

Cross CURRENTS

Issue 13.7
July 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.

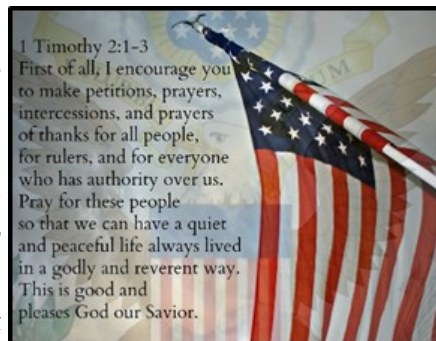
God Bless America? Pray for That!

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior" (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

How do you celebrate Independence Day? As a nation, we have the conventional options: parades, grilling, fireworks, and spending time outside. You probably do at least one of those things and maybe have your own special traditions. Whatever we do on July 4, we reflect not only that day in 1776 but also all the current blessings we enjoy in America. We socialize and we reflect.

But do we pray? I must confess to you: prayer is often low on my July 4 itinerary, if it even shows up at all. That's not good. After all, as a citizen of this country, I could spend the whole day praying my thanks to God for all the unique rights, privileges, and comforts I enjoy in the United States of America. We have road systems that let us travel up north or over to a friend's backyard barbeque. We have public services

that get rid of our grill out trash and public servants who protect us from crime and fireworks that get out of control. We have the freedom to post whatever we want from our July 4 parties and the freedom to meet in God's house four days later. The list could go on, but I think you get the idea.



On top of thanking God for what he gives us in this country, we also have reasons to pray to God on behalf of our country, asking him to bless its people and improve its situations. And that's really what Paul is

getting at in the verses above – to pray for other people, especially those who serve us in government. We can pray for local, state, and national leaders. We can pray for local, state, and national issues. In fact, we ought to! We ought to pray for our leaders. We ought to pray for situations because it reflects the confidence that our Savior God is in control of everything. It also reflects our concern for our nation.

And, lately, there seems to be a heightened concern for our nation's wellbeing and

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direction. Because we know that there will always be sin in this nation and there will always be sinful people in government, we Christians will always have at least some concerns about the nation. We may even publicly join others in expressing shared concerns. But Christians also have another tool. They don't simply post on Twitter or Facebook; they make requests to their Savior God. Christians don't simply call in to talk radio; they talk to their Savior God in prayer. And Christians never dishonor their leaders; they make intercession for them to their Savior God.

Christians pray to God for our country and her leaders because we trust that God is the one who ultimately has the power to let us "live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." We hope and literally pray for peaceful and quiet lives so that we can best serve God and serve our neighbors out of thanks for what our Savior God has done. He gave us spiritual freedom from sins through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, so we want to use our political freedom to share that good news with others.

So, this Independence Day, add prayer to your list of things to do. Maybe it add it to your morning routine as you sip coffee by the lake. Before you eat the meats hot off the grill, pray with in front of the family and friends you invited over. Pray thanksgiving for the blessings God gives us in this nation. Pray for the leaders at our local, state, and national levels. In fact, pray "for everyone," as Paul said - citizens in our country, those who want to live here, and also those who live in other countries around the world. Pray that we Americans can continue to live peaceful and quiet lives. Pray that more and more people, regardless of citizenship or race, may come to know the spiritual freedom God our Savior gives through faith in Jesus Christ.

God bless America, and God bless you this Independence Day. Serving God our Savior with you,

Pastor Aaron Voss



We enjoyed a great concert by the Belle City Brassworks Brass Band on a rainy Sunday afternoon in June. Following the concert we enjoyed sandwiches and cookies and visiting with one another. We're already looking forward to next year's concert!



Our next activity will be a summer concert and potluck picnic on Sunday, July 22. The concert will be held at Lions Legend Park in Franklin and begins at 2:00 p.m. The group "Swing of Pearls" will perform 40s & 50s swing music. Following the concert we will go to Ken & Sue Gawrisch's house for games and a potluck picnic. Bring your lawn chairs and a dish to pass. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Mark your calendars for our Planning Meeting and Fish Boil on September 29th. The planning meeting will start at 3:00 pm at Living Water. We will then go to North Cape Lutheran for the Fish Boil. Start jotting down ideas for activities for our seniors for the coming year.

District Convention Highlights

Did you know that Living Water is part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a church body of nearly 1,300 congregations who are united by a common faith in Christ's saving love?



Did you know that WELS is divided into districts and that Living Water is part of the Southeast Wisconsin District?

Did you know that the Southeast Wisconsin District just celebrated its centennial?

Almost 450 pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and lay delegates attended the 51st biennial Convention of the Southeastern Wisconsin District at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee June 12-13. The convention acknowledged God's grace and commemorated the centennial of the first convention of the district that was held in 1918. Here are some convention highlights:

As it did one hundred years ago, the convention centered around God's Word, both in worship and in a written essay. Worship services used Scripture texts that were used at the first convention, and the essay was a re-presentation of the essay presented at the first convention. Through worship and essay, the convention focuses on how God's grace and his Word are the constant tools for strengthening and growing his church, whether the year is 1918 or 2018.

Many reports were given about the work district and synodical representatives are doing on behalf of congregations. One important report was an update from the WELS Hymnal Project. The synod is in the process of publishing an updated hymnal to be released in Advent 2021. This hymnal will include orders of service (new and old), psalms, hymns (new and old), and

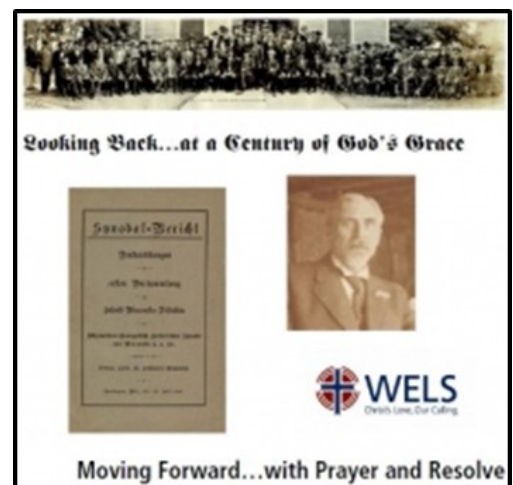
other resources to help us focus our worship around God's means of grace, his Word and sacraments. Living Water has already started budgeting to purchase the hymnal when it is available. More information can be found at www.welshymnal.com.

The delegates elected the following pastors as district officers. Besides serving their home congregations, these pastors serve the district at large in administration, doctrinal oversight, and congregation's calling processes, among other things. These men are Pastor David Kolander (Brookfield, WI) as District President, Pastor Joel Leyrer (Wauwatosa, WI) as first vice-president, Pastor Michael Woldt (Jackson, WI) as second vice-president, and Pastor William Carter (Brownsville, WI) as district secretary.

As part of the convention, our Western Lakes Southern Circuit re-elected Pastor David Kuehl of St. Paul's, Muskego as our circuit pastor. The circuit pastor serves as the pastors to the pastors in the circuits and as a point of contact for the congregations in each circuit.

You can find more news about the work of the convention, including the resolutions that were adopted, at www.sew-wels.net/2018convention. Our congregation thanks Craig Scherbarth for representing us as our lay delegate! In addition, we offer praise and thanks to God for the fellowship we have with congregations in our district and the ministry our district and synod leaders do on our behalf.

To God alone be the glory!



Open Forum Meeting

Sunday morning, June 24th, an open forum meeting was held. Pastor Voss opened our meeting with prayer. The discussion items were:

- **Big picture of upcoming needs**
- **Church sign**
- **What is the best way to proceed?**

Our church was built in 2002. Since then, we have performed regular maintenance through the help of many volunteers and our annual budgets. At our last church council meeting, it was felt that it was time to plan and prepare for some upcoming major repair items.

- **\$60,000 - New Roof - (35 to 40 year roof, estimated life 17-20 years remaining)**
- **\$35,000 - Flooring - Carpet & Tile (estimated carpet life, 5-15 years remaining)**
- **\$35,000 - Furnaces & A/C - Qty. 5 - (estimated life, 4 - 9 years remaining)**
- **\$90,000 - Church Parking Lot (no life estimate given, lot is showing signs of wear)**

Total Estimated Costs = \$220,000

It was suggested that we create a capital improvement fund and set aside a sum of money yearly to help us prepare for these repairs. Our members agreed. The actual fund amount will

be discussed when we present the 2019 budget to the members in the November/December voters' meeting.

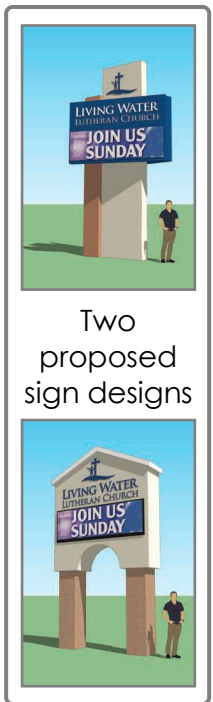
The new church sign project was the next item of discussion.

In the process of trying to choose a cost effective solution, we discovered that we need to purchase a more expensive sign than any church in the area. The cost difference was because of two factors. Our church property is much lower than the road and we are on a 55mph highway. In order to catch the attention of a fast moving driver, we require a much larger sign.

Two approaches were presented, a retrofit proposal and two new sign proposals.

- **\$28,000 - \$40,000 – Retrofit our old sign with red led panels**
- **\$78,000 – Build a new taller sign (20') and move it closer to the road**

Members urged the church council to seek more bids for a new taller sign that brings us closer to the road. They chose not to retrofit the old sign. We will open the bidding process to additional vendors in the next week.



Two proposed sign designs



Thank you so much to everyone who donated diapers, wipes and even some adorable boys clothes to Tomorrow's Choice Family Resource Center in Waukesha. They were overwhelmed with our gifts. The program director shared that a family that frequents the center had their boys baptized in May!

Baby Bottles – Thank you to everyone who returned the baby bottles filled with change or checks for WELS Lutherans for Life. I do not have a total amount of money that was collected yet, because there are still a few bottles that need to be brought back. If you still have a baby bottle, please return to church as soon as possible. Thank you!!

Who is the Holy Spirit? TEEN DEVOTION

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

—John 14:26

1993 was a long time ago. Twenty-five years ago to be exact. That was the year in which I publicly confessed my faith and was confirmed. My confirmation was a long time ago.

I sit with my kids as they grow up and are confirmed too, and I find myself learning it all over again. I forgot some things over the years. I look back at my life recall those moments in high school and college when I wandered away from my confirmation promises. I remember my sins and my failures. God's grace means so much more to me now. I sure do need it!

Sometimes I even wonder how I'm still a Christian at all. I've done things that aren't things that Christians should be doing. Science and reason pose challenges to my faith. Pressure from my peers and the lure of temptations seem to constantly pull me away.

I wonder if you, dear teen, can relate. Your faith is constantly attacked by atheism, science, or just seemingly good arguments. Your morality is constantly challenged by pressure from friends or the lure of sex, drugs, or drink.

Are you going to make it as a Christian?

Yes, and Jesus tells us how. He makes an astounding promise to his disciples, that he's going to send the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit would remind them of the things they once learned but would soon forget. This Holy Spirit would teach them everything God wanted them to know. This Holy Spirit would convict them when they sinned and forgive them when they turned back. This Holy Spirit would be with them and walk with them through life. He would work to keep them in the faith until he finally would raise them from the dead on the Last Day.

That, dear teen, is God's promise to you. He promises this same Holy Spirit to you. He promises that this Holy Spirit whom God gave you at your baptism will be with you all the time. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of what Jesus has taught you up to this point. He will assure you of God's forgiveness. He will keep you in the faith and will finally raise you from the dead in the Last Day.

And so, twenty-five years from now you can look back at your life and marvel at how God has kept you in the faith. He'll do it. That's his promise.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, send me your Holy Spirit and keep me in this faith. Keep temptations far away from me. Keep teaching me. Keep reminding me of your Word and promises. And so, Lord Jesus, keep me in the faith. Do whatever it takes so that I remain your child until heaven. Amen.

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

Prayer

Confident of our heavenly Father's invitation to pray to him through Jesus Christ our mediator, we have opportunity to pray...



- For our nation, that the King of Kings would keep America safe from danger, that he would guide the decisions of our leaders to be God-pleasing ones, that he would watch over all those who travel for the holiday, and that he would bless those who serve us in the military and in government.
- For our Vacation Bible School, that God may bless the volunteers, the teachers, and the teaching of his Word. Thank God for the hours and energy our volunteers have put into this ministry of Living Water.
- For our homebound members, that God send his Holy Spirit to comfort them when lonely and remind them that through faith in Jesus

the Triune God lives in the hearts of each believer.

- For all our brothers and sisters in Christ who are dealing with sickness including Bill Bartholomew (kidney dialysis and blood cancer), that God grant relief to their pain, improve their condition according to his will, and strengthen their faith in the life to come which will be free of pain, sickness, and disease.

We commit these people and these situations to the mercy and wisdom of God, humbly but confidently praying to him.

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
Net Gain/Loss	14

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

Worship Attendance			
	Sun.	Mon.	Total
5/27	91		91
6/3	89	22	111
6/10	97	23	120
6/17	94	28	122
6/24	94	27	121

Offerings				
	General	Special	Education	Total
Total Given	\$ 113,034	\$ 14,080	\$ 351	\$ 127,465

Budget		
Year-to-Date Budget	General Offerings Given	Difference
\$ 112,980	\$ 113,034	\$ 53

July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class	<i>2</i> 7:00 pm Worship with Communion	<i>3</i> 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	<i>4</i> Waterford Parade	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class	<i>9</i> 5:00 pm VBS Dinner 6:00 pm VBS 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Elders Meeting	<i>10</i> 5:00 pm VBS Dinner 6:00 pm VBS	<i>11</i> 5:00 pm VBS Dinner 6:00 pm VBS	<i>12</i> 5:00 pm VBS Dinner 6:00 pm VBS	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class	<i>16</i> 7:00 pm Worship with Communion 8:00 pm Church Council Meeting	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i> 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class	<i>23</i> 7:00 pm Worship	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i> 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class	<i>30</i> 7:00 pm Worship	<i>31</i>				



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

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Pastor's Cell Phone: 262.330.3399

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

Join us for VBS!

July 9-12

6:00—8:00 pm

Supper served beginning at 5:00 pm

preK-6th grade

For more information and to register
visit www.livingwaterlutheran.com/VBS



Bring a friend!