

The Lamp Lighter
April 2017
The Newsletter of Living Lord Lutheran Church
Real God. Real Faith. Real Life.
www.LLLC.org

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 8:00 am & 10:30 am at Living Lord Lutheran Church
Sundays at 9:00 am at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Sundays at 10:30 am at St. Paul Lutheran Church

From Pastor William D. Leitch...So much is happening in the greater Warren area that concerns our churches. So much is happening that concerns the Trumbull Area Lutheran Coalition, our twelve ELCA congregations in Trumbull County. There is so much happening that concerns our Shared Ministry with Emmanuel, Living Lord, and St. Paul.

All the churches have been invited to participate in prayer meetings concerning the city of Warren. The mayor initiated the first prayer meeting in February. More meetings are planned. But how is God calling us?

There is concern for the violence, heroin, and poverty in Warren. How is God calling us as the Church to make a difference? It seems obvious to me that God would want the Church to be the leader in caring for the community. Wouldn't God want us to be the calm in the storm? Wouldn't God want us to welcome those who are struggling and to walk with them toward something more stable, secure, and hopeful?

Yet we tend to be turned in on ourselves and our survival. Does that cause us to be blind to our neighbor? How do we care for the widow, the orphan, the addict, the convict, the elderly, our children, our neighbors, our families? How do we keep up the maintenance on our buildings and on our every relationship? It can seem overwhelming and one might prefer to just turn in on one's self and give up. That would be sad because we cannot do what God is calling us to do all by ourselves. Some are ready to follow God's call, but they cannot do it alone.

There are people who are reaching out to us and offering a hand to help as God would call us to help. Do you see them? Do you hear them?

We have Lutheran churches ready to close their doors. Who will invite and welcome them to a new family of God? I think that Emmanuel, Living Lord, and St. Paul would delight in having more folks join us, but have you invited that neighbor? As I write this, I wonder who even knows what I am talking about.

There are people who are ready to help, but need a space, a home, in which to carry out that ministry. Do you see them? There are people who want to walk through our doors. Will you invite them? There are widows and orphans, addicts, convicts, elderly – all who want a place to call home. Are they welcome? How do we show them? How do we lead them?

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

We are called God's agents. We are the ones who are to be calling people to us as Jesus called.

Amen,
Pastor Bill

Living Lord Holy Week Schedule:

April 13 - Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm Worship w/1st Communion

April 14 - Good Friday, 7:00 pm Worship

April 16 - Easter Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship; 9:00 am Easter Brunch

Special Congregation Meeting...The Council has called for a Special Congregation Meeting to be held on **Sunday, April 23**, at 11:45 am. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote to initiate a capital fund drive for a new Allen organ. The capital funds needed are \$22,000. If we reach this goal by November 1, 2017, Memorial Funds and the Fuchs Memorial Funds will be enough to cover the remainder.

Camp Frederick Dinner Dance Fundraiser...Camp Frederick will hold a Dinner Dance Fundraiser on **Saturday, April, 1**, beginning at 6:00 pm at Zion Lutheran Church, 3300 Canfield Road, Youngstown, OH 44511. The Roaring Twenties Dinner Dance will be an evening of food, dancing, auctions, and fun! Funds raised will go to support the sending of kids to Camp. The Dinner Dance will start at 6:00 pm with hors d'oeuvres and time to peruse the silent auction and basket raffle items. Dinner will begin at 7:00 pm followed by the silent auction winners, raffle, and dancing. There are many different ways to support Camp Frederick through the Dinner Dance. You can attend the dance, be a sponsor, or donate items for the auctions. We are also going to have a "wine pull". Donations of bottles of wine may be dropped off anytime at Camp Frederick or given to a board member. Please consider helping with the ministry of Camp Frederick by participating in one of the ways listed above. For more information, call 330-227-3633 or email info@campfrederickohio.com. If you are interested in attending the Dinner Dance, tickets are \$35.00; please see Pastor Bill to purchase your tickets.

From Pastor Ann Marie Winters...“...to live without him is the real death,...to die with him is the only life.” Frederick Buechner in The Magnificent Defeat.

We do not have to look far to see people living without Christ, do we? How many try to fill their lives with things, excitements, or substances because they do not know what to do with their emptiness? Jesus Christ is the only one able to fill that empty space in the soul, and to bring spiritual life for which so many yearn. Without the presence of Christ, a person is vulnerable to a great many dangerous forces, including sin and death. As Frederick Buechner has written, **“to live without him is real death.”**

This Lent, the Word of God has called us to pray and fast and “give alms” to the poor. “Do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards the needy. Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.” (Deuteronomy 15:8-11). Sisters and brothers, it costs something of us to open our hands to the poor when we see their suffering. But when suffering pains our hearts, we share in the pain of our Lord himself. He calls us to pick up our cross and to follow him. **“To die with him,”** says Buechner, **“is the only life.”**

When you read this letter, if you have not yet made a great effort to carry the cross with the Lord through prayer, fasting, and giving alms – to open your heart to the poor and needy – it is still not too late. The world of poverty and suffering around us is our Good Friday. **“...to live without him is the real death,...to die with him is the only life.”**

“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.” John 11:25-26.

Pastor Ann Marie Winters

St. Paul Holy Week Schedule:

April 13 - Maundy Thursday, 6:00 pm Chicken Dinner, 7:15 pm Worship

April 14 - Good Friday, 8:00 pm Worship

April 15 (Saturday) - Easter Vigil, 8:00 pm Worship

April 16 - Easter Sunday, 10:30 am Worship

Maundy Thursday Chicken Dinner – April 13...This year St. Paul is having their traditional Chicken Dinner on **Maundy Thursday, April 13, in support of the youth**, who will set up, serve you, and clean up. Of course we have Chef Tom Skoczylas and sous-chef Peggy Skoczylas and a team of catechism parents and other kitchen aids who will prepare our delicious meal of chicken breast, green beans, potatoes, salad, cake, and punch/coffee. Tickets are available after services; adults are \$10.00 and children under 12 are \$5.00. **The Maundy Thursday worship service will begin at 7:15 pm** to give a little extra time for eating and cleaning up before worship begins. A big thank you (in advance) goes out to everyone involved in this effort which supports mission work by our youth! This is also a Thrivent Financial action team project.

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Kara Busefink...

Easter Brunch...We will have an Easter Brunch on **Sunday, April 16**, at 9:00 am. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

From the Finance Committee, Treasurer Dave Henderson...The books are closed for February 2017. Receipts for February were \$10,098.54 and expenses were \$11,838.21, resulting in a loss of \$1,739.67 for the month. Through February, our year-to-date numbers show \$36,147.30 in receipts and \$23,948.17 in expenses, for a year-to-date gain of \$12,199.13. Once again, we had individuals who contributed their giving for the entire year in January. So once again we showed a large gain (profit) for January. As the year progresses, we will slowly decrease the profit numbers as our expenses will exceed our giving. Our goal (budget) for 2017 is that we end the year in a breakeven position. Let's all start the year off right and make every effort to keep our pledges on schedule. If you look at the last three years together (2014-2016), we have managed to achieve a balanced budget, which is our goal. I anticipate that in 2017 we will once again meet that goal.

From the Later Life Committee Chairperson, Karen Bandy...

Card Class...Join us for a card-making class on **Thursday, April 6**, in the Activity Room. We will be making 4 cards. Our theme will be "All Occasion". Classes will be at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. The cost is \$12.00. Please bring adhesives like double-stick tape and liquid glue. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. The deadline for signing up is Sunday, April 2. Emmanuel and St. Paul members are welcome to join us – call Lynne Walters at 330-856-9689 to get signed up!

From the Outreach Committee Chairperson, Donna Tompkins...

Easter Food Baskets...The last day to bring in items will be **Sunday, April 9**. We will pack and distribute the baskets on **Thursday, April 13**, beginning at 9:00 am. Pickup will be from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. No deliveries.

From the Larry L. Maggiano, M.D., Memorial Scholarship Fund Chairperson, Lorraine Bell ...
Scholarship Applications...Attention High School seniors and current college students: Applications and stipulations for the Larry L. Maggiano, M.D., Memorial Scholarship are available in the Parish Office. Completed forms must be returned by **Sunday, April 30, 2017**. Please direct any questions that you may have to Lorraine Bell at 330-372-0227.

From the Mission Endowment Fund Committee Chairperson, Michael Taiclet...Greetings and blessings to everyone from the MEF! Just a reminder, this month the MEF Committee will be choosing their recipient(s) for the 2017 MEF Award. The list of potential candidates for this year has been filled. However, once we have chosen a recipient, the candidates that we do not choose for the award will not be forgotten. We keep all candidate applications on file for future awards. So, if you know of any deserving organizations and/or charities that you think would benefit from our help, please notify any of the MEF Committee members. We will keep them in mind for the next MEF award. As I had mentioned in the newsletter last month, this year the MEF will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary! We would like your help. If you have any suggestions on what we can do or how to mark this special occasion, please notify any MEF Committee member by Sunday, April 16. We will be discussing and planning this event at our meeting on Thursday, April 20. The support of our congregation continues to be essential to the success of the MEF. The MEF Committee would like to thank all whom have donated to the MEF. These generous gifts are well utilized through the organizations that we have chosen and together we, the congregation of Living Lord Lutheran Church, continue to touch the lives of many people throughout our community. Thank you and God bless you all!

From the Parish Nurse, Dora Muller...*I can't clean my room because I get distracted by the cool stuff I find...*

Spring cleaning is the unofficial start of summer. Before I moved to the USA, the concept of spring cleaning was very foreign to me. Why wait until spring to clean cupboards, windows, and floors? And, why not do this anytime of the year? Well, the answer to this silly question is the weather and tradition. Soon the spring cleaning marathon will take off. When is it the time to choose cleaning supplies? The possibilities are infinite, from harsh bleach that promises to kill everything under the sun to vinegar and lemon juice that claim to be safe for the environment and our sensitive skin. When organizing and scrubbing, make sure that you follow the cleaning product labels and safety instructions to avoid accidents. For example, some products can release harmful fumes such as those found in oven cleaning supplies, which can damage the lungs or trigger an asthma attack. Also, many products are harsh on the skin. Personal protection is essential such as gloves and why not wear eye goggles. However, the most important thing during the spring cleaning marathon is to use precaution, be safe, and do not overdo. Remember that after a long winter without physical activity, the routine of getting the house ready for summer can be strenuous on our bodies. The best plan is to divide the work among family members, go slowly, and choose your cleaning products wisely. Most important is to pay attention to your body. If you start to feel tired and experience aches and pains, it is time to slow down and to contact Molly Maid's wonderful services. However, if your bank account does not allow such a luxury as hiring help, go slow on your spring cleaning and have a safe and healthy spring.

EVENTS IN APRIL

Wednesday, April 5, 1:30 pm – Niles Shepherd of the Valley Bingo
6:00 pm Soup Supper & 7:00 pm Worship at Living Lord

Sunday, April 9 – Palm Sunday

Monday, April 10, 6:00 pm – Council in Activity Room

Thursday, April 13 – Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00 pm at Living Lord

Friday, April 14 – Good Friday Worship at 7:00 pm at Living Lord

Sunday, April 16 – Easter Sunday; Easter Brunch Between Services/**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Thursday, April 20, 6:00 pm – MEF Committee Meeting in Activity Room

Sunday, April 23, 11:45 am – Special Congregation Meeting

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 1 = Ian Jamison
- 2 = Logan Pastore
- 4 = Sarah Stanney
- 5 = Brian McCrimmon
- 6 = Carolyn Smiley
- 8 = Nicholas Altieri & Kimberly Roberts
- 10 = Maura Maloney & Lee Sanzenbacher
- 12 = Tom Lauka
- 15 = Judy Shaffer
- 18 = Vickie Prindle
- 24 = Mary Ulam
- 26 = Pat Butts

Anniversaries



**Happy Easter
from the Staff and Council of
Living Lord Lutheran Church**

NEWS FROM THE SHARED MINISTRY

Emmanuel Clothes Closet...The Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday at 9:00 am. In need of: winter clothes (children & adults), blankets, deodorant, lotion, dish soap, paper towels, anything for babies, plastic bags.

Emmanuel Shopping Cart Needs for April...Instant potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy (jar or mix), peanut butter, cereal.

Emmanuel Egg Cartons...Please save your empty egg cartons for the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet. The eggs donated come in bulk and we need them to divide the eggs into individual cartons.

St. Paul Food Collection...For the month of **APRIL** we are collecting canned meats (no tuna), spam, canned chicken, Vienna sausage, deviled ham spread, chicken spread.

St. Paul Spring Fling... On **Saturday, May 6**, our church will host a huge fundraising event, the **SPRING FLING**. The proceeds from the Rummage Sale will go to the 150th Anniversary celebration of our church, which will be in 2018. The proceeds from the Boutique Sale will go to the Rebekah Circle to complete the church projects that they have undertaken. The proceeds from the Bake Sale will be split between the two groups. This is a huge project for our church and we need the participation of **EVERYONE!** Please volunteer by donating items, helping to set up, helping to work at the event, as well as shopping at the event. We cannot reach our goal without **YOU!**

St. Paul Grief Ministry...Part of the Social Committee is Grief Ministry. Joyce Osborn (330-372-2136) is spearheading this ministry with Pr. Winters' and God's guidance and help. When a loved one dies, Joyce sends a set of four books called "Journeying Through Grief" throughout the first year. Each book describes the issues and feelings that a person tends to encounter at various points of grief and the books offer suggestions on handling them. If Pr. Winters or Joyce can be of any help or if you have any questions during a time of grief, please contact either of them.

St. Paul SPLASH TODAY...Donations are always warmly welcomed, and with your continued support, we will be able to sustain this valuable ministry to young families.