

Living Waters News

November 2019

P.O. Box 2230
Cherokee, NC 28719
Church Phone: 828-497-3730
Pastor Phone: 918-868-4166



Church: lwcherokee@frontier.com
Newsletter: lwnewsletter@ymail.com
Pastor email: prjack@frontier.com

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

We begin with a prayer entitled "Help Us to Be Upright."

"Oh Great Spirit, when we walk the path of beauty with sincerity, honesty, courage, and truthfulness, we are like the upright basket which can hold the fruits of harvest. We can receive and share the blessings abundantly. But when we have strayed from the beauty path and are not trustworthy, honest, or reliable, we are like the basket turned over. We cannot contain, receive, or give of the many blessings of life. When we are upside down we are empty and useless. Help us to always be upright, to receive and share the blessings of life. Amen (Anonymous)

As we enter the Autumn season, this prayer struck me as a calling to be upright in my own discipleship. A person who believes that our Creator has put before us the abundance of harvest, but it's only when we follow His path of beauty that our basket will be filled with wonders of joy, peace, and love for all of His creation. The path has many "potholes" and is not always easy to stay on, but the end of that path lies a kingdom of everlasting life. May this simple prayer be a guiding light for you on your journey. God's abundant blessings be with you, may you share them with others, whoever they may be. As the end of the year Holidays draw near, remember those who have less than you and God will keep your basket of abundance full.

Happy Thanksgiving to all
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.

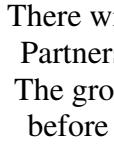
At Living Waters we honor our culture and Native Traditions as well as our Lutheran Theology. We begin our Worship Service by smudging to cleanse our hearts and minds and prepare us for worship. We open our worship service using the hand drum and singing the Cherokee Morning song.

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

We offer Cultural Immersion days for groups who would like to learn more about the Cherokee Culture. Immersion Days include Traditional Cherokee foods, demonstrations by local artisans and discussions about Cherokee Culture. If your group is interested in planning a trip to Living Waters and would like to participate in a day of Cultural Immersion please contact Pastor Jack to make arrangements.

As always we welcome those who would like to come to Living Waters for Stewardship Projects.

Be honest with yourself about what matters,
and then engage your courage to support it with the way you live.

 <p>Living Waters Leadership Meetings November 10th There will be a potluck after service and the leadership meeting will follow after the meal. Please plan to attend and so you can keep informed of what is happening.</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 texts are reminders of upcoming meetings, events and prayer requests at Living Waters</p>
 <p>Women's Group Committees 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>Women's Group Officers 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>Women's Group Craft Day November 9th the women will meet at 10am to make Advent Calendars. Please plan to bring a 24 Buttons to make your Calendar. Bring your own lunch and come join us for a day of fun and creativity.</p>	 <p>Thank you to Rick for the beautiful new hand painted sign he created for the church. Please take a moment to look at it as you drive by.</p>
<p>There's no limit to what you can think, and that's very powerful. Yet it can also be dangerous, and lead you far away from reality. Get out of your head and into the Real World.</p>	 <p>If you are helping provide Soup and Sandwiches for the Mission Partners meeting please make sure to have your food at the church by 11:00 am on November 13th.</p>
 <p>Thank you to Debra, Dorine, Devy, Dean and Le for placing and hanging the crosses on the new cross wall. It looks awesome.</p>	 <p>November 3, 2019 Daylight Savings Time Ends Don't forget to Fall Back</p>
<p>Thank you to all the ladies who came out to the October craft day to make terrariums. Thank you to Dorine for planning and organizing the event and to all the ladies who brought supplies for the crafts and food for lunch. Check out our Facebook page for pictures of the finished terrariums.</p>	 <p>There will be a meeting of those who are Mission Partners with Living Waters on November 13th. The group will experience/help with distribution before meeting upstairs to discuss the ministry at Living Waters.</p>
 <p>Congratulations to Devy George, her son Xhavious Gabriel George born October 5th Congratulations to grandparents Dorine and Devan George and Great Grandparents Dean Reed and Bob Reed.</p>	 <p>Pastor Jack would like to thank Everyone that contributed to the gifts he received and those who took our family out to eat for Pastor Appreciation.</p>

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

 <p>Living Waters Food Pantry November 13th & 27th <u>Current wish list at the food pantry is:</u> Canned Meat, Self-rising flour, Deodorant, Shampoo, dish soap.</p>	 <p>Teenagers and young adults. JoJo has started a youth group that meets formally after the worship service on the 5th Sundays of each month. There will be events and other happenings at different times. If you are interested in knowing more about this new ministry or joining in the fun please see JoJo.</p>
 <p>Thank you to those who help prepare the Sunday School Halloween goody bags and the Adult Halloween goody bags.</p>	 <p>We will be cleaning the church after the Women's Craft day on November 9th. Please plan to stay and help.</p>
 <p>Thank you to Pastor Jack for pressure washing the deck and steps and painting the handrails on the steps.</p>	 <p>Thank you to those who helped repair the leaking roof on the clothes closet. We appreciate your hard work.</p>
 <p>We would like to thank the many people who help deliver food boxes to those who are shut in or have situations that prevent them from being able to come to the pantry on distribution days and get food. This is an awesome ministry and we appreciate all those who help with this outreach.</p>	 <p>The Annual Christmas store is coming up quickly. We have already started collecting items for the store and will be getting more items during the month of November. If you are available to help set up the Store or Work the store please see Lisa for details.</p>
 <p>Thank you to George for helping unload a delivery of furniture in November. We appreciate your willingness to always be there when we need your muscles.</p>	 <p>Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor the pantry has a new Dollie (hand truck). Thank you to Pastor Jack for helping repair the old one again.</p>
 <p>We are seeking a new wagon for the pantry. If you have a garden/utility wagon you are not using please consider donating it to the Living Waters pantry. That equipment at the pantry really takes a beating and we appreciate everyone who donates items to help with distribution.</p>	 <p>This summer was hard on our produce umbrellas. We lost two umbrella stands and one of our umbrellas due to weather. If you are considering getting rid of an old patio umbrella or umbrella stand please consider donating it to Living Waters Pantry.</p>
<p>You can't be best friends with everyone. But you can notice everyone. You can make room for everyone. You can be kind and generous and thoughtful and sympathetic to everyone. You can smile to everyone. You can make eye contact with everyone. You can probably even offer a simple “hello” to everyone.</p>	<p>Much of what feels like frustration and anger is just your ego being wounded. It's never a good idea to allow your ego to control your every move. Remind yourself, whatever you're doing, wherever you are, that it's not always about you. Let go of your ego's directives, and free yourself from the grip of anger.</p>

The way to convince people of what you believe is not to argue with them.
If there's something you believe, something you feel strongly about, put it into practice.

 <p>Living Waters will have their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 23rd beginning at 5pm. There is a menu sign up sheet on the bulletin board for needed items. If you plan to come please sign up to bring something.</p>	<p>If you fail, never give up because F.A.I.L means "First Attempt in Learning" End is not the end, In fact E.N.D. means "Effort Never Dies" If you get No as an answer, Remember N.O. Means "Next Opportunity" So let's be positive!</p>
 <p>Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, the day when a peace agreement was signed with Germany ending World War I. Armistice Day was established with a proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson which reads in part: "Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations." On June 1, 1954, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans. On Veterans Day this year, let us remember and honor those men and women who gave of themselves, and let us continue to pray for our men and women currently serving in the military.</p>	 <p>When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter "To all God's beloved ... who are called to be saints" (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded his fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God. The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God's beloved — special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are "called to be saints." About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints' Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling within them. Because of what God has done for us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.</p>
 <p>A boy asked his Father: - Dad what is the size of God? Then the Father looked up at the Sky and saw a plane and asked his Son:- What is the size of this plane? The boy replied: - it is very small. I can hardly see it. Then, the father took him to the airport and as they approached a plane, he asked: - Now, my son, how big is this plane? The boy replied: - WOW dad, it's huge! The father told him:- GOD'S size depends on how close or far you are to him. The closer you are to him, the Greater and Greater he will be in your life!</p>	 <p>God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean you need to give thanks <i>for</i> everything. You don't need to give thanks <i>for</i> that bad day. Or <i>for</i> that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is — you are not to give thanks <i>for</i> the difficulties but rather <i>in</i> the difficulties. That is a very important distinction, and one I think we often miss. Giving thanks <i>in</i> everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that he can use them, if you approach him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and his glory.</p>
<p>In the face of opportunity, take action. In the face of trouble, take action. The day will get off to a great start, or it will get off to a difficult, challenging start. In either case, you can do something about it, you can do something positive with it. Don't wait for someone else to handle it. Throw out the excuses, jump past your hesitation, and take action. The problem is not going to solve itself. The opportunity is not going to unfold on its own. Look around, see the world as it is, acknowledge what's going on, and make yourself useful. Whatever there is to work with, get to work with it. This is no time for empty wishes, self-pity, complaints or endless procrastination. This is your time for action, so seize the moment and do good work with it!</p>	

Fill your time with intentional choices, and fill your life with goodness, meaning, and substance.

A poor man finds a wallet with \$700 in it. At his church, he reads a notice saying that a wealthy congregant lost his wallet and is offering a \$100 reward for it. He spots the owner and gives him the wallet.

The rich man counts the money and says, "I see you already took your reward."

The poor man answers, "What?"

"This wallet had \$800 in it when I lost it."

They began to argue and eventually came before the pastor.

Both stated their case. The rich man concluded by saying, "Pastor, I trust you believe ME."

The pastor says, "Of course," and the rich man smiles.

The poor man is crushed.

Then the pastor hands the wallet to the poor man.

"What are you doing?" yells the rich man.

The pastor answers, "You are, of course, an honest man, and you say the wallet you lost had \$800 in it. Therefore I'm sure it did. But if the man who found this wallet is a liar and a thief, he wouldn't have returned it at all. Which means that this wallet must belong to somebody else. If that man steps forward, he'll get the money. Until then, it belongs to the man who found it."

"What about my money?" the rich man asks.

"Well, we'll just have to wait until somebody finds a wallet with \$800 in it..."



Reverse Advent Calendar
Each day add an item to a box and donate the contents to a Food Pantry.

December 1 – box of cereal
December 2 – peanut butter
December 3 – stuffing mix
December 4 – box of instant potatoes
December 5 – cookies
December 6 – canned fruit
December 7 – canned tomatoes
December 8 – canned meat
December 9 – cake mix
December 10 – applesauce
December 11 – canned sweet potatoes
December 12 – sugar
December 13 – canned vegetable
December 14 – box of crackers
December 15 - spaghetti sauce
December 19 – rice
December 16 – ranch dressing
December 17 – pasta
December 18 – soup
December 20 – pancake mix
December 21 – toilet paper
December 22 – shampoo
December 23 – deodorant
December 24 – dish soap



Church is not where Christians really need to be. It's not where the work happens. It's just our rest stop and our place to refuel. It's important but it's not everything. If all we do is stay in our little group closed off and pleased with our sameness we are not doing the work of Jesus. The real work comes when we leave our churches. When we enter the doors of a public school. When we go to work Monday morning. When we're driving our cars or walking through Target. The real work of being a Christian is in the real world, not in the pew. It's in offering a hand or some grace to that young mom in Target whose kids are loud and unruly and shamelessly begging in the toy aisle. It's in listening to that coworker who may vote differently than you ever would and just seeing them as a person or a friend. It's in standing up for the person others are gossiping about even when their life choices are not ones you would make. It's in inviting those who are standing alone into our conversation even if it makes you feel sweaty and awkward. It's in letting a random driver go in front of you in traffic even when you are in a hurry. It's in striving to understand and love those that see the world differently and believe different things than we do. It's in standing up for what is good and noble and true. In the Bible Jesus rarely stayed in groups that were like him. He sought out those that were different. So often he walked alongside those the world saw as living less than perfect lives. Those that needed him and his message of love. We are to do the same. We are to love on those that are different than us. Those that need the message of love as well as those that already have it. Those that, like each and everyone of us, are living less than perfect lives. Because if all we do is stay in our church walls and talk about how right we are, we are missing everything we are supposed to be learning there. Out in the world my friends. That's where we need to be. That's where we're called to go.

You have to have a clear concept of what's important to you and choose your priorities accordingly.

People who come to observe and visit Living Waters Pantry often ask me the same questions, so I am going to try to answer a few of the most common questions we hear from some of those who support the pantry ministry at Living Waters.

It's important to remember that the face of hunger isn't what you might think. Contrary to the stereotype held by many, the majority of those who come seeking relief are working (some have more than one job) or are from the most vulnerable segments of our society: they are children, disabled, and older adults.

Some basic facts:

1. 90 percent of those who come are not homeless
2. Nearly two-thirds of those who come had at least one working adult in the household in the last year
3. Many of those who come have someone in their household who has served in the US Armed Forces or has a member of the military Reserve or National Guard
4. There's more than just food: many of those who come had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care in the past year; many had to choose between food and housing
5. Many of those who come must rely on receiving food from us or another food pantry as a part of their everyday lives.

The bottom line is that many of those who come are either unable to work or are the working poor, who just need some help making ends meet now and again.

What controls are in place to keep people from scamming you for free food?

When a person comes to our pantry a pantry representative will ask them to fill out a basic form to show where they live, their income and ask that they declare that they need help with food.

How can you be sure they really need food?

First of all, everyone deserves food. It's a basic building block of any strong, humane society. Second, for us at Living Waters, hunger is just plain unacceptable. If someone is driven by need and has the courage to reach out for help, they won't be refused. We're all human beings who deserve to be treated with respect and dignity at all times.

But I see people with cell phones and cars, why do they need help?

Things that some might consider to be "luxuries" (like a car or a cell phone) really have become necessities in this day and age, especially for the large percentage of those who work. This doesn't mean that those who have these things are careless with their money and, therefore, are undeserving of our help.

Do most of the people go to multiple food pantries? Isn't that double dipping?

Intake forms are in use at most pantries in our area to assure that each client only accesses food or services once on any given day or within a certain period. However, if their need is severe enough for them to visit various pantries, they have that option.

Do you think they use their children to make you feel sorry for them and give them more food?

People come to us because they need help or their children need help. Regardless of whether they have a child with them, they will receive food. In my opinion, it has to be tough to admit to those who are relying on you that you need help. So I see it as a strength rather than a weakness when someone comes to a food distribution with their family.

So I will ask a question of you now:

With the two – four hours it sometimes takes to hear your name called, it's a huge time commitment, requiring you to wait outside in the elements, to wait for food and other necessities that aren't covered by SNAP and other government programs. Items many of you take for granted like toilet paper, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, menstrual products, laundry soap. Some coming hours before the pantry even opens to try and get the best choices before certain items are gone.

Would you be willing to do these things if you didn't really need the help?

"It's important that we don't categorize the people we serve as 'takers'" Most of the people we serve have fallen on hard times or are the working poor who just can't make ends meet, and that can happen to anyone.

“If we do not show love to one another, the world has a right to question whether Christianity is true.”



REMINDER

Please remember to dump your cups before you put them in the trash cans. **Adults please help our little ones remember to dump their cups**



REMINDER

Parents and grandparents please remind your children or help your children to clean up the playroom when they have played in there.



Turkey DINNER

What Does Thanksgiving Mean To You?

Thanksgiving is traditionally a day for families to gather and reflect on their good fortunes while seated around a roasted turkey. As families gather together to celebrate this bountiful year, it is hard to believe that one in four families will not have a Thanksgiving meal. Hunger doesn't take a Holiday or go away when the holidays end. For many, finding a way to both heat their home and feed their family is a challenge they face every day. But that challenge becomes harder when the Holidays come around. No one wants to explain to their child that they can't have thanksgiving dinner because they don't have any food. It's Thanksgiving for everyone, including people who are food insecure. As you sit with your family and enjoy your dinner with all the fixin's, I hope you will take the time to cherish those you are spending your Thanksgiving with and give thanks for the Blessings you have in your life.

If you left the Church to get away from hypocritical people, you should also quit your job, drop out of school, disconnect yourself from all of your friends and family, lock yourself in your room while you are at it. There will be flaws wherever there are humans. We need to start seeing church for what it is: it is a hospital with wounded and hurt people. You will find messed up, conniving, calculating, imperfect individuals, including yourself. As much as you want to deny it, we all go for healing. So if you felt betrayed by a fellow Church member, put your Nursing cap on, and think of them as your patients. Treat them with care, love and kindness despite their rudeness.



Join me in saying this Louder than any other words you may say:

“Welcome to our Church. This is a place of love and hope and safety and forgiveness. We will be food for the hungry. Living water for the thirsty.

We are so glad you are here. You are invited. You are loved.

Come on in – we've been waiting on you. You Are Welcome here. We are the church.”

Say that. To the called and to the called-out. To the leaders and the greeters.

To the dirty and the clean. We are all the same. WE ARE.

May we blow the dust of religion out of our souls and choose warmth, kindness and love instead.

May our words and actions and reactions be a sanctuary for ALL who come.

Jesus broke many laws to love. So, Jesus, be our voice. Be the words your children need to hear.

Sometimes it is difficult to put into words how much we appreciate our Ministry Partners. More than once when we have questioned how we were going to accomplish something, our Ministry Partners have come through for us before we even have mentioned our need. We are so GRATEFUL to all of you who support Living Waters through thought, prayers, donations and financial support. We could not do what we do for our God and our community without you. You are all AWESOME!

Doing something, no matter how small, is vastly better than doing nothing at all.



If you are a member of Thrivent and you are looking for an easy way to help Living Waters please consider directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Living Waters Ministry.

How to Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars

Online---- Visit Thrivent.com/thrivent.choice

Scroll down and click the “Get Started” button in the “How do I Direct My Designated Choice Dollars” box
Log in and enter your user ID and password

Look for your Choice Dollars to direct on the right side of your screen

Search for “Living Waters Lutheran Church” in “Cherokee, NC” to be taken right to our listing.

Click on “Direct Now” to direct your designated Choice Dollars to benefit
Living Waters Lutheran Church.

By Phone ----- Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say “Thrivent Choice”

Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or press 2 to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions.

**Please be sure to specify that you want to designate
Living Waters Lutheran Church in Cherokee, NC**



We appreciate all those who have directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Living Waters. The Choice dollars received are used to help purchase paper supplies, cleaning supplies and other items needed to maintain the church.



Don't wait until Sunday Morning
Living Waters Members stand ready
to pray when you or someone you
know has a need.

All it takes is a call or text to the
pastor or a church member to let your need be known.
Your need for prayer will be spread immediately
through email, phone calls, and texting.

The Single Story

We used to be surprised by some of the questions people ask us when they come to visit Cherokee.

A few examples:

Where are the Tee Pee's? Are your children allowed to go to “real” school? Where are the “real” Indians?

Do you have an Indian costume? Can you sing Tribal songs? What is your “real” Indian name?

If I had not lived in the Native Community, and if all I knew about Indian people was what I had seen on TV I too would think that Native Americans were a people of Beautiful traditions, music, culture and regalia, and incomprehensible people rioting, dying of alcoholism, drugs, suicide, unable to care for themselves and waiting to be saved by the kind white people bringing them free handouts.
That is how we create a single story; believing a people as only one thing.

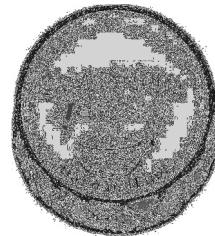
Interesting how a person can watch a TV program or maybe read a news article and conclude that it is representative of all people of that particular ethnic group. It is much different for those who have had the opportunity to be a part of more than one culture. Who have had the opportunity to engage with many different people and cultures and learn about them as a whole people. Who do not have a single story of a group of people. The problem with believing a single story is that it robs people of dignity.

It emphasizes how we are different, rather than how we are similar.

It robs one of the opportunities to learn about and respect other people and cultures.

November 2019

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1.	2.
3. Worship Service 11:00 am Daylight Savings Time Ends	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9. Women's Group Craft Day 10 am Advent Calendars
10. Worship Service 11:00 am Potluck Council Meeting	11.	12.	13. Food Pantry 1-4 pm Mission Partners Meeting	14.	15.	16.
17. Worship Service 11:00 am	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23. Church Thanksgiving Meal 5 pm
24. Worship Service 11:00 am	25.	26.	27. Food Pantry 1-4 pm	28. Thanksgiving Day	29.	30.

Before you complain about what someone did wrong, ask yourself this.

Do you have a useful suggestion for how to do it better?

At best, criticism for the sake of criticism falls on deaf ears.

Worse, it can provoke and escalate a conflict that no one is able to win.

Often it is necessary for you to point out someone else's error.

But that doesn't mean you have to be gleeful or disparaging about it.

Your best approach is to be helpful.

That's true no matter how much or how little leverage you have in the situation.

Imagine yourself in the other person's position.

Based on that, figure out the most helpful way to frame the error

and the most positive way to move forward from it.

Don't waste your time and erode your relationships with empty, caustic criticism.

Seek instead to be helpful,

and to illuminate a positive path forward for everyone involved.