

# Cross CURRENTS

Issue 13.34  
April 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.

## What It's All About

**"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."** (John 11:25, NIV)

For my wife Jenilee and me, Lent began with a death. Two days after hearing on Ash Wednesday that our bodies are but dust and will return to the ground where they came from, we stood at the casket of her dear grandmother. It was a clear reminder of Lent's message: each one of us is a sinner who deserves death. That casket proved that. No longer would we hear her strong, joyful laugh. No longer would we see her big, beaming smile. As with any death, it was a sad moment.

After the visitation, however, the scene at Grandma's house was different. Family members crowded around each other in every room, sharing stories and laughs. Grandpa selflessly tried to wait on his guests. It felt more like a long-awaited family reunion than it did the evening before a funeral.

But that's what Easter does. That's what Jesus Christ's resurrection does. It gives joy to all those who believe in Jesus Christ as their



eternal Savior – a Savior from sin and death. That was the joy Grandma Rathje's faith firmly grasped.

Jesus' resurrection gave her that joy and confidence even as she let cancer claim her earthly life because she knew that nothing could take away her eternal life in Jesus. Easter gives Christians joy and peace even in the face of the sadness death brings. "He who believes in me will live, even though he dies," Jesus said. How can we not have an underlying joy in light of that glorious promise?!

Maybe the past two months of Lent have been rough for you. Maybe you're celebrating Easter for the first time without a loved one or are reminded about a loved one who is gone. Wherever you're at, the good news of Easter – that the Jesus who was crucified for you has risen again – is what you need to hear. It's what I need to be reminded of each day. It opens heaven for us. It opens up a new way of looking at everything – even death. It opens

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our lips to sing God's praises because we know that Christ's resurrection guarantees our own! While we may die physically, we know that our souls live eternally, enjoying heaven as soon as we draw our last breath! And then, when Christ returns, our souls will reunite with our bodies which will be raised and glorified into perfect bodies. "He who believes in me will live, even though he dies!"

My Lent began with a loved one's death and also ends with a death - Jesus Christ's death in my place. But the sobering reality of Lent gives way to the joyous comfort of Easter. Christ is risen, and through faith in him, his resurrection guarantees your resurrection and eternal life. I look forward to celebrating that truth and comfort with you this Easter, on many other future Sundays, and ultimately for all of our eternal lives in heaven. Christ is risen indeed! Day in and day out, that's what it's all about for us Christians!

Serving our risen Savior with you,

Pastor Aaron Voss

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## Picture Directory Sign-Up

**Now** is the time to sign up for the new church pictorial directory.

All sign-ups are being done online. Go to our website – [www.livingwaterlutheran.com](http://www.livingwaterlutheran.com) and you will find a link to the sign up form on our front page.



If you do not have online access or simply wish for some help, a computer will be available in the Fellowship Hall following Sunday morning worship. If you have trouble signing up, please contact Janeen Roska.

There is no fee involved in having your picture taken. You will have the opportunity to purchase pictures, but you are not required to purchase. Everyone who participates will receive a complimentary portrait and a church directory.

## Jesus Cares Students Share Their Faith

This month we interviewed Ron who resides at the Affinity Home in Wind Lake.



What do you like to do?

- Bowling and bowling with pumpkins (at our fall festival)

What is your favorite activity at Jesus Cares?

- Music, laugh, clap

What have you learned at Jesus Cares?

- Heaven

What has Jesus done for us?

- Died for our sins

Jesus Cares is an amazing outreach program we have been blessed with at church for the past 10 years. Many students, volunteers and caregivers have shared their faith with each other through this ministry. Throughout the past 10 years over 100 people's lives have been changed by this ministry. The Jesus Cares Ministry Team would like to thank the congregation for supporting this program. We meet the third Monday of each month, October - May from 6 - 7pm in the fellowship hall. We invite you to stop by to visit, help out or just say "hi"!



We will be going to Grace Lutheran Church, 1209 N. Broadway, downtown Milwaukee, for a tour on Tuesday, April 17th. We will meet at Ken and Sue Gawrisch's house at 9:00 a.m. and carpool from there. Our tour will begin at 10:00



a.m. Following the tour, we will be going to lunch. Please let Ken Gawrisch or Julie McGill know if you have any restaurant suggestions. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We will make arrangements to carpool when we know how many will be going. Thank you to Ken Gawrisch for setting this up.

Our annual fish fry will be Friday, May 18, at 5:00 p.m. We will be going to Doc's on the Fox again this year. Watch for the sign-up sheet next month and put it on your calendars now.

Another date to put on your calendars is 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 with a light lunch afterward.

We are in the planning stages for our summer concert 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.



## Rummage Sale

WinGS will be hosting the church rummage sale will be on Saturday, April 7 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. We need the treasures that you no longer need. Items can be brought to the fellowship hall at church for storage in the garage or call Sherry Dahl at 262-271-4948 to arrange a pick-up. We will also need volunteers on April 5 & 6 to set up the rummage and on April 7 during the rummage. Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex. (Lunch will be provided for all volunteers.)

We are also looking for baked goods to sell during the rummage. Please consider making cookies, muffins, brownies, or whatever your specialty is. You can either divide the treats onto small plates or volunteers will take care of that. All baked goods should be brought to the church by 9:00 am on Saturday, April 7. Please label the goodies for the rummage sale.

## Movie & a Fish Fry

Enjoy a good movie or a good Wisconsin fish fry? The ladies of the congregation hope to enjoy both of these. A date will be picked based on what movies are available. Watch for the date to be announced.



## SLHS Grade School Summer Camps

SLHS is excited to offer summer camps for elementary and middle school aged students. From sports to STEM camps, this summer campers will have the opportunity to stay active and keep their brain muscles flexed. Please visit [www.slpacers.org](http://www.slpacers.org) to register.

## Taste and See! The LORD is Good!

Please join us for a night of fun to benefit Shoreland's Tuition Assistance Fund on April 14, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the Shoreland Commons. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/ybgz2vzn>

## Handbell Festival Concert

A handbell concert will be held on Sunday, April 15 at 2:00 pm at Lutheran Preparatory School in Watertown, WI. The concert will be held in the gymnasium. The music of the concert, under the theme "Speak, O Lord" walks through the life of Jesus – from birth to death to resurrection. Our member, Janeen Roska, is serving as one of the mass directors at this concert.



## Lutheran Chorale Concert

The Lutheran Chorale of Milwaukee under the direction of Mary Prange will present its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert on Sunday, April 22 at 1:30 and 4:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, Milwaukee. The organ prelude presented will begin twenty minutes prior to the concert. The concert will include music for choir, orchestra, organ, and congregational singing.

## Walk or Run for LIFE



Saturday, May 12, 2018 Protect a child's right to live and be loved! Join other pro-lifers for the Life-A-Thon to benefit WELS Lutherans for Life's pregnancy medical center ministry. Get friends together, raise funds for prizes, and help save lives! Competitive 5k and a Kid's Lifesaver Quarter Mile Dash at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary! Walk or run with everyone else, on your own, "virtually," or carry out your own mini-Life-A-Thon event if you are out of town or out of State! \$25 individual or \$60 family. Details and Registration at [www.Life-A-Thon.org](http://www.Life-A-Thon.org) or call 414-727-8176.

## The future called worker in your church

As you look around your congregation, do you see young people who could be a blessing to WELS ministry by becoming a teacher or pastor? Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., the WELS ministry training college, has a program that helps congregations support their future called workers. Through the Congregational Program Grant Program, your donations will be used to match congregations' gifts to Martin Luther College for their sons and daughters studying for the public ministry. Learn more at [mlc-wels.edu](http://mlc-wels.edu).

## 2018 WELS International Youth Rally

Registration is now open for the 2018 WELS International Youth Rally, June 26 -29, Bowling Green, Ohio. WELS teens from around the country and the world are meeting under the theme "Never Alone," based on Matthew 28:20, to learn about how God's Word applies to their lives and to meet fellow Christian youth. Learn more at [wels.net/2018youthrally](http://wels.net/2018youthrally).

## Wounded by Words - TEEN DEVOTION

*When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. – 1 Peter 2:23*

Words are powerful. I think we can all look back and pinpoint something someone said that was so deeply painful that you remember it years later. Between your ears, you hear echoes of someone telling you that you're stupid, you're fat, that you'll never amount to anything. You see memories playing in your mind, mocking and ridiculing you.

The things that people say to us and about us wound us more deeply than we can imagine. As a parent I'm beginning to realize that I have to be far more careful with my words. Even things I say to my children in an off-handed, joking way, often hit home in their hearts and wound them deeply.

Peter has some advice when words wound and scar us deeply. He shows us what Jesus did: nothing. He took it! He let them say whatever they wanted. He remained silent.

I sometimes wonder why Jesus didn't respond, especially when their words were flat-out lies. Sometimes people say things I don't like, but if it's the truth I can't say much to them. If those awful things are lies, I can hardly stand by and let them ruin my reputation. There are times when I feel like I can't stay silent. But Jesus did!

### **Did you catch why?**

*He entrusted himself to him who judges justly.* He put himself into the hands of his Father who had said, "This is my Son. I love him! Listen to him." He put himself into the hands of his Father, who would get justice for all their lies, through his submissive son. He put himself into the hands of his Father who loved him dearly.

That's where we'll find healing and hope for the wounds that words bring. We'll put ourselves into the hands of our Father who says of us, "You are my child. I love you." We'll put ourselves into the hands of our Father in heaven who says that he will defend us from every evil attack and bring us into our homes in heaven. We'll put ourselves into the hands of our Father. There we'll find peace, joy, and healing even when hateful words fly.

**Prayer:** Dear Father, the hurtful things that people say hurt me deeply. When their words wound me, remind me that I am yours and that you love me just as I am. Remind me that I am pleasing in your sight. Remind me that I am in your hands. Heal the scars in my heart from their words with healing of your Word. Amen.

## Prayer LIST



- Pray for all congregational members who are ill, recovering from surgery, fighting cancer and all other illnesses. May they look to the Father for healing, and may he hear our prayers and answer them as he so desires.
- Pray that those who attend church infrequently be moved to hear the Easter gospel with us. Pray that the good news of the resurrection may take hold in their hearts and grow so that they regularly hear and that we may be an encouragement to them.
- Continue to pray for America that all our leaders might know Jesus Christ, seek his guidance in the Word, and follow it. Pray also that all Americans love all people as Christ has loved them, understanding and debating with love another's differences of opinions in political views, religions, race, and so much more.
- Pray that the world have peace, especially the spiritual peace that only Jesus can give. As we pray, may we keep our eyes on Jesus asking his wisdom to be imparted on world leaders that all people be treated in Christian ways.
- Pray that the Easter message take hold in all our hearts so it may grow and spring forth from each of us, that we will not be able to keep from telling others the good news.

"Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done."

(1 Chronicles 16:8)

## 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
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>14</b>

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

Worship Attendance				
	Sun.	Mon.	Total	Special
2/25	85	12	97	
2/28				41
3/4	97	19	116	
3/7				50
3/11	84	21	105	
3/14				36
3/18	97	15	112	
3/21				57

Offerings				
	General	Special	Education	Total
Total Given	\$ 48,732	\$ 2,121	\$ 160	\$ 51,013

# April 2018

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	<b>6:30 am Easter Sunrise Worship with Communion</b> 7:30 am Easter Breakfast <b>9:00 am Easter Festival Worship</b>	2 No Monday Evening Worship	3 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	4 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7 9:00 am Rummage Sale
8	8:20 am Prayer Group <b>9:00 am Worship</b> 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 11:15 am WinGS Meeting	9 5:15 pm Catechism Class <b>7:00 pm Worship</b> 8:00 pm Elders Meeting	10	11 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14
15	8:20 am Prayer Group <b>9:00 am Worship with Communion</b> 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	16 5:15 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm Jesus Cares <b>7:00 pm Worship with Communion</b>	17	18 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21
22	8:20 am Prayer Group <b>9:00 am Worship</b> 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	23 5:15 pm Catechism Class <b>7:00 pm Worship</b>	24	25 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28
29	8:20 am Prayer Group <b>9:00 am Worship</b> 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	30 5:15 pm Catechism Class <b>7:00 pm Worship</b>			Pictorial Directory Photos Taken —by appointment		



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:** 517.575.5546

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**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



## Outreach Efforts Take to the Streets

The temperature topped out near 60 degrees under sunny skies as nine adult members and five children walked neighborhoods in Wind Lake just north of church. In the early afternoon hours of Sunday, March 18, our members placed on front doors hundreds of bags that included invitations to our Easter for Kids event as well as our Holy Week services. Along with personal invitations and conversations we all have in our day-to-day lives, this effort helps make our community aware of who we are and what we're about -- proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for all people. Neil Hankwitz, our outreach chairman, summed up the outreach effort this way, "We had a great group of volunteers, but it doesn't stop there. Please join me in praying that the Holy Spirit now blesses our efforts!"