

Living Waters

focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2018 – VOLUME 6

LIVING A LIFE FILLED WITH INTENTION

This Month's Pastor's Pen was inspired by a daily devotional called "Love God Greatly – "Made for Community". Based on Acts 2:42-27.

While on vacation at the shore this summer, I decided to grab one of my grandkids boogie boards and join the fun and try to "catch a wave". I noticed that they were coming in slow intervals. In order to catch the right wave I could ride to shore, I had to be patient. After a time of waiting the waves started to grow until the right one came that I could ride to the shore. I started thinking – that is much like church growth, lots of waiting until you start to see the right wave build and when that happens – "WOW" all the waiting seems worth it. Well after almost 6 years of waiting, it feels like Living Waters Church is about to catch a good wave. The difference is that in the ocean I had no control of when the right wave would come in. When it comes to church growth - we are part of the process of creating the wave and then keeping it going.

How do we do that? By following the example the early Church set for us, by choosing to "live intentionally". Luke reminds us that we are to live our lives in community doing normal everyday activities like "breaking bread". God made us with the need to eat, why not slow down and invite some friends in the process. Church isn't about just showing up to a building on Sunday mornings. Church is a community of believers investing their lives into each other and inviting others to join with them. So where do we begin? Start by reaching out to a new face on a Sunday morning, getting to know their story, making them feel at home, welcoming them to the family. Then decide to be part of a "Life Group" that does life together, encouraging each other, studying scripture together, praying with each other and being devoted to each other. When we do that – the wave will keep growing and so will the excitement.

MISSIONS Moment

Living Waters Church is part of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. The C&MA is a global movement of more than 6 million strong. Our Acts 1:8 family – inspired by Jesus love and empowered by His Spirit – is passionate to bring the good news to our neighbors and to lost people around the world. One way to accomplish this is our support of Alliance Missionaries through the Great Commission Fund. This past year we had the opportunity to hear from the Moroney Family who are missionaries to the West Bank in Israel. After a time of home assignment visiting with family and Alliance support churches, they are now back in the field ready to continue the Lord's work. Pray for their children for an easy transition back to local schools, pray as the family returns to their home in Ramallah, pray for them to reconnect with friends and continue their outreach to the Arabic community.



Church Events

- September 7th
 - ❖ Kids Club - 7pm
- September 9th
 - ❖ Life Group Sunday
 - ❖ Parsippany Festival Outreach meeting
- September 15th
 - ❖ Atlantic Health "End-of-Life-Care" Seminar
- September 16th
 - ❖ Matthew Series Part 2 – begins
- September 18th
 - ❖ Leadership Team Meeting – 7pm
- September 30th
 - ❖ Parsippany Fall Festival 12-5pm

Life Group News

Here at Living Waters Church we have Life Groups that meet around the area. Our Life Groups are designed to help you grow and meet your needs where ever you go in life.

We are committed to following the command of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 "go and make disciples". A disciple is defined as "a follower of a teacher". Our Teacher? Is Jesus.

In order to follow him we must listen to him by reading and studying his word on a regular basis..

As you read about the life of Jesus, you will see that he began his ministry by sharing life with a small group of 12 disciples. They walked together, grew together and broke bread together.

After Jesus left them and went home to the Father, they stuck together and ultimately changed the world around them.

We encourage those who attend LWC to find a LIFE group and follow the example of Jesus and his disciples.

Sunday September 9th we have designated "LIFE GROUP SUNDAY". Come out on the 9th and learn about our many Life group opportunities, where they meet and when. You can also go to our web site and find a group that fits your needs. Find one and choose to become part of a small community.

Remember, we are not called to walk this Christian life alone. As Christ followers we are "**made for community**".

Mark 3:13-14

"Jesus called to him those he wanted...that they might be with him"

Family Ministries Spotlight

Helping Parents Win

Several big storms were rolling through with lots of thunder and lightning. The frightened 5- year old Daniel became filled with traumatic emotion. Daniel's dad comforted him as he tucked him into bed amid the loud booms and rain hitting the window. Instead of the usual platitudes we sometimes share, "It will be OK" and "It's nothing to worry about . . .", he took the opportunity to point Daniel back to God and His creativity and power, sharing how strong and mighty Jesus is.

It was a small but important opportunity to point Daniel to Jesus amid the circumstances of daily life. I also wondered how many parents miss opportunities like this, not because of a lack of desire but because they just don't know how.

I'm beginning to see that this is an area where we as children's ministry workers have an awesome responsibility and opportunity to help parents develop their children's spiritual lives.

On average, a child will participate in our Sunday-morning lesson environment for about 40 hours annually. By contrast, parents have an estimated 3,000 hours with their children each year—approximately 8 hours a day.

Clearly, parents have the most opportunity to make the greatest impact in their children's spiritual lives. But although many parents want to, they don't know how to provide that direction. So, I'm attempting to shift some of my lesson-plan focus for children onto how I can support their parents. I want to provide a springboard for them to talk with their kids about God throughout the week, readying them to point to Him during the little moments of daily life.

There are multiple ways to get connected at Living Waters Church:

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

Website: www.lwcnj.org

Sermon podcast are also on web site



www.facebook.com/livingwaterschurchnj



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



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

A few years ago I attended the Orange Conference where I sat in a breakout entitled "When Parent's Win."

We were reminded that parent's "will never really believe they matter to us [children's ministry leaders] if they don't really matter to us. So, let's be for every parent."

Parents must be a part of our children's ministry strategy. So I'm beginning to ask myself and pray through the following questions.

- How can I help connect parents with positive influences like mentor parents, other parents at the same phase of life and family seminars/events, so that they don't feel so alone?
- How can I help provide shared-faith experiences for parents and kids? What kinds of milestone events have I built into my ministry?
- How does my one hour a week with kids in children's ministry provide the most benefit for parents to talk about spiritual matters with their children during the rest of the week?
- How do I come alongside the natural rhythms of a family's life to help them re-engage with church at different phases during the year? For example, the fall is often full of new beginnings for families as kids go back to school. How does church stay or become part of that new rhythm? How can we connect with families in the New Year as everyone is looking for a restart?
- What types of resources can I provide to help them talk about critical issues with their kids?

I don't have answers to all these questions yet, but I'm looking forward to working through them and wrestling with the tension of priorities they bring to our children's ministry.