer conform to the patterns of this world...” So this summer, Camp Phillip is going to blast off...and get out of this world! Summer camp will look at how the world looks different when viewed through the lens of Christ’s mercy. There are full week camp options for students currently in grades 3-8, half week camp options for students in grades 2-4, and half week day camp for students in grades K-2. Living Water is a



church member which means you receive a discount on registration fees. For more information, brochures are available in the gathering space or visit www.campphillip.com.

Shoreland Lutheran HS Enroll Now

Shoreland is now accepting **new student** admission applications for the 2020-21 school year. If you would like to apply or if you know someone interested, go to Shoreland’s website at www.slhs.us. Scroll down and click on the “Apply Now” button.

Shoreland’s STEM Academy is now accepting applications for the 2020-21 school year. Families are welcome to apply to the foundation course in one of the three distinct pathways that SLHS offers: Biomedical Science, Computer Science, or Engineering. Applications will be accepted until Tuesday, March 31. For more information or to download the application, visit: <https://www.slhs.us/apps/pages/stemapplication>. Contact Mr. Tim Mielke at mielket@slhs.us or at 262-895-2595 x114 with questions.



Christian Women Today Retreat

The 38th and final Christian Woman Today Retreat, sponsored by Christ the Lord Lutheran Church and School in Brookfield, will be held March 20-22, at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel in Brookfield, WI. The retreat theme is from Psalm 34:8, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Retreat brochures with registration forms are available at the ChristianWomanToday.org website. The registration deadline is Friday, March 6. For questions, please contact Linda at 414-507-5341.



20/20 Vision: See Identity Better TEEN DEVOTION

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. —

Romans 6:4 (NIV)

What do you see when you look in the mirror? Who do you see looking back at you? Who are you really?

We can answer that question in many ways. We can answer based on relationships: We're sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors, boyfriends and girlfriends. Within those relationships things might be going well or they may going poorly.

We can answer that question based on wins and losses. Academic grades can tell a story about you. So can successes or failures in sports and "likes" and "dislikes" with friends on social media.

But even the biggest wins don't last and the best of grades can be followed by a horrible quiz result. It mirrors the story of sin in our lives. A good day is followed by a bad day. Loving words can instantly change to whining and complaining. It's really a story littered with sin, failure, and disappointment.

There is a *better* story about you and your life. The next time as you look at yourself in the mirror, remember this: *We were buried with Christ, and we were raised with him* (Romans 6:4). Paul wants us to see that our identity and the story of our lives is intimately connected to the story of Jesus' life. His victory is your victory. His life is your life.

Try this challenge. Post the following three words on your mirror to help you see who you really are in Christ.

Covered: All your sins, failures, and shortcomings are covered by his blood. They are forgiven, and they are gone.

Clothed: You are clothed with the perfect life of Jesus. You get credit for all the good things that he did. You are perfect, holy, and good in God's sight.

Shielded: Every moment of your life is shielded by his power. He is guiding and guarding your life—all of it.

Your true identity is found in Jesus' win for us at his cross and empty tomb. We are covered, clothed, and shielded by him.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, when I look in the mirror this week and every week help me to see who I am in you. I am covered, clothed, and shielded. Amen.

Prayer

We ask God's blessing to be upon:

- The elderly in our community this winter, especially our homebound members, that God's angels keep them safe in the cold and that the Holy Spirit encourage and comfort them during the long, dark days.
- Our new council that the Lord of the church might use them to plan and execute our ministry under our mission statement of giving the triune God's pure gospel in Word and sacrament to thirsty souls in our congregation, our community, and the world.



We ask all for the sake of Jesus Christ crucified for us. Amen.

Council Corner

In an effort to be transparent about topics being discussed at the council meetings each month, we will be sharing some highlights and notes from the month's council meeting in the monthly newsletter. The council encourages members to ask questions and offer insight into any of the topics being discussed.

Displaying Mission Statement - We are looking for a member who is artistically gifted to help display the new Mission Statement in the narthex. We are looking for your insight in the best way to accomplish that. Please contact one of the council members if you are interested.

Looking for Volunteers for Outreach - We are looking for 4-6 members (male or female) to join an Outreach Committee. Primary duties would be brainstorming, planning, and evaluating outreach strategies and activities. A love for Jesus, his Word, and souls is necessary; training will be provided. If interested, please contact Tim Gauerke at 414-241-996.

Ministry Plan - We have finished the Mission Statement and the next step is the Ministry Plan. Over the next months, we will be gathering and reviewing information about our congregation and our community that will help shape our Ministry Plan. We will need your input along the way. Please keep an eye out for future bulletin announcements and newsletter announcements for specific ways that you can help.



6525 Milwaukee Avenue
Wind Lake, WI 53185

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: 262.330.3399

E-mail: pastor@livingwaterlutheran.com

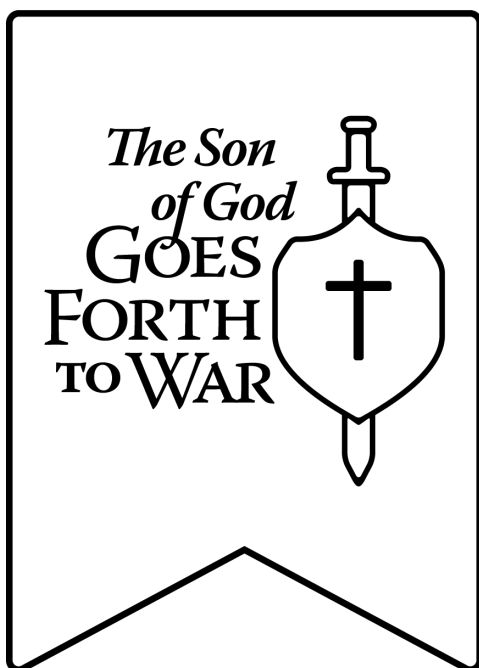
Office: church@livingwaterlutheran.com

Website: www.LivingWaterLutheran.com

2020 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, it will reach all members of our Church Council.

Mike Graffenius—President
Craig Scherbarth—Treasurer
Gary Steffens—Financial Sec.
Dan Hanke—Secretary
Jeff Roska—Head Elder
Tim Gauerke—Outreach
Jim Mastrocola—Trustee
Brian Haag—Education



Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays,
February 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25
& April 1
6:30 pm

Fellowship Dinner served beginning at 5:30 pm

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	3 5:00 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship with Communion	4 8:00 am Seniors Breakfast	5 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	6	7	8
9 8:30 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:10 am WinGS <i>Fast 15</i> Meeting 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	10 5:00 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 Elders Meeting	11	12 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	13	14	15
16 8:30 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	17 5:00 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship with Communion 8:00 pm Church Council Meeting	18	19 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	20 6:00 pm Jesus Cares	21	22
23 8:30 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	24 5:00 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship	25	26 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 5:30 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:30 pm Worship with Communion 7:30 pm Choir Practice	27	28	29