

# Cross CURRENTS

Issue 14.4

April 2019

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.

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## Of First Importance

Quick: what are the most important things you want to do over the next three weeks?

Would that be an easier question to answer four months ago? If you were asked that in early December, you might more easily rattle off a to-do list. Finish Christmas decorations. Buy and wrap presents. Travel to see family and friends. And, of course, go with your family to a special Christmas worship service. By the time you're three weeks out from Christmas Day, you got a lot planned out. December 25 is one of the most important days of the year, and people plan for it.

We're now three weeks away from Easter Sunday. Does your to-do list reflect the importance of this special day? Not that I'm advocating for the craziness of December to make its way into early spring – the grocery runs, traveling to multiple parties, etc. But I hope that what happens on April 18, 19, and 21 are of “first importance” to you just as Christmas was.



In one of his letters, Paul saves the most important topic of Christianity for last. At the end of 1 Corinthians, fifty-eight verses are dedicated to the most important truth of the Christian faith – truths that are about to be celebrated in three weeks. Paul wrote, *“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter), and then to the Twelve”* (1 Corinthians 15:3-5). Christ's death and resurrection are of “first importance” to Christians.

But in early spring, as your brackets get busted, as the Brewers open up, as the Bucks push to the playoffs, as the grilling season starts, as the kids have more field trips, and as the outside play dates pile up, we can so easily give these things more importance than the core truths of Christ's death and resurrection. Without the cultural pressure to buy presents or the benefit of paid holidays, Christ's death and resurrection can find itself in second, third, or even fourth importance in our lives.

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## THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

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But when stuff starts to go haywire in your life, what are the things that rise to the top as most important? Are they not the truths of Holy Week? The forgiveness of sins your Savior gives you in the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday allows you to go about your week guilt-free and peaceful. The punishment of hell the Son of God endured on the cross when his Father forsook him, means you don't have to look over your shoulder, expecting God to strike you down for your sins. The empty tomb on Easter Sunday assures that you yourself will be raised one day with a glorious body. Christ's resurrection gives you the joy of knowing you will see your Christian loved ones again in heaven.

It would be an understatement to say all that is important. It's not just important. It's "of first importance" because of the way it changes things. It changes the way we get up in the morning. It changes the way we go about our struggles. In fact, it's so important, it changes the way we schedule out our weeks ahead. Even though we've heard those truths before, we block out time to hear them again, as many as four times within about a sixty-four hour period, starting at 6:30 p.m. on April 18. As we pass the halfway point of Lent and round the corner to Easter, we eagerly await to receive again the core truths passed on throughout the centuries: *"that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."*

That's of first importance for each of us every day.

Trusting with you in our crucified and risen Savior,

Pastor Aaron Voss



We don't have any activities planned for April, but we've got a couple things to look forward to in May. We will be touring St. Peter's

Lutheran Church in the Walker's Point neighborhood of Milwaukee on Tuesday, May 14 at 10:00 am. Its buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was founded in 1860 by German immigrants. They built their first church on 8th and Scott Streets in 1861, and in 1866 they built a small brick-clad Gothic-influenced church. The current church building, a Victorian Gothic style, was built in 1885. There is also an 1873 parsonage, an 1879 school, and an 1898 social hall. This looks to be a

very interesting tour! We will stop for lunch somewhere in the area following the tour. Thanks to John Wiederhold for planning this activity!

Our annual fish fry at Doc's on the Fox will be on Friday, May 17 at 5:00 pm. Put it on your calendars now. Sign-up sheets for both activities will be out toward the middle of April.

We are also looking forward to our annual trip to Union Grove High School for the Belle City Brassworks Concert. It will be Sunday, June 9 at 3:00 p.m. Boyd and Marlene Recknagel will plan this free activity.

*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.*

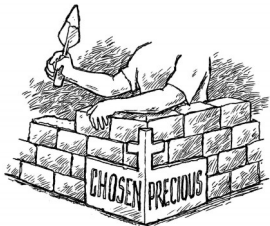
## Easter Breakfast

Easter breakfast will once again be served between the Sunrise and the Festival worship services. Ham and rolls will be provided. To help us plan, please sign up in the narthex if you are planning to come. If you are willing to bring a dish to pass, please sign up in the narthex as well. Volunteers are also needed to set up on Saturday and to clean up after the meal. Please contact Nancy Gitzel if you are able to help in either of those ways.



## New Sunday Morning Bible Study

Our newest series of Bible study on Sundays is entitled "Church & Ministry." Join us as we take a closer look at what God's word says about the work he does among Christendom at large, our synod, and local congregations, as well as the work he has given us as Christians at Living Water to carry out on his behalf. It's an opportunity to ask questions that have been on your mind and discuss issues with fellow



members. Stick around after fellowship and have the Holy Spirit not only grow your knowledge but also your faith!

## Upcoming Communion Schedule

Holy Communion will be celebrated on April 7; Maundy Thursday, April 18; and in the Sunrise Service on Easter, April 21.

## Jesus Cares Ministries

Our theme this year is comic superheroes versus super heroes of the Bible. The March lesson was Esther verses Wonder Woman. We had 17 students and 8 teachers attend for a total of 25 making it one of our largest classes ever. Pastor Voss began our study with a short devotion about Lent and Jesus' love for us. We sang some songs, did a craft, and had a snack. Everyone was grateful for the warmer weather.

## Easter for Kids

Easter for Kids will be 10 am - 12 noon on Saturday, April 13. The free event is for children, ages 3-10,



from both our congregation and community. It provides them an opportunity to have fun with crafts, music, and an Easter egg hunt. Most importantly, they'll learn how Jesus defeated death for them! Registration is available on our church website. We are looking for helpers on the event, floaters who help accompany the children throughout the event. Contact Pastor Voss if you are interested in helping this way.

## Share the News

Easter for Kids and Holy Week worship are great opportunities to invite friends and family. Flyers that you can share with a co-worker, a neighbor, or anyone else are available in the narthex. Take as many as you need. Pray that God would bless our efforts to share the good news of salvation with our community.



## Upcoming Meeting

WinGS meeting will be Sunday, April 7 following Bible study.

Please note it's a week

earlier due to Palm Sunday. Watch for an upcoming survey regarding how we can encourage more women to become involved in WinGs by changing it's current structure and meeting times. Everyone's opinion is valuable and we look forward to hearing from the women of Living Water.

## Rummage Sale

Our annual church rummage and bake sale will be on Saturday, April 27. Please bring all of your unwanted items (clothes, tools, furniture, appliances, household, etc) to church the week of April 21-26. Drop off times will be posted in the bulletin soon. If you need to drop the items off prior to Easter, they can be stored in the garage at church. If you can't get your items to church, please call Sherry Dahl at 262-271-4948.

## Do you like to bake?

We will be having a bake sale with our rummage sale. Please bring baked goods to

church from April 21-27. Please label the items and also state if the item has nuts. You do not need to price your items, we will price the items on Saturday, April 27.

## Volunteers Needed!

We will be setting up beginning on Thursday, April 25. If you have time and would like to set up, organize and/or price items please feel free to stop in and help April 25—26. We also need many volunteers for the on the day of the rummage. The rummage runs 8:00 am—3:00 pm. If you would be willing to help out in any capacity, please write your name on the sign up sheet in the narthex. There are different times and volunteer opportunities that you can volunteer for. Plus, we will be serving food to any volunteers!

## WinGS activity for April

Please consider joining WinGS on Thursday, April 25, starting at 5:00 pm. We will be setting up for the rummage in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to pass or a beverage to share. The evening is guaranteed to have lots of conversation and laughing included.

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## Volunteer Opportunities

The International Friendship Center at Christ Lutheran Church in Pewaukee, WI, is looking for volunteer help to reach out Asian families.

Areas of assistance needed:

- Volunteers for ESL Class assistance
- Immigrant assistance for assimilation to U.S. society
- Adopt an Asian family
- Attendance at social and interactive events
- Assistance with crafts and organizing of outings.

Of immediate need is to help plan and lead simple activities ) for young children. We will be at a local park as an outreach to the Asian children in the nearby neighborhoods. These events will be held early evenings, one day a week for four weeks this summer. . Support from other teachers and volunteers will be available to help with each activity day.

Those who are willing and able to help with this unique outreach are asked to contact Volunteer Coordinator – Becca Berger (262) 302-1567 or Pastor Dan Koelpin (262) 547-4367.

## I AM the Living Water TEEN DEVOTION

**Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” —John 4:13-14 (NIV)**

When your body gets thirsty, it starts quietly but then begins to shout, “Warning! We are lacking what we need to live.” It normally starts with a dry mouth or a dusty throat, but if the lack of hydration gets worse, the warning signs get stronger. The skin gets dry. The heart rate goes up. Eventually you might faint. All of these symptoms drive a person to look for relief. People are willing to do whatever it takes, even walk miles, just to find some water to relieve their thirst.

The same thing happens spiritually. We will often do just about anything to find relief. Some find relief in the satisfaction they get playing video games. Some find satisfaction in success with grades, sports, or work. Some find satisfaction in being a perfectionist.

Others find relief in the abuse of substances that give them an escape. Still others find satisfaction in feeling loved in a relationship, even if it means they find that in pornography or a damaging relationship. Like drinking salt water, all of these may give temporary relief from spiritual thirst but end up leaving a person thirstier than before. None of these things can give relief or satisfaction.

Instead, true relief and satisfaction for spiritual thirst comes from the one who gives real and perfect relief. Jesus says, “Whoever drinks that water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

When your spirit is lacking, go to the one who gives you relief. When you need to feel valued, go to the one who gives you value and self-worth. Your Savior values you so much, he gave his life for you.

When you seek perfection, go to the one who has made you perfect. Your Savior Jesus lived a perfect life and gives you credit for his life.

When you need to feel success, go to the one who has taken all of your failures away. Go to the one who gives you relief that overflows, like looking for a sip and instead getting a fountain. Go to the one who will give you perfect and eternal relief in heaven.

**Prayer:** Dear God, there have been times I sought personal escape from my problems through temporary ways that leave me thirsting for more in life. Thank you for offering to be the perfect relief my parched soul needs. Now quench me with your promises to never leave me or forsake me—today, tomorrow and forever. May the water of your Word always flow into my heart. Amen.

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

## Prayer

Since Christ has fulfilled the Scriptures for us, freed us from our sins, and conquered death, we pray:

- For the family of our member Carol Behrens, who was called from this life into heavenly glory on March 1. May the family and friends who mourn her death be comforted with the truths of the resurrection of all believers.
- That God would bless our members facing health issues, especially Lew Jopek as he tries to move up the heart transplant list and Aida Gordon, daughter of Makenzi, who was born very prematurely, has been stable in the hospital, but still faces many weeks of treatment ahead.
- For our outreach efforts this month – mailed invites to Easter worship, Easter for Kids, and our personal witnessing to friends and family. Holy Spirit, bless our efforts so that more may know and trust the important



truths of Holy Week, and may you open our eyes to opportunities to share those truths with those around us.

- For our newest members, the Begotka and Maiwald families, that we at Living Water welcome and encourage them as part of our spiritual family.
- For our members who have been wintering in warmer weather, that God give them safe travels to their homes up here whenever they decide to return.

We pray these things for the sake of Jesus Christ who was crucified, died, and buried for us, and then victoriously rose on the third day. Amen.

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## Council Corner

*In an effort to be transparent about topics being discussed at the council meetings each month, we will be sharing some highlights and notes from the month's council meeting in the monthly newsletter. The council encourages members to ask questions and offer insight into any of the topics being discussed.*

- **Site Plan / Ministry Plan** - WELS has produced resource material to assist congregations in preparing a ministry plan. Over the next few meetings, council will take a deep dive into this material and begin by reviewing the current mission statement, and then expand out to align the various activities and groups into one cohesive ministry plan.

- **Outreach Mailing** - Approximately 3,000 homes will receive a postcard invitation to Easter worship. The area is approximately half

of the 53185 zip code and goes as far north as the county line, as far west as the Fox River, then follows hwy 36 out of Waterford, and includes most of Wind Lake. If you live in that area, keep your eyes out for that mailing.

- **Spring Work Day** - Save the Date! Saturday, May 18 will be the Spring Cleanup Day. More info to follow.

# April 2019

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri  | Sat                               |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|   | 1<br>5:15 pm Catechism<br>Class<br><b>7:00 pm Worship</b>  | 2<br>8:00 am Men's<br>Breakfast<br>6:15 pm<br>Foundation of<br>Christian Faith | 3<br>5:30 pm Fellowship<br>Meal<br><b>6:30 pm Worship<br/>with Communion</b><br>7:30 pm Choir                 | 4   | 5  | 6                                 |
| 7<br>8:20 am Prayer Group<br><b>9:00 am Worship with<br/>Communion</b><br>10:30 am Bible Class &<br>Sunday School<br>11:30 am WinGS Meeting | 8<br>5:15 pm Catechism<br>Class<br><b>7:00 pm Worship<br/>with Communion</b><br>8:00 pm Elders<br>Meeting              | 9<br>6:15 pm<br>Foundation of<br>Christian Faith                               | 10<br>5:30 pm Fellowship<br>Meal<br><b>6:30 pm Midweek<br/>Lenten Worship</b><br>7:30 pm Handbell<br>Practice | 11  | 12   | 13<br>10:00 am<br>Easter for Kids |
| 14 <i>Palm Sunday</i><br>8:20 am Prayer Group<br><b>9:00 am Worship</b><br>10:30 am Bible Class &<br>Sunday School                          | 15<br>5:15 pm Catechism<br>Class<br>6:00 pm Jesus Cares<br><b>7:00 pm Worship</b><br>8:00 pm Church<br>Council Meeting | 16   | 17<br>6:30 pm Handbell<br>Practice<br>7:30 pm Choir<br>Practice   | 18 <i>Mundy<br/>Thursday</i><br><b>6:30 pm<br/>Worship with<br/>Communion</b> | 19 <i>Good Friday</i><br><b>6:30 pm<br/>Tenebrae<br/>Worship<br/>Service</b> | 20                                |
| 21 <i>Easter Sunday</i><br><b>6:00 Sunrise Worship with<br/>Communion</b><br>7:30 am Easter Breakfast<br><b>9:00 am Festival Worship</b>    | 22<br>NO Evening Worship   | 23   | 24<br>6:30 pm Handbell<br>Practice<br>7:30 pm Choir<br>Practice   | 25  | 26   | 27<br>8:00 am<br>Rummage<br>Sale  |
| 28<br>8:20 am Prayer Group<br><b>9:00 am Worship</b><br>10:30 am Bible Class &<br>Sunday School   | 29<br>5:15 pm Catechism<br>Class<br><b>7:00 pm Worship</b>   | 30   | 31<br>6:30 pm Handbell<br>Practice<br>7:30 pm Choir<br>Practice   |   |  |                                   |



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](mailto:pastor@livingwaterlutheran.com)  
**Office:** [church@livingwaterlutheran.com](mailto:church@livingwaterlutheran.com)  
**Website:** [www.LivingWaterLutheran.com](http://www.LivingWaterLutheran.com)

## 2019 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.

**Mike Graffenius**—President  
**Jim Mertz**—Treasurer  
**Craig Scherbarth**—Financial Sec.  
**Bob McGill**—Secretary  
**Jeff Roska**—Head Elder  
**Neil Hankwitz**—Outreach  
**Gary Steffens**—Trustee  
**Brian Haag**—Education

## Holy Week Worship



### MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 18  
6:30 pm  
*with the celebration of  
the Lord's Supper*

### GOOD FRIDAY

April 19  
6:30 pm

### EASTER SUNRISE

April 21  
6:30 am  
*with the celebration of  
the Lord's Supper*  
  
*Breakfast between the  
services.*

### EASTER FESTIVAL

April 21  
9:00 am