

# Living Waters News

## July 2019

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Peace be with you.  
Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Having just celebrated Independence Day, we move into the church year of the time after Pentecost. We also move into the summer period of our calendar year; a time when school is out and summer vacations are on our minds. We pray that during the summer months, we continue to worship on a regular basis, whether it is in our own church setting, or in visiting other congregations where we vacation. Our summer here at Living Waters brings church groups who do work projects around our ministry. Living out their call to do mission work, but also to hear and experience the culture here on the Eastern Band of Cherokees homeland.

It is a learning experience for many because of the stereotyping of years past and present. The congregation enjoys meeting new friends and appreciates the work that these groups do. Our worship service is different because we incorporate Cherokee culture before our liturgical Lutheran worship begins; such as singing a Cherokee morning song, praying in the seven directions; and then during our service we sing at times in our Native Cherokee language. Quite different style of worship, but our visitors leave knowing that we are indeed a Christ-centered mission ministry.

Everyone who reads these written words today, I ask of you, pray for this small mission congregation of Living Waters, pray that the mission of Christ may be carried out, lived out; so that this ministry may thrive, grow, and continue to be a vital part of the community of Cherokee, North Carolina. Elsewhere in this news-letter you can read what's happening at this ministry, and so we invite you to come and see for yourselves. We are truly blessed by the Creator, who sustains us, keeps us, and provides us with all the blessings one could pray for.

Thanks be to God. Amen  
Pastor Jack



### You Are Invited!

We invite you to come and visit us anytime you are in our area or to plan a mission trip to the Cherokee Indian Reservation and join us for Worship.

At Living Waters we honor our culture and Native Traditions as well as our Lutheran Theology. We begin our Worship Service by smudging to cleanse our hearts and minds and prepare us for worship.

We open our worship service using the hand drum and singing the Cherokee Morning song.

Living Waters is blessed to have Partners in Ministry who support us through financial giving, Spiritual support and visits. If you would like to become a Partner in Ministry with Living Waters we invite you to contact Pastor Jack at [prjack@frontier.com](mailto:prjack@frontier.com)

You are much more valuable for what you are than for what you have.

<p><b>Church</b>  AT THE ISLAND</p> <p>July 7, 2019 Plan to join us at the Island for Worship service on July 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 am. There will be a hot dog cookout after the service. There is a menu sheet on the bulletin board. Please check to see what you are requested to bring. We will be joined by a group from Burbank, IL.</p>	<p><b>Guest PREACHER</b> Rev. Danielle DeNise (Living Waters DEM) from the Synod Offices will be visiting with us on July 21, 2019. There will be a potluck after service. After the meal Rev. DeNise will be meeting with the congregation. Please plan to attend.</p> <p><i>Reminder :</i> Potluck on July 21, 2019</p>
<p> <b>Women's Group Officers</b></p> <p>Dorine George – President Le Russell – Vice President Josephine Teesateskie – Treasurer Lisa Russell – Secretary For more information please contact Any women's group member.</p>	<p><b>Women's Group Committees</b></p> <p>Member Support – Leslie Costello Donations - Lisa Russell Communication – Le Russell Kitchen Overseer – Patty Frederick Clean Up Overseer – Yvonne Swan Holiday Flowers – Dean Reed</p>
<p> If you are participating in the Women's Group Secret Sister Program for 2019 Please remember to do at least one thing for your secret sister each month.</p>	<p> The Church Council and Women's group are preparing a list of projects of areas around the church that need our attention. If you are aware of a repair that needs to be made or an issue that needs to be addressed please let Lisa know.</p>
<p> Congratulations to Pastor Jack on the Anniversary of his Ordination as a Reverend into the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Pastor Jack will celebrate 20 years of Ordination on July 17th</p>	<p> Thank you to the Women's Group for gifting our Father's at Living Waters with a Camping Chair for Father's Day. The men were thrilled with their gifts.</p>
<p> There will be a short Women's Group Meeting after service on July 28<sup>th</sup> to finalize plans for the Church picnic. Please plan to attend. Bring your own lunch.</p>	<p> <b>Save the Date.</b> Living Waters Annual Church Picnic will be August 6<sup>th</sup> in Robbinsville at the Santeetlah Lake.</p>
<p> If you would like to be included on the Text Reminder list please let Le know and remember to give her your preferred number to text. These text are reminders of upcoming meetings, events and prayer requests at Living Waters.</p>	<p> Living Waters Pantry will be participating in the Feeding America Summer Kid's Pack Program this year. Kid Packs will be distributed on regular Pantry dates, as well as in emergency boxes.</p>

Live now as though you've been denied the chance up until this moment.



## Living Waters Food Pantry July 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

Current wish list at the food pantry is:  
Ketchup, Mustard, Ravioli, canned meat, Cereal  
Shampoo, paper towels, dish soap



## Living Waters Clothes Closet Ministry

Current Needs:  
Linens, Women's Dresses,  
Maternity Clothing.  
Men's shoes.



Thanks to an Annoymous donor and the Food Pantry Living Waters now has new signs for the driveway and the field on Goose Creek Road.  
If you are able to help put the signs up please see Lisa.



A BIG Thank you to Junior Teesateskie for helping to load/unload a **very** heavy table that was donated to the food pantry/resource center.



### What is food insecurity? ...

**Food insecurity:** The USDA defines food insecurity as a state in which "consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year." Good shorthand terms for food insecurity are "struggling to avoid hunger," "hungry, or at risk of hunger," and "hungry, or faced by the threat of hunger."

Food insecurity is a household situation, not an individual situation. While food insecurity affects everyone in a household, it may affect them differently. Specific individuals in a home (such as children) may be shielded from some aspects of food insecurity by caregivers.

Food insecurity does not mean that a household lacks access to grocery stores, lives in a "food desert," or does not have time to shop/cook. It only refers to lack of food access based on financial and other resources.



One HOT afternoon during distribution we started to smell burned wiring. We quickly started looking around and discovered the smell was coming from an old fan we were using. We turned it off and laughed that it was good we were almost done with distribution. As we continued the day I kind of forgot about the fan. Okay, so now we are down a fan and the hot part of summer hasn't even started.

— This is where God stepped in —

I stopped to pick up the mail on my way home, flipping through the mail I came across a card simply addressed to "Lisa- Living Waters pantry". I receive a lot of cards from people who come to pantry for relief. I put it on my desk and went to fix supper. Later that evening when I got around to opening the card I was humbled to find a note that said "I know you need a new fan and I hope this will help". Enclosed was \$5.00 from a person who had been at pantry that day.

Yes, God supplies ALL our needs.

(Side note - We did get a new fan)



Please continue to save the pop tops off your cans. This year we will be donating the pop tabs to Clayton Beaver who attends Swain Elementary School.

Clayton's family uses the pop tabs to help with the cost of back braces that Clayton requires. Thank you to Josephine for delivering the pop tabs for Clayton that we have collected so far.

At Living Waters, we see lives coming together and stories intersecting all the time. Caseworkers, Volunteers and Food Pantry shoppers. Families. Colleagues. Friends. Of course, we can never predict how events may play out or why they may be riddled with resilience or joy or even sorrow. But no matter what happens, lives change. Thank you to all who support the work of Living Waters Food Pantry and Resource Center.

## Stories of Hope from Living Waters Pantry

Marla, a single mother, supported her four children by working as a nurse for over 20 years until she was suddenly laid off about two years ago. Unemployed but still needing to feed her family, Marla turned to Living Waters food pantry with the help of a friend. “In my head I thought, ‘oh my, what if someone from my church sees me. I was almost embarrassed,’” Marla said.

After the first time she came to Living Waters pantry however, she said it was one of the best decisions she ever made. “This is a happy place,” she said about the pantry. “It’s been very beneficial for me, so I can focus on other things and not worry about ‘do I have enough food to put on the plate for my children’.”

Marla recently began working as a certified nurse assistant. Because of that, she no longer qualifies for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) money.

So while she has money coming in, she still has trouble making ends meet.

“Getting the extra help when I’ve needed it from the pantry has been amazing,” Marla said.

“I’ve had to worry about paying the bills and keeping the lights on, but I didn’t have to worry about food.”

Michelle raised five children on her own, putting some of them through college, and thought that stage of her life was over. Then she found herself with custody of three of her grandchildren when her daughter dropped them off one day and never came back. “My daughter has a lot of issues and just couldn’t take care of them.

I got custody—I didn’t want them to go into the system. They’re my grandkids and I love them.”

But raising a second set of children has been a big challenge for Michelle and she hasn’t been able to make ends meet. She turns to the Living Waters Food Pantry. If you don’t know where your next meal is coming from and the kids are looking at you and they’re hungry—what can you tell them?”

Today Michelle comes to the pantry twice a month and is able to stretch the food she gets to make sure the children get healthy and nutritious meals – and even a few treats. “I’m so thankful. I’m a whole lot further than I was before. Sometimes people just need help to get them through.”

Jackie, a working mother who lives with her three children, is a good example of who we can help believe in themselves again, with your help.

Each month, Jackie’s family receives healthy food from Living Waters Pantry.

She first moved to our area three years ago with her three children after a painful divorce.

“I couldn’t find work, and everything here is so expensive,” she said. “I remember just walking through the town one day with my younger son, who was two then, while my older son and daughter were in school. I was feeling hopeless and very sad, because I didn’t have enough money to buy good food for my children.”

“Almost by accident, I found Living Waters,” she said. “The pantry gave me food so I could feed my kids that evening and for the next few days; and they helped me apply for SNAP benefits.

Jackie says her kids are healthier today because of the fresh produce and healthy foods they got at Living

Waters pantry. Those were the foods she wanted but couldn’t always afford. With that stress off her plate, things started to get better for her family. With help from the pantry staff, Jackie found a job, and today she is finishing up classes to get her GED. Meanwhile, her children are doing well in school,

and her older son is starting to apply to colleges.

“It’s unbelievable, really, how much the pantry and other services from Living Waters have helped my children and me. Today, I’m finishing up classes to get my GED and working toward a driver’s license. I’m getting closer to achieving my goals and dreams. Now I’m excited about my future, and so, so grateful!”

“Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness”

Wherever life may find you today is a beautiful place to be.

How Would You Feel?	Don't Be Normal
<p>If God gave us the same amount of time and attention that we devote to him?</p> <p>If God put as many things ahead of us as we put ahead of him?</p> <p>If God offered as many excuses as we do and if the excuses were not more justifiable than ours?</p> <p>If God's promises were no more certain than ours?</p> <p>If God withheld his blessings from us as we withhold our offerings to him?</p>	<p>"Never think you're just a normal person. If you're pursuing God's calling in your life, he will use you. Even if it's a challenging calling, even if you find yourself in difficult circumstances, he will give you what you need to be faithful to him, even if it's a whole army of people praying for you. Share your story over and over and over so you can remember we serve a mighty God."</p>

## Independence Day Lessons For Church

**Return to the basics** — On July 4 we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.

- **Honor the gift of freedom** — "For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God's kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.
- **Enjoy community** — July 4 is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.
- **Be light in the darkness** — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel's unique light in a dark world. Our word *dynamite* and the Greek word for *power* — as in, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you" (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God's power in us, we share Jesus — dynamically! — with others.

## What Attracts People to Church?



Why do people select a particular church?

- A convenient location? Yes.
- A good speaker in the pulpit? Yes.
- Inspiring music? Yes.
- An attractive building? Yes.

But a more essential element in attracting visitors, newcomers and prospective members is friendliness — both in the pew and throughout the community. Where there is a warm, dynamic congregation with an enthusiasm that's contagious, visitors will usually be found, and will return.

A church can buy many advantages with money, such as nice buildings, trained leadership, effective advertising and an abundance of supplies for spiritual and social use. But old-fashioned friendliness, of which the world is sorely in need, can't be purchased with money. It comes only from the hearts of dedicated people who love God and enjoy helping others feel at home in their church.

Before you hurry, before you worry, before you create new stress, make sure it matters.

### The Gift Of Grace



Grace is something you can never get but only be given. The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you.

There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach and take it is a gift too.

—Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*



Living Waters Sunday School recently donated food items and other needed items to a family struggling in life. This particular family recently was told their young child has cancer and they will be traveling to many doctor's appointments as they go through this situation. Although we cannot reveal the name of this family we ask that you keep them in your prayers as their 6 year old daughter starts chemo and other treatments to fight her cancer.

Thank you to JoJo for delivering the food.



We are looking for people who are willing and able to help weed eat some of the areas that do not get mowed by the mowers. Especially the bank going up to the upper parking lot. If you have a working weed eater and are willing to help clean up the property around the church please see Lisa to find out when the weed eating will begin.

Know what you know, believe what you believe, yet have some humility. No one knows it all, and everyone can benefit from discovering more. You've changed your mind before, and you're likely to do so again. Keep yourself open to the possibility that you could be mistaken.

Make finding the truth a higher priority than proving you're right. Your knowledge grows stronger, more useful, when you're not stubborn about it.

Be confident in what you know, but don't let yourself become so arrogant you dismiss everything else.

There's always more you can learn.



### America The Beautiful

Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929) wrote, edited and taught English in her native Massachusetts. Occasionally, she wrote hymns, too.

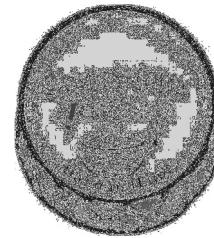
On a trip to Colorado, Bates was greatly impressed by amber waves of grain, fruited plains and purple mountain majesties. She believed that God had definitely shed his grace all across this land. A visit to the summit of Pikes Peak inspired Bates to write her most famous poem-hymn, "America the Beautiful."

Bates also realized that patriotism was an important part of America. She was grateful for heroes "who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life." She wanted Americans to realize how God had shed his grace on them and had crowned what was good "with brotherhood from sea to shining sea."

Bates embodied the spirit of thankfulness to God for all she had experienced and been given.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1.	2.	3.	4. Independence Day	5.	6. Burbank Group arrives
7. Service at the Island 10:00 am Burbank Group	8. Work day at church with group	9. Work day at church with group	10. Food Pantry 1-4 pm	11.	12.	13. Pastor Jack's Birthday
14. Worship Service 11 am	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20. Women's Group Craft Day 10:00 am
21. Worship Service 11 am Rev. Danielle DeNise	22.	23.	24. Food Pantry 1-4 pm	25.	26.	27.
28. Worship Service 11 am Women's Group Planning Meeting	29.	30.	31.			August 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Church Picnic

Do it until it works.

Make changes, improvements, adjustments, until you get it right.

Keep asking until you get an answer.

Keep searching until you find the path forward.

Study the material until you fully understand it.

Practice the skill until you master it.

The first attempt is rarely the attempt that gets the job done.

Continue making more attempts until your attempts result in success.

That success will come from committing yourself to keep going until  
you've achieved whatever you have chosen to achieve.

Don't give up after the first setback, or the fifth, or fifteenth.

Feel the dream, and see the vision.

Then do what you must do until you can make the vision real.