



Brewery Bunch, Wednesday Study Groups Return

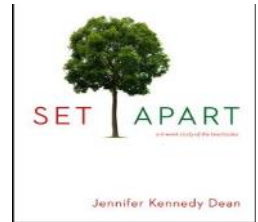
The Brewery Bunch and Wednesday Night small groups are returning with a new study. Starting next week, the groups will begin a walk through of *Set Apart*, a 6-week study of the beatitudes by Jennifer Kennedy Dean.

The Brewery Bunch small group will start the *Set Apart* study on Tuesday, April 9, and meet at Drakes Fine Food & Spirits at the Country Manor campus in Sartell at 5:45 p.m. This group will move locations each week and will likely return to their 6:30 p.m.

regular meeting time on April 16.

The Wednesday Night small group will start the *Set Apart* study on Wednesday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Room of Hope at LWLC.

You can pick up a copy of *Set Apart* at the church office for \$10 or online (pricing varies). Scan the QR code to order the book from Amazon.



Easter



Nearly 250 people attended our Easter services this year. The altar was beautified with a banner, cross and flowers.



Thanks to the brass group for the live music at 9:00 and 10:30, and to all who decorated the sanctuary.

Accompanying the brass group were pianist Janet Anderson, drummer Max Fortner and our worship team singers.



Palm Sunday



The Children's Hand Bell Choir performed "Jesus Loves Me" and "Amazing Grace" on Palm Sunday.



Pastor Jake leading youth on the palm parade.

Job Opening

Our church has an immediate job opening for a Financial Secretary. The paid position is part-time — approximately 10 hours per week.

Russ Victorian, current Financial Secretary, will provide training for this staff position. Contact the church office for more information at 320-255-1135 or email church@lwlcmmn.org.

Looking for donations for the bake sale and the plant sale at the church on Saturday, May 4, from 8-12. All proceeds from these sales will support kids' activities at Living Waters.



NEW

Marriage Group

Living Waters Lutheran Church is introducing a new marriage group that supports healthy, God-centered marriages. Led by Dan and Kelli Pederson, the group is open to all married couples.

4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Room of Hope

First Gathering April 23

Bring a friend!

GAME DAY

At Living Waters Lutheran Church



Join us for an afternoon of card games at the church. Card decks will be provided. Hot dogs and other concessions will be sold to raise funds for the youth trip to New Orleans this summer for the ELCA National Youth Gathering.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 | 1:30-3 P.M.

Seeking vendors for the Spring Craft Sale on Saturday, May 4, at Living Waters. The sale will run from 8 a.m. to noon in conjunction with a bake sale and a plant sale. \$30/table. Handcrafted products/art only. Email church@lwlcmmn.org for a vendor application.

EDUCATION MEETINGS

Come join the education team!

Meetings will be held on Sunday, April 7, and Sunday, April 21, at 10:10 a.m. Please join us to share your thoughts, dreams and goals for our youth education. We are looking for parents of kids of all ages. Youth are also invited to attend to share their ideas. Topics to include the school year education as well as Vacation Bible School.

Come join us as we Connect our youth!

Contact Kirsten Stiegel at kstiegel@icloud.com with questions.

Montessori is Hiring

Whole Child Montessori Schools, which leases classroom space from LWLC, is now hiring for the summer 2024 session and the 2024-2025 school year. Some positions work at the church building and others at the St. Cloud location. All positions have options of a temporary contract or extension into the following session as a permanent position.

Open Positions:

- Early Childhood Educator
- Teacher's Aide
- Office Manager
- Substitutes

Starting pay ranges from \$13-\$18 per hour.

Interested candidates may contact owner Nicole Couch directly at 320-253-4719 or Nicole.montessori@wcmschools.com.



Spring



Bake Sale

Craft Sale



8 a.m. to noon



Plant Sale

+ FREE
POLLINATOR
PLANTS, KIDS
ACTIVITIES AND
LIVE MUSIC!

ALL proceeds from the bake, plant and craft sales will support kids' activities at Living Waters. The sales are hosted by the Mary's Mermaids group at Living Waters.

Saturday, May 4, 2024

**Living Waters Lutheran Church
1911 4th Ave. N, Sauk Rapids**



**CHARLIE
ROTH**

Concert

**4 p.m. in the
sanctuary**

A free-will offering will support the outreach ministry of the Social Justice For All God's Children Group at Living Waters.



Lenten Movie Series



The Movie Series Group at LWLC watched a Christian-based movie every Sunday afternoon during Lent and discussed the movie the following Wednesday after the Lenten service.

Thanks to Jon Meinke for organizing this group and for selecting and obtaining the movies. Movies watched were *City Slickers*, *The Bucket List*, *Evan Almighty*, *Breakthrough*, *Jesus Revolution* and *The Apostle*.

The group that is pictured watched *Breakthrough* on March 10 and met for discussion March 13. The movie is about a boy survives a near-death drowning, and his family and friends

strive to understand why things like this happen, and they pull together and grow in their faith.

We hope these films helped you on your faith journey as well!

April Events



- * **Mary's Mermaids Meet:** April 3 from 10 a.m. to noon in the fellowship area behind sanctuary
- * **Choir Rehearsal:** April 4 from 6-8 p.m. in the sanctuary
- * **Sunday Worship:** April, 7, April 14, April 21 and April 28 at 9 a.m.
- * **Sunday School:** April 7, April 14, April 21 and April 28 at 10:10 a.m.
- * **Easter Musical, Presented by the Living Waters Choir:** April 7 during the 9 a.m. worship service; Choir meets at 7:30 a.m. for rehearsal.
- * **Education Meetings:** April 7 and April 21 at 10:10 a.m. at the Church
- * **Brewery Bunch Meets for *Set Apart* Series:** April 9 at 5:45 p.m. at Drakes Fine Food & Spirits at the Country Manor campus in Sartell (520 First Street NE); April 16 at 6:30 p.m. (location TBD); April 23 at 6:30 p.m. (location TBD), April 30 at 6:30 p.m. (location TBD)
- * **Wednesday WOW Worship—All are Welcome:** April 10, April 17, and April 24 at 6 p.m.
- * **Wednesday Youth Education:** April 10, April 17 and April 24—Pizza at 5:30 p.m., WOW Worship at 6 p.m., Classes (or speaker) at 6:30 p.m.
- * **Game Day—Card Games:** April 13 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Life and Learning Center
- * **Finance Committee Meeting:** April 16 at 5:30 p.m.
- * **Church Council Meeting:** April 16 at 6:30 p.m.
- * **Wednesday Night Study Group Meets for *Set Apart* Series:** April 17 and April 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the church
- * **Orientation Meeting for Youth Trip to New Orleans:** April 10 from 7:15 to 8 p.m.
- * **Marriage Group:** April 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Room of Hope—All married couples welcome!



Living Waters hosted Game Day on March 10. “Contestants” competed to win prizes in a mash-up of game show formats that tested their Biblical knowledge. Thanks to Game Day organizers Brad and Leann Giese and to everyone who purchased concessions from LWLC youth to support their New Orleans trip.



GET CONNECTED!



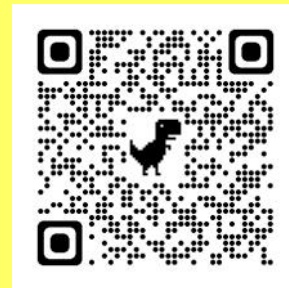
Living Waters Lutheran Church invites you to get connected! If you have not done so already, please fill out a yellow Connect Survey. The surveys are available at the church or online by scanning the QR code. You can also request a survey by emailing church@lwlcmmn.org.

The survey will help us define what group, activity or ministry you’re interested in so that you can get connected with our church. Data will be used to determine small groups at LWLC and develop a volunteer database. We will establish group leads and provide leads with a list of volunteers those leads can reach out to, if necessary and applicable.

The survey will also help LWLC promote various

small groups that people can connect with. Groups will be promoted through brochures, Welcome Bags for visitors and our website.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this important survey!



www.lwlcmmn.org/connect-survey/

CHRIST IN OUR HOME BOOKS AVAILABLE

Christ in Our Home books are available at LWLC! *Christ in Our Home* is a quarterly devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day that follows the Revised Common Lectionary. The books are available at the Welcome Center.

Limit 1 book per family.



Sunday School Schedule —PreK through 1st Grade

Sundays, 10:10 a.m. in the Life and Learning Center Classrooms

The lessons this year for Sunday School are based on Calvary Connect materials, “Everyday: Responsibility, Patience, Commitment” and the “Spark” Bibles. Please feel free to contact Pastor Jake with any questions.

April 7—Classroom

April 14—Classroom

April 21—Classroom

April 28—Classroom

May 5—Classroom

May 12—Classroom, Mother’s Day, End-of-Year Celebration

Even though Prek-1st grade classes will be Sunday this year, we want to welcome everyone to pizza (\$1/slice) on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and to the W.O.W. Worship from 6:00-6:30 p.m. Parent volunteers needed to help pick up pizza, make lemonade, serve pizza and clean up. Please contact Pastor Jake to volunteer!

Wednesday Education Schedule—2nd through 9th grades

Pizza served at 5:30 (\$1/slice), W.O.W. Worship w/Communion at 6:00, Class from 6:30-7:15

The theme this spring is “Everyday: Responsibility, Patience, Commitment.”

Remember to sign in each week in the points binders on the table, and keep track of your points on the attendance page.

Head to the sanctuary at 6:00 for “W.O.W.” Worship with Communion. The church service is part of Confirmation/Education. **Please, no food in the sanctuary.*

Then, class from 6:30-7:15.

April 10—All kids and parents/guardians for a Family Night; Speaker Mr. James Turner

April 17—Classroom

April 24—Mentor Night, 7-9th graders. Invite your mentor to supper.

May 1—Classroom

May 8—End-of-Year Celebration

Parent volunteers needed to help pick up pizza, make lemonade, serve pizza and clean up. Please contact Pastor Jake to volunteer!

Living Waters Choir

The Living Waters Senior Choir, directed by Janet Anderson, will present its cantata, "We are Witnesses" on Sunday, April 7, during the 9:00 a.m. worship service.



Worship Assistant Sign-Up

Sign up to help at a Sunday service using the QR code below.



Sign up to help at a Sunday service using the QR code below.



THANK YOU

For your ongoing financial support.



■ Set up **BILL PAY** through your bank or credit union. It is free. Contributions will be sent to the church on **YOUR** schedule.

■ Send money through **PAYPAL**. To avoid paying a fee, make sure to select that you are sending money to a friend. Send to church@lwlcmn.org.

■ Send contributions the old-fashioned way. **MAIL** checks via **USPS** to:
Living Waters Lutheran Church
1911 4th Ave. N.
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Please remember to specify on your check or envelope what your contribution will be used for (e.g. mortgage, general fund, food shelf).



Pastoral Care

At Living Waters, we seek to lead with heart by ministering God's grace and emulating Jesus' care and compassion for His people, especially those who are hurting. If you or a loved one is in need of prayer, a home or hospital visit, or other means of support, please get in touch with Pastor Jake Dyrhaug using the contact information below.

Church Office
320.255.1135
church@lwlcmn.org



Pastor Jake
320.733.0257
pastorjake@lwlcmn.org



Every 4th Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
in the Room of Hope at LWLC.

The Year of “Connect”!



Pastor Jake Dyrhaug

At our recent Annual Meeting, we approved our new mission statement... “That all would know they are loved by God and are inspired to follow Jesus.” We’ve set a course to Engage, Connect and Inspire. Last year’s church president, John Fuls, challenged everyone last year to engage, and people really got engaged—many stepped forward in the life of Living Waters! This year church president DeNetta Wolbeck has called this **The Year of CONNECT**. We are invited to get connected, to grow our community within the walls of the church and outside the walls of the church. The Living Waters Church Council met recently for a retreat to focus on this current year, with Pastor Hans Dahl of the Calvary Partner Network, and Kia Kisthart, Partner Network Coordinator, whose church in Alexandria, MN, Calvary Lutheran, has received a grant from the Lilly Foundation to help Lutheran churches network about life as churches in changing times. Calvary is sharing lots of great support and resources with us and 11 other congregations currently. We’re seeing some real life resulting from this partnership.

Connect Groups – We are building up and developing new small groups called “connect groups.” Here’s the vision—this year we’ll develop clear strategy and invite members to be involved in groups and connect. We’ll be recruiting group leaders, providing them with

intentional training, giving them access to resources needed to lead groups, and surrounding them with consistent support. Groups will be a place where people get a taste of Living Waters’ authentic, irresistible culture. Groups will explore faith together, but may also gather people around enjoyed activities, such as softball, curling, hockey, lefse, body image activities, or something like Bambam Ball or Gaga Ball for youth. The Time and Talent Survey was sent out, and with the great response, we will be intentional about encouraging and equipping existing groups and helping to start new connect groups.

New Book Available for Connect Groups – The Book of Mark discussion groups went well, and as a resource for connect groups this coming month, we will have a new book available, *Set Apart* by Jennifer Kennedy Dean. It is about living as people who are loved and blessed by God, set apart to live as people loved by God, discovering the promise and fulfilment of the promise of God.

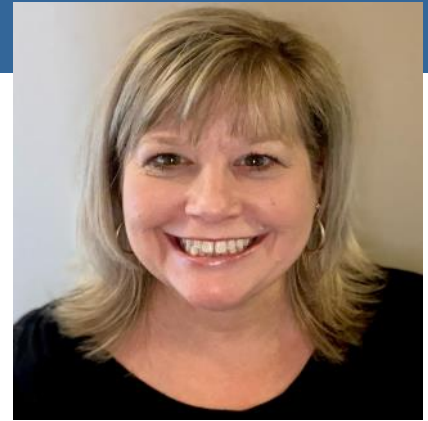
Watch for Connect Group News – As we will be communicating the vision, one could say that groups will be our “everything” this year as a focus. Connect groups will even be our tool for Outreach. Watch for more to come about a BIG Sunday and special event to launch groups. The vision for this year is that no one will be able to miss that groups are our thing at Living Waters!

God be with you as we GET CONNECTED at Living Waters this year!

In Christ,

Pastor Jake Dyrhaug

President's Update



We are off to another busy year! Spring has been a challenge! Like the weather challenges, the Church Council has some challenges too. One challenge, as a nation, people have stopped attending church and there has been a rapid decline in attendance and membership at all churches and all denominations. This presents a challenge, and also an **“opportunity”** for us... to be strategic and determine next steps.

Thank you to all the members of the council and Pastor Jake Dyrhaug! The council spent several hours recently at our Council Retreat to outline and start the strategic plan for the year ahead.

In our effort to be fully transparent with you, I want to share what we are up to: Pastor Hans Dahl from Calvary Church in Alexandria, MN facilitated the group. We reviewed the survey data, our Mission Statement, and the Core Values, and now we are looking at a Vision. We answered some tough questions, like where do we go from here based on what you, the members of our church, are telling us. We also have challenges with the changes in society, and our growth and how to succeed and thrive as a church. The council did a lot of work on this plan last year, and now we will continue with the next phase to Connect and grow in both our congregation and community.

We will continue to look at what fits the Mission Statement — How do we grow our community within the walls of the church and outside the walls of the church. What do we need to change and/or do to be welcoming and inviting to our guests and visitors so all know they are welcome.

What we currently do may need to be changed or tweaked, as we live, we grow and we learn by trial and error. Some things, we find, work and are a great success, and sometimes things need tweaking from time to time. Some activities or ministries may no longer be relevant and may work for a while, but then they need to fall away and make way for new ideas or just need tweaking so we can continue to evolve and thrive in these changing times.

As we each look at how to fit church and activities into our busy lives, look at volunteering as providing ministry, we are all disciples! We are doing God's work and spreading his message through serving and our kind acts. Serving and Ministry is: serving coffee, shoveling snow, mowing the lawn, watering plants, leading a group, playing an instrument, working the projectors, attending Bible Study, making prayer shawls, making calls, stuffing envelopes, greeting, ushering, reading, serving communion, being on the church council, being a part of a committee, being a part of Mary's Mermaids, cleaning, working and donating to the food shelf and homeless projects, helping with the education program, doing special projects in the community, making a repair or singing in the choir. The opportunities are many to serve in our ministries!

Thank you for all you do and contribute, and if you have been hesitant, now is a great time to figure out what fits your passion and schedule and get involved. You may have limited time, or maybe you have hours to give; we are all Brothers and Sisters in Christ who are called to serve. We need to work together to Engage and Connect with others as we look to *Inspire, Reach, Teach and Care* for each other as well as members of our community. We are here for each other and here for all those who are looking to know Jesus!

We will be rolling out some small groups based on the Time & Talent Survey and what you have told us is important to you. We will have some new Bible Study classes starting up again and more!

Stay tuned — it is an exciting time for our church as we find new and fun ways for you to Connect and continue to work towards our Vision!

Message continues on next page.

Connect Step 1: As we look to “Connect” this year, please wear a name tag every Sunday; it is a first step in Connecting. Maybe you see that person every Sunday but you don’t recall their name... or you may have never met yet. Let’s all take this first step together – it is a very simple step that can mean so much and is an act of “caring” and “connecting” with our own church family as well as with any guests and visitors attending.

Thank you for your grace and patience as we pull together the data and programs to roll out in the very near future! Please reach out if you have any questions.

Peace & Blessings,

DeNetta Wolbeck, Council President

2024-25 Servant Team Schedule

Team	Team Leader(s)	Last Name Starts With	Servant Months (first two)
Team 1	Tom & Cheri Satre	A through Cr	February 2024 and September 2024
Team 2	Teresa Szymanski	Cu through Gunderson, D	March 2024 and October 2024
Team 3	Jen Kiewel	Gunderson, J through Koskinen, D	April 2024 and November 2024
Team 4	Tim Wright	Koskinen, S through Moon	May 2024 and December 2024
Team 5	Bonnie Raduns	Moor through Rock, J	June 2024 and January 2025
Team 6	Terry Sylvester	Rock, K through Sz	July 2024 and February 2025
Team 7	Darryl Torrin	T through Z	August 2024 and March 2025

Council Meeting Minutes Attached

The February Church Council meeting minutes are emailed with the newsletter for your convenience. See attachments to your email for detailed minutes, or pick up a copy at the church.

Living Waters Lutheran Church Council

John Fuls – Property team

jctmfuls@msn.com

Leann Giese – Outreach

craftinggiese@gmail.com

Todd Muehlbauer – Personnel

toddmuehlbauer@gmail.com

Carolyn Neubauer – Inreach, Care Core, Secretary

cneub61126@hotmail.com

Dan Pederson – Vice President

djp2880@gmail.com

Kelli Pederson - Congregational life

kellilynnpederson@gmail.com

Josh Rock

jerock96@gmail.com

Kirsten Stiegel – Education

kstiegel@icloud.com

Brian Ulrich

briantulrich@gmail.com

AJ Wolbeck – Youth Rep.

ajwolbeck@yahoo.com

DeNetta Wolbeck - President, Music and worship liaison

nedswolbeck@gmail.com

Next Council Meeting:

Tuesday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m.

Outreach Team

"April showers bring May flowers."

Happy Easter to everyone. I hope you were able to celebrate with family and friends. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with various activities during the Easter season.

During the winter months, Brad and I planned a joint activity of various games. Snacks were sold, with the proceeds going to the Youth National Gathering trip this summer. The next game day will be Saturday, April 13, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. We will be playing various card games. Thanks for the great idea, food shelf volunteers. Please come join us for an afternoon of fun. Volunteers needed to run the snack bar with hotdogs available. If we can get a couple youths and adults to volunteer for this position, we would appreciate it.

Thanks to everyone who donated to our outreach project for the homeless. All the items were brought to the Lincoln Center. They appreciated the donations to help the facility run. Thanks to Russ who helped by finding out what was needed and delivering the items. The next service project will be hygiene items for our food shelf patrons. These items have been in need and requested. Watch for more info to follow.

The food shelf has been going great. Last month we received taco meat from Second Harvest and made a taco-themed bag. We included taco meat, tortilla shells, and cheese. Our food shelf patrons loved the idea. This next year we are going to make some changes. The changes will not impact our congregation but will help us to run the food shelf more efficiently. We are hoping to make these changes in July. July is when the next year starts for Second Harvest. Thank you to all the volunteers who help our food shelf run. You are so appreciated.

Blessings,

Leann Giese

Outreach Liaison



Serving Others in a Snow Storm

The snow storm in late March didn't stop volunteers from the Living Waters Food Shelf from fulfilling their mission to help local people with food insecurity. The team bundled up to deliver food to vehicles on March 26.



Worship at LWLC

Sunday Service — 9:00 a.m.

Lenten Services — 6:30 p.m.

*WOW Worship Services will resume after Lent. These services start at 6:00 p.m.

FOOD SHELF HOURS

TUESDAYS
10AM - NOON



Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Monday

Closed



Contact

Church Office Phone: 320-255-1135

Church Office Email: church@lwlcmn.org

Pastor Jake's Cell Phone: 320-733-0257

Pastor Jake's Email: pastorjake@lwlcmn.org

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LUTHERAN CHURCH**



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facebook.com/livingwaters.lutheranchurch



YOUTUBE:

youtube.com/channel/UCXpyZgcJVYXf0w4AtX2Pwng/featured

Living Waters Nursery

The Nursery is open during worship, but it is not staffed.

[Please stay with your child.](#)

