

Cross CURRENTS

Issue 13.5
May 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.

May Days

“This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” –Psalm 118:24, (NIV)

How does your calendar look in May? What are some special days in the month that you’re looking forward to? Mother’s Day is on Sunday the 13th, so I hope you’ve made plans to honor your mother. A long weekend awaits you at the end of the month with Memorial Day, the unofficial start of summer! Along the line, some of you may be celebrating the end of the school year, if you’re connected to a school which ends that early. After a long winter, all of a sudden we have some special days popping up on our calendars that give us joy and a reason to be glad!

Can I throw three other dates in May that can give you – and our entire congregation – reasons to rejoice and be glad?

Thursday, May 10 – Exactly forty days after we celebrated Easter, the Christian Church around the world rejoices in Jesus’ ascension. Since our Savior completed his mission to save us from our sins, he went back

into heaven and now rules and protects his Church and all things from his heavenly throne. Before he returned to heaven, he promised to one day take you and me to be there with him.

Sunday, May 20 – Ten days after celebrating ascension, we have two reasons to celebrate! First, it’s Pentecost. Fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he sent the Holy Spirit, just as he promised, to his believers in a miraculous show of audio visuals – sound like a rushing wind and something that seemed like tongues of fire over people’s heads. We have that same Holy Spirit living and working among us whenever we hear or read the Bible.

Secondly, May 20 is also Confirmation Sunday. We will accept Christopher Roska into communicant membership since he’s completed formal instruction in God’s Word following Martin Luther’s Small Catechism. The same Holy Spirit that was at work at Pentecost has strengthened Chris’ faith through God’s Word, and we’ll rejoice as he expresses that faith in public and communes next to us in the future! Our member Paxton



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Kwiatowski will also be confirmed this spring at Christ Lutheran Church in Big Bend. Paxton is being confirmed with his schoolmates there before transferring his communicant membership here. We're glad to welcome these young men to the Lord's Table and to continue encouraging them in their constant Christian education.

Finally, **Sunday May 27** – On the church calendar, the Sunday after Pentecost is Trinity Sunday. Our brains hurt as we contemplate and study the mystery that our God is triune – three distinct persons in one deity. It doesn't make sense logically, and we'll never be able to fully understand it this side of heaven. But we believe this truth, and our faith rejoices that this Triune God is the God who created us, who redeemed us from sin, and who keeps us in the true saving faith. With a God like that, how could we not be glad each and every day?

And that's the psalmist's whole point in 118:24. Those who trust in the triune God for their free and full salvation – they have reason to rejoice and be glad each and every day. Each and every day is a gift from God, and we get to live in the joy and gladness of forgiveness of sins. Sometimes, we're extra joyful, like when we're celebrating everything our mothers have done and are doing for us. Or when we watch young adults publicly promise to remain faithful to their ascended Lord until death. Or when we're reminded that the Holy Spirit is our personal counselor and guide, given to us directly by the Father and by Jesus. Or when we gratefully remember the sacrifices so many men and women made to give us the freedom to worship that Triune God.

So, whatever special days you're celebrating this May, always remember that for Christians, each and every day is a reason to rejoice and be glad. Each day – not just American holidays or church holy days – is a gift that God that he made for you. A day made for you to remember that you're his forgiven child and to live out that joy among others.

Rejoicing with you in our risen and ascended Savior Jesus Christ,

Pastor Aaron Voss

Sunday School

The last day of Sunday School for this school year is May 6. It has been a great year! We were blessed to have 5 wonderful teachers that led Living Water's children in Christian Education each week. Overall, we had 12 students participate this year in lessons coming from the Christ Light curriculum.

The children also decided to donate their offerings to financial aid support at Martin Luther College which is our ministerial education college in New Ulm, MN.

It's truly a blessing to have an opportunity to share God's Word with the children of our congregation, who will be the future leaders in the church. We would not be able to do that without the dedication of teachers who put extra time to prepare lessons and interact with the kids each week. A big THANK YOU to Katie Wollerman (prek-k), Abby Moldenhauer (prek-k), Veronica Haag (1st-3rd), Chris Mastrocola (4th-6th) and Kristen Moldenhauer (4th-6th)! Thank you also to Jeff Roska and Ryan Moldenhauer who assisted filling in as needed too! Thanks also to Pastor for opening devotions and to Janeen Roska for leading the kids in song. When you see them, make sure to say Thank You.



Eighteen members of our Senior Moments group toured Grace Lutheran Church in downtown Milwaukee in April. We learned that this was one of the three founding churches of the Wisconsin Synod in 1849. The present church was designed by Armand Koch, who also designed Milwaukee's City Hall. It was built in German Gothic Revival style with gorgeous stained glass and ornate woodwork and was dedicated in 1901. We were all impressed by the unusual altar with a baldachin, or canopy, which makes the pastor's sermon sound louder. The church now has more than 1200 members and is a vital part of downtown Milwaukee. After our tour of Grace, we went to lunch at Mader's German Restaurant. We all enjoyed good, old-fashioned German food and fellowship. Thank you to Ken Gawrisch for planning this wonderful day!

Our next outing will be our annual fish fry on Friday, May 18, at 5:00 p.m. We will be going to Doc's on the Fox in Waterford. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex so we can let Doc's know how many to expect.

On 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! There is also a light lunch afterward.

We are planning our summer concert in the park and potluck picnic. It will be on a Sunday afternoon in July or August. We'll publish the date and details as soon as we get them.

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.



WinGS is sponsoring two different ways that you can share God's love with families in need.

Baby Bottle Blessings

WELS Lutherans for Life operates a pregnancy medical clinic providing help, hope and healing. This is done through free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, consultations, material support, and parenting education. Protect a child's right to live and be loved by filling a baby bottle with loose change, cash, or a check. When you donate, you are an integral part of this ministry bringing **the love of Jesus** to people and **Life** to babies in the womb.

Diapers for Tomorrow's Choice:

We will also be collecting diapers (size 4 and 5) and baby wipes for Tomorrow's Choice Family Resource Center located in Waukesha. This WELS organization provides free resources such as diapers, wipes and children's clothing for families in need. They also share God's Word with their clients as well as a place that shows them unconditional love. The majority of the clients are immigrants from other countries who lack daily supplies needed to provide for their families. Please consider donating diapers, wipes or new/gently used children's clothing up to size 14-16. All items can be placed in the bassinet in the narthex.

Both will begin on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13 and run until Father's Day, Sunday, June 17.

Jesus Cares Student Shares His Faith

This month we interviewed John, who resides at James Cares in Kansasville.

What do you like to do?

- "Read my Bible."

What is your favorite activity at Jesus Cares?

- "The Bible."

What have you learned at Jesus Cares?

- "That Jesus loves me."

What has Jesus done for us?

- "Died for us."



Jesus Cares Completes 10 Years

Our final class for this year will be held on Monday, May 21 at 6 pm in the fellowship hall. We will be reviewing our theme from this year "I am the way the truth and the life," crafting, singing & sharing the love of our Savior with each other. Please feel free to stop in - everyone is al-



Living Water STATISTICS AND NUMBERS

Year to Date Membership Changes	
Transfers In	13
Profession of Faith	1
Adult Confirmation	0
Transfers Out	0
Released	0
Baptism	0
Confirmation	0
Death	0
Net Gain/Loss	14

Membership Statistics	
278	Baptized
245	Communicants
114	Family Units
114	Average Weekend Attendance

Worship Attendance				
	Sun.	Mon.	Total	Special
3/25	116	13	129	
3/29				60
3/30				74
4/1 Sunrise		40		
4/1 Festival		167		
4/8	117	17	134	
4/15	51	36	87	
4/22	103	18	121	

Offerings				
	General	Special	Education	Total
Total Given	\$ 74,812	\$ 13,175	\$ 210	\$88,197

"It's Game Day. You Know What To Do..." - TEEN DEVOTION

Every day [all the believers] continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. – Acts 2:46

Don't forget your team

It's game day. You know what you have to do, so you get out on the court or field to face your opponents. Then you realize something's wrong. You're all by yourself. The other team is there, looming over you like a dark storm cloud from the other end of the field. However, not one of your teammates can be seen. Not on the court. Not on the bench. Nowhere. You have no one on your side.

Do you ever feel like that is your spiritual situation? Maybe you feel like the only Christian at your school facing the whole science department that teaches evolution as truth. Maybe you're the only one at your job who doesn't want to take a longer break than allowed. Maybe you're the only one at a party who doesn't want to drink because you're underage.

In those situations, you may feel alone and unable to handle the pressure. You know his promise to always be with you, yet the present situation makes you question God's presence.

That's one of the reasons God surrounds us with the church and puts other Christians in our lives. God does not want us to be alone. He wants us to be together.

God equips your Christian friends to help you through all kinds of life's problems, earthly or spiritual. Whether you have questions about the Bible or about your homework, whether you're trying to pick a college or what to wear to school tomorrow, Christian friends can help because they (like you) know where to find answers to life's critical questions. Christian brothers and sisters can remind you of God's promises and give encouragement, comfort, or even correction from God's Word. And not only do you get to enjoy these benefits, but to share them! God calls you to be that encouraging, supportive Christian friend to others too.

Most importantly, when you do crack under the pressure and give in to sin, your Christian friends are there to point you to Jesus. Your Christian friends are there to show and give you Jesus's forgiveness. His perfect life and innocent death paid the penalty for all your sins. That's the message you need to hear most of all. That's also the message your friends need to hear from you most of all.

Do you have Christian friends? Thank God for them! Surround yourself with them. Then be one for them!

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you so much for blessing me with Christian friends so we can encourage each other to stay close to you. Forgive me for the times I haven't been the friend you want me to be. Thank you for being the perfect friend. Amen.

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

Prayer



Ephesians 1:16-23 (NIV)

¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

Pray for all who are sick, recovering from surgery, or going through cancer treatments that the Lord will be with them, strengthen them, heal them should it be his will. Pray also for comfort, support and rest for their caregivers. Give thanks for all who have had successful surgery and those now in cancer remission.

Give thanks for all who generously volunteer at Living Water. So much is done that we need to be thankful for: clean bathrooms, communion set up, banners, IT support, music, boards, and Sunday school teachers, just to name a few.

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Pray for Pastor Voss that he will be encouraged in his service at Living Water. Pray that he will keep God's message pure. Pray for all our missionaries here and abroad that the Holy Spirit will guide them and that their message will be heard, accepted, and grow faith. Pray for all new confirmands that they will be filled with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so they may know Jesus better and live their faith daily.

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

Pray that the Holy Spirit will open our hearts and enlighten us to the hope that is ours as sons and

daughters of the King. Pray that we will use the different gifts he has given each of us to further his kingdom here on earth.

¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

All power comes from God. Pray and believe that this power is available to us through faith and prayer. Pray for all people in power positions: pastors, teachers, mayors, legislatures, governors, senators, congressmen, and the president. Pray that they seek direction from God and follow it. Pray that we all understand that this power is available to all of us any time of the day, when we call upon God for help.

²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Thank and praise God for all he has done for us and for all he will do for us. Christ is still risen. He is risen indeed! Give praise to God forever and ever!

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	2 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Ladies Bible Study	3	4	5 Spring Cleaning Day
6 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 11:15 am WinGS Meeting	7 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship	8	9 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study 7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	10	11	12
13 8:15 am Children's Choir 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class	14 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Elders Meeting	15	16 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study 7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	17	18 5:00 pm Senior Moments Fish Fry	19
20 8:15 am Children's Choir 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class	21 6:00 pm Jesus Cares 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Church Council	22	23 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study 7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	24	25	26
27 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class	28 <i>Memorial Day</i> NO Evening Worship	29	30	31		



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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

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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

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who had their picture taken for the new church photo directory. Special thanks to the committee members who worked behind the scenes to help everything run smoothly while the photographers were here and who are helping to prepare the book.

Calling All Graduates

Celebrate your graduation with your church family. If you are graduating this May or June, please send your name, school, and degree (if applicable) to the church office. The information will be included in next month's newsletter.