

Living Waters News

April 2019

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Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen
“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.” Luke 24: 5

Some years back, our presiding Bishop Mark Hanson’s Easter message was this: “On the first Easter morning, the women entered an empty tomb expecting to find Jesus, but were disappointed and perplexed. Today, when we look for the peace and there is no peace, we too, may wonder where Jesus is. When violence and wars escalate, we may wonder where Jesus is, when hunger and poverty continue to have a stronghold in neighborhoods here and around the world, we may wonder where Jesus is. When we experience the emptiness of the divisions among races, religions, and classes, our fear and confusion can cause us to wonder where Jesus is. When we struggle with guilt or shame, we may wonder where Jesus is. Like the disciples of old, we miss the signs of God’s presence in our world.”

Growing up in rural Oklahoma, on Easter morning we would go to one of our two local cemeteries for a sunrise service. Being the visual people that we are, we too, may miss the signs of God’s presence in our world. We too, may wonder where Jesus is. We too, may wonder who will roll away the stone for us in our daily lives. We know the answer is Jesus, but as the women on that first Easter morning, we too, become disappointed and perplexed when we miss the signs of God’s presence in our world. A friend of mine was once asked this question: “When you seek peace in your daily struggles of life, what do you do? His answer was, I take a walk in the woods, away from the sounds of everyday life, look for a tree, and then I put my arms around the tree, give the tree a hug and feel the presence of the living God.”

Brothers and sister in Christ, let us celebrate with joy and thanksgiving what we have been given through the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and that is a living hope to eternal life. Let us continually give thanks to God for the love he has shown us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Peace be with you, 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

You don't have to overcome your hesitation, your doubt, your fear.
You can still have the hesitation, doubt, and fear, and act anyway.



Diapers

Living Waters Pantry is in need of sizes 4, 5 & 6 diapers. And also boys pull-ups. If your child has outgrown any of these sizes and you would like to donate them to Living Waters please contact Lisa.

If you would like to contribute financially please designate your check to Living Waters Food Pantry



Living Waters Food Pantry April 3rd & 17th

Current wish list at the food pantry is:
Hamburger Helper, Ravioli, coffee,
Tooth paste, laundry soap, shampoo, Dish Soap.
During the month of March we served
452 families and 1646 individuals



Day of Sharing April 27, 2019

Members from Grace LC in Hendersonville will be joining us at Living Waters to work on some projects around the church. Please plan to come help and visit with our partners in ministry. Lunch will be provided for those who come to help.



Kid Packs

Lisa recently received certification to begin a new program at Living Waters Pantry. The pantry is now eligible to receive and distribute Kid Packs to families with children. These are similar to the ones that are given out at schools. Thank you to all those who helped make this possible.



Living Waters Clothes Closet Ministry

Current Needs:
Men's, Women's Clothing,
Children's clothing,
Linens and Maternity Clothing.



We are working with several agencies in our area to help people be able to take online classes to further their education. Thank you to all those who donated laptops to help with this project. We currently have 3 people enrolled in classes.



Easter will be here before you know it. We will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. If your children plan to attend please let Lisa know by April 14th. (Palm Sunday)

If you would like to donate plastic eggs or non-candy items to help fill the eggs, please see Lisa or Jo Jo










You won't get anywhere by using injustice as excuses. A better response is to work over, under, and through it... Accept the fact that life is unfair and choose to succeed anyway. The world is full of inequity and unfairness. And yet, there are always plenty of workable and creative ways to rise above those circumstances. When something in life is unfair, choose to succeed anyway.








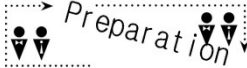






Please continue to save the pop tops off your cans. This year we will be donating the pop tabs to a 2nd grader named Clayton Beaver who attends Swain Elementary School. Clayton's family uses the pop tabs to help with the cost of back braces that Clayton requires. Thank you to Josephine for delivering the pop tabs for Clayton that we have collected so far.










Thank you to those who have helped distribute food boxes to those who are shut in or in need of emergency food boxes. Your willingness to help is greatly appreciated.

 <p>Thank you to those who helped prepare personal hygiene bags for the women's emergency shelter in Cherokee.</p>	 <p>If you would like to bring an Easter Lily to help decorate the Altar please let Dean know who your flower is in memory of.</p>
<p>Be an Esther, bold and courageous enough to stand for the truth, to voice your opinion and fight for good of others, even when it means to sacrifice yourself. If God has put you in a position, it is for a purpose. Never be afraid to heed to that inner voice.</p>	 <p>Please join us for the Maundy Thursday Service April 18, 2019 6:30 pm We will have a representation of a traditional Sedar Meal.</p>
 <p>Thank you to Dean Reed for creating a traditional Cherokee Pottery Wedding Vase for Rev. David and Sue Mielke's 50th Wedding Anniversary.</p> <p>It was a special honor for Pastor Jack and Lisa to present it to the Mielke's at their celebration.</p>	 <p>St. Mark's Lutheran Church from Mooresville, NC will be joining us on April 9th.</p> <p>We will be serving lunch to those who will be visiting with us. If you can help serve please see Lisa.</p>
 <p>"When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God".</p> <p>However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile phone. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him.</p>	 <p>Thank you to those who donated pill bottles and items to fill the emergency kits for the homeless and those who travel on foot. We appreciate your participation in this project.</p> <p>Thank you to those who helped prepare the emergency kits.</p>
 <p>Sunday School/ Youth Group Project</p> <p>During the months of April and May the Sunday School class and youth group will be collecting items to make Hospital Sunshine Bags. Many people who enter the hospital do not have people to bring them items to make their stay a bit more bearable.</p> <p><i>Items we will be collecting include:</i></p> <p>Cross word puzzle books, adult coloring books, activity books, journals, colored pencils, markers. Please do not bring food products, candy or gum.</p>	 <p>Easter breakfast</p> <p>Living Waters will be hosting our Annual Easter Breakfast again this year. The meal will begin at 9:30 am with Worship service to follow.</p> <p>There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for items needed for the meal. If you plan to attend please sign up to bring something.</p> <p>Invite your friends and family to come and join us.</p>

Here is where you are, and there is where you're going. The funny thing is, when you get there.....
the there becomes your new here. Life can change in a moment.

 <p>April Women's group meeting will be held on April 6th at 10am. Place to be announced.</p>	 <p>Thank you to all the ladies who prepared and brought Birthday Boxes to participate in the women's group March project.</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 For more information please contact Any women's group member.</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 women will be meeting on Friday April 12th at 5:00pm to set up and prepare for the WELCA gathering. If you can help with set up please let Lisa know.</p>
 <p>The Womens Group will be hosting the Smokey Mountain Conference WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Spring Conference on April 13th. Please plan to come, support and participate in this event.</p>	 <p>We are updating the church Directory again. Please take a minute to look at the draft Directory hanging on the bulletin board and make any necessary corrections. Last date to make corrections is April 7th.</p>
 <p>Interpretive Painting Thank you to Dorine and Ric for preparing for and leading the painting class for the women. A great time was had by all who attended.</p>	 <p>Thank you to those who have signed up and brought soup and/or sandwiches to the Lenten meals. We appreciate your commitment to the ministry at Living Waters.</p>
 <p>Wednesday Night Services have resumed. Soup and Sandwich Meal begin at 6:30pm Service to follow at 7:00 pm</p> <p>During the season of Lent, Wednesday night meals are Soup and Sandwich only.</p>	 <p>The women's group will be planning for the WELCA meeting, the Easter Breakfast and other events coming in April at the meeting on April 6th.</p> <p>Please plan to attend this meeting and show your support for the women's ministry and Living Waters Church.</p>

There is a way to solve the problem, to get past the challenge, to reach the goal.
Figure it out and get it done.

 <p>In Sunday School the children are learning about why we have Easter. About Christ's journey to the cross. All children are invited to come and join us in the back room for Sunday School.</p>	 <p>Reminder April Church Council Meeting will be on the April 7th. There will be a potluck after service. If you plan to stay for the council meeting please bring a dish to pass.</p>
 <p>We are working on the drainage ditches and other areas around the church property. If you notice an area that you think needs attention please let Lisa know. Lisa is working with individuals and agencies to provide assistance for those completing their community service hours.</p>	 <p>What's the point of giving, if you give less than you're capable of giving? If you've decided something is worth doing, then it's worth doing the best way you know how. If you seek to cheat life, you end up cheating yourself. Choose instead to give more than your promise, and even if no one else notices, it is still worth the effort.</p>
 <p>I love this interpretation of a Prayer. What is a prayer? Prayer doesn't only happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God. Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer. When you hug a friend. That's a prayer. When you cook something to nourish family and friends. That's a prayer. When we send off our near and dear ones and say, "drive safely" or "be safe". That's a prayer. When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy. You are praying. When you forgive someone, that is prayer. Prayer is a vibration. A feeling. A thought. Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationship. Prayer is an expression of your silent being. Keep praying always.</p>	<p>Whatever or whomever may be to blame, assume full responsibility. Put yourself in control by making yourself responsible for improving the situation. It's a waste of your time to speculate about how things could have been different. Invest your time taking action that will transform the situation in a positive way. Your energy is best spent making progress, and not harboring resentment. Make it your choice to be here now, doing all you can to add beneficial value. You are in this situation to make a difference. Put all your focus on identifying the best possibilities and bringing them to life.</p>
 <p>May God give you the grace and grit to keep walking. One foot in front of the other no matter how impossible the mountain feels to climb. May He lead you by the streams of living water, refresh your weary soul, and give you just what you need at every twist and turn. May He take your burdens and give you a new song to sing. May He renew your faith to believe that fresh blessings await you just around the bend. And tomorrow when the sun comes up, may His new morning mercies feel as miraculous as they are.</p>	<p>There are things so incomprehensible we cannot see beyond them into tomorrow morning. We literally must focus on right here, simply take it moment by moment, giving ourselves permission NOT to understand. Other times we must pray for guidance to look beyond right now, envision a better future, and step into it... whether it seems to make sense in this moment or not. And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.</p>
 <p>"Actions Speak Louder Than Words" Never has this been truer than in the life of Jesus. God could have talked and done nothing. But when the nails pierced the hands and feet of Jesus; and the resurrection on the third day, love took on a different meaning. Love involves action – Not mere words. It is our job to Love as Christ loves. Put Love into Action – to carry each other's burdens.</p>	

“Don’t worry so much about what you say to your children.
Worry instead about what you do in front of them.” Barbara Bush

Poverty is much more than a lack of money—it’s a complex network of interrelated experiences and circumstances which affect one’s role in the workforce, community, family, education, relationships, health – nearly all aspects of one’s life. Because the effects of poverty are so multifaceted, so interrelated, and often so incalculable, for many, gaining a foothold above the poverty line seems nearly impossible.

Securing employment is an important step an individual can take towards breaking out of the cycle of poverty. Without a job, there is no way of earning income. And without income, the ability to support one’s self becomes exceedingly difficult. But a job provides so much more than just income. The ability to provide not only for yourself, but for your family is empowering. And for those who have spent their lives trapped in the cycle of poverty, a job offers the dignity of self-sufficiency. While a lot of modern professions require college degrees, many of the 5.7 million jobs currently available do not. In fact, there are many unfilled positions that do not even require high school diplomas. And while this would appear to make these job openings ideal for those who may not have completed their formal educations, there are still many prerequisite skills needed in order for a job candidate to be considered. Without specialized training, many unemployed individuals can’t join the workforce. This means that there is a large pool of untapped talent that is being neglected simply because of a lack of specialized training. Unlike a traditional college education, which requires many years and a lot of money, specific vocational skills training is readily available and more affordable, offering a shorter term solution to those looking for opportunities to enter these fields. The challenge is connecting this untapped talent pool with the training needed to secure an open position. Another major aspect of the unemployment problem is transportation. Many of those living below the poverty line do not live where the jobs are and don’t have reliable transportation. Unemployment isn’t always the result of an individual’s work performance. Rather, outside forces often subjugate an individual to a life path they wouldn’t have chosen for themselves.

Something to consider;

A trade skill or technical skill is required for many jobs, but it’s only part of what it takes to keep a job. Interpersonal communication, self-care, and social responsibility make up the other. These softer life skills aren’t taught by a teacher or a professor. They’re taught at home. But what happens when home-life teaches you to spend money and not to save, to be careless with others’ emotions, or to be reckless with your own? “Many people lack life skills – or soft skills, as they are sometimes called. These include self-confidence, self-awareness, and the ability to structure a day. Most people who have a support network of friends, family and work take these skills for granted. But without them, sustaining employment can be difficult.”

Generational poverty, entrenched by structural barriers, feels impossible to overcome. —the emptiness, the despair built up over generations which leads to an inability to dream. Many in poverty are forced to seek state assistance and subsidization, often turning to welfare. But welfare is not without its hoops and holes. Welfare is a much-needed short-term help, but lays the groundwork for long-term poverty. Essentially, recipients get stuck. “One of the failures of welfare programs is to help with current consumption while placing almost no emphasis on job training or anything else that might allow a person to become self-sufficient in the future.”

Homelessness is rarely the root of adversity, but the fruit. It’s the aftermath of compounded severities from internal conditions like trauma or illness and external events like family catastrophes or job loss. However it begins, homelessness is only one aspect of an individual’s greater, unique story. There’s always more going on underneath and in the background. If you think about it, nobody grows up wanting to be homeless.

The causes of homelessness remain complex and blurry, which makes finding effective solutions even harder. It’s not straightforward. To rebuild and heal a person’s inner motivation and drive, simplistic solutions like free money, meal handouts, and crowded shelters aren’t enough to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty and reignite a person’s sense of drive. I believe lasting transformation is possible through the power of local community efforts. The cycle of poverty and homelessness can be broken when people are empowered to believe in themselves.

As one young mother recently told me after receiving training and securing employment - “You loved me until I learned to love myself again. Today, I walk with my head held higher. Thank you for that.”

Take care to leave positive, beneficial footprints at every point along the way.



Maundy Thursday

What is Maundy Thursday, the Thursday of Holy Week all about? The word “Maundy” is a shortened version of the Latin word *mandatum*, which means commandment.

At the Last Supper, Jesus gave his friends a new commandment. He told the disciples, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another” (John 13:34, NRSV).

As Christians gather to eat and share Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, we should make a special effort to exhibit our love and respect for one another. Let us seek out people whom we don’t naturally have affection for and express our wish that the living Christ may dwell in them and bless them.



Palm Sunday

Palm branches are mentioned in only one of the four Gospels (see John 12:12-15). So why do we call the first day of Holy Week Palm Sunday?

Tradition plays an important part in church history. During Jesus’ time, Rome was the world’s leading power. Whenever the Romans were victorious in battle, citizens traditionally threw palm branches in the returning heroes’ path.

This was the accepted custom of reception. So when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, it was appropriate that he receive a hero’s welcome. One week later, he would be victorious over death.



Good Friday

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* (HarperOne), writes that Jesus’ suffering and death almost 2,000 years ago are very relevant to our 21st-century lives. He says Good Friday teaches us that:

1. physical and emotional suffering are part of life;
2. suffering isn’t always the result of sin;
3. Jesus was fully human — and thus understands our humanity; and
4. suffering isn’t the last word.

“The message of Good Friday is incomplete without Easter,” Martin writes. “The story of the Passion is not simply of a man being brutally tortured, nailed to a cross and executed by the Romans. It’s the story of a man who turns himself fully over to the Father’s will, trusts that something new will come out of this offering and receives the astonishing gift of new life.”

“Jesus spent the majority of His time being with, and loving, Seekers. Have you ever considered that? One of the biggest complaints leveled at Jesus by the religious leaders of His day concerned His hanging out with all the non-believers. His greatest demonstrations of love were to those who did not yet know God in relationship. Perhaps we can learn something from that”

There's no limit to what you can do with calm determination.

What you do, matters. What you fail to do, matters. To tell yourself otherwise is just an excuse.



I went to the pharmacy the other day to get a prescription filled. While I was waiting for them to call my name a young man came walking up. He looked up at me nodded his head and said hi. I nodded back and said "hey, how's it going." He said "I would be lying to you if I told you good, I am here and get my Suboxone and the minute you say that everybody looks at you like you're scum of the Earth." Now he didn't look scary or strung out like the addicts you see on TV but he did look defeated. A few minutes later as I was waiting for my order I heard him talking to the other cashier. He said "I'm trying to get my life straightened out. I've made a few bad decisions but I'm trying." The cashier was being very professional and never took her eyes off the computer while she was asking questions. Not once did she change her facial expression or tone of voice but I noticed the other people looking at him as if he were a leper. He said again "I'm really not a bad person, I just made some mistakes". Then to my surprise he looked down at his feet and in a half mumble said "My Momma loves me". At that moment I didn't see a struggling addict, I saw a child that was hurt and scared and felt all alone. A child reaching his arms out for someone to pick him up and make it all better. That image was so clear in my mind that it broke my heart. The cashier told him what the cost was and another disappoint look came over the young man's face. Again I saw a child that just found out he had been left behind. He said "I'm sorry I thought it would only be five or six dollars I don't have that much". I stepped over beside him and said to the cashier "I'll cover the rest of it." He turned around with a shocked look on his face and I repeated "I'll cover the rest" he said "No mam you don't have to do that". I looked at the cashier and said "I'll cover the rest of it." The young man looked at me but had no words. I said "You don't have to say anything just take care of yourself and don't give up". I placed the money in his hand and walked back to pay for my own order. It didn't take long for the lady standing to the side of the counter to respond. "You shouldn't give them money; you better go get it back." I replied "That's between me and him and God." I didn't tell you this because I did anything special, the cost wasn't that much. I'm telling you this because for the first time I realized how judgmental I was. I work in an area full of drug addicts. But for the first time I realized that they're a victim of a bad decision. How many of us have made bad decisions? How many of us thought that we could make that big car payment, we could afford that big house, and that we could gamble just once. That we could get away with that one thing because no one saw us. These too are all bad decisions and they can have devastating effects on our lives and the lives of those close to us. Do I look at all these people the same way I do an addict? Here lately I've seen a lot of that little kid in all the faces I see.

What a wakeup call that encounter has been.

truth

Truth solves problems. When you can be completely honest about the problem, you're in position to address it. Too often it is easier to deny the problem than to do something about it. But that allows the problem to become more costly, more solidly entrenched, and much more difficult to solve. In such cases, the truth is quite painful. Yet the more painful the truth, the more powerful it is, and the more necessary it is for you to acknowledge.

To solve a difficult problem, face that problem with an unyielding commitment to the truth.
Summon the courage and the deep compassion to be truthful, with yourself, with everyone else.

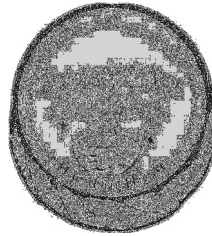
Truth hurts at first. Then it has great power to heal, to make things right,
to transform drama and dysfunction into effectiveness and cooperation.

Shine the brilliant light of truth on the problem.

You'll enable everyone to see clearly what must be done, and to do it.

As neighbors and members of the same communities, we share many of the same hopes and fears and we all want what's best for our families. One of the fundamental differences between us is that some of us know where our next meal is coming from and some do not. Many struggle silently and make heart-wrenching decisions that nobody should have to make. The need for food is essential and immediate. Without the basic security of knowing when you will eat next it is difficult to focus on anything else. The daily fight to survive is real.

April 2019



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1.	2.	3. Food Pantry 1-4 pm Meal 6;30 pm Lenten Service to follow	4.	5.	6. Women's Group 10 am
7. Worship Service 11 am Council Meeting	8.	9. St. Mark's Mooresville	10. Wednesday Night Meal 6pm Lenten Service to follow	11.	12. Set up for WELCA Gathering 5 pm	13. WELCA Gathering 9:30am
14. Worship Service 11 am Palm Sunday	15.	16.	17. Food Pantry 1-4 pm	18. Maundy Thursday Service 6:30pm	19. Good Friday	20.
21. Easter Breakfast 9:30 am Service to follow	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27. Day of Sharing with Grace LC
28.	29.	30.				

Pay attention to your instincts. Just because they are not rational
does not mean they are uninformed.

There is much your senses have captured that you never consciously realized.

There is much you have known that you do not currently recall.

Your instincts are informed by the rich sensory details of your experiences
and the memories hidden in your subconscious.

Your instincts draw upon truths that are not limited by reason or logic.

Your instincts can make connections that you are afraid to make or
embarrassed to make, or just too stubborn to make.

No, they are not magically perfect, but neither are your instincts crazy.

When you feel something is wrong, though you have no explicit evidence for it to be,
give weight to that feeling.

Don't be so impressed with your own intelligence
that you ignore what you can't explain.

Tap into the dimension of your intelligence that exists beyond fact and reason.

Give serious consideration to your instincts, for they know you very well.