



event

Lutefisk!



Thank you to EVERYONE for a great Lutefisk and Meatball Extravaganza!

- 200 lbs of potatoes cooked
- Endless rounds of lefse
- Too many laughs to count
- Lots and lots of meatballs
- Many great volunteers
- Even more happy diners!



and Meatball EXTRAVANGZA!

SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
ADVENT BEGINS
NAME TAG SUNDAY
 8:30 AM WORSHIP
 9:30 AM HOSPITALITY
 9:40 AM POND/SPLASH/
 BREAKFAST CLUB
 9:45 AM TABLE TALK
 10:30 AM WORSHIP
 3:00 PM HOLIDAY VARIETY SHOW

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
 8:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
 9:30 AM HOSPITALITY
 9:40 AM POND/SPLASH/
 BREAKFAST CLUB
 9:45 AM TABLE TALK
 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE WITH
 THE LWLC CHOIR SINGING "HOPE"
 6:15 PM YOUTH GIFT BUYING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
 8:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE WITH THE
 LWLC CHOIR SINGING "HOPE"
 9:30 AM HOSPITALITY
 9:30 AM BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK
 9:45 AM TABLE TALK
 10:00 AM KIDS MEET TO REHEARSE
 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
 10:30 AM WORSHIP WITH KIDS
 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
 NOON CHRISTMAS EVE IN A BARN
 1:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE IN A BARN
 3:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE IN A BARN
 4:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE IN A BARN
 6:00 PM CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS
 EVE SERVICE AT THE CHURCH
 11:00 PM CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS
 EVE SERVICE AT THE CHURCH

LWLC Mission Statement

As followers of Jesus, we seek to reach, teach, and care for
 God's world as a welcoming and inclusive community.

On Sunday, December 31
there will be just ONE
service at 9:00 am

Table Talk

Join the conversation
 each Sunday morning
 between services for good
 discussion and
 information about a



variety of topics. Come whenever you want! The conversation is
 informal, and no one is pressured to talk. Grab a cup of coffee (or
 juice), pull up a chair and join us for Table Talk, Sundays, 9:45 -
 10:15am. Table Talk meets in the **ROOM OF HOPE DURING**
DECEMBER.

DECEMBER 3: WHY ADVENT?

.....what the secular world doesn't
 understand.

DECEMBER 10: DAILY TEXTS

.....a refresher on a GREAT way to start
 your day!

DECEMBER 17: CHRISTMAS STORIES

It's an annual TABLE TALK tradition. Come
 and share some memorable Christmas
 stories.



See page 7 for more information
 about the SPECIAL MUSIC the LWLC
 choir will share on Dec 10 & 17.

December Service Team 6

Team Leader:
 Stacy DeArmond

If your service team is
 scheduled for an upcoming
 month, *please* check the online
 calendar

[http://www.lwlcmmn.org/sign-
 ups1.html](http://www.lwlcmmn.org/sign-ups1.html)) and sign up online!

Pond, Splash, and 3rd grade Breakfast Club (Children's Ministry) News

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This year's annual Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 17 at the 10:30 am service. Come hear and see the Christmas story through the eyes



of our children. Parents, kids will meet in the Life & Learning Center at 10 am to run through their songs. Please also bring a plate of bars or cookies to share after the program so we can celebrate with the kids.



Thirde graders at an 8:30 am service in November receiving their bible milestone.



Confirmation Class of 2017.

Bible Story Trick or Treat



4th—9th grade Wednesday Night Education

NO 4th-9th gr Wednesday Night Education during December.
Kids and their families are encouraged to attend Advent Vespers on
Wednesday, Dec 6, 13, & 20 at 6:30 pm.
Vespers usually last less than 45 minutes.

MIDWEEK • JANUARY 17, 2018 AT 6:00PM

**A
K
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R**

Parents of 4-9th graders, kids, siblings, ANYONE from the congregation is welcome to come for a free meal of pizza and salad on January 17th at 6 pm. After we eat, we will be making care packages for our college students as well as people serving in the military. Come join in this fun servant project!

ADDRESSES NEEDED! CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have a college student or someone serving in the military? Please email us their mailing address and a photo if possible so we can send them a care package! Our Midweek Makeover servant project in January is to make care packages for our college students and those serving in the military. Thanks for your help with this!

Do you have an extra shoe box?



We are in need of shoe boxes for our January 17 servant project. We will be sending care packages to college students and members of the military. If you have any shoe boxes, please drop them off at the office. Thank you!



YOUTH GIFT BUYING NIGHT

Living Waters and Celebration Lutheran Church young people are teaming up again this year to purchase Christmas gifts and necessities for kids and families in need in the St. Cloud area, through the Salvation Army's "Angel Tree" project. 7-9th graders will shop at the Crossroads Target on Sunday, December 10. If you'd like to donate any amount towards this cause, it is appreciated! Make checks to "LWLC" and write "Youth Gift Buying" in the memo line. Thank you!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER'S

BURP N BOWL

Congratulations to bowling champ, Jaden Roesner!



WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS
 JOIN OTHER STUDENTS
 IN THIS GATHERING
 BY THE YOUTH / FOR THE YOUTH
 7:11PM-8:00PM
 WEDNESDAYS

WOW MEETS ON DEC. 6 AT 7:11PM



LIVING WATERS YOUTH TO BE AMONG THE 30,000 AT NEXT SUMMER'S NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING.

As of this newsletter, we have 14 8th-12th graders and 3 adults that will be heading out on a

life-changing, faith-bolstering adventure to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. Living Waters has had a history sending youth to the NYG, with groups attending a couple of gatherings in New Orleans and one in Detroit in years past.

The National Youth Gathering can be a little pricey for those who attend. Here are some ways to help our kids with some of that expense:

- ➔ Purchase a discount coupon booklet (\$25) from one of the youth. Sales go through mid-December.
- ➔ Order a NYG pizza or Superbowl Sub in January from one of the youth.
- ➔ Consider sponsoring one of the youth. Watch for details in an upcoming newsletter.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 * 7PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 * 3PM
featuring
“WHENEVER YOU’RE READY”
 men’s quintet
and
“CHRISTMAS WITH THE FOUR LADIES”
plus
wine, cheese & chocolate!

TICKETS (either show) \$10
TICKETS ON SALE AT THE DOOR AND IN ADVANCE

Christmas Day Dinner

Don't have plans on Christmas Day?
Don't want to cook?
Don't want the clean up?
Want to be in the company of others?

Maybe you know someone who would answer yes to one of the above questions?

The reason doesn't matter; EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Monday, December 25
Gather at 11:00 am
Dine at NOON

Rides are available within the area.
Call church office for more info
(320) 255-1135.



As I waited for my order at Papa Murphy's early last December, I overheard two buddies talking about decorating for Christmas. One was like me and hadn't started. His friend, though, said he LOVED Christmas and he had already put up and decorated a tree in his living room and one in the downstairs family room. Just this night, as he was going out to get the pizza, he took a look at his house and decided that he needed to put up a third one on the deck.

This was inspiring. There are people out there who love to decorate for Christmas. So this year, if you're a Christmas lover --

You're Invited!
Living Waters Lutheran 1st Annual
DECK THE HALLS
Wednesday, November 29 5:30-7:00 PM

Start the season right and join in decorating the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We'll get the sloppy joes, chips, drinks, and Todd's promised Christmas tree ice cream treats ready at 5:30 so you can come and go any time between 5:30 and 7:00 that evening.

While the grown-ups put up our two trees and our advent stars and the countless other items we'll have unpacked and ready, the kids will make Christmas cards for the troops and Advent chains for themselves. Mark your calendar now.

-Stephanie Foster, chair of the Music and Worship team



Choir will meet Wednesday, November 28th @ 6:30 to get a jump on the musical. Plan on 1 1/2 to 2 hours. On December 6th and 13th choir will meet immediately following Advent vespers. No choir on December 20th and 27th.

The LWLC choir has been hard at work rehearsing "Hope", a gospel Christmas celebration that tells the story of Christ's birth through choral anthems, each presented in a contemporary gospel style. There is original music throughout, but you'll also hear plenty of familiar carols infused with gospel, soul and even a touch of blues. It is sure to inspire your holiday festivities! "Hope" will be sung on Dec 10 at the 10:30 am service and Dec 17 at the 8:30 am service.



**LIVING NATIVITY!
TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO BE A CHARACTER
AND/OR VISIT THE NATIVITY,
COMPLETE WITH ANIMALS!**

If you wish to sign up to be a character, go to
<http://turl.no/1c43>



Living Nativity will be at the Sauk Rapids Coborn's on
Thursday, November 30, 4:30 - 7:00 pm and
Saturday, December 2, 1:00 - 5:00 pm.
LWLC will also have a float in the Parade of Lights on Dec. 2 at 5:00 pm.

**PARADE OF LIGHTS HELP NEEDED!
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2**

Please ignore the summery temperatures and daylight in the
photo to the right.

Instead, focus in on the volunteers handing out candy!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



We are looking for...

PARADE WALKERS handing out candy. (hopefully dressed a little more wintery!)

FLOAT RIDERS dressed in Living Nativity costumes.

FLOAT DECORATORS.

Those interested in walking beside or riding on the float, please sign up on line or in the church office. Those interested in helping decorate the float, please contact Aaron Sufka or Pastor Todd.



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER A POINSETTIA THAT WILL
BE USED TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR
CHRISTMAS?**

Order forms are available in the church office or in
Sunday's *Waterlife*.

There are three sizes to choose from;

6" for \$9.00, 8" for \$20.00, & 10" for \$35.00

Plants can be given in memory or in honor of someone.

Deadline for ordering is Friday, December 8.

Plants can be picked up after the last service on Christmas Eve.



TAKE AN ADVENT BREATHER!

In the midst of what can be a stressful, busy season, join us on Wednesday evenings at Living Waters for a time of calm and quiet reflection. With the sanctuary only lit by candles, each week's service offers beautiful music, readings, and prayers including individual healing prayers for anyone who desires them. Each Wednesday service begins at 6:30 pm and lasts from 30-45 minutes.

WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 6, 13, 20



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

THANK YOU to the many people who signed up and helped out with Living Waters latest round of *Home Delivered Meals*. As a part of our mission to *REACH, TEACH and CARE*, twice a year Living Waters helps deliver noon meals to homebound residents around the St. Cloud area. **MANY THANKS** to all who helped!

A NEW TWIST TO AN OLD TRADITION!

This year we are challenging you to put a new twist to your ADVENT CALENDAR. Find a box or storage tub and label it, *ADVENT FOODSHELF CALENDAR*. Place it in your kitchen or dining area, where you and your family would easily see it. Place a food shelf donation in the box each day of Advent. It could be a canned good one day, a paper product another day, a few dollars the next. Anything that would help our food shelf ministry at Living Waters. Then, sometime around Christmas, bring it to the church, offering a valuable gift of sustenance for those in need.



LAST CALL FOR GIVING INTENT CARDS!

Just haven't gotten around to turning in your 2018 Giving Intent Card? We'd still *LOVE* to hear from you! Drop yours off in the church office as soon as possible. Information from these cards is very helpful in formulating our 2018 budget. Extra cards are also available in the church office.

2017 GIVING DEADLINE

Financial gifts to Living Waters for 2017 will be received through December 31. After that our 2017 books will close and offering dollars received after that will be applied toward the 2018 budget.

THANK YOU for helping Living Waters end the year in the black, making it possible to *REACH, TEACH and CARE* in so many ways!



13 LWLC young people and 3 adults attended the Jr. High Synod Youth Gathering in Willmar in November! This is a great opportunity for our young people to meet youth from other cities in our synod, and to see that we are a part of a larger church body than our own congregation!



**THIS YEAR,
SHAKE OFF THOSE POST-CHRISTMAS,
JANUARY-BLAHS BLUES!
THERE'S MORE FUN AHEAD!**

I'm so excited.



ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK 1/28

**EFFORT MADE TO PUT
TOGETHER
THANKSGIVING MEALS
FOR FAMILIES IN NEED**

Thank you to the Meinke family, for shopping for meal supplies to make 5 Thanksgiving meals for families in need at Pleasantview. We're thankful to partner with our area schools in as many ways as possible! This project is one way that your offerings to Living Waters are put to good use!



If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.
- Mother Teresa



DINNER Groups

Are you interested in getting together with a small group of other LWLC people and share a meal? Or maybe go out to a restaurant together? If so, Terry Sylvester is organizing this fellowship opportunity. Contact Terry if you would like to be in a dinner group and also if you might like to host.

saukrapids@aol.com
(320) 252-5565

THE STOCKINGS ARE MADE!



**THE STOCKINGS CAN BE PICKED UP
on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3.**

Thanks to Shari Hinkemeyer and Judy Germundson for heading up this annual ministry project. Families from the Sauk Rapids-Rice School District are identified as in need of some extra help during the Christmas season. On Sunday, December 3 you are invited to pick up a stocking to fill. The stockings come with a list suggestions of items needed and wanted. The filled stockings are to be returned no later than Sunday, December 10th. Last year well over 100 stockings were filled. Thank you for bringing Christmas cheer to our neighbors.

**THE STOCKINGS CAN BE BROUGHT BACK FILLED
on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**

PICK UP YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



featuring

**WHENEVER YOU'RE READY
MEN'S QUINTET**

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



and COMEDY THEATER!



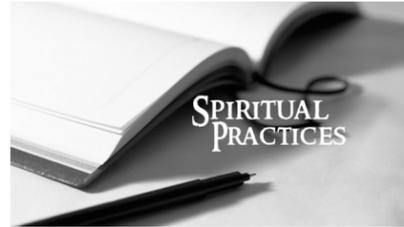
**CHRISTMAS WITH
THE FOUR LADIES**

PLUS Wine & Cheese & Chocolate!

TICKETS ONLY \$10 in advance or at the door.

Spiritual Practices Class

January 20th 9:30-11:30 am at Salem Lutheran Church



If you would like to learn ways in which spiritual seekers down through the ages have opened to God, and deepened their relationship with God, this class is for you. Though each class builds on the ones prior, anyone is welcome to jump in on any class. Talk to Denise if you have any questions.

The 2017 LWLC Church Council

Steve Anderson:

Property

Haley Entner:

President

Stephanie Foster:

Music & Worship

Denise Hanson:

Pastor

Bill Markfort

Youth

Todd Mattson:

Lead Pastor

Todd Muehlbauer:

Finance

Aaron Sufka:

Inreach

Steve Wagner:

Education

Mark Weis

Vice President and Outreach

DeNetta Wolbeck

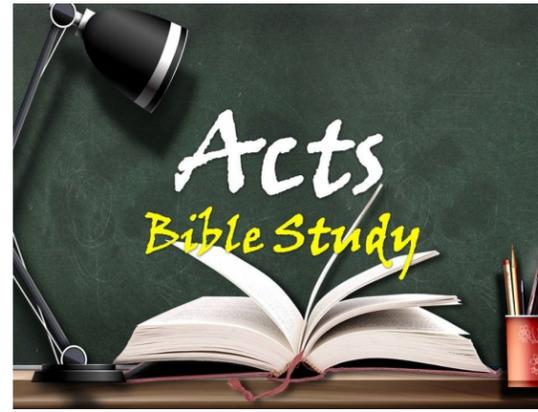
Congregational Life

Mikayla Zaske:

Youth

Stacie Zins

Finance



NEW BIBLE STUDY IN 2018!

Watch your January newsletter for details!

The requests have been heard.

A number of you have requested that we offer a Bible Study on one of the books of the Bible. We will be launching a new Bible Study on the

BOOK OF ACTS starting sometime in January. Please contact Pastor Todd if you have requests for time and place.

LWLC WOMEN'S GROUP



The Women's Group will meet on Tuesday, Dec 5 & 19 at 5:30 pm. All women are invited to spend time with other women in conversation, bible study, and a service project. Invite a friend.

ROSEMALING (the painted folk art of Norway)

The rosemaling group is open to everyone, even if you have never painted before. The next meeting time is Dec 2 at 10:00 am. Let Patti know if you would like to be put on an email list to receive reminders.



A FAREWELL FROM JON RUNDQUIST, LWLC INTERN

With Thanksgiving and Christmas on the mind, I write to you my farewell note as your intern. It's been a quick jaunt with you as your intern, only being with you as your intern for 6 months, every other weekend. But in that time, I've learned so much from you, and I have hope that you will have a bright future as a community leader in Sauk Rapids. Whenever I would tell people in the Saint Cloud area about what I was doing and where - the response was always "Oh! I've been to Christmas in the barn! Such a lovely service!". People know of and love that service, as well as the living Nativity at Coborn's. You've got a couple of good things going there. To see the community involvement with the Fall Fest, the Lutefisk dinner and all of the weddings that were non-members - Living Waters has made an impact in the community. It was nice to see that firsthand while I was here.

Because if you think about the essence of who Living Waters is - a community of individuals coming together to worship, with the flowing baptismal font to welcome them through the sanctuary doors - you gather as a community for the community, both inside and outside the walls of the church. The community food shelf was used daily when I was in the office. Asking around town, it appears Living Waters is somewhat unique in the area for that, and I want to continue to applaud the work and donations that are put forth in that food shelf.

I want to give my own thanks to you, the members and friends of Living Waters, for walking with and guiding my growth and learning during my internship. In service to community and neighbor, in celebration of the sacraments, and gathering together for worship and learning, you have a strong foundation in what you do. Where you go from here, in prayerful thanksgiving to God and hope and vision for the future, together you can continue to do great things, through the grace, love and mercy of God.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Dear folks at
Living Waters,
We attended your
lutefisk and mustball
dinner and we want
to commend everyone
on an event well done!
It takes friendly,
talented folks to be so
welcoming and serve
delicious food.
Thank you to Carol
and Leland Lee for
inviting us.
God Bless you Everyone!
Alyce & Jerry Niley



December Calendar



CLOSED MONDAYS

Tuesday - Friday

9am - 3pm

Please see the online calendar for an up-to-date listing of events at <http://www.lwlmn.org/calendar.html>



**BP CHECKS
3RD SUNDAY
OF THE
MONTH,
9:30AM**

Friday, December 1
7:00 pm Holiday Variety Show

Saturday, December 2
10:00 am Rosemaling
1:00 pm Living Nativity
5:00 pm Parade of Lights

Sunday, December 3
Nametag Sunday
First Sunday of Advent
Pick up a stocking to fill
8:30 am Worship
9:30 am Hospitality
9:40 am Pond/Splash/Breakfast Club
9:45 am Table Talk
10:30 am Worship
3:00 pm Holiday Variety Show

Monday, December 4
Office Closed

Tuesday, December 5
10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Women's group

Wednesday, December 6
6:00 pm Haiti Mission Trip meeting
6:30 pm Advent Vespers
7:11 pm WOW!
Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 7
7:00 pm AA and AI Anon

Friday, December 8
Deadline for ordering Poinsettias

Sunday, December 10
Return filled stockings
8:30 am Worship
9:30 am Hospitality
9:40 am Pond, Splash, & 3rd gr Breakfast Club
9:45 am Table Talk (see page 2)
10:30 am Worship with the LWLC singing "Hope"
6:15 pm Youth Gift Buying

Monday, December 11
Office Closed

Tuesday, December 12
10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Finance team

Wednesday, December 13
6:30 pm Advent Vespers
7:11pm Tanner's Team board meeting
7:15 pm Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 14
7:00 pm AA & AI Anon

Sunday, December 17
8:30 am Worship with LWLC choir singing "Hope"
9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks
9:30 am Hospitality
9:45 am Table Talk (see page 2)
10:00 am Kids Christmas program rehearsal
10:30 am Worship with kids Christmas program

Monday, December 18
Office Closed

Tuesday, December 19
10am staff meeting
5:30 pm Women's group meeting

Wednesday, December 20
6:30pm Advent Vespers
Worship Team rehearsal
Choir rehearsal
7:30pm Council meeting

Thursday, December 21
Montessori in LLC Christmas Program
7:00 pm AA and AI Anon

Sunday, December 24
noon Christmas Eve in a Barn
1:30 pm Christmas Eve in a Barn
3:00 pm Christmas Eve in a Barn
4:30 pm Christmas Eve in a Barn
6:00 pm Christmas Eve service at the church
11:00 pm Christmas Eve service at the church

Monday, December 25
Noon Christmas Day Dinner

Thursday, December 28
7:00 pm AA & AI Anon

Sunday, December 31
Deadline for 2017 financial donations to LWLC
9:00 am Worship NOTE: THERE IS ONLY ONE SERVICE
10:00 am Hospitality

Please inform the church office of any events you wish to be put or taken off the calendar. Thanks!

HAITI MISSION TRIP 2018

This year, Team Haiti consists of 13 people, including 2 high school students, several college students, and adults. They will be in Haiti



January 8-15th. Thank you for your prayer support and your financial support of this team! Please remember them in your prayers as they encounter the living Lord in Haiti.

LIVING
WATERS
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

1911 4th Avenue North
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Phone: 320-255-1135
Fax: 320-255-8891
Email: church@lwlcmmn.org

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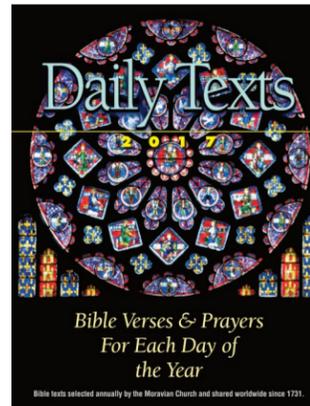


CALLING YOUNG AND OLD!

We are putting together a flashmob for our worship services on Sunday, Dec. 10 & 17th. The song is simple and the mob instructions are easy. Best yet, only ONE rehearsal, 9am on Saturday, December 9.

INTERESTED?

Let Pastor Todd know, OR just show



**NOW
AVAILABLE
IN THE
CHURCH OFFICE!**

Pick up your 2018 copy of DAILY TEXTS, a daily offering of scripture and dwelling on the Word.

Check out the TABLE TALK on December 10th when we will go over the T.R.I.P method of following this ancient set of scripture readings and prayer.

Books will be available at Table Talk and in the church office. They are \$8.