

Living Waters News
August 2023

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May God's peace be with you.

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

During the summer at Living Waters, we are delighted to be able to meet new friends from other congregations in the greater church. We also are happy when friends from past summers return for a visit. We like to think the reason we have many friends returning to visit is because of our hospitality and the culture meal provided; Indian Tacos. Along with, of course, the Word of God. In the first Sunday of August's gospel reading, we hear about the miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand. Sharing from the Sundays and Seasons commentary (Augsburg Fortress-2014): "The most common biblical image for divine mercy is *food*. In Genesis 1, the plants and trees that God created are given to humans as food. The people of Israel themselves were likened to food that God has planted. Food or no food was central to all the primary religious festivals of the Old Testament. Poems described the law of God as if it is nourishing food. Christ was born in Bethlehem, which means "house of bread." In John's metaphoric theology, Christ says, "I am the bread of life." We need food to live, and Christians have each week served out the word and sacrament as the food that Christ continues to distribute to those of us who are hungry."

May all who are hungry be fed with the living Word of God.













Amen Pastor Jack



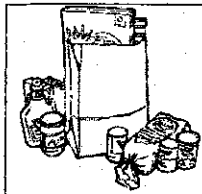
You Are Invited!

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

Never walk past a problem you can solve.

 <p>Check us out On Facebook Living Waters Cherokee NC Thank you to Iann for volunteering to help with the Administration duties for this page. Living Waters Newsletter by Email If you or someone you know would like to receive the Living Waters Monthly Newsletter by Email please email your name and address too: lwnewsletter@ymail.com</p>	 <p>TEXT Reminder</p> <p>If you would like to receive a Text Message reminder of happenings at Living Waters please make sure that Lisa or Le has a current cell phone number for you.</p> <p>Text messages are sent out to those who have requested it reminding them of meetings, potlucks, and other events happening at Living Waters so they participate in ALL areas of ministry.</p> <p>Thank you to Le for sending the text reminders.</p>
 <p>Our Christian Sympathy to Pastor Jack and Lisa on the death of their son Doug. Please keep the family in your prayers.</p>	 <p>Pastor Jack would like to thank all those who sent cards, texts, phone calls and gifts to acknowledge his birthday.</p>
 <p>Women's Group Planning Meeting August 5th at 10:00 am</p>	<p>Why would a good God send people to hell? He Doesn't!! We are already on our way. He gave us a way out. It's up to us if we take it.</p>
 <p>August 20th We will be having an outdoor Worship Service at the lower shelter. There is a sign up sheet on the back table for items that are needed for the cookout after the service.</p>	 <p>Congratulations to Devy and Xavier on the completion of their new home. The women's group will host a housewarming gathering on August 27th after service. Please see Dorine, Debra or Lisa if you need more information.</p>
 <p>Congratulations to Devy George and Xavier Armachain on their engagement!</p>	 <p>Church Council meeting August 13th. If you plan to stay please bring a dish to pass.</p>
 <p>Cherokee Central Schools will start August 7, 2023</p> <p>Swain County Schools will start August 21, 2023</p>	 <p>Thank you to everyone who came to help with the groups participating in the Cultural Immersion Events.</p> <p>We appreciate those who demonstrated their crafts and those who helped prepare the food for the traditional meals.</p>
 <p>Living Waters has partnered with Luther Ridge Camp. This year we had 3 groups come to Living Waters via Luther Ridge to participate in a Cultural Immersion Event. We hope this is the beginning of a wonderful partnership for years to come.</p>	

What is considered impossible is someone else's opinion. What is possible is your decision.



Living Waters Food Pantry
August 2nd & 3rd
16th & 17th

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, Hamburger Helper, Cereal, Kool Aid, Gatorade.

Dish Soap, Laundry Soap, Deoderant, Face Soap, Toothpaste, Shampoo,



July was very busy at Living Waters. We had 9 Groups come to visit. Some came to help with pantry distribution and some came for Cultural Immersion.

We would like to thank all those who came to help with distribution. We love having groups come and see what we do.

Thank you to each group who has come who have painted a rock to commemorate your visit with us. Although it kept us busy we appreciate each of those who came and it was wonderful meeting new folks and making new friends. We hope you will come back to visit us again soon.



Each year we have youth groups contact us about helping with center. We are both honored and humbled to

be able to host these young people who come to not only learn about the food pantry/resource center but also to actually get their hands dirty and help with many different areas of the pantry.

If your youth group (any age) would like to come and be a part of helping with a distribution or preparing items to be distributed please contact Lisa to set up a date. We would love to have your group come and join us.



Living Waters Resource Center Hosted a Parenting Class using the STEP model. The class lasted 6 weeks and the participants were given a certificate of completion for finishing the necessary tasks to implement what they have learned. Congratulations to the 8 parents who completed this class.



We would like to congratulate the 6 people who became employed through the Resource Center back to work program. During the month of July, these folks have participated in the program and have completed the necessary tasks to allow us to help them become employed.



Living Waters Resource Center is proud to announce that we have had 4 participants receive their GED's this summer. We are so thrilled for this new chapter in their lives.



Thank you to the groups who have painted a rock while you were visiting. Take a look at the numerous boulders already painted. They are unique and awesome!



Living Waters Resource Center is proud to announce that we have enrolled 7 participants in college classes for the Fall semester using online classes.



Congratulations to the Lisa the Director of Living Waters Resource Center for completing the necessary course work to receive her SSD Certification. This will allow the Resource Center to develop new programs.

Go with what works well, with what makes the most sense.
Whether it's a new way or the old way, choose the best way.

This was sent to us and we were asked to please include it in the newsletter.

I have been wanting to send this to you for at least 2 years. I'm sure I will hurt some feelings but that's okay. Until you experience the death of a spouse, your soulmate, or someone you love dearly, you won't understand. When you talk to the spouse or a daughter/son or any family member and you say, let me know if I can help you, STOP right there. That person's mind still has not comprehended that a loved one has died and what all they will be faced with, nor will they remember who said what to them or who was at visitation/or the service talking to them. So, don't say that! Instead my suggestion is to take a day and show up at their house and say, what needs to be done (take tools, weed eaters, saws, shovels, cleaning supplies, etc with you) because they may not have what it is that is needed. Don't expect them to fix you lunch or snacks or drinks, bring your own. Let them actually relax and not have to worry for an hour or so. I learned this like a slap in the face when my wife died. I remember so many people tell me, let me know if you need anything. I have no clue who it was, nor has anyone shown up to help except some of my family, a few friends and my church family. I remember our pastor's wife saying to me "how can I help you? What do you need me to do?" and I remember answering "I don't know". And the next thing I knew she was arranging for people to bring me meals, people to help me clean up my house, people to pick up my laundry (they took it home and brought it back clean and folded) people to drop by and check to see what I might need, people to bring me snacks and she even showed up once a week to just sit with me and remind me to take a shower because I would sleep better. I guess what I am trying to say is – don't just say "If you need anything let me know?"
As our pastor's wife says often – Actions speak louder than words.

I'll never tell you that I don't get down on myself and feel lost. Because it happens all the time. Everyone comments on my strength and admires my resilience... Because they don't see those other times and feel my struggles sometimes. I'm not telling you that I'm not strong, because I am and I've had to be. My life didn't give me any other choices. But when you get beaten down enough times, you make a choice....

Become a victim or become a victor.

I chose to keep getting up, keep showing up and keep fighting.

That doesn't mean I don't have bad days or that I always win. Far from it.

What it does mean is that I shifted my perspective. I stopped asking "why me?"

I started asking "why not me?" I let go of the failures but learned from the.

I started approaching every obstacle with a different mindset.

I know now that I will either overcome or adapt, that there are no dead ends unless I choose to see them that way. People will disappoint me, things will hurt me, life will crush me if I let it..

But I choose to let none of those define me reduce me or destroy me. I'm more than simply strong, complex or resilient. I am determined... to always find a way. To always rise above.. To seek joy midst the storms.

Most of all, to celebrate my strengths and improve my weaknesses. Maybe I only make a small step forward today, but if I keep taking those small steps.. Eventually I'll find myself where I want to be. Or at least a lot closer. This is my life and my choice. I choose happiness. One moment, one victory, one dream at a time.

If you're not willing or able to invest in it, you'll eventually find yourself disappointed by it.

What you can give your work, your attention, your care, time, and resources to you can have some reasonable hope of being able to depend upon.

By very definition, to experience a meaningful life you must fill your life with meaning. What demands the best of you is what engenders the best within you.

Give your world the energy of hope. Give your life the benefit of positive expectations.

Church is Hard



Church is hard for the person walking through the doors afraid of judgement.

Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body of people.

Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.

Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.

Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to the service.

Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.

Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.

Church is hard for the wife who longs to have her husband join her at service.

Church is hard for the single woman and single man praying God brings them a mate.

Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best behavior and dress.

However, underneath those layers you find a body of imperfect people.

But – There is so much beauty in the church --

Church is not a building, mentality or expectation.

Church is a body. A group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship together.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an external love for each other.

Church is holy ground where we all stand as equals before the Creator.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is an invitation to seek restoration, faith and trust..

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting others mistakes,
rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church is family.

We invite anyone and everyone to come to Living Waters and become part of our family. All are welcome.



The other day I was running late and stopped on my way home to pick up supper. As I was waiting for my order I saw a homeless woman walk in asking people that were throwing away their leftovers if she could have them. Not one person said yes, they all ignored her and threw their food away. I work with the homeless everyday and it broke my heart... I hold them all with so much love. I felt sad knowing the rejection she was going through simply trying to get something to eat. I could see the disgust on the faces of other people watching. As I was standing there waiting she came near me and just stood there. I said hello and we started to talk. I won't go into details but she like all the others had quite a story. As we continued to talk I ask her what her favorite meal at this restaurant was? When she told me I went up to the counter and ordered her what she had mentioned in a large size. As I waited for her food I ask the employee to please not kick her out until she had the opportunity to eat her food. Then to make sure she was safe I decided to stay and sit with her while she ate. The look on her face said it all... I have never felt something like this... pure, real gratitude. The hug she gave me was like a hug I had never felt... the tears she shed were felt deep in my heart... I held her tight and let her let it out...

I just stood there and held her. That is a moment I will never forget.

This is just a reminder --- next time you judge a homeless person think twice..

not all of them are homeless because of drug addiction or because they are lazy....

Jesus prepared a meal for the multitudes to remind us that we feed people not because we believe they deserve it, but because they are hungry.

**Patience does not mean an absence of action.
Patience is taking action at a pace that permits deliberation and thoughtfulness.**

In the day ahead you're likely to encounter problems, dilemmas, challenges of various kinds. You can either complain about them or you can work your way through them.

If you seek to avoid all difficulties you won't succeed in doing so. And in the process you'll miss out on some of life's most enriching experiences.

That doesn't mean it's a good idea to invite trouble. What it means, and what is enormously helpful, is to face each day with courage.

Courage comes from accepting that there will be difficulties, there will be unknowns, and living your life anyway. Courage grows when you're following a purpose that's sufficiently compelling to make the pain and trouble well worth the trouble.

To get up and get going each morning is not the easiest thing. Yet it is certainly preferable to the alternatives.

With courage you can make the choice to move forward through life with its inevitable pitfalls. With courage, you create the value and fulfillment you are meant to create.

What you've been doing got you where you are. What you do now can either keep you there or take you somewhere else.

Right now you are living the consequences of your past choices. That puts you in an ideal position to decide and to act upon what your future consequences will be.

You have gained valuable expertise on which habits and patterns bring you genuine fulfillment and which ones end up wasting your time or worse. Now you have the opportunity to act on that expertise and experience.

It's easy to know what you feel like doing in the moment and what you don't feel like doing. But that's not always the best basis for choosing among your options.

Fortunately, you also have a lifetime of experiencing the consequences of your own choices. With every new choice you can take more of those consequences into consideration.

Very soon you'll be living the consequences of whatever you decide to do right now. Based on the knowledge of all your past and present consequences, ask yourself, what will that decision be?

It's certainly reasonable to consider yourself burdened by your various responsibilities. Yet it is equally true that you can be liberated by the responsibilities you take on.

Acting with responsibility sets you free from dependency. It offers you the chance to avoid a meaningless existence.

Responsibility pushes you to become increasingly competent. It challenges you into a life of purpose and fulfillment.

You'll often need to make significant accommodations and even sacrifices to fulfill your responsibilities.

However, the prices you pay are more than balanced out by the benefits you gain from living responsibly.

Responsibilities often feel oppressive. Yet life by its very nature is difficult, and taking on responsibility is one of the best strategies for successfully dealing with life's difficulties.

Responsibility makes your moments, your actions, your thoughts matter. Embrace responsibility, and with each passing day you create an even better version of yourself.

You're better today than you've been before. Do yourself and the whole world a big favor and live like it.

You have more knowledge and experience than at any time in the past. That makes the opportunities more valuable, the possibilities more enticing.

Every time you've made use of your strength you've gained more of it. Seize upon the chance to put that strength, and experience, and knowledge into purposeful action.

Today you have more clarity than ever about who you are and what you care most about. That enables you to keep yourself firmly pointed toward what's truly fulfilling.

You've learned how useless the excuses always are, how giving less than your best so often leads to frustration and regret. Now you can apply those lessons to push you toward excellence and enduring goodness.

Your whole life has been a journey of discovery. Here and now is your chance to put the best of those discoveries to good use.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1.	2. Pantry Distribution	3. Pantry Distribution	4.	5. Women's Group Meeting 10 am
6. Worship Service 11 am Communion	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
13. Worship Service 11 am Council Meeting	14.	15.	16. Pantry Distribution	17. Pantry Distribution	18.	19.
20. Outdoor Worship Service 11 am Communion	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.
27. Worship Service 11 am Devy Housewarming	28.	29.	30.	31.		

Day after day you live your life. And day after day is when you can make progress.

Walk a few miles one day, then again the next day, and the next.

One day you'll turn around and realize you've covered thousands of miles.

You cannot do everything in life all at once.

Yet you can fill each day, and the next, and the one after that.

Very soon it begins to add up.

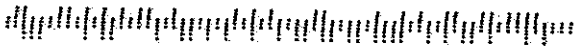
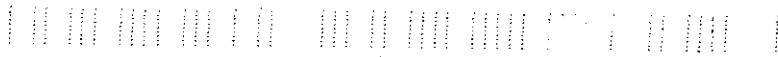
Achievement comes one day, one step, one action, one advancement at a time.

If you're in a hurry, there are limits to what you can do, or have, or experience.

Give it more time, though, more consistent effort, and many of those limits fall away.

Where do you truly want to go?

Life goes where you take it, one day at a time.



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