

LIVING WATER LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2021

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Council

John Bowden (President) • Roland Stecher
(Vice President) • Joanna Bradley
(Secretary) • Cathy Heacock (Treasurer) •
Frank Richard (Financial Secretary) •
Therese Horwath

Newsletter Editor: Pastor Judy

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 7: Pastor Bruce
November 14: Pastor Judy
November 21: Pastor Bruce
November 28*: Pastor Judy

*Plans are being made for a joint Lutheran-Presbyterian worship service on this Sunday after Thanksgiving. Details will be shared as soon as they are available.

UPCOMING DATES YOU MAY WANT TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, November 7, 12:15-ish: Rehearsal for choir that will sing at the Christmas Eve service. (If you'd like to sing, please give your name to Campbell's Margaret Hock [office@campbellchurch.net] or Rebecca Young [rayoungnj@aol.com].)

Thursday, November 25, 10:00 AM: Assembly of Thanksgiving dinners for persons in the community.

Saturday, December 4, 10:00 AM: "Greening of the Church" to decorate for Advent and Christmas.

Sunday, December 5, 12:15-ish: Rehearsal for choir that will sing at the Christmas Eve service.

Friday, December 24, 5:00 PM: Combined Lutheran-Presbyterian Christmas Eve service.

FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE: A NEED AND A DEED

Mission Committee chairperson Nancy Mower is seeking an individual to take on our **card ministry**. If you feel called to help in this way, please call or write Nancy at 804-436-5414 or nancyann1@aol.com.

Nancy also reports that the Committee provided funds to the **Northern Neck Free Health Clinic** for their **October 14 meal**. The Committee provides this service once a year to the NNFHC.



**Sharing Christ's Love
through Prayer, Thanksgiving,
Service, and Fellowship**

INVITATION TO HELP WITH CAMPBELL'S ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MEAL PREPARATION/DELIVERY FOR FINANCIALLY-CHALLENGED FAMILIES

Annually for over 25 years now, the Campbell Presbyterian Church congregation has prepared and delivered a hot meal to local families in need on Thanksgiving Day. This year, they are planning to deliver 125 meals.

Recipients are found in several ways. Two Campbell members receive names of families and individuals from Bay Aging and the Lancaster and Northumberland County Departments of Social Services. Church members also may submit names of meal recipients. Each family or individual is directly contacted to determine the need and the number of meals to deliver. Recipients' addresses also are confirmed. There is no commitment to delivery without this direct communication.

Each meal contains the traditional Thanksgiving hot items, several cold items, and a "day after" meal. Turkey and gravy are prepared by the Food Service folks at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. The turkey has been sliced and is ready to go when someone from Campbell picks up the food on Thanksgiving morning. Hot vegetables, salads, and desserts are prepared by church members in their homes, according to a planned menu, and delivered to the church. As we continue to be wary of COVID, some food may be prepared in the church kitchen this year. White Stone Baptist Church, which operates one of the Northern Neck Food Bank food pantries out of their building, provides the "day after" items.

On **Thanksgiving Day**, church members set up tables. Starting at **10:00 AM**, volunteers line up in two lines. Grabbing a "clam shell" food container, they walk the line as servers place the various items in the containers. The process is repeated until all the containers have been filled. Then the clamshells and "day after" bags are put into a large grocery bag for delivery by other volunteers. Most homes receive meals for many members.

Delivery routes are created in advance. Drivers load meals into their cars and deliver to each family on their list. Included in each bag is a flyer naming all the churches and businesses that have contributed to the effort, a short list of mealtime prayers that can be used for future meals, and an invitation to Christmas worship services. It can be a touching moment to personally deliver a Thanksgiving meal.

Campbell is inviting Living Water to join in this work! Soon there will be sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall for cooks, meal assemblers, and delivery drivers. Please add your name and contact information if interested in helping out.

Also, if you know of a family or individual in need, please let the Campbell folks know. You may give the name(s) to Margaret Hock in the Campbell church office (804-438-6875 or office@campbellchurch.net) and she will pass the information along to the planning team. Ordinarily, delivery is limited to Lancaster and Northumberland County residents.

An additional way to contribute to this effort is by making a cash donation. You may mail your donation to Campbell at P.O. Box 18, Weems, VA 22576, by putting it in the Living Water offering plate for transfer to Campbell, or by putting it in Margaret's mailbox at the church. As always, make sure it's clear what your check is for.

Jane Wells is a contact person for us from Campbell. Her phone number is 804-436-4010.

COME TO CAMPBELL'S WEEMS FALL FESTIVAL!

On **Saturday, October 30**, from **11:00 AM to 3:00 PM**, Campbell Presbyterian Church will host the Weems Fall Festival. There will be inflatables, hot dogs and snow cones, and a Trunk or Treat. The festival will be held on the church's grounds, it's free, and all are welcome!

NOMINEES FOR LIVING WATER COUNCIL

The following three people have been nominated to serve on Council, in the Class of 2024, and will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting on November 14: **Carol Adams, Joanna Bradley, and Bob Raiford**. We thank them for their willingness to serve their church in this way.

UPDATE ON MUSIC AND SUNDAY WORSHIP

Living Water has contracted with **organist Gloria Johnson** to be our accompanist on two Sundays per month. Gloria, who lives in Callao, has been providing the music at Campbell's 11:00 AM traditional worship service for about five months. She will be able to play for us at our 9:30 service and then for Campbell at their 11:00 service.

For the other Sundays, we are in the process of learning to use organ music on disks that are played on Campbell's organ. The music is recorded by a skilled organist who lives in Kentucky, emailed to us, transferred to a floppy disk, then played on the organ's disk player. This organist already has recorded several dozen hymns for Campbell, which we may access, and she will record anything we ask for, including our liturgical music. Several of us are learning how to operate the organ's disk player.

We thank **Cliff Greve and Judy Tucker**, who have spent these first Sundays in our new location in the balcony, playing music from YouTube over the audio system, and to **Bruce Adams**, who is learning the system.

WOMEN'S BOOK AND BIBLE STUDY GROUP TO RESUME MEETING

The women's book and Bible study group will resume meeting! The date is **Thursday, November 11**, the time is **11:00 AM**, and the location is the **small conference room at the Campbell church**. (This room is the second room on the left when you enter through the side/office door on King Carter Lane.) No refreshments will be served this time, but those who would like to are invited to go out for lunch after the group meeting.

According to group convener Carol Adams, the discussion will resume with Chapter 7 of *The Power of a Woman's Word*, by Sharon Jaynes, "Cheering from the Sidelines." Please note subsequent meeting dates of **December 9**, then the second and fourth Thursdays in January (**January 13 and January 27**).

UPDATE ON FELLOWSHIP TIME

Many of us have enjoyed refreshments and conversations at Campbell's coffee hour/fellowship time following worship. Campbell offers an early coffee hour, for those attending the 9:00 AM contemporary service, and a late coffee hour, for those attending the 11:00 AM traditional service. **Beginning on Sunday, December 5**, Living Water will contribute to those gatherings by hosting one early coffee hour per month.

The following persons have agreed to head up two- to three-person teams to provide the fellowship times: **Carol Adams, Judy Barthel, Cathy Heacock, Nancy Mower, Yvonne Raiford, and Judy Tucker**. They will be turning to other members of the congregation for help. Each team will host coffee hour only two times per year. If you are asked to contribute some food or some person-power for a team, please help out if you are able.

LW'S FUND FOR ASSISTANCE TO LINK CLIENTS NEEDS DONATIONS

Back in the days when we passed around offering plates during worship services, those plates usually also contained a small cup, into which congregants could place donations for the fund from which Living Water responds to The Link's requests for churches' help with clients' bills. "Thanks" to the pandemic, we haven't been passing around the plates with the cups. Nevertheless, so far in 2021, the congregation has donated \$1,545 and Treasurer Cathy Heacock has disbursed \$1,744. However, Cathy reports that the fund's balance, as of the end of October, was \$85.

Can you help build up the Link fund a bit? Consider what you would have put in the Link cups and think about making one donation for all of 2021. You can add your Link donation to your regular pledge or donation, but please indicate on the outside of your envelope how much for the The Link. Thank you!

GOLF TOURNAMENT WILL BENEFIT THE LINK

A golf tournament to benefit The Link will be held on **Saturday, November 6**, at the Golden Eagle Golf Course in Irvington. Four local churches are sponsoring the event: Beulah Baptist Church, Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church, Grace Episcopal Church, and Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

The format is Captain's Choice with shotgun start. Prizes include: Top Three, Closest to the Pin, and Longest Drive. The fees, Individual (\$75) and Team (\$280), cover greens fees and cart, practice range, and church-provided covered-dish awards reception after play, with cash bar.

Registration and range practice are open from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Tournament announcements will precede play, which starts at 12:30 PM.

If you would like to play in the tournament, please contact Golden Eagle pro, Don Nelson at 804-438-4460. If you would care to sponsor a hole or a prize, please contact the Link's President, Rev. Tom Coye at tomcoye@hotmail.com.

Proceeds will help The Link, which has been operating for 10 years now, to assist individuals and families find the help they need, especially as the pandemic has created difficult situations for many workers whose jobs have been cut back or eliminated. The Link is committed to helping families stay in their homes.

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR FINANCIAL STATUS

Treasurer Cathy Heacock reports this information as of September 30, 2021:

Income to date, 2021: **\$60,615**
Expenses to date, 2021: **\$47,445**
Income-less-expenses, 2021: **\$13,171**

Income to date, 2020: **\$50,996**
Expenses to date, 2020: **\$39,950**
Income-less-expenses, 2020: **\$11,017**

SEEKING SOMEONE TO PLAY MUSIC RECORDED ON DISKS ON THE ORGAN

If you love liturgy and church music—and if you’ve ever dreamed of being an accomplished organist but haven’t had years to hone your skills!—there is a job for you. We need someone to learn the few steps involved in playing diskettes (yes, the old 3.5” “floppy disks”) on the organ during Sunday worship when we do not have an in-person organist. The task involves inserting disks containing liturgical music and hymns into the organ’s disk player at the appropriate times in the worship service. Become an instant organist! It would be good to have two people trained to do this. Interested? Please speak to Pastor Judy.

CAMPBELL AND LIVING WATER TO CO-SPONSOR CHRISTMAS PIANO CONCERT

Two years ago, local pianist Susan Cousins, a member of Campbell Presbyterian Church, presented a free concert of traditional and contemporary Christmas music for Living Water. This year, she again extended the offer to both Campbell and Living Water. It made sense to sponsor the concert jointly, and both our Council and Campbell’s Session have approved the idea. The tentative date is Saturday, December 4, in the afternoon. A simple reception of Christmas cookies and coffee would follow the piano concert. A free-will offering will be collected for donation to a local charity. Watch for announcements as the plans evolve.

READERS TAKE NOTE: SYNOD-WIDE, ZOOM-BASED STUDY OF *THE HANDMAID’S TALE*

Virginia Synod pastor, the Rev. Jennifer Tillman, is offering a four-week, online discussion of Margaret Atwood’s novel, *The Handmaid’s Tale*. The book will be discussed in conjunction with several passages from ELCA Social Statements. The discussions will take place on four Thursday evenings, at 7:00 PM: November 4, November 18, December 1, and December 16. Participants are asked to have read the novel and the social statements before the first session. The links below are active if you are reading this newsletter on your computer.

The Social Statements may be found at:

<https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements>

The readings for each date may be found at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1c_QVmCrNCTZpPmikDfD6dHkiOIGm3P_p/edit

There is no cost to participate, but you must preregister at:

https://vasynod-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvcOyvqTiiH9aPwETCRIGFTd_RllqHjGw2

SOME THOUGHTS FROM CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGIAN DIANA BUTLER BASS

Your editor has been greatly influenced by the writings that Diana Butler Bass has produced over the years. Butler Bass, holds a Ph.D. in religious studies, with a concentration in American church history, from Duke University. Butler Bass is a combination theologian, historian, sociologist, and political analyst, and she thinks, writes, and speaks about complex ideas with creativity, clarity, and relative simplicity. I receive her blog, “The Cottage,” periodically.

In a recent blog (October 15, 2021), writing as Reformation Day approached, Butler Bass shared thoughts on “re-formation for a loving, humble, and hopeful faith.” These are some of the ideas she expressed in that blog:

“[In the Bible,] there is a canon within the canon [a “canon” is a collection or list of sacred writings]. “Love God and love your neighbor as yourself;” “Faith, hope, love: the greatest of these is love;” “There is no longer Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male and female;” and, “In all things, give thanks.” If you know only four verses from the entire New Testament, I recommend knowing these four—and reading, marking, and inwardly digesting them your whole life. Also see: “God is love.”

Embodying God's love and justice—and having compassion—in the world is the entire purpose of being a Christian. This needs no explanation. Christianity is not the only path of faith that does this. But it happens to be a deeply truthful way of life that is the tradition to which I was born, and so I continue on and encourage others on this Way to live it fully as well.

The church is the organic body of Christ in the world, not an institution. In that organic sense, it is always growing. As an historian, I know that institutions come and go. But the body of Christ? Theologically, it is always present—it existed as the Word from the beginning, it exists now in a diversity of forms institutional and yet still invisible, and will continue to exist even if human beings and their words and world go extinct. *Here I stand: I can do no other.*”

What do you think?

