

Cross CURRENTS

Issue 13.8
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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.

How Do You Explain Our Church's Name?

Like any good Midwesterner, I recently took a summer vacation by going "up north." Midwesterners must take advantage of the warm weather while it's here, and it's a Midwest pastime to take advantage of the summer weather by going to, in, by, or on water. Which is exactly what I spent a lot of time doing on vacation. I dove into an inland lake off a pontoon. I picked my jaw off a boat deck as I rode along the majestic Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore along Lake Superior. I gawked at the open water of Green Bay as I drove along Highway 41. I stood next to Tahquamenon Falls, the second largest waterfall this side of the mighty Mississippi.



Standing next to that fifty foot waterfall made me think about our church's name, Living Water. Why? That waterfall is both a source of life and a sign of

life. Those falls were a source of life to many in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. They helped loggers transport timber so they could collect paychecks. But the Tahquamenon Falls are also a sign of life. Hearing the water's roar and seeing the gallons rush over the edge let you know that this is not some stagnant, nasty, dead creek. It's alive and working!

A source of life and a sign of life. Those two concepts are behind our name, Living Water. It's not just an homage to the many lakes and rivers around here. It's a reminder of important passages from our Savior's mouth. He is the one who gives us eternal life. We receive eternal life as God creates and strengthens faith through his Word, especially the gospel, the good news about Jesus. As Jesus himself told the woman at the well, **"The water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life"** (John 3:14). Jesus and his Word are the source of eternal life.

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But Jesus and his Word also create signs of life in us that flow out of us. As Christians, we dare never become stagnant pools of disgusting sludge and sin. Instead, we actively live out our trust in God and our hope for eternal life! Jesus also declared, **“Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him”** (John 7:38). Like a rushing river cresting into a massive waterfall, our faith is always producing more and more good works. These good works constantly flow out of our thanks for Jesus and his forgiveness. Jesus and his Word produce signs of spiritual life within us.

A source of life and a sign of life. To find both, you can go to, in, by, or on the many bodies of water around here. You can also find both about six and a half hours northeast of Wind Lake at Tahquamenon Falls. Or you can save yourself a drive and *spiritually* find both here at Living Water. Every worship service, every Bible class, and every Sunday School session will give you the source of eternal life – Jesus and his gospel. Then your Savior and his good news will create within you a faith which rushes out of you, pouring out your thankfulness to God by serving him and serving your neighbors. Through his Word, God creates eternal life and produces signs of spiritual life here at Living Water.

I hope you are able to get away to your favorite lake or river this summer and enjoy God’s gift of creation. More importantly, I pray that you and I are always making time to be refreshed and renewed by God’s gift of living water – Jesus Christ our Savior and the Word he has given to us.

Serving our Savior with you,

Pastor Aaron Voss

Sunday School

Sunday School will begin again this fall. It is held after Sunday morning worship during the time that Bible Class is held. It is open to children in grades 4K-6th grade. Registration forms will be available soon—both in the narthex and on our website.

We are looking for volunteers to help teach this year. If you are willing to help out in the teacher rotation, please call, text or e-mail Brian Haag (414) 416-6332 or education@livingwaterlutheran.com.



Voters' Meeting

A Voters' Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 12 following worship. There will be an update on the sign project. Three different bids will be presented, and we will vote on which bid to pursue.

See you there!

Financial Blessings

We are just past half way through 2018. Looking at the first 26 weeks of the year, we have average weekly offerings of \$4,519. Looking at our budget, our weekly needs are the same, \$4,519. So, we are right on track for meeting our budget. If we compare 2018 to the first 26 weeks of 2017, we see the average weekly offerings were \$4,246. That puts us ahead of last year's giving by \$273 per week or \$7,098 for the 26 week period. Thanks be to God for his continued blessings!

A financial summary can be found in the monthly newsletter. This month's summary can be found on page 6. The numbers shown in the summary are through July 22.



Relive the music of the 1960s as The BriTins play hits from The Beatles. The **free** concert will be held on Wisconsin Lutheran College's campus. The concert begins at 6:30 pm on Thursday, August 9. Food sponsors will be serving at 5:00 pm. Bring a lawn chair (or a blanket) to sit on. For more information about the concert, visit www.wlc.edu/2018-The-BriTins. All are welcome to come enjoy fellowship and music.

Mark your calendars for the Planning Meeting and Fish Boil on September 29. The planning meeting will begin at 3:00 pm at church. We will then go to North Cape Lutheran for the Fish Boil. Start jotting down ideas for activities for the upcoming year.

Midweek Meals

During the church seasons of Advent and Lent, there are additional worship opportunities on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Before each of those services, a free fellowship supper is served beginning at 5:30 pm. These suppers provide a wonderful opportunity for members to enjoy visiting with one another. These meals also may make it easier for families to attend midweek services.



Planning for these meals will begin soon. Hosts are needed to help the meals run smoothly. Hosting includes planning the menu, setting up the fellowship hall, starting coffee, or recruiting others to help with this. Hosts are not expected to bring all the food!

If your group or family is interested in hosting one of the meals, please contact Janeen Roska at church@livingwaterlutheran.com or 414-745-6385.

Shoreland Lutheran High School News

OPENING SERVICE

Let us praise and thank God for the blessings of students, teachers, staff, and a new year of grace! On Wednesday, August 22, at 8:00 am, please join us for Shoreland's opening service. We will install two new teachers. God's blessings to them and all of the Shoreland faculty as they serve Christ in their calling.

SING IN THE SHORELAND LUTHERAN CHORALE

The Shoreland Lutheran Chorale will be begin its third season in late September. Eight weeks of rehearsal will culminate with the festival concert on Sunday, November 18th. If you would like to enjoy some great music and wonderful fellowship, join us for our new season on Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 at Shoreland. We offer music that is challenging but inspiring. More information to follow. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bauer at bauert@slhs.us.

Upcoming Brass Concert

Grace Lutheran Church in Waukesha will host the Soli Deo Gloria Brass Choir, under the leadership of Dr. Patricia Backhaus, in a fun evening of music by J.S. Bach & Friends. Come and sing some great hymns that were written by this master Lutheran composer. Valerie Floeter will play baroque organ pieces on Grace's Schantz organ. Some of our woodwind friends join us to conclude the concert with Bach's stunning Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring. Friday, August 10th at 7:00 PM at Grace-Waukesha, 700 Beechwood. Freewill offering.

WELS Lutherans for Life

You are invited to the SOUL Ride motorcycle event this August 18th! Enjoy a scenic ride through Southeastern Wisconsin while supporting the life-saving mission of WELS Lutherans for Life! The day will include morning refreshments and lunch, along with spiritual encouragement and fellowship with the supporters of the ministry. Participants will meet at Morning Star Lutheran Church in Jackson at 9:00 AM. Not close to Jackson, WI? Ride Virtually and still make a difference! Funds raised from the SOUL Ride will directly support clients of WELS Lutherans for Life. To register and learn more visit soulride.org or call (414) 727-8176.



Christian Family Solutions

Christian Family Solutions is currently looking for an individual to fill a full-time position (32 hours) as a Client Support Specialist in our Germantown counseling office. Primary responsibility would be to provide professional reception services to clients and visitors both in person and on the phone, including scheduling, payments, and routine office responsibilities. For a full job description and to apply, visit www.ChristianFamilySolutions.org and click on the Employment tab or call 262.345.5530 .

Does Obedience Lead to Blessing? TEEN DEVOTION

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

– **Philippians 4:11-13**

This month we're looking at a statement that people claim comes from the Bible: 'Obedience always leads to blessing.' It sounds good and can even be understood in a true, biblical sense. Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and obey it," Jesus said (Luke 11:28). God gives us his commands because he wants to bless us. He wants us to live his way in this world. That is the best way to live. It is a blessing to live God's way in this world.

But what if I do obey God, and it doesn't turn out well? What if I obey God and honor his will, but I lose my job because of it? What if I'm living a life of obedience and get made fun of? Or I get cancer? What if I'm doing all the right things, but my life is one hardship after another?

This saying falls apart when obedience doesn't lead to blessing, but instead leads to hardship.

The apostle Paul grappled with this in his life. After his conversion to Christianity, Paul devoted himself to doing God's will. Even then, he had to admit, "There is no one righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10). Sometimes his life went well. He was well fed and had plenty of God's gifts to enjoy. But there were other times when his life did not work out so well. He was hungry. In fact, Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians from a table in his jail cell. Things didn't turn out well at all.

But Paul gives us the secret to a blessed life. He tells us how to be contented and happy whether the circumstances of life are good or not, whether they are pleasant or unpleasant. "*I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*" Paul knew that the secret to a blessed life was found in the gifts that Jesus gives, in the rule that Jesus exerts, in the protection that Jesus offers.

This is where we find contentment and blessing. *Jesus gives us gifts every day*, exactly what he wants us to have. He never shorts us (even if we think sometimes that he does). Jesus always gives us the right gifts and the right amount of them because he is good. *Jesus rules over our lives*. Yes, he rules over the good times and the hard times. He rules over them for our eternal good, because he wants us to spend an eternity with him. *He protects us from danger*, especially danger to our souls.

Sometimes there are good times. Other times there are hard times. But our Father rules over both the happy and the sad times. He rules over our lives for our good and promises to give good and perfect gifts to us. He does it all, not because we obeyed, but simply because he is our good and gracious Father in heaven.

Prayer: Dear Father in heaven, thank you for ruling over my life for my eternal good and not for my harm. Help me to understand that you always bless me and do good for me, even if it means that hard things enter my life. You are good at all times, O God. Your will is always good for me. Amen.

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

Prayer



One way that our spiritual life flows out of us is through our prayer life. Confident that the God we trust in wants to hear from us and that he answers our prayers for his believers' benefit, we have a chance to pray...

- For our congregational fellowship opportunities in the near future, that God would use them to foster a sense of family and unity among us.
- For those traveling for summer vacations, that the Lord of hosts sends his angels to give them safe travels and that he give them rest and relaxation for the bodies and minds.
- For all our members who endure chronic sickness, disease, or pain, that the Holy Spirit would continue to work in them a spring of faith that wells up to eternal life and trusts in Jesus, our Good Shepherd, to guide them

physically and spiritually through their trying times.

- For ourselves, that the Lord of the Church make us aware of all the opportunities he gives us to let good works flow out of us in service to him and others and that he give us the ability and the strength to do those good works.

We commit these people and these situations to the mercy and wisdom of God, humbly but confidently praying to him. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty, I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life" (Revelation 21:6).

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
116	Average Weekend Attendance

Worship Attendance			
	Sun.	Mon.	Total
7/1	102	17	119
7/8	126	25	151
7/15	113	26	139
7/22	75	20	95

Offerings				
	General	Special	Education	Total
Total Given	\$ 130,741	\$ 14,705	\$ 701	\$ 146,147

Budget		
Year-to-Date Budget	General Offerings Given	Difference
\$ 131,057	\$ 130,741	(\$ 316)

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:15 pm Jesus Cares Planning Meeting	2	3	4
5 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class	6 7:00 pm Worship with Communion	7 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	8	9	10	11
12 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Voters' Meeting	13 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Elders Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class	20 7:00 pm Worship with Communion 8:00 pm Church Council Meeting	21	22	23	14	15
26 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Church Picnic	27 7:00 pm Worship	28	29	30	31	



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

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

Sunday, August 26

following the worship service

Meat, Corn-on-the-Cob, Juice,
Coffee & Water provided.



Church Picnic

Bring a dish to pass.

Grills are also
needed.

Sign-up in the
narthex.

New Member Welcome Brunch

Sunday, September 9

following the worship service

Get to know our new
members

Ham & Rolls
provided

Bring a dish to pass.

Welcome
to our Church