

We Burned the Mortgage!



Living Waters has paid off the building mortgage! The mortgage was burned on November 3 during a special service. The Burn the Mortgage capital campaign generated nearly double the requested amount of \$57,000 for the payoff of the mortgage and other capital improvements that will be made over time. Pictured, from left, Pastor Larry Streng, Terry Sylvester (hidden), John Lindholm, DeNetta Wolbeck, Brad Becker, Pastor Jake Dyrhaug, and Bruce Neubauer.

Scandinavian Splendor

What had been a “pre-COVID” tradition underwent a revival when Living Waters welcomed hundreds of guests to the table on Saturday, November 16. The return of the sit-down Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner was a huge success, with proceeds generating more than \$4,000 for our church.

Volunteers collaborated to prepare and serve a delicious meal of lutefisk, meatballs, mashed potatoes, carrots, dinner rolls, lefse, krumkake,

Continued on page 2.



herring, riskrem and fruit soup.

Thank you to every person to supported this event. It takes a village. Whether you donated food items, peeled vegetables, cooked fish, rolled meatballs, decorated, set up tables, waited tables, seated guests, sold bake sale items, showcased your Scandinavian handiwork, bought tickets, or spread the word about the event, we appreciate you!



LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER 2024





Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Pastor Jake and Friends at Living Waters Lutheran Church—

*Hallelujah! Praise God in the sanctuary; praise God in the mighty firmament!
Praise God for mighty acts; praise God for exceeding greatness! Let everything
that breathes praise the Lord!*

Congratulations on celebrating the burning of the mortgage for Living Waters Luther Church! And congratulations, not only on burning the mortgage, but far surpassing the goal you had set. Wow! The generosity of your congregation overflows with blessings that have been reaching the people of the area since the congregation was founded.

I am reminded that you celebrated this milestone on All Saints Sunday. What a beautiful and faith-filled day to give thanks for all those saints whose vision led to this day. You are the church those leaders dreamed of when the congregation was organized. Many of you remember it well. I do! Now you get to pray and imagine how God is leading Living Waters into your new future without a mortgage! You get to envision the ministry you will grow for the saints who are there now, in the surrounding community, and those who will be the church you dream of in the future.

On behalf of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, I want to thank you for the generosity that made possible this celebration, for your partnership in this synod, and for the difference you are making for Jesus' sake nearby and around the world. Thank you.

I am confident that Jesus, who gives and who is the Living Water, will continue to bless your ministries.

With you, I praise the Lord!

+ grace and peace,

Bishop Dee Pederson

Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

175 E. Bridge St., P.O. Box 499, Redwood Falls, MN 56283
Email: swmn.elca@swmnelca.org

Phone: 507-637-3904 Fax: 507-637-2809
Website: www.swmnelca.org

+ Engaging Leaders + Equipping Congregations + Serving in God's World +

Bishop: Rev. Dee Pederson, D. Min.; Synod Ministers: Rev. Heather Culuris and Rev. Seyward Ask
Director for Evangelical Mission: Rev. Troy Pflibsen, Ph.D.

Living Nativity



If you would like to be a nativity character or assist with costume dressing, please sign up on our website, www.lwlcmmn.or. Click on "2024 Living Nativity" for the link. You can also sign up by scanning the QR code below.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
2-5 PM

Coborn's Parking Lot in Sauk Rapids

We are seeking nativity characters for three one-hour shifts (2:00, 3:00 and 4:00). Sign up on our website or call the church office at 320-255-1135.



Christmas Eve in a Barn

Tuesday,
Dec. 24

12:00 pm
1:30 pm
3:00 pm



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

5400 Golden Spike Road NE, Sauk Rapids

If you would like to be part of our live nativity at the barn, sign up at www.lwlcmmn.org or scan the code above.

Blue Christmas Candlelight Service

December 21, 2024, at 6:00 pm

While Christmas is a joyous time of year, we are also mindful of the unrest and pain that exists in our communities and world.

We are mindful of those experiencing grief this holiday season.

This special time of worship will focus on the hope and peace that are revealed to us through the ever-present light of Christ.



COUNTDOWN TO

Christmas

YULING PIANOS

Live Piano Musical Event & Holiday
Bake Sale with Lefse Preorders



SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 14TH



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

Holiday Basket Raffle - \$1 per chance

12:30 p.m. Seating

1:00 Yuling Pianos Musical Program

**Drawings for baskets will be at the end of
the program. Need not be present to win.*



Pianist Janet Anderson



Pianist Rev. Jake Dyrhaug

Raffle for
holiday
baskets



CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Services

Tuesday, December 24th

5:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m.

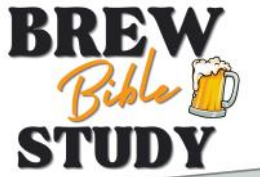


December Events

- * **Sunday Worship:** December 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th at 9 a.m.
- * **Advent Services:** December 4th, 11th, 18th at 6 p.m.
- * **Mary's Mermaids:** December 4 from 10 a.m. to noon in the fellowship area
- * **Women at the Well:** December 5 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Life & Learning Center
- * **Wednesday Education:** See schedule under Education Update on page 8.
- * **Living Nativity:** December 7th from 2 to 5 p.m. in the parking lot of Coborn's
- * **Church Christmas Program:** December 8 during the 9 a.m. worship service
- * **Yuling Pianos:** December 14 with bake sale opening at 11:30 a.m. and music at 1:00
- * **Finance Committee Meeting:** December 17 at 5:30 p.m.
- * **Church Council Meeting:** December 17 at 6:30 p.m.
- * **Blue Christmas Service:** December 21 at 6 p.m.
- * **Choir Cantata:** December 22 during the 9 a.m. worship service
- * **Marriage Group:** December 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Room of Hope
- * **Christmas Eve in a Barn Services:** December 24 at 12:00, 1:30, 3:00 p.m.
- * **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:** December 24 at 5:00 and 10:00

NOTE: People of all ages are invited to participate in the Christmas Program!

Small Group Opportunities



All are welcome to join Brewery Bunch, a casual Bible study group that meets Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This fall, they are studying "Romans for Normal People" by J. R. Daniel Kirk. The group meets at various locations in the St. Cloud area. Text Cheri and Tom Satre for the next location at 320-492-4074.



Our mission is to reach out with God's love through word and deed to encourage Christian development.

Mary's Mermaids meets for coffee and conversation from 10 a.m. to noon on the first Wednesday of the month at the church and from 10 a.m. to noon all other Wednesdays at Coborn's Deli in Sauk Rapids.

Their fundraisers support youth education at Living Waters.

Recent fundraisers have supported Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, and Wednesday Youth Education.



Women at the Well

Women of all ages are welcome to join this new group! Women at the Well will focus on fellowship, creativity, and service. We will meet one evening a month, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., through May in the Life & Learning Center.

**Our next meeting is Thursday, December 5th.
We will be making Scandinavian paper stars.**

All married couples -

you are invited

to join us for Marriage Group!

Every 4th Sunday of the month we offer a Christ-centered marriage ministry to all married couples.

We meet in the Room of Hope, at 6:30 PM at Living Waters Lutheran Church, to discuss topics to help strengthen and support your marriage.

- ♥ We start with prayers and a short devotion.
- ♥ After the devotion, we share a related question for you and your spouse to answer and discuss between the two of you.
- ♥ Once you and your spouse have connected, there is time for some OPTIONAL sharing as a group on what you have may have discovered.
- ♥ At 7:30 PM, we wrap up with a sending prayer.

Each month offers a different topic, so please come when it works with your schedule.

Education Update

Lots of excitement in the works for our youth education!

Upcoming events:

December 1: 10:10 am Christmas program practice for all ages! Please join the fun!

As requested by students, we will meet on Wednesday nights through Advent.

December 4: Advent service at 6 pm followed by Christmas program practice (lots of Confirmation points available!)

December 8: Christmas Program during Sunday service

December 11: Advent service at 6 pm followed by service project of assembling Blessing Bags.

December 18: Advent service at 6 followed by Bingo game for ALL AGES!

In addition to this we are bringing back the Youth Shopping Trip! It will be held on December 8 with time to be determined.

We are also looking to send many of our K-12th grade youth to Luther Crest. The weekend is February 7-9th. Cost is \$205. We will be collecting funds as able, providing as many scholarships as possible! Fundraising ideas welcome!

<https://luthercrest.org/programmed-retreats/>

Volunteers still needed for assisting with events on Wednesday evenings and subbing for Sunday School. Contact Kirsten at kstiegel@icloud.com



Kirsten Stiegel
Education Liaison

CHURCH
CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM

Sunday, December 8th
During the 9 a.m. service



People of all ages are welcome to take part!

Christ is Born...for You!



Pastor Jake Dyrhaug

"The angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid!' I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy. Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David's city."

Luke 2:10-11

I remember visiting the traditional site of the stable and manger where Jesus was born—Bethlehem, David's Royal City. I wonder how our Jewish guide, Deana, is today, and how the Palestinian Christian friends we met in Bethlehem in the West Bank are, if they are all safe. When we hear about the troubles of the world which always seem to assail us, including the terrible violence in Israel and the Gaza Strip and Lebanon (which is over 30% Christian and celebrates Christmas too), we find ourselves wondering, why doesn't the Prince of Peace reign in people's hearts fully yet? One thing I'm convinced of, it has to be God, not human beings, who will do that fully. God's Kingdom will come, "indeed without our praying for it", as Martin Luther writes in the Small Catechism.

Luther saw that the main message of Christmas is that Christ is born FOR YOU. Martin Luther even came for a surprise visit on our recent Discipleship Sunday (thank you, Pastor Larry, for accompanying him that day!) He says, "No matter where you're reading in the Bible, faith is the first mystery you should recognize... Faith is not a natural work apart

from God's grace, as the Scripture clearly teaches. Rather the right kind of faith, the kind that flows from grace and that God's Word demands, is firmly believing that Christ was born for you. His birth is yours and occurred for your benefit. For the gospel teaches that Christ was born for our benefit and that everything he did and suffered was for us. (The angel doesn't say...) 'a Savior was born,' but rather 'your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David's city.' With these words, you can clearly see that he was born for all of us. He doesn't say, 'a Savior was born,' but rather 'your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born.' In the same way, he doesn't say, 'I have good news,' rather 'I have good news for you.' For you! 'I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy.' This joy is for everyone who has this kind of faith" (By Faith Alone, Devotional Readings from Martin Luther Updated in Today's Language). More than dreaming of a White Christmas, this is the main thing.

Come by for the Living Nativity this year and experience this message portrayed by live actors and animals at the Coburn's parking lot once again December 7 from 2-5:00 p.m.! Christmas in a Barn services at will be at Noon, 1:30 and 3:00 this year, with Christmas Eve candlelight services at 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. at Living Waters. Come and marvel in this mystery with us that Christ is born for you!

Joy and Peace,

Pastor Jake Dyrhaug



Discipleship & All Saints Sunday ~ Nov. 3, 2024



(Left) Lori Schoborg, Yvonne Crandall, Bonnie Raduns, Shari Hinkemeyer and Judy Germundson serve apple pie at the Discipleship Sunday social. (Right) Larry Strenge, LWLC's first pastor and guest preacher on Nov. 3, portrays Martin Luther during his message.



(Left) Candles burn in memory of loved ones on Nov. 3, which was also All Saints Sunday. (Right) John Lindholm and Brad Becker of the Finance Committee share a report about the success of the Burn the Mortgage capital campaign with the congregation.

President's Update



Let it Snow! I love snow! However, I am not a fan of the cold temps but I do love, love, love the snow... it is so pretty and glistens when it is falling. It is amazing to think of one snowflake, it cannot do much on its own but when there are a lot of

snowflakes sticking together it can create a flurry, a snowstorm, even a blizzard! Snow can cause traffic to slow down or stop, it can cause events to be postponed or canceled!

Think of our Living Waters Members... we can do a few things on our own, but we are better together just like the snowflakes! After a year of Connect, everyone came together and the result of so many sticking together made wonderful things happen! We made a difference!

The Mortgage has been burned, the Lutefisk dinner was a remarkable success, Stewardship Sunday was another enjoyable day of fellowship!

We are looking forward to more opportunities to Connect as the 2024 year ends... Advent Services, Youth Shopping Events, a Christmas Program, Yuling Pianos, the Living Nativity, Christmas in a Barn, and the Candlelight Services at Church. What a joyous time of year!

Stay positive, stay on task... events, lists and things to do are endless during the busy holiday season... take a moment to slow down and remember the reason for the season! What a miraculous story that never gets old.

Thank you all for your commitment, time, talent, and treasure you give to OUR church! Thank you for all you do together or silently behind the scenes – it all matters... and YOU matter! Thank you for making a difference at Living Waters! We are all individuals, as different as each snowflake that falls but we continue to come together and do amazing things! My heart is full, and my cup runs over... Thanks be to God that a Savior was born in a manger giving us all reason to celebrate. Continue to "Connect"!

Wishing you and yours a safe and very Merry Christmas Season! Happy Birthday Jesus!

Peace & Blessings,
DeNetta Wolbeck
Council President



Yuling Pianos Tickets on Sale Now! \$12 in Advance.

Live Musical Performance on Saturday, Dec. 14th.

Bake Sale Opens at 11:30 am.

Show Starts at 1:00 pm.

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*We are collecting donations for raffle donations  
and still need a few more volunteers.*

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



Greetings from Augustana University,

This fall, we were honored to welcome our inaugural cohort of Buntrock Scholars to Augustana University, supported by the historic Buntrock Scholarship — designed for students who are active and engaged in ELCA congregations throughout the Midwest.

Throughout the upcoming year, the 35 first-year Buntrock Scholars will be encouraged to explore the full breadth of Faith & Spiritual Life programming at Augustana (worship, Bible studies, service opportunities and more). Additionally, scholars will be invited to gather periodically as a cohort, this year and throughout their college experience, to share faith stories and learn about various ministries of the ELCA.

With fall upon us, we're looking ahead to future classes of Augustana Vikings. We're thankful the Buntrock Scholars Program will continue into the future and are pleased to share that the 2025 Buntrock Scholarship application is now open. <https://admission.augie.edu/register/buntrock>

As a valued member of the Augustana Association, we would greatly appreciate your continued support in spreading the word about the Buntrock Scholars program. To assist you and your congregation, we have a variety of resources available, including:

- A presentation slide for use prior to worship or other events.
- A graphic and suggested content to share on your church's social media pages.
- Print materials to distribute to students in your congregation, available through the Material Request Form at [augielink.com/BuntrockScholars](http://augielink.com/BuntrockScholars).

Again, thank you for your partnership in this effort to empower the next generation of leaders for the church.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin  
President

Rev. Ann Elizabeth Rosendale '04  
Loken Endowed Chair for the Campus Pastor



**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!**

*Follow*

**LIVING WATERS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**



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**FOOD SHELF  
HOURS**

**TUESDAYS  
10AM - NOON**



# Worship at LWLC

**Sunday Service — 9:00 a.m.**  
**Watch the Livestream on Facebook at**  
**Living Waters Lutheran Church SR**

## **Living Waters Nursery**

The Nursery is open during worship, but it is not staffed.

Please stay with your child.



**Reminder:**

**This is a Nut-Aware & Latex-Free Complex. Thank you in advance for your efforts to ensure the safety of those with sensitivities.**



## 2024-25 Servant Team Schedule

| Team   | Team Leader(s)    | Last Name Starts With            | Servant Months               |
|--------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Team 1 | Tom & Cheri Satre | A through Cr                     | April 2024 and November 2024 |
| Team 2 | Teresa Szymanski  | Cu through Gunderson, D          | May 2024 and December 2024   |
| Team 3 | Jen Kiewel        | Gunderson, J through Koskinen, D | June 2024 and January 2025   |
| Team 4 | Tim Wright        | Koskinen, S through Moon         | July 2024 and February 2025  |
| Team 5 | Bonnie Raduns     | Moor through Rock, J             | August 2024 and March        |
| Team 6 | Terry Sylvester   | Rock, K through Sz               | September 2024 and April     |
| Team 7 | Darryl Torrin     | T through Z                      | October 2024 and May 2025    |

### Council Meeting Minutes Attached

The October 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** – Property team

jctmfuls@msn.com

**Leann Giese** – Outreach

craftinggiese@gmail.com

**Todd Muehlbauer** – Personnel

toddmuehlbauer@gmail.com

**Carolyn Neubauer** – Inreach, Care Core, Secretary

cneub61126@hotmail.com

**Dan Pederson** – Vice President

djp2880@gmail.com

**Kelli Pederson** - Congregational life

kellilynnpederson@gmail.com

**Josh Rock**

jerock96@gmail.com

**Kirsten Stiegel** – Education

kstiegel@icloud.com

**Brian Ulrich**

briantulrich@gmail.com

**AJ Wolbeck** – Youth Rep.

ajwolbeck@yahoo.com

**DeNetta Wolbeck** - President, Music and worship liaison

nedswolbeck@gmail.com

**Next Council Meeting:**

Tuesday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m.



# Pastoral Care

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@lwlcmmn.org



Pastor Jake  
320.733.0257  
pastorjake@lwlcmmn.org

## 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@lwlcmmn.org

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

Pastor Jake's Email: pastorjake@lwlcmmn.org

### Contact Info



Pastor Jake Dyrhaug  
(320) 733-0257

Ellarry — Church Office  
(320) 255-1135

Email  
church@lwlcmmn.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@lwlcmmn.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 (e.g. mortgage, general fund, food shelf).