



## Journeying into a joyous season at LWLC

From a traditional Thanksgiving Eve service on November 22 to a new Countdown to Christmas Yuling Pianos Musical Event on December 2, Living Waters has some festive holiday events planned.

Other events include Christmas Caroling at The Good Shepherd on December 3, the Living Nativity on December 9, the Children's Christmas Program on December 10, and Christmas Eve in a Barn Services.

To prepare the church for the Christmas season, LWLC needs help with fall cleaning on Saturday, November 11, and with decorating on Saturday, November 25. More information is printed on pages 2-5.

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!



LWLC is seeking donations of baked goods for our Countdown to Christmas Holiday Bake Sale as well as desserts to serve during the Yuling Pianos intermission. Also, the LWLC Women's Group will be collecting gift cards that local families can use for Christmas shopping. More information to come.

# November Events

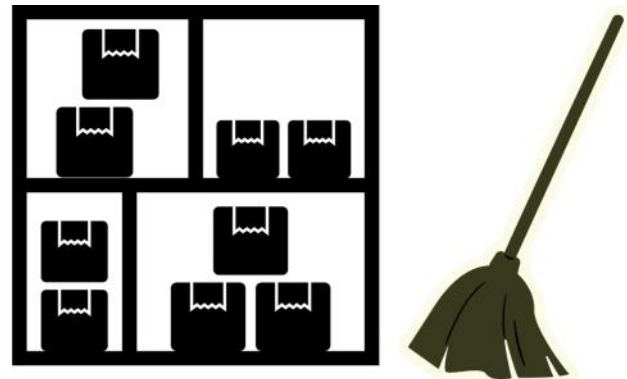
- \* **Mary's Mermaids Meet:** Wednesday, November 1, at 9:30 a.m.
- \* **Sunday School:** November 5, 12, 19 at 10:10 a.m.
- \* **Wednesday Education:** November 1, 8, 15, 29 at 5:30 p.m.
- \* **Church Fall Cleaning:** Saturday, November 11, at 9:00 a.m.
- \* **H2O Youth Group Cookie-Making:** Saturday, Nov. 11, at 5:00 at the church
- \* **Finance Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, November 21, at 5:30 p.m. in the Room of Hope
- \* **Church Council Meeting:** Tuesday, November 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the Room of Hope
- \* **Thanksgiving Eve Service:** Wednesday, November 22, at 6:30 p.m.
- \* **Decorating the Church for Christmas:** Saturday, November 25, at 9:00 a.m.
- \* **Spiritual Wellness Support Group Meeting:** Tuesday, November 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the Room of Hope



## Cookie-Making Event

H2O is the LWLC youth group for grades 9-12. The group meets one evening a month. The next H2O gathering is Saturday, November 11, at 5:00 p.m. at the church. We will make cookies for residents of The Good Shepherd and then deliver them. 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).



## CHURCH FALL CLEANING

**Saturday,  
November 11  
Meet at the church  
at 9:00 a.m.**

We will roll up our sleeves and clean and organize the church so we are ready for the holidays! Many hands make less work!



# CHRISTMAS DECORATING TIME

Help us transform our sanctuary from this



TO THIS



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> @ 9AM**

## Youth Collect Food Shelf Donations

Youth from the Wednesday Education program at Living Waters went door to door on October 28 collecting items for the LWLC Food Shelf. The food was placed on the altar for a blessing. Thanks to all who participated!






# Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 22

6:30 p.m.

PIE WILL BE SHARED  
AFTER THE SERVICE

# Christmas Caroling

at The Good Shepherd  
Community in Sauk Rapids

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
1115 4th Ave. N,  
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

LWLC invites all ages to join  
us for this fun outreach activity.

### 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.



### Third Quarter Financials—Prepared by Mary Soroko, Treasurer

General Fund Comparison			
Third Quarter 2023	2023	2022	Change
Revenues	\$ 218,103	\$ 225,033	-3.1%
Expenditures	\$ 218,677	\$ 226,022	-3.2%
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (574)	\$ (989)	
Mortgage Giving	\$ 28,978	\$ 33,646	-13.9%

### No Black Friday Food Drive

Due to an overabundance of food amassed by the Living Waters Food Shelf, there will not be a Black Friday Food Drive this year. A drive may be held later, as needs arise.



## Seeking Nativity Characters!

LWLC will present the Living Nativity next month in downtown Sauk Rapids. We are seeking volunteers to play the roles of Mary, Joseph, Angels, Wise Men, and Shepherds, as well as volunteers to help with set-up. To sign up, scan the QR code below or visit [www.lwlcmmn.org](http://www.lwlcmmn.org) and click on "2023 Living Nativity."



# Living Nativity



**SATURDAY, DEC. 9**

**2-5 p.m.**

Coborn's Parking Lot in Sauk Rapids



*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

# Giving Thanks to God



Pastor Jake Dyrhaug

***“O, give thanks to the Lord!” | Chronicles 16:8***

Thanksgiving might not be celebrated today, were it not for a patient, persistent woman named Sarah Hale. It is well known that the first Thanksgiving Day was celebrated by the Pilgrims and their Native American neighbors of the Wampanoag tribe in 1621. This was a meal shared in friendship, even though before this event and after, the Wampanoag people experienced war and other hardship as a result of their contact with their new neighbors. In 1789, President George Washington issued a Thanksgiving Day Proclamation to commemorate the first Pilgrim celebration. I remember making Pilgrim hats and turkeys drawn around my own hand as a pattern and cut out of construction paper of varied colors. As the years have progressed, the greater meaning has grown on me, to stop what we're doing and just take some time together to be thankful.

In 1828, Mrs. Hale, the editor of a magazine and the author of the poem, "Mary Had a Little Lamb," began campaigning for the restoration of Thanksgiving as a national holiday. I always liked the song, and I certainly like the meal, so I'm a big fan of Sarah Hale. She wrote letters and sought appointments with national leaders. At first she was resisted, sometimes being told it was "impossible" and "impractical", and sometimes

being dismissed as out-there with this new thought to have everyone stop and observe a day of giving thanks.

Finally in 1863 President Lincoln listened seriously to her plea that North and South "lay aside enmities and strife on (Thanksgiving) Day." He proclaimed the fourth Thursday of November to be the official "National Thanksgiving Day," and the holiday was officially ratified by the U.S. Congress in 1941.

Here in our part of the world we will pause once again in the month of November to give thanks to God. This tradition came through times when the world was not always in perfect harmony, and certainly not all across the land are in perfect harmony today. But with our hearts together still, we give thanks on the fourth Thursday in November.

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On November 22nd, all are invited to a Thanksgiving Eve Service here at Living Waters at 6:30 p.m. November 19th, a few days before, we will have an opportunity on Pledge Sunday to make giving commitments for the coming year. And just a preview... on December 2nd, we'll kick off a "Countdown to Christmas" with a festive event entitled, "Yuling Pianos", a live piano musical event and holiday bake sale!

Give thanks!

In Christ,

Pastor Jake Dyrhaug



# Education

What an accomplishment - We had 13 students that confirmed their faith through years of classes, service projects and then their faith statements.

They are now voting members of the congregation! We are anxious to see where God leads each of them next in their faith journey! Congratulations to all of our Living Waters Confirmands!

**DeNetta Wolbeck**

**Education Liaison**



## 2023 Confirmands

**Megan Anderson**

Parents: Scott & Lisa Anderson

**Kailey Gazett**

Parents: Geoffrey & Holly Gazett

**Caleb Guzek**

Parents: Bob & Amy Guzek

**Ethan Haddy**

Parents: Cheryl & Randy Haddy

**Adria Hanson**

Parents: Ann & Brad Hanson

**Abigail Kapsner**

Parents: Lori & Brian Kapsner

**Delaney Kutzera**

Parents: Troy & Christy Kutzera

**Brady Midthun**

Parents: Christine & Jon Midthun

**Kyle Paulson**

Parents: Bruce & Jennifer Paulson

**Vienna Victorian**

Parents: Russ & Tammy Victorian

**Lucas Wiebe**

Parents: Meghan & Chris Wiebe

**Anthony "A.J." Wolbeck**

Parents: Kurt & DeNetta Wolbeck

**Saraya Ylinen**

Parents: Joel & Sara Ylinen



# Outreach Team

“Be thankful for what you have; you’ll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never, ever have enough.”

~ Oprah Winfrey



Happy November, LWLC family and friends. I have admired all the beautiful colors nature has provided these last couple weeks. As the season changes in nature, we have also seen many positive changes within our church as well. I have been enjoying looking at the Book of Mark in my small group. It’s great to see activities growing at church and outside of the walls of the church.

Thank you to all the members who participating in God’s Work, Our hands. We had four groups doing various activities. Some of these activities included cardmaking for the homeless and singing various tunes at Good Shepard Community’s memory care unit.

I was able to apply for another food shelf grant through the state this year. The amount was \$6,000 or more, depending on our needs. Stay tuned to find out what we are awarded. We will not be having our Black Friday Food Drive this year. We have been very fortunate with Second Harvest Heartland and have plenty of food currently. We might discuss having a food drive this spring. Thanks to the grants and Second Harvest, we have been able to sustain it for the time being. We also found out that we will be able to get all produce for free from Second Harvest until 2024. They are also working on getting reduced cost protein by this winter.

We have some future events coming up this November and December. They are the Living Nativity, Christmas Caroling, and Christmas Eve in a Barn. We also will be collecting items from November through December for the homeless. Be on the lookout for the list of items we will be collecting. These items will be put in packages to donate to the various homeless shelters in the area.

God’s Blessings,

**Leann Giese**

**Outreach Liaison**



**God’s work.  
Our hands.**





## H2O Youth Group Visits MOLITOR'S HAUNTED ACRES



H2O, the senior-high youth group at LWLC, enjoyed a spooky evening at Molitor's Haunted Acres in Sauk Rapids on October 28.



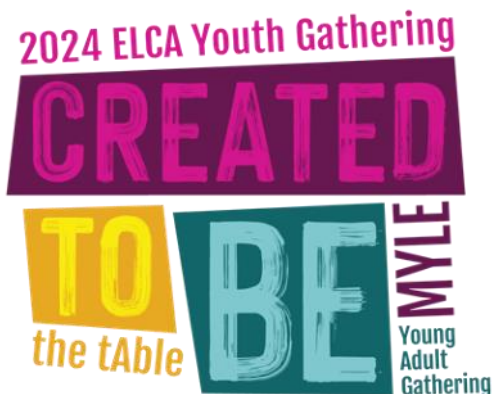
## Fall Hay Ride

October 8 was the perfect day for a hay ride! HUGE thank-you to Elizabeth Pederson for allowing us to take over the farm for a few hours, to Haley Entner for organizing the food and games, and to Dennis Wahl for driving the tractor and making the fire!



# 2024 National Youth Gathering

Youth from grades 8-12 are still invited to register to join our group traveling to the 2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering July 16-20 in New Orleans. This year's theme is "Created to Be." Questions? Call Pastor Jake at 320-733-0257 or Josh Rock at 320-492-4044.



## SAVE THE DATES

### Christmas Caroling

Living Waters members will sing Christmas carols to residents of The Good Shepherd Community in Sauk Rapids on Sunday, December 3, at 11:00 a.m.

### Living Nativity

The Living Nativity will be presented in the parking lot of Coborn's grocery store in downtown Sauk Rapids on Saturday, December 9, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

### Children's Christmas Program

PreK-6th grade students will present their Christmas program on Sunday, December 10, during the 9:00 a.m. worship service. 7th-9th graders can earn Confirmation points by being part of the program or just helping out. There will be a couple of practices on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School time at 10:10 a.m. prior to the December 10 program. Additional information will be distributed through your teachers!

### Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve in a Barn services will be at 12:00 and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 24. Services at the church will be at 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. that day.

## 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: November 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the Room of Hope**



## 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



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

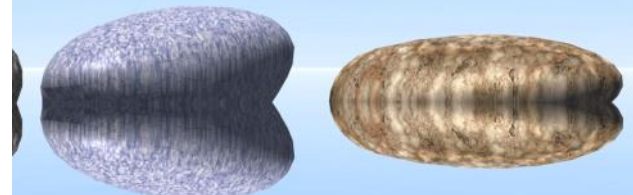
The Mary's Mermaids Women's Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the church for coffee, conversation, card-making and other ministry projects. Not into card-making? Just come and visit with friends!

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



## Christmas Cantata

The Living Waters Lutheran Church Choir now meets for rehearsals at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays. November practices are on the 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 30th. The choir will sing at the 9:00 service on Sunday, November 19, and present its Christmas Cantata, "God Came Near," at the 9:00 service on Sunday, December 17.

**Snow-shoveler, snowblower volunteers needed. Looking for 5 or 6 volunteers to each take a day to cover when snowfall is less than 3 inches. Contact Steve Szymanski with the Property Committee at 320-293-6550.**



Food Shelf volunteers generated smiles with their Halloween costumes!

## Wednesday Worship

All are welcome to attend the new WOW Worship Service on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. This is a short contemporary service with communion.

WOW services are held every Wednesday there is youth education. There will be a WOW Wednesday service on November 1, November 8, November 15, and November 29. A Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at 6:30 p.m. on November 22.



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!





# 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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