

Cross CURRENTS

Issue 13.3
March 2018

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.

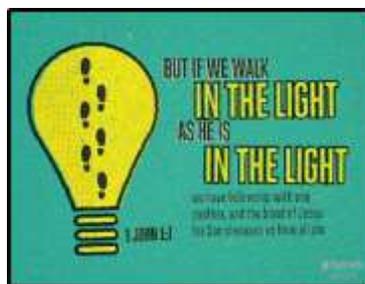
A Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Daylight Savings lies in my top five favorite days each year. This year, it falls on Sunday, **March 11, and it can't get here soon enough.** I absolutely *love* getting that extra hour of daylight back in the evening, even it means sacrificing a bit of sleep one night (unless, of course, you watch one less episode on Netflix and go to bed an hour earlier on March 10). As a student, I found myself to be sharper doing evening homework after Daylight Savings because the sun was up later. Now, as an adult, I look forward to grilling my supper in twilight as opposed to flashlight. The extra evening daylight affects my mood, my performance, and my choice of activities.

No wonder, then, Jesus used that description of himself. Jesus said, **"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).** His disciple John, who heard Jesus say that, echoed that thought in one of his letters when he wrote, **"If we walk in the light as [God] is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" (1**

John 1:7). More than we need an hour of extra light in the evening, you and I need the spiritual light Jesus provides. Without it – without *him* – the darkness negatively affects us both now and for eternity. Without Jesus, we live in a long night of spiritual darkness where we are bitter with God and with others. Without Jesus, we live in a long night of spiritual darkness where we are lethargic and anything but alert. Without Jesus, we live in a long night of spiritual darkness where we choose thoughts, words, and actions that put more and more distance between us and God. Without Jesus, we are destined to an eternal night of darkness in hell.

Praise God, though, that his Son Jesus breaks that darkness with his light of life! And you do not have to do a thing. **You don't even need to something** as small as setting a spiritual clock an hour ahead. Instead, Jesus shines in our lives with a pure and **beaming light. It's not a life that we** need to fear, as if Jesus shines it to expose our darkest thoughts and deeds. No! He



THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

P.2 Care Chain

P.3 Holy Week Worship

P.4 Senior Moments & WinGS News

P.5 Teen Devotion

shines his light to show us his cross. This Lent we're watching Jesus suffer for us in the darkness of Gethsemane's Garden, in the shadows of the temple trial, and in the miraculous darkness that covered the earth on Good Friday. But Jesus wants you to see all of Lent with the clear light of the gospel: this is done for you to "purify [you] from all sin" and to rescue you from your spiritual darkness! And, not far off in the distance, we see a light coming from somewhere – from a grave. But more about that next month.

For now, marvel at the fellowship you have with God in the light Jesus gives you. Marvel also at the fellowship you have with all the other Christians who walk in this light as you do, especially your friends here at Living Water. Fellowship remains a big part of what we do as a congregation. When we're having dark times in our lives, we want to be reminded and strengthened of our fellowship with God through Jesus, but we also want to strengthen the fellowship we have with one another. It's why we have snacks and beverages after every Sunday service. Hang a right out of the sanctuary to snack and chat with someone next Sunday! Come and have a meal with fellow Christians before our midweek Lenten services. There is no better way to enjoy the light than by experiencing it with others. Just make sure you set your clocks ahead on March 10 so you're not late for that fellowship on March 11.

May Jesus' forgiveness light your way this month and this Lent! Serving our Savior with you,

Pastor Aaron Voss

Care Chain Helps Serve Members

Living Water's women's group, Women in God's Service (WinGS), has been working on a care chain to help provide support to fellow members who are in need, whether it be from sickness, injury, or the like. The hope is, with members' permission, to link the care chain to that member and see what kind of help could be offered in that situation. It would be just one way that WinGS could do good to all people, especially to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). Going forward, keep this service in mind for yourself, should you ever think you need it. It can be beneficial for both the receivers and the givers.



Blankets made by WinGS to share comfort with those in need

As Tracy Hankwitz, president of WinGS, noted, " Last month several women gathered to make blankets for those who are ill and need the comfort of God's love. We enclosed a felt heart inside of each blanket then together we laid our hands on that heart as one of us prayed for whoever will receive the blanket. It was such a moving experience. In those moments of prayer, we weren't just women of faith, we were sisters in Christ."

Save the Dates

Pictures for the new church pictorial directory will be taken on Thursday, April 26 – Saturday, April 28.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY March 25

Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 29
6:30 pm

with the celebration of Holy Communion

This is my body...This is my blood....Given for You.



GOOD FRIDAY

March 30
6:30 pm
Tenebrae Service

Tenebrae is a Latin word meaning darkness.
“Darkness came over the whole land...for the sun stopped shining.” (Luke 23:44-45)



EASTER SUNRISE

April 1
6:30 am

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. (Luke 24:1)



EASTER FESTIVAL

April 1
9:00 am

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!” (Luke 24:5,6)





Senior Moments hosted the Ash Wednesday Lenten supper again this year. Thank you to everyone who helped set up, serve, clean up, and also to everyone who brought all the great food!

We will be going to Grace Lutheran Church in downtown Milwaukee for a tour on Tuesday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m. Following our tour, we will go to lunch. If you have restaurant suggestions, talk to Ken Gawrisch or Julie McGill. We can make arrangements to carpool as we get closer to the date. Watch for a sign-up sheet the end of March. Thank you to Ken Gawrisch for setting this up.

Our annual fish fry will be Friday, May 18, at 5:00 p.m. We will be going to Doc's on the Fox again this year. Put it on your calendars now.

Another date to put on your calendars is Sunday, June 10, at 3:00 p.m. We will be going to Belle City Brassworks Concert at Union Grove High School. This is always a great concert with a light lunch afterward.

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

We will be hosting Easter for Kids on Saturday, March 24 from 10:00 am –12:00 noon. Easter for Kids is open to children ages 3-10. Invite neighbors, bring your grandchildren or any other children that you know. Registration forms can be found in the narthex or you can register online. Many volunteers are needed to make this annual event a success! Please consider helping out for a few hours that morning. Donations of individually wrapped candy or small trinkets are also needed for the Easter egg hunt.

Rummage Sale

WinGS will be hosting the annual church rummage sale on Saturday, April 7 from 8:00 am –3:00 pm. We need your items! Please save any of your treasures that you no longer need. Items can be dropped off at church. Please watch for dates and times in **upcoming bulletins**. **If you can't get your** items to church, please call Sherry Dahl at 262-271-4948 to arrange a pick up time. We will also need help with marking items, setting up, helping that day, and clean up. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.

Canvassing

Join us on Sunday, March 18 as we go door to door in area neighborhoods. We will be handing out invitations to Easter for Kids and Holy Week services. We will be meeting after Bible Class.

Loneliness - TEEN DEVOTION

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Loneliness is not fun. In fact, it's awful. It's one of the worst feelings anyone can experience. You have probably felt lonely at some time in your life. Being alone itself is no fun. Yet suffering alone through trouble, hardship, break ups, broken friendships, temptations, and anything in between feels even worse. In fact, it can be bad for us.

The devil comes after you with the temptation that church isn't important and you don't need to go. He wants you to think that there is no one who cares for you. He wants you to believe that you are absolutely alone. The devil also tricks you into thinking that you can handle life alone. He wants you to think you can handle temptation alone. He tricks you to think you can walk through life alone so that you might even purposely isolate yourself.

But here's the truth: You're not alone. In fact, it's good for us to seek out Christian friends to help us face life and the trouble it brings.

King Solomon wrote the passage that we focus on today. He was a man familiar with popularity and admirers. He was the wealthiest king of Israel. He was the wisest person to ever live. Foreign kings and queens sought his advice. If anyone had it all, it was him.

But Solomon was also a man familiar with great loneliness and sorrow. Read the book of Ecclesiastes. Despite all his wisdom, riches, power, and influence, he felt alone. He realized the importance of community, the importance of being together. You can read it in these words. One person is overpowered easily. Two people can actually defend themselves. Two people will help each other out. Two people can keep warm. But three? That's even better. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

Solomon is making the point that community is key in your life. The most important community is your Christian community. This Christian community is most easily and readily found at church. When believers come together, they can endure great hardships. They can survive great atrocities. They can withstand the worst things imaginable. They can face temptation.

Why? Not just because they have each other, but because they have their God and Savior Jesus. **This Christian community has God's Word.**

You have a community of fellow believers who suffer through many of the same things that you do. They face the same temptations and struggle with the constant battle against sin. This community gathers at your church and is there to help you. You are the two that defend each other, who keep each other warm. This community warns us about sin, false teachers, and the devil. This community comforts us with the truth that God is with us, God forgives, and Jesus has already won the war by rising from the dead.

The people aren't even the most important part of this community. Solomon talks about a cord of three strands. The third strand is the God who protects you, forgives you, provides for you, and carries you in times of weakness. God is the one who is your strength and comfort.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me see the blessings of your Church and its community. Help me rely on you and your grace, strength, and mercy to get through hardships and trials. Amen.

Prayer LIST



"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." John 16:24

- Pray for leaders who serve the Lord Jesus before they serve themselves.
Pray for the future of America that we may be led by God-fearing leaders and have citizens who love, honor, and respect God and his Word in the home, schools, workplace and all of government.
- Pray for children that they honor their parents and those in authority. Pray for parents not to exasperate their children but to love them and raise them in Christian homes and by Christian examples.
- Pray for unbelieving friends and neighbors, that their eyes be opened to know Jesus. Pray that someone will be sent to them so they may know **God's grace**.
- Pray for those straying from their faith that they **will come back to God's saving grace**. Pray that the Spirit will put believers in their lives.
- Pray for those who are rebelling, that they leave their rebellion and seek a life serving and glorifying God.
- Pray for those in financial trouble asking God to grant them his peace and wisdom to use all his gifts to his glory. Pray that they may realize how temporary worldly wealth is and grasp how wide **and deep God's love is**.
- Pray for those who are struggling with health issues, loss of a loved one, and any other family issues. Pray that they have the strength to persevere and know the love of God.

Living Water STATISTICS AND NUMBERS

Year to Date Membership Changes		Membership Statistics		Worship Attendance				
Transfers In	13	278	Baptized		Sun.	Mon.	Total	Spe- cial
Profession of Faith	1	245	Communicants	1/28	106	16	122	
Adult Confirmation	0	114	Family Units	2/4	74	13	87	
Transfers Out	0	108	Average Weekend Attendance	2/11	70	18	88	
Released	0			2/14				68
Baptism	0			2/18	85	8	93	
Confirmation	0			2/21				47
Death	0							
Net Gain/Loss	14							
Membership Changes								
Bruce & Kathi Boziel							Transfer In	
Offerings								
	General	Special	Education	Total				
Total Given	\$28,573	\$2,010	\$110	\$30,693				

March 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2	3
4	8:15 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	5 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship with Communion	6 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	7 5:30 pm Fellowship Supper 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	8 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	9 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved	
11	8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 11:15 am WinGS Meeting	12 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Elders Meeting	13	14 5:30 pm Fellowship Supper 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	15 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	16 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	17
18	8:15 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	19 5:15 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm Jesus Cares 7:00 pm Worship with Communion 8:00 pm Church Council	20	21 5:30 pm Fellowship Supper 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	22 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	23 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	24 10:00 am Easter for Kids
25	8:15 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	26 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship	27	28 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	29 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion	30 6:30 pm Good Friday Worship	31



6525 Milwaukee Avenue
Wind Lake, WI 53185

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

Office: church@livingwaterlutheran.com

Website: www.LivingWaterLutheran.com

2018 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.

John Wiederhold—President
Jim Mertz—Treasurer
Craig Scherbarth—Financial Sec.
Bob McGill—Secretary
Jeff Roska—Head Elder
Neil Hankwitz—Outreach
Gary Steffens—Trustee
Brian Haag—Education

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

6:30 pm

March 7

March 14

March 21

Fellowship meal at 5:30 each week.



JESUS CHRIST
IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST
