# Living Waters

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF LIVING WATERS CHURCH MAY 2018 – VOLUME 3

# Living a Life of Devotion

Pastor Mike's Family Focus

Family Devotions are a time of worship. They look different for each family. One family's devotion time may look different than another family's devotion time. The family's schedule, number of children, and age of children are some of the factors impacting what the family devotion looks like. Typically, a family devotion time includes, reading a Bible story from the Bible, singing songs, and praying, Use the nine tips below for beginning and maintaining a regular family devotion time:

- 1. *Intentionally Schedule Devotions.* Make this time a priority by writing it on your calendar. While looking at the calendar, select a time that works best for your family, such as at breakfast, in the evening, or during the day.
- 2. **Be Realistic.** Keep in mind the ages and developmental stages of your children. Devotions with young preschoolers will look very different than families with school-age children. Family devotions can range from a few minutes up to 15 minutes.
- Plan your time together. Consider using your child's activity pages from church as a starting point. Select a Bible story to read and review. Choose a Bible verse to learn together as a family. Write down worship songs your family can sing together.
- 4. *Be Flexible.* Family devotions will not always go according to plan. The important point to remember is that your family is spending time with God.

- 5. *Give Yourself Grace.* If you miss the family devotion one day, give yourself grace. Start back fresh the next day to help establish the routine.
- 6. *Be Creative.* If a family member isn't able to be present due to travel or schedule, use technology to include him/her in the family devotion time. Technology can also be used to include grandparents and other out of town family and friends from time to time.
- 7. *Keep Devotions Fresh.* Include variety in your family devotions. After reading the Bible story, incorporate activities such as making a Bible marker or playing a game to review the Bible verse.
- Focus on the Bible. The Bible is central to the family devotion. Use a Bible translation your child can understand. Allow him to hold the Bible, and to help find and read the Bible passage.
- 9. *Reinforce Lessons During Daily Activities.* As opportunities arise throughout the day, remind your child of what you have been talking about and learned during family devotions.

In Deuteronomy 6:4-7, the Bible shares that parents are to teach their children about God. They are the primary spiritual leaders of their family. Parents have the most significant influence on a child's life and development. When parents make family devotions a priority, children learn to love the Lord their God with their heart, their soul, and their strength.

# **Church Events**

• May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Prayer Night and

Vision Walk - 7pm

May 4<sup>th</sup> – Kids Club

6:45pm – 8:00pm

- May 5th Women's
  Outreach Event 10am 1pm
- May 12th Church Workday
- May 13<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day
- May 15<sup>th</sup> Leadership Team

Meeting - 7:00pm

- May 19<sup>th</sup> Church Workday
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Veteran's

**Recognition Service/Church** 

### Picnic

- May 28<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day
- June 1<sup>st</sup> Kids Club

# **Life Group News**



**Women's Bible Study** 7:30pm at the church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th Thursday of every month. All women are welcome to join us!

The Women's study is currently studying the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Our study is based on the book by Phillip Keller- "A Shepherd's Look at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm". Phillip Keller was a shepherd in Africa and a lay preacher in his church. His understanding of sheep and the role of the shepherd adds tremendous insight to our study of this psalm. We see clearly how much we and sheep have in common. We also see all that's involved with caring for these otherwise defenseless animals. We learn the difference between a good shepherd and a hired hand as Jesus describes in John 10:12.

Our eyes are opened to see the diligent care, protection and love a good shepherd demonstrates in order to provide for his sheep. David as a shepherd knew and understood these things. We in our industrial society need to learn the life of the shepherd in order to understand the love our shepherd has for us. Once our eyes are open to all that the good shepherd does, even laying down his own life for the sheep, we find tremendous comfort.

Come join us. You will find that you are not alone. You have other sheep in your flock that share in your joys and sorrows. You will also find that you have a Good Shepherd who loves you, protects you and will never abandon you. You'll learn how to hear His voice and follow His steps. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside the still waters, He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Psalm 23:1-3

## **Connect With Us!**

There are multiple ways to connect with Living Waters Church:

**Life Groups**: Meet throughout Morris County (See back of Sermon Notes for times and locations)

Website: <u>www.lwcnj.org</u> – Sermon podcast are also on web site

Text Alerts: Text "subscribe" to <u>lwcalerts649@gmail.com</u>

Email: <u>lwchurch649@gmail.com</u>



www.facebook.com/livingwaterschurchnj

**Coming soon: Online giving** 

# **Next Series**



### **1** Corinthians: The Power of Unity

Big Idea: This 10-week series over the book of 1 Corinthians teaches that true unity in the body of Christ only comes when believers commit their lives wholeheartedly to Jesus.

Series begins in June

# **Missions News**



### Returning to the field in 2018:

Matthew and Alicia Moroney with children Liam, Pria and Lailani - to The Holy Land

### **Returning for home assignment 2018:**

From Russia - Donnie and Blythe Mason with Isaiah, Katys and Levi

From Papua, Indonesia: Barry and Patty Jordon

### On the field:

Bonseuth and Syna, Lau - Cambodia