

Cross CURRENTS

Issue 14.1
January 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.

A God for Every Year

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations... From everlasting to everlasting you are God... A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night" (Psalm 90:1,2,4 NIV)

How did 2018 pass for you? Did it move as fast as the traffic outside church on Highway 36 or as slowly as the ice trying to reform on Wind Lake? Maybe it felt like a little bit of both or somewhere in between. Factors outside our control can either speed up time or severely slow it down for us.

Moses tells us in Psalm 90 that 2018 might as well have been a minute in God's eyes. And the time that has passed since the Azdaji conquest ended the Kingdom of Nekor in Morocco back in 1019 – that's been like a day to God. Why? Because God is eternal. Or, as Moses poetically put it, "From everlasting to everlasting you are God." There are no factors outside of his control and so even time itself is of no consequence to him.



That truth can make you and me feel insignificant. To a certain extent, it should. As we flip another calendar, Moses wants us to remember the one who is outside of time itself. Moses wants us to remember that before we count out the days we have in 2019 and write things on our calendars, we need to remember that God has already determined the number of days we'll have in 2019 and how much affliction and gladness he'll give us. Meditate on that the next time your calendar begins to fill up and you start feeling super important.

God's eternal nature, however, should not just make us feel insignificant, it should make us feel invited. God's eternal nature is both a reminder and a promise. In God, we who are often enslaved to time and our calendars, always find a place to reorient ourselves. As time flies by, our faith clings onto our God, and we our calmed down. As time drags on, our faith holds God's hand as he slowly but surely moves us closer to our heavenly goal.

THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

P.2 Open Forum & Voters Recap

P.3 New Bible Study Opportunities

P.4 Ministry Opportunities

P.5 Joy

And let's remember that heaven is ultimately our goal. In the nostalgia of a year past and in the optimism of a new year just begun, we can get so caught up in how we want to spend our time on this earth that we forget that time on this earth is just leading to the endless time of heaven! When we keep our heavenly appointment on our calendars, we can face each day with gladness and joy because we know that until we get there, our eternal God will satisfy us every morning with his unfailing forgiveness and love. When it feels we can't keep up with the work at hand or it feels like our hands have nothing left to contribute, we can relax and know that it is God who is ultimately establishing our work, day in and day out.

Because God is eternal, he is a God for every year. He is your God every year. May he be your dwelling place as he was for 2018 and has been for all his believers of all time. Throughout 2019, God's unfailing love be with you through our newborn King!

Serving our Savior with you,

Pastor Aaron Voss

December Open Forum and Voters Meeting Recap

On December 9, an open forum and voters meeting was held to update the congregation on our ministry and act on some business. Notable updates included progress on the new sign (which has now been installed and is fully functioning!) as well as on the congregation's finances. We continue to be in great fiscal shape and give God thanks for the blessings he has moved our members to give out of love for him! Among the items that were voted on were the passing of the 2019 budget, the reelections of Craig Scherbarth as Financial Secretary and Brian Haag as Education Chairman, and the election of Mike Graffenius as Council Chairman. Mike replaces John Wiederhold, whom we wholeheartedly thank for his joyful leadership over the past years!

New Sign

While working on the new church sign project, a number of members asked if we could save the retaining wall block that surrounds our current sign. We asked for a group of strong people to come to church and help us tear down the block wall. Ten men and a very young man helped us with the project. They brought four pickup trucks and a front end loader. We successfully removed the wall and black dirt. They are currently behind the garage and are saved for a future project.

On December 20, we got an early Christmas present when Michael's Signs delivered and installed our new sign.

Among those happy to see the sign go up is Duane Cleven who for years had faithfully changed the messages on our old sign by hand. We give Duane our heartfelt thanks for his years of service.

Now, we pray that God blesses this new signs' messages as just one part of the many ways we seek to connect our community to the gospel that's preached inside our building.



New Sunday Morning Bible Study

Starting in mid-January, our Sunday morning Bible study sessions will start a new series on worship. For about two months, the classes will take a look at biblical examples of worship, biblical principles of worship we want to replicate, and other practical questions. If you've ever had questions on how we worship, this series will be a great place to ask those questions and be part of a conversation about worship. Hope to see you there!

Take the Sermon Home

The New Year brings a new opportunity to study God's Word at home! Each week Pastor Voss will work up a few study questions that will help you dig deeper into the sermon text and possibly make connections to that Sunday's other Scripture readings. You can access them on our website under "Learn and Grow" or www.livingwaterlutheran.com/takesermonhome.

Before you head out the door in the morning, after dinner, or before bedtime, pull up the questions on your phone, tablet, or computer and work through them during the week. "Answers" will be provided to help frame the conversations you have at home. If you need a refresher on the sermon itself, it is normally uploaded on our website sometime on Tuesdays. God bless your study of his Word!



Our annual "Game Day" will be on Saturday, January 12, at 3:00 p.m. We will be having a Farkel Party! Farkel is an easy to play dice game. It's easy to learn and everyone should enjoy playing. It will be potluck snacks, so start thinking about what you might like to bring. Game Day is always a good time, so plan now to attend. Gary and Renee Steffens will be our hosts for the day.

We will be taking a tour of the SC Johnson campus in Racine on Thursday, February 14th. The tour will begin at 10 am. and will last about 90 minutes. There is no charge for the tour. We will go out for lunch following the tour, so if you have any restaurant suggestions, let us know. Thank you to Ken and Sue Gawrisch for planning this activity. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the narthex toward the middle of January. Doesn't this sound like a great way to spend Valentine's Day?!

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



WinGS will have their next meeting on Sunday, January 13 following Bible class. They will be discussing Tomorrow's Choice Family Resource Center and the upcoming Pinterest Party on Thursday, January 24. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to come!

Tomorrow's Choice Family Resource Center

On Sunday, January 20, we will be having a freewill door offering to support Tomorrow's Choice Resource Center which is located in Waukesha and is affiliated with Christian Life Resources, a WELS-based organization. Tomorrow's Choice serves women facing an unplanned pregnancy or struggling with the after effects of an abortion. They also support families with diapers and other earthly needs.

Church Picnic Planning

Living Water is gathering people together for a picnic committee. The tentative date for the picnic is Sunday August 11. Bruce and Kathi Boziel will be heading up the committee and we are looking for volunteers.

Please contact Kathi at kboziel@gmail.com if you would like to join our group. Our first meeting will be on Thursday May 9 at 6:30 pm. All suggestions for making this a fun filled fellowship event are appreciated.



Grace – Hmong Outreach in Vietnam

The Vietnamese government has invited WELS to build a theological training facility in the capital city of Hanoi. This is an incredible, unprecedented opportunity for our synod. WELS is currently the only protestant church with official government permission to work with the Hmong in Vietnam. The Lord is opening a door to reach the more than two million Hmong people who live in Vietnam and the surrounding countries. To learn more about this incredible story and opportunity, visit wels.net/vietnamhmongoutreach.

Shoreland Lutheran HS Taste & See

Taste of Shoreland dinner and live auction is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2019. This is an important fundraiser to raise tuition assistance money for families that might not otherwise be able to afford a premier Christian education. If you would like to help with planning this night or if you have items to donate for the live auction and raffles, please contact the office at 262.859.2595.

Camp Phillip

Camp Phillip offers relaxation in creation and renewal in Christ through a variety of programs. Registration is now open for summer camps. There are a variety of camps for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Living Water is a congregational member which means you receive a discount on summer camp prices. Visit www.campphillip.com for more information or to register.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. —1 Peter 1:3

Before you begin to read this, make a list of things that make you happy. You can write it down or make a mental list. Try to get as many as you can.

Did you get them all? Now continue reading

In an episode of VeggieTales, Madame Blueberry says she has everything she could ever need, but she is not happy with what she has. On her way home from the store, after buying pretty much everything, she passes a girl who is with her mom and dad on her birthday. The girl does not have much, but she is happy. That's when Madame Blueberry realizes that she does not need material items to be happy.

It is easy to get caught up in material things. Go back to your list of things that make you happy. What's on it: A TV show? A book? Your pet? Mom, Dad, Aunt Sally, and Uncle Joe? Did God, church, or the Bible make your list? When we think of what makes us happy, it's so easy to get caught up by the things we see and touch nearest to us. As long as we live, we face the temptation to place God who brings us his salvation on the backburner.

Remember to focus on the reason for that joy:

God gave you "new birth" through baptism!

God gave you "living hope" through Jesus' resurrection!

Our hope is alive because Jesus is alive! Now we look forward to an eternity in heaven with him! That's something to be happy about! No more trials. No more heartache. No more temptation. We will have the honor of standing at the feet of Jesus. He wiped away our sins with his death so that we can finally know what peace feels like. Resting our hope in Jesus Christ will bring us eternal happiness, no matter what struggles we are faced with here on earth.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the joy of life everlasting in your arms.
Continue to work through me so that I can help others find your joy.
Guide me to hold tight to your Word when I am faced with trials, and
help me to find joy here on earth, knowing that I will find eternal joy it
is in heaven with you. Amen.

Prayer



We ask God's favor to rest upon the following:

- Our members who are traveling or have traveled to warmer destinations during the winter months, that their travels may be safe and their time spent in other parts of God's creation may be relaxing before God safely returns them here.
- Our members who are going through medical complications, have recently had medical procedures, or are facing future results and tests, that if it is his will, God relieve them of their physical affliction and pain. If not, may he give them the wisdom to number their days aright and face their troubles with the

quiet joy that comes through knowing Jesus is their Emanuel, their God with them.

- Our new congregational chairman, Mike Graffenius, that God establish leadership our voters have tasked him with doing and that God establish among us at Living Water a renewed commitment to the entire ministry he has given us to do.

We ask all of this not because of our own worthiness but for the sake of Jesus who was born for us and our sins. Amen.

Living Water STATISTICS AND NUMBERS

2018 Membership Changes	
Transfers In	23
Profession of Faith	1
Adult Confirmation	0
Transfers Out	2
Released	1
Baptism	0
Confirmation	1
Death	1
Net Gain/Loss	20

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

Worship Attendance				
	Sun.	Mon.	Special	Total
12/2	93	21		114
12/5			56	
12/9	105	27		132
12/12			45	
12/16	87	20		107
12/19			47	
12/23	124			124
12/24			120	
12/25			69	
12/30	77			77

Offerings				
	General	Special	Education	Total
Total Given	\$ 246,970	\$ 21,711	\$ 982	\$ 269,663

Budget		
2018 Budget	General Offerings Given	Difference
\$ 235,000	\$ 246,970	\$ 11,970

Membership Changes	
Dennis & Lori Banaszak	Transfer Out
Tim Potter	Release

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	7 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship with Communion	8	9 7:30 pm Choir Practice	10	11	12 3:00 pm Senior Moments Game Day
13 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 11:30 am WinGS Meeting	14 7:00 pm Worship	15 6:15 pm Foundation of Christian Faith	16 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	17	18	19
20 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	21 5:15 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm Jesus Cares 7:00 pm Worship with Communion 8:00 pm Church Council Meeting	22 6:15 pm Foundation of Christian Faith	23 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	24 6:30 pm Pinterest Craft Night	25	26
27 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	28 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship	29 6:15 pm Foundation of Christian Faith	30 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	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

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

A Year of Blessings

