

Cross CURRENTS



Issue 13.11
November 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.

Pray before Voting

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Timothy 2:1,2 NIV)

Where's your polling place? What's on your ballot? Who's on your ballot? You've seen and heard the ads. Hopefully, you've thought about and researched the issues. The days until Tuesday, November 6, are ticking down, so you have less and less time to prepare for the 2018 midterm elections.

It is not my job – much less my calling – to tell you how to vote. This pastor isn't here to tell you to ride the blue wave or to be part of the break wall that stops it. As you read those long sentences in the referendums, a pastor isn't supposed to be whispering in your ear whether you should mark yes or no. All that is up to you in your political and Christian freedom. But as you make preparations to vote (and please do vote!), I want to raise this question: have you prayed?



During my vicar year (the year I spent as a pastoral intern at a congregation in Colorado), I got to know a retired pastor who worshiped at the congregation. On more than one occasion he declared, "I tore down the Berlin Wall." When pressed, he explained, "I did. I tore down the

Berlin Wall one prayer at a time. I kept praying God would end the division in Germany and bring unity and peace." He was joking about taking credit but serious about his spiritual

point: Christians pray, and they pray about government.

That's Pastor Paul's point in the passage above. As a Christian, you have direct access to the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. He is the only one who can truly do something about the state of state, and whatever he directs is the best thing for us. But notice what tone Paul's words have. You won't find vitriol. You won't hear screaming across the aisle. You don't see steam coming out of his head. Paul is patient, thoughtful, and loving towards the same government that had falsely imprisoned him

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numerous times, wrongly tortured him, and mistakenly disregarded his citizen rights. No pipe bombs sent in the mail. No all caps rants on Facebook. Only the gentleness and respect which the Holy Spirit gave Paul. And so, he made requests, intercession, and thanksgiving for his government and her leaders.

Requests, intercession, and thanksgiving. These should be the content of our prayers. Don't like what you see going around your city, county, state, or country? Instead of making demands of God, make requests of him that he bring about something different. Then humbly submit, "Your will be done." Don't like whom you see in leadership at your city, county, state, or country? The best thing you can do is to make intercession for them, not against them. Intercede on their behalf that God gives them the wisdom, concern, and love needed to make fair and tough decisions in situations that may not be as black and white as we think. No matter who is in office or what policy gets passed, thank God that he has placed people before us who are willing to take on these roles on our behalf, from the town hall to the West Wing. Through these leaders, God has given us the tremendous blessing of being able to "live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

And that's the biggest issue, isn't it? As Christians, we're not so much concerned about being politically right or wrong as we are about being salt and light spiritually. We just want the opportunity to be who Christ has made us to be – forgiven sinners. Then we'll have the opportunity to tell everyone – Republican, Democrat, or independent – about the peace the Holy Spirit gives us through the holiness Jesus Christ has won for us.

In the coming days, before you overreact to an article or flip out about an ad or post something controversial on Facebook or head behind the voting booth's curtain, pray. Pray to God about the issues on the ballot. Pray to God on behalf of the people on the ballot and those in office. Pray to God with thanks that he has given us the ability to peacefully and quietly worship him and grow in our trust of his forgiveness. According to the pundits, this may be a very important election, but according to God's Word, on November 7, God the Father will still be ruling all things, and Jesus will still be forgiving your sins, and the Holy Spirit will still be working on people's hearts through the gospel, no matter what happens on November 6. Then, long after you have exercised your American right to vote for fallible humans, you can still be exercising your Christian privilege to pray to a perfect, loving God who knows what's best and has the power to get it done.

God bless America. God bless you as you live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and holiness.

Living as a citizen of heaven with you,

Pastor Aaron Voss



Fall Back

Don't forget to turn back your clocks before you go to bed on Saturday, November 3 as Daylight Savings Time comes to an end.

Advent by Candlelight

Ladies, join us for an evening of delightful conversation, delicious desserts, and devotional worship on Sunday, December 2. The evening will begin at 4:00 pm. Please note: this is an earlier start time than in years past.

We are in need of ladies to host tables. This involves decorating a table with linens and candlelight and providing place settings. We are also in need of ladies to bring treats for the dessert bar like cakes, pies, or fruit. Please watch for sign-ups in the narthex. If you are planning on coming, you will also be able to RSVP in the narthex. Family and friends are welcome to join you.

If you have any questions, please speak with Tracy Hankwitz or Janeen Roska.

Midweek Advent Worship

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, midweek services will be held on Wednesdays, December, 5, 12, & 19. Join us at 6:30 pm to hear of The Names by Which Jesus will be Called.

A fellowship meal will be held each Wednesday beginning at 5:30 pm.

The
Names
by Which
He
Will Be
Called



The next meeting is Sunday November 11. Topics of discussion will be what we would like to do for Love Inc.

and Tomorrow's Choice. We will also discuss ways we can brighten up the women's bathroom for the holidays.

In November, WinGS is sponsoring an opportunity to donate food and supplies to James Cares which is an adult family home with 12 residents. The majority of these folks come to Jesus Cares at Living Water every month and are so glad to be served by our Jesus Cares' ministry. Please consider supporting these wonderful children of God, through not only your prayers, but also by giving of canned food items or paper products. A full list of suggested items can be found in the narthex. A box for supplies will also be in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your generous contributions.



Giving Opportunities

"As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10). The holiday months of November and December provide us with a special number of opportunities to reflect Christ's love in the way we give to others. As in the past, Living Water will place a number of different freewill opportunities for our members to give to if they wish. Stay tuned to the bulletin board and weekly announcements for more information.

Jesus Cares

On October 15, eleven members of Jesus Cares along with four of their caregivers joined us to learn about the Superheroes of the Bible based on Hebrews chapter 11. We compared the Super hero powers of the Incredible Hulk with the REAL power of God through Samson. Kathi B. wore a long black wig and Nancy G. cut her hair to show everyone how Samson lost his strength. That was a surprise! At the end we had Jello Jigglers that were green and juice to match. It was a good evening of learning and laughter. Our next gathering is November 19.



We had a great planning meeting in September with lots of good ideas for activities for the coming

year. Following the meeting, we went to North Cape Lutheran Church for a fish boil. The fish boil was so good, we decided to do it again next year! Our October activity was dinner at Mo's Irish Pub followed by a volleyball game at Wisconsin Lutheran College. We had a group of ten seniors, and we all enjoyed seeing Jenilee in action coaching the team.

We will be going to the Dancing Horses and Exotic Bird Show in Delavan on Sunday, November 18 at 1:00 p.m. The cost for both shows will be \$27.50. We plan to leave immediately following Bible class at 11:30 a.m. and will carpool to Delavan. We need to know how many will be going so we can purchase advance tickets. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex by November 4. You're welcome to bring kids and grandkids as this is a family-friendly show. If we have at least 20 going, we will get a discount on the tickets. Talk to Bob or Julie McGill if you have any questions.

Here's a list of all our upcoming activities:

- December 5 - Host Advent Supper
- January 12 - 3:00 pm. - Game Day, hosted by Gary and Renee Steffens
- February (date TBD) - Tour SC Johnson Campus, hosted by Ken and Sue Gawrisch
- March 6 - Host Ash Wednesday Lenten Supper
- May (date TBD) Tour St. Peter's Lutheran Church in the Walker's Point neighborhood in Milwaukee. John Wiederhold will plan this. We may also get to tour Allen Bradley on the same day if Paul Kedzie can arrange it.
- May 17 - 5:00 pm. - Fish Fry at Doc's on the Fox
- June 9 - 3:00 pm. Belle City Brassworks Concert at Union Grove High School. Boyd and Marlene Recknagel will plan this.
- July - Sunday afternoon Concert in the Park and Potluck Picnic, hosted by Ken and Sue Gawrisch
- August - (date TBD) - Lake Geneva Mailboat Tour
- September 28 - Planning Meeting and Fish Boil

The Power of Habit: Know Your Weakness TEEN DEVOTION

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." **Matthew 26:41**

No one gets married and thinks, "In ten years, I'll be unhappy in this marriage and go looking for love somewhere else." No one ever says to themselves, "I think I'll be a drug addict or an alcoholic when I grow up." No Christian ever confessed their faith thinking, "I won't always believe this."

Yet it happens every day. It even happens to pastors of churches and the most dedicated students of the Bible. They fall into sin and away from Jesus. What happens?

Peter never dreamt that he would be the one to deny Jesus. He actually took an oath, because he was so sure that he would never do it. But just hours later, he swore another oath saying that he didn't even know who Jesus was.

What happened?

Jesus identifies it for us: "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." We have the heartfelt desire to remain faithful and steadfast. We have the sincere intention to stay true, faithful, and steadfast in our faith. Our spirit is certainly willing.

But our flesh is weak. Our nature has been weakened by sin and weakness. Ever since Adam and Eve, our nature has been tipped toward sin in the most despicable and vile ways. Even as Christians, our sinful nature is still a powerful force to be reckoned with.

Our spirit is willing, but our flesh is weak. Because of the weakness of our nature, we need spiritual disciplines to bolster and to hold us up. We need the power of God's Word to correct, rebuke, encourage, and train us. We need to be people of prayer, constantly turning to our source of strength. We need close and trustworthy Christian friends around us to keep turning us back to the God of our salvation.

Because of our sinful weakness, it vital for us to keep active in God's Word and prayer and to stay close to God's people.

His Word, prayer, and his people are God's gifts to keep us close to him all the days of our life and to call us back when we stumble and fall. Use them. They are God's gifts to you.

Prayer: Lord God, I know my weakness more and more each day. Keep turning me back to you for strength and direction. You are my Savior. I need you. Please help. Amen.

Prayer

We pray to God the Father Almighty through our mediator Jesus Christ and with the Spirit's confidence:



- For all of our local, county, state, and national governments, that God gives us leaders who are humble enough to seek wise counsel, concerned enough to care for the weak, and honest enough to uphold truth and justice. We pray that God give us many Christian leaders who find comfort, correction, and guidance in his Word and who create and enforce policies which preserve both freedom and safety.
- For this month's celebration of Thanksgiving, that the one who created us may continue to preserve us with all that we daily need for body and life, that he send his angels to guard all those who travel for the holiday, and that the Holy Spirit work in our hearts so that we are thankful to God for everything we have

and so that we generously give to others as we have opportunity.

- For our members who face challenges according to God's good will -- those afflicted with chronic pain, those dealing with a difficult diagnosis, those dealing with emotional pain at the hands of others, those weighed down with depression and other mental illnesses, and all those who care for them in their time of need. We especially remember Bev Ladwig who suffered a stroke in late October and her husband Al who cares for her during her recovery.

Lord God, let your kingdom come to us through your Word and sacrament and let your will be done here on earth. Amen.

Living Water STATISTICS AND NUMBERS

Year to Date Membership Changes	
Transfers In	20
Profession of Faith	1
Adult Confirmation	0
Transfers Out	0
Released	0
Baptism	0
Confirmation	1
Death	1
Net Gain/Loss	20

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

Worship Attendance			
	Sun.	Mon.	Total
9/30	86	21	107
10/7	108	25	133
10/14	91	17	108
10/21	77	20	97

Offerings				
	General	Special	Education	Total
Total Given	\$ 190,236	\$ 15,691	\$ 873	\$ 206,800

Budget		
Year-to-Date Budget	General Offerings Given	Difference
\$ 189,807	\$ 190,236	\$ 428

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	5 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship with Communion	6 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	7 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	8	9	10
11 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 11:30 am WinGS Meeting	12 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Elders Meeting	13	14 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	15	16	17
18 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	19 5:15 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm Jesus Cares 7:00 pm Worship with Communion 8:00 pm Church Council Meeting	20	21 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Worship 7:30 pm Pie Social	22 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	23	24
25 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class	26 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship	27	28 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	29	30	



6525 Milwaukee Avenue
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Worship Information

Sunday Worship Service - 9:00 AM
Sunday Education Time - 10:30 AM
Monday Worship Service - 7:00 PM

Contact Us

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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, 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

Give Thanks for God's Many Blessings!

Thanksgiving Worship
Wednesday, November 22 6:30 pm

Pie Social to follow the service.