

Living Waters News
December 2022



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May this Advent season prepare you for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

May you all have a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas season.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15: 13

We begin our Advent season with a return to the Gospel of Matthew, in addition to a good dose of Romans as our epistle reading for Advent. In lifting up the readings from Romans this Advent season, we find that the readings have a lot to say about hope. "We are to rejoice in hope." (12:12), "We boast in our hope." (5:2), and, "In hope we are saved." (8:24). When there is nothing else left, there is always hope; hope seems to be what lifts the spirit of those who have less than the average income. Hope is the future for a lot of folks in our community here in Cherokee, NC. "We hope to find work." "We hope that our relatives can be rid of the addictions that plague our community." We hear a lot of talk about hope, we pray that the God of hope will relieve these people from their sense of hopelessness. Pray for all who live in hope, please.

It seems as though we have allowed ourselves to be caught up in the commercialization of Christmas, forget Halloween, forget Thanksgiving, forget Advent, lets start shopping for Christmas as early as possible. Let's start as soon as possible and get the best buys as early as possible, this year they have begun the early shopping days on Thanksgiving, (money changers in the Temple, eh?) We have allowed Christ to be taken out of Christmas, and allowed ourselves to be immersed in a spending frenzy, after all, it's all about gift giving, isn't it?

The upside of this season of Advent and Christmas is there are many who give their gifts other than during the season of giving, and waiting. We are fortunate to have so many friends who support our mission ministry here at Living Waters, that we consider them "life changers"; because their support has changed the lives of many who come to receive the food and clothing gifts we distribute. May the God of hope bless all, and may the God of hope give a special blessing to those who contribute to feed and clothe those less fortunate than we.

Don't know about you folks, but Christ has always and will always be in Christmas in our house!
We know that with Christ, all things are possible.

Merry Christmas from our church family to yours. 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

You know how every once in a while you do something and the little voice inside says, "There. That's it. That's why you're here."... and you get a warm glow in your heart because you know it's true? Do more of that.

 <p>Women's Group Officers</p> <p>Dorine George – President Debra Uhler – Vice President Josephine Teesateskie – Treasurer Lisa Russell – Secretary</p> <p>For more information, please contact Any women's group member.</p>	 <p>Women's Group Secret Sister Reveal December 17th</p> <p>We will meet at Asian King in Franklin at 11:30am for the Reveal Party. After the Party we will go to The Performing Arts Center to watch Rudolph the Musical.</p>
 <p>If you would like to receive a Text Message reminder of happenings at Living Waters please make sure that Le has a current cell phone number for you.</p>	 <p>Dream Catcher Class</p> <p>Thank you to Dorine for teaching the Dream Catcher Class for the Women's Group on November 27th.</p> <p>Thank you to all the women who participated.</p>
 <p>If you plan to participate in the Women's Group Cookie Exchange please plan to bring your goodies on December 11th. We will have the cookie exchange after the service.</p>	 <p>Living Waters Annual Christmas Party will be December 18th.</p> <p>If you plan to attend and have not signed up to bring something please see JoJo.</p>
 <p>Thank you to the Resource Center for helping provide a Complete Thanksgiving Meal for each of the families at Living Waters.</p>	 <p>Thank you to JoJo and Dorine for putting up and decorating the Church Christmas Tree. We really appreciate your help.</p>
 <p>REMINDER: Christmas Service December 25th At 11:00 am</p> <p>We hope to see you at Worship Service On Christmas Morning.</p>	 <p>If you would like to bring a Christmas Poinsettia to place on/around the altar in memory of someone special to you please let Dean know who you are placing the poinsettia for. You may start bringing them anytime.</p>
 <p>Jim Carey once said "Imagine struggling with being homeless and someone comes with a camera in your face to give you a meal and you have To Take It... Imagine that feeling.</p> <p>Please, stop doing that. If you go to help someone, do it with Kindness and not Your Ego!"</p>	<p>There's much you can do with life, much you can do about life. Pay attention, choose wisely, and give your best, because it all matters.</p>
<p>Sometimes closure arrives two years later, on an ordinary Friday afternoon, in a way you never expected or could have predicted. And you cry a little, and you laugh a little, and for the first time in a long time... you exhale. Because you are free.</p>	

Resist the urging of your ego to latch on to some elaborate plan designed to save the world. Simply love life, and the people who are living it, and proceed accordingly.



**Living Waters Food Pantry
December 7th & 8th**

If you or your organization would like to have a food drive for LW food pantry please contact Lisa or Pastor Jack.

If you would like to contribute financially to the Living Waters Food Pantry please designate your check in the memo line to Food Pantry.



**Current wish list of the
Food Pantry and Resource Center**

Canned Meat, Cereal, Saltine Crackers,
Pop Tarts, Toilet Tissue,
Dish Soap, Shampoo, Deoderant, Bar Soap,

Women's and Men's
Large, XL, 2X, 3X clothing.
Teen Girl, Teen Boy and Children's clothing



Wish list for walker bags:
Individual cereal, shelf stable lunchables,
individual soup, pop tarts, individual chili.
If your would like to make a monetary
donation to be used for the walker bags
please make a notation in the memo line
of the check specifying it is for walker bags.



Living Waters Resource Center
Annual Christmas Store
Will be held on Wednesday
December 14th. Thank you to all
who have helped prepare for this
event. This year looks to be the largest number of
families we have ever had sign up



A very Special Thank you to Cathy Buttke
for donating 45 homemade quilts to the
Living Waters Christmas Store.
Cathy has been making quilts for the Christmas Store
for many years. We really appreciate all her hard work.



Thank you to those who have helped
prepare baskets for those who are
Shut In from our community.
We appreciate your help with
delivering the baskets.



Thank you to St. Mark's Lutheran,
Mooresville for donating items for the
Annual Christmas Store.
We appreciate your continued support
and generosity.



Thank you to Scott and Marie Marks for
delivering a load of turf to LW Resource.
The Marks family has been donating turf
pieces leftover from their business. The
members of the community have become
very creative with how they are using it.

Peace &
Goodwill
to All



Thank you to those who have made
monetary donations to purchase
items for this year's Christmas
Store. Many will be blessed by your
thoughtfulness.



Thank you to St. Mark's LC
Mooresville for preparing and
donating 24 Thanksgiving meal bags
that were given to families in our
community.



Thank you to Lynn for donating 50
turkeys to be given to the LW church
families and families in the community.



Thank you to Bonny for purchasing
pizza for the pantry workers in
appreciation for all their hard work.

The world is never any particular way just because you want it to be. Instead of pretending or wishing for the situation to be different, go to work on the situation that exists.

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

BE LOVED.

BE KIND.

Be You

No matter who you are. I hope you know that in the times you are lonely. In the times you feel broken and beaten to the ground. Know, that you are someone. That you are important. That you are just as special and as rare and as beautiful as anyone else. Know that things will get better, and know that life is not meant to be easy. That it is meant to put you through the harshest things, no matter who you are. Know your place. Know your significance, you are loved, you are needed. Know this! Especially during your darkest times.



Often we hear a small whisper and think "Hmm" for just a moment then move on. Many of us ignore the message until we're smacked upside the head with a 2x4! By that time things have gotten way out of balance and that message is going to hurt. It won't be soft, or "Maybe you could try this." It is going to be shouted loud and clear and require us to take action RIGHT NOW... Pay attention to the whispers in your life.

Someone you know is preparing for their first Christmas without their husband, wife, mother, father, brother, sister, daughter or son. Others are preparing for their last. Regardless of the specifics, remember that this season of joy is often times a season of sorrow for many. Be kind, be generous, give love, give help; if nothing else, just don't give people a hard time.

If you let success go to your head, you seriously compromise the possibility of future success. Acknowledge your success, thank others who do so, and then move on from it. Every success fades with time. Make the choice not to fade along with it.

from the Heart

Checking on each other is so powerful. It's beautiful, and it doesn't take all that much effort, honestly. People want to be valued. They want to be seen and heard. They want someone to ask how they're doing, and then they want that person to care enough to listen. My friend sent me a text the other day and said "hey, you've been kind of quiet, so I just wanted to check on you," and that hit deep. He was thinking about me, and then he gave me five minutes of his time to reach out. It was nothing fancy, and it's not some novel realization. It's just a simple thing: check on people when they come across your mind. Don't wait, Don't make it complicated. Don't forget what a gift it is to love each other.

December 2022



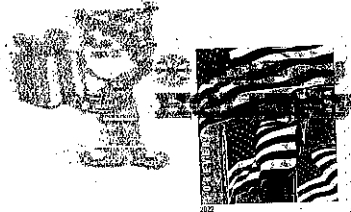
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1.	2.	3.
4. Worship Service 11 am	5.	6.	7. Food Distribution	8. Food Distribution	9.	10.
11. Worship Service 11 am Cookie Exchange	12.	13.	14. Annual Christmas Store	15.	16.	17. Secret Sister Reveal Party
18. Worship Service 11 am Church Christmas Dinner	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24. Christmas Eve
25. Worship Service 11 am Christmas Day	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31. New Year's Eve

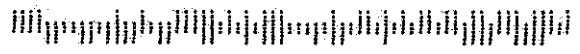
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Don't let your love be limited by your life.
Don't let it be limited by your fear, or by discomfort, or by desire, or by time.
Let love be as big as it can be, as big as it is.
Let it go far beyond any place you would ever consider bringing it or sending it.
Find the courage, the faith, the humility to let love overwhelm you.
Grow in strength by going where love pushes you to go.
Seek not to confine love in any plan or person or object or idea.
Allow your love to be everywhere, and it will fill voids you never knew were there.
Learn from love. Live what you learn, give all you are,
love more, learn more, live more.
Live in the power of love.
And experience the best of all that is.