

# Cross CURRENTS

Issue 13.6  
June 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.

## Conducting Ourselves according to God's Grace

**"Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so not according to worldly wisdom, but according to God's grace" (2 Corinthians 1:12,13).**

There is a rhythm to our various calendars. In the business world, work ramps up as deadlines need to be met before a fiscal year ends and a new one begins. Schools, of course, go hard for nine months before slowing down greatly over the summer. Even the sports world has rhythms. The Bucks are done, and the Packers don't start for another few months. The only thing calling for your sports allegiance is Bob Uecker as he calls the Brewers.

The church year is similar. It, too, follows a certain rhythm over the course of its calendar. Every year, starting in late November or early December, we begin the first half of the church year. It's called the "festival" portion of the church year. You know the festivals during this time: Christmas, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost. This part of the calendar centers our attention on Jesus Christ – who he is and what he did in

our place in order to save us from our sins. But soon after we celebrate Pentecost, the church year transitions into a period with a different focus. True, we never forget about Jesus and what he's done for us, but there's a different rhythm once we hit the Sundays after Pentecost. The second half of the church year emphasizes how God works through his Word to create our faith, to strengthen it, and then to produce fruit of our faith.

The Apostle Paul is a prime example of that emphasis. God created faith in his heart in an extra special conversion. (Read about it in Acts chapter 9.) God then strengthened Paul's faith and sent him out to bear fruits of his faith as a missionary. Throughout that time, and especially in a morally-corrupt city called Corinth, Paul conducted himself according to God's grace as he learned about it from God's Word. God's love, forgiveness, and grace motivated and empowered Paul to conduct himself in a way that was completely different than the rest of the world.



**SERMON SERIES**

### THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

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We, too, want to conduct ourselves according to God's grace after seeing it in action during the first half of the church year. To help us do that as we begin this second half, we will have a worship and sermon series based off parts of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. This series will be entitled "Conducting Ourselves according to God's Grace." The goal is that God uses his inspired words through Paul to strengthen our faith and move us to bear fruit in the world. What kind of fruit? How about relationships with each other here at church and relationships with those in our personal lives that are marked by "the holiness and sincerity that are from God"? That would be a great place to start each and every day! Such conduct is possible only by God's grace, and not by worldly wisdom. In response to the love God has given us through faith in Jesus, we want to conduct ourselves in a way that reflects our sincere thanks to him.

So, wherever your calendar rhythm is at, I invite you to worship with us throughout the month of June and hear God's encouragement through Paul to conduct yourself according to God's grace. I also encourage you to bring a friend along to the series. God's grace will be at work through his Word. Trust in Jesus will be strengthened, and our conduct will follow.

Serving you according to God's grace in Jesus Christ,

Pastor Aaron Voss

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## Ladies Bible Study

Join other ladies for a Bible Study on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Each evening, we focus on a few Psalms. Whether it is a familiar psalm verse or one less well known, the Psalms speak to just about every life situation. The study continues on June 6, 13, & 20. All ladies are welcome—whether you are able to attend many or just one! If you have questions, please contact Jenilee Voss.



We had a group of 24 seniors at our annual May Fish Fry. Everyone had a great time and a good meal at Doc's on the Fox in Waterford.

Our next event will be Sunday afternoon, June 10th. We are inviting everyone - NOT JUST SENIORS! - to the Belle City Brassworks "Swing'n Brass" concert at Union Grove High School. This is always a great concert and includes a light lunch afterward. The concert begins at 3:00 p.m. It is free, but you do need a ticket to attend. Sign up in the narthex if you are interested in attending. If you have any questions, talk to Boyd Recknagel or Julie McGill.

The Senior Moments' summer concert in the park and potluck picnic will be Sunday, July 22. The concert begins at 2:00 p.m. We will be enjoying 40's and 50's swing music by Swing of Pearls. The concert will be held at Lions Legend Park in Franklin. Following the concert we will go to Ken and Sue Gawrisch's house for games and a potluck picnic. Watch for a sign-up sheet later in June.

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.

## Report from Church Council

It has been awhile since we updated members on our church sign project. In early 2018, we reached out to two companies and told them of our signage issue. Our church property is lower than the highway and no one can read our sign while traveling at 55 mph. Recent visitors stated that they did not realize that there was a church on Hwy 36.

Each company gave us information on what it would take to become noticed by the traveling public. Moving the sign will be important. Raising the sign will also be of great importance. In addition, a large LED sign will be mandatory, so that our message can be read easily.

What we learned is Living Water will need to construct a sign that is much larger than other churches in the area. A 20 foot sign is suggested and should be moved about 15 feet closer to the road. The increased size needed to solve our viewing problem will be of considerable cost.



The Church Council would like to hold a special voters' meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> after church. While we will not be voting on the purchase of an LED sign, we will present information on the cost of procuring a new sign. At the same time, we want to give everyone a big picture view of upcoming church needs. Due to use and age, we need to recognize that costly repairs may be needed in future years. We want to have a plan in place on how to prepare for these costs, while still looking forward to building a new highway sign. Now is a great time to start the planning. In our meeting, we will be discussing the following items including some estimated costs:

- Future replacement of our roof
- Carpet replacement

- Replacement of the parking lot, including the gravel parking lot in front of our garage
- Replacement of our five furnaces and air conditioners
- New church sign
- New picnic shelter/prayer garden project
- Possible tuition increases due to new families with young children, looking forward to attending a Christian Day School

We do not want to scare anyone by this long list. Our intent is to make sure that we have money put aside that can address these future needs.

At the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will give everyone a general look at our needs and ask your thoughts on how you would like us to proceed. Might you want us to start saving for capital improvements in our 2019 budget? Would you like to save a little more money before purchasing a new sign?

Please mark down the date of June 24<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. Your thoughts will help the church council as we plan for the future. Our goal is to get you thinking about this over summer. We will convene once again after our summer vacation time and discuss this in more detail.

As always, please feel free to talk to any one of our council men to ask questions, gather information, or give your comments. They are appreciated.

John Wiederhold

### Child Care

Child care will be provided during the Voter's Meeting. Teens – please consider volunteering to help watch the younger children. To help us plan, please sign up in the narthex or email [church@livingwaterlutheran.com](mailto:church@livingwaterlutheran.com) by Sunday, June 17.

## Thanking God for 62 Plus Years on the Bench

On June 12, 1955, a week after she was confirmed, Kay Cleven was once again a part of the worship service. This time, she wasn't standing in front of the congregation to confess her faith. Instead, she was sitting on a bench at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in New Lisbon, Wisconsin, to play the organ during worship. It would be the first of countless times Kay used her organ playing to help fellow Christians proclaim the gospel and praise God in song.

Earlier this year, Kay quietly stepped down from the organ bench after nearly 63 years of playing organ in worship, which included playing weekly at St. Luke's throughout her high school years. When she married her husband Duane and moved to Kenosha, she worked into the organist

rotation at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church. When Abiding Word in Somers was just beginning, Kay was there, too, playing the organ along with others at the new congregation. Finally, Living Water was privileged to have Kay play for many services over the years.

Her playing was an integral part in the way so many Christians heard God's Word in song and led them in singing his praises. Her service is also an example of how each of us can use whatever gifts we have to serve others and serve God out of love and thanks for our free

salvation. On behalf of ourselves at Living Water, and all the Christians who benefited from Kay's service over the years, we thank God for her gifts and the humble way in which she selflessly shared them. To God alone be the glory!



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## Jesus Cares Celebrates

Our ministry “wrapped up” our 10th year at our May class. Students, caretakers, and teachers continue to share their faith and celebrate all that God has blessed us with. We learned that Jesus is “The way, the truth and the life” – that he is with us every day, leading and guiding us in our daily living. We were blessed with 14 students attending class this May, and will be continuing to grow in the fall. Our class schedule will be changing to a format of meeting September – May. We are looking for more volunteers to assist in many facets of this ministry. If you are interested in becoming a part of this important ministry at church, please contact Tracy De Angelis at 414-427-6431 or pzabgr@wi.rr.com.

## Jesus Cares Student Shares His Faith

This month we interviewed Scott who resides at Affinity Home in Wind Lake, and has been attending Jesus Cares for a few years.

What do you like to do?

- “Listen to Music, make money, swim”

What is your favorite activity at Jesus Cares?

- “There are a lot to choose from “

What have you learned at Jesus Cares?

- “Many things”

What has Jesus done for us?

- “Died for our sins”





## **"We Are Witnesses** TEEN DEVOTION

*You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are his witnesses of this.*  
— Acts 3:15

It's hard to talk about Jesus and share our faith. We live in a world that largely doesn't want us to talk about Jesus. We live in a world that doesn't want to hear what God says. I can't imagine how hard it was for Peter to look at the Jews and say, "You killed the author of life..." But then, listen to what he says next: We are God's witnesses.

As we read the story of Jesus, we often hear about how the disciples struggled to trust him even when he was right there with them physically. Time and time again, Jesus showed them how powerful he was. He showed them that he was trustworthy. But even after his resurrection as he is about to ascend to heaven, some of them doubted, and in the past they had proven to be afraid.

But on the day of Pentecost, God gave the apostles the boldness and strength to speak about his Word. They went out on that day unwilling to be stopped.

God's promise for you is the same. He promises that he will empower you to tell other people about what God has done. Jesus himself said, "The Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say" (Luke 12:12). The Holy Spirit will help you to share God's Word and tell people that you are a Christian.

Remember: we're witnesses. The witnesses in a court trial tell the story of things that happened as best that they can. They testify about what they've seen and heard. That's what we as witnesses are to do. We tell people what we know and believe. We tell people what the Bible says about Jesus. We're witnesses!

Yes, it's hard to talk about Jesus and share our faith. People don't often like what we have to say or want to hear it. But we have nothing to hide. We don't need to be ashamed. Jesus is always with us, and his Spirit will give us both the boldness and the words. We are witnesses of what God has said and what Jesus has done. Talk about it!

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, give us the strength to speak and the words to say to those who don't believe in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and give us your power to spread the Word. Help us to put all our trust in you as we live today. Amen.

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

## Prayer



Lord Jesus, teach me to love others as you have loved me. Help me be more patient and alert to the needs of others, and always ready to serve them with the gifts you have given me.

Lord God, hear me as I speak to you about those near and dear:

For all who travel: keep them safe.

For all who are sick: heal them and make them strong.

For all who are in pain: allow them to have relief.

For all who are discouraged: let someone bring them cheer.

For all who mourn losses: grant them understanding and recovery.

For all who feel their hopes have been dashed through death: be the strong arm they need

through Christ, who suffered death and rose again.

Dear Lord, let them know that nothing can separate them from your love in Christ Jesus.

## 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	1
Death	0
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>14</b>

Membership Statistics	
278	Baptized
246	Communicants
114	Family Units
115	Average Weekend Attendance

Worship Attendance			
	Sun.	Mon.	Total
4/29	97	16	113
5/6	98	30	129
5/13	99	20	119
5/20	110	17	127

Offerings				
	General	Special	Education	Total
Total Given	\$ 91,754	\$ 13,675	\$ 260	\$105,689

Budget		
Year-to-Date Budget	General Offerings Given	Difference
\$ 90,384	\$ 91,754	\$ 1,370

# June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>3</i> 8:20 am Prayer Group <b>9:00 am Worship with Communion</b> 10:30 am Bible Class 11:15 am Flower Planting	<i>4</i> <b>7:00 pm Worship with Communion</b>	<i>5</i> 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	<i>6</i> 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study	<i>7</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>10</i> 8:20 am Prayer Group <b>9:00 am Worship</b> 10:30 am Bible Class	<i>11</i> <b>7:00 pm Worship</b> 8:00 pm Elders Meeting	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>17</i> 8:20 am Prayer Group <b>9:00 am Worship with Communion</b> 10:30 am Bible Class	<i>18</i> <b>7:00 pm Worship with Communion</b> 8:00 pm Church Council Meeting	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i> 8:20 am Prayer Group <b>9:00 am Worship</b> 10:30 am Voters Meeting	<i>25</i> <b>7:00 pm Worship</b>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>



6525 Milwaukee Avenue

Wind Lake, WI 53185

[www.LivingWaterLutheran.com](http://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:** 262.330.3399

**E-mail:** [pastor@livingwaterlutheran.com](mailto:pastor@livingwaterlutheran.com)

**Office:** [church@livingwaterlutheran.com](mailto:church@livingwaterlutheran.com)

**Website:** [www.LivingWaterLutheran.com](http://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](mailto: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

# VBS Coming Soon

## July 9-12

## 6-8 pm

Meal served before-hand each evening.

Children in **preK through 6<sup>th</sup> grade** are invited to join us for our annual

VBS. The 2018 series will show how God never goes back on his plan to save his people from their sins and how that promise motivated the Old Testament prophet Daniel to courageously live out his faith, even in political exile! Check the church website soon for registration. Many volunteers and donations are needed, and lists will be made public soon. If you want to help, please contact Lori Moldenhauer (coordinator) or Brian Haag (education chairman).

