



# buzz

## **Our main fall worship series: “Streams of Living Water”**

Have you ever ... rolled your eyes at those “peace and justice” Christians who don’t seem to care about salvation through Jesus? ... barely stifled your frustration at evangelical types who seem to ignore the suffering in the world as long as souls are saved? ... deeply longed for more times of silence and prayer in Sunday worship or even at home? If you resonate a little with these scenarios, then you probably recognize the fact that you can fellowship and worship with other English-speaking Christians, and yet still feel like you and they are talking different languages, or not referring to the same Jesus.

The fact is, there really are different kinds of Christians (and by this I don’t mean Mennonite or Catholic or Lutheran). Within the same congregation there can be believers with significantly different kinds of spiritualities. This also holds true for the spiritual characteristics of congregations within the same conference or denomination.

One way to understand this kind of diversity among Christians, in which we seem to talk past each other, has been expounded by author Richard Foster, in his *Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith* (HarperCollins, 1998). In this book, Foster develops for us six classic streams of spirituality that are identifiable in mainstream Christianity since the time of Christ ... six great historical movements that have articulated and embodied deep truths of Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

Often, when we just can’t understand why other Christians believe and behave as they do, it’s because they are operating within a different stream than the one we spend most of our time in. Yet Foster helps us see that no single one of these traditions is “right” to the exclusion of others. For a true vision of Jesus Christ and a full balanced expression of living in the Jesus way, the kingdom of God needs all of these traditions.

This fall at Waterford, we will take seven Sundays to get acquainted with these spiritual streams and to explore how we may integrate them in our own faith and practice. This may challenge us and give us a glimpse of a more balanced Christian faith. We pastors hope that this six-fold model of spiritual streams will also give us another tool for better listening to and engaging with each other in the church when we fundamentally disagree about major things. This series will offer three ways in which you can engage:

### **1. The worship series**

This series will span 7 Sundays from September 18 through November 13, not including October 9 & 16 when we will especially welcome our two guests from Benin Bible Institute. (See summary table with this article). The first six Sundays in the series will especially highlight in turn a specific spiritual stream. The last Sunday will focus on our identity in Christ and explore how to integrate these streams. We hope this series deepens your self-understanding of your own spirituality and that of others.

### **2. An adult Sunday School elective class**

We will offer an elective class for the fall quarter, which will read and discuss the Foster book, beginning on Sept. 4. For most of the six streams, we will take two Sundays per stream: The first Sunday will review the content of the chapter and the main features of that stream, facilitated by someone within Waterford who identifies with that stream. Leadership of the second week will be shared by class participants, with a more experiential focus. The order of studying the streams will follow the order in the worship series. Location of the elective class will depend on how many people sign up, so ... Please sign up for the class at the Participation Station and indicate if you need a copy of the book.

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*On page 2, also note summary table of the main elements of the “Streams of Living Water” worship series*



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Date	Focus in Worship	Key Bible Texts	Preacher	Special elements
Sept. 18	Holiness: The Virtuous Life	Matt. 4:1-11; 5:1-16; 1 Tim. 4:7b-8; James 1:27	Cindy Voth	
Sept. 25	Charismatic: The Spirit-Empowered Life	John 14:15-17, 25-26; John 16:7-15; Eph. 5:18b-19; 1 Cor. 12:4-13	Neil Amstutz	Installation/licensing of Katie Misz
Oct. 2	Evangelical: The Word-Centered Life	Luke 4:16-20a; John 11: 25-26; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; Eph. 2:4-9	Neil Amstutz	World Communion Sunday
Oct. 9	(BBI guests visit)	?	BBI guest?	
Oct. 16	(BBI guests visit)	?	BBI guest?	
Oct. 23	Contemplative: The Prayer-Filled Life	Mark 14:32-36; Luke 5:16; Psalm 42:1-2a	TBD, or perhaps no sermon	
Oct. 30	Incarnational: The Sacramental Life	Luke 13:10-17; 2 Cor. 4:7; Exo. 35:30 – 36:1; Col. 3:17	Katie Misz	All Saints Day observance
Nov. 6	Social Justice: The Compassionate Life	Matt. 25:31-46; Amos 5:10-15, 21-24; Matt. 22:35-40	Neil Amstutz	
Nov. 13	Integrating 6 Streams	Hebrews 1:1-3a; 12:1-2	Cindy Voth	

practices drawn from Foster’s six spiritual streams. We invite you to join with others from Waterford in engaging in these practices in your own devotional time or with a friend or family member. A handout explaining the spiritual practices and the schedule will be in church boxes August 28, with reference to the online pdf resource. We encourage most people to access the pdf file themselves and print it out at home if they desire a copy. For those unable to access it online, some printed copies of the resource will be available in the church foyer August 28.

—Pastor Neil Amstutz

**Additional Baptism Service**

All are invited to gather down at our pond following our fellowship meal on September 4 (~1:15 pm) to join in a celebration of baptism for Sierra Ross Richer. Due to being in Ecuador, Sierra was unable to participate in the baptism class. However, she has expressed a desire to be baptized and is going through baptism instruction with the pastors. Please plan on staying for this significant event in the life of Sierra and of our faith community.

—Pastor Cindy Voth

**Painting Part 2**

You have probably noticed the nice new paint job in the hallway that we started about two months ago. On Saturday, September 10, we plan to paint the remaining part of the north hallway and are looking for a couple of volunteers again. We’ll start around 7:00 a.m., and depending on the number of people signing up, we should be done by around 11:00 a.m. If you are able to help out for a few hours please contact Jan Oostland at 574-971-1277 or facilities@waterfordchurch.org.

**3. Spiritual practices tied to the 6 streams**

Whether you join the elective class or not, you may supplement your experience of this series outside of Sunday mornings through a set of spiritual practices we are recommending. We have adapted for Waterford’s use this fall an online resource of spiritual practices written by Leo Hartshorn for Mennonite Church USA congregations. Entitled “Love is a Verb,” part two of this year-long resource provides weekly spiritual