



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

# A Scandinavian Tradition

Merry Christmas



Steve Anderson preparing lutefisk



The 2022 Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner raised more than \$3,000 for our church. Thank you to all who helped organize, prepare, and serve the delicious meal. More than 120 meals were served to-go on November 12.



Marianne and Mel Hauck dishing up meatballs, potatoes, and corn



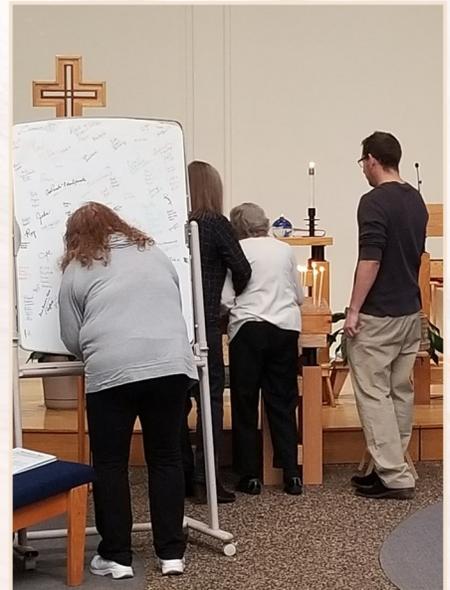
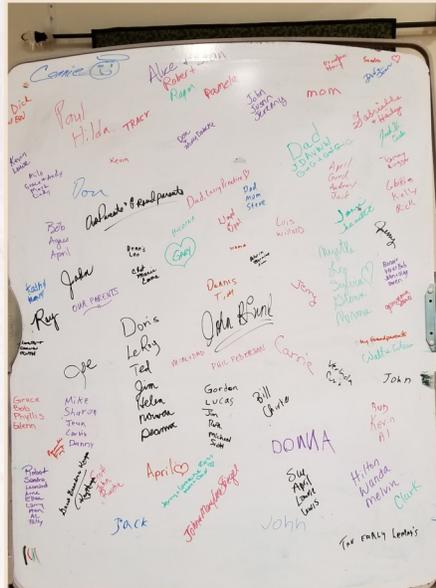


# Thank You

Steve, Mel, Marianne, Bruce, Jeff, Pastor Wayne, Kia, Bryn, Teresa, Steve, Blair, Kathy, Paul R., Bonnie, Yvonne, Gary, Judy, Linda, Brad, Shari, Terry, Howard, Brian, Dawn, Elizabeth, Paul G., Pastor Jake, Steph, Tina, Mara, Mary, Jana, Mike, Ellen, and all who donated food!



Nov. 6, 2022





## Consecration Sunday Update

The 2023 Consecration Sunday Stewardship Drive thanks those who already have and who continue to provide Estimate of Giving Cards for the coming year! Your giving in God's name clearly makes a difference as our church plans for 2023. Watch the newsletter for updates as the result of our stewardship drive progresses.

## Black Friday Food Drive



Terry Sylvester (from left), Connor Johnson, and Jayne Schrantz (mother of Leann Giese) collect food donations during the Black Friday Food Drive at LWLC on November 25. Food shelf volunteers collected many canned/boxed goods and personal care items, along with \$450 in monetary donations. Thank you to everyone who donated!

# Living Nativity



**SATURDAY, DEC. 10**

**2-5 p.m.**

**Coborn's Parking Lot in Sauk Rapids**

**The Living Waters Lutheran Church Choir will present**

## HOW GREAT OUR *Joy!*

A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

Sunday, December 18 ~ 9:00 and 10:30 services





LIVING WATERS LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Advent Vespers

November 30    December 7  
December 14    December 21

6:30 p.m.



## Christmas Caroling

**Sunday, December 18**

Carolers will meet at LWLC after the second worship service (approx. 11:30 a.m.) and break into groups that will sing at locations in town. All are welcome!  
More info to come.

BRING JOY TO A LOCAL CHILD THIS CHRISTMAS



## Angel Tree

### at Living Waters

The Salvation Army's Angel Tree program provides gifts of new toys and clothing to children in our community. Each tag lists the gender and age of the child, gift ideas, and other instructions. Please bring unwrapped gifts to the church by December 11. The gifts will be brought to the annual "Toy Shop," where families can "shop" for gifts for each of their children.



**Christmas Eve**  
**in a Barn**  
**Is Back!**

**Three services:**  
**12:00, 1:30, and 3:00 p.m.**

**5400 Golden Spike Road, Sauk Rapids**



**Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight Services**

**6:00 p.m.**

**10:00 p.m.**

*at the church*

# The Visit



**Pastor Jake Dyrhaug**

*“But when the fulness of time had come, God sent his Son.” Galatians 4:4*

What if God came down and walked around Sauk Rapids tomorrow? The legends of most ancient peoples tell in some way about gods and goddesses visiting Earth. They would come and go sort of capriciously, sometimes showing divine favor, other times visiting disaster. Did you know there is actually a religious trend going on right now called “Neo-paganism,” as some have decided to worship the old gods again, and I think, good grief. I’ll see stories in the newspaper about a group who transformed an old church to a place to worship the old Nordic gods again. Or the names of the old gods, Odin or Thor, will show up in spray paint on vehicles, and I think, do they really want to worship the old gods? There are movies portraying them as being cool and actually nice, but those portrayals are simply not accurate historically. Do they really know how the old gods were described?

When you do some research and archeology, the legends of the old gods visiting Earth were of little comfort. More often than not these appearances were feared—in fact, many cultures intended to keep their gods at bay by offering sacrifices to them. Walking amongst the massive stones of Stonehenge once, I tried to imagine what was in the minds of the ancient people who dragged those boulders great distances to get them to the Salisbury Plain in south-central England nearly 4,000 years ago. They were for astronomy and meteorology (quite an advanced observatory for the day!), and it was certainly also a place of sacrifice to the gods, very likely some human sacrifices. Whether it was the perception of the gods of the ancient inhabitants of the British Isles or the Vikings or early Canaanites, a god

was revered, but often thought of like a nasty landlord who would get you in trouble if you didn’t pay the rent. One worshiped, not because you hoped the gods would appear, but rather for fear that they might. To be unnoticed by the gods and to be left alone by them was a relief, because gods and goddesses, as they imagined, never became a part of the sufferings of humanity; they hovered off in their own space.

How different is the God of the Bible. The God of the Bible came to us, and came in Jesus Christ, became one of us and remains with us through the Holy Spirit. God came to be born in a manger, and to later suffer and die for the sins of the world. Our God came to bring the blessings of heaven to earth, and to reclaim us for the Father’s kingdom.

This is a far cry from a Zeus or Apollo or a Molech or Odin. These are characters from myths and legends, but Jesus is the true Word made flesh, come to live among us, to show us the love of God. As pastor and writer Alvin N. Rogness once put it, “The pivotal event in the history of the world is this visit! It is not the rise and fall of a civilization, the discovery of the wheel, or the breakthrough into space travel. It is infinitely more. We are born, we live, we die. This is true of people and of nations. This melancholy sequence is broken by the visit of Jesus. Death is not the end for us. Forgiven and restored, we shall live with him forever.”

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Come and celebrate these glad tidings as we meet for Christmas Eve worship, with three “Christmas in a Barn” services, 12:00, 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. at 5400 Golden Spike Rd, Sauk Rapids, and then Candlelight Services at 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. at the church. All are welcome to come and share in the joy of his love!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Jake Dyrhaug



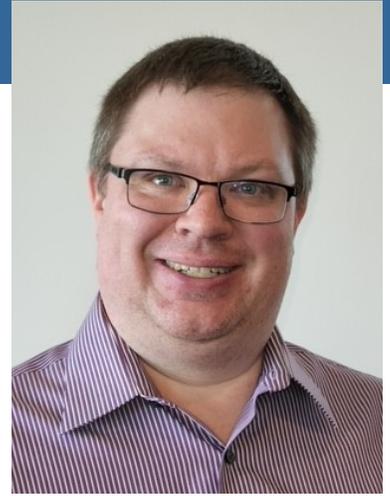
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**CORNER**

**Next Council Meeting: December 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.  
(the third Tuesday of the month)**

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| President:           | Blair Schrader |
| Vice President:      | John Fuls      |
| Secretary:           | Linda Agre     |
| Treasurer:           | Mary Soroko    |
| Liaisons...          |                |
| Congregational Life: | Tom Satre      |
| Education:           | John Fuls      |
| Finance              | Brian Ulrich   |
| Inreach:             |                |
| Outreach:            | Leann Giese    |
| Personnel:           | Aaron Sufka    |
| Property:            | Blair Schrader |
| Worship & Music:     | Brad Giese     |
| Youth:               | Daniel Agre    |

## Worship and Music Team



Merry Christmas, LWLC!

Signup Genius is back. Opportunities to help with worship during December and the holidays are posted online. Feel free to click or type in the links to sign up in the signup genius.

**Christmas Eve in the Barn.** It's published, and here is the link to share for others to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054EAAAB2FABFD0-christmas5>

**Worship Helpers – December 2022.** It's published, and here is the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054EAAAB2FABFD0-worship1>

The choir will be sharing the story of Jesus' birth in a musical form. *How Great Our Joy* will be presented on Sunday, December 18.

Advent Vespers Wednesday night services are short meditative candlelight services.

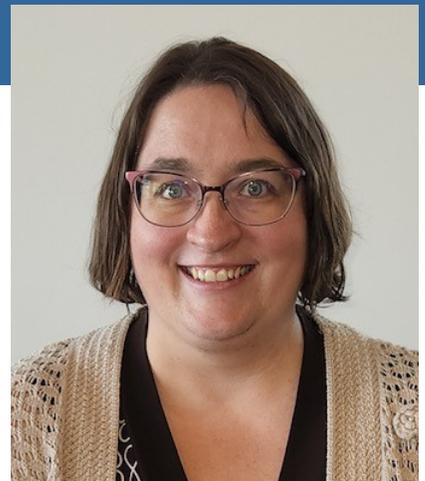
Christmas Eve in a Barn will be worshipping at 12, 1:30, and 3 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight services at the church are at 6 and 10 p.m. on December 24.

Thank you to those who helped with "Deck the Halls." It looks very festive as we count down the days to Jesus' birthday.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Brad Giese**  
**Worship and Music Liaison**

## Outreach Team



Happy holidays, friends and family. We have so many reasons to give thanks this holiday season. I am thankful for all our wonderful volunteers that keep our food shelf and other activities running smoothly.

Our Black Friday Food Drive was a great success. We collected a healthy amount of canned goods, personal items, and monetary donations. We collected \$450 in monetary donations which will help with our second Harvest partnership. Thank you to all who donated for the cause. It is much appreciated.

Our next event coming up will be our Living Nativity scene in the parking lot of Coborn's in Sauk Rapids. The event will be from 2 to 5 p.m. on December 10. We will have three one-hour time slots for the characters. There will be live animals from the Pederson farm. We also will have a couple bins for food shelf donations from the community. You can sign up for the event on Signup Genius on the church website.

Be on the lookout around the new year for a special meeting for our community event Called Meal and Mic night. We are hoping to do the event next spring or fall. We applied for a grant through the Southwest Minnesota Synod's Endowment fund and received \$2,500 toward the event. We would like to get a planning committee organized for this event. This event would be community-wide, not just for our church community. If interested, please contact me.

Blessings,

**Leann Giese**  
**Outreach Liaison**



**Reminder:** Only aluminum cans should be placed in the Cans for a Cause trailer at LWLC. No other recyclables are accepted.

Thanks for your support!  
This year, aluminum can recycling has generated more than \$300 for our church.

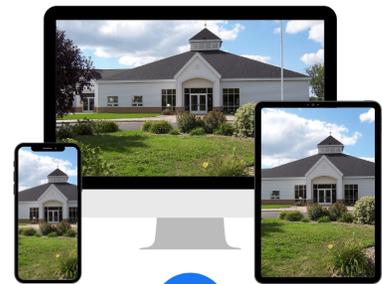
A special thanks to Dennis Wahl for bringing the cans to be recycled.



**Food Shelf  
Hours**  
**TUESDAYS**  
**10 a.m. - Noon**

*Follow*

**LIVING WATERS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**FACEBOOK:**  
[facebook.com/livingwaters.lutheranchurch](https://facebook.com/livingwaters.lutheranchurch)



**YOUTUBE:**  
[youtube.com/channel/UCXpyZgcJVYXf0w4AiX2Pwng/featured](https://youtube.com/channel/UCXpyZgcJVYXf0w4AiX2Pwng/featured)

## Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday

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

Monday

Closed

 320-255-1135

 [church@lwlcmn.org](mailto:church@lwlcmn.org)

# FA LA LA FOR FAMILIES

## FREE VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Wednesday, December 14  
LIVE AT 7PM

## THIS CHRISTMAS, SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES IN A ROCKIN' WAY...

Join us for our FREE virtual Christmas Concert, featuring local and national favorites like Michael Shynes, Kat Blue Band, Aaron Clifton, Mason Dixon Line and more! Rock around your Christmas tree in the comfort of your home while supporting Tanner's Team's mission to provide grants to even more local families of children experiencing a life-threatening illness. Can't make it? *Your donations will help make the holidays brighter for families who need it most. Donate online today.*



### REGISTER NOW

[falalaforfamilies.eventbrite.com](http://falalaforfamilies.eventbrite.com)

VISIT [TANNERSTEAM.ORG](http://TANNERSTEAM.ORG)

to learn more or find us on

Facebook @tannersteamfoundation

SAVE THE DATE

Proceeds from this event will proudly support local families of children experiencing a life-threatening illness.

**TANNER'S TEAM  
FOUNDATION**  
Teaming up to Help Families®



## Pastoral Care

at Living Waters  
Lutheran Church

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](mailto:church@lwlcmn.org)



Pastor Jake  
320.733.0257  
[pastorjake@lwlcmn.org](mailto:pastorjake@lwlcmn.org)

### REMINDER

The deadline to  
submit articles for  
the church  
newsletter is:

4th Tuesday  
of the month



Email articles and other content to Ellarry at [church@lwlcmn.org](mailto:church@lwlcmn.org). Thanks!

## 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](mailto: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 (building expenses, food shelf, office administrative services, mortgage, etc.)

We want to be sure funds are going where they need to go.