

Cross CURRENTS



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.

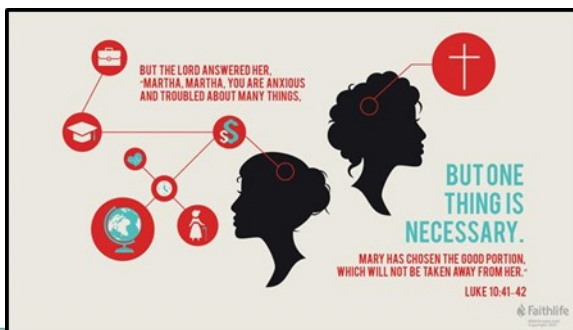
One Thing Is Needed, But Many Resources Are Available

The pressure and stress inside Martha had been building up. Then it all boiled out of her. “Jesus. Mary is just sitting there listening to you, and I’m doing all the prep work! Tell her to help me!” In an effort to be a good host to her Savior, Martha got distracted by earthly errands. Jesus reminded her, “Few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:42, NIV 2011). Our Savior’s point? We truly need God’s Word. Most of the other stuff we think we need in this life can actually end up being distractions.

I bet there are parents and guardians out there right now who can relate to the stress Martha was feeling as she tried to finish up what she thought was needed for Jesus’ visit. As schools start, parents and guardians have to run around to get what teachers say their students will most definitely need – pens, pencils, markers, paper, binders, folders. It’s stressful trying to find time – and money – to run

around and get those needed things. It’s stressful, but, for the most part, they are relatively easy to find. Plenty of stores have the supplies, and you can even order them online! The teacher gives a specific list of items that are needed, but you have different ways you can get them.

Now, let’s connect that to the story of Mary, Martha, Jesus, and God’s Word in Luke chapter 10. Jesus acts as our spiritual teacher, and on his teacher’s list of needed things, God’s Word is at the top. This is what is needed for a Christian to make it safely through this life and into eternal life. Jesus even promises that time spent studying the Bible will not be taken away from a Christian. It will produce benefits in the Christian’s spiritual education.



Still, just as school parents feel stressed shopping for their children or Mary felt trying to prepare for Jesus, you might feel stressed trying to figure

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out how you'll get your needed spiritual supply of God's Word. The good news is that while there is one thing needed – God's Word – you have plenty of different ways you can get it in your life. I offered practical suggestions in an August sermon, but I'd like to offer some again here.

1. Read God's Word. The Bible is God's inspired Word to you. Pick a favorite book of the Bible to review, a less familiar one to dive into, or a reading plan to follow. As you read, ask yourself four questions to help guide your study: 1) What is God teaching me to believe in these verses? 2) What personal sins do these verses lead me to confess to God? 3) How are these verses encouraging me to live? 4) What do these verses lead me to pray for? The Holy Spirit will work through your study time and strengthen your faith!
2. Read Martin Luther's catechisms. Luther's catechisms teach six key parts of the Christian faith by using Bible passages with questions and answers. Many of you studied his Small Catechism when you were, well, younger and smaller. When was the last time you reviewed it? Once you do, think about reading his Large Catechism which covers the same content but for a more mature audience.
3. Pick up a publication from our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). Meditations booklets in the narthex give quick daily devotions. Forward in Christ is a monthly magazine that has devotions, Bible studies, and stories of how God is working through his Word and his people. You can even get digital devotions sent straight to your inbox once you sign up through www.wels.net. Peruse our church's library! I suggest taking a look at the People's Bible series.
4. Attend Sunday Bible class. You think it's fun having coffee and food after worship? It gets better when you add an hour studying and talking through God's Word with your brothers and sisters in Christ! Your time won't be wasted as God strengthens your faith, as you encourage others, as you are encouraged by them, and as you discover ways to express your faith.
5. Talk to me, your pastor. I would love to talk with you and help offer more personalized suggestions for your personal devotion and Bible study, based on what you are looking to get out of it.

Parents have plenty of different ways than can get what they need for back-to-school shopping. Martha had an easy way to get what she needed spiritually. The Word of God made flesh (John 1:14) was literally in her house! In 21st Century America, we have even more ways of getting access to the one thing we need as we go back to school, head into another week of work, or head into another month of retirement. We have so many ways to access God's Word. May God help us avoid distractions and bless our personal study of his Word!

Studying God's life-giving Word with you,

Pastor Aaron Voss

Monday Night Worship Schedule

Please note there will be NO Monday night worship on Monday, September 3 due to Labor Day. There will also be NO Monday night worship on Monday, September 17 due to Pastor attending a symposium.

Handbell Choir Needs You

Please join us, beginning Wednesday, September 5, as a new season of ringing starts. If you are confirmed (or older) and enjoy making music to glorify our Lord, then come and join us. Practices are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm. Questions? Ask Tracy Hankwitz.

Children's Choir

Children's Choir will begin rehearsals again soon. Any child who is able to read (1st-2nd grade) through 8th grade is welcome to join. Rehearsals will be on Sundays from 8:15-8:45 am. Please watch the announcements for more information. If you have questions, please contact Janeen Roska.



Trunk or Treat Fest

Would you help reach out to families in our church neighborhood? What if you could do it from your car in the church parking lot? Join other Living Water family members on October 27 for Trunk or Treat as we welcome people from our community to a good old-fashioned family fall festival. Look for more details on you can become involved coming soon!

Voters Select New Sign

In an effort to boost one area of our outreach, the August 12 voters meeting selected a proposal to pursue for a new church sign, and a contract has been signed. The chosen bid comes from Michael's Signs and is priced around \$76,000 before electrical work. This proposed sign stands at 25 feet and has a message board of 10'3" x 5'5". Feedback from the open forum encouraged putting a WELS identifier on the sign and, besides moving the 15 feet closer to the road, also moving the sign further north. Council has been tasked with putting the final touches on the design and location and was given a a dollar limit not to exceed. The next step is to get the required variance from Racine County, which we hope to have done at their meeting on October 2. We're confident we will receive the variance at that time, giving us a very good chance of having the new sign installed and running by Christmas. Thank you for your feedback, gifts, and prayers! May God use this physical structure as just one way Living Water strives to build personal connections with souls and share God's good news with them!



Our annual Planning Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 29th, at 3:00 p.m.

Please bring your ideas and suggestions for activities for the coming year. If you can't make it to the meeting, give your suggestions to Bob or Julie McGill. Immediately following the planning meeting we will go to North Cape Lutheran Church (Hwy 45, just south of 5 Mile Road in Franksville) for a Fish Boil. This is an all-you-can-eat meal which includes boneless, skinless ocean cod smothered in butter, jacketed potatoes, boiled carrots and onion, homemade dessert and a beverage. Advanced tickets are \$10. We would like to get the tickets in advance and make reservations for our group, so please sign up on the sheet in the narthex and get the money for your tickets to Bob or Julie McGill.



The first Women in God's Service (WinGS) meeting will be held on Sunday, September

16 at 11:30 am. It's a chili dump luncheon. We will have a short devotion, a chance to get to know each other better and discuss some exciting changes for this year. All ladies confirmation age and above are welcome. Questions? Ask Kathi Boziel at kboziel@gmail.com, text her at 262-219-2923 or call her home phone at 262-895-2038.

New Member Welcome Brunch

Get to know our new members a little bit better at the New Member Welcome Brunch on Sunday, September 9. This will take the place of Bible Class and Sunday School. Hot ham and rolls will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Hope to see you there!

Mission and Ministry Sunday, October 14

Did you know that the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, of which Living Water is a member, has been doing mission work among the Apache people for 125 years? That mission work is just one of ministries Living Water's offerings help support, but on October 14 we'll focus learn more about this specific ministry and Christian mission work as a whole. Pastor Tim Dolan, who has served the Apache mission in various ways, will share God's Word with us and connect it to the work God is doing in the Southwest. A free will door offering will also be collected to help support this mission. Mark your calendars for the special worship service and Bible class happening on that day.

A Trip to Malawi

This October, Neil Hankwitz will be spending 10 days in Malawi. It will be an awesome opportunity to not only share the Gospel message, but meet and work alongside my Malawian Kingdom Workers co-workers. I'll be honest! I'm a bit nervous, since this is my first time traveling abroad. Still I know God will watch over me as I serve him. Please pray about supporting this ministry, with your prayers and finances and partner with me in my mission project! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Does God give more than you can handle? TEEN DEVOTION

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. – 1 Corinthians 10:13

This month we're looking at a statement that people claim comes from the Bible: "God won't give you more than you can handle."

When I was growing up my mom gave us a mantra to encourage us to keep going. She would say, "You can do it if you try, go Nate, go." She'd sing it again and again. She wanted us to get it into our heads that we should persevere, that we should never give up, that we should push on and forward no matter how hard it got. That's good advice. That's even Scriptural. God's Word would urge us to persevere and push forward in faith with the strength God provides, no matter how hard or bleak it seems.

As with anything good, sayings like this get perverted. This "You can do it, if you try" mantra turns into "you can do anything you set your mind to." That, simply stated, is not true. There are certain things in life that we simply cannot do. Should we make a list? It isn't hard.

There are things in this life that you just can't handle. You can't control the events of this world. You can't even control some of the events of your own life. You couldn't stop that tire from going flat. You couldn't stop your mom or dad from getting sick. You couldn't control whether you kept or lost that job. There are things in this life that you just can't handle. It's too much!

There are certainly things in the spiritual world that you can't handle. That's what Paul is getting at in the verse for this week. He's talking about temptation that comes to all people; he even says, "God will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear." That's where people get the idea that God won't give us more than we can handle.

That's not exactly what Paul says. Notice carefully what he says, "When you are tempted, HE..." Paul isn't saying that you'll have the strength to escape this and the strength to handle it. Paul is saying that God does and God will. God will provide the strength. God will provide the escape. God will handle it.

In many cases, that is exactly God's purpose. When temptation comes, God would have us fall to our knees unable to handle it and pray, "Lead me not into temptation." When trial and hardship comes, God would have us fall to our knees unable to deal with it and pray, "Deliver me from evil." God would have us turn to him for strength and help; he will give it!

Things will come into your life that are far more than you can handle. In your weakness find strength in your God who says to you, "My grace is sufficient for you. My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). In this, learn to boast of your weakness against temptation. Learn to boast of your weakness when you suffer trial, insults, hardships, persecution, and all kinds of difficulties. Learn to say, "When I am weak, then in Christ I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

It may be more than you can handle, but it is never too much for your God to handle.

Prayer: Lord God, when hardship, trouble, and temptation enter my life, turn me to you. I am weak, but you are strong. I can't handle it, but you can and in your love for me, you will handle it. Amen.

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

Prayer



"Our Father in heaven.' *What does this mean?* With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that he is our true Father and that we are his true children, so that we may pray to him as boldly and confidently as dear children ask their dear father." (The Address, Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

In such faith, we pray to our dear Father:

- For all those affected by wildfires out west, that the God who delivered the Israelites through the waters of the Red Sea also deliver all people, especially our Christian brothers and sisters, through the flames. May he protect property and health as he sees fit and restore normalcy in his good time.
- For teachers and students across our area, both in public schools and in WELS schools, that God the Father, who gave us our minds and all our abilities, bless teaching and learning. We have so much to learn and discover about his creation, and we seek to do it to his glory. May God send his angels to make all schools safe places. May he also send his Holy Spirit to bless the Christian education that is done from his Word at all our local WELS schools.
- For Living Water's outreach efforts, that the Holy Spirit blesses our collective endeavors to reach more souls with the gospel, through a new sign, through worship, through congregational events, and especially through personal witnessing.
- For our fellow members at Living Water who are chronically ill, battling sickness, or are burdened by loneliness. May Jesus, the Great Physician, grant relief and recovery as he sees fit. Above all, may he remind them that he has purchased and won their souls for an eternity in paradise at his side, free from all pain and sadness.

Living Water STATISTICS AND NUMBERS

Year to Date Membership Changes	
Transfers In	20
Profession of Faith	1
Adult Confirmation	0
Transfers Out	0
Released	0
Baptism	0
Confirmation	1
Death	0
Net Gain/Loss	21

Membership Statistics	
285	Baptized
249	Communicants
116	Family Units
116	Average Weekend Attendance

Worship Attendance			
	Sun.	Mon.	Total
7/29	77	22	99
8/5	99	25	124
8/12	97	15	112
8/19	89	22	111

Membership Changes	
Tim & Lyndsey Gauerke, Jude & Aria	Transfer In
Stacy Lulinski, Hailey & Paige	Transfer In

Offerings				
	General	Special	Education	Total
Total Given	\$ 149,021	\$ 15,230	\$ 761	\$ 165,012

Budget		
Year-to-Date Budget	General Offerings Given	Difference
\$ 149,134	\$ 149,021	(\$ 112)

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class	3 <i>Labor Day</i> NO Evening Worship	4 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	5 6:30 pm Handbell Practice	6	7	8
9 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am New Member Welcome Brunch	10 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Elders Meeting	11 10:00 am Pastors' Circuit Meeting	12 6:30 pm Handbell Practice	13	14	15
16 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 11:30 am WinGS Meeting	17 NO Evening Worship 6:00 pm Jesus Cares 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	18	19	20	21	22
23 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	24 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship	25	26 6:30 pm Handbell Practice	27	28	29 3:00 pm Senior Moments Planning Meeting
30 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School						



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
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Pastor's Cell Phone: 262.330.3399
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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 School

4K-6th Grade

Begins September 16
10:30-11:15 am

Sign up in the
narthex or online.



Bible Class

Mission Work, Then and Now

Bible class will resume studying of the book of Acts on September 16. Upcoming lessons will introduce us to the Apostle Paul and take us along his mission journeys. As we study this book, you'll better understand the background of many other New Testament books. You'll also be able to make applications to how we can do mission work right here in Wind Lake! During fellowship grab a coffee, snag a snack, and then stick around for our series, Acts of God's Word.