

# Cross CURRENTS

Issue 12.8  
November 2017

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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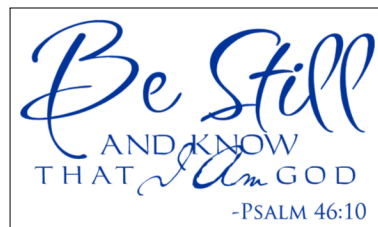
## Our Refuge and Strength

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble... He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’” Psalm 46:1,10

Do you remember how much uncertainty there was this time last year? As our nation made its way to the presidential polls, many people across America were restless about the outcome. At the very end of the year, authors and TV hosts kept saying how “weird” of a year 2016 was. In our own congregation, call after call for a fulltime pastor had been declined. Looking into 2017, more than a few people thought we were in big trouble.

Are you still feeling the same uncertainty people felt in November 2016? Are you still restless about the direction our nation is headed? Do you still feel like trouble looms in another new year? Then run to the only place where you can find true refuge. Run to your God who promises to always be available. He may not visibly be present, but he certainly is found when you look at the cross and open the Bible, his word. When you’re frantic and restless, open up one of the gospels and hear Jesus tell the crowds, “Be still. Know that I am God. I got you your earthly and eternal life secured for you.”

Maybe 2016 and most of 2017 wasn’t so bad for you, but lately things have taken a strength-sapping turn. Lately, have you felt like God has distanced himself from you and exposed you to attacks from sin, the world, and the devil? Do you feel like rising up against God or letting him know how you really feel? Then listen to God tell you as well, “Be still. Know that I am



God. You’re not! I know things may seem like chaos around you, but put your trust in me. At the end of the day, I will be exalted,

and I promise to lift up all those who find their refuge and strength in me – whether in this earthly life or in eternal life.”

Perhaps you’re in neither of those two places. Maybe you are amazed at how well things have been going for you. Nothing has really negatively impacted your life lately. Instead, you feel very fortunate and blessed. It’s like you are strong and untouchable. That, too, is reason for God to say to you, “Be still, and know that I am God. Know that I am the source of all your blessings. Be still and give me thanks for those blessings.”

As you make plans for Thanksgiving coming up later this month, we all may be at different points in our

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### THIS MONTH’S ISSUE

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earthly lives. Some may feel like we have little to thank God for. Others may know they have a ton to thank God for. Still others may not quite realize how blessed they are because of what God has given them. But we all have the same things to be thankful for in our spiritual lives. God is *still* our spiritual refuge and strength. Even if the bills have grown and the bank account decreased, your God still promises to fill you with forgiveness. Even if death or disease has rocked you or a loved one, your eternal life remains safe behind God's fortress. So, not just on November 23, but on every day, let's be still and give God thanks for being *our* God. Let's thank our God who has been our physical and spiritual help and who always will be a place where we can find spiritual refuge through his cross, through his word, and through his sacraments.

May God bless you and your loved ones with many physical and spiritual blessings! May he also bless your upcoming celebration of the American holiday called Thanksgiving, knowing that the Christian has an eternity of reasons to make every day a day of thanksgiving and thanks-living to God who is "our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

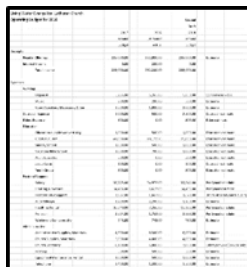
Thanking and serving God with you,

Pastor Aaron Voss

## Voters' Meeting – November 5<sup>th</sup>

We have a number of items to discuss at our next Voters' Meeting on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

1. 2017 Budget and the year-end projection
2. 2018 Budget
3. The proposed pavilion and prayer garden.



Item	2017 Budget	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2027 Budget	2028 Budget	2029 Budget	2030 Budget	Total
Worship	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	12000
Education	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	6000
Outreach	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	2400
Administration	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	1200
Facilities	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	1200
Unassigned	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	1200
<b>Total</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>24000</b>

We have received many blessings in the past year. Increased attendance and giving have played an important part to our ministry. Thanks to all and a special thanks to our Lord for guiding us through troubled times. We will discuss our blessings and how to best use them.

We also want to have our first discussion on the proposed pavilion and prayer garden. We have received input from a number of you regarding

location, size, and how it might be used. Some of the more interesting comments were:



- Make it bigger. Let's make it large enough to hold an outdoor church service. With a new building, we could do a few more outdoor services and invite the public.
- Let's use it for Vacation Bible School and Sunday School. Excellent location for craft projects.
- Personal Meditation
- Let's use it for Senior Moments gatherings.
- How about having summer Bible classes outside?
- What do you think???

Let's talk about its usage, affordability, and your interest in moving forward on this project. Should be a fun discussion.

Our meeting will start right after our fellowship hour on Sunday, November 5.



### **NPH Book Fair**

We are bringing the NPH bookstore to Living Water! WinGS is hosting a Book Fair featuring books from Northwestern Publishing House Sunday, November 19- Sunday, December 3. You'll be able to shop devotional books, children's books, Christmas books and more before and after worship services. Treat yourself or pick up a few Christmas gifts.

### **Women's Bible Study**

Learn to embrace a lifestyle of gratitude and find grace in everyday moments. Take up the challenge to count 1,000 ways God has blessed you. Join us online and/or in person for weekly discussions of the book 'One Thousand Gifts' by Ann Voscamp. Online discussion will begin November 1, small group, in-person gatherings will be here at Living Water on Thursday evenings: November 9, 16, 30, December 7, and 14 at 7 pm. Books are available on Amazon or sign-up in the narthex for a copy. Let us know if you'll be joining us on Thursday evenings on the signup sheet. Questions can be directed to Lori Moldenhauer or Tracy Hankwitz.

### **One Warm Coat Drive**

It's time to clean out your closets and donate coats, hats, and mittens that are gently used. WinGS is sponsoring this coat drive beginning Sunday, November 11 - Sunday, December 10. We will be partnering with area group homes as well as Tomorrow's Choice in Waukesha. Donations can be brought to the fellowship hall. Thank you! Your coat can keep someone warm this winter.



We had a great potluck/planning meeting on the last Saturday of September. The food was wonderful, as usual, and there were a lot of suggestions for activities for the coming year. It should be a fun year! Here's what we decided:

- November 12 - 2:00 p.m. - Burlington Haylofters, "Greater Tuna" (see more information below)
- December 31 - noon - Potluck Packer Party (open to entire congregation) Come cheer on the Packers!
- January 20 - 3:00 p.m. - Royal Rummy Game Day hosted by Art Plautz and Nancy
- February 14 - Host Ash Wednesday Lenten Supper
- April (Date to be announced) - Tour Grace Lutheran Church - Ken Gawrisch will set this up for us
- May 18 - 5:00 p.m. - Fish Fry at Doc's on the Fox
- June 10 - 3:00 p.m. - Belle City Brassworks Concert at Union Grove High School - Boyd and Marlene Recknagel will plan
- Sunday afternoon in July or August - Concert in the Park and Potluck picnic hosted by Ken and Sue Gawrisch
- September 29 - Planning meeting at church, then go to Fish Boil at North Cape Lutheran

**Burlington Haylofters** is one of Wisconsin's oldest community theaters and is located in the historic Malt House Theater, built in the 1800s. We are planning to go to the production of "Greater Tuna" on Sunday, November 12th at 2:00 p.m. This is a satire on life in the small rural American town of Tuna, Texas. The eclectic band of citizens that make up this town are portrayed by only two performers. Tickets will be \$15. Sign up on the table in the narthex.

There are still a few Senior Moments t-shirts available. They will be on the table in the narthex if you're interested.

We would also like to encourage everyone to sign up to host fellowship on Sunday mornings. All you have to do is set things up, make coffee, pour juice, and clean up afterward.



## Reformation Service

*NEXT Sunday, November 5,  
2017  
—3:30 p.m.*

Join us for a festival worship service celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. We gather to thank God for preserving the gospel of Jesus our Savior among us, recognizing the role of Martin Luther and the momentous event of 500 years ago. This will be an opportunity for members of many different WELS congregations to enjoy Christian fellowship and to encourage one another to proudly, lovingly, and gently proclaim the saving truths of Scripture. The service will be held at the Miller High Life Theater (formerly known as the Milwaukee Theatre), located at 500 W. Kilbourn Avenue in downtown Milwaukee.

If you desire a bus ride to the service, please contact Mr. Jim Carlson of Christ Church in Big Bend at 262-720-6441. This will insure you have space on the bus. The bus leaves the Big Bend Christ parking lot at 2:00 p.m. - Return to parking lot by 6:00 P.M. This is a good way to avoid bucking traffic and finding a parking place.

## Movie Night

On Saturday, November 11, Living Water will be showing a new documentary on the life and work of Martin Luther entitled *A Return to Grace*. The film is about 200 minutes long and will be accompanied with snacks. After the movie is over, we invite you to hang around for an informal discussion where you can ask your questions and give your comments. Pastor Voss will moderate. Doors will open at 3 p.m., and the movie will start at 3:30 p.m. Look out for more information!



## Door Offering

On Sunday, November 19th, we will have a door offering to support the ministry of Camp Phillip. Living Water is a congregational member of Camp Phillip.



“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” Jesus to his disciples, recorded in Mark 6:31

The pace had been hectic; they were exhausted; their batteries needed recharging. So Jesus took his disciples away from the normal distractions and stresses of life. He took them to a quiet place outdoors where they might find rest for body and soul.

Camp Phillip exists to provide relaxation in creation and renewal in Christ to WELS youth, families, adults, churches and schools. To carry out this mission they host family camps, summer youth camps, field trips, church campouts, and adult retreats. The camp is located near Wautoma, WI and features a wide variety of lodging and recreation options on its 177 acre property.

One adult volunteer and former camper wrote, “I love Camp Phillip. It can have such an impact on one’s life. I know from personal experience that Camp Phillip is spiritually inspiring.”

Five members of Living Water attended a youth summer camp this past summer.

For more information on Camp Phillip, please speak with Jeff or Janeen Roska or Matt or Lindsy Timm or visit [www.campphillip.com](http://www.campphillip.com).



## Freedom from Comparison - TEEN DEVOTION

*For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ... But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*  
**1 Corinthians 12:13, 18-19**

"Did you see her new phone? I wish I had that." "Man, he's so good at that sport. How come I can't be that good?" "Did you see the car her parents bought her? I have this crummy car that's like 20 years old." "That guy is so smart. I wish I was as smart as he is." "She is so good on the piano. I wish I could do that."

It's so easy to start comparing who we are and the abilities we have to the skills other people have. It's just as easy to start comparing what we have and don't have to what other people have. But do you see what happens? As soon as we let comparison into our hearts, we will never be content. We will keep on wanting bigger, better, shinier, and newer. We will always want to be someone other than we are.

Paul wants to help us break free.

First, he starts by leveling the playing field. He says about all Christians: We were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body. You are one in Christ together with every other believer. Jesus lived for you, died for you, and rose for you just as much as he did for others. You were baptized with the same baptism as every other Christian, and with the water and the Word of God the Holy Spirit brought you to faith in Jesus who saved you. Saved is saved. There isn't more saved or less saved. Christ has saved you the same way he has saved everyone else. There's joy and freedom in that. We're already in. We're all equal in this body. No one is more or less important. No one is greater or lesser. We're one.

We are one in Christ, and we also are many and different. We are different in the way that God has blessed us. Paul says this: In fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

Think about that. God has uniquely created you. He has given you gifts, strengths and abilities just as he determined for you. He's designed you uniquely. You are special, and you're one of a kind. And he made you a member of his body to serve in a way that no one else can. You are uniquely and majestically made to serve in this one body. God has given you gifts and abilities to make an impact on his kingdom.

Out in front or behind the scenes, you were made to make a difference in the body of Christ and to have an impact on his kingdom. Hardly anyone sees your pinky toe, and yet it makes a huge impact on your body. No matter what gifts you have, you were made to make a difference in the kingdom that only you can make. So this week, thank God that he made you the way he did and then serve God right where you're at in the body of Christ.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, thank you for everything that you've given me. Thank you for my talents and abilities, for creating me to be unique. I'm sorry for the times I'm not content with who you made me to be. Forgive me for comparing myself to other people. Forgive me and help to identify and use the gifts that you have so graciously given me. Amen.*

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



## Prayer LIST



1 Chronicles 16:8 “Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.”

- Give thanks for all the successful surgeries this past year. Be thankful for skilled doctors, nurses, physical therapists and all others who work with the sick and injured. Most of all give thanks to the Great Physician who alone allows us to be healed.
- Give thanks that Living Water now has a permanent pastor to minister to our many needs.
- Give thanks that we live in a free country and can worship in the church of our choice.
- Give thanks for our families, loved ones, friends and neighbors. Do not wait until you no longer have them to realize how wonderful they and how you love and need them.
- Give thanks for all those who so willingly serve at Living Water. Be it leadership, fellowship,

music, Sunday school teaching, counting, cleaning, or whatever the service given, Living Water is blessed!

- Give thanks for the challenges placed before us. Everyone has their problems, and it can be hard to see the LORD’s presence. But God is always with us. His grace and blessings grow even when we are faced with difficulties. That’s when we rely upon his promises all the more and give him thanks.

## Living Water STATISTICS AND NUMBERS

Year to Date Membership Changes	
Transfers In	4
Profession of Faith	0
Adult Confirmation	0
Transfers Out	-2
Released	-3
Confirmation	0
Death	0
Net Gain/Loss	-1

Membership Statistics	
269	Baptized
238	Communicants
288	Total
110	Family Units
117	Average Attendance

Worship Attendance			
	Sun.	Mon.	Total
9/24	115	10	125
10/1	108	26	134
10/8	87	24	111
10/15	114	15	129
10/22	90	18	108

Offerings					
	General	Special	Building	Education	Total
Total Given	\$187,668	\$142	\$4,950	\$916	\$193,676

# November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>5</b> 8:15 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 8:20 am Prayer Group <b>9:00 am Worship with Communion</b> 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Voter's Meeting <i>Scrip Orders Due</i>	<b>6</b> 5:15 pm Catechism Class <b>7:00 pm Worship with Communion</b>	<b>7</b> 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	<b>1</b> 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>12</b> 8:20 am Prayer Group <b>9:00 am Worship</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School 11:15 am WinGS Meeting 2:00 pm Senior Moments Outing	<b>13</b> 5:15 pm Catechism Class <b>7:00 pm Worship</b> 8:00 pm Elders Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Church Council 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm WinGS Book Discussion Gathering	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 3:00 pm Film Fellowship—"A Return to Grace"
<b>19</b> 8:20 am Prayer Group <b>9:00 am Worship with Communion</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	<b>20</b> 5:15 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm Jesus Cares Class <b>7:00 pm Worship with Communion</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm WinGS Book Discussion Gathering	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>26</b> 8:20 am Prayer Group <b>9:00 am Worship</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>27</b> 5:15 pm Catechism Class <b>7:00 pm Worship</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b> <b>6:30 pm Thanksgiving Worship</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> <i>Thanksgiving</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
			<b>29</b> 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 7:00 pm WinGS Book Discussion Gathering		



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

**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)

## 2017 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

**Rob Sawall** - Secretary

**Jim Mertz** - Treasurer

**Craig Scherbarth** - Financial Sec.

**Bill Bartholomew** - Head Elder

**Mike Viehwig** - Outreach

**Jim Mastrocola** - Trustee

**Brian Haag** - Education

Mark your calendars for special worship opportunities this Advent season.

## Advent by Candlelight

Sunday, December 3, 6:00 pm

Ladies of the congregation enjoy an evening of desserts and meditative worship.

## Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, & 20, 6:30 pm

Come for supper at 5:30 in the fellowship hall.

700 years before Jesus was born, the Old Testament prophet Isaiah called out to God's people, "Prepare the way for the Lord!" Jesus has already come in the flesh, and each year we make preparations to celebrate that. Join us as we use Psalm 119 to prepare our hearts leading up to Christmas.