

Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2009

DISCOVERY CANYON

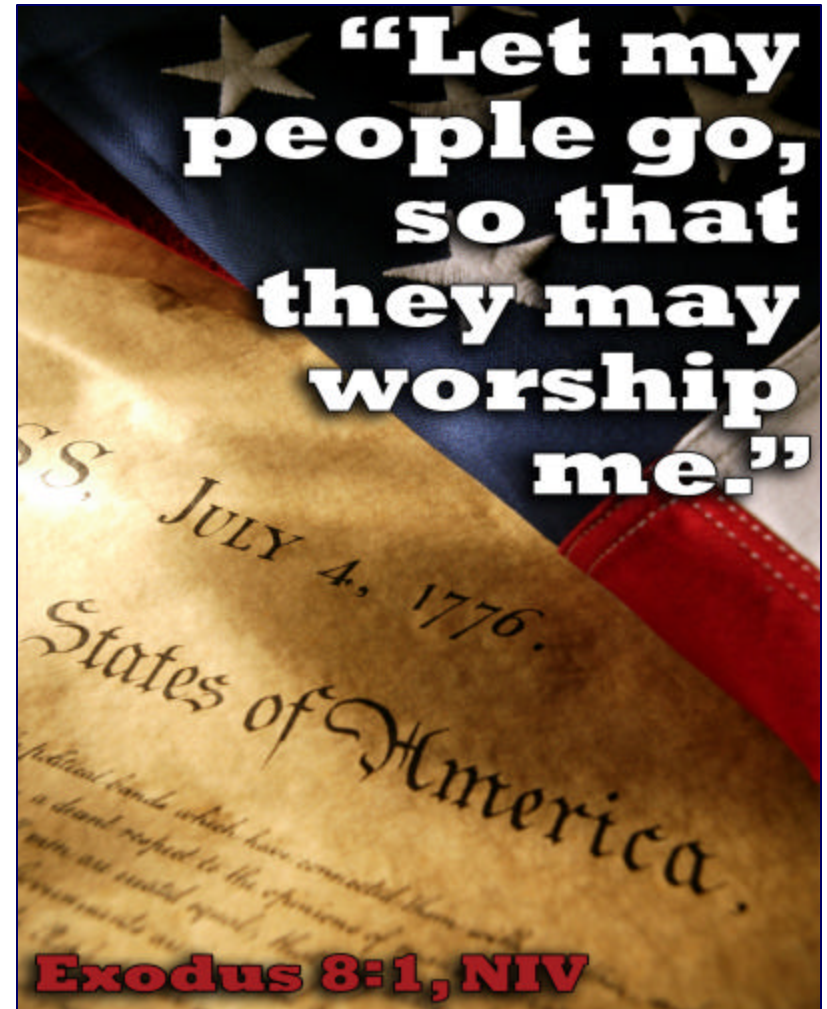
“Discovery Canyon” is the theme for VBS 2009 at Living Waters.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of July 20-24 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon.

Currently, around 40 children are registered for VBS 2009.

VBS registration materials are available at the church office – and on the church’s website, www.LivingWatersLutheran.com. VBS is free to all who attend.

July & August 2009



Second Annual Preschool Benefit Golf Tournament



Saturday, July 18th

7 a.m. Registration 8 a.m. Shotgun Start

4 Person Scramble

\$75 Per Person Includes:

18 Holes, Breakfast, Clubhouse Lunch, Two Drink Tickets, Cart Fees,

Range Balls, Gratuities and Door Prizes

The Second Annual Living Waters Preschool Benefit Golf Tournament is scheduled for July 18, 2009 at the Heron Creek Golf and Country Club in North Port.

Registration forms are available at the church office – and online at the church website, www.LivingWatersLutheran.com. Please note, you may pay your registration fee online at the church’s website.

Be sure to register today!

Living Waters Lutheran Church

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Rev. Dr. Dell Shiell, Pastor

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE	
Worship	8:30am
Sunday School	9:30am
Worship	10:30am



Church and Council Officers

Nancy Nickles	Donna Myers	Peg Pulfer	David Lanning
Rick Backiel	Jerry Pauley	Daryl Mendez	Tim Waters Sr.



*Family Fellowship
Event
August 29*



The second Family Fellowship Event is scheduled for Saturday, August 29, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. This event will be a Pot Luck/White Elephant Night.

A “Potluck” means that you should bring a dish to pass and share with others.

A “White Elephant” exchange is when everyone brings a “gag gift” or “fun gift” to exchange with others. Your gift need not cost any money. For example, at one of these events in another church, someone brought melted dishes they had put in a microwave. So, have some fun and come with your own “special” gift—just make sure that you wrap your White Elephant in newspaper.

Preschool News

Preschool Fall Program Begins August 24



The Living Waters Preschool begins its Fall 2009 program the same day that the Sarasota County Public Schools begin classes—August 24, 2009. The preschool is transitioning to a year-round full-time preschool and childcare facility that is open Monday-Friday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.

On August 24, a new Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) class will begin. VPK is free to all 4-year Florida residents (that is, children who are 4 years old by September 1, 2009).

The Living Waters Preschool serves children ages 2-5.

An “Open House” for the Fall 2009 program is scheduled at the preschool for Saturday, August 8, 2009 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Registration materials are available at the church office or on the preschool’s website, www.LivingWatersPreschool.com.

New “Creative Staffing” Mission

In June, 2009, the Congregation Council approved a new mission project called “Creative Staffing.” The concept for this mission has been discussed during the past 5 years at Living Waters. Essentially, the idea is to provide free housing to pastors in exchange for their professional services. Living Waters will benefit from an affordable plan to secure the expertise of additional part-time pastoral staff. Living Waters will also provide an invaluable resource to the larger church where pastors are planning for a sabbatical, getting ready for retirement, or in need of time to complete post-graduate dissertations away from the responsibilities of their full-time job.

The plan is relatively simple. Living Waters will use free and inexpensive venues like the Internet, church newsletters, and word-of-mouth to advertise. Pastors will be invited to submit an application—and when selected—they will agree to terms of employment on a part-time basis for 1-3 months. Pastors will be selected based on their qualifications and our needs and priorities as a church. Typically, pastors will agree to help with worship and to serve as teachers, trainers, or consultants in support of our philosophy of ministry, “Every Member A Minister.” (*See the article, “Equipping Ministry Team Is Launched.”*)

To help us launch this mission, the Living Waters Fund (our church’s endowment) will invest in a new condominium at The Colony at Sabal Trace (Greenwood Ave. and Sabal Trace Drive in North Port). (*See the article, “From Here To Eternity”*) on page 6.

Also, to help us launch this mission, Jeanne Chepivetzki gave a gift of \$5,000 in memory of her husband, Arie Chepivetzki. (*See the article, “The Arie Chepivetzki Memorial”*) on page 7.

Here are some ways you too can help us to launch this mission:

- * Pray for this mission.
- * Tell others about this exciting opportunity—especially, spread the word among pastors you know.
- * Consider becoming part of the “Creative Staffing Leadership Team.” We need help writing articles, developing a web presence, writing up procedures and guidelines and developing other supporting resources.

Finally, it is important to note that this new mission blends all four agreed upon S.M.A.R.T. Goal Strategies for our church: Staffing, Marketing, Lay Leadership Development, and Outreach. Time and again, we have acknowledged that these are the strategies we believe God will use to help us pursue our distinctive mission and vision as a church.



A NOTE FROM PASTOR DELL

When we first meet someone and we are able to establish that we know a mutual acquaintance, we often remark, “It’s a small world.” The great big impersonal world “out there” seems to get smaller as our much smaller world of personal relationships and experience gets bigger.

Back in 1988-1989, Diane and I took our family on a year-long adventure in Norway. We did a home and ministry exchange with a Norwegian pastor and his family. The Isaksen family came to live in our home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and the Shiell family went to live in their home in Larvik, Norway (on the east coast of Norway, south of Oslo about 70 miles). Sjur Isaksen and I traded jobs for that year as well.

Now, 20 years later, Diane and I are planning our first trip back to Larvik together. We plan to leave the end of July and return a month later. During our absence, Don Cope will deliver the Sunday message, Dru Munson will lead worship for the 8:30 service and Ray Fundyga will lead worship for the 10:30 service—and of course, Judy Johnson and Kris Dines will coordinate and handle the details. Thank you, Don, Dru, Ray, Judy and Kris!

To say we are excited about this trip is an understatement. It is something we have longed to do for the past 20 years.

If you’ve read our book, **Fair Exchange: A Ministry Exchange Between the USA and Norway**, then perhaps you understand something of the anticipation we feel. (If you haven’t read the book, just ask and we will give you a copy.) The year that we lived abroad made the world shrink for us as we learned to care about people whose culture, language and “way of doing church” differ from ours. As we wrote in our book, “It is important to note that the effects of the exchange went beyond our family. Many others in both the Cedar Rapids and the Larvik congregations also took a fresh look at their faith and their church because of the exchange.”

We plan to spend 2 weeks in Larvik, visiting friends and going to church for worship on the 2 Sundays we are in the area.

We plan to spend the other 2 weeks of our trip, visiting the Isaksen family who now live in Oslo, Norway and visiting relatives in Stavanger, Norway and Vingaaker, Sweden. We also plan to take a quick, 2-day ferry excursion between Stockholm, Sweden and Helsinki, Finland.

As we travel, we plan to bring greetings from Living Waters to Christians in Norway and Sweden—as well as to learn all we can about what God is up to with Christians and their churches in Norway and Sweden. Please pray for us during our travels and pray for those who will keep things going at Living Waters during our absence.

And wherever you are this summer—wherever your travels take you—remember to go with God and keep our Living Waters church family in your thoughts and prayers.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS June 9, 2009

Preschool

Pastor Dell Shiell reported that the Preschool is meeting through the summer. The board has decided to advertise in the “Mommy” Magazine.

Summer student enrollment is 6 students. The preschool enrollment for Vacation Bible School (VBS) is 11 plus siblings that will attend VBS in Hanson Hall. The Second Annual Preschool Benefit Golf Tournament is scheduled for July 18th at Heron Creek Golf and Country Club. Students have begun to register for the fall preschool programs.

During the summer, we need volunteers from the church (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings). Donna Myers offered to serve as a volunteer at the preschool on Mondays. We still need volunteers for Tuesday and Wednesdays.

Pastor’s Report

Pastor presented his written report and briefly reviewed the main topics. Our winter season worship attendance at the 10:30 service declined again this year. Total income increased over last year but is less than our budget income need.

Finances

Tim Waters and Carol Piltz presented the written Treasurer’s Report. Expenditures remain near but under the budgeted amount and there is a positive balance in the checkbook. Our immediate concern is the impact of our high insurance bills due in June and August.

In June, the Financial Secretary will distribute Financial Contribution Statements. The suggestion was made to begin sending these statements by email to save postage. The council recommends that the Financial Secretary ask people for their permission to send these statements by email.

Creative Staffing Project

Pastor reviewed the proposed project, involving the purchase of a Condo with money from the Endowment Fund. This Condo is to be used for Visiting Pastors who will commit some time (typically 15hrs/week) to assist at Living Waters. Pastor read a supportive letter from Rick and Gayle Backiel with some questions about covering furnishings and expenses. (Note: expenses are estimated to be about \$500/month.)

Equipping Ministry Team (EMT) Has Begun

Under the able leadership of Gayle Backiel, Lay Ministry Coordinator, we have launched a new lay leadership development initiative we refer to as the “Equipping Ministry Team.” So far, we have had two orientation and training sessions for the 10 members of this team.

The concept is fairly simple, but profound. The mission of the EMT is to equip ministry team leaders to lead.

Each member of the EMT will serve as a coach and mentor for the leaders of certain ministry teams in our congregation. EMT members will strive to equip leaders of our ministry teams and then share their experiences with one another (that is, with the rest of the EMT) as they continue to develop new knowledge and skills.

The rationale for the emergence of the EMT lies in our church’s philosophy of ministry and our ministry process.

Our church’s philosophy of ministry is, “Every Member A Minister.” We believe God is calling each and every one of us to believe in Christ and to follow Christ. As believers, we are called to faith and to grow in our faith. As Christ-followers, we are sent into the world to share Christ with others and to make the world a better place (in other words, we are sent to serve, to do ministry, to be “a minister.”)

Our ministry process is designed to move people through three distinctive environments: from the Foyer (large group environments like worship and fellowship events) to the Living Room (small groups) and on to the Kitchen (ministry teams).

The EMT exists to work with our lay leaders to encourage and equip them (a) to implement our philosophy of ministry and (b) to lead their ministry teams so that people are always growing in faith and in effectiveness for ministry.

The Equipping Ministry Team, also, exists to provide leadership so Living Waters becomes a “learning organization.” What are learning organizations? “Organizations where people continually expand their capacity to create the results they truly desire, where new and expansive patterns of thinking are nurtured, where collective aspiration is set free, and where people are continually learning to learn together.” (Peter Senge)

Together as a church, we are striving to expand our capacity to grow in our own discipleship and to equip one another for ministry that shares Christ in word and deed. The EMT exists to provide leadership for our expanded capacity, growth, discipleship, ministry and the joy of sharing Christ with others.


Newcomers' Day – North Port Library

On May 2, 2009, Living Waters participated for the first time in the Newcomers' Day held at the North Port Library. Our display highlighted Living Waters Preschool and A Special Time. Diane and Dell Shiell set up the display.


In the picture below Carol Piltz (left) and Carol Sutton (middle) greet someone who visited the display.



On August 1, 2009 at 10am, Living Waters will once again participate in Newcomers' Day at the library.



CUT UPS GROUP



FABRIC
DONATIONS
NEEDED

For those of you who enjoy going to garage sales please check to see if there is fabric for sale. The Cut-Ups Group is in need of cotton fabric donations and any size or color of bed sheets. Whether it's one piece or a whole bag full of fabric, the ladies carefully match patterns and colors with their inventory and create beautiful quilts that are donated to various organizations. One major program the Cut-Ups create quilts for is the "Lutheran World Relief". Your donation would be greatly appreciated and may be dropped off at the church office .

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Pastor discussed the endowment fund investment with the Beerbower family since they were the major contributors to the Endowment Fund. The Beerbower family has replied that they are in favor of the investment. They also recommended investment policy guidelines for this specific investment.

The council recommends that we call this Condo "The Beerbower House."

Additional discussion of this mission project included the need to advertise, develop applications and a selection process, develop an employment agreement and so on. Pastor Shiell also re-iterated his commitment to serve as the pastor at Living Waters on a long-term basis. The council is looking into additional resources to help us grow the endowment by urging others in the congregation to make bequests to the endowment.

The council approved the recommendation to invest \$93,900 of the Endowment Fund for the purchase of a condo at The Colony (Sabal Trace, North Port).

Other items

The women's restroom for Hanson Hall has been remodeled. "Thanks" was expressed to Owen Gatewood and Herb Moehling for their excellent work. -- DDL

Secretary's Note:

On June 14th a Congregation Information Meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 Service. About 36 people attended the meeting. The Creative Staffing Project was presented by Pastor as described above. He announced that the purchase of the Condo (Beerbower House) is to be made in June 15th and the Closing date for the purchase will be July 15th. After his presentation, there were a few questions about the program regarding the potential people who might come to use the facility and assist us. Pastor outlined the interview, screening and signed agreement plan and he stated that there will be a Ministerial Team to organize this part of the Program. Volunteers for this Team are being sought. There was general agreement with this program from the members of the Congregation at the close of the meeting. -- DDL



From Here To Eternity

The Living Waters Fund is our endowment. This fund grows as the result of bequests and related “planned gifts.” The fund—established in 2001 and initially funded in 2002—has grown in value to over \$200,000, largely due to ongoing gifts in memory of Bill and Betty Beerbower.

What is the purpose of an endowment? The purpose of the Living Waters Fund is “to be a perpetual endowment, to support added compassionate community outreach and ministries not funded through the congregation’s regular budget” (Charter document for The Living Waters Fund).

An Important Recent News Item For The Living Waters Fund

This summer (2009), by action of the Congregation Council, a portion of our endowment has been invested in the outright purchase of a condominium unit. This action diversifies the fund’s investments, takes advantage of the recent downturn in real estate values, and provides a unique opportunity for a new mission called “Creative Staffing.” (See the article on page 10, “New Creative Staffing Mission.”)

The 2009 monthly expenses associated with this “condo” (including property taxes, insurance, utilities, and maintenance fees) are being paid by Diane Shiell, broker, and Venice Realty, Inc. in the form of a gift of 100% of the real estate transaction commission. An additional gift of \$5,000 in memory of Arie Chepivetzki will be used to furnish the 2-bedroom condominium located at The Colony at Sabal Trace in North Port. (See the article, “The Arie Chepivetzki Memorial.”)

The integrity of your gift to the Living Waters Fund is always of paramount importance to us as a congregation. That is why, prior to the recent decision to invest endowment assets in a condominium unit, we contacted the Beerbower family. In turn, the Beerbower family suggested an investment policy guideline relative to this specific investment—and this guideline was adopted by the Congregation Council.

The Congregation Council also decided to refer to the new condo unit as “The Beerbower House.”

The vision for The Living Waters Fund is to grow in ten years to a value equal to or greater than 10 times our congregation’s annual operating budget. This vision is based on the goal of an annual distribution from our endowment for benevolence purposes equal to the operating budget of our congregation. Dollar for dollar, we are striving to spend—for outreach—an amount equal to what we spend for the health and maintenance of our congregation. To reach this goal will require an effort by every member of our congregation. Please prayerfully consider leaving a tithe of 10% of your estate to The Living Waters Fund.

The Arie Chepivetzki Memorial

Pictured below is Jeanne Chepivetzki (left) presenting a gift of \$5,000 in memory of her husband, Arie Chepivetzki. Accepting this gift on behalf of Living Waters is Congregation President, Daryl Mendez and Pastor Dell Shiell. Jeanne designated this gift to be used to help launch the new Creative Staffing mission. (See the article on page 10, “New Creative Staffing Mission.”)



Pastor Shiell relates the following information about Arie Chepivetzki:

“Arie (born 1935) was a hard-working man who faced several major challenges during his lifetime. As a young Jewish émigré, Arie left Kiev at the age of 11, to live in a refugee camp in Iran, until he was allowed to enter Israel where he was separated from his family to live in a kibbutz. In 1971, Arie, a Merchant Marine, immigrated to the United States, where he worked as a rigger in a shipyard. He and Jeanne had been married 28 years at the time of his death in 2008. God bless the memory of Arie Chepivetzki.”