

Living Waters News
September 2023

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Greetings from Living Waters

Autumn (fall) brings another change in pace, School is back in session, work becomes busier for many, and the church calendar starts to pick up. Autumn also brings a change in weather. In many regions of North America, autumn brings with it colder, crisper weather and decreasing daylight. Deciduous trees begin changing from green to gold, orange, and red, blanketing the hills in warm colors. Incorporate the changing landscape into congregational prayer practices. Invite the assembly to echo the movement of the trees. Standing or sitting, hold your arms outstretched toward the sky in Thanksgiving and praise. Reach up and thank God for the sun, the moon, the stars, the creatures that fly in the air. Thank God for the air we breathe and for the atmosphere that gives us life. Move your body from side to side, back to front, swaying in rhythm with the trees. Think about how trees are moved by the wind and how this echoes God's Spirit to move in people and place in need of hope, healing, and inspiration. Pray for the health of the earth and the natural environment. (Sundays and Seasons; 2-23)

Here in the mountains of North Carolina, we experience the change of colors every fall season. A time when we have so many visitors to see the beauty of the trees on the mountains. God's creation of the earth and living things, cannot ever be matched by the many colors he has created. Take time today and see God's creation, take time and look at the beauty God has created for us, "Take time to smell the roses."

If only we could look at people and celebrate the diversity of colors in which God has made us.

Celebrate! Don't Desecrate!

Come and see the beauty of the mountains.











In Christ's name 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

It's easy to complain but much better to solve the problem you're complaining about.
 It's easy to wish for the outcome you desire but better to take action and make it happen.

 <p>Church Council meeting September 17th. If you plan to stay for the potluck please bring a dish to pass.</p>	 <p>Women's Group Meeting September 23, 2023 10:00 am</p>
 <p>Thank you to everyone who brought food and goodies for the picnic at the downstairs shelter on August 20th. A good times was had by all who attended.</p>	 <p>We are looking for someone to volunteer to make sure the trash is removed from the church after each gathering. If you would like to commit to being in charge of this task please let Lisa know.</p>
 <p><u>Check us out On Facebook</u> Living Waters Cherokee NC Thank you to Iann for volunteering to help with the Administration duties for this page.</p> <p><u>Living Waters Newsletter by Email</u> 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. 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. Thank you to Le for sending the text reminders</p>
 <p>Thank you to everyone who brought food and gifts for Devy and Xavier's house warming gathering.</p>	 <p>Thank you to John Davis for leading worship while Pastor Jack and Lisa were in Virginia visiting with family.</p>
 <p>We are looking for a couple of committed people willing to be on Living Waters Maintenance team. If you are handy with tools and would like to put your talents to use helping the ministry please see Lisa.</p>	 <p>If you are participating in the Women's Group Secret Sister Program for 2023 Please remember to do at least one thing for your secret sister each month. If you have not been receiving something from your secret sister, please let JoJo know.</p>

Impossible?

Often when something is considered impossible, it's the method that's deemed impossible, not the result.
 And quite often, there's another, completely workable method that no one has thought of yet.
 Imagine something impossible, and think of exactly what its benefit would be, if it were in fact possible.
 Then ask yourself, is there another way to produce that same benefit?
 The path to possible begins with the acknowledgment that there's more than just one path. Imagine the
 impossible, but don't let your imagination get stuck on just one version of it.
 That's why so very many things that were once dismissed as impossible are now commonplace.
 For each one, someone figured out a way to make it happen.

Always make the choice that falls on the side of truth, of integrity, of excellence.
 In every case, it's the only choice worth making.



Each year we have youth groups contact us about helping with distribution. 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.

September is Hunger Action Month

Living Waters Food Pantry is serving more and more families and as a result we are finding it harder to keep up with the demand of food needed to meet the needs of those who come seeking relief from us. Sept. is Hunger Action Month. If your church, youth group, women's group, organization or other type of group would be willing to hold a food drive for LW pantry please contact Lisa for more Information of most needed items. Thank you to all those who have helped make it possible for us serve those who come to us for relief.



Living Waters Food Pantry September 13th & 14th 27th & 28th

If you or your organization would like to have a food drive for LW food Pantry please contacts 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, Sugar, Kool Aid, Pop Tarts.

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



Thank you to Good Shepherd Lutheran, Brevard for donating items for the walker bags and their continued support of this ministry. Thank you to the ladies who brought the items and worshiped with us on Sunday. We appreciate all you do to help with this ministry to those in need.



Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies this year. We were able to help 9 families, 3 teachers and donate supplies to the Methodist Children's Home. We also donated cloth material, a sewing machine and sewing supplies to the Children's Home as they are learning to sew.



Dwight E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."



Donation to Teen Challenge

Thank you to those who helped sort and resort the many items we received as an anonymous donation for the resource center. After sorting over 500 swim suits and distributing more than 400 swim suits the resource center was able to donate the remaining items to Teen Challenge of the Smokies thrift store.



REMINDER

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



Thank you to those who helped make it possible for us to share and deliver fresh produce to our Elders at Tsali Manor

Make it your intention to make something rich and rewarding with the time in front of you.



September 4th

Some might believe that certain jobs
pastor, missionary, bishop —
are holier than others.

No matter your field of work, remember that any task
done in God's name and to his glory is holy.

Christmas Store

Although it seems way too early to be thinking about
Christmas, we at the Resource Center are already
collecting items for our Annual Christmas Store.
Please be on the look out for more information in the
October Newsletter. It takes many to make this happen
and we are excited to welcome you to help with
this project.

Night To Shine

Sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation

We invite you to "Sponsor a Night to Shine Guest" for the 2024 Tropical Paradise Prom.

Night to Shine is a prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and older. On Feb 9, 2024 hundreds of guests and volunteers around the world come together to recognize our special needs community. The guests dress up, walk the red carpet, and are celebrated and honored by loved ones and the community. Every guest is crowned a King or Queen of the prom and celebrated for exactly who God made them to be. Each of the guests receive the royal treatment, including prom attire and accessories, and hair and makeup services. When they arrive at the event they are greeted by a cheering crowd and paparazzi as they walk the red Carpet into the Venue. Once inside, each guest receives a corsage or boutonniere, can enjoy limousine rides, photo ops, shoeshines, and karaoke. They are served a catered meal and treated to a fun evening of dancing leading up to the moment when, after watching inspirational video message from Tim Tebow, each guest is crowned King or Queen of the Prom. As they leave they are given a gift bag.

If you would be interested in Sponsoring a Guest for the 2024 Prom your \$40 donation will cover the guests meal, corsage or boutonniere, crown or tiara, gift bag and everything else they need to get ready for the prom. If you would like to help make this a memorable night for an amazing member of our special needs community please contact Lisa at lbrmc10@outlook.com for more information.

Another way you can help is through donations of prom attire such as dresses of all sizes, Men's tuxes and suits, men's white shirts, suit vests and black dress pants of all sizes, ties, purses, jewelry, hair accessories, shoes (flats or low heels for ladies)

Side note – All dresses and tuxes are available for Macon County Students to borrow during their prom season. Living Waters Resource Center is partnering with other churches and organizations to make this possible.



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

You shouldn't climb mountains for the world to see you, but for you to see the world.

Grandparents Day – September 10, 2023



Many families strive to include grandparents in significant family activities. Not just reunions, weddings or anniversaries but when grandchildren participate in such things as recitals, dramas, school sporting events, graduations, birthday parties, family day trips and the like.

Why are grandparents greatly important to the raising of children? Dr. Terry Brazelton, an expert on child development, says grandparents are important to a child's sense of roots. Grandparents are storehouses of information about family history. They help the child to understand how he or she fits into the family saga and who the heroes and heroines of the family have been. For truth's sake - Jesus said the truth makes us free - even knowledge of a family "black sheep" can be told as a lesson to guide children toward more Christlike behavior.

The Bible points to another contribution of Christian grandparents. Paul wrote to young Timothy these words: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you" (2 Timothy 1:5). Faith, too, can be a wonderful heritage from grandparents.

Labor Day

The Bible affirms the importance of work. Adam was put in the garden "to till and keep it."

In the fourth commandment we are told to "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy." Then we read: "Six days you shall labor and do all your work" (Exodus 20:8-9 NRSV).

Work is important for us. It allows us to use our talent, our minds and our strength to create and bring forth the "fruits" of our labor. Work satisfies an inner need to make a positive contribution to the world.

Work helps to bring satisfaction and fulfillment to us as we use our lives for good and uplifting purposes.

It is a way of exercising good stewardship of the personal gifts God has given to us: our brain power, our physical strength, our special talents.

Since we have the privilege of being "workers together with God" it seems fitting that we set aside one day a year to think about the goodness and dignity of work.

Therefore, let us joyfully celebrate Labor Day.

Patriots Day

On December 18, 2001, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day." It's a day to remember the more than 3,000 innocent lives lost on that September morning in 2001.

The resolution requests that each year the President issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities. Those activities include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence, and flying the American flag at half-staff.

In his 2003 proclamation President Bush said, "On that day, and in its aftermath, we saw the greatness of America in the bravery of victims; in the heroism of first responders who laid down their lives to save others; in the compassion of people who stepped forward to help those they had never met; and in the generosity of millions of Americans who enriched our country with acts of service and kindness."

“If God didn’t send Jesus into the world to condemn it, I doubt he sent you too.”

Not long ago a woman came to visit Living Waters and worship with us. After service she came to me to express her dissatisfaction with my shoes. Actually it was more – my lack of shoes. She was very excited about our service, our songs, how welcoming our members are, but, she was put out by my lack of shoes. She went a little further and told me that I should dress and act more like a “pastor’s wife”. I try to dress for service in a way that would make my grandmother proud, wearing either a dress or skirt. I am a simple person and wear simple clothing because I like to be comfortable as I am running around doing many tasks. Now we having a saying here in the South that goes like this – “Well Bless Your Heart!” I said, well thank you for sharing that. May I ask you a question if you don’t mind? She said sure. I ask, does a fancy dress make me a better person? Does a \$100 pair of shoes make the piano sound better? Does what I am wearing make the children in Sunday School learn better? I don’t think she liked my questions at all. Bless Her Heart! Hey I’m not knocking folks who get all dressed up, you go be you. James chapter 2 says this- If a rich man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fancy clothes and a poor man with filthy clothes also comes in and you look at the rich man and say ‘have a seat right here’ but you look at the poor man and say “You stand over there, you sit in the floor next to my feet. Have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Rich or Poor, Fancy or Simple we all deserve a seat in the sanctuary of God!

In our church the rich one and poor one are going to be treated with the same respect. From the trash man to the

CEO we are all uniquely created by a Creator who sees us as precious in His sight. Being rich or poor has nothing to do with our worth in the eyes of God. Our communities will begin to prosper when we begin to see each other through the eyes of Creator. Every single one is as important as the next. So – If you don’t like my bare feet you are welcome to go to the fancy church because we just aren’t fancy –

But if you choose to join us for worship service – you will be welcomed and loved at our simple church.

BLESSINGS

FROM
GOD

For some it has been years, others their first year volunteering at the Food Pantry.

They work as a team—all have a passion to ensure the food is distributed with love.

Living Waters Food Pantry does not receive any tribal, federal, state, city or government funding of any kind. 100 % of the funds donated to the pantry is used to supply and stock the pantry with needed items. All people who work at the pantry are volunteers. It is only through the generosity of our ministry partners that we can continue to provide nutritional food resources. When we work together, donating, volunteering, feeding others we are working to create a better tomorrow for our neighbors in need. Some of our team members are professionals, others are retired, and many just make time to lend a hand. We could not do what we do without these dedicated, passionate people. They are never looking for recognition, and are often embarrassed when introduced to visiting groups extolling their labor of love. Our volunteers are a valued and essential component that makes possible serving thousands of people throughout the year. We honor and respect the generous contribution of their time and talents that make possible the distribution of food resources and other essentials to the many that are in need.

You may think that only the unemployed or homeless use food pantries, but that simply is not true. We are seeing increasing numbers of working families, commonly known as the working poor..

Senior citizens living on a Social Security income often have to choose between buying food or paying medical and utility bills. A layoff, an accident, a long-term illness, or other unexpected events can have a huge impact on a family already struggling to make ends meet. Seeing so many families in need, especially children, reminds all of us how easily our lives can take a turn for the worse without any notice. And when a family’s food budget is slashed, caring about nutrition drops down on the priority scale. It is very understandable that people who need to ask for food from a local food pantry can feel ashamed or embarrassed. This is why food pantry volunteers can make it easier. While volunteering, it is important to create an atmosphere of love and dignity, since most clients are low on that. Food pantry donations are essential of course, but moral support and encouragement are other much-needed gifts volunteers can give. I believe that one of the keys to our continued success is to maximize the amazing support and energy of our pantry network, and to invite all new partners to tour our facility to see firsthand what their support provides to the community.

It's great when you can enjoy what you're doing, but it's not an absolute necessity.
If you have to choose between action and enjoyment, choose action.



Food – A Basic Need

We see many people visiting Cherokee who pop in and out of restaurants without a thought, choose a meal, feast on it, waste a bunch of food, pay the bill, and leave. People who can eat whatever they want, whenever they want, and wherever they want. We also have people in our community who show up at the Living Waters Food Pantry to choose what limited groceries they will take home to place in their cabinets and refrigerators. What a far different experience than dining out. Choice versus survival. Can you imagine not having daily dignities available to you in life? Can you imagine scraping by financially, and wondering how to feed your little girl, your teenage boy, yourself?

People should never have to face these awful decisions. Never.

We are very grateful to those who donate to help families, especially parents with children, who want to better their own lives and create better futures for their children.

There are surely many reasons to support the Living Waters Food Pantry. I'm going to guess that most of the reasons people donate involve compassion and empathy. After all, who doesn't want to help a child be able to learn more effectively in school. Or we know that a hungry person is likely to feel not only the pain of hunger, but also anxiety, fatigue, and depression, especially our elderly.

Who wouldn't want to do something to help alleviate any of this? I sure would.

But I want to tell you about something else the Food Pantry Volunteers do. (Notice I said – Volunteers; no one at Living Waters Food Pantry receives payment for their hard work). The Food Pantry is an extraordinarily environmental organization. Food Pantries everywhere play an incredibly important role in preventing high quality, usable food from going to waste and ending up in the landfill.

A lot of things can go wrong in the production or transportation of food, but often the things that went wrong don't impair the health or quality of the product. For example, sometimes we are able to go and salvage food from a trucking accident. While some packages may be a little smashed or crumbled, and sometimes the produce is starting to rot (especially in the summer months) we are usually able to salvage good usable food that we can use in the pantry. Food that otherwise would be sent to the landfill. Yes it is extra work to sort through the items and it can be dirty work to sort through the produce but the result is the Food Pantry is able to provide the food to people who needed it. We are also part of the Gleaning Network which allows us to go and salvage fresh produce. After the workers have harvested the fields we can go and salvage fresh produce that was left behind. When we have produce that is no longer usable, we donate the bad produce to local chicken and pig farmers. We try to use everything we can to prevent waste.

We are always looking for opportunities to help keep Living Waters Pantry stocked so we can continue to serve the many people who come to us for relief.

We appreciate all those who have donated items to the pantry and those who have made monetary donations to help us serve those who come to seek relief.

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther.

And in your story he has you."

Other people will by and large relate to you based on how you relate to them

People often look at me and think that I've got it all figured out.

I'm sure they think I'm tough, strong and unstoppable... And most of the time, that's true.. except when it's not.. There's just as many days where I'm falling apart as there are days when I'm invincible. I've just perfected the steel façade that conceals my true feelings. I put on a brave face for myself, the people around me and to show the world I'm strong. Truth is, I can have a smile on my face when I'm dying inside and no one would ever know. Everyone will tell me that I'm "lucky" that I'm strong and independent but they don't see the battles I have to face every day and overcome. There's days when all I want to do is cry, not even wanting to leave the house. But I do just that --- with a smile on my face and a pep in my step, I keep pushing forward, regardless of how I feel. It's not always an easy thing when you don't always have a safe place to land when you fall or someone to lean on, but I still find a way every day to get everything done. I may be utterly spent at the end of my days, but I just keep fighting. Maybe it's survival mode, maybe it's habit, or maybe because I'm really that strong. Or maybe it's a little of all that. I don't really know and I don't have time to figure it out, because there's always something to do, someplace to be, someone to help. I do so gladly, with a warm smile that makes the world think they know me.. And I'm okay with that. They know what I want them to know, and I keep the rest for myself. I know it'll get better - I'll do whatever it takes to keep growing and evolving. But until the day comes when I'm flying high, strong and carefree, I'll keep doing the best I can, loving myself and my people the way that I do and smiling brightly for the world to see. I'll never have it all together, figured out or be perfect, but I'll always love that about myself. I am imperfectly beautiful, just the way I was meant to be. That's just who I am and will always be. Strong, proud and a survivor.

If you have felt this way or are struggling some days just to leave the house, please know you are not alone.

There are others who care and others who know what you are going through.

It's alright to not have it all figured out sometimes. But please know that we are always here for you and we will do our best to meet your needs - you just have to ask.



Becoming Aware

Are you aware & do you make others aware or do you pass by thinking not my job?

This is a question we should all be asking, at work, at home, out with friends, even at church. Think about this: when we are at work we know what we are supposed to do & do it sometimes without even being asked to do so...at home we again might see something that needs to be done & without being asked we just do it. Be it washing dishes, take out trash or maybe even-start the laundry. Maybe we set the table or set the food out, clean up afterward, or sweep the floor. If we can do these things at work or in our own homes, why can we not do the same for Gods house? Think about this: we go to church for Sundays but we also go for fun get togethers. When we get to the church do we know how this function came to be or do we just get there & it's like magic, "BOOM" it appeared? If you want to know how things happen be aware, ask questions. After the fun stay & help. If you see something needs to be done ASK if you can help with that task instead of waiting to be asked. If you want to help but aren't sure how just ASK. If you look around & find something needs doing, do it... if you aren't sure make someone aware. The church is a family & just like at home we all have small jobs that help with the bigger picture, at church each small thing we do helps with the bigger picture. *L*

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone.

And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

September 2023

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

Is today really one of those days when nothing goes your way,
when not much gets done? Or is that just what you're telling yourself?
In fact, it's not the day that makes things happen, that gets good work done,
or prevents action. It's you doing all that.

What the day provides is opportunity, space in which to act.
What it doesn't provide is a foregone conclusion one way or the other.

Yes, today, and every day, is one of those days.

It's a day that's open to whatever you choose to make of it.

Any notion that the day itself is imposing frustration or
bad luck is nothing but a mistaken creature of your imagination.

The bad luck and frustration will end when you decide to move beyond them.

No matter how the day has unfolded so far, what you're able to do next is up to you.

Envision the best, and make it real.

— Ralph Marston

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