

Cross CURRENTS

Issue 14.9

September 2019

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.

Every Home a Church, Every Home a Spiritual Classroom

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. —2 Timothy 3:14, 15 (NIV)

The words above were written by the Apostle Paul – a veteran pastor – to Timothy, a younger pastor whom Paul mentored. But if you don't know more of the background, Paul might sound arrogant here. "Timothy, continue in what you learned and have become convinced of, because you know you learned it from me – Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles and arguably the greatest Christian missionary ever."

Certainly Paul was a great teacher, but he wasn't referring only to himself (if at all). The first people from whom Timothy learned the Christian faith were his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. They both had "sincere faith" (2 Timothy 1:5),

and a sign of their sincerity was the way they taught Timothy to know the Holy Scriptures so that he might be wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Paul doesn't arrogantly appeal to himself; he points to Christian *family* who impacted Timothy since infancy. Long before Paul ever met Timothy, a firm faith had been implanted into Timothy's heart as his mom and grandma taught the truths of Scripture to him at home.

That's important to keep in mind. Who has the most opportunities to teach the Scriptures to those in our family? Not the pastor or Lutheran day school teacher. It's the mom and/or dad! It's the close relatives who are always dropping by! They have the most opportunities to be a Eunice or Lois to their little Timothy. Family has the

most opportunities to, on a daily basis, display sincere faith and make the Scriptures known so that souls in their family become wise for salvation. Paul knew that family has a huge impact on spiritual education. Martin Luther emphasized it, too. In his Small



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Catechism, Martin Luther stressed that each chief part should be taught “in the simplest way to those *in the household*.”

What a blessing for those of us who know the people from whom we learned the Scriptures – Christian relatives who lived out their sincere faith by teaching us and who *continue* to live out their sincere faith by talking about God’s Word with us! Now, what an opportunity we have to live out our sincere faith by teaching the Holy Scriptures to our immediate and extended family and by continuing to talk about God’s Word with them no matter their age, even if they’ve moved out. I know many of you are concerned about the future of our youth in a sinful and complicated world. God gives the solution: double down on Christian education at home and in the family because the Scriptures make every believer wise for salvation.

Finally, what excitement is ours when we realize that we ourselves can become increasingly wiser for salvation the more we “continue in what [we] have learned!” As our worship on September 8 emphasizes the blessings of continued Christian throughout one’s life, make an effort to add another component of studying the faith throughout the week. Maybe it’s giving Sunday Bible study a try. Maybe it’s using the Take the Sermon Home questions and answers posted weekly on our website. Maybe it’s re-memorizing parts of Luther’s Small Catechism. Maybe it’s asking your pastor and congregation to offer more Bible study opportunities!

Whatever steps you take, do it not out of guilt but out of excitement. You can be excited because God promises that the more we study his Word, the more he uses it to make us wiser for salvation and more convinced in our Christian faith. Then, as each soul in each home in this congregation continues in the Word, we will see how our relationships with each other will continue to grow.

Studying God’s Word with you,

Pastor Aaron Voss

Leave the 99

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, told the parable of the Lost Sheep in Luke 15. It paints a picture of a lonely sheep wandering aimlessly away from the flock and into danger. It also tells how a shepherd will lovingly leave the 99 and search for the sheep that wandered away. When the shepherd finds the sheep, he will joyfully put it on his shoulders and bring it home. Then, he will call his friends and



neighbors to celebrate the return of the lost sheep.

The Elders, with the help of pastor and other members, will be reaching out to our members who have not been in worship for more than a year. Every step of this effort will be done out of love. It is our hope that there will be much rejoicing over the next few months as we reach out in love to share Christ's compassion, forgiveness, and mercy.

Please pray for this ministry and the members of Living Water.

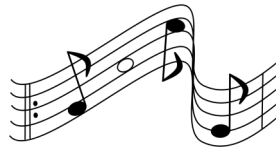
Sunday School

Sunday School starts on September 8 for students in prekindergarten through sixth grade. We are looking forward to sharing the Word of God with the children by using the ChristLight curriculum. This is a wonderful opportunity for Christian Education of the youth of our congregation—to help them grow in their faith and love of our Savior, and we appreciate the support of parents. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Brian Haag at 414-416-6332 or at education@livingwaterlutheran.com.



Children's Choir

Children's Choir is an opportunity for grade school students (grades 1-2 through 8) to join together to learn songs to beautify our worship. To fit into busy schedules, rehearsals have typically been Sunday mornings from 8:15-8:45 am. If you are interested in your child participating this school year or would like more information, please contact Janeen Roska at jsroska@gmail.com or 414-745-6385.



Important Calendar Dates

Please note these on the September calendar.

- Monday, September 2—
No Evening Worship due to Labor Day
- Sunday, September 8—
Voters' Meeting
Please see the Council Corner for more information
- Monday, September 16—
No Evening Worship



We had a group of 29 seniors take the Mailboat Tour of Geneva Lake. We learned a lot about the history of the many properties around the lake and how the mail has been delivered everyday by boat since 1916. It was a beautiful, sunny day for our boat tour, and we even got to see our mailboat jumper "miss" the boat and fall in the lake. After the boat trip, we walked to Sprecher's Restaurant & Pub for lunch. All in all, it was a fun day.

This month is our Senior Moments Planning Meeting on Saturday, September 21 at 3:00 pm at church. Bring your ideas and suggestions for things to do in the coming year. Also, bring a snack 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.



WELS Lutherans for Life

You're invited! WELS Lutherans for Life is hosting the Treasure Life fundraising events on Friday, October 11 at the Ingleside Hotel in Pewaukee (formerly Country Springs). There is no cost to attend the Luncheon or the Banquet. Guests will be given an opportunity to financially support the ministry. All funds raised will directly support life-affirming help for abortion-vulnerable mothers, a youth development program, pregnancy & parenting support, and helping people suffering post-abortion trauma. Amber Albee Swenson will be the featured speaker. She is a WELS author, speaker, and blogger. Amber is a regular contributor to the Time of Grace blog and has written for the Holy Hen House blog. Registration is required and tables will be assigned first-come, first-served, so don't delay. Learn more and register at www.eveningforlife.org, email Contact@ALife2.com, or call 414-727-8176.

Friends of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

On Saturday, October 5, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary hosts *Friends of the Seminary Day*. This annual event provides WELS members an opportunity to visit the campus and learn more about the seminary's work. The day begins with fellowship and breakfast snacks at 8:00 am. Worship follows at 9:00. Activities include presentations by students and faculty members, guided tours of the campus, and a noon meal. Secure a place by sending \$10 to Friends of the Seminary Day, 11831 N. Seminary Dr., Mequon WI 53092; or call 262-242-8104.

Women's Leadership Conference

Join us at the Women's Leadership Conference "Gifted to Lead: Growing in Your Gifts" on Saturday, October 19, 2019, from 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee. Discover your female uniqueness alongside women leaders. Hosted by the Christian Women's Leadership Circle at Wisconsin Lutheran College, this half-day conference will explore and encourage women's growth in character, confidence, competence, and commitment. To register, for more information, or to sponsor this event, visit www.christianwomenlead.com/leadership-conference-2019. To ensure you receive all conference materials, register by September 15, 2019. Final registration: October 4, 2019.

Wind Lake Volunteer Fire Department

The Wind Lake Volunteer Fire & Rescue is hosting an all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast & Raffle fundraiser on Sunday, September 15 from 8:00 am –12 noon. Proceeds from the fundraiser will help fund new water rescue equipment and boat. No tickets are required and donations are accepted at the door. Take outs are also available. Wind Lake Volunteer Fire is located at 7857 S. Loomis Road. For more information, visit their website at windlakefiredepartment.org.

Choose Your Song Carefully TEEN DEVOTION

Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on a wound, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart. —Proverbs 25:20 (NIV)

There was a sharply dressed older man. He had on his best black suit. For the last hour he stood in the church entry and greeted a long line of people who had come to say goodbye to his wife. They had told him they loved him and that everything would be okay; they reminded him that his wife was in a better place. He nodded and smiled. He knew all those things were true, but now he was just tired. He allowed himself to slump down into a comfortable chair and he stared straight ahead, wondering how long all of this would hurt.

Finally, one more visitor walked through the church doors. It was an old friend who had lost his own wife a year or so ago. He said nothing. He nodded hello and just sat down in the next chair. They sat like that in silence for a long time. It was the best thing that had happened all day. Sometimes it's enough to know that someone else understands your pain.

When one of our friends or someone we know is going through something hard, we often feel like we have to say something. We want the person to stop crying, stop panicking, stop being negative. We want to make it better. So, we try telling a joke, and it is WAY too soon. We read someone's cry for help on social media and respond with a praying hands emoji. We get under that heavy heart and try to lift it with all our might ... but it won't budge. It's as sensible as thinking that stealing your friend's big puffy jacket in the middle of winter would be a favor to them. That's what Solomon is trying to say in this proverb.

There was a younger man in his early thirties at a different funeral. The man made no attempt to hide the tears streaming down his face. He was sad for his friend who was dead. He was sad for the two sisters this dead friend had left behind. He was sad because none of this was the way this world was supposed to go. This younger man is Jesus. He's weeping at the funeral for his friend Lazarus. Even though he is well aware that Lazarus will soon be walking around alive again, Jesus takes the time to listen to Mary and Martha, joining in the sad song their hearts were singing. Jesus, as a good friend, gets down in the dust and ashes with them and with us.

What's the lesson from Jesus? Listen. Take the time to listen. Then, consider carefully what someone needs in the moment. Remember that God's design for us includes a healthy need to complete the grieving process. Sad songs can be just what we need at certain times. At other times, a different song is good to direct them to the words and promises of God.

Choose carefully the song that you "sing" to your hurting friends. Ask the Spirit for wisdom to discern what their heart needs to hear at the right time. Don't be afraid to get down in the dust and ashes with them. Don't be afraid to sit with them and walk with them in their pain.

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, only you can teach me how to be a truly good friend. Give me the wisdom to know how to lovingly help those who are hurting. Amen.

Prayer

Lord, hear as we pray:

- For our members who are students and heading to school, especially those beginning new levels and leaving home for college, that God protects them, cultivates their minds through learning, and gives them joyful social interaction.
- For our congregation's Christian education efforts – especially Sunday School and catechism – that God, as he has promised, uses his Word to strengthen the faith of all who study here at Living Water so that they may be wise for this life and the life to come.
- For our members who are teachers and workers in the education field, that God uses them to bless our youth and society as they discover the wonders of God's world and that God work through them to display the love Christians have for all their neighbors.



- For the family of our member Fern Jahns, who entered eternal life on August 16, including our members Bev (Fern's daughter) and Jake Lois, that God comfort them with the truth that Fern is in heaven with her Savior and that they will be reunited with her either when they fall asleep in death or when our Lord returns.

We pray these things for the sake of Jesus Christ about whom the Holy Scriptures testify, who teaches us to know the Father, and who sends his Holy Spirit to guide us in all truth. 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.

At its August meeting the Council moved closer to finalizing two major tasks it has undertaken this year.

Projector System—First, the Council entertained a motion to approve a local bid for our projector replacement. The bid's professional opinion is *not* to square off the sacristy walls but to leave them at the current angle. While the Council is confident in that recommendation, it is different than what the voters approved in June. Therefore, for the sake of good order and communication, the Council is calling for a special, one item voters meeting

on September 8 to entertain this bid with a layout that keeps our angled walls.

Mission Statement—The Council's work on a new congregational mission statement has neared completion. The Council aims to adopt a new statement at its September meeting and present it soon after to the congregation. This mission statement will help evaluate, communicate, and coordinate all ministry at Living Water, and this months-long process has already helped do that.

As always, feel free to reach out to any councilman with questions or comments!

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> 8:30 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class	<i>2 Labor Day</i> NO Evening Worship	<i>3</i> 8:00 am Seniors Breakfast	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> 8:30 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Voters' Meeting 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	<i>9</i> 5:00 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 Elders Meeting	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> 8:30 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	<i>16</i> NO Evening Worship 8:00 pm Church Council Meeting	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 3:00 pm Senior Moments Planning Meeting
<i>22</i> 8:30 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	<i>23</i> 5:00 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> Fall Clean Up Day
<i>29</i> 8:30 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	<i>30</i> 5:00 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship					



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

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

Fall Work Day

Saturday,
September 28

beginning at 8:00 am



Work Day
a t C h u r c h