



## Yuletide Spirit ~ Dec. 2

## Live Nativity ~ Dec. 10 & 24

LIVING WATERS LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNTDOWN TO  
*Christmas*  
**YULING PIANOS**

Live Piano Musical Event &  
 Holiday Bake Sale with Lefse  
 (Pre-orders Suggested)




**SATURDAY,  
 DECEMBER 2ND**

**YULING PIANOS MUSICAL EVENT - 1 P.M.**

1911 4th Ave. N.  
 Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

**\$12 Per Advance Ticket - Includes  
 Coffee & Dessert at Intermission -  
 Or \$15 at the Door**

Doors Open at 11:30 a.m.  
 Holiday Bake Sale With Lefse  
 Holiday Basket Raffle - \$1 per chance  
 12:30 p.m. Seating  
 1:00 Yuling Piano Musical Event



Raffle Items  
 Earrings from  
 DJ Bitzen, Gift  
 Cards, & More!




The Living Nativity will be presented from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, December 10, in the parking lot of Coborn's in Sauk Rapids. Featuring live animals and people portraying Mary, Joseph, Angels, Kings, and Shepherds, this free spectacle is open to the community.

Christmas Eve in a Barn services, also open to the public, will be at 12:00 and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 24, at the Pederson Farm, 5400 Golden Spike Road, Sauk Rapids. Step into a real barn with livestock and take a seat on a bale as the Christmas Story is reenacted.

# December Events



- \* **Countdown to Christmas Yuling Pianos Event:** Saturday, December 2. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for the Holiday Bake Sale and 12 Days of Christmas Basket Raffles; Piano Show starts at 1:00 p.m.
- \* **Christmas Caroling at The Good Shepherd:** Sunday, December 3. Meet in the narthex at 11:15 a.m.
- \* **Choir Practice:** Thursday, December 7, and Thursday, December 14, at 6:00 p.m.
- \* **Social Justice For All God's Children Meeting:** Thursday, December 14, at 6:00 p.m. in the Room of Hope
- \* **Living Nativity:** Saturday, December 9, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Sauk Rapids Coborn's.
- \* **Children's Christmas Program:** Sunday, December 10, during 9:00 a.m. worship service
- \* **H2O Youth Group Movie Night:** Wednesday, December 20, at 7:00 p.m.
- \* **LWLC Choir's Christmas Cantata:** Sunday, December 17, during 9:00 a.m. service
- \* **Finance Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, December 19, at 5:30 p.m. in Room of Hope
- \* **Church Council Meeting:** Tuesday, December 19, at 6:30 p.m. in Room of Hope
- \* **Christmas Eve in a Barn Services:** Sunday, December 24, at 12:00 and 1:30 p.m. at the Pederson Farm - 5400 Golden Spike Road, Sauk Rapids
- \* **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at the Church:** Sunday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- \* **Spiritual Wellness Support Group Meeting:** Tuesday, December 26, at 6:30 p.m. in Room of Hope—Last Meeting



## Movie Night

H2O is the LWLC youth group for grades 9-12. The group meets one evening a month. The next H2O gathering is a movie night with Christmas cookie cut-outs on Wednesday, December 20, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Please check Facebook and the weekly Splash Pad for updates about upcoming H2O events.



Did your phone number, email address or mailing address change recently? If so, please let us know so we can update it in our member records system. Call 320-255-1135 or email [church@lwlcmmn.org](mailto:church@lwlcmmn.org).



## LWLC WOMEN TO COLLECT GIFT CARDS FOR LOCAL FAMILIES



On Sunday, December 3, before and after the 9:00 worship service, LWLC women will hand out little stockings with gift card requests for families of children who attend Pleasantview and Hillside schools in Sauk Rapids. Stockings will be marked "boy" or "girl." You are invited to purchase a gift card, valued at \$35, and place it inside the stocking. The gift card will be used by local families to purchase Christmas gifts for those children. The stockings and gift cards will be collected on Sunday, December 10, before and after the 9:00 service.

## All Saints Sunday ~ November 5, 2023



## Seeking Nativity Characters!

LWLC will present the Living Nativity December 9 in Sauk Rapids. We're still seeking costume dressers; volunteers to embody Child Angels, Kings and Shepherds; and volunteers to help with set-up on Thursday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m. at the Pederson farm, 5400 Golden Spike Road. Scan the QR code below or visit [www.lwlcmmn.org](http://www.lwlcmmn.org) and select "2023 Living Nativity."



# Living Nativity



**SATURDAY, DEC. 9**  
**2-5 p.m.**

Coborn's Parking Lot in Sauk Rapids



Sign Up Here

*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.*

*Luke 2:11-12*

**Celebrate the birth of Jesus in a real barn with live animals.**

*Christmas Eve in a Barn*

Services at 12:00 and 1:30 p.m.

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

5400 Golden Spike Road, Sauk Rapids





# CHILDREN'S *Christmas* PROGRAM

**Sunday, December 10, at 9:00 a.m.**

Cookies and Refreshments will be served afterward in the Life & Learning Center.

LIVING WATERS LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Advent Vespers*



**6:30 p.m.**

**December 6**  
**December 13**  
**December 20**

# CHRISTMAS EVE

*At the Church*

**Regular Morning Worship  
at 9:00 a.m.**

**Candlelight Service  
at 5:00 p.m.**

**Candlelight Service  
at 10:00 p.m.**





# Christmas Cantata

The Living Waters Choir now meets for rehearsals at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays. December practices are on the 7th and 14th in the sanctuary. The choir will present its Christmas Cantata, "God Came Near," during the 9:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 17.

**Occasional help needed with snow shoveling and snow removal at church when snowfall is less than two inches. Contact Steve Szymanski with the Property Committee at 320-292-1984.**

### Worship Assistant Sign-Up

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

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



Want to recycle *and* support Living Waters Lutheran Church?  
Place aluminum cans in the Cans for a Cause trailer at LWLC. No other recyclables are accepted.  
Thanks for your support!

**Christmas Caroling**  
at The Good Shepherd Community in Sauk Rapids  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3**  
Meet in the church narthex at 11:15 a.m.  
LWLC invites all ages to join us for this fun outreach activity.

### Contact Info



Pastor Jake Dyrhaug  
(320) 733-0257

Ellarry — Church Office  
(320) 255-1135



# Remember How He Came



Pastor Jake Dyrhaug

sending his son, Jesus, born in a manger.

The truth is, as writer Max Lucado reflects in *God Came Near*, “Were it not for the shepherds, there would have been no reception. And were it not for a group of stargazers, there would have been no gifts.” The shepherds came, we read in Luke 2:17, and “when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told to them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.” The Wise Men came, we read in Matthew 2:11, and “going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him” and offered him gifts.

I sometimes wonder if Mary and Joseph had any idea that the events of their humble circumstances would result in the greatest shopping phenomenon and exchange of gifts the world has ever known. Something seems to get lost in all the frenzy. But I’m a participant in the whole thing, knowing I too will find myself enmeshed in the Holiday Season, that very special time of year when we join with loved ones in scrambling for a parking spot on Main Street or at the mall. I try to retain a more authentic perspective on the “Reason for the Season.” But my efforts at authenticity only go so far. There is so much more to it, I know. The whole thing is so much more powerful than getting and even giving presents. The fact that the first Holy Night was so different causes me to ponder the wonder of what God was really doing on a cosmic scale in

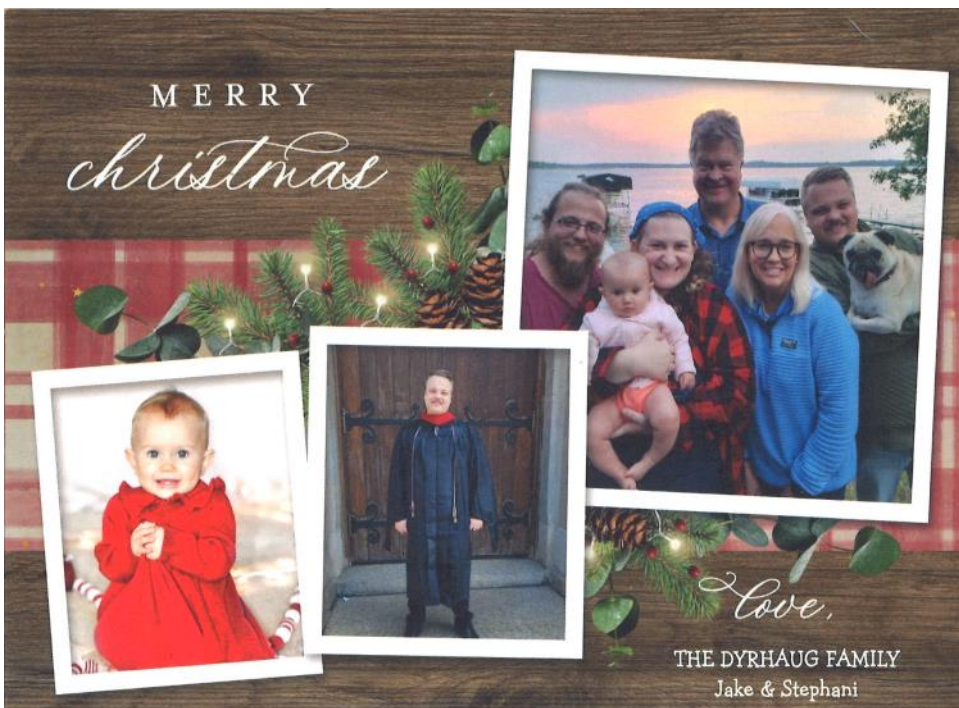
When you head out into the culture and time in which we live, with all the busy rush, think about the quiet and powerful way it began. As Lucado says it well, “if our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior.” God hushes the world and comes as a baby in a manger. It’s so humble we can’t believe it, but it opens our hearts.

As we come to worship and remember how Christ came, we will gather for Wednesday Advent services until Christmas with Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m. On December 24th, there will

be one Sunday morning service at 9:00 a.m. Then there will be two Christmas in a Barn services this year on December 24th—one at 12:00 and the second at 1:30 p.m., then two Christmas Eve candlelight services back at the church—5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. God bless you in these days we remember the way Christ came.

Joy and Peace,

Pastor Jake Dyrhaug



## SAVE THE DATE

**Living Waters Lutheran Church Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, February 4, 2024**

**Immediately Following the 9:00 Worship Service**

# Marriage Encounter Experience

**February 16-18, 2024 At Living Waters**

Living Waters will host a Marriage Encounter Experience the third weekend in February. The casual atmosphere of this experience will enhance the gift of putting your marriage first – giving you and your spouse the opportunity to enjoy this precious time together away from jobs, chores, and other responsibilities. You will learn unique, loving, and effective communication techniques during each session of this experience that will help you discover a new and more joyful way to experience your marriage relationship.

### **INCLUDED IN YOUR EXPERIENCE**

All Friday evening to Sunday afternoon sessions at LWLC.

Two meals on Saturday (lunch and dinner), and one meal on Sunday (lunch) for you and your spouse.

All program materials used during your experience as well as access to marriage enrichment materials following your experience.

### **COST**

\$75 per couple for meals and program materials.

This payment is required at time of online application using your credit/debit card, or with registration and payment offline by check.

Financial assistance for the program cost is available for those in need – please contact us prior to applying.

Please note that your hotel/breakfast cost will be an additional cost that you will pay directly to your hotel and is separate from the program cost.

The cost is refundable if you cancel on or before February 12, 2024. Payments received and/or refund requests made after February 12, 2024 cannot be accommodated.

### **DEADLINE TO APPLY**

Deadline to apply is Monday, Feb. 12, 2024; however, space for this event is limited and may fill up sooner than the registration deadline.

God Loves  
MARRIAGE

To register, scan the QR code on the right or visit <https://godlovesmarriage.org/event/sauk-rapids-mn-marriage-encounter/>







## Gifts of Gratitude

H2O, the senior-high youth group at LWLC, met on November 11. Youth made cookies and thank-you notes for staff at The Good Shepherd and then delivered them to the senior-living campus in Sauk Rapids. Teens and chaperones also played games at church.



## Lutheran College Offering Full Scholarships

Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD, is offering full scholarships through Augustana Possible, a bold new financial aid program that meets 100% of demonstrated financial need for qualifying newly enrolled students. High-achieving students from families with lower incomes can achieve an Augustana education with Augustana Possible. Augustana is a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. See more details at <https://www.augustana.edu/possible>.

# Outreach Team

## Merry Christmas



As I am writing this newsletter, I am thinking of a song that speaks to my heart. The song reminds me of the Christmas season when I was younger. The time when the season was filled with activities surrounded by family and friends and not so much about materialistic things. This time has been brought back into my life now that I am in my 40s. The song is "I Need a Silent Night" by Amy Grant. I challenge each and every one of you to listen to the words of this song.

This month is filled with festive activities inside and outside of the church. On December 3rd, we will be singing Christmas Songs at The Good Shepherd Community in Sauk Rapids. We will be meeting at 11:15 a.m. in the narthex at Living Waters Lutheran Church. We will have both guitar and piano being played along with singers. On December 9th from 2-5 p.m. we will have our Living Nativity scene in the Sauk Rapids Coborn's parking lot. There are more spots to fill. Please sign up at the church or online. There will be a holiday parade after and the festival by the river throughout the day put on by the city of Sauk Rapids.

Starting December 10th, we will be collecting items for the homeless. Some of the items we will be collecting are hats, gloves, hand/foot warmers, socks, and hygiene products. Be on the lookout for flyers in the narthex and a bin to put the items in. In January, we will put the care packages together and deliver them. My goal is to get enough items to put 60 care packages together.

Have a safe and blessed Christmas season!

**Leann Giese**

**Outreach Liaison**



Living Waters Food Shelf volunteers, including Terry Sylvester (left) and Bonnie Raduns handed out Thanksgiving pies in November.

## Living Waters Lutheran Church Council

**John Fuls:** President

**DeNetta Wolbeck:**

Vice President

**Wayne Anderson:** Secretary

**Mary Soroko:** Treasurer

**Daniel Agre:** Youth Rep.

Liaisons:

**Bradley Giese:** Worship & Music

**Leann Giese:** Outreach

**Josh Rock:** Youth

**Tom Satre:** Congregational Life

**Brian Ulrich:** Finance

**DeNetta Wolbeck:** Education

*Council meetings typically are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend these meetings.*

**Next Council Meeting: December 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the Room of Hope**



# DECK THE HALLS



Thanks to all the volunteers who decorated the church for Christmas! Deck the Halls Day was November 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 2023 and September 2023
Team 2	Teresa Szymanski	Cu through Gunderson, D	March 2023 and October 2023
Team 3	Jen Kiewel	Gunderson, J through Koskinen, D	April 2023 and November 2023
Team 4	Tim Wright	Koskinen, S through Moon	May 2023 and December 2023
Team 5	Bonnie Raduns	Moor through Rock, J	June 2023 and January 2024
Team 6	Terry Sylvester	Rock, K through Sz	July 2023 and February 2024
Team 7	Darryl Torrin	T through Z	August 2023 and March 2024

# Generosity Makes All Things Possible

The Living Waters Stewardship Committee invites us to reflect on where we are to date on our current year giving, in order to help make a strong finish for 2023. For a forecast, the Finance Committee is projecting a \$7,000 to \$8,000 operating budget deficit. We're hoping to close the gap by the end of the year.

We are currently preparing our 2024 operating budget. 2024 Estimate of Giving Cards were recently distributed. Please remit your 2024 Estimate of Giving Card to the church office as soon as possible, or place it in the offering on Sunday morning.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us meet our financial goal.



The Living Waters Choir, directed by Janet Anderson and accompanied by Brad Giese on trumpet, performed during worship services on October 15 and November 19. The choir will perform its Christmas Cantata on December 17 at 9:00 a.m.



The Mary's Mermaids Women's Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the church for coffee, conversation, card-making and other ministry projects. Not into card-making? Just come and visit with friends!

Our Mission: To reach out with God's love through word and deed to encourage Christian development.

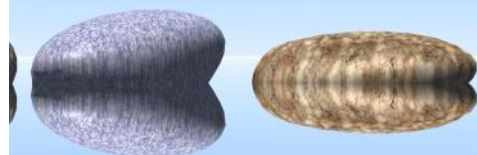
**The Spiritual Wellness Support Group, which was introduced one year ago at LWLC, will be disbanding after the December 26 meeting. Thank you to Russ Victorian for leading this group and to everyone who attended.**

Open to adults seeking peer support with anxiety, depression and loneliness, this group provides an opportunity to walk with others in the Christian faith who are experiencing similar struggles.

## Spiritual Wellness Support Group

at Living Waters Lutheran Church

1911 4th Avenue North, Sauk Rapids, MN



6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Fourth Tuesday of each month



# Worship at LWLC

Sunday Service — 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday Service — 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](mailto:church@lwlcmn.org)

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

Pastor Jake's Email: [pastorjake@lwlcmn.org](mailto:pastorjake@lwlcmn.org)

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

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LUTHERAN CHURCH**



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