



# ‘O Holy Night



The Christmas Story was shared with hundreds of people last month. Living Waters Lutheran Church presented the Living Nativity (below) on December 10 at Coborn’s in Sauk Rapids and Christmas Eve in a Barn (above) on December 24 at the Pederson farm in rural Sauk Rapids.



# January Events



- \* **Wednesday Youth Education (grades 2-9):** January 10, 17, 24 and 31— Pizza at 5:30 p.m., WOW Worship at 6:00 p.m., Class at 6:30 p.m. (Full schedule on next page.)
- \* **WOW Worship:** January 10, 17, 24, and 31 at 6:00 p.m.
- \* **Bingo Night:** Friday, January 12, from 6-8 p.m.
- \* **Sunday School (PreK-1st grade):** January 14, 21, and 28 at 10:10 a.m. in the LLC (Full schedule on next page.)
- \* **H2O Youth Group Sledding:** January 10 at 6:30 p.m. (More details below.)
- \* **Church Council Meeting:** January 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- \* **Table Talk With the Book of Mark Study Guide:** January 14, 21, and 28 at 10:15 a.m. in the fellowship area
- \* **Finance Committee Meeting:** January 16 at 5:30 p.m.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Living Waters Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Immediately Following the 9:00 Worship Service



### Sledding Night

H2O is our youth group for grades 9-12. The group meets one evening a month. The next H2O gathering is Wednesday, January 10. We'll meet at the church at 6:30 p.m., then carpool to the sledding hill at the high school. After sledding, we'll return to the church for hot cocoa.



Living Waters Food Shelf volunteers Bonnie Raduns (left) and Yvonne Crandall served pie and ice cream for staff and fellow volunteers in honor of their January birthdays.

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

# 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 will be based on Calvary Connect materials, “Everyday: Responsibility, Patience, Commitment” and the “Spark” Bibles.

January 14—Brief Welcome Back with parents and kids

January 21—Classroom

January 28—Classroom

February 4—Classroom

February 11—Classroom

*February 14 is Ash Wednesday. (No class during Lent.) March 31 is Easter Sunday, no class.*

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 on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. and to the W.O.W. Worship from 6:00-6:30 p.m.*

## 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 winter and spring will be “Everyday: Responsibility, Patience, Commitment.”

*\*Skit and Kids’ Bell Choir practices will be after Sunday services leading up to Palm Sunday, for any who would like to be a part!*

January 10—All kids and parents/guardians for a Family Night. Dinner/pizza and orientation

January 17—2nd-9th graders meet at 6:30 at Kids Fighting Hunger, 11 Industrial Blvd., Sauk Rapids

January 24—Classroom

January 31—Classroom

February 7—All kids and parents/guardians for a Family Night

February 14—Ash Wednesday (All are encouraged to come for Lenten services, but no class during Lent.) *Easter is March 31 this year.*

April 10—All kids and parents/guardians for a Family Night

April 17—Classroom

April 24—Classroom

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!*



# BINGO NIGHT

At Living Waters  
Lutheran Church



Join us for an evening of fun at Bingo Night! Get ready to shout "Bingo!" as we play for cash prizes. \$5 for 3 games.

Bingo proceeds support Living Waters' general fund. Concession sales are a fundraiser for the youth trip to New Orleans this summer for the National Youth Gathering.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12 | 6-8 P.M.**

Bring a  
friend!



Church Youth  
Selling Concessions



# 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.

God Loves  
MARRIAGE

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



## Council Meeting Minutes Attached

The November 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:** President

**DeNetta Wolbeck:**

Vice President

**Wayne Anderson:** Secretary

**Mary Soroko:** Treasurer

**AJ Wolbeck:** 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: January 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Room of Hope**

## Vice President's Update



Thank you to all the teachers and students for participating and/or assisting with the Children's Christmas Program! Thank you, parents and guardians for the extra effort of having the students at rehearsal and for helping them with their lines, etc. Thank you to Janet Anderson for her beautiful piano accompaniment and to Chris Kiewel and Tim and Brenda Wright for assisting with the technology. Thank you to the Mary's Mermaids for the coffee and cookies afterward. Enjoy the pictures of the program on page 9!

Classes start up for 2nd grade through 9th grade on Wednesday, January 10th, with pizza at 5:30 p.m. for \$1.00 per slice, Worship at 6 p.m., and a mandatory meeting for parents and students at 6:30, followed by a short classroom session.

We have big things in store for 2024!

Sunday School resumes for PreK through 1st grade on Sunday, January 14th, at 10:10 a.m.



Bundt cake display Dec. 2

Yuling Pianos on Dec. 2nd was a huge success for a first-time event! We had so many positive comments, and the matinee performance was a good time for all!!! The desserts were spectacular!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who make this happen, and special thanks to Pastor Jake Dryhaug and Janet Anderson for the "Yuling Piano" entertaining piano performance and also Pastor Wayne Anderson for some additional vocals on some songs. The piano music was sensational and was a perfect way to kick off the season!

The Basket Raffle and Bake Sale were also huge successes! Thank you to all the bakers for your donations of sweet treats!

This fundraiser proved to be a remarkable event and money maker with limited time commitment! Thank you everyone who supported the event! (Photos on page 10.)

Thank you to our volunteers:

Janet & Wayne Anderson  
Jake Dyrhaug  
Jana Gondeck  
Bryn Muehlbauer  
Teresa Szymanski

Linda Becker  
Cindy & John Fuls  
Mel & Marianne Hauck  
Ellarry Prentice  
Brenda Wright

Denise Christie  
Bruce & Joyce DeGrote  
Kathy Lund  
Terry Sylvester  
Kurt & DeNetta Wolbeck

There were 12 in the kitchen for the Lefse Workshop 101, and *Uffda* - what a great time was had by all! (Photo on page 9.)

Learning about the history and traditions of others as the group learned to roll and flip the lefse- it was buzzing and such a fun time! Everyone had some lefse to take home at the end of the night!

Special thanks to Tauna Quimby for leading the class and sharing all of her equipment and knowledge on the art of lefse-making! Such an incredible event, and we look forward to more of these small group sessions in the future for other types of specialty items!

**DeNetta Wolbeck**

**Council Vice President & Education Liaison**

## ***CHRIST IN OUR HOME BOOKS***

*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.

## **SMALL-GROUP NOTES**

The Spiritual Wellness Support Group has disbanded as of January 1 and will no longer be meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Thank you to those who participated in this group. A special thank-you to group facilitator Russ Victorian.

The Mary's Mermaids small-group continues to be active at LWLC but will not be meeting for card-making for the time being. Watch for Mary's Mermaids updates in future newsletters and the weekly Splash Pad bulletin.

### Worship Assistant Sign-Up

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



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



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



## **POINSETTIAS**

*In Memory of*

Hermoine & Gene Barron

Vernon Becker

Hollis Dickinson

Ruth & Orton Germundson

Tyler Hondl

John Lund

Toody & Irvin Melville

Jerry and Lorraine Ross

Orville Schmieding

Norbert Szymanski

**Thank you for beautifying the sanctuary for Christmas.**



**By Recycling, you can 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!**



**YULING PIANOS**  
**December 2**  
**\$2,000 raised!**  
**Thank you!**





# Choir Presents Christmas Cantata



The Living Waters Choir, directed by Janet Anderson, presented its Christmas Cantata, "God Came Near," on December 18. The program was narrated by Kelli and Dan Pederson and featured solos by Janet Anderson, Brad Giese (trumpet), and Anika and Aneise Martinson.

**2022-2023 Living Waters Lutheran Church Choir Members:**  
**Brad Giese, Todd Muehlbauer, Aaron Sufka, Wayne Anderson, Jake Dyrhaug, Steve Glade, Dennis Larson, Jeff Moon, Stephani Dyrhaug, Jacqui Sufka, Tammy Victorian, Linda Becker, Kay Moon, Bryn Muehlbauer**



## H2O Youth Group's MOVIE & COOKIE NIGHT

H2O, our 9th-12th grade youth group, has started a movie series. The group will meet monthly in the evening for a movie and discussion. In December, H2O youth also decorated Christmas cookies. Youth are welcome to bring friends!



# A New Year!



Pastor Jake Dyrhaug

*"See, I am doing a new thing!" Isaiah 43:19*

I heard once that in a town in Italy they have a New Year's Eve custom. As midnight approaches, the streets are clear. There is no traffic. There are no pedestrians. Even the policemen take cover, and then, at the stroke of 12:00, the windows of the houses fly open. To the sound of laughter and a lot of music and fireworks, each member of the family pitches something out—old dishes, detested ornaments, hated furniture and a whole bunch of personal possessions which remind them of something in the past year they are determined to wipe out of their minds. The forgiveness of our sins is kind of like that. We all know of things about ourselves that we would just as soon have wiped out. That is what God does when we repent and ask forgiveness in the name of Jesus, his Son. From there we can move on to a truly new year.

When the prophet Isaiah received the words from God that the Israelites would experience a second exodus, this time out of the hand of the oppressive Babylonians in the 6th Century B.C., it was a great message of hope. And it came true! Under Cyrus the Great, the king of Persia, they

were free and allowed to return to the land of Israel and to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, which the Babylonians had torn down. Their first exodus had been out of the hand of Pharaoh in Egypt, and now, hundreds of years later, they were to be freed again! Imagine being taken by force from your homeland and decades later, able to go home. It was amazing to them. Many must have thought it never would happen. But what a celebration when it finally happened!

Today many are far from their homelands, hoping to return, from the Palestinians displaced by the war in the Gaza Strip to Ukrainians who have had to relocate, to Armenians from the Nagorno-Karabakh region who hope one day to return to their homes.

In Christ, we are brought into the freedom of new life in our baptism. God is still doing a new thing among us, as I remember the words saying from a song at Bible camp, "I believe that Christ is changing everything, everything, everything, everything, everything!" Out with the old, in with the new. In Christ, we are new creations. And we are sent out into a world in need of that hope we have and proclaim. What will you "throw out" from the past year of your life, so that God can bring in the new life of the gospel in 2024?

Happy New Year to all of you, and be blessed as God does a "new thing" in you!

In Christ,

Pastor Jake Dyrhaug



*Living Waters Children's*  
**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
 December 10, 2023



**CAST**

Michele Berkovich, Krozbie Bratsch, Victoria Berkovich, Holly Janson, Sydney Janson, Presley Kiffmeyer, Cali Klaverkamp, Mia Klaverkamp, Breckette Lundrigan, Liam Pederson, Jo Rohrbeck, Sydnee Wehrs, Caroline Zasoski, Nicholas Zasoski

*Special Thanks to DeNetta Wolbeck!*



# Lefse Workshop



Living Waters member Tauna Quimby (far right) led a Lefse-making workshop at the church on Dec. 14. Tauna, assisted by her husband, Mike Sawin (far left), taught 11 people how to make lefse. Thank you, Tauna!

## Stocking project was a success!

Thank you to everyone who donated gift cards for local children this Christmas! LWLC members Shari Hinkemeyer and Judy Germundson made 52 stockings and every one was filled with a gift card thanks to your generosity! The gift cards will go to children from Pleasantview and Hillside schools and to a local family who has attended Living Waters.



### 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       |



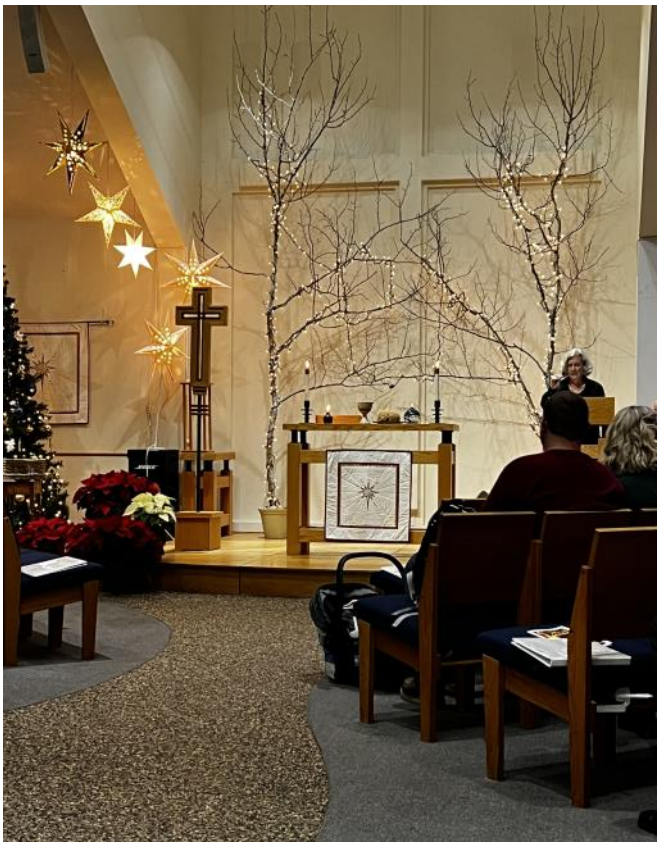
# Living Nativity



Presented on December 10  
in downtown Sauk Rapids

# Christmas Eve IN A BARN





**Christmas Eve**

*Candlelight Services*

# Worship at LWLC

Sunday Service — 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday Service — 6:00 p.m.

\*Wednesday service only on nights when there is youth education. See calendar.

## 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

THANK YOU  
For your ongoing financial support.



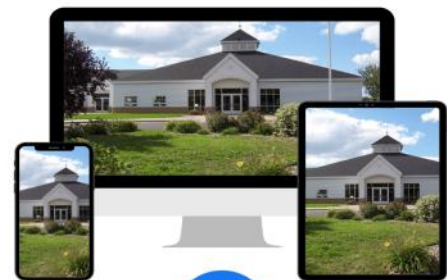
Set up BILL PAY through your bank or credit union. It is free. Contributions will be sent to the church on YOUR schedule.

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

Follow

**LIVING WATERS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**



FACEBOOK:  
facebook.com/livingwaters.luth  
eranchurch



YOUTUBE:  
youtube.com/channel/UCXpyZg  
cJVYXf0w4AtX2Pwng/featured