

Cross CURRENTS

Issue 14.2
February 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.

Epiphany's Truth in 21st Century America

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you... Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn ." (Isaiah 60:1, 3 NIV)

By now you've probably seen the screenshot: near the Lincoln Memorial, a young man's face has a lips-only smile as he looks into the eyes of the older Marine veteran beating a drum. The teenager is white. The veteran is Native American. The screenshot and video clip went viral as news agencies claimed it exhibited America's problems with racism. A few days later, when more information came out, the story became less about the incident between two people and more about how it was covered. Other news agencies used the initial coverage as support for claims of "fake news."

This article won't take sides or try to convince you which side to take. I'll leave that to talk radio. What I do hope these words accomplish is this: make us long for the day when believers of all nations enjoy perfect harmony in heaven.

For nearly two months, the church season of Epiphany especially celebrates the fact that

Jesus appeared in this world as its true light and Savior. And Isaiah's words above assure us that Jesus is the Savior of peoples from all nations, political parties, and cable news demographics. For nearly two months, we especially celebrate the eternal truth that God's glorious salvation shines above his Christian church, a church that includes believers in Christ from all sorts of races and backgrounds.



Do we cherish that truth? Do we glory in that truth? Or do we just coldly acknowledge

that truth without contemplating it? I think those tense moments caught on cell phone video force us Christians to ask how Satan might be tempting us towards racism, towards prejudice, and towards gloating about being right. And then, if we're honest with ourselves and God's Word, we'll then confess our sins because we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

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But even as we focus on the truth that God's gospel is for all people of all races and nations, don't forget that you're included in that, too. There is forgiveness for the times we have fallen short of perfection in the way we have thought about our neighbors, spoken to them, and interacted with them. Through faith, you yourself shines with Jesus' perfect glory, too!

And now God has put us in a unique situation to do something about scenes like that from D.C. in late January. Because we know that God loved all souls enough to die for them, we Christians are in a unique position. We can love all people of all races in a way that unbelievers can't – to love all our neighbors with a Christ-like love. To see all people as those whom God invites inside the walls of his Christian Church. That gospel invitation is what truly drives out the darkness of racism, prejudice, and pride from our hearts. The gospel alone is what changes our hearts and the hearts of others.

What can we do, then, in our corner of Southeastern Wisconsin? We might not encounter a ton of ethnic diversity on a day-to-day basis. But we can pray. We can pray that God gives us Christ-like hearts that truly love all peoples across the world. We can pray that God protects and defends those who are being targeted by racism, prejudice, or pride. We can pray that when God gives us the opportunities, we as individuals and as a congregation arise and shine with the glory of the gospel no matter what people look like or where they come from. We can pray that God speeds the day when believers of all nations stand side-by-side in perfect harmony, are able to look their God face-to-face, and make eternal music with smiles on our faces.

Serving our Savior with you,

Pastor Aaron Voss



Thank you to Gary and Renee Steffens for planning our January Game Day! We learned to play a "new-to-us" dice game named Farkel and everyone

had a good time. As always, we also enjoyed all the yummy snacks everyone brought.

Our February activity will be a tour of the SC Johnson campus in Racine on Thursday, February 14. The tour will begin at 10 am and will last about 90 minutes. There is no charge for the tour. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. If you're interested in carpooling, please note your interest next to your name on the sign-

up sheet. We will be going to lunch following the tour. If you have any restaurant suggestions, please let us know. Thank you to Ken and Sue Gawrisch for planning this activity. Doesn't this sound like a great way to send Valentine's Day!?

Senior Moments will be hosting the Ash Wednesday Lenten Supper on March 6. This will be another potluck dinner, so start thinking about what you'd like to bring. There will be a sign-up sheet as we get closer to the date of the dinner.

Senior Moments is a service organization to provide social opportunities for the congregation. All members 50 and older are encouraged to join us.

A Message from the Elders

We are starting a new Bible study series on worship where we will examine some of our own preferences, learn about worship from the Bible and see how our current worship practices have been shaped and what it all means.

As we look to study about worship, our minds think about our members that are not in worship. We have some members that have been missing for a few weeks, a few months, and a few years. The Elders are taking a collaborative approach to reach out in love to those who have been missing from worship.

We need your help. Please take an updated copy of the membership directory, and take a few minutes to page through it. If there are names of members whom you know, but have not seen in church, please let one of the elders

know. Please pray for them! And if you would like to reach out to them, all the better.

Please remember that all of this work is out of love, “for Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all...we are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” (2 Corinthians 5).

Please keep all of the members in your prayers and feel free to reach out to the Elders if you need anything or if you know of other members that have needs.

Living Water Elders Team

Bill Bartholomew

Dave DeAngelis

Jeff Roska

Mark Schneider



Food For Life Cooking Class

WInGS will be offering a Food For Life Cooking class on Thursday, February 21 starting at 6:30. At this class, we will be making a plant-based meal, received plant-based nutrition information, how to action steps and support to make healthy meals at home. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us. If you are interested, please sign up in the narthex so that we have an estimate of the amount of food that we will need. There is also a brochure with more information available in the narthex.



Shoreland Lutheran High School’s Festival Choir will be singing during worship on Sunday, February 24.

SLHS exists to educate, equip, and encourage students for lives of Christian service. It was founded in 1971 and currently serves over 300 students. 27 churches in southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois support Shoreland Lutheran HS.

There will also be a freewill offering that Sunday to support Shoreland’s ministry.

Tomorrow's Choice Family Resource Center

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church (1052 Whiterock Ave, Waukesha) will be hosting their annual rummage and bake sale on Saturday, February 9 from 8:00 am -2:00 pm. All of the proceeds are donated to Tomorrow's Choice Family Resource Center. If you would like to donate items, they can be dropped off at the church from 4:00-7:00 pm on Friday, February 8 or you can call Sherry Dahl (262-271-4948) and she will pick the items up at your home. We are also looking for volunteers Friday night for set-up and/or on Saturday anytime from 7:00 am—4:00 pm to help with the sale. Please contact Sherry Dahl if you would like to volunteer.

Luther Prep School Auction Gala

Donations of new items are currently being accepted for the Luther Prep Auction Gala to be held on Saturday, April 13. If you have something to share it can be brought to the Mission Advancement office anytime during the LPS school day. Ideas would include - gift cards for national chains (gas/dining), cabin stays, pair of tickets to an event, and specialty type gift baskets. If you cannot attend the Gala in person this would be a great way to show support! Monetary donations can be made online: <https://events.readysetauction.com/lutherpreparatoryschool/galaxiv> Deadline for donations is February 28. Questions? Contact Sue at 920-262-8104. Your support benefits future pastors, teachers, and lay leaders.

WELS Lutherans for Life

Are you thankful because God saved you and you have Life? Think about what you can do to help save a life. You can make a difference by volunteering at WELS Lutherans for Life's pregnancy medical clinic. There are a number of areas to help and share the love of Jesus. You can make a real difference in someone's life. Learn more at www.alife2.com/volunteer.html, then e-mail Contact@ALife2.com or call Rachel at 414-727-8176 for more information.

Oberammergau Passion Play Tour

Retired WELS pastor, James Humann, invites you to join him in 2020 as he hosts his sixth tour to the world-famous Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. The Oberammergau Passion Play depicts the life of Christ from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Two different opportunities to see the Oberammergau Passion Play will be offered. Both tours are eleven days and include other sites in Europe. The first will be June 12 - 22, 2020 and the second will be September 23 - October 3, 2020. The Passion Play in Oberammergau is very popular and sells out quickly. For the price and daily itinerary, e-mail Pastor Humann at Jhumann383@aol.com. If you would prefer a hard copy, be sure to include your name and mailing address.

Goals TEEN DEVOTION

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

—Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

Goals can be powerful motivators. They give us something to work toward achieving. If our goal is to be healthier, we may incorporate exercise and healthier eating into our life.

When we add action steps toward those goals, they give us some clear direction for our life. For example, to get healthier, we are going to exercise three times a week and eliminate the late-night snacking. With these action steps, we now have some clear things to work on to get healthier.

As we seek our one priority, Paul sets the goal for us in his own example. His goal isn't to be smarter in the faith. His goal isn't to live a holier life. He certainly wants those things, but those things aren't his goal. His goal was to get the prize of heaven.

Paul knew that a life in pursuit of heaven includes certain things. As you pursue heaven, these are things you need in your life too.

- You need to be *people of prayer* (Look up 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Let your heart and your mind continually be turned to the Lord in prayer.
- You need to be *people of the Word and of worship* (Look up Psalm 1; Colossians 3:15-17; 2 Timothy 3:14-17). Let God's Word live in your richly and deeply as you live your life for him.
- You need to be in *community with other Christians* (Look up Hebrews 10:21-25). God has given you the community of believers to support you in your walk of faith as you pursue heaven.

Christ made you and your eternal life with him his top priority. His goal is for your life to be lived with him every day. That's why he encourages your daily life to include time in prayer, God's Word, and with God's people (your faith community). Make a plan. Pray about it. Then, with God at your side, press on!

Prayer: Lord God, I need you, your Word, and your people in my life. Give me the self-discipline I need to incorporate these things into my life. Give me Christian friends who will encourage me in my walk of faith. Lord Jesus, forgive me when I fail and help me as I pursue heaven. Amen.

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

Prayer

We remember the following in our prayers:

- Our members who are facing medical procedures in the near future or have undergone them in the recent past, including Al Ladwig (pacemaker and throat) and Ida Pfaff (aneurysm repair), that if God is so pleased, they have a quick and full recovery. May he also bring his healing power to those among us who are sick and in pain.
- The shut-ins and elderly in our congregation and communities, that God protect them during the cold winter months with its harsh temperatures and treacherous roads
- That God forgive us for our sins of pride, prejudice, and defiance and through his love make us shining ambassadors of his gospel



for all nations – as individual Christians in our own callings, as a congregation in our greater community, and as part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the gospel ministry it does on our behalf in America and around the world.

We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who appeared on this earth in the flesh on our behalf and still appears on our behalf before our Father in heaven. Amen.

Living Water STATISTICS AND NUMBERS

2019 Membership Changes	
Transfers In	0
Profession of Faith	0
Adult Confirmation	0
Transfers Out	0
Released	0
Baptism	0
Confirmation	0
Death	0
Net Gain/Loss	0

Membership Statistics	
285	Baptized
247	Communicants
116	Family Units
121	Average Weekend Attendance

Worship Attendance			
	Sun.	Mon.	Total
1/6	109	27	136
1/13	105	22	126
1/20	80	21	101

Offerings				
	General	Special	Education	Total
Total Given	\$ 15,061	\$ 425	\$ 50	\$ 15,536

Budget		
2019 Budget to Date	General Offerings Given	Difference
\$ 13,944	\$ 15,061	\$1,117

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	4 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship with Communion	5 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 6:15 pm Foundation of Christian Faith	6 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	7	8	9
10 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	11 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Elders Meeting	12 6:15 pm Foundation of Christian Faith	13 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	14 10:00 am Senior Moments Outing	15	16
17 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	18 5:15 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm Jesus Cares 7:00 pm Worship with Communion 8:00 pm Church Council Meeting	19 6:15 pm Foundation of Christian Faith	20 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	21 6:30 pm Food for Life Cooking Class	22	23
24 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Shoreland Lutheran HS Choir 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	25 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship	26 6:15 pm Foundation of Christian Faith	27 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	28		



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

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, it will reach all members of our Church Council.

Mike Graffenius—President

Jim Mertz—Treasurer

Craig Scherbarth—Financial Sec.

Bob McGill—Secretary

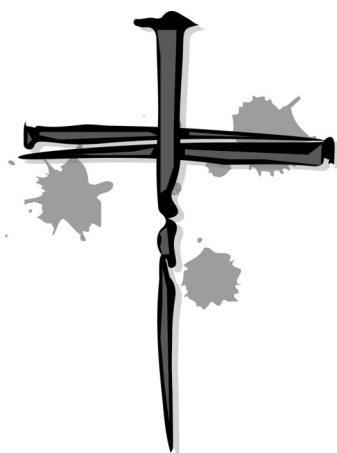
Jeff Roska—Head Elder

Neil Hankwitz—Outreach

Gary Steffens—Trustee

Brian Haag—Education

Three Words



of
TRUTH

Midweek Lenten Worship

Ash Wednesday, March 6
with the celebration of the Lord's Supper

Wednesdays, March 13, 20, 27
April 3, 10

6:30 pm

Fellowship Dinner begins each week at 5:30 pm