

# Living Waters focus

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER |  
LIVING WATERS CHURCH |  
JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2019 - VOLUME 1

## New Years Reflections by Pastor Dave

*As the New Year begins, many of us are in the habit of making New Year's resolutions. This is a good habit which helps many set goals for the New Year. As Christians our main goal should be to conform more to the image of Jesus. So here are 12 Christ-like characteristics we can resolve to increase in our lives for in the New Year. (adapted from an article by Denise Kolmyer of Unlocking the Bible)*

**1) LOVE:** This is by far the most defining characteristic of Jesus. Throughout his earthly ministry he exuded love to everyone he encountered. As Christians, love should be our distinguishing characteristic, as well. "Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another" ([John 13:35](#))

**2) COMPASSION:** Compassion is borne out of love for others. It means "to suffer together." Compassion compels us to come alongside and partner with someone who is suffering, whether physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually

**3) FORGIVENESS:** Forgiveness is why Jesus came to earth, to die on a cross so that we could be forgiven of our sins and our relationship with God is wonderfully restored. It is the same with our earthly relationships. Unforgiveness keeps us separated, but forgiveness reunites us. Forgiveness heals fractured relationships.

**4) HUMILITY:** Humility means "lowliness of mind, modesty." As the saying goes, "It is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." Humility is a mindset, an attitude, the opposite of pride, "haughtiness, disdain and arrogance. If you humble yourself, he will lift you up. (James 4:10)

**5) OBEDIENCE:** Just as compassion is an outgrowth of love, obedience is an outgrowth of humility. "He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" ([Philippians 2:8](#))

**6) PEACEMAKER:** Isaiah said that one of the names of Jesus would be "Prince of Peace". Jesus offers this peace through the cross. His broken body tore down "the dividing wall of hostility" between God and us. Jesus then say's "blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God". (Matthew 5:9).

**7) SERVANTHOOD:** The life of Jesus was one of sacrifice and service. His death on the cross was the ultimate act of service to mankind. He claimed that he came "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

**8) PRAYERFUL:** Prayer is to exchange our own wishes (our wills) for God's. In Gethsemane Jesus asked the Father to take away the cup of death, but ultimately prayed "...yet not my will, but yours be done (Luke 22:42. Let your prayer life conform to God's will.

**9) AVAILABLE:** We are often consumed with our own lives and schedules that we forget about those around us that are hurting and in need. Jesus 3 year ministry was focused on being available to the needs of others. People could come to him at anytime and they did by the thousands.

**10) TRUTHFUL:** God the Father cannot lie, and neither can Jesus, God the Son. Unlike Jesus, however, we can lie, exaggerate, bend the truth. It is part of our sinful nature. Yet, believers are called to "take off your old self with its practices...[and] do not lie to each other" ([Colossians 3:9](#)).

## Church Events

- January 4<sup>th</sup> - Kids Club
- January 6<sup>th</sup> – Youth Game Night
- January 10<sup>th</sup> – New Women's Study begins – "The Story"
- January 12<sup>th</sup> - Women's Prayer Breakfast
- January 13<sup>th</sup> – Annual Church Meeting
- January 27<sup>th</sup> – Sanctity of Life Sunday
- February 1<sup>st</sup> – Kids Club
- February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Leadership Team Retreat

**11) PATIENCE:** When the confused disciples couldn't grasp the meaning of the parables, became annoyed by people wanting more of Jesus time. When they didn't fully understand the mission of why Jesus came, Jesus patiently explained them. Praise God that he is patient with his stubborn, errant children (Psalm 103:8)

**12) HOLY:** Holiness is more than a moral code to follow. Our moral behavior is an outgrowth of a holy character given to us by the transforming power of God. Just as God is "set apart and separate" we also should be set apart from the world's sinful activities, values, beliefs and philosophies.





## INTO THE DEEP

*"A Young Adult Life Group of 20's and 30's seeking the deeper things of God" by Pastor Pete*

Jesus calls us to follow Him. At Living Waters Church a group of young adults in their 20s and 30s, led by Pastor Pete & Paul Maranino, heard the call of Jesus, and are coming together twice a month to learn how to know Jesus more intimately, how to walk according to the Spirit more consistently in the real lives we are living! We have been looking at the various spiritual disciplines such as fasting, prayer, meditation, memorization, solitude, worship and sabbath rest as ways of "accessing the presence" of God in very real and meaningful ways. We will begin a new study in the New Year. This group meets on

the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month (Next meeting- Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>) 7:00-9:00PM at Living Waters Church (649 Vail Rd., Parsippany). We begin with a shared meal, and then we feast on the "full meal" of God's word (Matthew 4:4).

If you are interested in joining us, or you know someone in their 20's and 30's who wants to enter into a deeper relationship with God, please contact

Pastor Pete at [pastorpete52@verizon.net](mailto:pastorpete52@verizon.net)

or Paul Maranino at [paul@seabreezesyrups.com](mailto:paul@seabreezesyrups.com)



## Women's Ministry News

A new Bible study called *"The Story"* is starting in 2019 at Living Waters Church the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

In "The Story" Max Lucado and Randy Frazee have compiled many of the major Bible stories in chronological order in a form of one continuing story. We will be reading from the NIV Bible. Each chapter in the book is about 10-15 pages. (Since we meet bi-weekly, you have two weeks to complete the reading.) We will come together and have small group discussion based on the questions that the authors provide.

Many people today have "gaps" in their knowledge of the Bible. Here is a chance to read and study together and fill in those "gaps". Please join us for this new adventure in God's word.



**VIRAL:** adj.: *Becoming very popular by circulating quickly from person to person.*

When was the last time you saw something go Viral?

From the beginning, the church has been viral! What made it explode? What made it spread? How can we at LWC in 2019 reignite this explosion?

Join us in January and February as we journey through the book of Acts and learn how we can become.... **VIRAL!!!!**



## Family Ministries Reflection

*"You Are You Because of Others"*  
by Pastor Mike.

I recently read what Desmond Tutu said about leadership. Each sentence was full of humility, leadership, love and challenge. He spoke on the idea of living a life that is beyond you. A life where you live at your best so that others can as well. His idea was this: a person is a person through other persons. You are you because of others. We copy the best attributes of others to be the best version of ourselves.

I think about the people that helped develop who I am today—my passions, my interests, my spirit. They were people that I admired and watched, liking who they were as people and attempting to copy those attributes for myself.

Part of who I am today is because of people across the world from me. Children that I have shared a game of soccer with, blown bubbles and sang songs with.

Children who had an inexplicable joy that I wanted to replicate. Children who knew nothing of greed, road rage, and accumulation. But they did know a lot about hunger, about sacrifice, about caring for others. They knew about the faithfulness of the Lord and the value of hard work. These children, who I will likely never see again, helped shape/form/create me. I am me, because of them.

*You are you because of others.*

I encourage you to reflect on ways you can teach our children and students about the world around them, and let it help shape them in the best possible way. Because just as you are you because of others . . . others are themselves because of you.

## Connect With Us!

There are multiple ways to connect with Living Waters Church:

**Life Groups:** Meet throughout Morris County (See our web site for times and locations)

**Website:** [www.lwcnj.org](http://www.lwcnj.org) – Sermon podcasts on web site



**Flock Note:** This is our new church communication system. To signup - text the keyword "LWC649" to text #84576 then follow the instructions to complete the process. You can also download the app on your phone.

**Email:** [lwchurch649@gmail.com](mailto:lwchurch649@gmail.com)



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To give - go to our web site and click the "GIVE" tab