

The Lamp Lighter
May 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... Throughout May, we will hear words such as these each week:

- Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering.
- Jesus promises that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house.
- Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation.
- Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

It seems to me that when I hear these words, I lean toward hearing them about myself. It seems to be all about me. However, when I see all the others in our world, it changes me and how I must think and act.

The Good Shepherd gathers us all. He prepares a place for everyone. There are none left out. Caught up in God's generosity, we should see a change in ourselves and how we live out our faith. "We go forth to live our faith in the world."

As a nation, there tends to be a fear of all the "others". We see this in the debate about receiving refugees. Our bishops from the ELCA went to Washington, D.C., recently to break down these fears and show them that we are in this together. We are here to "prepare a place" for those orphaned and those left with no way to survive on their own.

In 2013, the population of Syria was almost 23 million people; I did not find a more recent census, probably because that nation is so focused on survival that it is no longer focused on its people.

I wondered if there was any place that was safe to raise your family in Syria. There are currently about 13 million displaced people still living in Syria. There are about 6 million refugees who have fled the country. A little less than 5 million are registered as refugees somewhere.

Do the math. It appears that only about 4 million people of Syria are still living some sort of a stable life (whatever that is). I cannot imagine how these uprooted people can ever recover, even if the war stopped today. It cannot happen unless "we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family".

This is true for Syria, every nation, Ohio, and the greater Warren area.

In the words of Bishop Allende, NEOS: “The fear of death controls our life much more than we realize, but the resurrection of Jesus takes the teeth out of death. Easter shows us that there is life beyond the grave. Easter declares that death does not have the last say.”

We serve a risen Savior – a living Savior.

Our resurrected Lord brings new life, rekindles hope, sustains us, and recreates us in circumstances that would seem to be the most hopeless. That is certainly good news.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Pastor Bill

Youth Car Wash...Our Youth will have a Car Wash at Living Lord on **Saturday, May 20**, from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. They will be selling burgers and brats to folks as they wait for their car. The proceeds will be put towards the costs of Servant Week in June and to help pay for expenses for the ELCA National Youth Gathering in June 2018.

From Pastor Ann Marie Winters...It’s Easter Season throughout the month of May...
“Go to Galilee”.

“The young man said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” (Mark 16:6-7)

“We have just experienced the resurrection of Jesus at Easter, and we now have the question in our hearts, ‘If Jesus is risen, where is he? The young man in Mark’s gospel says that we will find him in Galilee. That is the place where Jesus was baptized, and where he began his ministry. He went about healing the sick, restoring wrecked lives, and even raising the dead. He fears nothing and shuns no one. And if that is where Jesus can be found, that is where we find ourselves too! We are his Body, doing the same work.’” (Fredrick Niedner)

It costs us something to be the Body of Christ in the world. We have to roll up our sleeves and get down to business. There are the sick to visit, the hungry to feed, the needy to clothe. If we, as the church, are going to witness to the marks of the crucifixion on the body of Jesus, we are going to go out of our ordinary routines and put aside our personal agendas to carry the cross of Christ. All around us is where Jesus can be found – wherever we find ourselves. Let us join him in being the Good News. Go to Galilee with him!

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!
Pastor Ann Marie Winters

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Kara Busefink...
May Fellowship...We will have Fellowship on **Sunday, May 21**, after both services.

From the Finance Committee, Treasurer Dave Henderson...The books are closed for March 2017. Receipts for March were \$8,354.25 and expenses were \$13,083.36, resulting in a loss of \$4,758.81 for the month. Through March, our year-to-date numbers show \$44,471.85 in receipts and \$35,764.52 in expenses, for a year-to-date gain of \$8,707.33. March 2017 was almost \$5,000.00 below budget in terms of giving. 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. If you are behind on your giving, please 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. Let's continue that trend in 2017 so we will once again meet our goal.

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

Easter Baskets...Lovely Easter Baskets were delivered to our homebound the week of April 3. They had a soft little lamb, muffins (compliments of Nancy Walters), some chocolates, and of course the beautiful cards made by Lynne Walters. Thanks to my team of Lorraine Bell, Lynne Walters, and Nancy Walters for your dedication and deliveries.

Card Class...Join us for a card-making class on **Thursday, May 4**, in the Activity Room. We will be making 4 cards. Our theme will be "Mainly Masculine Cards". 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 30. 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...

Update on Easter Food Baskets...The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who donated food for the Easter Food Baskets and to those who assisted with packing and distributing them. We were able to assist 17 families within the three Shared Ministry Churches.

Bingo at NSOV...The Outreach Committee will be hosting Bingo at Niles Shepherd of the Valley on **Wednesday, May 17**, at 2:00 pm. We will meet at 1:30 pm to set up. Men and women both are invited to assist. Please see the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board if you are able to help or bake cookies. We are in need of the following Bingo prizes: word search books, peanut butter cup candy, and stuffed animals. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Tompkins at 330-984-0684. Emmanuel and St. Paul members are welcome to join us – call Donna Tompkins for information.

From the Parish Education Committee Chairperson, Darlene Altieri...

Families of Graduates...If there is a member of your family, who is also a member of Living Lord Lutheran Church, who will be graduating from high school or college this year, please email their name, what school they are graduating from, and their future plans (name of college or where they will be working) to secretary@lllc.org or mail the information to the church office by **Friday, May 12, 2017**. Senior Recognition Sunday will be **Sunday, June 4, 2017**.

From the Property Committee Chairperson, Rollie Walters...

Spring Planting...The flowers for the spring planting have been ordered. Donations are needed for the flowers and the mulch. Please make your check payable to Living Lord Lutheran Church and mark "spring planting" in the memo portion. You may place your donation in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Spring Planting Day will be **Saturday, May 20**, beginning at 9:00 am with refreshments at 10:00 am. Please bring your gardening tools and gloves.

From the Worship Committee Chairperson, Jan Was...In recognition of Pentecost, the Worship Committee will be decorating the worship space with red geraniums; please also remember to wear your red. Pentecost Sunday is June 4 and these geraniums will be replanted outside. Families/Individuals are asked to make donations to the geranium fund. You may request a memoriam or honorarium. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Please watch your bulletins for price and deadline to sign up. **Plants are to be paid for when ordering.** You may place your check in the offering plate or mail it to the Parish Office. Make checks payable to Living Lord Lutheran Church and mark "Geraniums" in the memo portion. Please help us beautify our church.

Summer Worship Schedule...We will begin our Summer Worship Schedule on **Sunday, June 4.** We will have services at 8:00 and **10:00** am.

From the Larry L. Maggiano, M.D., Memorial Scholarship Fund Chairperson, Lorraine Bell ... Scholarship Award Presentation...On **Sunday, June 4,** at the 10:00 am worship service, the Larry L. Maggiano, M.D., Memorial Scholarship Award(s) will be presented. The scholarship is a grant from the Larry L. Maggiano, M.D., Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship goes to eligible college or trade school students as determined by the Scholarship Fund Board.

From the Parish Nurse, Dora Muller...*"You know, I'm really proud of my heart. It's been stabbed, played, cheated on, shattered, and burned. But guess what? It still works."* Author unknown

Who hasn't experienced the pain of having a broken heart at some point in their life? And, who hasn't heard the remark that "time will heal your heart and you will eventually survive"? Broken heart syndrome is a condition well known as stress induced cardiomyopathy. It is a reaction to the increase of stress hormones. My best friend, Lourdes, suffered from this syndrome during the final months of her mother's life. Not long ago, I underwent a similar reaction of chest pains resulting from the emotional stress due to my father's illness. Lourdes was able to survive her broken heart, and I have learned to deal with my chest pains. What triggers this condition is a stressful event, such as a romantic breakup, betrayal, news of unforeseen death of a loved one, and even an unexpected shock, such as being fired from work or even the unlikeliness of winning the lottery. For some reason, women are more likely than men to experience physical chest pain resulting from stress. The symptoms of broken heart syndrome may mimic the classic signs of a heart attack, which include abnormal blood work and changes in electrocardiogram. The emergency room will probably treat you as having a heart attack. However, once it becomes obvious that no heart attack has occurred, further investigation is necessary to discover the reason for the chest pain. The good news is that once the pain is diagnosed as broken heart syndrome, which is usually treatable, most people make a full recovery, and as your mother often says, "tomorrow is another day". People who seek professional help for broken heart syndrome often stay in the hospital for a few days to a week. Initial treatment is aimed at improving blood flow to the heart. The ideal treatment can include medicines and lifestyle changes. Broken heart syndrome can be life threatening in some cases as it may involve severe weakness of the heart muscles. Changes in lifestyle are necessary, including stress management, and coping mechanisms help improve emotional and physical health. Having a support group of friends to share your feelings will help you deal with all the uncertainties of stress in your life. To avoid the occurrence of broken heart syndrome in your life, it is important to learn how to reduce stress and to cope with unexpected situations.

Thank you...

To Pastor and our congregation,

Thank you so very much for the lovely Easter basket. You are all so kind. May God bless all of you. We wish you a blessed Easter.

Love to all, Paul & Mike Milone

EVENTS IN MAY

Thursday, May 4, 2:00 & 6:00 pm – Later Life Card Class in Activity Room

Monday, May 8, 6:00 pm – Council in Activity Room

Sunday, May 14 – Mother’s Day/**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Wednesday, May 17, 1:30 pm – Bingo at Niles Shepherd of the Valley

Saturday, May 20, 8:00 am – Congregation Breakfast in Fellowship Hall/Spring Planting/Youth Car Wash 9-1

Sunday, May 21 – Fellowship After Both Services/Blood Pressure Screening

Monday, May 29 – Memorial Day/Office Closed

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 3 = Jean Frye
- 5 = Madeline Goussios, Lauren Lambert, & Keith Muller
- 6 = Sue Armstrong & Jo Maggiano
- 8 = Anthony Marrara
- 9 = Chayce Behnke
- 10 = Janet Evans
- 12 = Whitney (Crain) Pagano
- 15 = Katie Quinton
- 17 = Hanna Hunt
- 18 = Lincoln Baringer & Edith Holmstrom
- 20 = Jim Cohol
- 23 = Mark Metzger & Marge Shoemaker
- 25 = Sophie Cohol
- 28 = Stephen Prindle
- 29 = Logan Behnke, Madison Manes, & Mason Pagano

Anniversaries

- 12 = Wright, Larry & Barb
- 19 = Lucas, Bob & Alberta
- 27 = Gifford, Tom & Jill
- 29 = Peachman, Frederick & Jean

NEWS FROM THE SHARED MINISTRY

Emmanuel Clothes Closet...The Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday at 9:00 am. In need of: summer clothes (children & adults), bathing suits, deodorant, lotion, dish soap, paper towels, toilet tissue, anything for babies, plastic bags, curtains, doilies, sheets.

Emmanuel Shopping Cart Needs for May...Instant potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy (jar or mix), Vienna sausages, canned fruit, cracker snacks, cans of food with pop top lids for easy opening.

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 **MAY** we are collecting toilet paper and jarred spaghetti sauce.

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.