

Cross CURRENTS

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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.

God's People at Living Water

Jesus said, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." (*John 7:37,38*)

By the time you'll read this, we'll be three-fifths of the way through our sermon series on our Old Testament stained glass windows. This series is entitled "The God of Living Water," and the overall emphasis is that by better knowing the accounts in the windows, we better know our Triune God. The better we know God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the stronger faith and trust in him we'll have. But then what? Then we'll make it to heaven! Through faith in Jesus we are saved from sins, death, and the devil.

But we are Americans who love their practical tips and want to do or be something. Maybe a part of us thinks, "These accounts are good, but what does this have to do with my everyday life? I want some practical how-to's that tell me what Christians should do or how they should be." By itself, a desire to do Christian acts and



display Christian attitudes is a good thing, but we must be careful that we don't emphasize ourselves above God. If we focus more on our actions

and our attitudes than on God's actions and attitude toward us, then we're putting the cart before the horse. Or the stream before the source. We can only know who we are and what we should do if we better know who God is and what he does.

Still, for all you who are eager for some talk on sanctification (a theological term for Christian living), then get excited! Because after seeing through the stained glass what God is like and what he does for us, our worship beginning in mid-August will see what we are and what we get to do as Christians. God's our God. He has made us his people. So now what? Because God is the one who created us, keeps his covenant promises, leads us, answers us, and quenches our spiritual thirst – because God has done all of

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that – now we at Living Water are bold, rich, ready, and eager. We, God’s people at Living Water, are bold to pray just as Jesus taught us. We are rich toward God, which is better than living in the richest country ever. We are ready to do the work God has given his church until he returns. We are eager to learn his Word throughout our weeks and entire lives.

In mid-August you will see how you can put your Christian faith into attitude and action. Better said – how *God* puts Christian attitude and action in you. These godly attitudes and actions flow from within the new heart God gave you through faith in Jesus. That’s a big part of what Jesus meant when he said that out of Christians “streams of living water will flow.” Godly attitudes and actions naturally flow out of God’s people here at Living Water. Why? Because the source of our faith is in Jesus. Through trust in Jesus, your heart and life are connected to pure waters of forgiveness and love for God and neighbor. So, even as God’s people at Living Water seek to impact others downstream from us, we always make sure that we are first coming to our faith’s source and drinking from it – drinking from Jesus and the pure water of his good news.

Pastor Aaron Voss

New Hymnal Project

An update on the new hymnal was given at the Southeastern Wisconsin district worship conference by Pastor Michael Schultz who is the director of the hymnal project. The new hymnal is set for release for Advent 2021. Many of the aspects of the hymnal will be finalized this fall. In addition to the hymnal itself, many supplemental resources will be available for planning and for musicians. The new hymnal will feel very familiar to those who are comfortable with our Christian Worship hymnal—orders of service will be in the beginning, followed by psalms, and then a large section of hymns. Our church has begun setting aside funds for the purchase of the new hymnal. More information on the new hymnal can be found at www.welshymnal.com.



Off to College?

Members of our congregation who are away from home and to college are encouraged to give their contact information during the school year to our administrative assistant Janeen Roska (church@livingwaterlutheran.com). Pastor Voss is exploring ways to better communicate with and spiritually support our college and grad students. God bless the men and women of our congregation applying their God-given talents and faith in the academic world!

From the Elders

Over the past 9 months the Elders have made a concerted effort to reach out to members who had not attended worship for 4-12 weeks. This effort produced many positive conversations and offered many opportunities to build relationships. The Elders are shifting focus and will be reaching out in love to members who have not been in worship for over a year. It is important to remember that these efforts are done out of love for one another and love for Christ. We remember the parable where the shepherd leaves the 99 to find the 1. If you know a member or are related to a member who has not been to worship in over a year, please let one of the elders or pastor know. We would like to include you in our efforts to reach out in love. Please pray for this ministry as we take the Christ's love and the message of forgiveness, hope and salvation out to those who are not hearing it regularly. Let us encourage one another in love.



WinGS— Women in God's Service— will be have a short planning meeting on Sunday,

August 4 during fellowship time between church and Bible class. Grab a snack and come to the library to share your ideas and suggestions for activities for next year! This is very informal and it is open to all women of the congregation. WinGS would love your input for planning monthly activities that are of interest to you. Hope to see you all there!

Blood Drive

We are looking into the possibility of hosting a blood drive sponsored by Versiti (formerly the Blood Center of Wisconsin). This would be a great opportunity to be a part of our community. There needs to be enough interest in the blood drive in order for this to be feasible. If you would be interested in participating, please sign up in the narthex and indicate the times when you would be able to donate.



The summer concert in the park and potluck picnic will be on Sunday, August 25. The concert will begin at 2:00 pm at Lions Legend Park in Franklin. Swing Nouveau will perform sounds from the 30s, 40s, 50s, and today. Following the concert we will go to Ken and Sue Gawrisch's house for games and a potluck picnic. Bring your lawn chairs and a dish to pass. As in the past the meat (brats and burgers) will be provided. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Our Senior Moments Planning Meeting will be on Saturday, September 21 at 3:00 pm at church. Start thinking about ideas and suggestions on things for the seniors to do in the coming year. Bring snacks to share as we make our plans and set up our calendar.

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.

Vacation Bible School

Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway with our VBS this year! From the donations for suppers and snacks to the volunteers who planned and lead activities to families who came and enjoyed God's Word together to those who prayed for the work, many members of our congregation were a part of this ministry. Over the course of the week, God's Word was shared with 22 children—both members and non-members.



Other Ways to Support Our Work

Living Water is participating in the Amazon Smile program. If you select Living Water, we receive a percentage of your eligible purchases as a donation. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1975687> to register or select us from the list of organizations (please note: there are multiple Living Water churches so check for Wind Lake).

We continue to participate in the Scrip program. Members buy gift cards at face value and Living

Water receives a percentage as a donation.

Orders are due on the first Sunday of the month and typically arrive by the second Sunday of the month. E-cards are available anytime. Over \$150 has been raised for the Tuition Assistance Fund so far this year.

If you have questions about either of these programs, please contact Janeen Roska.

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” —John 14:6 (NIV)

What are you going to do after graduation from high school? Are you going to college, or will you join the workforce or military? What occupation do you want to have? Is there a family business or line of work you can join, or will you blaze your own trail? What way are you going to take?

Answering questions like these is no small matter. Weighing those decisions can be confusing and overwhelming. The pressure of the decisions can give way to worry and fear: “What if I make the wrong choice? What if my life doesn’t go the way I want?” On top of all that, the pressure of these decisions can lead us to think only about the here and now, thinking that the most important thing in life is your career or your status. We can think only about earthly life instead of eternity and heaven.

On the day before Jesus died, he was together with his disciples. He only had a little time left with them. In that time, he comforted them. In John 14, Jesus told them, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions... I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me that you may also be where I am.”

The only way that truly and eternally matters is the way to the Father’s house in heaven. Jesus has gone there to prepare a place for you to be with him in glory forever. The most important question we can ask is the one asked by Jesus’ disciple Thomas, “...how can we know the way?” Jesus gives the answer, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus is your only way to heaven. The truth that he suffered and died to save you from sin is the only truth you need. The life he came to give you is life unending in heaven. He is the Way. He is the Truth. He is the Life.

So, no matter the direction you choose to go in life, follow the Way. Follow Jesus.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, when I am confused about the direction of my life, when I am confronted with the temptations to worry about everything or to forget about you, grant me your grace and remind me you gave your life and rose again to give me a mansion in your Father’s house. Help me always to trust in you as the Way. Amen.

Prayer

This month we remember in our prayers:

- For our members who are going through illness or pain, especially those who are homebound. May God refresh their souls through the living waters of Jesus' gospel and grant their bodies healing as he sees fit until he brings home to heaven.
- For people who do not know their Savior God and are thirsting for certainty and good news in this sin-filled world. May God give us individually and as a congregation the opportunities and the courage to freely give those souls the gospel of Jesus' free forgiveness.
- For our church picnic, that God may use it to strengthen the Christian fellowship we have here at Living Water.



- For Pastor Geoff Rue who will be installed as the pastor at St. Paul's East Troy on August 18. May God grant Pastor Rue and family a smooth transition and may his preaching, teaching, and leadership there be blessed by the Holy Spirit so that our brothers and sisters in Christ in East Troy are richly served by his ministry.

We pray these things for the sake of Jesus Christ who always invites us to come to him, drink from him, and then pray confidently to him. 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.

Mission Statement - During the last two council meetings, Pastor Voss has led the council through a Bible Study to help inform the leaders on the purpose and mission of the church. The Bible Study was produced by WELS Congregational Services.

Open Forum & Voters' Meeting—The voters meeting held earlier this month was preceded by an open forum which included reports from boards of ministry. The finance committees announced very positive news about the monetary blessings God has given us. God be praised for his people's generosity! Jeff Roska

also presented a proposal to update our sanctuary's projection system. After listening to feedback from men and women alike, the voters decided to replace the current projection system and screen with a two TV plan. On each sacristy wall above the hymn boards, an 85" state-of-the-art TV will hang. The project can be completed in under a week, and we already have most of the funds needed for the project which was capped at \$11,000. If you have comments, questions, or concerns about any area of Living Water's ministry, please talk to a councilman. God bless the work he has given us to do!

August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class	5 7:00 pm Worship with Communion	6 8:00 am Seniors' Breakfast	7	8	9	10
11 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class 11:00 am Church Picnic	12 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Elders Meeting	13	14	15	16	17
18 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class	19 7:00 pm Worship with Communion 8:00 pm Church Council Meeting	20	21	22	23	24
25 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class 2:00 pm Senior Moments Concert Outing	26 7:00 pm Worship	27	28	29	30	31



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

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2019 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

Jim Mertz—Treasurer

Craig Scherbarth—Financial Sec.

Bob McGill—Secretary

Jeff Roska—Head Elder

Neil Hankwitz—Outreach

Gary Steffens—Trustee

Brian Haag—Education



Food, Fellowship & Fun at the Church Picnic

Sunday, August 11
beginning at 11:00 am